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11th Annual GiveLocalNRV Giving Day raises \$769,230

BLACKSBURG - More than 3,400 donors raised \$769,230 during the 11th annual GiveLocalNRV Giving Day.

The event, hosted by the Community Foundation of the New River Valley (CFNRV), began at noon on Wednesday, June 26 and wrapped up at noon on Thursday, June 27. For 24 hours, dozens of community organizations raised funds and awareness for their missions.

In total, 133 causes received donations for their work, with many donors giving to multiple organizations, resulting in more than 4,400 gifts throughout the event. Participating organizations fundraised throughout the month of June during the early giving period, culminating in the 24-hour giving day sprint that kicked off at noon on Wednesday, June 26.

"We often talk about the joy of giving here at the CFNRV," said Jessica Wirgau, the CFNRV's CEO. "We love seeing how creative the participating nonprofits can be and the joy they take in talking about their work during the giving day. Watching donations pour in from across the New River Valley in response to that creativity is so gratifying for our team at the CFNRV."

Donors also showed up from around the United States and world, with 620 donations coming from outside Virginia. This incredible reach came from participating organizations tirelessly reaching out to their professional and personal networks.

Fueling the excitement of the day were

See GiveLocalNRV, Page 8



PHOTO COURTESY OF CFNRV

The Community Foundation of the New River Valley team gathers before the giving day kicked off at noon on June 26.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CROOKED ROAD

The Whitetop Mountain Band

Southwest Virginia's premier musicians celebrate 20 years of the Crooked Road

For 20 years, the Crooked Road has worked to preserve and promote Appalachian old time and bluegrass music throughout Southwest Virginia. Celebrate this cultural milestone with an unforgettable evening exploring the diverse musical offerings of Southwest Virginia with some of the area's premier musicians.

Connecting 10 major venues, over 50 affiliate venues, and hundreds of traditional old-time and bluegrass artists along a 333-mile-long driving trail, the Crooked Road was designated as Virginia's Heritage Music Trail by the Virginia Assembly in 2004.

Featuring performances by the Lovely Mountaineers, Danny Paisley and the Southern Grass, Whitetop Mountain Band, Shelton & Williams, Earl White, and Jared Boyd and Raistlin Brabson, "Celebrating 20 Years of the Crooked Road" comes to the Moss Arts Center on Friday, July 12, at 7:30 p.m.

"It's a thrill to bring world-class artists from Southwest Virginia to a world-class venue right here in the mountains we love and call home," said Tyler Hughes, executive director of the Crooked Road. "The impact of the Crooked Road on Southwest Virginia and Appalachian music cannot be overstated. Over the last two decades, it has supported hundreds of musicians, venues, communities, and individuals through its programming and marketing efforts to highlight Southwest Virginia's unique musical heritage."

"Celebrating 20 Years of the Crooked Road" includes performances by the following:

The Lovely Mountaineers

Gina and Jason Dilg of The Lovely Mountaineers play, sing, teach, write, and make art about old-time and early country music from their home in Radford,

high on the Blue Ridge at the foot of Lovely Mount.

Danny Paisley and the Southern Grass

Danny Paisley and the Southern Grass plays powerful, unadorned, and intense traditional bluegrass. There is no hybrid or genre-bending music here – the combination of instrumentation and vocals conveys the energy and emotion of classic bluegrass and country music. With powerful range, Paisley's soulful lead vocals sound like no one else in bluegrass today.

Since Danny's father and Southern Grass founder Bob Paisley passed away in 2004, Danny Paisley and the Southern Grass has established themselves in the bluegrass world, producing consecutive chart-topping albums, including the group's latest release, "Bluegrass Troubadour." With Paisley on guitar, Southern Grass continues the family tradition by adding Paisley's son, Ryan, on mandolin — part of the next generation of up-and-coming pickers. Southern Grass continues the rich musical heritage started by Bob Paisley and Ted Lundy with Lundy's sons, T.J. on fiddle and Bobby on bass and vocals. T.J. Lundy is a highly respected fiddler, bridging the gap between old-time fiddling and bluegrass music, while renowned multi-instrumentalist Bobby Lundy has gained attention for his unique bass style. Southern Grass also includes Dean Phillips on banjo.

Whitetop Mountain Band

The Whitetop Mountain Band is a family-based band from the highest mountains of Virginia. Whitetop is an area rich in the old-time music tradition, and this band has deep roots in mountain music. The

See MUSICIANS CELEBRATE, Page 8

Tourism director discusses passenger rail highlighting Montgomery County's assets

Angelica Ramos

Contributing Writer

MONTGOMERY COUNTY- With the preparations for Amtrak to embark on passenger rail in Montgomery County Executive Director of Tourism David E. Rotenizer recently discussed what makes Montgomery County special.

"When passenger rail gets here," Rotenizer said, "that's going to be a game changer like we've never had before. It's really going to change the dynamic."

Rotenizer explained that when the United States was formed, three counties were founded at that same time; Montgomery County is one of those original three. This is important because of where Montgomery County and the New River Valley are located. With the Appalachian Mountains to the North and the Blue Ridge Mountains to the South, Montgomery County is nestled in between them with the Eastern Continental Divide running right through the center. Montgomery County also is connected to three rivers: The James River, The New River and the Roanoke River. Rotenizer explains that this makes Montgomery County unique for tourism.

Because of the mountains, visitors on the passenger rail would have the opportunity to connect to outdoor recreation like the Appalachian Trail, the Transamerica Bicycle Trail, the Blue Ridge Parkway and natural attractions like Bottom Creek Gorge.

Rotenizer and his assistant, Emma Cook, performed research and collected data for sports tourism and business tourism in Montgomery County in which they found Montgomery County has over 200 restaurants that tourists can explore and try. Rotenizer explained there are two types of tourism: marketing/destination development and business development. Where Montgomery County is a hub for many things, it hosts space for innovation as well which helps both types of tourism.

"Every community has outdoor recreation," Rotenizer said, "Shopping, dining, culinary and all that, but innovation and technology adds a special something to this area. Blacksburg was the first electronic village in the world, back in the nineties, so the first e-commerce transaction took place here. There's so much amazing innovation. It's part of the DNA here."

Blacksburg itself is the second largest town [not city] in the state of Virginia. With the impending Amtrak station and connection to the passenger rail, visitors and residents alike will benefit. This does not just mean change for Christiansburg and Blacksburg, but Shawsville, Elliston, Riner and Lafayette as well. This could open the opportunity to open travel packages based on demographic and day of the week for the area.

"In theory," Rotenizer said, "someone could get on a plane in London or Berlin and fly into Boston and then take the passenger rail all the way down here. And, in theory, get on their bike and go on the Huckleberry trail up to Brush Mountain. That's kind of the visual. Travelers oftentimes want to get off the beaten path and experience authenticity."



PHOTO BY JOSIAH DONALDSON

More than just fish live in the water! Kids have a lot of fun finding all kinds of creatures.

Streams: The original water park

This time of year, Virginia's tree-lined streams, rivers, and ponds are especially inviting. Temperatures and humidity rise, inspiring families to head to the pool or theme park to enjoy the lazy river. This summer, take your kids on an adventure to a different kind of lazy river! Here are some tips and tricks for a fun wade-fishing trip with little ones.

Location. The shallower the access points, the better. Rivers and streams with cobblestone or sandbars with slow to moderate current seem to work best. And remember that while wading in the water from your knees up to your waist may be fine for you, it may be too deep for the little ones! Smaller anglers need to be able to get out of the water from time to time to warm up. Also keep an eye out for rocky spots where kids can skip rocks and turn them over for critters!

Equipment. Let's say you are an avid angler who can catch a bass out of a puddle of spit! Every rod and reel you own is a minimum of \$200.

This is not the time and place for that. Ol' squeaky Zebco 33 or that ultralight you bought at a yard sale

will be just fine here! Have them rigged up and ready to go. I repeat: Have them rigged up and ready to go before you say you are going. It's okay to surprise the kids. No 6-year-old wants to wait for you to tie a knot and find the perfect sized split shot and bobber when the fish are biting! A pack of night crawlers is all you need for bait. Also, bring along a bucket for carrying any gear your kids shed and catching "critters." A white-colored bucket helps kids to see any critters they catch at the bottom. Just remember to release them into the same water and area when you're done looking!

For clothing, bathing suits and a change of clothes/towel are a must. Water shoes to protect the feet and for traction on wet rocks are also a great idea.

Safety. When in doubt, have them wear life jackets and always wear shoes. Masks and snorkels also help kids to catch critters and look at a fish being let go underwater. Bring plenty of snacks and make sure the kids don't get too cold. And remember to put sunscreen

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, July 6:

Blacksburg Farmers Market

At Market Square Park, 100 Draper Rd SW, Blacksburg; 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. The Blacksburg Farmers Market is a local, family-friendly gathering place in downtown Blacksburg featuring farmers of locally grown produce and meats, alongside artisans of baked goods and handmade crafts. For more information, visit <http://blacksburgfarmersmarket.com>.

Radford Farmer's Market

Every Saturday through October; 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. on the grounds of Glencoe Mansion, 600 Unruh Dr. Visit weekly for an ever-changing supply of homemade goodies, crafts, plants, meats, produce, and more.

