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Chief Jamie Poteat Harris, of the New River Catawba Nation, will be the Keynote Speaker for 2024 New River Symposium.

## Keynote speaker announced for 2024 New River Symposium

Chief Jamie Poteat Harris, the Chief of the New River Catawba Nation, will be the Keynote Speaker for 2024 New River Symposium, April 11-12, at Radford University.

Chief Harris will open the Friday, April 12, 2024 session at 9 a.m. New River Symposium is a biannual event celebrating the social, economic, and scientific value of the New River, bringing together the river's diverse constituents and providing a forum for partnership, research, and policy development.

Members of the New River Catawba Nation are the modern-day descendants of the original Catawba people who migrated here around 1200 AD. In their language, Tla Wilano, they are known as the Wagahattamnegleechee Odah. The Catawba originated as an Eastern Siouan Nation who, since "time immemorial" have occupied lands in the mountains, foothills and Piedmont regions of North Carolina

and Virginia.

"We are incredibly honored to have Chief Harris as our Keynote Speaker for the 2024 New River Symposium," said Elizabeth Underwood, Executive Director for the New River Conservancy. "The theme this year is 'Rivers Cubed: Reconnect, Restore, Recreate.' As a descendant of the original Catawba people, Chief Harris not only brings a wealth of knowledge, a sense of continuity and place to our event, she is a link in which we can reconnect to the past of our beloved New River."

As Chief, Harris serves as the contact person between the Tribe and both Federal and State agencies. She oversees all Tribe activities and is the "face" of the New River Catawba Nation at all public functions.

Chief Harris attended Lenoir-Rhyne University where she obtained degrees in both Biology and Secondary Science Education. She taught in

North Carolina public schools for 31 years. Her favorite topic, because of her Native American upbringing, was Earth/ Environmental Science. When teaching Earth/ Environmental Science, Chief Harris was able to pass on the Native American view of our planet, its resources and our obligation to be good stewards of Mother Earth. She is also the author of "History of the New River Catawba."

Chief Harris is married, with two children and four grandchildren. She loves spending time with her family and tribe learning about the "old ways" and enjoying the great outdoors.

New River Symposium 2024 runs April 11-April 12. For more information, schedule and to register for tickets for the 2024 New River Symposium, visit <https://newriverconservancy.org/symposium/> or contact Lisa Stansell - Galitz at 304-661-0947.

New River Conservancy

## Blacksburg Town Council hears funding requests from agencies and non-profit organizations

Lori Graham  
Contributing writer

BLACKSBURG – The Blacksburg Town Council heard funding needs from local agencies and non-profit organizations as they prepare for the new fiscal year's budget.

The first to address the Council during the March 26 meeting was former Councilman John Bush with the Blacksburg Museum and Cultural Foundation in support of funds needed to "renovate and restore the Alexander Black House (ABH) and to operate and create programming for both ABH and St. Luke and Odd Fellows Hall (SLOFH)" according to Bush's presentation.

Among some of the many steps the organization is taking to preserve and digitize cultural artifacts are creating opportunities for the community to visit and learn more about ABH and SLOFH. Old-time music events, Soul Food, Blues, Brews & BBQs, exhibits, concerts, and many other festivities are happening in coordination and



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF THE TOWN OF BLACKSBURG

cooperation with BMCF and other partnerships such as the Lyric Theater.

Museum of Art and History President Jean Haskell spoke, asking for continued support from the Blacksburg Town Council. Haskell also shared some upcoming events for the museum such as the ArtsNRV Market on June 7 and 8, which will include a special addition of the semi-truck art vehicle coming from the Virginia Fine Arts

See **Blacksburg**, page 4



PHOTO COURTESY OF YOUTUBE

This screenshot of the Radford Raptor Cam shows the activity in the osprey nest Monday, April 1, 2024 at 3:30 p.m.

## Osprey cam has Radford community enraptured by raptors

RADFORD – A live stream available on YouTube is keeping people up-to-date on the lives of a nesting pair of osprey on the Radford University campus.

The birds, who form a

mating pair for life, have one egg in their nest as of Monday afternoon.

Bob Sheehy, Ph.D., Radford University Emeritus Professor of Biology, writes the following about the cam,

and the inhabitants of the nest being filmed:

In early March, ospreys returned to Radford University, continuing a tradition of nesting on

See **Osprey**, page 4

## 'Women in Appalachia' exhibit spotlights how food and crafting created community

Kaitlynn Harless, a graduate student in history, created the Newman Library exhibit "Women in Appalachia: Food, Drink, and Community," which is located on the fourth floor of Newman Library through March, to honor the resilience, creativity, and generosity of Appalachia's community-centered women.

Her masters' degree thesis is based on her research about Appalachian women during the West Virginia mine wars in the 1910s, when coal miners attempted to unionize. Life was hard, but many of the women describe these times as the best in their lives.

Why?

"It has to do with the community they built with each other. Many

lived in tents with dirt floors, but they could gather with other women and share the load of cooking, childcare, and other household tasks. They connected," said Harless. "I created the exhibit from the research I'm already doing to give library visitors a broader idea of the life and role of

See **Exhibit**, page 7



PHOTO BY CHASE PARKER FOR VIRGINIA TECH

In exhibit cases, the stories of Appalachia's women are told through photographs, handwritten recipes and accounts, newspaper clippings, and daily life tools.

## Christiansburg Starbucks Roanoke St. location votes to unionize

CHRISTIANSBURG — Workers at the I-81 Roanoke St. Starbucks store have voted to join Starbucks Workers United – joining more than 410 stores and 10,000 workers who have unionized with Starbucks Workers United in the past three years.

"I'm really proud of my fellow partners for coming together to secure yet another amazing win for SBWU,

and I look forward to a future that facilitates a similar and even stronger unity, not just for Starbucks but for workers all across America," said Gwynn McCord, a shift supervisor at the Christiansburg Starbucks.

The location joins a nationwide movement of 10,000 baristas "joining together to win justice at work, including protections on core issues like respect, living wages, racial and

gender equity, and fair scheduling," according to a statement released by Starbucks Workers United. "The historic organizing campaign hinges on peer-to-peer organizing led by workers, for workers - and has won election after election in stores nationwide. In February, unionized Starbucks workers reached an agreement with the company to begin discussions to reach a foundational

framework for collective bargaining agreements for represented stores and partners."

Since 2021, 419 Starbucks stores in 43 states and the District of Columbia have successfully unionized — more than any other company in the 21st century.

Starbucks Workers United

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# UPCOMING EVENTS

## 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.

### NRCC offering free computer tune up

On Cyber Day anyone can bring their laptops, desktops, tablets and phones for a free tune up and virus scan. The NRCC Computer Club is hosting the event 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in 133 & 134 Godbey Hall at NRCC in Dublin. Several students and Dr. David Filer, NRCC information systems technology professor, will be working on the systems at the event. Any Windows or Android device is welcome. The NRCC Computer Club focuses on the skills of repairing and creating computers for campus and community use. For more information about Cyber Day, contact Filer at dfiler@nr.edu or (540) 674-3600, ext. 4272.

### NRCC Family Fun Festival and Campus Cruise In

New River Community College's Campus Cruise In will be held 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. in parking lot E at NRCC in Dublin. The Campus Cruise In will feature classic cars from regional car club members. The event is sponsored by the automotive technology department, is family-friendly, open to the public and free of charge. The Family Fun Festival and NRCC's Cyber Day event will also be going on during the Cruise In. The Family Fun Festival will include a variety of activities for adults and children.

## 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.

### 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.

## 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.

## Thursday, April 18:

### Sons of Confederate Veterans meeting

The Sons of Confederate Veterans, Stuart Horse Artillery Camp 1784 will meet at 7 p.m. at Aly's Italian Family Restaurant, 3204 Riner Rd. Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) are also invited to attend. For further information, please call 540-320-4315 or 540-239-9864.

## On-going:

### Radford 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. For further questions, and to register, contact rotary.club.of.radford.noon@gmail.com.

## NRCC students win poetry and visual arts contests; poet earns spot to compete for statewide title

New River Community College (NRCC) is pleased to announce the winners of its inaugural Virginia Community College System Poetry & Visual Arts Competition.

Participating students submitted original poetry and visual artworks during February and March interpreting the theme "I belong." The program aimed to foster a sense of community and belonging at NRCC and across the Virginia Community College System.

Twenty of the 23 colleges in the VCCS participated in this first year of the Poetry & Arts Competition, which was supported by the VCCS Advisory Council on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Culture.

