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Rob Graham named superintendent of Pulaski County Public Schools

Heather Bell

hbell@mainstreetnewspapers.com

RADFORD – After serving as superintendent for the past eight years, Rob Graham resigned his post in Radford Tuesday, June 6, amid a crowd of more than 100 supporters. Thursday, June

8, he was named Superintendent of Pulaski County Public Schools.

Dozens of teachers, families, all of the RCPS principals, staff members and community members were on-hand at Tuesday's Radford school board meeting, holding signs of support for Graham.

Graham was visibly moved by the crowd's support and made a but I don't have any

"I'm sorry," he said. "I have been wonderful." am heartbroken. I don't



Supporters hold signs in support of Rob Graham on Tuesday prior to him resigning his post as superintendent.

tearful address to the options. You mean the world to me. You guys

"This is the most want to leave this place, talented staff I have ever

worked with, and I've worked a lot of places," he continued. "My heart will always be in Radford.

Many voiced their concerns about some members of the Radford City School Board, who have questioned Graham's leadership and abilities in school board meetings over the past



Rob Graham is visibly moved by the crowd of supporters that awaited him at Tuesday's school board meeting.

several months. People in attendance Tuesday said that led him to seek the PCPS post. Among people voicing concerns were former school board

members Liz Altieri and Lee Slusher, who were in attendance at Tuesday's meeting and said they

See **Graham**, page 4



PHOTO COURTESY OF RADFORD UNIVERSITY University graduate student Grace Pflegar, Miss Blue Ridge, will be

competing in the Miss Virginia pageant. Style and Grace: Radford University grad student to

compete in Miss Virginia pageant

RADFORD - Each year, several accomplished young women compete for the title of Miss Virginia, potentially on their way to the coveted Miss America

Very few, however, have performed an

operatic aria to get there.

Enter Grace Pfleger, performer with Opera Roanoke, community activist, Radford University graduate student, and Miss Blue Ridge 2023. Pfleger began pursuing a Masters of Science in Music Therapy at Radford University during the pandemic when performances shut down. Before that, she dreamed of being an opera singer, but wondered what she'd do if she could not perform.

"I did a lot of community outreach work in my undergrad program, and that's when I learned about Music Therapy," Pfleger explained.

With performances in a holding pattern, Pfleger saw that music therapy could transform the community service and outreach work she was already committed to into a second professional

"I came to Radford and fell in love with Music Therapy, so now the dream is to do both careers," she said.

Pfleger's admits her journey to compete for Miss Virginia is just as unexpected and intertwined with opera. It started about a decade ago when Pfleger entered a pageant competition as a pre-teen.

Needing a talent to demonstrate - and inspired by Hannah Montana, a Disney character played by Miley Cyrus - she decided to test her potential as a singer. This led to voice lessons and ultimately earned her the title of Miss Blue Ridge Outstanding Pre-teen.

And in turn, that cultivated an interest in opera. And as she hit her teenage years, she simply wanted to sing - and play basketball.

'I really didn't think I would be competing in pageants after that," she said. "Becoming an opera singer became my dream and I focused on that."

See **Pfleger**, page 3

Veteran photographer to lead presentation on nature photography



Canada geese go out on a family stroll down the photographer's driveway.

Aileen Fletcher, who has exhibited her work throughout the region for several decades, will present information about nature photography at the next meeting of the Radford Photo Club on Thursday, June 15, at 6 p.m. at the Radford Public

See **Fletcher**, page 4

Young actor's plum role in 'Nightmare' moves her closer to her cinematic dreams

Sun, surf and sand, darkened by betrayal and deception.

A fun-filled vacation gone horribly awry.

An extraordinarily driven mother, determined to save her daughter, Kayla, from the clutches of brutal kidnappers.

Those are the broad strokes of "Spring Break Nightmare," a feature film that debuted on the Lifetime Movie Network in March and which is periodically available on

Right in the middle of it all is Lauren Faulkner '15, a Radford University theater graduate and an actor on the rise who has a key role in "Nightmare."

She plays Kayla's sensible best friend and the center of the movie's first big dramatic twist.

"I loved the balance of work and fun," Faulkner recently said of making the movie, which was shot across two weeks St. Pete Beach. "It's hard in Florida locations that included Clearwater and



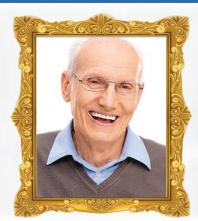
PHOTO COURTESY OF RADFORD

Lauren Faulkner '15

See **Actor**, page 3

Grandpa's Coming Off the Shelf....

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, June 10:

Rockin' Main Street

The Town of Christiansburg is hosting Rockin' Main Street, a fun-for-all event with live music from two local favorites. We'll start the evening with local country music artist Travis Reigh taking the stage at 5 p.m. Be prepared to rock when the Jared Stout Band takes the stage at 7 p.m. They put on an incredible show for us in 2022, so come ready to hear this amazing band from SWVA that's about to hit it big! Beer, wine, and food trucks will be available at the event. Attendees are encouraged to bring lawn chairs to sit and watch the live music. Be sure to bring your IDs if you plan to purchase

Fish Fry

Mount Tabor Ruritan Club will hold its June 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 Blacksburg Community Band will be playing. Held rain or shine. Call or text 540-449-6178 for further information. On Facebook at MtTaborRuritan.

Meadowbrook Library Ocean Bash

Splash into the Meadowbrook Library Summer Reading Ocean Bash, a wet and wild event to kick off another fantastic summer reading program. The celebration will take place 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the library, located at 267 Alleghany Spring Rd. in Shawsville. Attendees will discover an exciting array of activities, including the popular Bubble Brigade, which brings safe, fun, and mountains of foam to welcome the summer with laughter and joy. Cool refreshments will be available, and cruise the cool games and activities and win prizes! Event is completely free and everyone is invited to join in. Also, don't forget to sign up for the Summer Reading Program, where readers of all ages can dive into books, complete activities, and win prizes! For more information about the Summer Reading Ocean Bash, please visit the Library's website at www.mfrl.org or contact the library at (540) 268-1964.

Expedition: Dino Squad

At the Radford Public Library; 11 a.m. - noon. Dinosaurs at the library! It's time for Expedition: Dino Squad, our travelling dinosaur museum. We'll have exhibits on four different dinosaurs - the T. rex, Triceratops, Diplodocus, and the Velicoraptor, which will include models, books, and yes...FOSSILS! The children's section will be transformed into a small museum, and we'll have a craft available for kids to do in the community room.

Page to Screen Movies: Psycho

At the Radford Public Library; noon. Come see Alfred Hitchcock's classic film adaptation of Robert Bloch's novel Psycho. Gourmet popcorn from Lil'Bit Corny LLC will be available while supplies last. Rated R; 109 minutes.

Monday, June 12:

Radford City Council meeting

The Radford City Council will hold its regularly

Radford Municipal Building, 10 Robertson St., Radford. See the agenda at www.radfordva.gov.

Montgomery County Board of Supervisors meeting

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

Tuesday, June 13:

Blacksburg Town Council meeting

Town 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

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 Street). 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.

Tuesday Night Trivia

At the Radford Public Library; 6 - 7 p.m. Adults and teens are invited to come try their hand at Jeopardy style trivia against their friends.