Sunday, July 7:

Vintage Market

At Market Square Park, 100 Draper Rd SW, Blacksburg; 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. The market is made up of a carefully chosen group of vendors selling a wide selection of quality vintage items, upcycled crafts, and occasional antiques. For more information, visit blacksburgfarmersmarket.com/vintage-market/.

Books & Brews: Tinkers

Join the Radford Public Library at Long Way Brewing, 1- 2 p.m., for a book discussion on the Pulitzer Prize- winning book titled "Tinkers" by Paul Harding. Copies for future meetings are distributed at the prior meeting. Check out the book and join us for discussion at LWB, Second St., Radford. (Getting a free copy is not required to attend this event.) Book club participants receive 10% off their brews during this event.

Monday, July 8:

Montgomery County Board of Supervisors meeting. Public meetings are normally held 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.

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. Citizens are invited to attend and allowed to speak at each meeting. See the agenda at www.radfordva.gov.

Tuesday, July 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.

Gardening with Snow Ferreriea

Snow Ferreniea, a professional horticulturist from England, moved to the U.S. in the 1970s. She has led horticulture at top gardens and taught gardening courses throughout her career. Now retired in Abingdon, VA; she continues to share her expertise by teaching and planting. Come to Warm Hearth Village for talks: 10:30 a.m. Plants for Birds, Butterflies and Pollinators; and 1:30 p.m. Garden Screens. Warm Hearth Village Center, 2387 Warm Hearth Dr., Blacksburg.

Virtual Author Talk with Kate DiCamillo

Hosted by the Radford Public Library; 2 p.m. Join us for a visit to Deckawoo Drive with everyone's favorite adventure loving pig, Mercy Watson! Newbery Medal winning author Kate DiCamillo will be sharing the stories behind the creation of her early chapter book series, the original Mercy Watson, and the follow up series, Tales from Deckawoo Drive. We will also be celebrating the publication of the final book in the Mercy Watson series! Mercy is selfish and impulsive, but no matter how much trouble she gets in, Mr. and Mrs. Watson continue to love her and see her in the best possible light. Young readers love to join along in her hilarious adventures, taking comfort in the fact that their parents and guardians will love them no matter what as well. BYOBT - Bring Your Own Buttered Toast! Register today! <https://libraryc.org/radfordlibrary/49887>.

Reptiles & Lizards with a Master Naturalist

Radford Public Library; 5 - 6 p.m. Join us to interact with and learn about all sorts of slithery and scaly creatures with a Master Naturalist from Claytor Lake State Park! What animal are you hoping to see?

Wednesday, July 10:

Blacksburg Farmers Market

At Market Square Park, 100 Draper Rd SW, Blacksburg; 2 - 6 p.m. The Blacksburg Farmers Market is a local, family-friendly gathering place in downtown Blacksburg featuring farmers of locally grown produce and meats, alongside artisans of baked goods and handmade crafts. For more information, visit <http://blacksburgfarmersmarket.com>.

Market Square Jam

Blacksburg's Market Square Jam is an official Crooked Road affiliated venue that provides fun and

entertainment on Wednesday evenings, June through September. The Jam takes place at Market Square Park from 7-9 p.m. For more information and a list of hosts, please visit blacksburg.gov/marketsquarejam.

Thursday, July 11:

Thursday night indoor concerts

Two indoor concerts will be offered, including one community sing event. Concerts will be held at the Blacksburg Presbyterian Church, 701 Church St. SE. "Shakespeare's Music," July 11 - A concert of music inspired by Shakespeare. "A Treasury of English Music," July 25 - Music by Handel, Purcell, and others. This event is a community sing. Rehearsals began on July 1. Contact the Blacksburg Presbyterian Church to get involved.

Saturday, July 13:

Fish Fry

Mount Tabor Ruritan Club will hold its July Fish Fry, 5 to 7 p.m. at Slusser's Chapel Picnic Shelter, 1543 Mount Tabor Rd, Blacksburg. Serving fish, fries and slaw; homemade desserts; and beverages. Adults- \$12, children under 12- \$6, under 3-free, carry-outs- \$12. This month, the Panjammers Steel Drum Orchestra will be playing. Held rain or shine. Call or text 540-449-6178 for further information. On Facebook at MrTaborRuritan.

Thursday, July 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 on 3204 Riner Road. Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) are also invited to attend. Member Seth Gravely will speak on the "29th Virginia Infantry Regiment". For further information, please call 540-320-4315 or 540-239-9864.

On-going:

Applications open for healthcare workshop for people with disabilities

Individuals with disabilities who live in Radford City and Floyd County can apply for a program presented by the New River Valley Disability Resource Center. "Improving Health Literacy Through Technology" is a program help people with disabilities gain better access to healthcare. Participants receive a free iPad after completing six weekly, one-hour workshops exploring how to use technology to take better control of health and social support needs. Workshops run Aug. 1 through Sept. 5. Applications available at www.nrvdc.org or by calling 540-266-1435 or email at outreach@nrvdc.org, and at the Radford and Floyd libraries. The application deadline is Fri., July 12.

Food City Director of Training named top woman in grocery

Progressive Grocer's Top Women in Grocery initiative recognizes the important role that women play in the food and grocery industry. Misty Kern, director of training for Food City was named among this year's top winners.

"I would like to congratulate Misty on this well-deserved honor and all her hard work and achievements. We are extremely proud of our women grocers and the key role they play within our company, the industry, and the communities we serve," said Steven C. Smith, Food City president and chief executive officer.

Progressive Grocer receives hundreds of nominations from women grocers in all sectors of the industry across the nation. This year's winners were showcased in their June issue and will also be recognized in November at their annual awards gala in Orlando, FL.

Kern oversees the company's Training and Food Safety Departments, which include the Food City Distribution Center and 156 retail locations spanning their five-state operational area. Kern and her team are responsible for directing the development of training programs for salaried and hourly members of store leadership and management; conducting soft skills training for department management, store management, district management, and corporate leadership; facilitating the company's corporate and retail management internship programs; oversight of computer-based learning courses; and coordinating the training and certification of SafeMark Food Protection managers.

Kern sponsors the company's ECO/Sustainability Committee. Earlier this year, she helped establish a partnership with an international chemical company headquartered locally to serve as a community collection site for post-consumer plastics (1 to 7, excluding 3) which will be recycled at a molecular level. She implemented a reusable bag/



shopping box initiative/contest that resulted in a decrease of nearly 1% or 134,000 single-use plastic bags. She organized a partnership with a local university to provide a 10% tuition discount for company associates and their dependents.

Kern is also a founding member of Food City's EMPOWER program, which supports female associates through education, mentorship, and fellowship. She is active within her local community and received the company's Claude Varney Volunteerism Award in 2023, recognizing her outstanding community service. Kern recently organized a team of volunteers to participate in the Habitat for Humanity Women's Build. The project provides the opportunity for women to take a proactive step in serving their communities, while sending a positive and powerful message regarding women helping women. She volunteers her time to assist with this event each year as well. Kern volunteers with the annual CSX Santa Train project helping pack food and toys that are distributed over a 110-mile route through the communities of the Appalachia region. The train makes fourteen stops in Kentucky, Virginia, and Tennessee where more than 15 tons of toys and supplies are distributed to needy families in the region.

Kern is an alumna of Gate City High School in Gate City, Va. and attended Mountain Empire Community College and Virginia Tech. She holds a Retail Management Technical Certificate from Nashville State Community College and has completed Dale Carnegie's training course and FMI's Food Retail Leader Certificate Program. She also earned a highly sought-after spot in this summer's Executive Leadership Program at Cornell University. Kern and her husband, Kip are the proud parents of one son, Jakson. They currently reside in Kingsport, TN. *Food City*

Governor appoints members to the Radford University Board of Visitors

Gov. Glenn Youngkin has announced the appointment of four members and the reappointment of one member to the Radford University Board of Visitors to serve four-year terms, beginning July 1.

New appointments include Dale Ardizzone '85, M.S. '86, of Charlotte, North Carolina; Callie M. Dalton '82 of Roanoke, Virginia; William C. "Jack" Davis of Blacksburg, Virginia; and Jonathan Sweet '00 of Fairlawn, Virginia. Reappointed was Betsy D. Beamer of Henrico, Virginia.

Ardizzone is chief operating officer for INSP, LLC and Imagicomm Communications, a cable network and multimedia entertainment company. He received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Radford University and a Juris Doctor from Widener University. Ardizzone serves as a member of the Radford University Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Dalton is a realtor and team leader at Callie Dalton & Associates, Long & Foster. She received her bachelor's degree in interior design from Radford University and is a former member of the Athletic Foundation Board of Directors. Dalton previously served on the Radford University Board of Visitors from 2013 to 2017.

Davis is a retired Virginia Tech history professor and well-known historian. Davis serves as a steering committee member of TOGETHER - The Campaign for Radford University. In 2018, Radford University announced the naming of the Davis College of Business and Economics as a result of the generosity of Davis and his wife, Sandra.

Sweet has served as Pulaski County administrator since 2017 and has two

decades of local government experience. He received his bachelor's degree in communication with a concentration in public relations from Radford University. Sweet currently serves on the Radford University Athletic Foundation Board of Directors.