Poet Laureate Winners: 1st Place: Ruth Johnson with The Darkness Feels Warm; 2nd Place: Sydney Proctor with Your "World"; 3rd Place: Jacob Hall with Through Him I Find Life; Honorary Mention: Cameron Flinchum

with Gai's Open Arms.

Visual Luminary Winners: 1st Place: Jordan Perfater with Nature's Calling; 2nd Place: Amara Freeman with A Work in Progress; 3rd Place: Kyle Scarrette with The Hobbyist-I Belong in the Communities of My Craft; Honorable Mention: Afton Thompson with Eye of Belonging.

"NRCC is extremely proud of our

See NRCC, page 8



PHOTO COURTESY OF NRCC

Jordan Perfater's "Nature's Calling"

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<p><b>Storage Auction at Tuckit In Storage</b></p> <p>Sale April 13, 2024 at 9am.</p> <p>3950 South Main St Blacksburg (540)953-4022</p> <p>Unit I 24- Amanda Powell Unit B 1-Tim Lytton Unit C 15-Samantha Meyer Unit B 18- Tehya cummings Unit D 39- Beverly Handy Unit I 51- Tenneh Banya Unit C 9- James Sanders Unit F 25- Kristen Beavers Unit J 36- Laura Pery Unit B 25- Jessica Shelton-Riddle Unit B 32- Aimee Fisher Unit A 1 - Austin Davis Unit C 30- Angela Clark Unit J 90- Stephanie Lewis Unit B 5- Karen Sewell Unit I 55- Lee Naff Unit I 29- Lee Naff</p>	<p>increase in the following Water, Waste Water and Electric rates and fees for Fiscal Year 2025:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Waste Water rates are programmed to increase from \$14.24 to \$16.24 for 2,000 gallons.</li> <li>Water Connection Fee is programmed to increase from \$1,300 to \$2,000.</li> <li>Electric Base Rates (Energy + Customer Charge) are programmed to increase from \$104.65 to \$107.97 for 1,000 kwh customer.</li> </ol> <p>Summary of rates only. Please see original schedules for terms and conditions.</p> <p>Residential: Basic customer charge: (per month) \$7.02 Energy Charge (all metered KWH) \$0.10095</p> <p>Sanctuary Worship Service Basic customer charge: (per month) \$7.02 Energy Charge (all metered KWH) \$0.10155</p> <p>Small General Service: Basic customer charge: (per month) \$9.25 Energy Charge (all metered KWH) \$0.10464</p> <p>Medium General Service: Basic customer charge: (per month) \$15.00 Demand Charge: (All kW of billing demand) \$4.45 Energy Charge (All metered KWH) \$0.08696</p> <p>Large General Service: Basic customer charge: (per month) \$50.00 Demand charge: (All kW of billing demand) \$13.13 Reactive Demand Charge (all kVar of lagging reactive demand) \$0.4500 Energy Charge (All metered KWH) \$0.05699</p> <p>Large Power Service: Basic customer charge: (per month) \$275.00</p>	<p>Demand charge: (All kW of billing demand) \$13.98 Reactive Demand Charge (all kVar of lagging reactive demand) \$0.9900 Energy Charge (All metered KWH) \$0.05520</p> <p>School &amp; City Services Basic Customer Charge: (per month) \$5.79 Energy Charge (all metered KWH) \$0.96690</p> <p>Outdoor Lighting (per month) 48 Watt Residential LED \$10.65 54 Watt Commercial LED \$12.50 160 Watt Commercial LED \$21.75</p> <p>Installation charge for metal pole for underground sodium lighting \$425.00</p> <p>Wholesale Power Cost Adjustment (per kwh) \$0.0560870 Fuel Adjustment Charge (per kwh) \$0.003377</p> <p>Rate Tariffs for all customer classes are available for review on the City's website at www.radfordva.gov.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">BY THE ORDER OF RADFORD CITY COUNCIL</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p><b>New River Valley HOME Consortium and Town of Blacksburg</b></p> <p><b>2023 Annual Action Plan Notice of Public Comment Period</b></p> <p>HOME and Community Development Block Grant Programs</p> <p>In accordance with guidelines established by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the New River Valley HOME Consortium and the Town of Blacksburg seek public comment on the proposed draft of the 2024 Annual Action Plan for the New River Valley's HOME Program and the Town of Blacksburg's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program.</p> <p>The Annual Action Plan provides a yearly accounting of HOME, CDBG, and other funds allocated towards the implementation of objectives outlined in the Consolidated Plan, completed every 5 years, identifies community needs and proposed solutions in the areas of Housing, Special Needs, Economic Development and Non-Housing Community Development. HOME and CDBG activities benefit low and moderate income persons by making improvements throughout the New River Valley, taking into consideration the public input received. Funding for the 2024 fiscal year, based on last year's allocation, is expected to be \$554,576 for the CDBG program and \$634,440 for the HOME program.</p>	<p>The proposed Housing and Community Development goals for 2024 are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support affordable housing</li> <li>Prevent and end homelessness</li> <li>Support non-homeless special needs</li> </ol> <p>All proposed activities' budgets will be proportionally increased or decreased from estimated funding levels to match actual annual allocation amounts.</p> <p>Proposed use of 2024 CDBG funds (contingent on funding): Housing Resiliency Grant Program - \$50,000 New River Community Action - \$11,268 Women's Resource Center of the NRV - \$6,417 Live, Work, Eat, Grow - Blacksburg Community Gardens - \$14,421 Valley Interfaith Child Care Center - \$45,315 Affordable Housing Initiatives - \$316,240 Program Administration - \$110,915 CDBG TOTAL - \$554,576</p> <p>Proposed use of 2024 HOME funds (contingent on funding): HOME Administration - \$63,440 Community Housing Development Organization Operational Support - \$30,000 Community Housing Development Organization Projects - \$95,166 Affordable Homeownership Projects - \$423,084 Affordable Rental Projects - \$22,750 HOME Total - \$634,440</p> <p>The draft 2024 Annual Action Plan can be reviewed online on the Town's website at Blacksburg.gov/HUDDPlan. Hard copies are available at the Blacksburg Public Library lobby (200 Miller Street) on the community information display, or by</p>	<p>contacting the Housing and Community Connections Office at 540-443-1615.</p> <p>Public comments and questions regarding the Annual Plan will be received in person on Monday, April 22 th from 4pm-5pm at the Town of Blacksburg Housing and Community Connections office at 303 Wilson Ave.</p> <p>Public comments and questions can be shared virtually via Zoom on Monday, April 22 th from 5pm-6pm. Please contact the Office of Housing and Community Connections for the Zoom link.</p> <p>Comments may also be shared via e-mail to: housing@blacksburg.gov , by phone at (540) 443-1615, or by mail to Housing and Community Connections, P.O. Box 90003, Blacksburg, VA 24062. Comments must be received</p>

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# Food production using controlled environment agriculture and agrivoltaics systems could become the new normal

New research from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Virginia Tech suggests that technologies such as controlled environment agriculture and agrivoltaics may become part of the future of farming.

Controlled environment agriculture systems are typically enclosed or indoors. They include greenhouses, vertical farms, and hydroponics that use horticultural and engineering techniques beyond traditional, soil-based outdoor production.

Agrovoltas involve the use of land for both farming and solar photovoltaic energy generation. A recent publication by USDA and Virginia Tech

researchers highlights that these innovative techniques could increase yields, enhance nutrition, improve access to local foods, and provide better year-round access to fresh food than traditional large-scale

outdoor production. The research team found that even though these systems face technological and economic challenges, they are part of a

See Food, page 8

## Osprey

from page 1

our main campus this time of year. Clyde Kessler, a local ornithologist, first observed the nest in May 2019. It has been active every year since.

In anticipation of the birds' return migration, a camera was installed on the nest through a collaborative effort involving the Departments of Biology and Geology, University Advancement, Facilities Management, Information Technology Services and Marketing and Communication, and with the support of CMG Leasing.

Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) are birds of prey that are almost exclusively fish eaters. In higher latitudes, fish become unavailable in winter, so the birds in these areas migrate. Our birds are likely

migrating to the Caribbean or South America each winter and returning for nesting in mid-March to early April.

