

\$1.00

Festive crowd turns out for Radford's first Pride March



Abstract

The crowd gathered at the Radford Public Library on Saturday evening and walked on the sidewalk to

RADFORD - More than 100 people turned out Saturday for Radford's first Pride March in support of the LGBTQ+ community.

See **Pride** page 6

U.S. senators go to bat for Virginia's minor league baseball teams

RADFORD - A special groundbreaking ceremony was held on June 15, 2021, to officially introduce The Highlander, a boutique-style hotel to be located on Tyler Avenue across from Radford University's main cam-

Radford University President Brian O. Hemphill joined members of the Radford University Board of Visitors, the Radford University Foundation Board of Directors, and other project partners to formally break ground at the hotel's site at the intersection of Tyler Avenue and Calhoun Street.

"Today's event represents partnership in the truest form," said Board of Visitors Rector Robert A. Archer. "We would not be here today to celebrate this important project without the leadership and the support of so many. This project will provide significant opportunities for the local community and the broader region. The availability and quality of this hotel will attract business and industry as well as tourism."

Archer recognized the leadership of President Hemphill and his team, saying, "The vision for this project started with President Hemphill. His team, in working with the foundation and other partners, found a way to make that vision a reality. And they did so during

a global health pandemic, which represented a time when very few projects moved forward.”

As this was represented the final public event during President Hemphill's tenure, Archer directly addressed the president before concluding his remarks. He said, "President Hemphill, as you and your family prepare for a new journey, please know that you will always have a home at Radford University and a room at 'The Highlander'"

Estimated to have 125 rooms, The Highlander will be six stories tall with 88,000 square feet. It will provide amenities not available at current area hotels, such as a coffee shop

ballrooms, modern guest rooms, and a rooftop restaurant and bar that will overlook the Radford University campus with a backdrop of the Blue Ridge Mountains. A highlight of the structure will be a 4,000-square-foot conference space that will accommodate 250 to 300 people, allowing the university to host large-scale events, such as business expos and conferences, that it could not accommodate in the past.

Construction of the hotel is expected to be completed in late 2022.

John Cox, chief executive officer of the Radford University Foundation,

See **Highlander** page 6



Radford University and Radford University Foundation officials gather for the groundbreaking ceremony for The Highlander, a high-end hotel being built on Tyler Avenue.



WASHINGTON — U.S. Sens. Mark R. Warner and Tim Kaine (both D-VA), along with Sens. Marsha Blackburn (R-TN) and Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) have introduced the Minor League Baseball Relief Act to help the nine minor league baseball teams in Virginia who are hurting economically after the COVID-19 crisis.

Members of the Radford family gathered in the atrium of the College of Humanities and Behavioral Science Building on June 15, 2021, to formally dedicate the building as Hemphill Hall, honoring the leadership and legacy of Radford University President Brian O. Hemphill.

Since it opened in 2016, “The College of Humanities and Behavioral Science Building has suffered from one thing, a proper name,” Dean Matthew J. Smith said at the ceremony. “Today, Radford University completes this structure by christening it in honor of the university’s seventh president, Dr. Brian O. Hemphill.”

The naming of the CHBS Building in President Hemphill's honor, Smith said "is something we are very proud of, for we claim him as one of our

own. I am proud to affiliate our college's ongoing mission with the legacy of President Hemphill."

Just before the official unveiling of two plaques, Smith said, "Let me be the first, but by no means the last, to welcome you all to Hemphill Hall."

President Hemphill announced in February that he was leaving Radford after five years of leading the university, to become president at Old Dominion University.

In April, the Radford University Board of Visitors unanimously approved a resolution to honor President Hemphill's contributions to the pursuit of teaching, research, and service by naming the building in his honor.

And in recognition of President Hemphill's professional career and

lasting legacy as a champion of student engagement and success, the board announced the creation of the President Brian O. Hemphill Student Scholarship Fund, which will provide life-changing opportunities for future generations of Highlanders.

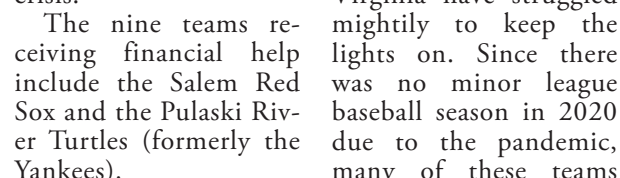
President Hemphill joined Radford University on July 1, 2016, launching an impressive tenure of serving students and the region by setting forth a bold vision for the university's future.