Beamer was appointed for a full term after fulfilling a one-year unexpired term. She is director of planning and organization at McGuireWoods Consulting. She served as Virginia's secretary of the commonwealth from 1994 to 1998 and previously served on the Radford University Board of Visitors from 1999 to 2003.

"The thoughtful work of the administration in selecting our appointees is much appreciated," said President Bret Danilowicz. "Our newest members bring a wealth of knowledge, experience and commitment to our university. I look forward to the collective work of our Board of Visitors and our future accomplishments."

The new Board of Visitors members were appointed to fill the expiring terms of Rector Debra K. McMahon of Charlottesville, Virginia; former Rector Robert A. Archer of Salem, Virginia; Jay A. Brown of Glen Allen, Virginia; and Georgia Anne Snyder-Falkinham of Blacksburg, Virginia.

"Radford University, especially our students, have benefited from the strong leadership and tireless efforts provided by these board members," said President Bret Danilowicz. "Their dedication to the university and the positive impact of their service will be felt for years to come."

Karen Castelee for Radford University

Registration for TRIAD Senior Police Academy ends July 8

CHRISTIANSBURG - TRIAD/S.A.L.T. is a cooperative effort of law enforcement agencies (police/sheriffs), senior citizens, and senior organization, focused on reducing crimes against our most vulnerable citizens: our seniors.

The Christiansburg Police Department, Christiansburg Recreation Department and Christiansburg/

Montgomery TRIAD S.A.L.T Council are now accepting applications for Summer 2024 Senior Citizen's Police Academy to be held July 22-26, 2024. Interested applicants may contact Christiansburg Recreation Center to obtain application or application can be found online www.christiansburg.org/

ParksandRecreation. All applicants are subject for review and approval. This is a free program open to any citizen 50 years and older. Registration ends July

8. If you are interested in participating in our summer academy, please contact Tammy Caldwell at 540.382.2349 or email tcaldwell@christiansburg.org.

TRIAD

Montgomery County Chamber director joins Virginia Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives board

Steve Baffuto, Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce, has been elected to the The Virginia Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives (VACCE) Board of Directors.

The 2024-2025 Executive Committee and Board of Directors officially begin their terms July 1, 2024.

VACCE is an alliance of Chamber of Commerce professionals from across

the state working together to improve the business climate in Virginia while developing ways to enhance the quality of life in the communities they serve. VACCE is the only organization in the state dedicated to the growth and development of Chamber of Commerce professionals.

VACCE

Business REVIEW

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Legals - City of Radford

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 926 GILBERT STREET, RADFORD, VA 24141.

In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated February 19, 2016, in the original principal amount of \$200,514.00 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Radford City, Virginia as Instrument No. 1600188. The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for the City of Radford, 619 Second St., W., Radford, VA, or any such temporary alternative Circuit Court location designated by the Judges of the Circuit Court, on August 12, 2024, at 2:00 PM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows:

ALL THOSE CERTAIN LOT OR PARCEL OF LAND, WITH ALL IMPROVEMENTS THEREON AND APPURTENANCES THEREUNTO BELONGING, SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN THE EAST WARD OF THE CITY OF RADFORD, VIRGINIA, DESIGNATED AND DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEING ALL OF LOT 3, OF UNIVERSITY VIEW ESTATES, CONTAINING 0.1534 ACRES, AS SHOWN ON A PLAT OF SURVEY ENTITLED, "FINAL PLAT OF UNIVERSITY VIEW ESTATES SITUATE IN THE EAST WARD OF THE CITY OF RADFORD, VIRGINIA IN PLAT BOOK 4, PAGE 10," TO WHICH PLAT REFERENCE IS MADE FOR A MORE PARTICULAR DESCRIPTION OF THE HEREIN CONVEYED PROPERTY.

TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit of ten percent (10%) of the sale price or ten percent (10%) of the original principal balance of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, in the form of cash or certified funds payable to the Substitute Trustee must be present at the time of the sale. The balance of the purchase price will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Purchaser's deposit may be forfeited to Trustee. Time is of the essence. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser may, if provided by the terms of the Trustee's

Legals - Montgomery County

Memorandum of Foreclosure Sale, be entitled to a \$50 cancellation fee from the Substitute Trustee, but shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. A form copy of the Trustee's memorandum of foreclosure sale and contract to purchase real property is available for viewing at www.bwwsales.com. Additional terms, if any, to be announced at the sale and the Purchaser may be given the option to execute the contract of sale electronically.

This is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. The sale is subject to seller confirmation. Substitute Trustee: Equity Trustees, LLC, 8100 Three Chopt Road, Suite 240, Richmond, VA 23229. For more information contact: BWW Law Group, LLC, attorneys for Equity Trustees, LLC, 6003 Executive Blvd, Suite 101, Rockville, MD 20852, 301-961-6555, website: www.bwwsales.com. VA-365487-1.

Legals - Montgomery County

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 15.2-2204 & 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, the Montgomery County Planning Commission hereby gives notice of a public hearing to be held on July 17, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Christiansburg, Virginia, in order to hear citizen comments regarding the Planning Commission's intention to act on the following requests:

A request by RWW36, LLC and RWW34, LLC (Agent: Balzer & Associates) to revise the proffered conditions approved previously as part of the rezoning of 9.035 acres located at the intersection of Tyler Road (US Route 177) and Meadow Creek Road (State Route 658) from Agricultural (A-1) to General Business (GB), originally approved by the Board of Supervisors on September 14, 2009. The revised proffer amendments update the proposed master plan for the development of the site to allow construction of a general store, convenience store with motor fuel sales, and an attached restaurant with drive through. The revised amendments to the proffered conditions also include proposed conditions related to public water and sewer, entrance improvements, architectural design and standards, and excludes the development of certain other by-right uses permitted in the General Business (GB) Zoning District. The property is located at the intersection of Tyler Road (US Route 177) and Meadow Creek Road (State Route 658), identified as Tax Parcel No(s), 104-4-47 and 104-A 27A-B (Parcel ID Numbers 002244, 008938, and 008939), in the Riner Magisterial District. The property is currently zoned General Business (GB) and lies in an area designated as Urban Expansion in the Comprehensive Plan and Planned Commercial in the Route 177 Corridor Plan.

Copies of the proposed plans, applications, ordinances or amendments may be examined at the Department of Planning and GIS Services, County

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Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Suite 2A, Christiansburg, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. or at <http://www.montgomerycountyva.gov/pendingapplications>.

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, July 15, 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. Rezoning request by JTCI Electric LLC, Property Owner, and Joseph Iskandar, Applicant, to rezone property located on the West side of Depot St. NW, also adjacent to the South side of 401 Depot St. NW, identified as Tax Parcel 526-((A))-158; (Parcel ID 070666), consisting of approximately 0.254 acre, from Two Family Residential District (R-2) to General Business District (B-3). The property is designated as Residential on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.

B. Conditional Use Permit request by JTCI Electric LLC, Property Owner, and Joseph Iskandar, Applicant, to allow one (1) residential dwelling unit (apartment) on the second floor of the proposed "General Office" in the General Business District (B-3) on property

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Legals - Montgomery County

located on the West side of Depot St. NW, also adjacent to the South side of 401 Depot St. NW, identified as Tax Parcel 526-((A))-158; (Parcel ID 070666), consisting of approximately 0.254 acre. 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, with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 15.2-2204 & 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, the Montgomery County Planning Commission hereby gives notice of a public hearing to be held on July 17, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Christiansburg, Virginia, in order to hear citizen comments regarding the Planning Commission's intention to act on the following Ordinances:

A request by Steve Graham Living Trust (Agent: Balzer & Associates) to rezone a 20.7 acre portion of 30.1 total acres from Agricultural (A1) to Planned Unit Development, Commercial (PUD-COM), with proffered conditions, to allow a planned mixed-use commercial development. The property is located at 3720 Prices Fork Road, Blacksburg, at the intersection of Prices Fork Road (State Route 685) and Brunswick Drive (State Route 1140). The property is further identified as Tax Maps 052-A 14,12,13 (Parcel ID: 007287), 30.1 acres, zoned A-1 Agricultural in the Prices Fork Magisterial District. The property currently lies

Legals - Montgomery County

in an area designated as Village Expansion in the 2025 Montgomery County Comprehensive Plan, and is further designated as Low Density Residential in the Prices Fork Village Plan.

AND A request by Steve Graham Living Trust (Agent: Balzer & Associates) for a Special Use Permit (SUP) to allow a Contractor Service Establishment with Outdoor Storage on a 20.7 acre portion of 30.1 total acres, a use type that is not included in the existing permissible uses in PUD-COM. Contractor Service Establishing with Outdoor Storage is not listed as a permissible use, but could be allowed if it is determined through the Special Use Permit process to be appropriate and compatible with the proposed development and surrounding uses in the PUD-COM Zoning District. The property is located at 3720 Prices Fork Road, Blacksburg, at the intersection of Prices Fork Road (State Route 685) and Brunswick Drive (State Route 1140). The property is further identified as Tax Maps 052-A 14,12,13 (Parcel ID: 007287), 30.1 acres, zoned A-1 Agricultural in the Prices Fork Magisterial District. The property currently lies in an area designated as Village Expansion in the 2025 Montgomery County Comprehensive Plan, and is further designated as Low Density Residential in the Prices Fork Village Plan.