Ospreys form permanent pairings and will return to use the same nest year after year. The nesting season starts with the pair adding to the nest, which increases in size each year, often becoming quite large. Copulations take place in the nest, and the female will lay two to four eggs several days apart. While incubation is done primarily by the female, the male will help with this task as well. Incubation lasts approximately 40 days. Young ospreys grow quickly and are ready to fledge about two-and-a-half months after hatching. Highlanders who tune into the video feed will be able to

distinguish the male from the female osprey based on size. The females are noticeably larger than the males.

One of only six species of land birds with worldwide distribution, the osprey population decreased by an estimated 90% in the 1950s and '60s due to the widespread use of pesticides such as DDT. Since the U.S. ban on DDT in 1972, the population of ospreys has been slowly increasing. Radford University has seen the benefit of this increase and strives to support this conservation effort as part of the River Campus initiative. The installation of artificial nest platforms has been shown to aid in this recovery effort, and members of the university community, in partnership with the

city, are exploring the construction of additional nesting sites along Radford's riverway.

NOTE: The safety and well-being of the ospreys are of paramount importance, so please respect their rights to nest without human interference. We encourage members of the Radford community to observe these birds via the video feed. Harassing nesting ospreys violates the Federal Migratory Bird Act, and shooting drone video footage of the birds in their nesting habitat or disturbing them in any other way is strictly prohibited.

Staff report

## Harris

from page 1

Museum, considered "one of the finest museums in the country" Haskell said.

On Nov. 6, Cultural Crossroads, a concert featuring traditional music and dance, will be occurring at the Moss Arts Center in Blacksburg.

"That means it's going to have performers who are Native American, African American, European, Celtic, Asian, and Latin. They do Appalachian music and dance," Haskell said.

Montgomery County Public Schools also just completed their county-wide art shows and there has been a revitalization of the Montgomery County Junior Appalachian Musicians (MJAM) program, according to Haskell. MJAM serves students at Prices Fork Elementary and Christiansburg Elementary Schools.

Tina King with the New River Valley Agency on Aging said, "We are a governmental cooperative that was established in 1975, when Blacksburg and some of the other local governments came together to form us as the area agency on aging to serve the New River Valley."

The New River Valley Agency on Aging is focused on providing sources and information to older adults, seniors, and their caregivers.

"The overall representation, the service level in the New River Valley, Blacksburg is like 12%, we touched over 29,000 individuals throughout the New River Valley," King said. "Additionally, our meals have increased in Blacksburg this past year by over 1,000... and we anticipate we will deliver even more than that this year."

King said there will be programs coming up this year dealing with dementia as well, as the organization looks forward to the upcoming year along with a caregiver conference.

Many other speakers addressed their monetary needs for non-profit and volunteer organizations in the NRV and Blacksburg who depend on local government support and donations to continue their work.

Casey Hodges, a flutist with the Blacksburg Community Band, highlighted their needs as they maintain a music library, transportation for their musical instruments and equipment, and present scholarships to local high school students in the Montgomery County Public Schools for music endeavors.

Erica Slagel-Perry School Program Manager for the Community Health Center of the New River Valley discussed their services in Dublin, Christiansburg, and the most recent location at Pulaski County High School.

"We offer all of our services on a sliding scale fee to individuals who are 200% or below the federal poverty level," Slagel-Perry said. "In 2023, we served 677 Blacksburg residents that met criteria for the sliding scale, these same patients were seen at our Center approximately four times, that adds up to about 2,900

visits over the year."

The organization is asking for monetary assistance in keeping fees low and offering medical and dental services to community members.

Wonder Universe Childrens Museum "welcomed over 30,000 visitors this past year" Executive Director Nora Bolte said, had collaborations with Virginia Tech, a new East Asian exhibit, and have expanded on their other cultural explorations for the museum.

Other agencies that addressed council include Literacy Volunteers of the NRV, Blacksburg Farmers Market, the Summer Arts Festival will continue to offer summer events on Henderson Lawn, The Lyric Theater and Live Work Eat Grow.

Public citizen comment also included many community members responding to Blacksburg Town Council's reported position not to act in response to previous requests from individuals to sign a permanent ceasefire in Gaza resolution.

Rosemary Sawdon of Blacksburg said, "I sent all of you an email this Monday on March 25 and it was in regard to a resolution that some of us in the town are asking you to consider regarding a permanent ceasefire in Gaza. I received one response from you and that was from Susan Mattingly, and I thank you for responding. The response indicated to me that this was not a purview for this particular Council and so I am here to tell you that over 100 American communities have signed on to a resolution for a Gaza ceasefire."

Several other community members from local high school and university students, citizens from the ages of children to senior citizens, and men and women of many diverse cultural backgrounds lined the aisles of the Council meeting waiting for their opportunity to address the Council concerning the resolution.

James Hardell of Blacksburg, who lived through World War II, asked for council to "let them do their job" in response to Israel's response to the initial attack in October.

"In any war that has to be fought, there are casualties, civilian casualties, youth, babies," Hardell said.

U.S. military veteran Waverly Evans echoed the thoughts of Hardell with his comments that we should let Israel take care of their business and town council needs to focus on the citizens of Blacksburg. However, if council chooses to take a stance, Evans said that it should be gauged on the feelings of all community members and not just the ones that have repeatedly appeared to address council, many he says are the same individuals.

Blacksburg Town Council will hold their next regular meeting on April 9, 2024, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

## 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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**CROSSWORD**

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

**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1965 PGA Champion David
- Pesetas (abbr.)
- So. Am. treeless grassland
- A fencing sword
- Do over, as of a house
- Confederate general Richard S.
- Seamen
- Honey bee genus
- City in central Poland on the Mleczna
- E. M. Forster novel
- Jenny \_\_, Swedish soprano
- Illumined
- Escargots
- Surgical clamp
- Maize
- Ngerulmud is the Republic's capital

**CLUES DOWN**

- Denotes change of position
- So. Am. armadillo with 3 bands of bony plates
- About aviation
- Repairing worn shoes
- Decapods
- Having moderate heat
- Almost horizontal entrance to a mine
- Somalian shilling (abbr.)
- Penetrable
- To be in store for
- People of ancient Media
- A way to work the soil
- Air-launched missile
- 1/1000 of an inch
- Mater, one's school
- Old English poet or bard
- Persian wheel used to raise water
- Spirit in "The Tempest"
- Drag, cart or haul
- If not, otherwise
- Coverings for wheels
- Having cognizance
- Lugs
- Sheet of glass in a window
- Cause annoyance in
- Sound of a horse
- Apparition
- Military land forces
- Selects by votes
- A shag rug made in Sweden
- Anchovy pear tree
- 8th Jewish calendar month
- Blood clams genus
- Benevolent & Protective Order of
- Birthplace of Buddhism Both
- Ancient Greek City aka Velia
- Capital of Yemen
- Golf ball pegs
- Engine additive

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# NRCC Concert Series to hold free concert April 13

The music of Sassafras Bluegrass Band will be featured during New River Community College's Concert Series event on Sat., April 13.

Music will begin at 6 p.m. in 117 Edwards Hall at NRCC in Dublin. This event will also feature a "country fixin' night" while supplies last, with the meal being sold for \$8.

Sassafras Bluegrass Band is based in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina. The group is a bluegrass band who pays homage to the Bill Monroe and the Flatt & Scruggs era but also enjoys pushing the edge of progressive Newgrass music as well. Their repertoire also includes a range of musical styles including old time, country, folk, western swing and originals. The group includes Wes Tuttle on mandolin, fiddle and vocals; Gray Tuttle on banjo and vocals; Josh Scott on bass and vocals; and Randy Gambill on guitar and vocals.

Sassafras Bluegrass Band members have performed at a long list of festivals and venues including Merlefest, Walnut Valley Festival, Riverhawk Music Festival, Songs of the Mountain, King Pup Syndicated Radio, Red White and Bluegrass Festival, Albino Skunk Festival, Plum Hollow Festival, Chomp & Stomp Festival, Mean Fiddler, Bean Blossom Bluegrass Festival, Gettysburg Bluegrass Festival, High Mountain Bluegrass Festival, Pickin' on the Plains, Rogersville Bluegrass Festival, Outer Banks Bluegrass Festival, Wickenburg Bluegrass Festival, and many others. Collectively, they have shared the stage or studio with Doc Watson, Jack Lawrence, Charlie Waller, Josh Graves, John Cowan, Jim Lauderdale, Ronnie Bowman, Tony Rice, Russell Moore, Jim Buchanan, Allison Krauss, Tim O'Brien, Mark O'Connor, Laurie Lewis, Tony Furtado and many



Sassafras Bluegrass Band

PHOTO COURTESY OF NRCC

others.