Under his leadership, Radford University had the highest enrollment in its history, at 11,870 in Fall 2019; the largest graduate enrollment in its history, at 3,903 in Fall 2019; the highest percentage of first-generation students in its history, at 39% in Fall 2019; the most new freshman applications in its history, at 16,138 in Fall 2019; the highest average GPA in its history, at 3.32 in Fall 2020; and the most degrees annually conferred in its history, at 2,430 during the 2019-2020 academic year.

Radford University Board of Visitors Rector Robert A. Archer opened the building dedication ceremony speaking of the president's legacy at Radford and his road ahead.

"This is a day many of us were not looking forward to, a celebration of the president's leadership and legacy while here at Radford University as he prepares to depart to a bigger—but, I say not better—opportunity," Archer said to a chorus of laughter. "On behalf of the board of visitors,

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Radford University recently dedicated Hemphill Hall in honor of departing Radford University President Brian O. Hemphill, seen here with his family and friends.

baseball game at stadiums across the commonwealth is an affordable and fun family outing,” said Sen. Warner. “Baseball isn’t just America’s pastime; it also represents an economic lifeline for many communities. However, like many small businesses throughout the COVID-19 crisis, our minor league baseball teams in Virginia have struggled mightily to keep the lights on. Since there was no minor league baseball season in 2020 due to the pandemic, many of these teams have sustained heavy financial losses that have not been substantially mitigated by existing small business economic relief programs. I’m pleased to work with my colleagues on this bill that would allow these local treasures access to economic relief.”

"Baseball is not only America's favorite pastime, bringing friends and families together, it's also a critical economic engine for the commonwealth," said Sen. Kaine. "Teams in communities across Virginia support our local economy and

See **Baseball**, page 5

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, June 30:

Teen Book Club

At the Montgomery Floyd Regional Library Online at 4 p.m. Each month the club will be discussing a new book. To be read and discussed this month is "Children of Blood and Bone" by Toni Adeyemi. Any teen interested in joining the discussion can email mroach@mfrl.org for more information.

Blacksburg Police Hiring Workshop

The Blacksburg Police Department is hosting a hiring workshop from 6 p.m. until 7 p.m. at the Blacksburg Community Center, 615 Patrick Henry Drive. For more information, contact Sgt. K.V. Craver at 540-443-1438.

Thursday, July 1:

American Legion meeting

American Legion Harvey-Howe-Carper Post 30 will meet at 7 p.m. at The VFW Post 776 building on 102 Watts St. in Radford. For further information, call 250-2283 or 239-9864.

Saturday, July 3:

Teen DnD

At the Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library online at 4 p.m. DnD is now virtual on Discord. The library staff suggests downloading Discord for ease of access, but this is not required. Email shodges@mfrl.org for the discord server link.

Teen Game Night

At the Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library online at 5:30 p.m. Join other teens for a live, interactive game night online. The group will play jackbox party night games on family friendly settings. Email shodges@mfrl.org for more information.

Christiansburg July 4th Celebration

The Town of Christiansburg Fourth of July celebration will be held from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. on West Main Street.

There will be live music performances by Gate 10, Flannel Jukebox, and Don and the Deltones Plus. Food and vendors will be along Main Street, and a special Kids Zone will be available.

This is a free event. At 9:15 p.m., festival goers can move over to the Uptown Christiansburg or Walmart parking lots to watch the fireworks.

Sunday, July 4:

City of Radford "Spirit of America" July 4th Celebration

The City of Radford presents a full day of live music, free kids activities, inflatables and attractions, food and craft vendors, and fireworks to close the event. Music will be headlined by Country Music Association (CMA) Hall of Fame member and member of the Statler Brothers, Jimmy Fortune. Opening for Jimmy Fortune will be country music singer Wade Hayes. The schedule of events is as follows: 1-6 p.m. –

Rides and Games; 1:30-2:30 p.m. – Faithful Praise (gospel); 2:45-3:45 p.m. – Glen Shelton; 4-5 p.m. The Castaways (Beach Music); 5-5:45 p.m. - Opening Ceremonies with Mayor David Horton and the National Anthem to be sung by Glen Shelton, followed by patriotic readings from Dr. Dick Harshberger; 6-7 p.m. - Wade Hayes (country); 7:15-8:45 p.m. – Jimmy Fortune (country); and 9:30 p.m. – fireworks sponsored by Third Security.

Blacksburg Fireworks Show

The Town of Blacksburg's 2021 fireworks show will take place at 9:30 p.m. rain or shine at the old Blacksburg High School property on Patrick Henry Drive.

Talking about Books

At the Christiansburg Library from 11 a.m. until noon. To be discussed in person and virtually is "Deacon King Kong" by James McBride.

Talking About Books

At the Meadowbrook Public Library at 6 p.m. To be discussed is "The Dutch House" by Ann Patchett. Call to reserve a copy.