AND A request by Steve Graham Living Trust (Agent: Balzer & Associates) for a Special Use Permit (SUP) to allow for Multi-family Dwellings on a 20.7 acre portion of 30.1 total acres, a use type that is not included in the existing permissible uses in PUD-COM. Multi-Family dwellings are not listed as a permissible use, but could be allowed if it is determined through the Special Use Permit process to be appropriate and compatible with the proposed development and surrounding uses as permitted in the Zoning Ordinance in the PUD-COM Zoning District. The property is located at 3720 Prices Fork Road, Blacksburg, at the intersection of Prices Fork Road (State Route 685) and Brunswick Drive (State Route 1140). The property is further identified as Tax Maps 052-A 14,12,13 (Parcel ID: 007287), 30.1 acres, zoned A-1 Agricultural in the Prices Fork Magisterial District. The property currently lies in an area designated as

Classified Advertising Deliveries

Joro spiders are nothing to worry about, explains expert

The large, brightly colored Joro spider has been sighted recently on social media in many more places than it has ever been seen in the United States, as exaggerated, misleading stories about the arachnid have gone viral. Yet they pose no threat, except perhaps to insects and to other spiders.

A Joro spider. Image courtesy Pexels. “Joro spiders will likely continue to spread in the U.S., but they aren’t the ‘flying venomous spider invasion’ that’s been sensationalized in the media,” said Virginia Tech entomologist Theresa Dellinger. Answering the questions below, she shared facts about this much maligned spider species.

Q: Where do Joro spiders come from?
“Joro spiders (*Trichonephila clavata*) are native to east Asia and can be found in Japan, Korea, China, Indochina, and Nepal. First reported in northern Georgia in 2014, they are an invasive species of spider that likely entered the U.S. on materials imported from east Asia.”

Q: Are they similar to other spider species already in the U.S.?

“Joro spiders are a species of orb weaver spider. Many different species of orb weavers are found in Virginia and the rest of the U.S. Some are large spiders, while others share striped patterns. Many people may be familiar with common garden orb weavers, which are also large spiders with long legs. The closely related golden silk orb, sometimes called

the banana spider, found throughout the southeastern U.S., could easily be mistaken for the Joro spider. There’s also the orchard spider, a small spider with a striking black and white stripe pattern that could be confused with the Joro spider.

“As is true with many other spider species, baby Joro spiders use a process to get around called ‘ballooning,’ in which they release strands of web to catch the wind. The adult Joro spiders do not do this.”

Q: Where can Joro spiders be found?
“Since they were first found in Georgia, Joro spiders have spread into Tennessee, North Carolina, and South Carolina. They were found in West Virginia in 2022 and Maryland in 2023. Joro spiders have not been reported in Virginia to date, though it will not be a surprise if they are discovered in Virginia this year.”

Q: Is there any reason at all to worry about Joro spiders?

“They are not aggressive and seem to be quite shy despite their size. We are not aware of any medical concerns with Joro spiders in their home range in east Asia. If someone is allergic to spider bites, we would caution them against handling a Joro spider.”

Q: Are there any environmental benefits or drawbacks?

“Joro spiders spin large webs to capture their prey, and they feed on a wide range



IMAGE COURTESY OF PEXELS VIA VIRGINIA TECH

The large, brightly colored Joro spider has been sighted recently on social media in many more places than it has ever been seen in the United States.

of insects, including some insect pests. As a non-native species, Joro spiders may compete with other native species of spiders, but the long-term impact in the U.S. has not been fully researched yet.

Q: Are there any precautions necessary when it comes to these spiders?

“They will not invade homes. There isn’t a need to spray yards as a preventative

measure against the spiders. Besides, unnecessary yard treatments will harm pollinators, fireflies, and other beneficial insects. If Joro spiders become a nuisance around doorways, porches, or patios, they can be removed the same way as any other spider, using a broom or an aerosol insecticide spray.”

Virginia Tech

NFPA offers safety tips this summer season

With summer upon us, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) is reminding people about potential electrical hazards that exist in swimming pools and hot tubs, onboard boats, on docks and piers, and in waters surrounding boats, marinas, and launch ramps.

While most people are unaware of electrical dangers posed in water environments such as electric shock drowning (ESD), each year people are injured or killed from these hazards. ESD can occur when improperly installed or maintained electrical systems

within marinas or boat electrical systems result in electrical current in the water, which can then pass through a person’s body, causing a level of paralysis that can ultimately cause serious injury or drowning.

“Because ESD is not well known, NFPA continues to raise awareness about the presence of electrical hazards in water to help prevent deaths and injuries from happening in pools and waterways,” said Lorraine Carli, NFPA vice president of Outreach & Advocacy. “Never swim near a marina, dock, or boatyard, and have a qualified electrician inspect your

boat, swimming pool equipment, hot tub, and spa before engaging in any water activities to ensure all life-saving measures and protection systems are functioning properly.”

Following are tips for swimmers, and boat and pool owners:

Swimmers
Never swim near a marina, dock, or boatyard.

While in a pool or hot tub look out for underwater lights that are not working properly, flicker, or work intermittently.

If you feel a tingling sensation while in a pool, immediately stop swimming in the direction you are heading. Try and swim in a direction where you had not felt the tingling. Exit the water as quickly as possible; avoid using metal ladders or rails. Touching metal may increase the risk of shock.

Boat owners
Avoid entering the water when launching or loading a boat. These areas can contain stray electrical currents in the water, possibly leading to electric shock drowning or injury from shock, including death.

Each year, have the boat’s electrical system inspected by a qualified marine electrician to be sure it meets the required codes of your area, including those set by the American Boat & Yacht Council. Make the necessary repairs, if recommended. Follow the same steps after any major storm that affects the boat.

Check with the marina owner about the marina’s electrical system and whether it has recently been inspected to meet the required codes of your area, including the National Electrical Code® (NEC®).

Have ground fault circuit protection (GFCI and GFPE) installed on circuits

supplying the boat; use only portable GFCIs or shore power cords (including “Y” adapters) that bear the proper listing mark for marine applications when using electricity near water. Test GFCIs monthly.

NEVER modify the electrical system on a boat or shore power to make something work. The code-required safety mechanisms in place are intended to alert people if something is wrong with the boat and with shore power. Find a licensed, qualified professional to help determine the cause of the problem.

Pool owners
If you are putting in a new pool or hot tub, be sure the wiring is performed by an electrician experienced in the special safety requirements for these types of installations and that the completed work is inspected by the authority having jurisdiction (AHJ).

Have a qualified electrician periodically inspect and — where necessary — replace or upgrade the electrical devices or equipment that keep your pool or hot tub electrically safe. Have the electrician show you how to turn off all power in case of an emergency.

If there are overhead electrical lines, make sure they have proper clearance over the pool and other structures, such as a diving board. If you have any doubts, contact a qualified electrician or your local utility company to make sure power lines are a safe distance away.

NFPA has several resources for swimmers, boat, and pool owners, including videos, tip sheets, checklists, and a new NFPA Podcast episode, “Hazards in the Water,” that can be downloaded and shared. Please visit nfpa.org/watersafety to learn more.

National Fire Protection Association

News Messenger

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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 PUZZLE

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- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. Cyprinids
 - 6. Icelandic literary works
 - 10. Break in half
 - 14. Japanese mushroom
 - 15. Have offspring
 - 17. Not feeling well
 - 19. A very large body of water
 - 20. Witch
 - 21. Behemoth
 - 22. Speak negatively of
 - 23. Absence of difficulty
 - 24. Pampering places
 - 26. Drives
 - 29. Truck that delivers beer
 - 31. Makes
 - 32. A team’s best pitcher
 - 34. ___ Carvey, comedian
 - 35. Seas
 - 37. S. American plants
 - 38. Time zone
 - 39. Deviate
 - 40. No longer are
 - 41. Moving in slowly
 - 43. Patrick and Glover are two
 - 45. Living quarters
 - 46. Taxi
 - 47. Pancake made of buck-wheat flour
 - 49. Swiss river
 - 50. Not happy
 - 57. Have surgery
 - 53. Formal withdrawal
 - 58. Give way to anxiety
 - 59. Greek war god
 - 60. 2K lbs.
 - 61. Word of farewell
- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. ___ ex Machina
 - 2. WWII diarist Frank
 - 3. Concluding passage
 - 4. Supplement with difficulty
 - 5. Title of respect
 - 6. Cubic measures
 - 7. Remnant
 - 8. ___ Jones
 - 9. Salts of acetic acid
 - 10. Long, upholstered seat
 - 11. Capital of Okinawa Prefecture
 - 12. A one-time aspect of Egyptian sun god Ra
 - 13. Prefix denoting “in a”
 - 16. Propels upward
 - 18. What we are talking about
 - 22. Prosecutor
 - 23. Employee stock ownership plan
 - 24. He brings kids presents
 - 25. Burmese monetary unit
 - 27. Hurries
 - 28. Injury remnant
 - 29. Tooth caregiver
 - 30. Elvis backup singer Betty Jane
 - 31. “The Partridge Family” actress Susan
 - 33. Midway between east and southeast
 - 35. Most excellent
 - 36. Heat units
 - 37. Possess legally
 - 39. Food items
 - 42. Skeletal structures
 - 43. Challenge to do something bold
 - 44. Blood type
 - 46. Sammy ___, songwriter
 - 47. Farmer (Dutch)
 - 48. Clare Booth ___, American writer
 - 49. Piers Anthony’s protagonist
 - 50. Malaysian coastal city
 - 51. Hairstyle
 - 52. NY-based department store
 - 53. Geosciences organization (abbr.)
 - 54. Brazilian city
 - 55. Niger-Congo languages
 - 56. Gesture

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OBITUARIES

Albig, Dave

Dave Albig, of Radford, died Sunday, June 30, 2024 from stage four pancreatic cancer.