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

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

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

- NRCC



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARK SHELDON

The Queen's Cartoonists performing with a Warner Bros. classic.

# Cartoons come alive with the Queen's Cartoonists

RADFORD - On Tuesday, April 9, Radford University's Performance Series will host one of the most unique and interesting acts to ever grace the Bondurant Auditorium stage.

The Queen's Cartoonists, a group of good-natured musicians/jokesters, plan to make kids out of their audience no matter what their age with a unique combination of large screen animation and live music.

It all started in 2014 when pianist and composer Joel Pierson decided he wanted to bring jazz and classical music to people in a way that was exciting, enjoyable and experiential. He formed the Queen's Cartoonists (a play on the fact that they all resided in Queens, New York), and set about creating a live music experience to accompany cartoons.

"I was looking for a way to expose audiences to jazz and classical music, without alienating the more traditional, older concert going audience," Pierson explained. "One day I noticed that there was some overlap between the Golden Age of Jazz and the Golden Age of Animation, and bam!"

The Golden Age of Animation is certainly represented in their shows. The Queen's Cartoonists frequently feature some of the most recognizable cartoon characters in history like Betty Boop and Popeye.

But they also bring in new animation, often seen for the first time by their audience. In fact, some of the selections come from around the world, reflecting the international composition of the band.

While the band calls Queens their collective home, drummer Rossen Nedelchev hails from Bulgaria and woodwinds specialist Mark "Dingo" Phillips came from Australia.

Other rotating members of the band have homes in Japan, Finland, and Argentina. And Pierson has actually performed on all seven continents. That's right - including Antarctica.

With such a range of cartoons, there is variety in the music, requiring different

strategies to match. Some of the music is a note-for-note reproduction of original cartoon scores while other pieces are written specifically for newer animation.

Classical music is mixed in as well, especially songs people are familiar with that fit the action on the screen.

And considering that many people attribute their first experience with classical music to the likes of Bugs Bunny and Elmer Fudd, it makes perfect sense.

"There's a lot of music in our concerts," Pierson said, "and it changes rapidly."

"Younger generations might not think they like jazz or classical music, but the combination of the animations and synchronicity of the experience are enjoyed by everyone."

But how do they pull it off? How can the musicians, who are not even looking at the screen most of the time, synchronize their contributions to the action playing out behind them?

The key is a click track.

Pierson and Nedelchev have earpieces. They can keep perfect time with the music this way and the rest of the band follows their lead.

But the music and cartoons are only part of the show.

The Queen's Cartoonists also bring comedy into the mix, performing stage tricks and musical feats that can feel like a vaudeville act.

Pierson says that in addition to acting as musical director, he also writes the jokes. And as they say in showbiz, the jokes are on the house.

"If you don't like them," Pierson adds, "complain to the drummer."

The Queen's Cartoonists get the antics started at 7:30 p.m. in the Bondurant Auditorium located in Preston Hall on Radford University's main campus.

Tickets are \$15 for general admission, \$7.50 for children 12 and under, and free with a Radford University ID. For more information, visit [www.radford.edu/ups](http://www.radford.edu/ups).

- Radford University

# Maple syrup producers provide sweet news for threatened birds



PHOTO COURTESY OF RUSSEL SMITH, AUDUBON PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS, VIA VIRGINIA TECH

The scarlet tanager is one of many migratory bird species that depend on diverse forest ecosystems for survival.

The summer mating season is looking to get a lot easier for the scarlet tanager, one of a number of migratory songbirds that use the forests of northeastern North America to find a mate.

In recent decades, the loss and degradation of bird habitats has led to a precipitous decline in bird populations. Now, a \$2 million grant awarded to the National Audubon Society's Bird-Friendly Maple program, in partnership with College of Natural Resources and Environment Associate Professor Ashley Dayer, will look to improve bird habitats by encouraging maple syrup producers to incorporate forest management practices that allow other trees and bushes to grow amid the sugar maples that are responsible for our sticky breakfast topping.

"The future of maple-dominated forests, birds, and other biodiversity and their ability to be resilient and adaptable to a changing climate relies on how private lands are managed," said Dayer, who researches the interplay between wildlife conservation and human societies in the Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation. "We aim to understand how to empower small forest landowners to get involved and ensure that benefiting birds benefits their bottom line too."

The project is funded through a new program in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service that supports emerging markets to foster forest resilience. Participating maple syrup producers will commit to dedicating at least one-fourth of their land to the growing of alternative tree species and also allow for diverse growth of understory and midstory plants and shrubs, critical resources

for bird species that call the forests of North America home.

Maple producers who participate in this technique will be able to label their maple products "bird-friendly," a designation that researchers hope will lead to market benefits for owners of the sugar shacks that are currently producing our favorite pancake topping.

"Virginia Tech will play a key role in the project, evaluating landowner needs and addressing barriers to increased engagement," said Dayer, an affiliated faculty member of the Fralin Life Sciences Institute, the Global Change Center, and the Center for Coastal Studies. "We will also develop and implement message testing with potential consumers of bird-friendly maple syrup to explore how to grow interest in this product."

For Dayer, this research aligns with previous work she has done in helping to develop certification for bird-friendly coffee, which encourages tropical farmers to grow and harvest coffee under the canopies of mature trees, a critical need for both tropical and migratory bird species.

Dayer said that getting buy-in from the forest landowners producing coffee or maple syrup is critical for conservation efforts like this initiative.

"As we've learned from other contexts, listening to landowners is the foundation of a successful private lands conservation project," said Dayer. "Developing projects with them ensures that our work will have lasting benefits for people, habitats, and birds."

Krista Timney for Virginia Tech

Send community news and photos to [communitynews@ourvalley.org](mailto:communitynews@ourvalley.org)

# OBITUARIES

## Beebe, Judy Kay Parnell

Judy Kay Parnell Beebe, 70, passed away Thursday, Mar. 28, 2024. Billings; four step grandchildren; sisters, Cathy Quesenberry (Roger) and Joy Parnell; several nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.



She retired from Radford University Housekeeping. Judy was preceded in death by her parents Harriet and Eliza Parnell; husband, Jeffrey Lynn Beebe; and brothers, Jackie and James Parnell.

Survivors include her daughter, Teresa Parnell; stepdaughter, Ericka Beebe; grandsons, Devontia Billings, Demico Parnell, and DeAndre Stewart; great grandchildren, Noah and Elliana

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

Memorial services will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, April 13, 2024, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford with Pastor Frankie Coleman officiating.

## Gautier, Timothy Allen

Timothy Allen Gautier, 54, of other relatives and special friends. Radford, passed away Monday, April 1, 2024.



He was preceded in death by his parents, David, Sr. and Phyllis Collins Gautier.

Survivors include his loving wife of 30 years, Melissa Cabell Gautier; children, Timothy "Bo" Gautier, Jr., Shannon Lynn Viers (Billy), Carole Beth Reed, and Katelyn Nicole Gautier; grandchildren, Jacob, Braylen, Jayce, Aiden, Kaysen, and Grayson; siblings, David Gautier, Jr. (Patty), Missy King, and Pam Gautier; niece, Kayla; nephews, Cody and Lucas; special little buddy and canine companion, Jax; and many

The family received friends Friday, April 5, 2024, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services followed with Pastor T. Michael Bond officiating. Burial followed in Birchlawn Burial Park in Pearisburg.

In lieu of flowers the family requests donations be made to the National Kidney Foundation, Attn: Gift Processing at National Kidney Foundation HQ, 30 East 33rd Street, New York, NY, 10016.

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

See Obituaries, page 7

## Fylpa, Jr., Douglas Donald

Douglas Donald Fylpa, Jr., 73, of Blacksburg, died Monday, April 1, 2024 at his home.

He was born in California Feb. 23, 1953 to the late Douglas Donald Fylpa, Sr. and Rosemary Osborne Cisney.

He is survived by his wife, Jerri Lynn Fylpa; son, Douglas Fylpa

III; stepdaughter, Jennifer Pettit; grandchildren, Alicia Keatts (Donald), Ragan Tawney, Lauren Goad, Aedon Wiley and Jase Wiley; great-grandchildren, Addy, Rylan, Rylee and Colton.

A private service will be at the family home.