Monday, July 5:

Radford City offices closed

The City of Radford offices will be closed for the July 4th holiday. Solid waste collection normally on Monday will be collected on Tuesday, July 6. The Drop Center and the Radford Public Library will also be closed on July 5.

Blacksburg City offices closed

All Town of Blacksburg administrative offices will be closed on Monday, July 5, in observance of the July 4th Holiday. Blacksburg Community and Aquatic Centers are closed Sunday, July 4, and will open regular hours Monday, July 5. There is no refuse/recycling service in the SE Quadrant on Monday, July 5. Make-up service is Wednesday, July 7.

Tuesday, July 6 - Friday, July 9:

Archery Clinic

Christiansburg Parks and Recreation is having an archery clinic July 6-9 for ages 7-13 from 10 a.m. until noon at the Triangle Archery Club. Sign up by calling 540-

382-2349 or by visiting www.christiansburg.org/register. The registration deadline is July 2, and the registration fee is \$30.

Wednesday, July 7:

Virtual Event: Shadow Puppetry

Matt Sandbank is a nationally touring shadow puppeteer based in Austin, Texas. Via Zoom seminars, he will present a collection of wordless shadow shorts that will surprise and delight audiences with visual storytelling. Come and see the show via Zoom Webinars. Webinar ID: 819 0720 7445 Passcode: 563317.

Thursday, July 8

Talking About Books

At the Meadowbrook Public Library at 11 a.m. To be discussed is "Braiding Sweetgrass" by Robin Wall Kimmer. Call to reserve a copy.

Thursday, July 8; Thursday July 15

DnD One shot

At 1 p.m. at the Montgomery Floyd Regional Library online. Create a level-one character and join in a special teen DnD mini-campaign game. Email shodges@mfrl.org for the discord server link.

Friday, July 9:

Blood Drive

The bloodmobile will be at Professional Rehab Associates, 1200 Tyler Ave., Radford, from 1 to 6 p.m. Call 1-800-REDCROSS or visit RedCrossBlood.org to schedule an appointment.

Saturday, July 10:

New River Valley Garden Tour

The cost is \$15 with the tour from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. rain or shine. Advance tickets, maps, and brochures are now available at each branch of the Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library

Mt. Tabor Ruritan Fish Fry

The Mount Tabor Ruritan Club will hold its July fish fry from 5 to 7 p.m. at Slusser's Chapel Picnic Shelter, 1543 Mount Tabor Rd, Blacksburg. To be offered are single servings of fish, fries, and slaw, homemade desserts, and beverages. The cost is \$8 for adults and \$5 for children under 12. Children under three eat free. Carry-outs will also be \$8. DJ Gene Broadus will be spinning some music, and the fish fry will be held rain or shine. Call or text 540-449-6178 for further information.

Monday, July 12:

Break-in Bags

Beginning at 10 a.m. at the Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Jessie Peterman Memorial and Meadowbrook Public Library branches. Solve three puzzles to find the numeric code that will open the lock and free your

loot. Recommended for ages 10 years and up. Supplies are limited.

STEM Club

At the Christiansburg Library at 1 p.m. Watch the library's virtual STEM club. Pick up the activity materials from July 5 through July 10. Email shodges@mfrl.org with any questions.

Monday, July 12 - Wednesday, July 14:

Basketball Clinic

Christiansburg's Parks and Recreation Department is hosting a basketball clinic from July 12-14 for ages 5-14 at the Christiansburg Recreation Center. The registration fee is \$30. Register by July 9 at 540-382-2349 or www.christiansburg.org/register.

Tuesday, July 13:

MCPS public hearing on health, safety plan

Montgomery County Public Schools will hold a public hearing on the 2021-2022 Health and Safety Plan on July 13. Online comments will also be accepted. More information is available at <https://buff.ly/3zC1Jl2>.

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 invited to attend. The evening will include a discussion on the 50th Virginia Infantry Regiment. For further information, call 320-4315 or 239-9864.

Wednesday, July 14:

Radford Library Brown Bag Book Club

The Brown Bag Book Club is getting together again. Read "Follow the River" by James Alexander Thom and join the club to discuss this book on Wednesday, July 14, 2021 at noon. No formal commitment is needed. Just drop in if the book appeals to you.

Monday, July 19 - Thursday, July 22:

CHS Volleyball Camp

From 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Christiansburg Recreation Center. For ages 9-12. Register by calling 540-382-2349 or visit www.christiansburg.org/register. The registration deadline is Friday, July 16. The registration fee is \$30.

Ongoing:

Through June 30:

"Seeing Sound" Art by Lyndsay LaLonde

At the Blacksburg Library. This art display by local artist Lyndsay LaLonde highlights her unique experience with music and sound. "Synesthesia" or "seeing sound" refers to a way that some people interpret music

as colors and shapes. Explore her visual playlist through the end of the month at the Blacksburg Library.

Through July 17:

MFRL Summer Reading Program

Montgomery Floyd Regional Library will again present its summer reading program for kids and teens. Participants may sign up in person or online. They may choose how long they want to read every day, log the days they read, and win a free book when they read for 10 days and a raffle entry ticket for prizes when they read for 15 days. Adults may register online and log their reading to be automatically entered in weekly prize drawings.

Through July 31:

Radford Public Library's Summer Reading Program

Through Saturday, July 31, the Radford Public Library is running its annual summer reading program for kids, teens, and adults. The program promotes reading daily to earn prizes and to earn entries to win raffle baskets. The reading program is a fun way to promote literacy, encourage reading as a healthy habit, and help readers experience reading as fun and adventurous.

Through Aug. 29:

Glencoe Mansion, Museum and Gallery exhibit "Mountain Rail Trails"

Glencoe Mansion, Museum and Gallery is displaying its newest art gallery exhibit, "Mountain Rail Trails," featuring photography by Dale R. Carlson of Bluemoonistic Images.

The exhibit will be on display through August 29 and dovetails nicely with the train observatory platform and exhibit found at the edge of the grounds of Glencoe. Everyone is welcome to visit the museum with no admission charge. Glencoe is located at 600 Unruh Dr. in Radford.

Through September:

Blacksburg's Market Square Jam 2021

Blacksburg's Market Square Jam 2021 will continue each Wednesday from 7 - 9 p.m. through September at Market Square Park. This season marks the jam's 10th anniversary.

Through October:

Radford Farmers Market

The Radford Farmers Market will be held each Saturday through October 30 from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. in the New River Valley Community Service parking lot (the old Wade's parking lot) on West Main Street.

Christiansburg Farmers Market

Every Thursday through October the Christiansburg Farmers Market will be held at the Christiansburg Recreation Center parking lot from 3 p.m. until 7 p.m.

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9 Lots located on Grissom Lane, Nellies Cave Road, and Blacksburg Lane in Blacksburg VA

Offering # 1 (Lot 1) = .619 Acre

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Terms – 10% Buyer's Premium will be added to final high bid to arrive at contract price. Earnest Money Deposit of \$5,000 per offering required on day of sale. Close in 30 Days. Subject to seller confirmation. Property sold as is where is any and all faults. Buyer is expected to complete their own due diligence. Please note that during the last two minutes of bidding, if a new bid is placed, the clock is automatically extended an additional two minutes. These offerings will be sold simultaneously – all lots will remain open until bidding ends. You have the opportunity to purchase multiple offerings as long as you are the winning bidder of those offerings. Auction ends once bidding ends. Download Bidder Information Pack for complete terms and conditions, purchase contract and maps.

Contact – Broker & Auctioneer Matt Gallimore at 540-239-2585 or email gallimore.matt@gmail.com

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Keep Virginia Beautiful awards grant to Warm Hearth Foundation

Keep Virginia Beautiful has awarded the Warm Hearth Foundation a \$500 grant for its litter prevention project as part of the organization's annual 30 in 30 green grants.

In addition to raising funds to support seniors in need of housing and health care, the foundation operates Micah's Program, which assists seniors in need of basic necessities like shelf-stable groceries, prepared meals and personal care items.

As part of the foundation's litter prevention program, food is delivered to residents in reusable, washable shopping bags. While Warm Hearth offers recycling options to residents, the reusable bags reduce waste from any paper or plastic bags that may be disposed.

Amy Slone, Warm Hearth's associate director of development, said, "Our organization is undoubtedly committed to environmental responsibility, but as a nonprofit it can often be expensive to sustain initiatives like these. Thanks to

Keep Virginia Beautiful and others who offer similar funding, we are continuing to make strides in reducing our environmental footprint and doing our part to reduce waste without taking funding away from other vital areas of support."



On behalf of the Warm Hearth Foundation's litter prevention program, Jody Smiley delivers food to residents in reusable shopping totes.

Traveling with pets, avoiding the ER, paying more for seafood, socializing with the non-vaccinated over the holiday weekend



PIXABAY

Hitting the road with the family dog or cat should always include extra planning. Be sure to consider holiday foods that might be unhealthy for pets. Summer heat and travel can always be dangerous, not to mention the fireworks. Dr. Mark D. Freeman is an assistant professor of community practice in the Department of Small Animal Clinical Sciences at the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine at Virginia Tech.