He was born in Schenectady, N. Y., to Dale W. Albig and Mildred E. Wendelken Albig. He was preceded in death by his parents and his only sibling, Cheryl A. Albig.

He is survived by Pegeen Horth Albig, his wife of 55 years.

Dave and Pegeen, AKA Pogo, met at Radford University as first-year professors. In 1968, they were married in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Dave and Pogo had no children, but they did have many beloved dogs and cats as family members. After graduating from Fayetteville Manlius High School, near Syracuse, N. Y., Dave earned his B.S. at Michigan State University, his M.S. at the University of Illinois, and his Ph.D. at the Florida



State University. He taught mathematics for one year at Hudson Valley Community College in Troy, N.Y., and was a professor of mathematics at Radford University from 1966 to 2003. He served as chairman of his department from 1977 until 2000. He wants to thank his outstanding colleagues and his very capable students. In 2000, he was presented with the Radford University Foundation Award for University Service.

In accordance with Dave's wishes, no visitation or service is planned. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to the Albig Mathematics Scholarship at Radford University.

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

Thomas, Kathy Michele

Kathy Michele Thomas, 58, of Radford, passed away unexpectedly Saturday, June 29, 2024.

She was preceded in death by her father, Gary L. Thomas, Sr.; and her grandparents.

Michele was a lifelong resident of the Radford area. She was a Licensed Practical Nurse and worked in that profession for many years. Michele was also an animal lover, especially of cats.

She is survived by her mother, Drema B. Thomas; brother and sister-in-law, Gary L. Thomas (Susan); nieces and their spouses, Andrea T. Barker (Ethan)



and Mary T. Burks (Marcus); great nephew, Archer W. Barker; feline companions, Tap and Curious; and many other aunts, uncles, cousins and many friends too numerous to mention.

Michele's family would like to thank the officers of the Radford City Police Department, the Radford E.M.T.'s, and the staff of her apartment complex for assistance at this time.

Per Michele's request, she will be cremated, and an immediate family gathering will be held.

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

News Messenger

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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: 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

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. 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!"

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 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

Montgomery County

WORSHIP DIRECTORY

Wits' End Corner

Read Psalms 106:1 through 109:31

Life can be like riding a ship rolling in the midst of a stormy sea: up one second reaching for the stars, the next second plummeting to the depths. The Psalmist wrote about those who "went out on the sea in ships."

They reeled and staggered like drunkards; they were at their wits' end. Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble, and he brought them out of their distress (Psalm 107:27-28).

A. G. Ward wrote in the Pentecostal Evangel eighty-three years ago, "We have passed through many tests in the

past twenty-four years, often we have been at 'wits' end corner' but again and again we have found ourselves singing."

Are you at the end of your rope? Cry out to the Lord. Your prayer life will be different. Your praise life will open up.

Your prayer should be like that of Jehoshaphat as he led God's people when they were under attack: "We do not know what to do, but our eyes are upon you" (2Chronicles 20:12).

Prayer Suggestion: Lord, I trust You to still the storms in my life.
Quicklook: Psalm 107:23-32

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

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. Celebrate Word and Sacrament as we worship with varied liturgy, hymns and music. Join our inclusive community in person or online Sundays at 10:00 am(youtube.com/@OSLcCeburg), followed by refreshments and fellowship. Ministries include Bible study, choir, food ministry, and crafters. Little Free Pantry and Library available 24-7 by the parking lot. Parent's Morning Out offers faith-based activities and play for children 16 month - 5 years select weekdays. Wheelchair accessible. Learn how you may contribute to our ministries at www.oslc-cburg.org. 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

New book amplifies voices of incarcerated veterans



PHOTO BY CHASE PARKER FOR VIRGINIA TECH
Jason Higgins, humanities digital scholarship coordinator for Virginia Tech Publishing housed in University Libraries at Virginia Tech.

In his new book "Prisoners After War: Veterans in the Age of Mass Incarceration," historian Jason Higgins uncovers the untold stories of veterans, men and women, who were punished for mental health disorders and incarcerated after serving in America's wars from Vietnam to present day.

Higgins, humanities digital scholarship coordinator for Virginia Tech Publishing housed in University Libraries at Virginia Tech, has always been more interested in studying history from the bottom up.

"Oral histories make history personal and more human," said Higgins. "I began recording oral histories with World War II veterans as an undergraduate. Then I completed an oral history project with Vietnam veterans. Since then, I've spent my life studying the lasting effects of war, trauma, and veterans' experiences."

Tracing roots of injustice

Through extensive research and oral histories, Higgins traces the roots of this injustice back to the Vietnam era, when Nixon's "war on drugs" unfairly targeted soldiers struggling with substance abuse, such as marijuana and heroin, to cope with the horrors and traumas of war. Thousands of veterans, disproportionately Black, were discharged without benefits and resources, fueling a cycle of discrimination, mental illness, and mass incarceration that continues today.

"As a public historian, I hope to raise public awareness of the experiences of veterans who went to prison after war," said Higgins. "My book explores the radiating effects of mental health, disabilities, and wounds of war on these lives and uncovers a history of discriminatory policies in the military, Veterans Administration, and criminal justice system."

A wake-up call

Higgins said studying Black history forever changed his worldview. "After learning about the violent experiences of Black veterans throughout U.S. history — from lynching to incarceration — I was both enraged that I never learned about this in school and equally impassioned to teach others," said Higgins.

He has spent the last 10 years filling in the missing gaps of historical knowledge. "This project became more than a dissertation topic to me," said

Higgins. "I have become an advocate for justice through scholarship, teaching, and service."

The central question of Higgins's book asks what the relationship is between trauma, discrimination, and incarceration. To answer this question, Higgins launched the Incarcerated Veterans Oral History Project while earning his Ph.D. in history from the University of Massachusetts Amherst. His research revealed that during the Vietnam War, African American veterans were unfairly punished with "less than honorable" discharges, denied disability benefits, and were disproportionately incarcerated after the war. By 1978, one out of four Americans in prison were military veterans and nearly half of them were Black veterans with less than honorable discharges.

"Unfortunately discrimination did not end after the Vietnam War," said Higgins. "It took new forms. Oral history interviews with Iraq and Afghanistan veterans uncovered striking parallels."

The next generation of veterans experienced a mental health crisis produced by the conditions of fighting the global war on terrorism. Multiple deployments increased the risk of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injury, and moral injury. Military doctors and the Department of Veterans Affairs also overprescribed opioids. Hundreds of thousands of veterans developed substance-use disorders. Although the military initiated mental health reforms during the war on terror, many service members continued to be punished for mental health and behavioral problems, including members with service-connected injuries and women who experienced sexual assault. They were kicked out without veterans' benefits.

Resilience against the odds

Yet among the accounts, inspiring stories of resilience emerge — such as that of David Carlson, an Iraq War vet who broke the cycle of intergenerational trauma and incarceration in his family by becoming a law student, activist, and youth mentor after serving two combat tours and spending over four years in prison. Higgins documents how many formerly incarcerated vets have transformed their lives to become community leaders effecting social change.

A grassroots movement for justice

The book also chronicles the proliferation since 2008 of nearly 600 Veterans Treatment Courts across the U.S. — a grassroots movement pioneered by Vietnam vets advocating for alternatives to incarceration. These innovative courts are hybrid mental health and drug treatment courts, specializing in veterans with PTSD, traumatic brain injury, military sexual trauma, and substance use disorders. They promote alternatives to incarceration and connect veterans to resources such as health care, housing aid, disability benefits, counseling services, and job training, drastically reducing recidivism.

"As Virginia Tech seeks to make education more affordable and aspires for Global Distinction, our research, teaching, and service have enormous potential for positive social change,"

said Higgins. "With generous support from Virginia Tech TOME [Toward an Open Monograph Ecosystem Grant], "Prisoners After War" can be read online or downloaded for free. More than anything, I want this research to reach people living in the margins of society."

Higgins said this work would not be possible without the support of many people at Virginia Tech and the University of Massachusetts Amherst, none more influential than Christian G. Appy, a mentor and historian of the Vietnam War. "My former supervisor Peter Potter provided invaluable insight into open-access scholarly publishing while I was revising my dissertation into a book," said Higgins. "Virginia Tech Publishing also hosts the Journal of Veterans Studies, which produces cutting edge, open-access scholarship in the field of Veterans studies."

Higgins's work intersects with several past and ongoing University Libraries initiatives including the Center for Oral History, the Veterans in Society initiative, the National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute for Higher Education Faculty on Veterans Studies, and the Journal of Veterans Studies. "When I joined Virginia Tech as a postdoctoral fellow, I stood on the shoulders of many," said Higgins.

