



# News Messenger

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Saturday, July 13, 2024

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## Town of Blacksburg votes to rezone 33.87 acres of land

Angelica Ramos

Contributing Writer

BLACKSBURG- The Blacksburg Town Council heard public comment and voted on Ordinance 2051 to rezone 33.87 acres of land to be developed into a new housing development and park at its July 9 meeting.

According to the staff report presented on Ordinance 2051 during the meeting, the land in question, the site of the old Blacksburg High School, was rezoned to be planned residential land in 2014. The land is 33.87 acres but not all of that land will be developed, as part of the land parcel extends past Montgomery County lines. The staff report presentation explained that the land is broken into three zones and most of the development will be happening in Zone 2, which accounts for 11 acres of the land, as most of Zone 3 is heavily wooded. The development is proposed to have 73 townhomes, the majority of which will be two stories high with three bedrooms in each unit. They will construct two new streets and driveways and also include passive recreational space. If the town council were to have

not approved the new zoning ordinance, the zoning would go back to its original zoning from years prior.

The developers have modified the floor plans to have the primary suite on the main floor and have units with adjustments to make them wheelchair friendly and ADA compliant. The community in public comments worried about these homes becoming student housing and some environmental issues regarding watershed and potential flooding in the area. Other residents worried about the housing crisis in Blacksburg as the current ordinance is denser than its original proposal as they cut almost one hundred rooms from the old proposal to the new proposal, offering less rooms for families or students. The homes are being developed with the hope to offer affordable housing for the community, but there was discussion in the meeting about whether or not they will offer rentals or if it's just homebuyers.

"This is a very important piece of land," Vice Mayor Michael Sutphin said, "to the Town of Blacksburg. It's a former school site. So there's a lot of community interest. It's part of our collective memory in Blacksburg, so people have a lot of

invested interest in not just the neighbors but the whole community, making sure that we do right by the community and have a good development on it."

The Town of Blacksburg voted and approved to comply with the rezoning as was presented to them on July 9, 2024.

## New satellite voting office for Blacksburg approved

Angelica Ramos

Contributing Writer

MONTGOMERY COUNTY- The Board of Supervisors voted in their July 8, 2024 meeting to approve the opening of a new satellite voting office in Blacksburg.

The Board of Supervisors opened the topic up to public hearing before voting on the issue. The satellite voting office was proposed as a way to help Montgomery County voters have easier access to voting due to the lengthy time frame public transit takes from parts of Montgomery County to the current voting offices. This satellite office was proposed with the intention of combating that. The public hearing

responses on the issue were mixed with some residents supporting the office, like residents Nicholas Fisher and his wife, Karen Fisher, and others opposing it.

"For 60 years," Nicholas Fisher said, "I've worked on voter registration. I've seen people die who were working on voter registration in other parts of the country because people were trying to stop them. It's an extremely serious issue. I don't know if there's anything more important than registering and voting in this country, in this democracy. One, I want to support the satellite section. I think it's absolutely critical in the way of improving access to being able to vote."

"Early voting has been a transformative

See VOTING OFFICE, Page 8

## Historic Smithfield to celebrate turning 250 years old



PHOTO BY ANGELICA RAMOS

Historic Smithfield is commemorating its 250th anniversary at the end of this month with a series of events.

Angelica Ramos

Contributing Writer

BLACKSBURG- Historic Smithfield is set to celebrate its 250th birthday at the end of July with two days filled with commemoration events.

William Preston's Smithfield, commonly referred to as Historical Smithfield, located in the heart of Virginia Tech's campus, is turning 250 years old. The house and plantation were made a home in 1774 when Susanna Preston and the Preston children arrived at Smithfield.

## Christiansburg Chief of Fire and Rescue presents updates to council

Angelica Ramos

Contributing Writer

CHRISTIANSBURG- Christiansburg Fire Chief Billy Hanks presented updates and overview of Fire and Rescue to the Christiansburg Town Council on July 9, 2024.

To begin his presentation, Hanks explained Christiansburg Fire and Rescue was established in 1911 and since then has expanded to the current fleet and staff with about 38 volunteers and multiple paid positions. Hanks provided a breakdown of the fire and rescue calls the department received thus far this year with 13 percent of those calls being fire related, but the rest of those calls consisting of rescue and medical calls [28%], hazardous conditions [8%], service calls [8%], good intent calls like if you smell gas [26%] and other fire and rescue related services. The total call per year, his presentation explained, added up to 1083 calls for both Christiansburg and Montgomery County, which is an uptick for this year compared to 2023.

Christiansburg Fire and Rescue Department also offers programs and checks that help keep Christiansburg safe, like their Prevention and Inspection Program where they inspect over 800 businesses, sprinkler systems and

Smithfield was once a plantation but is now a museum that houses multiple gardens in which the community benefits from as Smithfield donates produce to food banks to help the food insecure.

This year's Smithfield birthday is special as the house itself is older than the Declaration of Independence by two years as well as the Smithfield-Preston Foundation's goal to be more community-centric and inclusive.

The 250th Commemoration's theme is "From Deep Roots- Forging an Inclusive Future". This is due to its history as a plantation and a hub for western expansion. The museum's mission is to use that history to educate, give back to its community and write a new story for the future.

"In commemorating the 250th anniversary of Smithfield," the 250th Commemoration mission statement reads, "we will support our theme, From Deep Roots, Forging an Inclusive Future. We will present an accurate, inclusive, and healing account of Smithfield

and all those connected with it, free from any impact of grief, fear, or grievance. We will tell the whole story to recognize not only the legacy of the Preston family, but also those who may have been harmed or neglected in the past and to learn the difficult lessons of history to forge a better future."

The Commemoration event will be held from July 26, 2024 through July 28, 2024. The Commemoration event will host tours of the grounds and gardens, panels discussing the histories of everyone who lived on the property, a dedication of the Merry Oak Bench, activities for the little ones and book signings from authors who have written on local history. There will also be a Reunion Mixer at the Smithfield Pavilion with a welcome video and speech from Smithfield-Preston Foundation Executive Director Michael Hudson the evening of July 26, 2024. Saturday July 27, 2024 will host two discussions at Holtzman Alumni Center

See SMITHFIELD, Page 8



PHOTO BY ANGELICA RAMOS

The herb garden at Smithfield, and the rest of the grounds, will be open to tour during the anniversary celebration.

See CHRISTIANSBURG, Page 8

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## 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 MtTaborRuritan.

### 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 14:

### 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/](http://blacksburgfarmersmarket.com/vintage-market/).

## Wednesday, July 17:

### 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](http://blacksburg.gov/marketsquarejam).

## 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.

## Monday, July 22:

### 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.

## Tuesday, July 23:

### Blacksburg Town Council meeting

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

### Christiansburg Town Council meeting

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

## Thursday, July 25:

### Thursday night indoor concert

Concert will be held at the Blacksburg Presbyterian Church, 701 Church St. SE. "A Treasury of English Music," 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.

## Friday, July 26:

### Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

Please join the Pilot Community Center for a Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser; 5-7 p.m. Pilot Community Center, 4449 Brush Creek Road, Pilot. The meal is \$10 per plate and includes spaghetti, bread, salad, and a drink. Dine-in or take-out available. We'll also have a 50/50 raffle! For more information call 540-382-6537.

# PETS OF THE WEEK



It's #AdoptASharkWeek at the Animal Care and Adoption Center! SharkDog Athena is looking for a warm ocean to call home. She is a happy, observant gal who would benefit from some training to live her best shark dog life.



Char is ready to navigate new waters. She is a sweet gal with a gentle personality. In the past, she has lived with other SharkCats. Char has some food allergies and is on a special diet. Her adoption is sponsored by Montgomery County Friends of Animal Care and

Control.

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

# Professor seeks a modern understanding of ancient inscriptions

The words are a mystery in the form of intricate patterns of shapes and symbols pressed into thin remains of lead or stone. They represent a curse, a grave marker, or a legal document, but what they are for Joseph Eska is an ancient Celtic language to be deciphered and understood.

For his research in linguistics, the scientific study of language and its structure, in which he deciphers early Celtic written languages found on inscriptions often including legal texts and dedications, he is an upcoming recipient of a Guggenheim fellowship.