Thursday, June 15:

Sons of Confederate Veterans meeting

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

Virtual Author Talk with Jamie

At the Radford Public Library; 2 - 3 p.m. You're invited to join us for an hour online with New York Times bestselling author and awardwinning photographer Jamie Beck as she talks about her book "An American in Provence: Art, Life, and Photography." An American in Provence is a beautiful collection of exquisite portrait, scenic, and still-life photography. Looking to

slow down from her fast-paced life in New York City, Beck embarked on a one-year getaway to Provence. One year, turning into five, Beck moved to the French countryside, documenting her life as "An American in Provence." Equal parts art book, travel diary, memoir, and cookbook, An American in Provence transports you to the South of France. Register now! https://libraryc. org/radfordlibrary.

Tuesday, June 21:

American Business Women's Association NRV Express Network Luncheon Meeting

At the Holiday Inn Christiansburg-Blacksburg, 99 Bradley Dr., Christiansburg; 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.- cost \$16. Presentation of the American Business Women's Association NRV Express Network's 2023 Woman of the Year Awards. One member and one community member will be named as Woman of the Year. Katie Edson of Edson Family Practice and Edson Aesthetics is the Speaker Sponsor for this meeting. RSVP by June 19. Contact: Terri Welch at paintnfunceramics@ gmail.com or Paige Godwin at godwinpaige@ gmail.com.

On-going:

Market Square Jam

Held Wednesdays, June through September, in Blacksburg on the corner of Draper Road and Roanoke Street; 7 - 9 p.m. Catering to traditional Old-Time music, Blacksburg's Market Square Jam brings musicians together to pick a tune, enjoy fun times with friends and family, and take in all that downtown Blacksburg has to offer. Blacksburg's Market Square Jam is an official Crooked Road affiliated venue that provides fun and entertainment.

Blacksburg Farmers Market

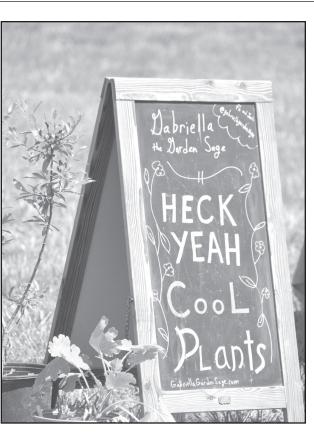
Hours now through October: Wednesdays 2 - 6 p.m. and Saturdays 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. Located at Market Square Park, on the corner of Roanoke Street and Draper Road in downtown Blacksburg. Features growers of locally grown produce and meats, alongside artisans of baked goods, prepared foods, cheese, handmade crafts, and more.

Christiansburg Farmers Market

Thursdays; 3 – 7 p.m. Located in the Recreation Center parking lot. Features local farmers and vendors. Seasonal produce, plants, fresh baked goods, crafts, fresh flowers, handmade jewelry and more. Items for purchase vary week-to-week. Check our Facebook page for details about weekly themes, prizes, vendors, and live music.

Radford Farmers Market

Held on the grounds of Glencoe Mansion, Museum and Galley, located just off West Main Street, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. each Saturday until October 14. Features produce, plants, baked goods, artisans, fresh squeezed lemonade, eggs, meats, cheeses and more.





PHOTOS BY ETHAN BELL

Radford Farmers Market season in full swing

The Radford Farmers Market bring community members together on Saturdays for conversation, refreshing fresh squeezed lemonade, baked goods and,

of course, plants to grow and fresh produce, eggs, cheeses and meats. The market is held on the grounds of Glencoe Mansion, Museum and Galley, located just off West Main

Street, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. each Saturday until October 14

News Journal staff report

radfordnewsjournal.com

Radford City Council to meet Monday

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Radford City Council is set for this Monday, June 12 at 7 p.m. at the Radford City Administration Building, 10 Randolph St., Radford.

~ City of Radford

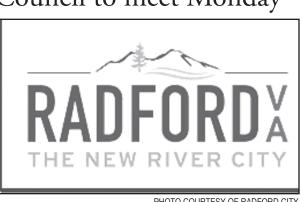


PHOTO COURTESY OF RADFORD CITY

Keep ticks at bay and protect yourself with landscaping modifications

The weather is warming up which means it's time to watch out for ticks.

One way to protect yourself from tickborne illnesses is to rethink landscaping choices, from the municipal level down to individual yards, according to a Virginia Tech medical geography expert who studies how Lyme cases are associated with certain land cover characteristics and configurations.

'We found higher rates of Lyme

disease in areas with herbaceous cover, such as meadows and grass, as well as the edges or boundaries between herbaceous land cover and forest patches," said Korine Kolivras, a professor in the university's Department of Geography, part of the College of Natural Resources and Environment.

"Many neighborhoods, especially in our region, fit this profile and individuals could take steps to reduce our interaction with tick populations," she said.

"At the broad scale, we may want to rethink how we develop residential neighborhoods in terms of this landscape configuration that mixes herbaceous and forested land," she said. "For individual risk, though, we need to consider very local characteristics of the areas in which people move around, as well as their individual behavior. Yard modifications can make a difference when it comes to

the probability of interaction with ticks.' She offered these modification tips:

Rethink how we create our residential neighborhoods. By reducing the number of small forest patches that are interspersed with patches of herbaceous cover and keeping large, forested areas intact, we can likely reduce Lyme disease risk on a broad scale.

See Ticks, page 5

Actor from page 1



PHOTOS COURTESY OF RADFORD UNIVERSITY

Lauren Faulkner (right) shoots a scene from the Lifetime film "Spring Break Nightmare" with fellow cast member Kristi Murdock (left).

not to have fun when you're in a place where there are so many creative people, all working at

"Nightmare" is actually her second turn in a recent Lifetime melodrama – she was also in 2021's "Party Gone Wrong," which was partially filmed at The Hotel Roanoke - and those roles mark a steady progression for the former Bland County resident.

Early on, Faulkner performed on Southwest Virginia stages in Pulaski and Wytheville, and while studying at Radford, she starred in the Pulitzer Prizewinning play "Clybourne Park" and the legendary musical "Cabaret," among other productions.

Not long after she got her degree, the Rocky Gap, Virginia, native headed to Los Angeles to find a place in the entertainment industry, and she quickly turned up in such short films

as "The Bizarre Act of Samantha" in 2017, and 2019's "Caroline."

"I think anyone would tell you it's a difficult city to thrive in," Faulkner recently said of LA. "The cost of living is high, and there are so many people trying to do the exact same thing that you are.

"You just have to have this mentality of 'I'm going to stick with it in order to make things work."

Her tenacity succeeded. She will soon mark her eighth anniversary of living and working there.

"It never really gets any easier, I would say, but I now have a community. I've met so many wonderful people who are in my corner, and I have people I can rely on who are going through the same things

as me," she said. "That definitely makes it all the more worthwhile."

Faulkner's primary focus remains film work she estimates she goes on as many as five auditions each week - but she said she's still interested in the theater and the challenges and excitement performing in front of an audience. Just over a year ago, she began trying her hand at comedy as well.

"I'm doing stand-up as kind of a means to scratch the live theater itch," she said. "I've performed at a handful of places, but I would love to keep branching out. At some point, I'm hopefully going to come back to Southwest Virginia to do a comedy set. I want to bring my comedy back to where I came from."

And, speaking of her

roots, Faulkner said she has fond memories of her work and her time at Radford.