Expanding access to veteran stories

Last year, Higgins proposed a National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute for K-12 teachers called Crossing Divides to train educators in facilitating student oral history projects in their communities. With a 4-VA grant, he also partnered with William & Mary's Andre Taylor, oral historian and Ph.D. candidate, to record oral histories from diverse veteran groups like African Americans, women, LGBTQ, antiwar, and disabled vets. Selected interviews are on Higgins's YouTube

channel, with collections being archived at the W.E.B Du Bois Library at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. He's now developing a new model for disseminating oral histories digitally through Virginia Tech Publishing.

"Interviewing veterans as an undergraduate changed my life, and now I introduce students to the transformative power of oral history," said Higgins. In his Vietnam War class, for example, students have recorded nearly 40 new oral histories and many are archived with the Library of Congress Veterans History Project. Currently, in partnership with the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets, Higgins is supervising cadets who are interviewing Virginia Tech alumni who served in the Vietnam War.

"In this community, I have discovered an authentic devotion to service," said Higgins. "I am honored to join the storied tradition of Ut Prosim by recording the untold stories of those who served."

A rallying cry

With "Prisoners After War," Higgins issues a call to grapple with the hard truths about how our systems have failed veterans.

"Incarcerated veterans live in the shadows of society," said Higgins. "However, their place in our national story is significant. Veterans are often venerated as heroes, symbols of strength, and the embodiment of patriotism. But veterans are not statues. They are humans with all the strengths and limitations of our condition."

"It is my hope that these stories teach us that formerly incarcerated people can transform their lives, families, and communities," said Higgins. "But first, we must recognize their humanity, the dignity of all who have served, and provide access to resources, opportunities, and genuine second chances."

Ann Brown for Virginia Tech



PHOTOS COURTESY OF VIRGINIA TECH

Virginia Tech researchers (from left) Richard Hanowski, Julie Shortridge, and Andy Scerri.

Virginia Tech researchers receive Fulbright Scholar Awards

Three Virginia Tech researchers have received Fulbright Scholar Awards for the 2024-25 academic year, according to the Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program, the U.S. government's flagship international educational exchange program.

The focus of the research projects seek to improve global transportation safety, environmental policy, and climate change.

"Virginia Tech faculty are contributing to our global reputation through their active participation in the Fulbright program," said Dan Sui, senior vice president for research and innovation. "Our faculty who are leading Fulbright programs will have an opportunity to learn from and make an impact on their host international communities during their Fulbright tenures. Addressing challenges through the program supports the university commitment to be a force for positive change through advancing research and partnering abroad."

Since the Fulbright program's inception in 1946, nearly 170 Virginia Tech faculty members have participated. More broadly across the world, the program has provided more than 400,000 students, scholars, teachers, artists, and professionals of all backgrounds and fields the opportunity to study, teach, and conduct research; exchange ideas; and contribute to finding solutions to important international problems.

The three faculty members are:

Richard Hanowski
Division director of freight, transit, and heavy vehicle safety, Virginia Tech Transportation Institute

Seventy percent of road deaths in Malaysia involve motorcycles. However, their affordability leads many road users in low- and middle-income countries to rely on them. With a passion for global transportation safety and over 32 years of transportation safety research experience, Hanowski will collaborate with the Malaysian Institute of Road Safety Research in Kajang, Malaysia, to research, design, develop, and test a low-cost motorcycle collision avoidance technology to help mitigate motorcycle crashes. The research will commence in January for a three-month period.

Andy Scerri
Associate professor and director of

graduate studies, Department of Political Science, College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences

Governments have the power to make policy decisions about the production, distribution, and consumption of energy in given areas. Scerri, whose research focus is environmental political theory and policy studies, will travel to the Netherlands to continue work on his current book, tentatively titled "Democracy Without Illusions." It argues that stability in energy policy is undesirable democratically and revisits the ideas of American democratic realists in the mid-20th century. The book will include a chapter on the recent shift to the right in the Netherlands and the difficulties it raises for advancing climate-responsible policymaking going forward. Scerri also will co-teach a class on democratic theory at Maastricht University and receive training in a problem-based learning approach to teaching and syllabus design.

Julie Shortridge
Assistant professor and Virginia Cooperative Extension specialist, Department of Biological Systems Engineering, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

The Arctic region is warming faster than anywhere else on Earth, presenting an opportunity to understand these impacts as they emerge. With her Fulbright, Shortridge will study how interactions between warming temperatures and energy transitions in Northern Finland could lead to tipping points that rapidly change social and environmental systems. She will work with colleagues in the Department of Water, Energy, and Environmental Engineering and the Frontiers of Global Resilience Research Program to develop stakeholder-informed conceptual and computational models of these changes. These models will be used to test resilience-building strategies to preserve environmental and social resources in the face of rapid changes.

The competition for Fulbright awards for the 2025-26 academic year has been announced and the deadline for submission is Sept. 16. For more information about the application process, contact Nicole Sanderlin.

Virginia Tech



Riley Johnson (right) shakes hands with Senator Mark Warner.

After internship, rising senior plans career in state government

Riley Johnson knows exactly what he wants to do once he graduates from Radford University, and he gives all the credit to an internship.

During the 2024 spring semester, the now-rising senior political science major interned with the university's Government Relations office, which works with the Virginia General Assembly to establish and foster relationships and monitor issues and legislation important to the university community. It also serves as a resource to public officials.

Much of Johnson's time was spent working in Richmond, Virginia's capital, with Del. Jason Ballard.

"I got to sit in on meetings with lobbyists as well as committees and subcommittees," Johnson said, describing a portion of his internship duties.

"One of the best things about the internship was being able to see all the behind-the-scenes activities," the Bristow, Virginia, native continued. "It's one thing to read about it in a textbook and hear it in a lecture; it's another thing to witness it in person. It was a great learning

experience to see how everyone interacts with each other."

The internship was a paid opportunity, which was a terrific benefit. "I've always been a full-time student and worked full time, so I haven't had time to go after any extracurricular activities," Johnson said. "The benefits from the internship allowed me to breathe and take this opportunity."

Working in Richmond also gave Johnson a chance to network with Radford University alumni who work in state government. "Hopefully, these networking opportunities will help me find job opportunities after I graduate."

The internship, Johnson explained, has "shown me that being in a state government is where I want to go next," he said. "My time here at Radford and this internship have set me up great for what I want to do personally, which would be working with the public and helping out the community."

*Riley Murtagh and Chad Osborne
for Radford University*

MONTGOMERY SPORTS

Christiansburg to host hundreds of baseball players

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

The Cal Ripken Under-the-age-of-10 Minors state baseball tournament is being held this weekend in the New River Valley.

Christiansburg is hosting hundreds of players, coaches and fans who will attend the event at the Harkrader Sports Complex.

Three local teams will participate in the tournament including all-stars from Blacksburg, Christiansburg and Floyd.

Other teams participating include New Kent, Arlington, Augusta, Winchester, Keezletown, Stafford, Williamsburg, Manassas, Glen Allen and Rockville.

Nationally, Cal Ripken Baseball is a division of Babe Ruth Baseball. The Minors Division is recommended for ballplayers ages 9-10. Players build and refine their fundamental skills while beginning to understand game strategy and teamwork. In most regions, participants first experience post-season tournament competition in this level, leading to the 10-year-old World Series.

Tournament teams can compete in Districts, States, Regionals, and a World Series if they continue to win at each level.

The league is named after Calvin Edwin Ripken Jr., who is nicknamed "the Iron Man". He was an American former baseball shortstop and third baseman who played his entire 21-season career in Major League Baseball for the Baltimore Orioles.

As part of the tournament, players can participate in a skills competition that includes a homerun derby, around the horn, gold arm, and road runner. Prizes will be given to the winner of each competition.

Opening ceremonies were slated to be held on Thursday. Once bracket play is over, teams will be slated into a single elimination tourney beginning today, Saturday, July 6.



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF CAL RIPKEN BASEBALL



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES

The spring turkey season runs from April 13 to May 18.

Outdoor report: Turkey harvest down in Commonwealth

The Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) announced a harvest of 21,988 turkeys during the 2024 spring turkey season.

While this represents a 10% decrease from the record harvest in 2023, this remains one of the highest spring turkey harvests in Virginia history.

Ryan Brown, DWR Executive Director, stated "The continued high harvests over the last several years is a great sign for the future for Virginia's hunters and wildlife enthusiasts. Further, numerous reports of hens with young poults already this spring provide hope that 2024 will be a year of strong productivity in Virginia's wild turkey population."

The trend was true in Montgomery, Floyd and Giles counties. The three-year totals for Montgomery were 262-257-235. Floyd tallied a high mark of 304 in 2022 but saw numbers drop to 272 and 242 in two following years. Giles County showed similar numbers at 271 three years ago with only 255 this past year.

DWR biologists anticipated the spring turkey harvest would decrease during the 2024 season for two primary reasons: back-to-back years

of record harvests are not typical for the wild turkey, and brood survey results in 2022 were below average. The Department's annual brood survey measures productivity and recruitment within Virginia's turkey population. In 2022, the survey indicated below average recruitment of turkey poults across much of the state. These birds would be 2 years old this season, the age group that tends to make up the majority of the annual spring gobble harvest. With fewer 2-year-old birds on the landscape, a drop in harvest was expected.