Send community news and photos to [communitynews@ourvalley.org](mailto:communitynews@ourvalley.org)

### 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](http://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](http://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](http://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: [fbcradford.org](http://fbcradford.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](http://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 Sonafank, 1-336-583-4822. Morning Worship 11 a.m.; Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Wednesdays. Website: [www.christiansburgcob.org](http://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](http://www.SnowvilleChristianChurch.com) (and Facebook), Office: 540-633-3761, Email: [office@SnowvilleChristianChurch.com](mailto: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](http://www.eck-va.org), [www.meetup.com/Roanoke-Spiritual-Experiences](http://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

## SICK WITH SIN

Read Psalms 37:1 through 38:22

Every one of the world's billions of people will face injury and illness in life. No one can escape pain and suffering. When we hurt, we usually seek help. We bandage wounds, take medication, visit a physician—all in an effort to gain healing.

Why aren't we as eager to cure sin? Why don't we deal with it as we do other ailments? God provided a solution for sin: repent, confess, and forsake the sin. Yet we often ignore it or let it go until it looms full-blown and potentially life-threatening (Psalm 38:5,6).

I confess my iniquity; I am troubled by my sin (Psalm 38:18).

The best time to address sin is when we first experience sin symptoms. It's best to remove a sliver before it gets infected, even though it may cause momentary discomfort. In the same way we should dig out any scrap of embedded sin before it leads to something worse.

Jesus is our Great Physician and the Bible our spiritual medicine chest. Our Divine Doctor prescribes daily doses as preventative treatment against sin.

Thought for Today: What remedy do you find today in God's Word?

Quicklook: Psalm 38:8-18

If your church is not listed and if you are interested, call Wendi Craig at 276-340-2445 or email at [advertise@mainstreetnewspapers.com](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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 [lutherememorialblacksburg@gmail.com](mailto:lutherememorialblacksburg@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](http://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](mailto:hope@stmcl.us); Website [www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](http://StPaulUMCChristiansburgVA). All are welcome. Website: [www.stpaulvaumc.org](http://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](http://christwesleyanchurch.org)

# Obituaries from page 6

## Moore, Patricia Burleson

Patricia Burleson Moore, Blacksburg, formerly of Lynchburg, passed away peacefully surrounded by her family Saturday, Mar. 23, 2024.

Pat was born Feb. 11, 1935, in Logan, W.Va., daughter of the late Ruth Walker and Dane Bailey. She loved her West Virginia heritage, and the license plate of her car proudly read "MTN MAMA" in honor of the John Denver song "Take Me Home, Country Roads" which was a favorite of her Logan family. After graduating from Logan High School in 1953, she attended the University of Kentucky where she graduated with a BA in Home Economics in 1957.

While there she began her romance with her first husband, the late William "Bill" Calvin Burleson, and they married in 1957. After the tragic 1962 death of their first son, the late infant William Christopher, due to Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, they were blessed by a second son, David Charles, later in 1962, and a daughter, Kristi Lynn, in 1963. Many wonderful memories of great vacations, Virginia Tech ballgames, movie nights at the Lyric and Studio One, holidays and summers with family in Logan and Louisville, family game nights, cookouts on the back deck and all the good times were created through the years.

She began her career in the Montgomery County Public School system as a teacher's aide at Margaret Beeks Elementary in the late sixties. Later, she worked as an Earth Science teacher at Blacksburg High School from 1972-1998, a job that turned into a passionate love for all the glorious dynamics of our planet she enthusiastically shared with her students, family and friends.



After the death of her first husband, Bill, in 1995, she later began her second romance with the late Herbert R. Moore of Lynchburg, and they were married in 1998. They enjoyed traveling the world, going to shows in New York, dining, and spending holidays with family and friends until his death in 2019. She moved back to Blacksburg in 2019 to English Meadows.

She was preceded in death by her mother Ruth Walker, father Dane B. Bailey, husband William C. Burleson, second husband Herbert R. Moore and son Christopher. Left to cherish her memory are son David (Bonnie), daughter Kristi (David), grandchildren Justin and Kalli, great-grandson Avery, brother Charles W. Bailey (Frangee) and their family in Montana, close friends, Marolyn Parson, Beth Issac and Carolyn Rodenburg, as well as all of Herb's family.

There will be a private burial at Westview Cemetery in Blacksburg, followed by the family receiving friends at McCoy Funeral Home Saturday, April 13, 2 to 4 pm. The family wishes to extend their gratitude to the staff of English Meadows, especially in Lavender Hills, and also the Medi Home Health and Hospice staff, all of whom took such good care of our mom and were so wonderful to our family. Also, to everyone around us who has given us so much support, thank you so much.

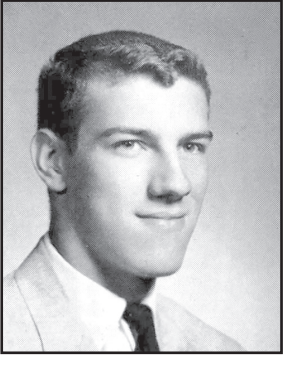
In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Medi Home Health and Hospice - Pulaski, VA or Teepea Snow Positive Approach to Care. Online messages to the family can be left at mccoymfuneralhome.com.

## Stewart, Jr., Robert "Sonny" Thomas

Robert "Sonny" Thomas Stewart, Jr., 81, of Dublin, passed away Tuesday, April 2, 2024.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Robert Thomas, Sr. and Pearl Kesterson Stewart; his wives, Nancy Gardner Stewart and Janice Fleanor Stewart; and his sister, Josephine Sandy.

He is survived by his son and daughter-in-law, Rob and Jennifer Stewart; daughter, Lori Sharp; grandchildren, Will Stewart and Molly Stewart; great-granddaughter, Madeline Webber; sisters and brother-in-law, Betty and



B.F. Beasley, and Barbara Bond; brother and sister-in-law, Richard and Barbara Stewart; caregiver, Reba Crawford; and many other family members and friends.

Sonny enjoyed being in the presence of his friends whether it be playing golf or poker. He was a bright light (hence the nickname), and he will be sorely missed by all who knew him.

Per his request, a private memorial service will be held at a later date.

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

## Wrenn, Virginia "Ginny"

Virginia "Ginny" Wrenn, 104, church. She passed away Saturday, March 30, 2024. She was born Sept. 10, 1919, in Radford to Lorne and Pearl Smith.

She grew up in west Radford where her father worked for the Lynchburg foundry. Ginny attended Kuhn Barnett Elementary and Radford High School where she graduated in 1937. She was probably the last remaining member of that class.

Ginny went to work for Burlington Mills in Radford where she met her husband, Bob. They were married in 1939 and shortly thereafter Bob's employer moved them to Fayetteville, N.C. Their two children were born there. They lived in Fayetteville during WWII and returned to Radford in 1950. Ginny worked at several places in Radford. In the early 60's she went to work for Poly Scientific (now Moog) in Blacksburg and stayed there until Bob's poor health forced her to retire in 1981.

Ginny has been a member of Central Methodist Church in Radford for most of her adult life and was likely their oldest living member. While active, she held a number of administrative positions in the



Radford Garden Club, AARP, and other senior citizen organizations.

She had a number of hobbies which included knitting, doll making, etching, basket weaving, cooking and organizing family reunions.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. L.E. Smith; sisters and brothers-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. J.C. Jones, Rev. and Mrs. C. Walter Martin, and infant sister, Ruth; her husband who passed in 1982, Robert W. "Bob" Wrenn; son-in-law, W.P. "Bill" Brewer; and her daughter-in-law, Alice Price Wrenn.

Ginny is survived by her son, Robert E. "Buck" Wrenn; daughter, Jennie Brewer; five grandchildren, six great-grandchildren; and six great great-grandchildren.

A visitation was held Friday, April 5, 2024, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford.

The family would like to thank the Staff at Highland Ridge Rehab Center and Wythe Hospice for the care they provided.

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

# Graceful, glamorous, hilarious: The Trockaderos are a must-see



PHOTO COURTESY OF ROBERTO RICCI

## With feathers falling, a dancer with Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo performs in "Dying Swan."

With an inspired blend of dance and impeccable humor, the world-class, all-male comic dance troupe Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo makes its Southwest Virginia debut at the Moss Arts Center on Saturday, April 13, at 7:30 p.m.

The evening includes the company's signature performance from the world's best-known ballet, "Swan Lake."

The Trocks, as the performers are affectionately known, have established themselves as a major dance phenomenon. They present a playful, entertaining view of traditional, classical ballet in parody form and with men performing all of the roles — including those usually danced by women. Men dancing en pointe — heavy bodies delicately balancing on toes as swans, sylphs, water sprites, and romantic princesses — celebrate the spirit of dance as an art form, delighting and amusing audiences regardless of dance knowledge.