He says, "Every year near the 4th of July, we see a significant increase in the number of traumatic injuries to dogs,

specifically related to the fear response associated with fireworks. Dogs have jumped through glass windows and off decks and balconies, chewed through doors and walls, and gotten hit by cars when they panic and run away from the noise."

Avoiding the ER while enjoying outdoor activities

For lots of folks, hiking, biking, and tubing or swimming are the highlights of a fun and safe July 4th weekend. A little common sense and the right preparation go a long way, according to Stephanie Lareau, who is an emergency medicine

physician at Carilion Clinic in Roanoke and associate professor at the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine.

"Over the holiday weekend, heat-related illnesses are preventable," Lareau said. "It's especially important to wear cool, breathable clothing and use adequate sun protection. Avoid exercising during the hottest hours of the day. Early symptoms can include lightheadedness, cramps, headache or nausea. Stop the physical activity and move to a cooler place. Heat stroke, which is diagnosed by confusion or change in mental status, is a potentially deadly

consequence of ignoring warning signs of heat related illness.

Water sports are very popular on hot days whether you spend time boating on a lake or floating down a river. Lareau suggests, "If you choose to recreate on the water make sure you wear a personal floatation device. Alcohol use is a significant risk factor for drowning." She says, "If you have children around water, make sure one adult is focused on watching them and isn't distracted by other tasks"

Research expert: Seafood prices are on the rise as demand continues to grow

Plan to include crab cakes, lobster rolls, or other seafood favorites on your 4th of July party menu? You might think again as U.S. retail prices and demand for seafood are on the rise, according to Virginia Tech research scientist Fernando Goncalves at the Virginia Seafood Agricultural Research and Extension Center.

"The seafood industry has been hit hard during the COVID-19 pandemic, including labor availability to the seafood industry, loss of opportunities in sales for restaurants, seasonality of

species, changes in consumption habits, preferences, and market channels," says Goncalves.

According to the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC), the entity that regulates and controls commercial fisheries production and shellfish aquaculture, Virginia seafood production has dropped almost 90%, but the dockside value, in dollar figures, dropped around 43% compared to 2019.

Jonathan van Senten, from the Seafood Economic Analysis and Marketing Research program, explains that seafood prices are up largely in response to increased production costs and supply chain challenges.

"In some cases this is a function of supply and demand," says van Senten. "For example, where seasonal fisheries had reduced landings and now we have restaurants re-opening and the demand for seafood picking up again."

Follow safety guidelines in groups that may include those who haven't been vaccinated

Before heading out this year to celebrate Independence Day with family and friends at barbecues, parades, and firework shows, Virginia Tech public health ex-

pert and epidemiologist Laura Hungerford says it's important to follow public health safety guidelines for vaccinated and others who may not be at both indoor and outdoor events.

"This is a great time to host a party, since so many great 4th of July traditions take place outside. In many areas of the country, transmission and new cases have been dramatically decreased by vaccination," says Hungerford. "Hopefully, everyone on your invite list who is 12 or older has already been vaccinated. This protects them both from getting really sick and also from spreading it to others."

When it comes to attending large public outdoor events like parades and firework shows, Hungerford says the more people who you are close to at an event, the higher the risk that you will be exposed to someone who is spreading the virus.

"Before COVID-19 vaccines were widely available, large public events were all cancelled. Now, if you are vaccinated, the risk of severe disease is small, but if you are not, then this is a serious concern, even if the event is outdoors," Hungerford says.

Food City, Paralyzed Veterans of America, Richard Petty partner for fundraising campaign



Radford's Food City is joining the company's support of Paralyzed Veterans of America with an in-store donation drive that begins today, June 30, and runs through July 27.

Paralyzed Veterans of America, the nation's only nonprofit organization dedicated solely to supporting veterans with spinal cord injuries, disorders, and diseases, today kicked off an annual checkout campaign just days before the fourth of July holiday with

long-time partners Food City and champion race-car driver Richard Petty.

Centered around celebrating PVA's 75th anniversary and helping America's heroes, all donations made at Food City supermarkets will go directly to PVA to provide life-changing pro-

grams and services to support America's veterans free of charge so that they can live full, productive lives after injury.

"2021 is a big year for PVA," said U.S. Air Force veteran and national president of Paralyzed Veterans of America David Zurfluh.

"In addition to celebrating our 75th year of supporting veterans, we are also kicking off our 11-year partnership with Food City. That's more than 4,000 days of working together to help veterans gain access to quality care, benefits, and career opportunities they deserve.

Thanks to Food City, their generous customers, and long-time supporter Richard Petty, PVA can support more veterans and their families around the nation just like mine."

During the fundraising campaign, Food City customers can select \$1, \$3, and \$5 donations at Food City checkouts, and their gift amount will be added to their order total.