After a record harvest last year, it wasn't a surprise that the numbers dipped a bit this year, but turkey numbers remain strong in the Commonwealth.

As in previous years, more birds were harvested East of the Blue Ridge (68%) than West of the Blue Ridge (32%). Adult gobblers (as defined in harvest records as those with a beard at least 7" in length) made up 91% of the total harvest, while juvenile gobblers, known as "jakes" (beard less than 7" in length), accounted for only 8% of the harvest. Turkey harvests occurred overwhelmingly in the morning (92%) versus the afternoon (7%).

The majority of the spring turkey harvest took place on private lands (93%). Public land hunters (both federal and state) accounted for 7% of the total spring harvest, which was an increase from the prior two years. National Forest lands accounted for the majority of public land harvests.

While the harvest across the Commonwealth continues to be very robust, there are areas of the state where turkey population metrics are falling below the objectives set in DWR's Wild Turkey Management Plan. DWR biologists continue to monitor these areas for potential management solutions. Using best available science and stakeholder input, the agency has begun revising the Wild Turkey Management Plan and will provide more information as the process develops.

The George Washington and Jefferson National Forest in central Virginia cover more than 1.7 million acres of hunting opportunity, not only for spring gobblers, but for small game, fall turkeys, whitetails, and black bears.

Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources

Hokies to participate in Olympics

The Virginia Tech track and field team wrapped up the summer championship season with five current and former athletes claiming gold at the national level in five countries.

Marcel Lomnický, who became a Tech Hall of Famer in 2023, claimed gold in hammer throw at the Slovak Championships in Banská Bystrica, Slovakia on Sunday, June 30. Lomnický finished first with a throw of 233' 0" (71.02m).

At the UK Athletics Championships, Neil Gourley '18 crossed the finish line first in the 1500m in Manchester, England with a time of 3:37.67.

Gourley qualified for the finals clocking in first in heat one of the prelims with a time of 3:44.33.

He first met the Olympic qualifying standard (3:33.50) in July of 2023 finishing third at the London Athletics Meet recording a time of 3:30.60.

Having previously met the qualifying standard, Gourley clinched his spot into the Olympics finishing first at the UK Trials.

Katrin Brzyszkowska placed first in shot put with a mark of 54' 1" (16.48m) on Saturday at the Czech Championships in Zlín, Czech Republic.

Freshman Vlad Puchko became the 2024 Belarus National Champion in discus throwing 198' 0" (60.35m) in Minsk, Belarus on June 27th.

In Kingston, Jamaica, Dylan Decambre won the men's 1500m at the Jamaica U20 Championships stopping the clock at 3:59.75 on Thursday.

In Eugene, Ore., former volunteer pole vault coach Bridget Williams won then women's pole vault competition clearing 15' 6.25" (4.73m), Olympic standard.

Williams jumped cleaned through 15' 6.25" in the finals to secure her ticket to Paris representing team USA.

Williams has trained at Virginia Tech since 2020 with assistant coach Bob Phillips. She attended the University of Virginia where she competed in pole vault from 2015-2019.

Assistant coach Rachel Baxter finished 11th in pole vault clearing the bar at 14' 6.25" (4.43m).

Tech alum Isaiah Rogers '20 finished ninth in hammer with a first round mark of 230' 1" (70.13m). Jordan Roach '16 placed eighth in discus throwing 204' 2" (62.24m).

Senior Lindsey Butler advanced to the 1500m semifinals on Friday finishing 21st with a time of 4:12.18. In the prelims, Butler broke her own school record clocking a time of 4:07.15.

Nick Plant placed 24th in the 800m semifinals with a time of 1:49.13. Plant earned an automatic spot into the semifinals finishing fifth in his heat in round one (1:46.88).

Senior Aidan Clark tied for 13th in high jump clearing the bar at 7' 0.25" (2.14m) on his second attempt.

Assistant jumps coach Chauncey Chambers placed 19th in triple jump recording a mark of 49' 11" (15.21m) in the qualifying round.

Neil Gourley (1500m) and Bridget Williams (pole vault) will compete at the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris, France on July 26 - Aug. 11.

Virginia Tech Athletics



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF VIRGINIA TECH

Sports notes: Former Highlander in Olympics

Marty Gordon
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At least one former Radford University basketball player will be in the spotlight during this summer's Olympics.

Carlík Jones, who played both at RU and Louisville, before signing as a free agent with the NBA's Dallas Mavericks. He played in the NBA G-League before sticking for several months with the Chicago Bulls. He was the Most Valuable Player of the G-League during the 2022-2023 season.

Following his release, a former RU teammate reached out and asked if he wanted to play for the South Sudan Nationals team.

In the 2023 FIBA World Cup, Jones averaged over 20 points and 10 assists per game in leading South Sudan to their first ever Olympic Basketball appearance.

Copeland 247Sports rising star

Virginia Tech's Defensive lineman Kemari Copeland is emerging as one of the ACC's brightest stars for the upcoming season, following his transfer from Iowa Western Community College. Hailed as one of the Hokies' most impressive newcomers, the junior earned a coveted spot on 247Sports' list of ACC Spring Football's Rising Stars. Rivals also recognized his potential, ranking him as the No. 10 junior college player nationally for the 2024 class, while 247Sports places him at No. 12 among junior college recruits.

Standing at 6-foot-3 and 280 pounds, Copeland had a notable 2023 season, playing in 13 games and recording 38 tackles, including nine tackles for loss, 4.5 sacks, a fumble recovery and a pass breakup. The

defensive powerhouse's performance ultimately helped the Reivers claim the NJCAA Division 1 National Championship victory.

The Virginia Beach, Virginia native's high school career was equally impressive. As a senior at Floyd Kellam, he earned All-Beach District and Beach District Defensive Player of the Year honors, along with All-Tidewater recognition. During his junior year, the defensive lineman tallied 108 tackles, garnering First Team All-Beach and Second Team All-Region accolades.

Following high school, Copeland spent a developmental year in 2022 at Army West Point, where he appeared in seven games and made two tackles. His impressive strength was evident with a 650-pound deadlift, a 675-pound squat, and a 400-pound bench press. At Virginia Tech, he continued to push limits, recently breaking the all-time program squat record with 605 pounds for 10 reps.

Pry lands another big fish

This past week, the Virginia Tech football program continued to add several big fish from the Commonwealth.

Portsmouth (Va.) I.C. Norcom four-star athlete Matthew Outten has committed to Virginia Tech. He chose the Hokies over Maryland, Penn State and Syracuse.

He is listed as a receiver/athlete in the 2025 cycle and is the 14th commitment for the group. Outten is ranked in Top-5 in the state and 47th in the nation in several scouting circles.

Basketball adds big man

Also, this past week, the Virginia Tech basketball team landed a big man.



PHOTO COURTESY OF RADFORD UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS
Carlík Jones

6-9 Christian Gurdak says he will bring his talent to Blacksburg. The rising senior at Gonzaga High School (DC) picked Virginia Tech over the Irish, Maryland, Iowa, Clemson and others.

New RU assistant

The Radford University women's basketball program announced Tuesday morning that Ben Edelburg has joined the team as an assistant coach for the upcoming 2024-25 season.

Edelburg joins the Highlanders after spending last season with the Morehead State women's basketball program where he served as a graduate assistant. Edelburg also has deep and extensive experience with developmental programs in the basketball coaching scene.

While at Morehead State, Edelburg completed full scouts on multiple conference and nonconference opponents assisting in every scout throughout the season. He also coordinated team travel for all conference

games, participated in all recruiting efforts including portal tracking, JUCO, International and high school evaluations while also developing practice plans and skill development sessions.

Prior to his time at Morehead State, Edlburg spent six years in Wisconsin coaching in various areas including assisting in multiple NBA training sessions that included Brad Beal, Jayson Tatum, Joel Embiid, and Zack Lavine. He also ran multiple basketball skill development camps with Pure Sweat Basketball and consulted on multiple off season instruction for multiple state tournament teams.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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MONTGOMERY SPORTS

Flag football coming to college athletics

Conference Carolinas announced today the addition of women's flag football as a conference-sponsored sport starting in 2025-26.

Conference Carolinas is the first NCAA Division I or II conference to sponsor women's flag football, and second NCAA conference, joining Division III's Atlantic East.

The league will have at least six institutions in the inaugural season.

Conference member Emmanuel University, who has already announced the addition of women's flag football, will be joined by Chowan, new member Ferrum, King, Lees-McRae and Mount Olive. Inaugural competition will take place in the spring of 2026.

"Conference Carolinas is excited to lead the way and become the first NCAA Division II conference to sponsor women's flag football," Conference Carolinas Commissioner Chris Colvin said. "With significant support from the National Football League (NFL), the sport is growing at the youth, high school, and collegiate levels. We are excited to be on the front lines of giving females across the country another phenomenal competitive opportunity."

The conference's addition of women's flag football has been coordinated with the National Football League (NFL) and RCX Sports.

"This is a pivotal moment in women's college flag football," said Stephanie Kwok, NFL Vice President of Flag Football. "As the first NCAA Division II conference to sponsor women's flag football, Conference Carolina is demonstrating the popularity of this fast-growing sport and playing a key role in expanding the pathways for women to play at an elite level."