"A lot of people will tell you that because acting is subjective, you don't need training. And I don't know if you do or not; I can't speak for everybody, but I enjoyed mine. I feel well-equipped to tackle various roles and understand scenes and find a character's arc ... based on my theater training."

"I'm very thankful for all the training I received from my professors at Radford," she added. "They really, really do want everyone that they educate to succeed, and you feel that, and I'm very grateful for that."

Neil Harvey for Radford University

Pfleger from page 1

Then, last Fall, the Miss Blue Ridge pageant reached out to Pfleger. Her social media posts about both opera and her music therapy work caught their attention and they thought she'd be a perfect candidate for the scholarship competition.

"I was in the middle of doing the opera at Radford so I didn't think much about it," Pfleger recalls, referring to her performance in Venus and Adonis, a baroque English composition from around 1698.

Then, over the winter break, with some time on her hands, she started thinking about the scholarship opportunities that come with Miss Virginia and the Miss America organization. Her Music Therapy degree wraps up next year, but she's interested in a Masters in Opera Performance as well. Scholarships would certainly help.

But there is another good reason to pursue it, Pfleger points out.

"It's a good chance to bring awareness to

the causes I care about," she notes. Pfleger is particularly interested in combating ageism and intergenerational programming, aiming to reunify older generations and Pfleger's platform is called "Music

Through Generations," which addresses these issues by bridging different generations through the power of music.

She'd been thinking about this for a while, but the project took a formal shape in an intergenerational music class led by Dr. Sekyung Jang. Pfleger formalized a proposal and sent it to the Women and Children's Center of the Roanoke Rescue Mission, which approved it quickly.

In March, Pfleger spent every Thursday evening making music with people ranging from age eight to 84. Some were reluctant to join in at first, but simple things like handing out eggshakers or creating a drum circle pulled people in.

"Through every session, you saw people who were afraid to make noise," Pfleger explained, "but then you give them an instrument or music and then making noise was okay."

"Then it transferred naturally to your voice and your ideas." Projects like this matter to the Miss Virginia

competition more than ever before, reflecting a change in the Miss America organization from the days when contestants paraded about in swimsuits and evening wear. In 2019, Miss America 2.0 was announced

on the group's website. According to their page, "the 51 women representing their home states and the District of Columbia will no longer be judged on outward physical

Instead, fitness, self-confidence, and positive social impact have moved to the forefront as the organization has dropped the word "pageant."

between June 29 and July 1, when the missblueridge.va and on Facebook by



PHOTO COURTESY OF RADFORD UNIVERSITY Grace Pflegar is a performer with Opera Roanoke, community activist, Radford University graduate student, and Miss Blue Ridge 2023.

ascending winner is crowned.

For those wanting to follow Grace The Miss Virginia contest will take place Pfleger's journey, she encourages people in Roanoke at the Berglund Center to connect to her on Instagram @ following her page, Grace Renée Pfleger, Miss Blue Ridge 2023.

Sean Kotz Radford University



arketplace

ourvalley.org

Legals -

Montgomery County

Business/Commercial on

the 2013 Christiansburg

the Town's Zoning Map,

Zoning Ordinance, and

Friday. Contact Andrew

Warren, Assistant Town

Comprehensive Plan.

the Future Land Use Map of

THE FINCASTLE HERALD

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Legals -Montgomery County

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY **PLANNING COMMISSION AND BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 15.2-4314 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 June 14, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. and the Board of Supervisors hereby gives notice of a public hearing to be held on June 26, 2023 at 7:15 p.m. in the County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Christiansburg, Virginia, in

order to hear citizen comment regarding the following written request to withdraw 46.990 acres owned by DW, LLC, from AFD District 7: Request by DW, LLC to withdraw approximately 46.990 acres from

Agricultural & Forestal

Legals -Montgomery County

District #7 in order to apply for a Special Use Permit to convert the property to an RV Park for short-term transient vehicles. The property is identified as a portion of Tax Map No. 080-5-1, Parcel ID 033688, located on Brammer Lane, off of Houchins Road, in the Shawsville Magisterial District.

Copies of the proposed plans, applications, ordinances or amendments may be examined at the Department of Planning and GIS Services, County 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.montgomerycou ntyva.gov/pendingapplicatio

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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 Tuesday, June 20, 2023, at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073, pursuant to Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia, as amended. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments

concerning: A. Conditional Use Permit request by Burch Properties LLC, Property Owner, and Kevin Lagos, Lessee, to allow a Public Billiard Parlor and Poolroom on the property located at 1635 North Franklin Street, Tax Parcel 466-((A))-20C, Parcel ID 013214;

Legals -Montgomery County

zoned General Business District B-3. The property is designated as Business/Commercial on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan. Town Hall will be open and

available to receive public comment in-person at the time of this Public Hearing A copy of the application. 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 Andrew Warren, Assistant Town Manager, at (540) 382-6128, Ext. 1130 or by email at awarren@christiansburg.or g, with any questions or if

To place your ad, call 389-9355

you require reasonable

accommodations

Montgomery County

Legals -

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

CHRISTIANSBURG PLANNING

OF THE TOWN OF

COMMISSION

The Town of Christiansburg Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, June 20, 2023, 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 Summit Community Bank.

Parcel ID 100283, from

1 to General Business

Limited Business District B-

District B-3. The property is

awarren@christiansburg.or g with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations Inc., Property Owner, to rezone the property located at 100 Akers Farm Road, Tax Parcel 466-(22)-1;

email at

Town Hall will be open and available to receive public comment in-person at the time of this Public Hearing. A copy of the application, 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 Manager, at (540) 382-6128 ext. 1130 or by

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Fletcher from page 1

Fletcher taught art at New River Community College since 1966, and photography since 1972. She will issue a challenge to those willing at the June Photo Club meeting and judge the results at the July meeting.

The Radford Photo Club is made up of professional and amateur photographers from throughout the New River Valley. Meetings, events, and outings are open to the public. The photo challenge for June is flowers. There is also an open category and a table for photos that members would like to discuss.

If you love photography, the club has an outstanding show at the Fine Arts Gallery for the New River Valley in Pulaski June 16 through August 5, including works by international artists and favorite local artists, as well as first timers to show, although not new to photography.

If you have questions about the Radford Photo Club, email Lucy Gilmore at lucyg.gilmore@gmail. com or Michele Borgarelli at mborgarelli@gmail.

Submitted by the Radford Photo Club

RADFORD **News Journal**

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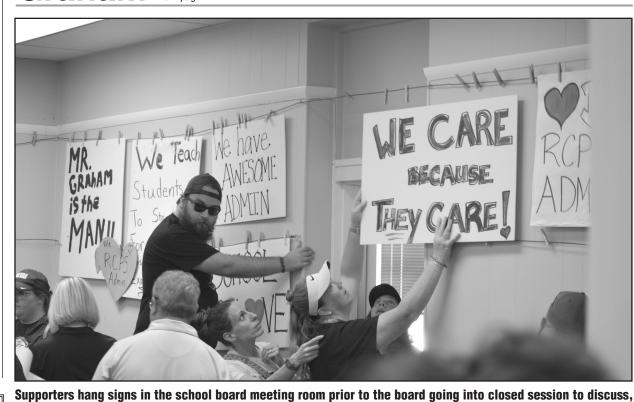
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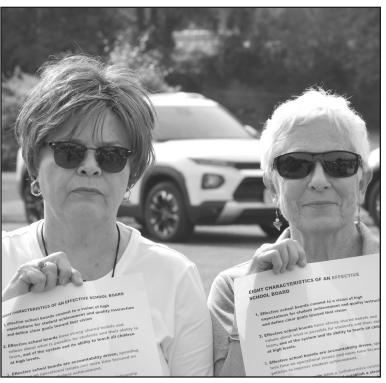
Radford News Journal is a newspaper of, by and for the people of Radford. We encourage letters from our readers on topics of general interest to the community and responses to our articles and columns. Letters must be signed and have a telephone number where you can be reached for verification. All letters 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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Graham from page 1



and then accept, Graham's resignation.