"I am honored to support PVA and their partnership with Food City," said Petty. "PVA has been around for a long time, empowering veterans through adaptive sports, fighting for greater accessibility, searching for a cure for paralysis, and so much more. Aligning my-

self with this important campaign is my way of not only relaying my gratitude to veterans for their service and sacrifice but also encouraging others to do the same."

"We are grateful to our hardworking staff and loyal customers, said Steven C. Smith, Food City president and chief executive officer. "With their help, we raised over \$560,000 last year to help PVA fulfill its mission of empowering America's veterans to regain what they fought for: their freedom and independence. We look forward to working alongside PVA and Richard Petty again this year and many more record-breaking years yet to come."

Backyard grilling, picnic safety tips for Fourth of July weekend

As Americans observe July 4th traditions, Virginia Tech food safety expert Joell Eifert has advice for those grilling at backyard cookouts and for outdoor picnics. Even in this period of post-pandemic recovery, good handwashing before preparing, handling, and cooking food remains important for protection from foodborne illness during warm-weather months.

In addition, safe food handling when eating outdoors is critical.

Wash Your Hands. Food safety begins with proper hand cleaning including outdoor settings. Before you begin setting out your picnic feast, make sure hands and surfaces are clean. If you are outside and don't have access to running water, simply use a water jug, some soap, and paper towels. Or consider using

moist disposable towlettes for cleaning your hands.

Pack and Transport Food Safely.

Keep cold food cold. Place cold food in a cooler with ice or frozen gel packs. Cold food should be stored at 40°F or below to prevent bacterial growth. Meat, poultry, and seafood may be packed while still frozen so that they stay colder longer. Coolers with white lids can cool bet-

ter than those with dark lids since the white lid reflects light and heat rather than absorbing it. Keep the cooler in the shade as much as possible.

Organize cooler contents.

Consider packing beverages in one cooler and perishable food in another. That way, as picnickers open and reopen the beverage cooler to replenish their drinks, the perishable foods won't be

exposed to warm outdoor air temperatures.

Once at the picnic site,

See **Grilling**, page 5



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OPINION

Seven Virginia ABC-related laws go into effect Thursday

Starting Thursday, July 1, seven laws impacting the Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority (ABC), its licensees, and applicants for ABC licenses will take effect.

The Virginia General Assembly passed the following Virginia ABC-related legislative proposals during the 2021 session, and Governor Ralph Northam signed them into law.

Cocktails-To-Go Extension (HB1879 and SB1299)

Both bills allow the continuation of a practice first conceived and initiated by ABC to allow restaurants to sell cocktails to go. During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, when many restaurants were shuttered, ABC created a safe and secure way for restaurants to offer cocktails to go with a meal. The general assembly has now continued this practice in statute for one year. ABC is currently conducting a study, as requested by the

general assembly, of cocktails-to-go as this relates to public safety concerns. More than 40 stakeholders are participating in the study.

ABC License Reform and Off-Premises Beer/Wine (HB1845)

This bill extends the effective date of Virginia ABC's major license reform legislation to Jan. 1, 2022. Additionally, the bill allows on-premise wine and beer licensees to sell wine or beer for off-premise consumption and to allow those licensees to deliver wine and beer that the licensee is authorized to sell without a delivery permit.

Virtual Fundraising Events (HB1973)

This bill allows a nonprofit corporation or association conducting virtual fundraising events to exercise the privilege of the license during the virtual fundraising event, including the sale and shipment of wine in closed containers.

Locality for Pending ABC Licenses (HB2131)

This bill requires ABC to notify the local chief administrative officer of a pending ABC license in their locality. The bill also amends certain provisions as to what constitutes "blight" for purposes of local action relative to activities at ABC-licensed establishments.

Special Event Licenses (HB2266 and SB1471)

Both bills authorize ABC, after the adoption of a local ordinance, to increase the frequency and duration of what are currently known as special event licenses. The new legislation renames this license a "designated outdoor refreshment area" license. The legislation will allow localities to work with ABC to create consumption areas in portions of the jurisdiction that are likely to be entertainment or walking districts. ABC licensees in the designated districts will

be able to sell alcohol to patrons who can consume the beverages outside the licensed establishment so long as they remain in the designated outdoor area, which could consist of several blocks.

Low Alcohol Beverages in ABC Retail Stores (SB1428)

Beginning Jan. 1, 2022, ABC will cease to sell low alcohol beverages in its retail stores unless they were manufactured by a Virginia distiller. Low alcohol beverages are spirits-based drinks consisting of 7.5% or less alcohol by volume. ABC retail stores will market Virginia-based low alcohol beverages and those products over 7.5% alcohol by volume. Low alcohol beverages are statutorily treated as wine for all purposes, and this change is consistent with the treatment of Virginia wines in ABC's retail stores.