### Why it matters

The Board of Trustees of the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation honored Eska, professor in the Department of English at Virginia Tech, as one of 188 Guggenheim Fellows from a pool of 3,000 applicants. The fellowships provide funding for scholars, artists, photographers, novelists, essayists, poets, historians, choreographers, environmentalists, and data scientists. The foundation noted that the fellows were chosen for their career achievements and exceptional promise. This award, beginning Aug. 10, will allow Eska to conduct his research full-time for the next year.

It is easy to imagine Eska's

research taking him to the far reaches of ancient Celtic civilization — the cobblestone streets of Europe, hidden underground lodgings, or decaying churchyards. Instead, he is opting for the comfort and solitude of his own home, bolstered by the presence of his four cats. From this vantage point, he will explore resources accumulated over many years from his research and travels including photographs and other copies of inscriptions to learn more about the unique features of early Celtic languages compared to more well-known ones such as Gaelic or Welsh.

"In English, the verb agrees with the subject," he said. "In a Celtic language, the verb agrees with the subject, but it also agrees with the object. Prepositions are conjugated, meaning a single word can convey different relationships like 'to me' or 'to you.' And, at least in languages like Irish and Welsh, the verb is the first word of the sentence and there aren't any other European languages that do that. So, part of what I'm interested in is how did these languages get that way?"

Eska said other researchers compare Celtic languages to ancient languages such as Greek, Latin, and Sanskrit, assuming similar evolutionary paths. Recent discoveries

of older Celtic inscriptions from France, Spain, Italy, and Germany, however, show that those previous assumptions may be incorrect.

### Expanding the understanding of language evolution

To understand more about the lineage of the older languages, Eska will merge the two sides of his academic duality. He is both a historical and a theoretical linguist, which makes his approach to understanding language unusual. From the historical side, he will focus on how languages change over time, documenting their syntax and structure by comparing texts and inscriptions to understand their evolution.

The culmination of Eska's year-long fellowship will be completing a book based on his findings. Acknowledging his historical and theoretical pursuits, the manuscript will be divided into two parts: a descriptive section on old Celtic syntax and an explanatory section using cartographic syntax.

"The second part is going to use a contemporary theoretical approach," he said, "which is called cartographic syntax."

This will include documenting concepts such as word order and case usage, while the second part involves analyzing why certain syntactic



PHOTO BY LESLIE KING FOR VIRGINIA TECH.

**Shanks Hall may be thousands of miles away from ancient European stomping grounds, but Blacksburg is where Joseph Eska will embark on journey to understand the evolution of Celtic languages.**

structures appear the way they do and how they developed over time. By studying inscriptions that predate the more common Celtic languages, Eska will combine his linguistic approaches to gain a comprehensive understanding of the early languages.

"The book has two goals. One is just to get this material out," Eska said and then added with a smile, "And the second is to provide a framework to come to a real answer for how Welsh and Irish got to be so weird."

"Joe Eska's receipt of the prestigious Guggenheim Fellowship is a reflection of his

extraordinary contributions to the field of linguistics," said Laura Belmonte, dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Human Science. "This fellowship will enable him to further his innovative research into Celtic languages, blending historical and theoretical approaches. Dr. Eska's work exemplifies the highest standards of academic excellence and creativity, and his ongoing research promises to shed new light on the evolution of language, benefiting not only Virginia Tech but the global scholarly community."

Jenny Kincaid Boone  
for Virginia Tech

# Warm Hearth Foundation awards scholarships to employees

BLACKSBURG – Thanks to the generosity of donors to the Warm Hearth Foundation's Employee Growth & Development fund, 14 Warm Hearth employees across the village received a total of \$28,750 in scholarships this year – the highest award in program history. Scholarship funds will help some recipients pay for job-related licenses and certifications, others will use it to attend training and some will pay it toward the ongoing cost of undergraduate or graduate degrees. The Foundation Board of Trustees reviewed all applications and made

awards based on references provided, job performance and the scholarship's ability to aid in career advancement at Warm Hearth. "We are proud to see a significant increase in applications and especially pleased that we are able to offer these scholarships with the support of our donors, and to significantly increase the award this year to help more people advance their education," said Tom Pierce, Chair of the Foundation's Board of Trustees. "The scholarship program is one of many ways that Warm Hearth Village

recognizes and rewards employees and this helps us to attract, grow and retain highly qualified employees," added Carlan Myers, Director of Human Resources. The following employees were awarded scholarships at ceremonies held throughout the village: Shaunna Andrews, Marcus Burks, Shu Ching Chung, Annie Dickerson, Opal DiMarzo, Deanna Farley, Tabitha Greenhalgh, Amy Greer, Bridget Sawyers, Jodie Snider, Madell Stanley, Abbey Stone, Amber Sult and Megan Williams.

*Warm Hearth Village*  
William Lester, President & CEO, said, "It is an honor to provide these scholarships to our team members. We are grateful to the all the donors that make this possible. This is just another example of what makes Warm Hearth Village such a special place work and our residents to call home." Warm Hearth Village is a nonprofit senior living community in Blacksburg that provides a full continuum of living options on our campus and in the home.



PHOTO COURTESY OF WARM HEARTH VILLAGE  
Scholarship recipients from Kroontje Health Care Center and Showalter Center.

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## Business REVIEW

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# Marketplace

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**Legals - City of Radford**

**NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE**  
1011 Sutton Street, Radford, Virginia  
Tax Map # 15-(8)-sec 2-23-24 In execution of a Deed of Trust in the original amount of \$143,000.00, dated October 29, 2013 from Todd Calfee, recorded as Instrument Number 01301396 in the land records of the Radford Circuit Court, Radford, Virginia, default having been made in the payments of the indebtedness thereby secured, the undersigned will on July 23, 2024 @ 12:00 NOON at the front entrance of the Radford Circuit Court, 619 Second Street, West, Radford, Virginia, offer for sale at public auction the property and improvements thereon, described as follows:

All that certain tract or parcel of land with all improvements thereon and appurtenances thereunto belonging, situate in the City of Radford, Virginia, being that certain 0.3685 acre parcel designated as Lot B on a certain plat of survey entitled "Physical Survey of Lot B Being the Easterly Portion of Lot 24 and the Westerly Portion of Lot 23, Sec. 2, Forest Park Subdivision, City of Radford, Virginia, for Thomas A. & Cynthia L. Paredes" dated October 7, 1993, prepared by Matthews & Henegard, PLS, a copy of which survey appears of record in the Radford City Circuit Court Clerk's Office in Deed Book 176, Page 747.

TERMS OF SALE: CASH  
This sale is subject to all matters of record in the chain of title to the above property, and also subject to mechanics' and materialmen's liens of record and not of

**Legals - City of Radford**

record, if any such liens exist.

A bidder's deposit of 10% of bid amount, in cash, certified or cashier's check, is required at the time of sale, with the balance due at settlement, to be held within 30 days from the sale date at the office of the Trustee. The property and improvements thereon shall be sold in "as is" condition. All costs of conveyance, by special warranty deed, will be at the cost of the purchaser. Real estate taxes shall be prorated to date of sale. Additional terms of sale shall be announced at the time of sale and contained in a memorandum of sale which the successful bidder shall be required to sign.

**JEFFREY A. WARD**  
SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE

For more information please contact:  
Jeffrey A. Ward, Esquire  
Franklin, Denney, Ward, & Strosnider PLC  
129 N. Wayne Ave.,  
Waynesboro, Virginia 22980  
540-946-4408 email:  
jward@fdwslaw.com

**Legals - City of Radford**

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.

**Legals - City of Radford**

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.bwvsales.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: BWV Law Group, LLC, attorneys for Equity Trustees, LLC, 6003 Executive Blvd, Suite 101, Rockville, MD 20852, 301-961-6555, website: www.bwvsales.com. VA-365487-1.

**Legals - Montgomery County**

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.

**Legals - Montgomery County**

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.

**Legals - Montgomery County**

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

The Town of Christiansburg Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, July 15, 2024, at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street,

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 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

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# Student Achievements

## Gabrielle Boling earns dean's list honor at Lee University

CLEVELAND, Tenn. - Lee University congratulates Gabrielle Boling of Christiansburg on earning Dean's List honors during the Spring 2024 semester. Dean's List recognition is earned by full-time, undergraduate students with a semester grade point average between 3.7 and 4.00. Congratulations on earning this academic achievement, Gabrielle!

## Chase Beams named to University of Alabama Presidents List

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. - Chase Beams was named to The University of Alabama Presidents List for spring semester 2024. A total of 13,103 students enrolled during Spring Semester 2024 at The University of Alabama were named to the dean's list with an academic record of 3.5 (or above) or the president's list with an academic record of 4.0 (all A's). These driven students are making waves across UA's more than 70 undergraduate programs.