Former school board members Lee Slusher and Liz Altieri hold up their guidelines for an effective school board.

PHOTOS BY ETHAN BELL

Rob Graham gets a hug from a supporter prior to Tuesday's meeting.

feel some board members are not acting in the best interest of the school division. "In six short months they've

taken a beautiful cohesive school system and made it adversarial," said Slusher, "destroying the person at the helm. They are disrespectful, do not follow Robert's Rules of Order and their behavior appears to be personal."

'Effective school boards are a team and they have a collaborative relationship with their staff," said

Graham notified the School Board of his intent to voluntarily resign his position on June 4. The

school board formally accepted Graham's resignation on June 6. In a statement released June 7,

Board Chair Jenny Riffe spoke of Graham's tenure.

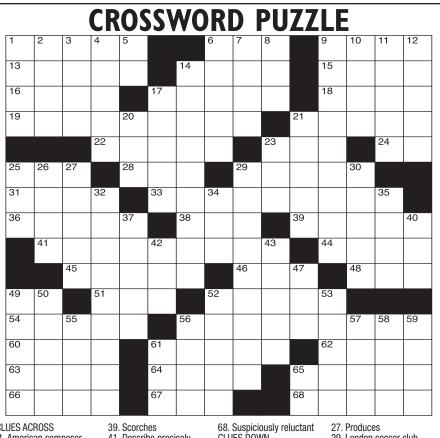
'Rob Graham has been a valued and dedicated employee of the Radford City Schools as an administrator and, for the last eight years, as division superintendent," said Riffe. "As a native of Radford, Rob has led the division with an abiding love for the children in our school division and a commitment to their success. The School Board wishes him well and success in his future professional endeavors."

Graham also made a formal

statement.

"I would like to thank the RCPS students, staff, and school community members for all of the support they have provided to my family and me during my tenure in this special school division," he said. "I have great memories that will be with me for the rest of my life. RCPS and "The Bobcats" will always have a special place in my heart. I wish them nothing but great success in the future."

PCPS had been looking for new superintendent since Dr. Kevin Siers left to become superintendent Franklin of County Public Schools.



CLUES ACROSS

 American composer 6. Very fast aircraft 9. Workplaces

A mount on a surface 14. Small freshwater fish 15. Double-reed instrument

Canadian flyers 17. Famed astronomer 18. Smooth, shiny fabric Profited 21. Conspiracy

22. Infections 23. Chum 24. Secondary school (abbr.) 25. Resistance unit 28. Sound unit 29. Ancient city of Egypt 31. Crease 33. Polished 36. For goodness

38. College basketball

tournament

 Describe precisely 44. Thick piece of some-

thing 45. Frocks 46. Indicates near member

48. Senior enlisted US Army 49. A note added to a letter 51. A nose or snout 52. Clumsy

Satisfied to the fullest 56. Display of strong feeling 60. Popular awards show 61. Cuisine style 62. Expresses pleasure 63. Monetary unit of the

Maldives 64. Utah city 65. Fight 66. Messenger ribonucleic 67. Body part

68. Suspiciously reluctant CLUES DOWN

1. Fruit of the service tree 2. At some prior time Mongolian city _ Strongboxes Russian river

Gurus 7. Horse mackerel 8. Pearl Jam's debut album Confines 10. First month of Jewish

ecclesiastical year 11. Famed Idaho politician 12. Prevents from seeing 14. Indicate time 17. Male parents 20. Tab on a key ring

21. The Great Dog constellation: Maior 23. Frying necessity The leader

29. London soccer club

30. Closes 32. Region in the western Pacific Ocean 34. Not present 35. Small drink of whiskey 37. Begat

40. Helps little firms 42. Pointed end of a pen 43. Fencing swords 47. Inches per minute (abbr.) 49. Hymn 50. Philippine island 52. Flemish names of Ypres

53. A way to inform 55. Small lake 56. Linear unit 57. Central Japanese city 58. Partially burn 59. Sports award 61. Part of your foot

65. Atomic #21

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www.ourvalley.org

BITUARIES

Cross, Delta Ree

Cross, of Radford, went

to be with the Lord on Monday, June 5, 2023.

She was born in Beckley, W. Va. on October 1, 1942, to the late Riley and Rachel Cross.

She is preceded in death by her parents; an infant child, Lisa Renee; five brothers, Cleophus, Odeless, Cornelius, and Riley

"Cowboy"; sister, Elvira Furnari; and husbands, Thomas Lilly and James E. Harris.

She is survived by her three children, Dean Lilly, Carolyn L. Hill (Charlie Thompson), and Laurissa Eller Payne (Bobby Payne); five grandchildren, Bryan Hill, Crystal Lilly, Chey Eller, Preston Eller and Chaz Payne; sisters, Faye Cooper and Retha Cooper; nephews, nieces and many other relatives and friends.

She retired from Celanese in

Delta Ree (Lilly, Eller, Harris) Narrows and Boeing in Princeton, ross, of Radford, went W. Va. She attended the West End Church

> Delta loved flower gardening, having parties with grandchildren, going "yard saling," exhibiting canary skills, Elvis, and God. She was a loving person and the best Mother anyone could ask for. She will be

forever missed.

Per Delta's request, services will

In lieu of flowers, please consider a contribution to the Pulaski SPCA or to Pulaski Head Start.

"The Lord liveth, and blessed be my rock, and exalted be the God of the rock of my salvation." 2 Samuel

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

Ticks from page 3

Modify individual yard spaces. If we zoom in to the individual spaces in which many of us live, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has specific recommendations such as regular mowing, placing a mulch edge around play areas, and clearing brush at the edge of open spaces. We're still talking about reducing that forest-herbaceous edge,

but now at the very local backyard edge. While

deer are not a Lyme

disease reservoir or source of the bacterium, they are a food source for ticks, so discouraging deer with fences and vegetation reduction can keep deer, and the ticks that hang out on them, farther from our residential outdoor spaces.

Minimize risk by reducing interactions with ticks when outdoors. With respect to human behavior, the CDC and other groups recommend hiking in the center of a trail to minimize the likelihood of brushing against vegetation where ticks could be "questing" or hanging out looking for a host. It's also recommended to wear long sleeves and pants that are tucked into socks, which can admittedly be difficult on a hot summer hike, and to carefully check for ticks every evening. Insect repellants can further reduce risk.

Margaret Ashburn for Virginia Tech

Send community news and photos to communitynews @ourvalley.org

ANGLICAN CATHOLIC

St. Philip's Anglican Church, 306 Progress Street, NE, Blacksburg, Virginia 24060, (540) 552-1771, www.stphilipsblacksburg.org. Reverend Fr. Wade Miller, Priest. Eucharist Sunday's 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, 555 West Rock Road, Radford, 639-3873. Rev. Corwin C. Casey, Pastor. Worship with us: 9:45 a.m.; Sunday School: 10:45 a.m.; Praise and Worship: 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship Service; Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord. 1 Corinthians 15:58.