Enforcing Unlawful Games of Skill (HB2168 and SB1465)

This bill makes it clear that a local county or city attorney, a commonwealth's attorney, and the attorney general can enforce against unlawful games of skill. Beginning July 1, 2021, games of skill will be unlawful in Virginia.

On June 30, 2021, Virginia's state of emergency (Executive Order 51) brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic will come to an end. This will result in changes to many of the 16 ABC regulatory actions taken in 2020 to provide relief to licensees impacted by the pandemic. Virginia ABC's Bureau of Law Enforcement has provided updated guidance regarding procedural and regulatory matters to assist businesses with these transitions effective July 1. Licensees are encouraged to contact their ABC special agent directly or email enforcement@virginiaabc.com if they have questions.

Adult Medicaid dental benefit begins July 1 in Virginia

An estimated 750,000 more Virginians will have access to dental providers and services thanks to a new adult Medicaid benefit beginning July 1.

Lawmakers approved the funding in last year's general assembly.

"The new adult Med-

icaid benefit is an important step for connecting underserved Virginians with critical preventative, restorative, and surgical dental care," said Dr. Frank Iuorno, Jr., president of the Virginia Dental Association. "Expanding access to oral healthcare is important

for all Virginians. No person should have to go weeks or months in pain waiting for treatment. We've been working to educate our member dentists about how to participate and look forward to providing quality care to new patients this year."

Virginia currently offers a comprehensive dental coverage benefit to children under 20 and pregnant women.

The new coverage includes preventative and diagnostic treatment such as X-rays and exams, and oral surgery and prosthodontics, which includes items

like dentures.

"Oral health is health," said Secretary of Health and Human Resources Daniel Carey. "We know that the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted all areas of health, including oral/dental health. With this new benefit, Virginians will be able to receive the care they so rightly deserve. I am grateful to the dental community, the Virginia Dental Association, the General Assembly, and the Department for Medical Assistance Services for all of their work to make this happen. Together, we can make Virginia

the healthiest state in the nation."

Since 2000, the Virginia Dental Association Foundation (VDAF) has worked to increase accessibility to dental care through its Mission of Mercy (MOM) clinics. The clinics address oral health needs in underserved communities and areas throughout Virginia by providing free dental care. VDAF programs serve an average of about 6,500 individuals annually.

"Helping more people in Virginia access dental services is especially important this year with national reports point-

ing to the pandemic's negative impact on oral health," added Iuorno.

A Health Policy Institute survey released in the spring revealed that more than 70% of dentists nationwide saw an increase of patients experiencing teeth grinding and clenching, conditions often associated with stress. The survey also found that just more than 60% of dentists reported an increase in other stress-related dental conditions, including chipped and cracked teeth and TMD (temporomandibular joint disorder) symptoms such as headaches and jaw pain.

RADFORD NEWS JOURNAL

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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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Virginia gas prices on the rise again; national average reaches record level

Virginia gas prices rose 0.4 cents per gallon in the past week, averaging \$2.93/g according to GasBuddy's daily survey of 4,081 stations in Virginia.

Gas prices in Virginia are 1.2 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 94.3 cents per gallon higher than a year ago.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Virginia is priced at \$2.64/g

today while the most expensive is \$3.49/g, a difference of 85.0 cents per gallon.

The national average price of gasoline has risen 2.5 cents per gallon in the last week to an average of \$3.09/g. The national average is up 4.7 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 92.1 cents per gallon higher than a year ago.

"With oil's continued push higher, fueled by continued strong demand globally and production only slowly answering, gasoline prices

have had no choice but following the national average last week setting a new 2021 high," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis for GasBuddy. "As we approach July 4, it appears the only way forward is for gas prices to continue their rise as Americans' insatiable demand for gasoline continues to be the catalyst for the rise in price. With hurricane season soon coming into its prime, we have plenty of catalysts for a rise in price, and few that could restrain the situation. Motorists

should prepare to dig deeper for the second half of the summer, unfortunately."