"At RCX Sports, we're committed to breaking down barriers and making sports available for everyone, regardless of gender, economic background or geographic positioning," said RCX Sports CEO Izell Reese. "The addition of female flag football to the Conference Carolinas athletic schedule is another major step forward for female athletes to continue chasing their dreams. RCX sports is proud to support Conference Carolinas in bringing this game to the Division II level."

Local NFL clubs, the Carolina Panthers and Atlanta Falcons, are also supportive of the growth of collegiate women's flag in the Conference Carolinas footprint.

"The national growth of women's flag football is providing new access and opportunities in the sport for women and girls at the youth, high school and collegiate levels. The Carolina Panthers congratulate Conference Carolinas and recognize this significant step forward for the sport," said Carolina Panthers director of Community Relations Riley Fields. "Through its

commitment, Conference Carolinas is creating new educational opportunity pathways for women and their ability to compete at the collegiate level."

"We are proud to support the addition of women's flag football as an official sport within Conference Carolinas," said Atlanta Falcons President Greg Beadles. "The Falcons have long been committed to recognizing the significance of sports for young athletes, especially women. Seeing our efforts make an impact at both the high school and collegiate levels is incredibly rewarding. We are excited to continue our journey in promoting the growth of girls' flag football and look forward to the positive impact this will have on the athletes and the communities they represent."

In 2024-25, it is anticipated that 10 NCAA institutions will be competing at the varsity level across all three divisions. At the NAIA level, there are 24 institutions currently participating women's flag football and seven at the NJCAA level.

At the high school level, 11 states currently sanction women's flag football, including Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia and Florida while North Carolina has pilot programs and South Carolina has shown interest. Over the last five years, participation in high school girls flag football has grown by nearly 15 percent and nearly 18 percent for ages 6-17.

Women's flag football is expected to be considered by the NCAA as an emerging sport in the next year.

"We are excited about the opportunity to be a part of an emerging sport that is going to add another layer to the great athletic tradition we have here at Ferrum College," said Cleive Adams, Ferrum College Director of Athletics. "Being a part of one of the first official Division II leagues that sponsor women's flag and the first of its kind in the state of Virginia will provide Ferrum College with an opportunity to tap into a sport population that is growing rapidly in our home state as well as neighboring states along the east coast."

The average roster size is around 25 players that will play 7-on-7. A contest will consist of four 12-minute quarters on a field that is 80x40 yards. The offense has four downs to cross each 20-yard line for a first down with an option to punt at third down. If unsuccessful, teams surrender possession to their opponent.

Teams score six points for a touchdown and can gain an extra one or two points for a set play from the five- or 10-yard lines. Players will wear tightly fixed flag belts with sockets and two pop flags on either side of their hips.

The NFL is a huge supporter of the growth of flag football. Numerous NFL facilities and stadiums have been utilized for competitions and clinics while several

players have attended and engaged with athletes to grow the sport. Across the country this past year, more than 700,000 youth took part in NFL FLAG leagues, with nearly 500,000 of those athletes being female, and 11 states have now sanctioned girls flag football as championship sports, thanks to the work of the NFL and RCX Sports, the official operator of NFL FLAG.

Carolinas Conference

Radford University tops Big South Conference with 85.50% of student-athletes on Presidential Honor Roll

RADFORD - Radford University has set a new standard in the Big South Conference, with an impressive 85.50% of its 269 eligible student-athletes being named to the Big South Presidential Honor Roll for the 2023-24 academic year. This achievement marks the highest percentage for this honor among all Big South institutions.

To qualify for the Presidential Honor Roll, student-athletes must maintain a grade point average of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale. This year, 2,152 out of the Big South's 2,909 eligible student-athletes met this standard.

"This is a tremendous honor for our athletics department, and achieving this recognition for the second time in three years is simply outstanding," said Robert Lineburg, Director of Athletics. "We are immensely proud of our student-athletes' commitment to academic success. Additionally, I commend our academic support staff and coaches for their unwavering emphasis on student-athlete success."

Radford University is one of only three schools in the conference to have over 80% of its student-athletes on the Honor Roll, along with Gardner-Webb University and High Point University. Notably, 35 Radford student-athletes earned the Commissioner's Award for maintaining a perfect 4.0 GPA, with the women's soccer program contributing nine of these top scholars.

The Big South Conference reported a record 273 student-athletes with a 4.0 GPA in the 2023-24 academic year. Additionally, 604 student-athletes received the Gold Award (3.75-3.99 GPA), and 522 were honored with the Silver Award (3.50-3.74 GPA). Overall, 1,399 student-athletes achieved a GPA of 3.50 or higher, accounting for 65.01% of all Presidential Honor Roll members.

Radford University

Musicians celebrate

from page 1

members have done much to preserve the Whitetop region's style of old-time fiddling and banjo picking and are legendary musicians and teachers of the style. The band is currently led by Emily Spencer, who was a founding member of the group in the 1970s.

Shelton & Williams

Featuring members Jeanette Williams, Jay Shelton, and Johnny Williams — all from Danville — Shelton & Williams performs a variety of styles, including original, classic country, gospel, blues, traditional and progressive bluegrass, and Americana. All members are songwriters and seasoned vocalists. Their first project as Shelton & Williams, "So Much Time, So Much Love," was released in July 2022.

Jeanette Williams has become one

of the most successful and celebrated women in bluegrass music. Touring, recording, and industry awards have become a mainstay for Williams, who also plays bass with the band and is expanding her repertoire to include her early influences of classic country, blues, roots, and rock.

Jay Shelton was on the bluegrass scene in the '70s and '80s as a lead singer and lead guitarist, changed direction to become the front man for a rock band for many years, and then became a singer-songwriter, performing solo concerts. In 2019 Shelton returned to the bluegrass scene. An accomplished lead guitarist, songwriter, and vocalist, he recorded his first project, "Home" with Jeanette and Johnny Williams this past year.

Johnny Williams plays guitar, shares

vocals, and writes most of the band's original material. An award-winning singer and songwriter, Williams and his wife, Jeanette, were awarded Lifetime Achievement Awards by the city of Danville for their contributions to bluegrass music for the past 30 years.

Earl White

Playing music that many forget was once a part of Black culture and Black communities across the U.S. and in Virginia, Earl White is a fiddler, founding member of the Green Grass Cloggers, and leader of the Earl White Stringband. White co-founded the Big Indian Farm Artisan Bakery in Floyd and is an influential person in the old-time music and dance community.

Jared Boyd and Raistlin Brabson

Jared Boyd grew up in the small community of Laurel Fork in Carroll County and spent the early years of his life surrounded by old-time music. He learned clawhammer banjo from Ray Chatfield through the Junior Appalachian Musicians program, as well as from his grandfather, Jimmy Boyd, co-founder

of the Franklin County old-time dance band, the Dry Hill Dragers. He has won clawhammer banjo competitions at area fiddlers' conventions and currently plays with the Twin Creeks Stringband, winners of the Old-Time Band competition at the 2022 and 2023 Galax Old Fiddlers Convention.

Raistlin Brabson is an old-time musician from Franklin County, who played percussion and guitar in local bands until picking up his great grandfather's fiddle almost two years ago. Inspired by local masters and musicians such as Clark Kessinger, Hank Williams, and Kenny Baker, Brabson brings driving dance music and classic country with him wherever he goes.

Tickets

Tickets for the performance are \$30 for general admission and \$10 for students and youth 18 and under. Tickets can be purchased online; at the Moss Arts Center's box office, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday; or by calling 540-231-5300 during box office hours.

Virginia Tech

GiveLocalNRV

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Photo courtesy of CFNRV

The YMCA at Virginia Tech gathers at Iron Tree Brewing in Christiansburg on June 26. Iron Tree donated a portion of their proceeds from the day to the YMCA.

\$20,000 in grants and prizes offered by the CFNRV and our sponsors, including our top sponsor National Bank of Blacksburg. The CFNRV team is still tallying the results of these awards and will post the winners at givelocalnr.org. Other generous sponsors included Atlantic Union Bank, Carter Bank & Trust, Olio Financial Planning, Automation Creations, Inc., Legacy Builders NRV, Inc., and Brown Insurance.

Since its inception in 2014, this event has raised more than \$4.3 million for organizations serving the New River Valley. This represents thousands of donors and dozens of organizations. View how your favorite organizations serving the New River Valley did this year at givelocalnr.org.

Community Foundation of the New River Valley

Streams

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on well before they hit the water and re-apply when needed.

Teach them the proper techniques for holding a spiny fish like a sunfish and how to hold a crayfish without getting pinched. Show them how to read the water and tell where the deep spots are. Point out animal tracks on the bank and quiz them on animal identification.

Have fun. Remember that it's an all-inclusive experience out there with kids. If they want to throw rocks in the water after catching one fish, so be it! If your wade-fishing adventure turns into a swimming lesson, then that's just as fun. You may not do much fishing, and that's okay. You can come back after that giant bass that won't bite on your own time later.

Be safe, but remember



PHOTO BY JOSIAH DONALDSON

Putting any finds into a white bucket helps kids see what they've caught.

that if your kids don't come home muddy, wet, and exhausted, you have done something wrong! Put in the effort and your kids will recall fond memories of an adventure into a world seldom seen but worth the experience. Josiah Donaldson for the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources