

# Richmond Times-Dispatch

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## TONY BENNETT RETIRES FROM UVA



CAL CARY PHOTOS, THE DAILY PROGRESS

Virginia Director of Athletics Carla Williams, left, listens as head coach Tony Bennett announces his retirement. "... the game and college athletics is not in a healthy spot," he said. "And there needs to be change. I was equipped to do the job here the old way."

# 'I'm a square peg in a round hole'

### In emotional farewell, coach calls for change in college athletics

ZACH JOACHIM  
Richmond Times-Dispatch

CHARLOTTESVILLE — "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep, to gain what he cannot lose."

As UVA men's basketball coach Tony Bennett considered what he wished to share at Friday's news conference in the dining hall of John Paul Jones Arena, that quote from American Christian missionary Jim Elliot came to mind.

After the shocking news of Bennett's retirement broke yesterday, the Cavaliers' coach, who took the head job in Charlottesville on March 30, 2009, made the news official in an emotional announcement filled with exposition on the state of modern college athletics.

"I've been here for 15 years as the head coach. And I thought it would be a little longer, to be honest," Bennett said before the first of what would prove many



UVA President Jim Ryan, left, and Robert Hardie, rector of the school's Board of Visitors, react as Tony Bennett retires as head coach of the Cavaliers' basketball team.

pauses to collect himself and hold back tears.

"That's been on loan. It wasn't mine to keep. And it's time for me to give it back — to gain what I can't lose — to be a better husband ... to be a better dad ... to

be a better friend.

"I've given everything I can for 15 years."

In a room filled with UVA brass, current and former Cavaliers players and others connected to the school like Indiana

### Tony Bennett by the numbers

- 1: National championships (2019)
- 2: ACC conference tournament titles (2014, '18)
- 4: ACC Coach of the Year awards (2014, '15, '18, '19)
- 6: ACC regular-season titles (2014, '15, '18, '19, '21, '23)
- 10: NCAA tournament appearances

Pacers coach and UVA alumnus Rick Carlisle, Bennett spoke for about 20 minutes on what led to his decision.

"I'm a square peg in a round hole," Bennett said.

Chief among the factors leading to Bennett's retirement

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## COUNCIL RACE

# Donations to Floyd called into question

### 5 listed as giving say they never did

SAMUEL B. PARKER  
Richmond Times-Dispatch

Five reported donors to the campaign of Tavares Floyd — who is running for the 6th District City Council seat — said they did not make any such contributions, casting doubt on Floyd's campaign finance reports submitted to the Virginia Department of Elections.

Floyd has reported receiving over \$140,000 from donors across the country — including nearly \$47,000 from Tennessee-based donors and over \$40,000 more from donors in Illinois, Louisiana, Maryland,



Floyd

Kentucky, North Carolina, Missouri, California, New York, Oregon, Georgia and New Jersey.

But five of the listed donors told the Richmond Times-Dispatch that they never gave money to Floyd's campaign, and one of them said he has never heard of Floyd. Those donors include a Maryland assistant attorney general and a prominent

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**VIEW:** Read Tavares Floyd's campaign finance report by aiming your cellphone camera at the QR code and clicking the link. **NEWSVU**

## JOB FAIR

# Attendee: State 'hard on felons'

### Rights restoration, employment at issue

DAVE RESS  
Richmond Times-Dispatch

When he got out of prison in 2020 and got the letter that his rights had been restored, it meant even more than being able to vote, for Eric Talley.

"It felt like I had a chance. Like I was coming home," he said Friday, pausing for a moment from a volunteer gig cutting hair for other former inmates at the ROC Nation-Reform Alliance job fair at the Greater Richmond Convention Center.

Some three dozen employers with 1,500 jobs to fill, along with agencies and volunteers offering support, were on hand for more than 2,000 former inmates.

Talley has landed on his feet — he makes a living as a barber

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## DEATH AT RIVERSIDE REGIONAL JAIL

# Family calls mugshots 'autopsy photos'

### Official says inmate was 'lethargic' when pictures were taken

LUCA POWELL  
Richmond Times-Dispatch

A month after her mother's death, Laura Sankey is still in the dark.

On Sept. 17, she received a Facebook message from Riverside Regional Jail Superintendent Tojuanna Mack, Sankey said. Mack asked Sankey to call about her mother, Neicole Sankey Lewis.

Since then, Sankey has scrambled to piece together the puzzle of how her mother died — a shock given that the two had last seen each other three days earlier. At that point, her mother seemed fine, Sankey said.

Lewis' death, and the disturbing mugshot briefly posted to the jail's website, is the latest



Lewis



Neicole Sankey Lewis is seen with her grandson. Lewis died on Sept. 16 while in the custody of Riverside Regional Jail in Prince George County.

COURTESY OF LAURA SANKEY

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**Biden urges European allies to keep supporting Ukraine**

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Sunny and pleasant  
**High 74**  
**Low 43**  
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