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 inperson 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, Community Minister Tom Gilliam, Dean Meadows, Campus Minister.

CHURCH OF GOD

Childress Church of God, 4187 Piney Woods Rd., C'Burg. 381-3693. Sun. School 10 a.m.; Worship 11 a.m. & Wed. 7 p.m.

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.

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 GOD IN CHRIST Radford Church of God in Christ, 206 Russell

Ave., Radford. Supt. Ronald A. Watson, Sr.; Elder, 639- 5948. Sun. School 9 a.m.; Prayer 11:30 a.m.; Worship 6 p.m.

(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 4th Street, Radford,

639-3494. A friendly, mission-oriented spiritual community sharing the Word of God. ALL ARE WELCOME. In person and live-streamed services 10:30AM Sundays. Holy Eucharist twice a month. Morning Prayer twice a month. Fellowship and refreshments follow services. Find us on Facebook: Grace Episcopal Church and www.graceradford. **LUTHERAN**

Christ Lutheran Church, 201 Harvey St. Sunday worship with communion at 10am; fellowship & snacks at 11am. All are welcome. Upcoming events and fellowship opportunities (Senior Brunch, Faith & Film, Rough Draught, etc.) detailed in weekly

Radford

Almighty God

Read Genesis 40:1 through 41:57

Joseph spent two years in a dungeon after interpreting the dreams of Pharaoh's cupbearer. Joseph had asked this man to mention him to the king upon being reinstated, but, as each day dragged on, no communication came from the Pharaoh. When Pharaoh had a dream and told it to all his wise men, no one could interpret it. The cupbearer finally remembered Joseph and told Pharaoh about him.

So Pharaoh sent for Joseph, and he was quickly brought from the dungeon. When he had shaved and changed his clothes, he came before Pharaoh (Genesis 41:14).

Joseph was going to be taken into the presence of the nation's highest ruler. His first order of business was to make himself presentable. His prison clothing and his haggard appearance were hardly appropriate to stand before royalty. Joseph prepared to see the king, honoring the authority and majesty of Pharaoh.

We have the privilege of an audience at any time with our King, Jesus Christ. May we never forget His majesty or approach Him with less than honor and adoration.

Thought for Today: Consider the majesty of God.

Quicklook: Genesis 41:1-14

If your church is not listed and if you are interested, call Randy Thompson at 540-389-9355 or email at advertise@ourvalley.org

email and on website: clcradford.org. 540-639-2671.

Our Saviour Lutheran Church ELCA, 1845 Cambria St NE, Christiansburg. Worship each Sunday at 10 am, in West Radford Church of God, 1824 West Main person and online at https://www.youtube.com/channel/ UCMsB-gbyjmV5ce9mr43dbCw. Please visit our website at www.oslc-cburg.org and our Facebook page at https:// www.facebook.com/oslcchristiansburg to learn more about us. Little Free Pantry and Little Free Library located in our parking lot. Pastor Joshua L. Copeland; church office 540-382-2223.

St. Michael Lutheran Church, 2308 Merrimac Road, Blacksburg, VA 24060. Worship service each Sunday at 10 AM, Sunday School 9 AM. We are a community of God's people where people 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... Nice, friendly, competent staff." You will like our minister, The Rev. Michelle L. Stramiello. Her previous service was as Family Faith Formation Director at Cross and Crown Lutheran Church, Indianapolis, IN, Pastor of St Matthew Lutheran Church, Paducah, KY, and Hospice Chaplain in Largo, Fl. St. Michael started and administers Micah's Backpack which has great community impact, Micah's Soup for Seniors, Micah's Garden, Closet, and Mini Pantry. Also, partnering with Rainbow Riders and Total Action for Progress, we opened open the first Early Childhood Head Start in our community (6 weeks to age 3), and have numerous other programs including a Justice & Mercy Fund providing assistance for those needing emergency assistance with critical bills. Further St. Michael sponsors an awesome Scouting program of Boy & Girl Scout Troops, Venture Scouts for older youth, and a new Cub Pack for girls & boys kindergarten - 5th grade. Directions: From Price's Fork Road, turn onto Merrimac Road and St. Michael is 3/10ths of a mile down on the left. For more information about any of our activities: Phone 540 951-8951. Email hope@stmlc.us or visit our Website

www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org

PENTECOSTAL HOLINESS Merrimac Pentecostal Holiness Church, Rev. Larry

Christopher (540) 552-7194. l.christopher695@comcast net. 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. 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 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., 7p.m.

PRESBYTERIAN

Join us at The Presbyterian Church of Radford, 201 4th Street, at the corner of 4th & Randolph, for Sunday School at 10 am and Worship and Children's Church at 11 am. Our Interim Minister is Steve Willis. Phone 639-2585. Watch the worship services on Facebook, which can be accessed through the church website at www.pcradford.org or through the Presbyterian church of Radford Facebook page. We are called to share the love of Christ in this community and beyond.

UNITED METHODIST

Asbury United Methodist Church, 500 Stuart Street, Christiansburg. 540-382- 0743. Rev. Ryan Schaeffer. Sunday School, 10:15 a.m., Sunday Worship, 11:30 a.m., Wednesday Bible Study 7pm, alternating month's with Schaeffer Memorial Baptist Church, Senior Bible Study Thursday, 10:30 a.m. All are welcome.

Central United Methodist Church, 803 Wadsworth Street, Radford. 639-3529. 8:30 a.m. Sunday Services: 8:30am (interpreter provided); 9:45am Sunday School (interpreter provided); and 11:00am. Wednesday Bible Study: 6:30pm. Child care is provided. www.centralmethodistchurch.com. St. Paul United Methodist Church, 220 W. Main St., C'Burg. Rev. Moonsup "Paul" Song (540) 382-2410. Sun-

day Worship 10am, Sunday School 9am. Live streaming Sunday Service - www.twitch.tv/stpaulumc.

Rotary Club of Christiansburg-Blacksburg celebrates a century of service

The Rotary Club of Christiansburg-Blacksburg celebrated its 100th anniversary with an event at the University Club at Virginia Tech on May 20.

Christiansburg Mayor Mike Barber and Blacksburg Mayor Hager-Smith toasted the Club and proclamations from their respective towns recognizing the many service projects and programs that have improved lives locally internationally. Christiansburg designated 21, 2023 as Christiansburg-Blacksburg Rotary Day.

Rotary District 7570

Governor Kathy Kanter traveled from Italy to of tourists in the area. share the importance of his experience as a Rotary sponsored the

present as well.

loyalty, and devotion is with the bi-annual Blood gift to pay forward to the Some of the over 21,000



The Rotary Club of Christiansburg-Blacksburg is celebrating their 100th Anniversary in 2023.

Members of the Rotary Club of Christiansburg-Blacksburg have contributed vocational expertise to a number of important projects in Montgomery County throughout the brought congratulations years, including endorsing from the District and improvements to main International roads, securing improved President Jennifer Jones. train service, and helping Dr. Walter Lacarbonara to improve the experiences

In 1965, the Club Ambassadorial Scholar community-wide meeting hosted by Club member to discuss the development Dr. Buddy Russell at of a new local hospital to Virginia Tech in 1995-96. replace Altamont Hospital Members of the Rotary in Christiansburg. The Clubs of Blacksburg, Giles Club led fundraising County, and Montgomery for the hospital and County, all clubs sponsored were instrumental in by the Christiansburg- convincing HCA to Blacksburg Club, were build what has become LewisGale Hospital Club President Dan Montgomery, Berenato remarked to opened in 1971. The those Rotarians assembled. Club has partnered with "Your perseverance, the hospital since 1997 our inheritance from the Screening project which former 100 years of active screens over 30 different club members and our markers at a reduced cost. people who have taken

advantage of the service learned of potentially lifethreatening conditions such as high cholesterol, diabetes, and anemia. The Club has donated

time, goods, and money to many local Montgomery County organizations and schools over the years. Some of the more visible recent projects include picnic shelters at Heritage Park and the Frog Pond; a gazebo on the Huckleberry Trail; the baseball field at Nellie's Cave Park; fencing at Warm Hearth's Community Garden; an enclosed trailer for NRV Habitat for Humanity; the sensory space at Wonder Universe; a bronze plaque commemorating Montgomery County's bicentennial in the courthouse; basketball scoreboards and bleachers in the County high schools; and playground equipment at Blacksburg High School Learning Laboratory.

Internationally, the Club has participated in adult and youth exchange programs;

acted as counselors for Rotary Ambassadorial and Skelton Scholars studying at Virginia Tech; contributed weekly to Rotary's PolioPlus program to eradicate polio throughout the world; provided low-cost prostheses to Honduras via Blacksburg-based Hope to Walk; and worked on other school, library, well, and vaccination projects in Haiti, the Philippines, and other countries. In her remarks at the

celebration, District Governor Kathy Kanter said, "Nurturing leaders is a hallmark of Rotary, and your Club has exceled in this area."

The Rotary Club Christiansburg-Blacksburg is the home club of 1983-84 Rotary International President Dr. William "Bill" Skelton who influenced the growth and development of Rotary at all levels by increasing membership, strengthening clubs, promoting vocational service ideals, focusing on community projects

activities, actively participating in international programs. Skelton showed dedication to both Rotary's "Service Above Self" and Virginia Tech's "Ut Prosim" mottoes in all that he did. His support and commitment to Virginia Tech is reflected in the Skelton Conference Center at the Inn at Virginia Tech where many Rotary functions are held today. The Club honored Skelton at the event with plaques given to his children Jean and John Skelton.

Rotary began in 1905 when attorney Paul Harris invited three other men to create a fellowship of businessmen to exchange ideas and create lifelong Rotary fellowships. quickly expanded; first within the US and then internationally. By April 23, 1923 when the Rotary Club of Christiansburg-Blacksburg was chartered, there were 1,410 Rotary Clubs in the world. Today, there are more than 46,000 clubs throughout

world: Rotary International is a global network of 1.4 million neighbors, friends, leaders, and problem-solvers who see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves.

The Rotary Club Christiansburg-Blacksburg was the first Rotary Club in Montgomery County. The Člub is known for its bi-annual blood screening (returning on July 15th), local leadership recognition, youth development programs, and community service projects as well as sponsorship of the Virginia Tech Rotaract Club and participation in Rotary International programs such as PolioPlus. For more information, or to join the Club, find Christiansburg Blacksburg Rotary on Facebook.

Rotary Club of Christiansburg-Blacksburg

T ACHIEVEMENTS

Local students on Shenandoah University dean's list

Students who earned Dean's List honors include: Katie Forbes of Blacksburg, and Nicklas Bissey of Christiansburg. To qualify for the Dean's List, students enrolled in baccalaureate degree programs must complete at least 12 semester hours and earn a semester GPA of 3.50 or higher. Shenandoah University was established in 1875, and is headquartered in Winchester, Virginia, with additional educational sites in Clarke, Fairfax and Loudoun

James Madison University announces HARRISONBURG - James Madison

spring 2023 president's list

University is pleased to announce that the following students made the president's list for the spring 2023 semester. Shellie Cook of Christiansburg, who

is majoring in Kinesiology - BS. Alexander Dunn of Blacksburg, who

is majoring in Nursing - BSN. Miranda Lattimer of Christiansburg,

who is majoring in Communication Sciences and Disorders - BA.

Megan Newcomb of Christiansburg, who is majoring in Nursing - BSN.

Sarah Parsons of Blacksburg, who is majoring in Nursing - BSN. Allison Payne of Christiansburg, who

is majoring in Individualized Study - BS. Hettie Roberson of Blacksburg, who is majoring in Communication Sciences and Disorders - BA.

Emily Triplett of Riner, who is majoring in General Psychology - BA. Tali Vidal of Radford, who is majoring

in Dietetics - BS. Julie Walsh of Blacksburg, who is

majoring in Dietetics - BS. Katherine Widner of Christiansburg,

who is majoring in Nursing - BSN. Students who earn president's list honors must carry at least 12 graded

credit hours and earn a GPA of 3.900 or above. Abigail Barnes of Radford named to

Provost's List at Hofstra University

of Radford achieved a perfect 4.0 GPA during the Spring 2023 semester, earning a spot on the Provost's List at Hofstra University. Abigail's major is Speech-Language Hearing Sciences.

Hofstra University is an internationally ranked and recognized private university in Hempstead, N.Y.

Lucas Michalisin earns dean's list honors at The College of Saint Rose

ALBANY, NY - Congratulations to Lucas Michalisin, of Christiansburg, VA, for earning a spot on the Dean's List for the Spring 2023 semester at The College of Saint Rose in Albany, Disorders - BA. New York. Michalisin is majoring in Communications at Saint Rose.

Full-time undergraduate students, who complete a minimum of 12 graded credit hours and who achieve a semester average of 3.5.

James Madison University announces spring 2023 graduates

HÄRRISÖNBURG - James Madison

University is pleased to announce the following students who graduated during the May 2023 commencement Julia Lattimer of Blacksburg graduated

with a degree in Communication Studies

Marissa Adams of Blacksburg graduated with a degree in Music - BM. Gjergji Ngjala of Blacksburg graduated with a degree in Sport and

Recreation Leadership - MS. Rebecca Cistulli of Christiansburg graduated with a degree in Biology -

Katelyn Tanaka of Christiansburg graduated with a degree in Biotechnology

Allison Payne of Christiansburg graduated with a degree in Individualized Study - BS. Amanda Keyton of Copper

Hill graduated with a degree in Communication Studies - BS. Kayleigh Bishop of Riner graduated

with a degree in English - MA.

spring 2023 honors graduates

HARRISONBURG - James Madison University is pleased to announce the following students who graduated with honors during the May 2023 commencement exercises.

Julie Walsh of Blacksburg graduated Cum Laude with a degree in Dietetics

Alexander Dunn of Blacksburg graduated Cum Laude with a degree in Nursing - BSN.

Rachel Lloyd of Christiansburg graduated Magna Cum Laude with a degree in Communication Sciences and

Sarah Parsons of Blacksburg graduated Magna Cum Laude with a degree in Nursing - BSN.

Spencer Amacher named to dean's list at Ohio Wesleyan University

DELAWARE, OH - Spencer Amacher of Blacksburg, has been named to the 2023 spring semester Dean's List at Ohio Wesleyan University. To earn Dean's List recognition, Ohio Wesleyan students must achieve a grade point average of 3.5 or better on a 4.0 scale in all applicable classes.