## Chase Beams of Christiansburg awarded degree from UA

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. - Chase Beams of Christiansburg has received a Bachelor of Science degree from The University of Alabama. UA awarded over 6,000 degrees during its spring commencement ceremonies. A recent economic analysis found that a degree from The University of Alabama has proven to provide an abundant return on investment for graduates, setting the stage for legendary careers while also creating priceless experiences and memories.

## Kenna Smith of Christiansburg named to Freed-Hardeman University Dean's List

HENDERSON, Tenn. - Freed-Hardeman University has released the names of students who made the President's and Dean's Lists for the Fall 2023 semester. To be on the President's List, a student must be full-time and have a 4.0 grade point average. Students on the Dean's List have earned a minimum 3.4 grade point average for the semester. Kenna Smith of Christiansburg was named to the Dean's List. Smith is earning a Bachelor of Arts in Photography.

## Addie Vice of Radford named to the College of Charleston Dean's List

CHARLESTON, S.C. - Addie Vice of Radford was named to the College of Charleston Spring 2024 Dean's List. Vice

is majoring in Anthropology. To qualify for the dean's list, students must earn a GPA of 3.500 or higher and complete a minimum of 12 semester hours.

## Julia Gess of Blacksburg named to College of Charleston President's List

CHARLESTON, S.C. - College of Charleston congratulates students named to the President's List for Spring 2024. Julia Gess of Blacksburg was named to the President's List. Gess is majoring in Marketing. To qualify for the President's List, students must earn a GPA of 3.800 or higher and complete a minimum of 12 semester hours.

## Mixuan Li receives degree from Georgia Tech

ATLANTA, Ga. - Mixuan Li of Blacksburg has earned a Master of Industrial Design from the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta. Li was among more than 5,700 undergraduate and graduate students to be presented Georgia Tech degrees during the Institute's 266th Commencement exercises May 2 - 4, 2024, at McCamish Pavilion.

## Cole Eastwood of Blacksburg named to spring dean's list at Nebraska

LINCOLN, Neb. - Cole Eastwood of Blacksburg has been named to the Deans' List at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln for the spring semester of the 2023-24 academic year. Eastwood, a sophomore majoring in sports media and communication, was named to the Dean's List for the College of Journalism and Mass Communications.

## Hollins University announces Dean's List for Spring 2024

ROANOKE - Hollins University congratulates students who earned Dean's List honors during the spring 2024 semester. To attain this distinction, students must earn at least a 3.5 average on a 4.0 grading scale. Congratulations to these distinguished scholars on earning this academic achievement. Alaya Lewis of Blacksburg; Emmabeth Caddy of Christiansburg; Ameena Alsmadi of Blacksburg; Andrea Gomez Munza of Christiansburg; Sam Campbell of Christiansburg; El Rowland of Christiansburg; and Logan Lynxwiler of Blacksburg.

## Sofia Kopy of Blacksburg graduates from the University of Rhode Island

KINGSTON, R.I. - The University of Rhode Island celebrated more than 4,100 of its newest alumni during the University's

2024 Commencement. Nearly 4,000 undergraduate degrees and 800 graduate degrees were conveyed to students during the ceremonies which took place May 17-19, 2024. Sofia Kopy of Blacksburg received a Bachelor of Science in Animal Science and Technology, Magna Cum Laude.

## Caleb Kipps graduates from Georgia State University

ATLANTA, Ga. - Caleb Kipps of Christiansburg earned a Master of Business Administration degree in International Business from Georgia State University at the end of the spring 2024 semester. Kipps and more than 3,500 fellow students were recognized for their achievements during the university's 109th commencement exercises in May.

## Tommie Bloomer of Radford makes dean's list at RIT

ROCHESTER, N.Y. - Tommie Bloomer of Radford was named to the Dean's List at Rochester Institute of Technology for the spring semester of the 2023-2024 academic year. Bloomer is in the biomedical engineering program.

## Brian Bush named to Western Carolina University's Spring 2024 Chancellor's List

CULLOWHEE, N.C. - Congratulations to Brian Bush of Blacksburg for being named to the Western Carolina University Spring 2024 Chancellor's List. Bush was among more than 1,400 students to achieve this honor. To qualify for the Chancellor's List, students must earn a GPA of 3.8 or higher while completing a minimum of 12 credit hours.

## Western Carolina University announces Spring 2024 Dean's List

CULLOWHEE, N.C. - Western Carolina University congratulates more than 1,000 students named to the Spring 2024 Dean's List. To qualify for this honor, students must achieve a GPA of 3.5 or higher while completing 12 or more credit hours. The following local students made this semester Dean's List: Brian Bush and Callia Addikis of Blacksburg.

## Andrea Krauss among Mississippi State University's spring 2024 graduates

MISSISSIPPI STATE, Miss. - Andrea Krauss of Blacksburg is among nearly 3,500 students graduating from Mississippi State University in spring 2024. Krauss received the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from MSU's College of Veterinary Medicine.

## Kayla Joy Monaghan receives degree from Washington and Lee University

LEXINGTON, Va. - Kayla Joy Monaghan of Blacksburg received a Bachelor of Science degree magna cum laude from Washington and Lee University on May 30. Commencement ceremonies for 448 Washington and Lee seniors were held on the university's historic Front Lawn. Monaghan majored in Business Administration.

## The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi inducts new members

BATON ROUGE, La. - The following people recently were initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines. Christopher Cutshaw and Anika Thompson of Radford at Radford University. They are among approximately 25,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni to be initiated into Phi Kappa Phi each year. Membership is by invitation only and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. Only the top 10 percent of seniors and 7.5 percent of juniors are eligible for membership. Graduate students in the top 10 percent of the number of

candidates for graduate degrees may also qualify, as do faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction.

## Griffin Ford of Blacksburg earns degree from Clark University

WORCESTER, Mass. - Griffin Ford of Blacksburg received a degree from Clark University during the University's 120th Commencement exercises on Monday, May 20. Ford graduated with a Master of Science in Communication. Ford was a member of the Alpha Epsilon Lambda honor society. The University awarded 1,376 degrees (503 bachelor's, 847 master's, 26 doctoral degrees) to the Class of 2024 and conferred four honorary degrees during the ceremony, which was held at the DCU Center in downtown Worcester, Mass. The graduates included 653 international students representing 39 countries.

## Keely Spens of Blacksburg named to the Spring 2024 Dean's List at St. Olaf College

NORTHFIELD, Minn. (July 3, 2024) - Keely Spens of Blacksburg made the Spring 2024 Dean's List at St. Olaf College. The Dean's List is a scholarly award for students who demonstrate academic excellence, have earned a GPA of 3.75 or above, and completed at least three credits for that semester. Spens is majoring in Environmental Studies.

## Local residents named to William & Mary Dean's List

WILLIAMSBURG - The following local residents were recently named to the Dean's List at the College of William & Mary for the spring 2024 semester:

Julie Anderson, Cecilia Crawford, Sam Grove, Maegen Herring, Megan McCarley, Rachel McCarley, Amy Menegay, Rylan Pospichal, Annelise Rosmaita and Ella Semtnar of Blacksburg; Michael Wojdak of Radford; and Juliana Rosso of Shawsville. In order to achieve Dean's List status, a full-time degree seeking undergraduate student must take at least 12 credit hours and earn a 3.6 Quality Point Average during the semester.

## Carson-Newman University recognizes Dean's List student for spring semester

JEFFERSON CITY, Tenn. - The following Carson-Newman University student made Dean's List for the Spring 2024 semester: McKenna Spaulding of Christiansburg. The university awards Dean's List honors to students earning a grade point average of 3.5 to 3.9 while taking 12 or more credit hours.

## Iowa State honors spring graduates

AMES, Iowa - More than 4,450 graduates received degrees from Iowa State University this spring. Graduate and undergraduate commencement ceremonies were held May 9-11 at Hilton Coliseum, including Leah Greiner, Bachelor of Science, Animal Science, International Agriculture, Magna Cum Laude, of Christiansburg.