Founded in 1974 by a group of ballet enthusiasts, Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo first performed in late-late shows in off-off Broadway lofts. The ensemble quickly garnered a major critical essay by Arlene Croce in the New Yorker, which, combined with reviews in the New York Times and the Village Voice,

established the company as an artistic and popular success.

By mid-1975, the Trocks' inspired and loving knowledge of dance, impeccable comic approach, and the astounding fact that men can, indeed, dance en pointe without falling flat on their faces, was being noted beyond New York. Articles in popular publications, including a photo essay in Vogue magazine, made the Trocks nationally and internationally known. Since its beginnings, the company has appeared in over 30 countries and over 500 cities worldwide.

The original concept of Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo has not changed. It is a company of professional male dancers performing the full range of the ballet and modern dance repertoire, including classical and original works in faithful renditions of the manners and conceits of those dance styles. The comedy is achieved by incorporating and exaggerating the foibles, accidents, and underlying incongruities of serious dance. The dancers have both a male and female persona with their own stage names — Holly Dey-Abroad, Tatiana Youbetyabootskaya, Mikhail Mudkin — spoofing the egos and oddities of international ballet divas.

This performance is supported in part by

gifts from Dr. Mark and Connie Froggatt, Dr. Rosemary Blieszner and Dr. Stephen P. Gerus, and Ms. Mary Ann Walker and Dr. Kenneth J. Walker.

Related events Enjoy a free screening of the 2021 film "Ballerina Boys," co-presented by the School of Performing Arts and Pride Center at Virginia Tech for Pride Week 2024, on Wednesday, April 3, at 7 p.m. in the Creativity and Innovation District living-learning community, Performance Room 150. From PBS' "American Masters" documentary series, "Ballerina Boys" tells the story of the remarkable history of Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo in the broader struggle for LGBTQ+ rights.

Radford University's Department of Dance will host a repertory class for Radford and Virginia Tech students to learn excerpts of classical repertoire from a member of Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo — first as performed by the world's great ballet companies and then as the Trocks' satirical versions.

Prior to the performance on April 13, a group of Virginia Tech students will observe how the Trocks transform from street looks to ballerinas in a backstage makeup demonstration.

*Katie Gehrt for Virginia Tech*

# Sorority member honored with Ritual of Jewels



Sharon E. Ferrell

PHOTO COURTESY OF BETA SIGMA PHI SORORITY

Sharon E. Ferrell was recently honored by the Christiansburg Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi Sorority with the Ritual of Jewels.

To qualify for this degree a pledge completes the required months of training and learning about the International Sorority. Chapter Vice President Sue B. Warden served as the official Training Officer.

The candlelight ritual was officiated by Robin Grove, with Kristen Talley and Sue Warden serving as Assistants, and all members participating. The honoree was presented with the traditional yellow rose.

Ferrell currently serves on Alpha Mu Master's Program and Service Committees. She is employed by VCOM-Standardized Patient in Blacksburg and resides with her husband Paul in Christiansburg.

*Christiansburg Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi Sorority*

**CROSSWORD ANSWERS**

M	A	A	R	P	T	A	S	P	A	M	P	A
E	P	E	E	R	E	D	O	E	W	E	L	L
T	A	R	S	A	P	I	S	R	A	D	O	M
A	R	O	M	W	I	T	H	A	V	I	E	W
				L	I	N	D	L	I	T		
S	N	A	I	L	S	H	E	M	O	S	T	A
C	O	R	N	P	A	L	A	U	I	W	O	
O	R	I	G	I	N	A	L	S	S	P	R	A
P	I	E	R	E	N	E	E	H	E	R	E	
S	A	L	A	R	I	E	S	E	R	A	S	E
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T	A	M	H	E	G	R	E	A	T	E	S	T
S	Y	R	I	A	L	A	I	C	A	L	A	E
T	A	C	E	T	K	Y	A	T	S	E	N	E
P	R	A	S	E	S	A	S	S	M	A	A	S

www.montcova.com

# Photographer wins both categories of photo contest

Charles Lynch of Christiansburg won both the photo challenge and the open category at the Radford Photo Club March meeting.

He won the Food Challenge with a photo of bottles of hot sauce taken at a Radford grill.

"I liked the colors and the arrangement of the bottles with a beer bar background giving it a familiar sense of place," Lynch said.

He won the open category with a photo of a mountain valley landscape taken in West Virginia.

"The wood grain of the farmhouse suggested black and white conversion; and it was a keeper,"

he explained. "It is just a beautiful scene, which requires no justification at all."

The March meeting began a new offering. At each meeting, one or two members will make brief presentations about famous photographers plus a photo in similar style of their own. In March, Michele Borgarelli of Blacksburg presented the works of Luigi Ghirri. Also at the meeting, works from the February meeting's four stations – the library, a tiny diorama, a fancy cake, and a floral still life – were presented.

In April, the photo challenge is photography in the dark, using artificial

light. There will also be walks to photograph early flowers during April, which will be publicized on the Radford Photo Club's Facebook page.

The Radford Photo Club, which meets at the Radford Public Library, is made up of professional and amateur photographers from throughout the New River Valley. Meetings, events, and outings are open to the public. If you have questions about the club, email Lucy Gilmore at [lucyg.gilmore@gmail.com](mailto:lucyg.gilmore@gmail.com) or Michele Borgarelli at [mborgarelli@gmail.com](mailto:mborgarelli@gmail.com).

*Radford Photo Club*



PHOTOS BY CHARLES LYNCH



PHOTO COURTESY OF RADFORD UNIVERSITY

**Radford University is hosting an event for the solar eclipse this Monday, April 8.**

## Radford University to host eclipse event

RADFORD - Radford University is gearing up to become the ultimate celestial hub as it prepares to host an extraordinary eclipse event on Monday, April 8.

Touted as "eclipse central" in the New River Valley, the event promises an exhilarating experience for astronomy enthusiasts of all ages on campus and from the community.

Organized by the Radford University Planetarium in collaboration with the Artis College of Science and Technology, the event will feature a lineup of eclipse-themed planetarium shows and engaging activities. Held at the Center for the Sciences and in Parking Lot C, attendees can immerse themselves in the wonders of the cosmos from 1:30 to 5:30 p.m.

To ensure everyone can safely witness the celestial spectacle, over 1,000 solar viewing glasses will be available for distribution to event attendees. As the moon gracefully moves in front of the sun, Radford University observers will be

treated to a mesmerizing display starting at 1:58 p.m., with the maximum eclipse in Radford, covering 87% of the sun, occurring at 3:15 p.m.

"This incredible astronomical event will remind us of how we fit into our dynamic and ever-changing three-dimensional solar system," said Rhett Herman, Ph.D., professor of physics and director of the Radford University Planetarium. "Unlike so many of our distant ancestors, who may have viewed these events with fear and worry, we can view it (safely, with solar glasses!) with simple wonder and awe for our universe."

Join us on April 8 to marvel at the beauty of the eclipse and gain a newfound appreciation for the mysteries of the universe. Find more information about this event and other events at the Planetarium <https://www.radford.edu/content/csat/home/ru-planetarium>.

*Justin Ward for Radford University*

## Food from page 4

long history of advancing technology for the U.S. agricultural sector.

The team was led by Erik Dohlman with Karen Maguire, Wilma Davis, Megan Husby, and Catharine Weber, all economists with the USDA's Economic Research Service. Virginia Tech researchers included John Bovay, assistant professor and Kohl Junior Faculty Fellow in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences' Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics, and Yoonjung Lee, a graduate student in the department.

While these new technologies may not replace conventional production methods anytime soon, they have great potential to generate benefits including renewable energy from agrivoltaic systems and reducing the risk of crop failure in extreme weather conditions.

"Part of the motivation for this project was to provide an overview of emerging technologies, particularly hydroponics and vertical farming," said Bovay, who is also affiliated faculty in the Center for Advanced Innovation in Agriculture. "These industries have experienced tremendous growth over the last couple of decades, but official data collected and published by the USDA may not fully reflect the current technological and market situation. If controlled environment agriculture and

indoor farming were to take off in the next decade, this could transform the consumer experience and possibly change the economic reality for traditional, soil-based farmers who grow crops that can also be grown in controlled environments and without soil."

Other research findings include the following:

The number of individually controlled environment agriculture operations in the U.S. more than doubled to nearly 3,000 between 2009-19.