Abby Hinckley of Christiansburg named to Harding University dean's list

SEARCY, Ark. - Abby Hinckley, a Senior, studying social work, is among more than 1,100 Harding University students included on the dean's list for grades achieved during the spring 2023 semester. The dean's list is published each semester by Dr. Marty Spears, University provost, honoring those who have achieved high scholarship. To be eligible, a student must be carrying 12 or more hours with a 3.65 or higher grade-point average and no incompletes.

Hinckley is also one of more than 600 students who received diplomas and were recognized as Harding University graduates for Spring 2023 during a commencement ceremony on May 6, 2023. Hinckley received a Bachelor of Social Work.

Colby Hinckley of Christiansburg graduates from Harding University

SEARCY, Ark. - Colby Hinckley of Christiansburg is one of more than 600 students who received diplomas and were recognized as Harding University

graduates for Spring 2023 during a commencement ceremony on May 6,

Hinckley received a Bachelor of Science in psychology.

Udipta Bohara inducted into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi

BATON ROUGE, La.- Udipta Bohara of Blacksburg was recently initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society. Bohara was initiated at Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University. Bohara is among approximately 25,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni to be initiated into Phi Kappa Phi each year.

Local student named to Bucknell

University dean's list LEWISBURG, Pa. -University has released the dean's list for outstanding academic achievement during the Spring semester of the 2022-23 academic year. A student must earn a grade point average of 3.5 or higher on a scale of 4.0 to receive dean's list recognition. Anna Kender, 2023, Economics, of Blacksburg, has been

James Madison University announces

named to the dean's list.

spring 2023 dean's list HARRISONBURG, Va. - James Madison University is pleased to announce that the following students made the Dean's List for the spring 2023 semester. Emily Clark of Fairlawn, who is majoring in Dance - BA. Emma McMurray of Radford, who is majoring in Individualized Study - BS. Students who earn dean's list honors must carry at least 12 graded credit hours and earn

Freed-Hardeman University announces May graduates

a GPA of between 3.5 and 3.899.

HENDERSON, Tenn. - Freed-Hardeman University held its spring commencement exercises in mid-May where approximately 286 students received degrees. Graduates received baccalaureate, graduate and certificates,

Jess Musselman, of Riner, graduated Summa Cum Laude and Alpha Chi with a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry: Biochemistry Emphasis.

licensures and associate's degrees.



radfordnewsjournal.com

RADFORD SPORTS

Reid's basketball journey leads to BHS post

Marty Gordon

NRVsports@mainstreetnewspapers.com

Joe Reid has always put his basketball shoes on one lace at a time and had always dreamed of playing professionally.

Three years ago, he got that chance with the Roanoke Rising Stars, a semipro basketball team. But sometimes the road takes twists and turns people never expect as that door came to a close. His journey has now led him to Blacksburg High School where on Wednesday he was named the new head coach for the girls' basketball program. He had been an assistant at the school for the past

Prior to moving to Virginia as a youngster, Reid played three years for the same AAU program Julius Erving had played for, gaining the opportunity to meet him and traveling nationwide to tournaments.

With that same team in 2003, he won the World Biddy Basketball Championship.

He then moved to Virginia and attended William Fleming High School, where they won the 2007 VHSL AA state championship his junior year. He spent his senior year at Christiansburg

High School.

"After high school, I played Junior college basketball for New River Community College and am currently listed top five in all time points scored," he said. "The last two seasons I played professionally for an American Basketball Association team, The Roanoke Rising

Stars, before moving on to being a full time private player development coach."

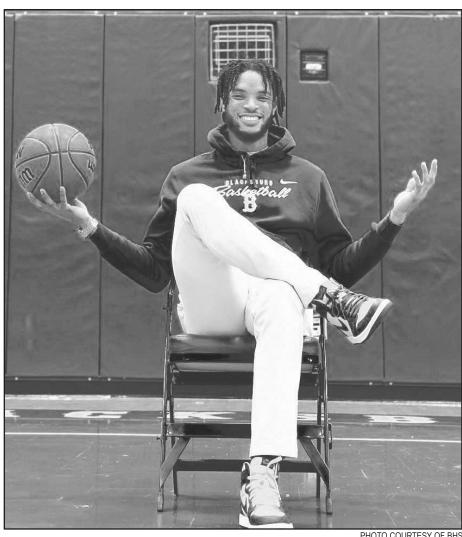
"I always thought transitioning from professionally playing full time to something else would be incredibly difficult," he added. "However, man was I wrong. Seeing the impact in the lives of those who have done player development training with me has surpassed any achievements I've accomplished in my own playing career by far.

Coaching was never really on his to-do list, but it quickly became reality when he was named an assistant at BHS. Now, he is very grateful for the new chapter in his journey.

T've always joked and said I would never coach, but I'm beyond excited and incredibly grateful for this opportunity."

"The (Blacksburg) program has an outstanding amount of potential with incredible female athletes and a large support system. I'm very excited and thankful for the opportunity to continue building on the foundation that has been set. This year and for many years to come, Blacksburg High School girls' basketball will look to compete hard and make a transcending impact on our community and those around us."

Reid takes over a Blacksburg program that was 12-11 last season and 42-60 over the past five. He hopes to change the culture and is looking to create a fun, high energy, positive environment that is safe and focuses on the student first, athlete second while empowering and challenging its athletes to reach their



Blacksburg assistant basketball coach Joe Reid has named the head coach of the high school's girls' program.

unlocking a mindset of growth.

"My primary goal is to teach our student athletes accountability, responsibility and effective communicative habits that are lifelong lasting lessons. I will personally strive to build the character of our girls to become modeled citizens full potential, embracing mistakes and contributing to the communities around

us and the advancement of our society. I want to build a program that is full of tradition with a well-known history of making a major impact community wide," he said.

Reid will host a basketball camp this coming week at the Blacksburg Recreation Department.

Radford's Yamazaki heads to Japanese National Team Camp



this past year as a freshman for the Radford University—a Highlander. basketball team.

Marty Gordon

NRVsports@mainstreetnewspapers.com

Radford University's international player Ibu Yamazaki seems to be headed to Japan's National Men's Team camp. Sources at RU say the rising sophomore will aim to be selected for the 12-member squad, which will play in the Asian Games in September and eventually the 2023 FIBA World Cup, the camp will be held June 13-21 at the National Training Center in Tokyo.

Led by Head Coach Tom Hovasse, the camp, scheduled for later this monthwill include a total of 26 players ranging from 19 to 28 years old, with Yamazaki being the youngest of the entire group.

The Matsudo, Chiba, Japan native and Meisei PHOTO COURTESY OF RU ATHLETICS High School product averaged 2.2 points and 1.2 Ibu Yamazki averaged 2.2 points and 1.2 rebounds rebounds across 33 games in his freshman season as

Standing at 6-7 the 18-year old wing hails from

Matsudo, Chiba, Japan and attended Meisei High School, the very same school that produced Gonzaga standout and current Washington Wizard Rui

A sharpshooter from beyond the arc, Yamazaki represented his home nation in seven games during the FIBA U19 Basketball World Cup last summer and averaged 14.6 points, 4.0 rebounds, and 1.1 assists per game. He dropped 32 points on South Korea, scored 23 points versus Serbia, and went for double-digits against Canada and Senegal as well.