## Local residents graduate from William & Mary

WILLIAMSBURG - The following residents recently graduated from the College of William & Mary. From Blacksburg: Cypress Ambrose, Bachelor of Science; Ella Goldschmidt, Bachelor of Arts; Amy Menegay, Bachelor of Science; Alexandra Nussbaum, Bachelor of Science; Daniel Salom, Bachelor of Science; Ellie St. Martin, Bachelor of Science; and Berit Elyse Wilkins, Bachelor of Arts. From Christiansburg: Eno Adusei, Bachelor of Science and from Radford: Mason Sproule, Bachelor of Science. Founded by royal charter in 1693, William & Mary is the second oldest educational institution in the nation.

## 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. Owns
- 4. Beef intestine
- 9. Expression of contempt
- 14. Expression of horror
- 15. Famed architecture couple
- 16. Escape
- 17. "The Raven" author
- 18. Chiefs' tight end
- 20. Removes
- 22. Pesto dish
- 23. One who roots against
- 24. Type of writer
- 28. Old woman
- 29. Early multimedia
- 30. This (Spanish)
- 31. Part of a play
- 33. Elephant's name
- 37. Home of the Flyers
- 38. Builder's trough
- 39. Tell
- 41. Google certification
- 42. Electric current
- 43. Belonging to them
- 44. Nostrils
- 46. Arranges
- 49. Commercial
- 50. Skywalker's mentor -Wan
- 51. Single-reed instrument
- 55. Voodoo
- 58. World of Warcraft character
- 59. Paddling
- 60. Most agreeable
- 64. Chafed
- 65. A way to analyze
- 66. Remove
- 67. Metal-bearing mineral
- 68. Remains as is
- 69. Large predatory seabirds
- 70. The Science Guy
- CLUES DOWN
- 1. Central Chinese province
- 2. The marketplace in ancient Greece
- 3. Covered the sword
- 4. Cleaver
- 5. Body parts
- 6. Returned material authorization (abbr.)
- 7. Mega-electronvolt
- 8. One from Asia
- 9. A superior grade of black tea
- 10. Thin
- 11. Circles of light around the head
- 12. General's assistant (abbr.)
- 13. Tiny
- 19. Evildoing
- 21. \_\_\_ Connery, 007
- 24. British sword
- 25. Type of cyst
- 26. Musical composition
- 27. Advises
- 31. Herring-like fish
- 32. Chocolate powder
- 34. Somalian district El \_\_\_
- 35. Indicates position
- 36. Refurbishes
- 40. Exclamations of surprise
- 41. Football field
- 45. Hilly region in India near China
- 47. Come to an end
- 48. Most mad
- 52. Sheets of glass
- 53. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- 54. Stares lecherously
- 56. Consisting of a single element or component
- 57. Monetary unit of Zambia
- 59. Bones (Latin)
- 60. Frames-per-second
- 61. Tell on
- 62. Gall
- 63. Cologne



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# OBITUARIES

## Grant, Jacob Michael

Jacob "Jake" Michael Grant, 28, of Albany, New York, passed away Friday, July 5, 2024. He worked at Curia as an analytical chemist. Jake grew up in Bedford, Va. and Radford. Jake was preceded in death by Nonnie and Daddy Ralph who were special great-grandparents to him.

Jake is survived by his mother, Erin and stepfather Jamie Dooley; brothers Luca, Landon, and Levi; grandparents Michael and Teresa Moldenhauer and J.T. and Gloria Dooley; uncles and aunts Zack Moldenhauer (Zadie), David and Denise Moldenhauer (Clara, Adele, Malin), Jonathan Moldenhauer (Desiree Torretto), Heather and Mike Dooley (Coleman and Charlie) and Melissa and Chad Bickford (Jesse and Kel).

He is also survived by his father, Mike and stepmother Tara Grant; sister Haley Smith (Drew) and brother Thomas Grant; grandparents, Gary and Dianne Grant, Kenny Edwards (Eve) and Linda Edwards; uncles and aunts Andy Grant, Angie Edwards (Alvin), and Tommy Edwards; and first cousin Heth Grant (Annie and Baby Declan).

Jake was the life of the party! He knew how to have the best time and make others smile. He lived in the present and always sought the next adventure. Jake loved everything outdoors, especially

in or on a river with his favorite fish slaying partner, his dad. Jake was an avid fisherman and no matter where he was, he was looking for water where he could cast his line.

In high school, Jake enjoyed playing golf, running track, and being a part of a championship soccer team. After graduating from Radford High School in 2014, he graduated from James Madison University with a Bachelors in Biotechnology in the spring of 2019.

Jake will be remembered for his contagious smile, joy for life, big hugs and the love he shared with us all. His presence will be deeply missed but his memory is unforgettable and will live on in the hearts of all who knew and loved him. To know Jake was to love Jake. Jake will live on in the hearts and spirits of all his siblings and lifelong friends that meant so much to him and likewise.

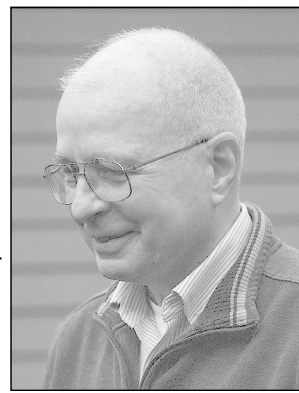
There was a Celebration of Life in Bedford at the Bedford Area YMCA on Friday, July 12 and today, Saturday, July 13, 2024, 1-4 p.m. at Claytor Lake at 4337 Towes Ferry Road, Dublin, 24084. In lieu of flowers, get outside, be present, and go on an adventure as you celebrate Jake and the lives he touched. Honoring Jake feels impossible to do correctly because we can never truly capture the way he made us feel.

## Pearson, Jr., Sidney

Sidney "Al" Pearson, Jr., passed away peacefully at his home in Fairlawn Wednesday, July 3, 2024.

He had made Radford his home since 1977. He was a member of St. Jude Catholic Church and the Knights of Columbus, as well as a retired professor of political science at Radford University. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps. He loved the outdoors and spent time hiking the Appalachian Trail whenever possible. What he enjoyed most was his family.

Al was preceded in death by his parents, Sidney Albert Pearson, Sr. and Leola P. Pearson. He is survived by his wife of almost 59 years, Maryann Pearson; son, Donald Allen Pearson



(Arlyn); daughter, Joanne Louise Pearson Markert; grandchildren, Ryan, Joe, and Alexia; and many other relatives and friends.

The family will receive friends from 10:30 a.m. until noon on Saturday, August 3, 2024. Services will follow at 12 noon with Father Cassidy Stinson officiating.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donations at St.

Jude Catholic Church, 1740 Tyler Road, Christiansburg, VA 24143 or the Radford Clothing Bank, PO Box 994, Radford, VA 24143.

The Pearson family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home and 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: fbradford.org 540-639-4419. Worship is in-person and live-streamed on Facebook and on our YouTube channel: First Baptist Church Radford.

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

### CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

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

### CHURCH OF GOD

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

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

### CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

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

### (DOC - DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

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

### 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

## Honor in Work

Read Proverbs 5:1 through 8:36

In past generations, parents taught their children the value of hard work and faithfulness to their families. People had at least one job. When a person lost a job, he worked very hard to get a new one as soon as possible. He knew hard work honored his family and God.

Maybe times and values have changed, but today it seems like more and more young adults would rather not work at all. An entire generation of young people have been lured away by different types of leisure activities. Scripture warns against neglecting one's work:

A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest—and poverty will come on you like a thief and scarcity like an armed man (Proverbs 6:10–11).

God created people to work hard with the giftedness and talents He gave us. Like no other generation in the world, we have access to education and job training to prepare us for our work. It is good for parents to provide for the needs of their family through the work God has provided.

Prayer Suggestion: Thank God for your talents and abilities and for the work He has placed before you.

Quicklook: Proverbs 6:6–11

**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 lutherememorialblacksburg@gmail.com, or contact the church office, (540) 951-1000. Rev. Monica Weber, pastor.

**Our Saviour Lutheran Church ELCA**, 1845 Cambria St NE, Christiansburg. 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/@OSLCCburg), 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

# OBITUARIES

## Woolwine, Ann Tabor

Ann Tabor Woolwine, 85, of Dublin, passed away peacefully with her only child by her side Tuesday, July 2, 2024. She was a celebrated and dedicated educator in McDowell County Schools in West Virginia for over 30 years. Ann was preceded in death by her parents, James Edward and Margaret Hill Tabor; and her loving husband of 53 years, Michael Wayne Woolwine.

Survivors include her daughter, Jami Woolwine; and her faithful canine companion, Ella.



In keeping with Ann's wishes, there will be no services.

Jami would like to thank The Paine and The Groesbeck Families for their unwavering love and support during this difficult time.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to the Pulaski County Humane Society, PO Box 1046, Dublin, VA 24084.

The Woolwine family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford, Virginia.

## Linkous, Fred Allen

Fred Allen Linkous, 78, passed away surrounded by his family at his home in Dublin Monday, July 8, 2024. He was a retired foreman with Atmos and a member of Dublin Christian Church. He was preceded in death by his parents, Leonard and Kathleen Linkous; wife, Kay Linkous; and brother, Tommy Linkous.

Survivors include his sons, Eric Linkous (Tara Hancock) and Richard Cantilena; daughters, Teresa Thornton (Phillip Dillon) and Bridget Stewart (John); grandchildren, Brittney, Kristina, Allen,



Nika, Connor, Claire, Anthony, and Hannah; great grandchildren, Sincere, Brayden, Addison, Mercy, and Nora; sister, Zelda Linkous Italiano; and many other relatives and friends.

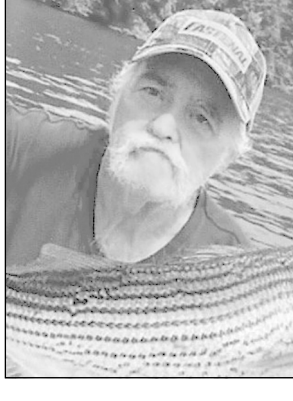
The family will receive friends 11 a.m. until noon Saturday, July 13, 2024, at the Dublin Christian Church, 5605 Dunlap Road, Dublin, VA 24084. Memorial services will begin

at noon with Joey Italiano officiating. The Linkous family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home in Radford.

## Hamilton, Ernest Elton

Ernest "Ernie" Elton Hamilton, 76, of Christiansburg, passed away Sunday, July 7, 2024. He was preceded in death by his parents, Sidney Nathan and Ruby Bolden Hamilton.

Survivors include his loving wife, Wanda Hinkley Hamilton; son and daughter-in-law, Johnathan Hamilton (Stephanie); daughter and son-in-law, Carrie Hamilton Foster (Chris); special grandson, Joe Hamilton; grandchildren, Madison and Chapman Tucker, Kelsi and Blake Foster, and Shiane Warner; brothers and sisters-in-law, Michael Hamilton (Kristi), and Nelson Hamilton (Nancy); and



numerous nieces, nephews, relatives and special friends.

The family received friends Wednesday, July 10, 2024, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services were held Thursday, July 11, 2024, at the funeral home with Rev. Clayton Kipps and Rev. Josh Collins officiating. Burial followed in Highland Memory Gardens in Dublin.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to Good Samaritan Hospice, Attn: Development, 4751 Cove Road NW, Roanoke, VA, 24017.

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

## Smith, Mildred Kirby

Mildred "Mim" Kirby Smith, of Radford, passed away peacefully at home and went to be with the Lord Sunday, July 7, 2024. She was preceded in death by her husband, Marvin "Pete" B. Smith; her parents, Troy and Lillian Kirby; brother, Harry Kirby; and her sister, Nancy Kirby Deisher.

Survivors include her children and their spouses, Ann S. Pannell (Greg), Marvin "Beck" Smith, Jr. (Rhonda), and Susan S. Frye (Randy); grandchildren, Chris, Bryan, Corey, Lucas and Lacey; great-grandsons, Jake, Will, Andrew, Henry and Grayson; sister-in-law, Louise Smith; cousin, Mary Peterman; and many other nieces, nephews, family members and friends.

Mim was never one to sit still and was always active. She worked professionally as an administrative assistant for a law practice and then for the Tyler Campus Chapel church while raising a family and managing the household. She loved working on anything outdoors; house maintenance, painting the porch, yardwork raking leaves and cleaning up sticks and walnuts, spring and fall cleanup at the cabin, and not too long ago even cleaning the gutters and mowing the grass. She was industrious with a determined spirit and a strong will, and you can be sure that once she started, she would take on and accomplish the task at hand not only in the yard but with anything in life that crossed her path.

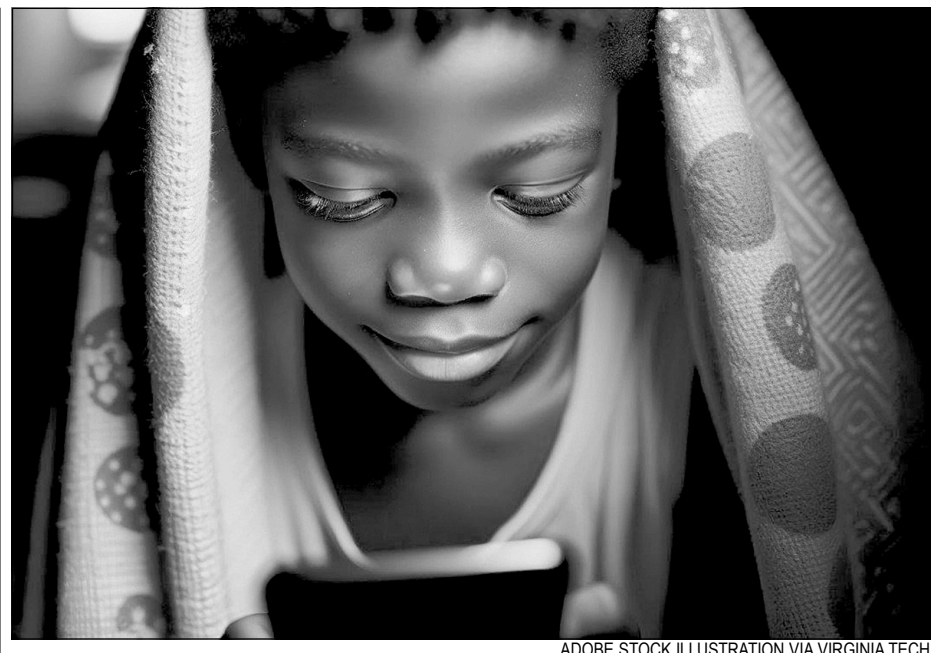


The family would like to thank everyone who knew her and participated in her lifetime, they are thankful for your friendship and are so glad that you got to experience that flurry of energy and spark of will and determination that defined her so well; special neighbors, Bill and Dottie Miller, and Bruce Moseman, long time family friends that helped her over the years and keeping an

eye on her making the neighborhood a safe and peaceful place; the congregation of The Presbyterian Church of Radford, who kept her informed and thinking of her with cards and letters; Carilion Hospital and Carilion Hospice for their professionalism and compassion; the team at Cindy's Companion Care which allowed her to remain at home; Cindy and Tina who assisted her with patience, gentleness and kindness as if she were their own mother; and all who sent prayers, cards and kind words.

The family received friends for a visitation on Friday, July 12, 2024, at the Presbyterian Church of Radford. A private burial took place in Sunrise Burial Park in Radford.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to either Carilion Hospice, 701 Randolph Street, Radford, VA, 24141, or The Presbyterian Church of Radford, 201 Fourth Street, Radford, VA, 24141.



ADOBE STOCK ILLUSTRATION VIA VIRGINIA TECH

One in three users of the internet is a minor. Virginia Tech researchers want to use artificial intelligence to help prevent a range of online abuses of this vulnerable population.

## Researchers use AI to make children safer online

A teenager sends some explicit pictures requested by a new online love interest, only to get a blackmail threat from someone in another country.

A tween goes to meet a teen girl who bought her jewelry online, but she's greeted by a man she doesn't know.

From the threat of "sextortion" to cybergrooming, children and teens face a growing range of online crimes, and three Virginia Tech researchers are working to make the digital world safer for them.

Under the auspices of a National Science Foundation (NSF) grant, Jin-Hee Cho and collaborators Lifu Huang and Sang Won Lee in the Virginia Tech Department of Computer Science want to develop a technology-assisted education program to prevent online sexual abuse of children and teens.

### At a glance

One in three Internet users worldwide is a child, according to the World Health Organization.

Grooming children for sexual abuse is a growing online threat.

Virginia Tech researchers are working to build and train chatbots powered with artificial intelligence (AI) to help children and teens identify and avoid cyber predators.

### Growing threats

Traditionally, cybersecurity has focused on protecting networks from disruption and devices from bad actors looking to steal data, said Jin-Hee Cho, associate professor of computer science and lead researcher on the project.

"But today, people are becoming more interested in what is called social cybersecurity," Cho said. "We're looking at the ways that technology and people are interacting with each other and how people are interacting through networks and devices."

Often, those interactions are good for society, disseminating information, enabling education and communication, and fueling collaboration that leads to economic development and innovation.

But there are risks, too, especially for vulnerable groups like children and teens.

In a 2021 national survey study published in JAMA Network Open, 2,639 young adults were asked about technology-assisted sexual offenses committed against them as minors. They reported a range of predatory online contacts.

Among them: 15.6 percent reported being victims of online child sexual abuse; 11 percent were victims of image-based sexual abuse; 7.2 percent received non-consensual sexting; 5.4 percent were subjected to online grooming by adults; and 3.5 percent said they were tricked into providing sexualized images and then extorted for money to keep the materials from being leaked, a crime dubbed "sextortion."

Many groups are working to make online interactions safer. In 2005, the U.S. Senate designated June as National Internet Safety Month to raise awareness of internet dangers and highlight the

need for education about online safety, especially among young people.

### Technology-assisted education

A lot of work in online child abuse prevention is focused on detecting perpetrators of online crimes. While that's helpful, Cho said, it's limited because it still leaves children and teens vulnerable to abusers.

For several years, Cho has been working to develop a project that would go further and give children tools and training to help them protect themselves from perpetrators who use the Internet to groom children and teens for sexual exploitation. It's been a challenge because there are so many ethical issues related to teaching children about abusers and the tactics they use, she said.

This new project will focus on developing chatbots to simulate interactions between predators and children online. These simulations can then be used to develop an educational program primarily for 11- to 15-year-olds. Given the challenges, it's a highly collaborative project.

Huang, assistant professor of computer science, will work on various aspects of the AI that powers the bots.

"I have a very strong interest and a strong belief in using AI techniques to solve social problems," Huang said.

He will leverage his previous research in conversational AI, which uses Large Language Models to make the educational bots believable as humans interacting with one another.

Lee, also assistant professor of computer science, will work on compiling data to train the bots. It's a particularly thorny issue, he said, because he will need to find data about how predators interact online and then use it responsibly.

"The challenge for this work is that there is no authentic cyber-grooming conversation dataset we can use to train the chatbots," Lee said. "We plan to approach the problem using human-centered approaches and establish an ethical platform in which adolescents and their parents can collaborate to generate such data and enhance their awareness of cyber-grooming as part of the data collection process."

Pamela Wisniewski, associate professor of computer science at Vanderbilt University and a specialist in privacy and online safety for adolescents is another collaborator. She will be working under a related \$344,874 National Science Foundation grant to consult with teens and experts in cyber abuse and sex trafficking prevention to develop training materials and ensure that the chatbots are safe for minors to use.

"My hope is that we can design, develop, and evaluate a tool that can benefit teens by teaching them about the risks of cyber-grooming, as well as coping mechanisms to protect themselves from these risks," Wisniewski said. "The goal isn't to restrict and surveil their use of the internet. Instead, we need to give them the tools needed to navigate the internet safely."

Chelsea Seeber

## Mary Draper Ingles Heritage Festival returns to Radford

RADFORD — A festival rooted in the story of America's westward migration returns to the City of Radford and Pulaski County this month.

Named for the colonial legend Mary Draper Ingles, the upcoming celebration runs July 26-28 at several area venues.

In 1732 Ingles was born in Philadelphia to immigrant parents from Donegal, Ireland. Eventually the family traveled down the great Valley of Virginia and settled in Draper's Meadow (today's Blacksburg, Va.). There in 1755 Native Americans attacked Mary's settlement, and she and other family members were taken to Ohio. She later escaped and completed a treacherous trip back to her home on the New River. That journey was made famous by the "New York Times" bestseller, "Follow the River."

Something new to this year's event is a Chautauqua-style presentation by West Virginian Doug Wood, who will interpret the life of Ostenaco, a Cherokee military leader during the French and Indian War. In fact, Ostenaco led an army of Cherokees against the Shawnees, the tribal nation responsible for the attack on the settlement in Virginia. Also new to the line-up is the entertaining duo Kim and Jimbo Cary, who will present traditional music of early America on a variety of instruments including mandolin, fiddle, guitar

and gourd banjo. The audience will be treated with authentic old-time banjo tunes, flat-pickin' bluegrass, gospel and southern mountain music.

Headlining Saturday's literary activities will be award-winning Southern writer Sharyn McCrumb, best known for her Appalachian "Ballad" novels. She will discuss her book, "King's Mountain," that is set in the same era as the Mary Draper Ingles saga and tells the story of one of the important battles of the Revolutionary War. McCrumb will be joined by another "New York Times" bestselling author Kathleen Grissom, who has written "Crow Mary," about a strong indigenous woman caught in a clash of cultures in 19th-century North America.

Also on Saturday, Kathleen Harshberger, a local playwright and actress, will present a living history interpretation of Mary. Harshberger has played the role of the colonial heroine in some form for the last several decades.

All total, the festival's three days will feature more than 75 activities, including old-time crafts and skills, art exhibits, vendors and a petting zoo. The Long Way Brewing, a craft beer company whose name is a take on the frontierswoman's journey, will showcase live music, historical dancers, food trucks and a children's play zone. The brewery also will sponsor a short reenactment of the Ingles play, "Long Walk to Freedom," featuring

Radford University and local actors.

Two historic landmarks, Ingles Tavern and La Riviere, also known as Ingles Castle and built by Mary's great-grandson, will be open for tours. Wilderness Road Regional Museum in Dublin is also sponsoring 18th century living history interpretations by the Fincastle Company and music by such regional musicians as Willard Gayheart.

If you are looking to cool off on one of the oldest rivers in the world, reservations for floats, tubes and paddles are available with the outfitter, Radford On The River, at Bissett Park.

Art exhibits are also part of the festivities with shows at the Radford University Museum on Tyler, The Highlander Hotel and Glencoe Mansion. The hotel will also feature a meet and greet with Mary Draper Ingles descendants and reenactment actors.

For the full schedule, go to [www.glencoemansion.org/mdifestival](http://www.glencoemansion.org/mdifestival) or phone (540) 731-5031. The Highlander Hotel is the festival's official hotel and is offering a special lodging promotion.

The event is funded in part by grants from Virginia Tourism Corporation, the Virginia Commission for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Glencoe Museum

# MONTGOMERY SPORTS

## Auburn promotes Royal to head coach

**Marty Gordon**  
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Auburn High School has a new boys' basketball coach. Earlier this week, the school announced the promotion of assistant coach Mike Royal to replace Terry Millirons, who retired this past spring.

Royal said he is grateful for this to opportunity to mentor the student-athletes that will be a part of the Auburn Eagles basketball program now and in the future.

"For 17 years, I have been a part of the Auburn basketball program [boys and girls], preparing athletes for varsity competition," he said in a social media post on the announcement.

"I can't wait to get started and keep this program operating at the level it has risen to over the last few years. I look forward to the support of our community and students as we strive to gain another state championship."

Royal was assistant coach for varsity girls for the first four years of his time coaching and for the past 12 years, he was head coach of the junior varsity boys' team. Last year, he served as an assistant at the varsity level.

Royal said he applied for the position for two reasons.

"Number one, I love the game and have been involved with the basketball program here for a long time, not only with the high school programs but also with AAU teams that were formed when some of the upcoming seniors were in third grade," he said. "Number two,

the kids themselves. In my 17 years I cannot think of a time I did not enjoy coaching any of the teams I was a part of, jayvee or varsity. All of the kids were great and that is a testament to the parents and the community."

Millirons stepped down after 13 years as the program's head coach, leading the team to another state championship game this past year and was 195-125 in 13 seasons in charge of the boy's program. He captured seven Mt. Empire District regular season and tournament titles, four Region C championships including the last three in a row, and two state titles in 2020 and 2022.

Royal knows he has some big shoes to fill with high expectations to continue the Eagles' success.

"Terry Millirons set a standard for Auburn basketball that should be and will be the level we strive to obtain," he said. "My goal for our teams to compete in every game from tip to final horn at an elite level. Win or lose, everyone will know that we played 100%, no less."

Royal has some lofty goals and expectations.

"Our district is one of the toughest in the western Virginia. As I said before, expectations are high and that means championships, district, region and state."

"How we come together as a team and compete day-in and day-out will determine our success. This goes for all levels of the program."

Royal hopes to become more involved in the recreation program so they begin to cultivate basketball players at a young age and teach them the fundamentals that will make them successful and enjoy the game and



PHOTO BY ASHLEY AKERS  
**Mike Royal is the new head boys' basketball coach at Auburn High School. For the past 12 years, he was on the sidelines as the junior varsity coach.**

team environment.

"This means helping these rec coaches, who generously volunteer their time and talents, learning what we do and how it made us successful," he concluded.

Already, Royal is busy with the team, taking them to summer camp this past week at UVA-Wise.

## Swim League meet hosted at Christiansburg Aquatic Center

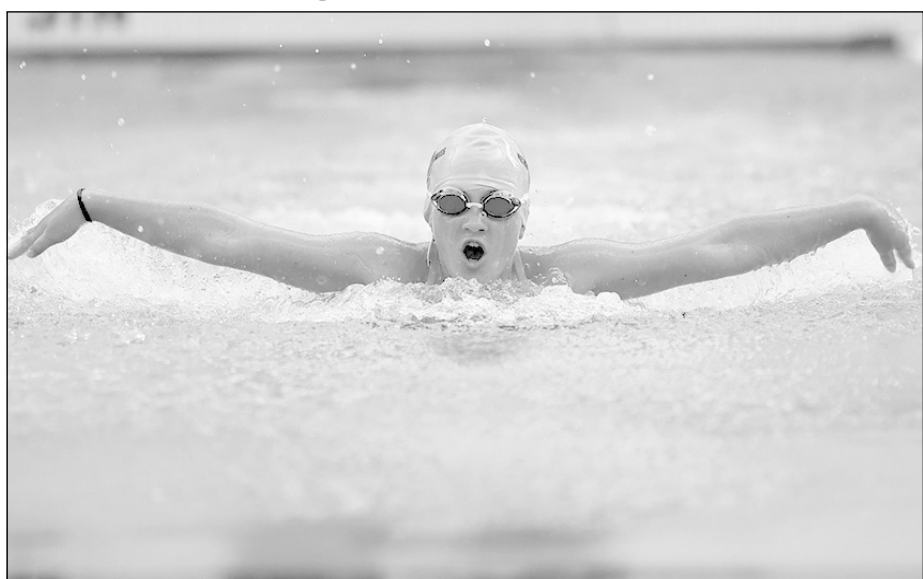


PHOTO BY JON FLEMING

**Charli Swift swims in the girls' 9-10 50-yard butterfly for the Hethwood Hurricanes Swim Club during Tuesday's Southwest Virginia Swim League (SVSL) meet at the Christiansburg Aquatic Center.**



PHOTO BY JON FLEMING

**Betty Lue Paddock competes in the girls 11-12-year-old 50-yard butterfly for the Piedmont Swim Team during a Tuesday night SVSL meet.**



PHOTO BY JON FLEMING

**Hethwood Swim Club's Evelyn Breske races in the girls 13-14-year-old 50-yard butterfly at the Christiansburg Aquatic Center.**



PHOTO BY JON FLEMING

**Piedmont Swim Team's Carl Bloebaum made quick work of the 50-yard butterfly at Tuesday's SVSL meet. Bloebaum, who swims for Virginia Tech, finished 16th in the 200-meter butterfly at the 2024 US Olympic Trials last month.**

## Sports notes: Walker on Team Canada

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Former Virginia Tech men's basketball star Nickeil Alexander-Walker is one of 12 athletes selected to represent Team Canada at the Olympic Games Paris 2024 as announced by Canada Basketball and the Canadian Olympic Committee Wednesday.

Alexander-Walker, who competed for the Hokies from 2017-2019, guided the program to its first-ever Sweet Sixteen appearance in 2019. He compiled a 47-21 record in the maroon and orange. The 6-foot-5 guard averaged 13.5 points and 4.0 rebounds per game while shooting 46.4%

overall and 38.3% from three in his two seasons in Blacksburg.

With his selection, Alexander-Walker joins Tech's all-time leading scorer Bimbo Coles as the only two Hokies to become Olympians in program history. Coles represented Team USA in the 1988 Olympic Games in Seoul, South Korea, earning a bronze medal.

Canada Basketball's Senior Men's National Team successfully qualified for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games as one of the top two teams from the Americas region at the FIBA Men's Basketball World Cup 2023. The team secured the berth with an 88-85 victory over Spain in the

second round to advance to the quarterfinals. They went on to capture a historic bronze medal – the first medal at a men's basketball World Cup in Canadian history – with a 127-118 win over the United States. In the bronze medal game, Dillon Brooks' 39 points set a FIBA World Cup record for most points scored in a medal-winning game and a Senior Men's National Team scoring record for most points in a single game.

Canada went 6-2 in the World Cup, including key victories over several top-five ranked federations. Eight players from Canada's bronze medal-winning team will represent Canada this

summer in Paris. **Hokie qualifies for US Amateur**

Katherine Lemke, a rising senior on the Virginia Tech women's golf team, fired a 4-under 67 Wednesday at Heritage Oaks Golf Club to earn medalist honors and qualify for the 2024 U.S. Women's Amateur.

Behind five birdies, Lemke topped the leaderboard by one shot over Victoria Zheng of Markham, Ontario. In addition to Lemke and Zheng, Caroline Smith won a seven-way playoff for the third and final qualifying spot.

Lemke got off to a hot start, carding four birdies on the front side to make the turn at 3-under 33.

She added another birdie at the par-4 11th to coast to the 4-under 67.

The 2024 U.S. Women's Amateur will be contested August 5-11 at Southern Hills Country Club in Tulsa, Okla.

### Pry to Dodd Watch List

Virginia Tech head coach Brent Pry has been named to the Preseason Watch List for the 2024 Dodd Trophy Presented by PNC Bank. The list includes 21 of the nation's top college football coaches representing all Power Four conferences, as well as an independent. Managed by Peach Bowl, Inc. and presented by PNC Bank, The Dodd Trophy, college football's most coveted national coaching award, celebrates

the head coach of a team who enjoys success on the gridiron while also stressing the importance of scholarship, leadership and integrity – the three pillars of legendary coach Bobby Dodd's coaching philosophy.

Pry is entering his third season leading the Hokies' program. He guided Tech to a 7-6 campaign in 2023, capped by a win over Tulane in the Military Bowl, the first win over a ranked team since 2021 and its first bowl win since 2016. The seven wins marked a four-game improvement over 2022.

Staff report

### CROSSWORD ANSWERS

H	A	S	D	E	R	M	A	P	S	H	A	W
U	G	H	E	A	M	E	S	E	V	A	D	E
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# MONTGOMERY SPORTS

## EA SPORTS releases Top 25

With the worldwide launch of EA SPORTS College Football 25 fast approaching on July 19, excitement is building.

To celebrate, EA SPORTS hosted a Rankings Week, unveiling various rankings from the Toughest Places to Play, to the Top Offenses and Defenses, and culminating in the final Team Power rankings. Virginia Tech proudly made the list in all four categories, underscoring its formidable presence in the college football landscape.

### Toughest Places to Play

The College Football 25 game highlights the significant impact of Homefield Advantage on game outcomes. This includes dynamic elements like audio and in-game modifiers such as blurred routes, incorrect play art, effects on confidence and composure, and screen shaking that away teams and players must contend with. The development team meticulously compiled a list of the Top 25 Toughest Places to Play, attendance, active

home winning streaks, team prestige and more. The Hokies currently claim the No. 17 spot, making Lane Stadium one of the four ACC stadiums to earn this distinction. The development team dedicated years to capture countless traditions, mascots and fight songs to ensure each school and its fan base are represented with pride. Every element that makes Lane Stadium one of the most competitive atmospheres in college football will be authentically included, ensuring the essence of Virginia Tech's legendary game-day experience is fully realized in the game. It has been confirmed that Metallica's 'Enter Sandman' will not be in the game, but fans can enjoy the elements of the program's legendary entrance with a similar sounding intro sound.

### Offensive Power Rankings

Hundreds of thousands of data points were examined, supplemented with additional information from Pro Football Focus (PFF) to

determine the Top 25 offensive power rankings. The development team analyzed thousands of players, years' worth of game film and extensive statistics. Each team was scored on a scale of 100, with the Hokies earning a spot at No. 24 in overall offensive power rankings, scoring an 83, alongside Florida State, Oklahoma and the University of Southern California. This ranking reflects Virginia Tech's impressive return of 91% of their offensive production. Key players returning include top targets Ali Jennings, Da'Quan Felton, Jaylin Lane and Stephen Gosnell, as well as running backs Bhayshul Tuten and Malachi Thomas. Starting quarterback Kyron Drones will also be back to lead the offense.