The quantity of controlled environment crop production increased by 56 percent over that same period, from 502 million pounds to 786 million pounds.

New technologies were used to produce a large share of total controlled environment agriculture production with more than 60 percent of tomatoes, cucumbers, and lettuce grown using hydroponics in 2019.

As of 2021, most of the approximately 300 agrivoltaics sites were solar farms planted with pollinator-friendly vegetative cover. Roughly 35 sites combined solar panels with vegetation that were grazed by sheep and a few were co-located with specialty crop production, including blueberries.

*Tom Soladay for Virginia Tech*



PHOTO BY RAY MEESE FOR VIRGINIA TECH

**The Institute for Advanced Learning and Research (IALR) is partnering with the Virginia Tech School of Plant and Environmental Sciences and the Virginia Seafood Agricultural Research and Extension Center to launch a Controlled Environment Agriculture Innovation Center on IALR's campus in Danville.**

## NRCC from page 3

poet and artist winners and the creativity they displayed during these competitions," said Dr. Pat Huber, NRCC president.

Winners at NRCC received ribbons, and the art contestants are exhibited in the Fletcher Gallery until the end of the semester. Johnson also won a spot to complete for statewide honors. College

poetry winners from across Virginia will participate at a live performance of their original theme-related poems at the Dickinson Fine and Performing Arts Center at Piedmont Virginia Community College in Charlottesville on April 6 and a chance to be named "Poet Laureate" of Virginia's Community Colleges. A panel of

distinguished judges will determine the winner of the competition based on the individual's original poetry, a private interview, and the Saturday performance.

"The work of our students is wonderful," said VCCS Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer Carla Kimbrough. "I'm so grateful to

college coordinators who organized the competitions at their colleges, and the judges at the college level who helped us find true gems of creativity in this inaugural event. We are so excited to showcase the message of belonging from our talented poets and visual artists from so many of our colleges at our April 6 event."

With the support of Virginia's Humanities, the winners from all 20 participating colleges will have their poetry and visual arts featured in a book to be published this summer. The Virginia

Humanities grant also supported professional development for the college poet laureates and top visual artists.

*NRCC*

## Exhibit from page 1

women in Appalachia through the decades."

The exhibit highlights a slice of women's history in the Appalachian region focusing on food, crafting, and activism.

"The best part about creating this exhibit is thinking about the story I want to tell," said Harless. "Each section tells a story about their lives with the thread of community connecting them."

Food and community "Through the tough times, they worked together to make it by community gardening and cooking," said Harless. "They relied on each other as much as themselves and were generous with their knowledge and time."

Recipe sharing created a sense of community through the sharing of knowledge. The exhibit features handwritten recipe cards with information about the cook and her kin. Black-and-white photographs of the apple butter-making process from picking apples to carrying full baskets to the large iron pot placed over an open fire. Even moonshine recipes and histories illuminate

the experiences and traditions of generations.

Artifacts such as a two-foot-tall blue and white metal coffee pot, a Norfolk and Western Railway bowl and saucer, and a well-used cast iron skillet tell the story of gatherings, special events, and the role food played in fostering friendship.

Crafts and caring Appalachian women were hard-working and caring. They shared their knowledge of recipes, yarn dyeing, sewing, and quilting.

The women would come together for potluck quilting parties sharing their creativity and knowledge and showing off their favorite meal recipes. During these events, women would find the friendship, community, and support that made life fun. There were competitions for the prettiest and best workmanship. Many would donate their winnings to their church for a new carpet or other improvements.

Making a difference The exhibit also describes women's activism as community members and caregivers in Appalachia. They were just as aggressive as men as they

stood up for coal miners' rights and protested on picket lines alongside husbands, fathers, and sons.

Montgomery County librarians created a bookmobile to reach children along the mountainous roads of Southwest Virginia. Many of the books were donated by community members, and the children kept them until the bookmobile returned to their area.

"The bookmobile demonstrates the community activism of women librarians' dedication to sharing books and knowledge with rural families," said Harless.

From the past to the future Harless will graduate in May with the stories of the past melding with her future ambitions.

"As a graduate assistant in the University Libraries, I've been able to dig into the archives and tell these important stories of strong and determined women," said Harless. "In the future, I want to work with a historical society or museum to continue to highlight stories through exhibits and programs."

*Ann Brown for Virginia Tech*

## 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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10, 77, 86, 92, 112, 125, 152, 168

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# MONTGOMERY SPORTS

## Motor Mile speedway announces new owners

**Marty Gordon**  
Contributing writer

Motor Mile Speedway, located near Radford on U.S. 11, has new owners.

As of Wednesday, the track's ownership (the Shelor car dealership in Christiansburg) has given the local entity, Pulaski County, the deed to both it and the nearby Calfee Park in Pulaski.

County administrator Jonathan Sweet called it one of the largest private donations to a local government in all of Virginia. He was emotional in speaking to the crowd of local leaders and media, saying it was great day for both the county and local sports fans in keeping the facility open for future sporting events.

"Being a part of this historic moment for Pulaski County and helping carry on the traditions and extend the legacies of two of the most iconic assets in all of the New River Valley is one of the highest honors I have experienced in my professional career", said Sweet. "This further demonstrates the commitment and care the ownership of the Shelor Motor Mile has for this community and the confidence they have in the leadership of Pulaski

County to entrust us with these famed community assets."

The Wednesday announcement took place in the speedway's VIP tower.

Members of the county's board of supervisors were present and voted to accept the donation. The exact details are still in the works, and any future development has not been decided.

The 157-acre facility has a long, rich history in the area dating to 1952. It has changed ownership four times in the past 20 years.

Last year, the county announced a name change to the facility, becoming known as the Pulaski County Motorsports Park. The names the facility had formerly been known as included Pulaski County Speedway, New River Valley Speedway, then Motor Mile Speedway.

Five years ago, the speedway and adjacent dragway was listed for sale at \$1.4 million. The exact real estate value is not currently public but could be near that early amount of more.

Three years ago, the track reopened with NASCAR races under the management of the Rusty Wallace Racing Experience.

But in November parent company of Calfee Park Baseball and the Pulaski River Turtles announced it would be resuming management. The ownership said after leasing Motor Mile Speedway & Dragway to Rusty Wallace Racing Experience, Motor Mile will resume management of the venue for the 2024 season. In the same breath, the ownership said there would be NASCAR-sanctioned nor a full schedule of racing in the near future.

Current plans include several special events such as the always-popular Monster Truck, Nights of Destruction and JJ DA BOSS Tours. Other types of events such as concerts and live-action events are being considered.

Under the new arrangement announced on Wednesday, the Motor Mile group would continue to hold events at least for the next three years with revenue of any events going directly to the county and its future endeavors.

Motor Mile spokesperson Melissa Epperly said the Motor Mile sports management team will continue to be involved in the operation of the venue and are working on infrastructure



FILE PHOTO

The Motor Mile Speedway and Dragway, near Radford, has some new life with the donation of the facility, along with Calfee Park, to Pulaski County.

improvements, as they begin planning for their fall schedule of events and even expanding for special events in 2025,

The morning announcement would be followed up with an afternoon one, which added to the donation. The Shelor ownership group is also turning over Calfee Park to the county. Again, they plan to continue operation for at least the next three years of the Appalachian Summer League's the River Turtles.

Calfee was built in 1935 and has been the home for several minor league baseball teams since them. Motor Mile took over the park and its surrounding parcels in 2015.

Epperly said fans should

not worry as it will remain home to the River Turtles.

Calfee Park was built as a Works Progress Administration project, and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and was named after the mayor of Pulaski in 1935, Ernest W. Calfee. The Park was voted the best rookie-level ballpark in America in 2019 and 2020 by a fan vote in Ballpark Digest's annual Best of the Ballparks competition.

After the Shelor/Motor Mile purchase in 2015, over nine million dollars in renovations were completed at the park.