SB Nation noted Yamazaki as a standout in the tournament, mentioning him in the same breath as top NBA draft prospects Jaden Ivey (Purdue/USA), Dyson Daniels (G League Ignite/Australia), and Nikola Jovic (Mega Mozzart/Serbia). In the article, they say of Yamazaki that, "No matter the venue or location, his jumper is silky smooth as it's clear that time has been put in towards every step of the

Six Hokies earn preseason All-ACC

Athlon Sports released its preseason All-ACC teams, and the Hokies landed six players on the preseason squads.

Wide receiver Ali Jennings was named to the first team offense while Tucker Holloway placed on the first team as a punt returner. Cornerback Mansoor Delane was selected to the second team, followed by three fourth-team selections, including offensive lineman Kaden Moore, cornerback Dorian Strong and punter Peter Moore.

Jennings tallied 54 receptions for 959 yards and nine touchdowns at Old Dominion during the 2022 season on his way to earning all-Sun Belt first team honors. He registered five 100-yard receiving games and had a stretch of seven straight games with a touchdown. He is listed as the second-highest returning ACC wide receiver, according to Pro Football Focus (PFF).

Holloway played in five games as a freshman, fielding nine punts totaling 191 return yards (21.2-yard average). He set the Virginia Tech program record for single game punt return yardage on Nov. 5, 2022, against Georgia Tech (188 yards, 7 returns), scoring his first career touchdown on a 90-yard return, and earning ACC Specialist of the Week

Delane played in eight games, making four starts at cornerback. He led Tech in pass breakups (eight), registering 38 tackles (17 solo), one interception and two forced fumbles. Delane earned freshman All-American accolades from College Football News and 247 Sports. He is one of the top returning cornerbacks nationally, according to PFF.

Moore made 11 starts at right guard and was part of the Hokies' offensive line that allowed one or fewer sacks against Old Dominion (Sept. 2), Wofford (Sept. 17) and West Virginia (Sept. 22).

Strong started four games at cornerback, recording 10 tackles (seven solo), three pass breakups and one fumble recovery before missing the final seven games with an injury.

Moore attempted 73 punts totaling 3,042 yards (41.7-yard average) and placed 24 punts inside the 20, delivering 17 beyond 50 yards. His season long was

Virginia Tech Athletics

Bruins named Region 4D all-stars in soccer

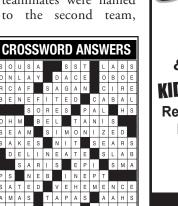
Marty Gordon

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Blacksburg High School dominated the Region 4D all-star soccer list announced Thursday. On the boys' side, Edric Zheng, Kai Feng and Wyatt Eschenmann were named to the first-team, while Sean Delorenzo, Nevin O'Dowd, Addison Bass and DJ Garza were second teamers.

On the girls' side of the list, three Bruins were named to the first team. They included: Mila Santsaver-Jones, Erin Bishop and Paige Miller. Three of their teammates were named



Ava Massjourni, Kailyn Brawley and Paige Miller.

Honorable mentions for the Bruin girls' included Charlotte Ellis, Ginny Crawford and Emily Bishop.

The region also released its baseball team with two Bruins making the first and second teams. Brice Abbott was a first team designated hitter and Spencer Campbell at first

Blacksburg represented on the softball all-star listing with Mia Farley being named as an

outfielder. Pitcher Lorelei Spradlin and utility player Evelyn Rhodes were placed on the second team.

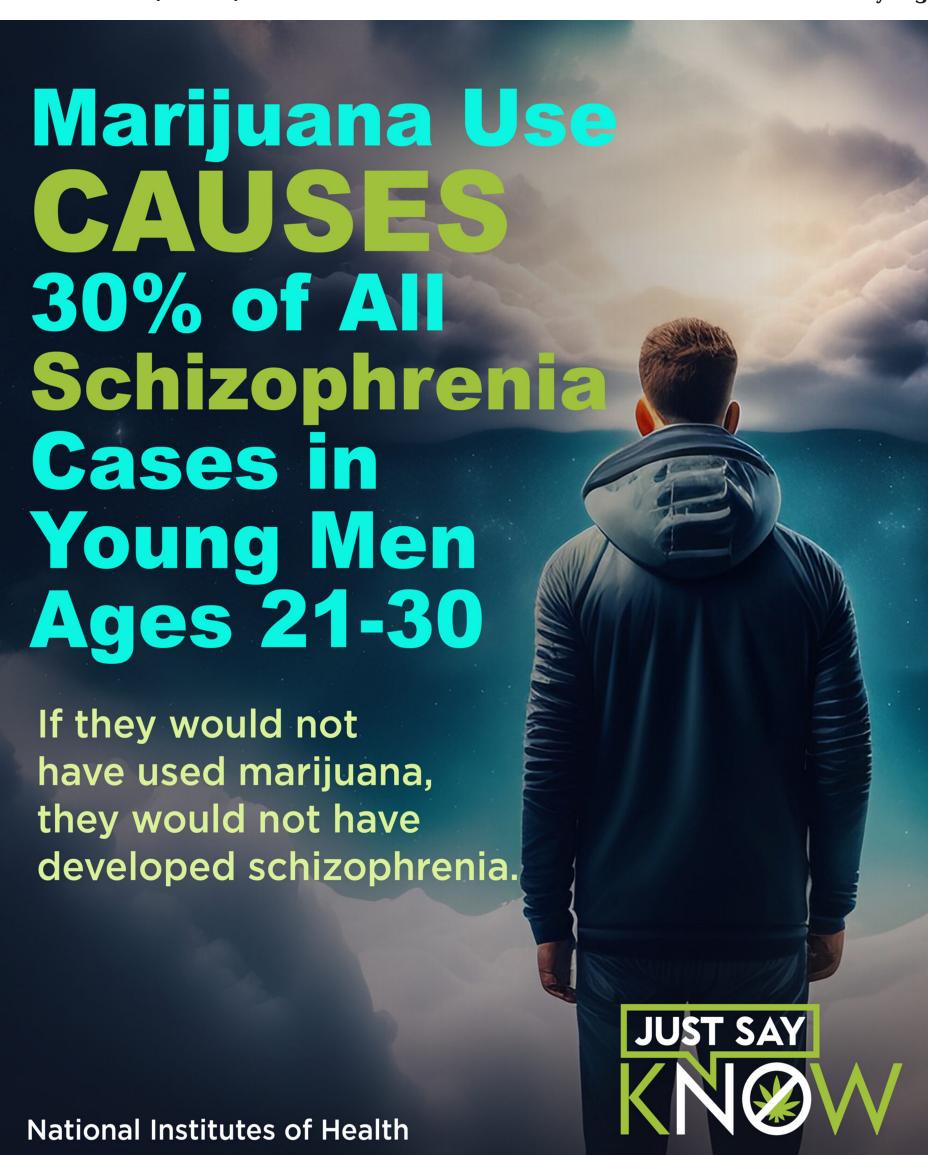
All region lacrosse included players Blacksburg's Lake Gohlke, Eric Metrey and Andrew Guyn being named to the second team.

Hayli Williams was Blacksburg lone first team Region 4D lacrosse player, but four teammates were named to the second team including Malayna Cherbaka, Azalee Chase, Camryn McElory and Madi Mann.



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