### Defensive Power Rankings

Utilizing the same methodology to determine the top Offensive Power Rankings, the Hokies ranked even higher on the other side of the ball, securing the No. 14 spot with a score of 86,

alongside Wisconsin, the University of Southern California and Auburn. Virginia Tech will return 77% of its defensive roster, including standout pass-rusher Antwan Powell-Ryland and top corners Dorian Strong and Mansoor Delane. Additionally, Tech

bolsters its defense with top 10 returning interior defensive lineman Aeneas Peebles, who will team up with Josh Fuga.

### Team Power Rankings

With each set of criteria taken into consideration, EA SPORTS determined a list of the top teams in the College Football

25 game. The Hokies earned a spot at No. 20 with an overall score of 87. This ranking reflects Tech's strong potential across all aspects of the game, highlighting their balanced and competitive presence on both offense and defense.

*Virginia Tech Athletics*

## Auburn wins National Guard Cup

The VHSL announced the 2023-24 National Guard Cup winners this week and Auburn High School once again took the Class 1 win.

The award, presented by the Virginia Army National Guard, is for year-long athletic and academic success. Familiar faces returned to claim trophies.

Western Albemarle in Class 3 led the way, earning its ninth overall Cup and third in a row, while Auburn in Class 1 claimed its sixth consecutive Cup and seventh overall. Poquoson in Class 2 earned its second Cup in four years, and Battlefield in Class 6 earned its second Cup in three years. Schools claiming Cups for the first time include Atlee in Class 1 and Independence in Class 5.

First awarded in 1990, the Cup represents 35 seasons of excellence. Six Cups are awarded for academic activities and athletics in each of the VHSL's six enrollment classifications. The academic

activities winners were announced on June 12.

A point system determines the winners based on overall performance in VHSL state championship competitions. In athletics, first place earns 50 points, second place earns 45 points, third place earns 40 points, fourth place earns 35 points, fifth place earns 30 points, sixth place earns 25 points, seventh place earns 20 points, and eighth place earns 15 points. Schools earning the League's Sportsmanship, Ethics, and Integrity Award earn 50 points each.

Auburn tallied a total of 402.5 points with 150 in the Fall, 45 in Winter and 207.5 in the Spring. Galax was second with 232.5 points and George Wythe third at 210.

Radford High School finished third in Class 2, behind Poquoson and Bruton.

Christiansburg was 10th in Class 3, and Blacksburg was second behind Atlee.

*Staff report*

## Hokies, Michigan tipoff in men's basketball

Virginia Tech and Michigan will clash in the opening game of the 2024 Fort Myers Tip-Off, which will be held Nov. 25-27 at Suncoast Credit Union Arena on the campus of SouthWestern State College in Fort Myers, Fla.

The four Beach Division games, set for Nov. 25 and 27 will take place at 6 p.m. ET and 8:30 p.m. on both days, with FS1 providing nationally televised coverage. The Hokies and the Wolverines will tip at 6 p.m. in the first semifinal on Nov. 25, with Xavier and South Carolina squaring off at 8:30 p.m. Third place and championship contests will take place on Nov. 27.

Tech and Michigan have met six previous times with the Wolverines leading the series, 4-2. The Hokies have won two straight against UM, including a 73-70 victory in Ann Arbor as part of the ACC/Big Ten Challenge on Nov. 30, 2016.

The complete schedule of events can be found below:

DATE	DIVISION	MATCHUP	TIME (ET)
Monday, Nov. 25 . . . .	.Palms . . . .	Miami (OH) vs. Siena . . . .	11 a.m.
Monday, Nov. 25 . . . .	.Palms . . . .	Jacksonville vs. Mercer . . . .	1:30 p.m.
Monday, Nov. 25 . . . .	.Beach . . . .	Michigan vs. Virginia Tech . . . .	6 p.m.
Monday, Nov. 25 . . . .	.Beach . . . .	South Carolina vs. Xavier . . . .	8:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Nov. 26 . . . .	.Palms . . . .	Third-Place Game . . . . .	11 a.m.
Tuesday, Nov. 26 . . . .	.Palms . . . .	Championship Game . . . . .	1:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Nov. 27 . . . .	.Beach . . . .	Third-Place Game . . . . .	6 p.m.
Wednesday, Nov. 27 . . . .	.Beach . . . .	Championship Game . . . . .	8:30 p.m.

Travel packages are currently the only way to guarantee tickets to the 2024 Fort Myers Tip-Off. Division specific travel packages are available for fans looking to join their favorite team at this year's tournament and can be secured by visiting [www.fortmyerstipoff.com/travel](http://www.fortmyerstipoff.com/travel). The Westin Cape Coral at Marina Village and the Marriott Sanibel Harbour are the event's host hotels and fans will have the opportunity to stay where the teams stay and experience resort life to the fullest. Ticket packages, based on availability, will go on sale this fall.

The Fort Myers Tip-Off has established itself as one of the preeminent early season college basketball events on both the men's and women's calendars. For the third time, Intersport, owner and operator of the Tip-Off, will host the top men's and women's programs for a weeklong celebration of college basketball during Thanksgiving Week.

In total 16 men's and women's games will be contested over a six-day period from Nov. 25-30. Eight men's games across two divisions will lead off the schedule of events from Nov. 25-27 and will conclude with the Elevance Health Women's Fort Myers Tip-Off Nov. 28-30 in an event headlined by three-time national champion South Carolina, along with perennial tournament powers Iowa State, Michigan, Purdue, Virginia Tech and MTSU, among others.

*Virginia Tech Athletics*

## Voting Office

from page 1

way to include individuals whose work, finances, or other obligations," Blacksburg council Member Liam Watson said, "previously inhibited them from casting a vote on Election Day and expanding early voting locations across the Commonwealth, like what's on your [Board of Supervisors] docket today, has consistently improved the rate at which lower income Virginians are able

to vote."

For those that opposed, the reasons for concern included that there are 45 days of early voting available for residents and absentee ballots that are offered, as well as there being multiple places for residents to cast their votes, the registrar may not have the manpower for another office. Therefore, they said they felt need for a satellite office seemed unnecessary. Some

members of the Board of Supervisors agreed with that sentiment.

"I think," Vice Chair Steve Fijalkowski said, "we need to leave the registrar and her staff to handle this as they see fit. This is the first presidential election in this new facility; we can adjust for future elections based on what happens this year."

The Board of Supervisors voted on

the issue with a vote of four in favor and three opposed. The satellite office will be ready in time for the upcoming presidential election in the hopes that it will provide accessibility for voters and encourage residents to exercise their right to vote.

## Christiansburg

from page 1

fire alarm systems. They also inspect food trucks for Christiansburg's beloved events ensuring that vendors and residents are safe.

Hanks explained that a basic firefighter undergoes 257 hours of training before serving their community and they continue training and retraining throughout their careers. These training include fire training, hazardous materials training, electric vehicle and lithium battery training and other lifesaving certifications like

CPR and First Aid. These trainings are for both paid employees and volunteers.

Christiansburg Fire and Rescue offer programs for their community as well, such as vehicle etchings where they partner with Christiansburg Police Department and Parks and Rec to etch vin numbers into car windows to help deter vehicle theft. They also work with Carilion Clinic to teach car seat installation to

the families and community members who need that education and assistance. Community members can see their local fire department at the many Christiansburg events like Touch a Truck or the Fall Festival, oftentimes having a vehicle for residents to explore, but always ensuring safety.

"We've been here since 1911," Chief Billy Hanks said, "and are very proud to be here."

## Smithfield

from page 1

Assembly Hall centering around the histories of the native peoples, the Preston Family and the enslaved people who lived on the land. The DAR have provided funding for a building that will demonstrate colonial activities and crafts which will host the children's summer camp as well. On July 27, 2024, the DAR will have a dedication on the property. Between the events, there will be lunches and a Commemoration Dinner for guests to enjoy.

Hudson hopes this commemoration will help Smithfield become more than just a place to take historic tours and instead, engage with the community and be more accessible for the community.



PHOTO BY ANGELICA RAMOS

The main bedroom in Smithfield will be one of the rooms available to view during the anniversary weekend,

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