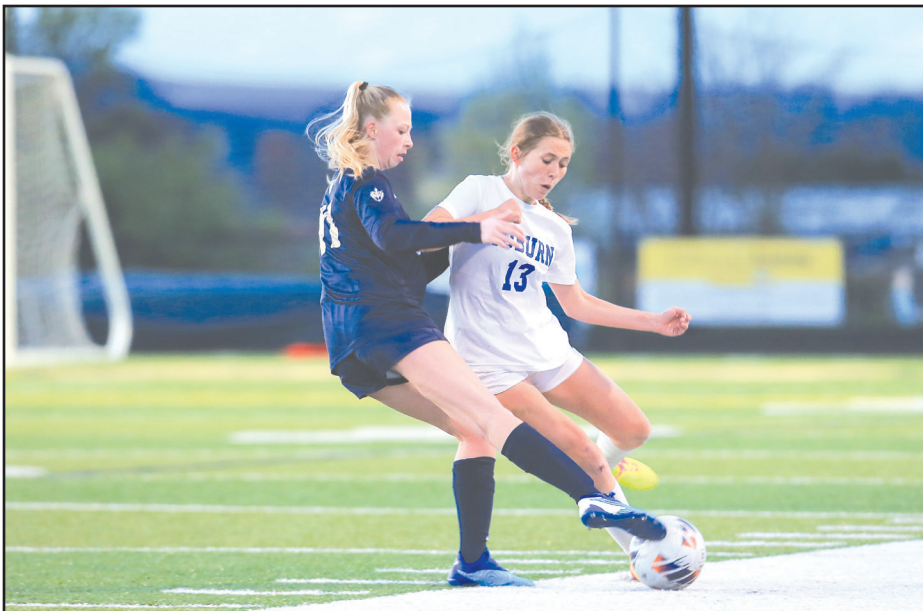
The River Turtles followed the Pulaski

Yankees and have played at the park for the past three years. The team is slated to start its 2024 season on June 7.

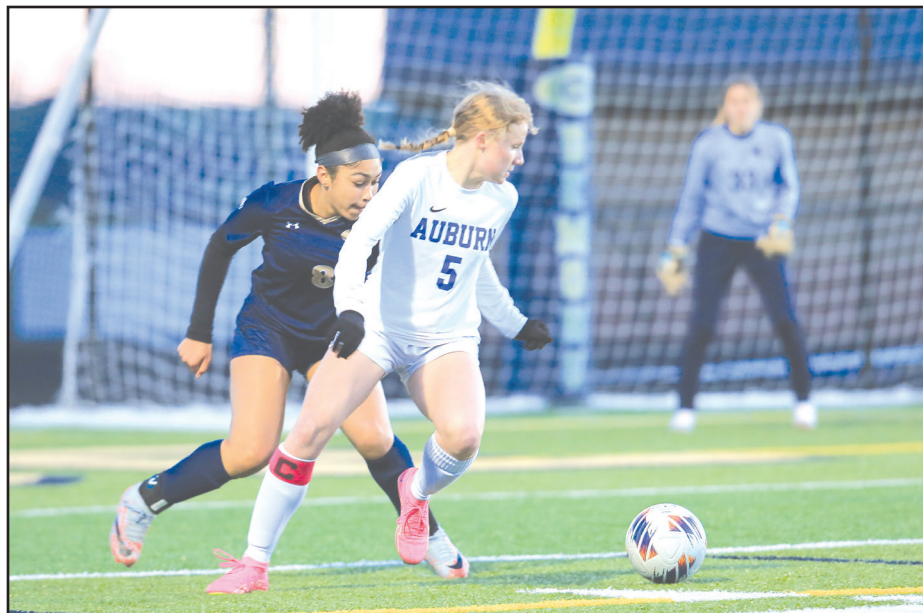
The Appalachian League is now a collegiate summer baseball league that operates in Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, and North Carolina. Designed for rising freshmen and sophomores using wooden bats, its season runs from June through August. The league is part of Major League Baseball and USA Baseball's Prospect Development Pipeline.

Sweet said the county will have three years to work to work alongside the Motor Mile family and their affiliates and learn the industry and learn the business and really understand the operations.

## Christiansburg girls win over Auburn



Lyla Thurman (right) sweeps out ball possession and Auburn's Brooklyn Mikowicz (left) shifts direction to defend.



Jasmyn Charlton (left, behind) defends for the Blue Demons as the Eagles Stacy Lewis (right, front) prepares to make a shot on goal. Christiansburg had goals by Casey Rathburn and Ava Landers.



Auburn's midfielder Katie Light isolates possession for Auburn to send it back up to the forwards.

PHOTOS BY KYMN DAVIDSON-HAMLEY



PHOTO COURTESY OF VIRGINIA TECH

## Kitley, Amoore on Wooden All-American team

Virginia Tech Women's Basketball players Georgia Amoore and Elizabeth Kitley have been named to the 2024 John R. Wooden Award presented by Principal All American Team.

The Wooden Award All American Team is comprised of 10 student-athletes who were the top vote-getters in the quest to earn college basketball's most prestigious honor. The 10-player team, alphabetically, consists of: Amoore (Virginia Tech), Cameron Brink (Stanford), Paige Bueckers (Connecticut), Kamilla Cardoso (South Carolina), Caitlin Clark (Iowa), Aaliyah Edwards (Connecticut), Hannah Hidalgo (Notre Dame), Kitley (Virginia Tech), Angel Reese (LSU), and JuJu Watkins (USC).

The five finalists for the 2024 John R. Wooden Award presented by Principal Women's Player of the Year are: Cameron Brink, Paige Bueckers, Caitlin Clark, Hannah Hidalgo, and JuJu Watkins. All five players have been invited to Los Angeles for the 48th annual presentation of the John R. Wooden Award

presented by Principal Gala.

Kitley was named the ACC's Player of the Year for the third consecutive season earlier this month, becoming the third woman in ACC history to win the award in three consecutive seasons, joining Alana Beard (Duke) and Alyssa Thomas (Maryland).

The Summerfield, North Carolina native ranks first in the conference in scoring (22.79), second in field goal percentage (55.6%), first in rebounds (11.38), second in blocks (2.07), first in double-doubles (19) and first in 30-point games with eight.

She won ACC Player of the Week six times, the most of any athlete, including a stretch of four consecutive weeks in February. The six POW honors ties Beard for the most in any single season in conference history.

With her Player of the Year Award comes a fourth first team All-ACC nod, just the second player in conference history to accomplish the feat (Duke's Elizabeth Williams). Kitley was also recognized as an All-Defensive Team member

for the third consecutive season.

Nationally, Kitley is fifth in points per game and sixth in rebounds per game.

She has claimed the top spot in several categories in the Virginia Tech annals this season including starts, minutes played, double figure games, 30-point games and rebounds, which is also an ACC watermark.

In terms of single-season achievements, the 2023-24 season has seen Kitley produce the highest scoring average in program history, score the most field goals and come within six points of the record for single season scoring.

Additionally, she was named the Kay Yow Scholar Athlete of the Year for the third time this season.

Amoore was fifth in the conference in scoring (18.81), second in 3's per game (2.66), third in assist to turnover ratio (1.98) and led the ACC in assists (7.29) earning her first team All-ACC honors for the second consecutive season.

The Australia native owns two 30-point games, 14 20-point

See Team, page 10

# MONTGOMERY SPORTS

## Blacksburg boys win in tennis



Blacksburg's Larry Wang reaches for a backhand return in a win at number two singles against Salem's Alan Burr on Tuesday.



Blacksburg's Youngmin Kim slides forward to hit a forehand return in a loss at number one singles against Salem's Drew Perez. Blacksburg would take the team win 7-2 on the afternoon.

PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING



Blacksburg's Simon Pratt recorded several tough saves in a 1-0 win over Salem on Tuesday night. He would finish with six saves in the contest as Blacksburg moves to 5-0 on the season.

## Blacksburg boys down Salem in soccer



Blacksburg's Simon Pratt recorded several tough saves in a 1-0 win over Salem on Tuesday night. He would finish with six saves in the contest as Blacksburg moves to 5-0 on the season.

PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING

## Team from page 9

games and recorded nine double-doubles, a figure that was fifth in the conference. She was the only athlete to record more than five 10-assist games in the ACC.

Her 39-point performance on the final day of the regular season, was the highest scoring single-game output in conference play this season.

Amoore, who was named one of five finalists for the Nancy Lieberman Award, is fourth nationally in

assists per game.

The senior became the program's all-time leader in assists this season and has also climbed to second in 3's and third in scoring. This season, she has produced the third-highest single-season total of assists and the seventh-most 3's.

The pair were also recognized by the USBWA, with Kitley earning second team honors and Amoore collecting third team accolades.

Kitley was also named a Sporting News first teamer.

The duo also both earned a spot on an AP All-America Team (Kitley second, Amoore third) marking the first time that two Hokies had done so in the same season.

Virginia Tech Athletics

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