GasBuddy is the authoritative voice for gas prices and the only source for station-level data spanning nearly two decades. GasBuddy's survey updates 288 times every day from the most diverse list of sources covering nearly 150,000 stations nationwide, the most comprehensive and up-to-date in the country. GasBuddy data is accessible at <http://FuelInsights.GasBuddy.com>.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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CLUES ACROSS
1. Absence of difficulty
5. Preserve a dead body
11. Gratitude
14. The act of coming together again
15. More cushy
18. Visionaries
19. Fish-eating bird
21. Indicates near
23. NY Mets legend Tommie
24. Icelandic poems
28. Pop
29. Hammer is one
30. Senses of self-esteem
32. Trigraph
33. Not around
35. Electronic data processing
36. Driver's licenses and

CLUES DOWN
1. Body part
2. Mimics
3. Expel or eject
4. Sea eagle
5. Subdivision of cenospecies
6. Dialect of Chinese
7. Mr. T's character on "The A-Team"
8. Consumed
9. Chinese dynasty
10. NFL great Randy
12. Ireland
13. Palm trees
16. Fungal disease
17. Willis and Jerry are two
20. Affirmative!
22. Potato state
25. "The First State"
26. A way to develop
27. Associations
29. Woman (French)
31. Sunscreen rating

CLUES ACROSS
34. Brew
36. Mosque prayer leader
37. Indigo bush
38. Burn with a hot liquid
40. Jr.'s father
43. Scad genus
45. Morning
48. Length of a straight line (abbr.)
50. Double curve
51. Small thin bunch
53. Worn by exposure to the weather
54. Mars crater
55. Humanities
57. Of the ears
58. "To the ___ degree"
59. Residue
61. It keeps you cool



Staff at the Animal Care and Adoption Center think Rocket may have been a Parkour champion in one of his previous lives. This boy is very athletic and quick moving. He'll nuzzle your legs before you even realize he's there. Rocket is a food-motivated feline. He would likely do best in a home without other cats or smaller children as he tends to protect his food. He is currently on a special diet and taking some medication to resolve a skin condition.



If there ever were a dog to live up to her name, it would be Happy. This gal is sweet and friendly. She loves to play with toy balls and even knows to "leave it" with her human when a round of fetch has ensued. She also knows other basic commands, such as "sit" and "down." Happy is dog-selective, and, as a result, would require a meet-and-greet with any future doggie companions.

VT professor: ‘Too early to tell’ what caused condominium collapse



Part of a 12-story condominium that collapsed early Thursday morning in Miami-Dade County, Florida. Photo courtesy of the Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Department.

Baseball

from page 1

demarc has taken a toll on this beloved sport, and I’m proud to introduce this bipartisan legislation to help minor league baseball teams through this economic crisis.”

Nine Virginia minor league baseball teams are eligible for financial relief under the Minor League Baseball Relief Act: the Fredericksburg Nationals (formerly Potomac), the Norfolk Tides, the Richmond

Flying Squirrels, the Lynchburg Hillcats, the Danville Otterbots (formerly Braves), the Pulaski River Turtles (formerly Yankees), the Salem Red Sox, the Bluefield Ridge Runners (formerly Blue Jays), and the Bristol State Liners (formerly Pirates).

The Minor League Baseball Relief Act is modeled after the successful Shuttered Venue Operator Grants (SVOG)

program, which provided needed assistance to venues like theatres, museums, or concert halls that were forced to shut due to necessary COVID-19 safety measures.

Specifically, the act would repurpose up to \$550 million in COVID-19 relief funding for an emergency grant program to be administered by the Small Business Administration (SBA) that would

otherwise be returned to the U.S. Treasury; provide eligible clubs grants up to a maximum of \$10 million with allowable expenses including payroll costs, regular business expenses (e.g., rent, utilities), worker protection expenditures, and payments made to independent contractors; provide an opportunity for a second grant at 50 percent of the first if a club’s revenue does not recov-

er and does not significantly exceed its 2019 total; and require strict oversight from SBA through documentation, review of use, and an audit on grant funding. This provision applies to any minor league baseball team previously part of the National Association of Professional Baseball Leagues but not to any club that is majority-owned by Major League Baseball.

of the collapse based on a video alone.”

About the building’s design and its 1981 construction, Leon said, “It was probably designed to the standards of the time. But our standards have changed quite drastically over the last 40 years or so. With the benefit of modern computer analysis, there could be some design issues that we see today that weren’t clear then.”

About the way the building partially collapsed, the professor said. “The kind of remnants that you have in this pancake type collapse unfortunately destroy a lot of the evidence. The columns and walls — all the vertical elements that stabilize a structure — appear to have been damaged or destroyed. The lack of intact structural elements will likely affect the pace of the investigation.”

Roberto Leon is the D.H. Burrows Professor of Construction Engineering in The Charles Edward Via, Jr., Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Virginia Tech. His expertise includes forensic structural engineering, reinforced concrete structures, and behavior and design of building material. He has experience investigating the causes of structural collapses.

Grilling

from page 3

limit the number of times the cooler is opened as much as you can. This helps to keep the contents cold longer.

Don’t cross-contaminate. Be sure to keep raw meat, poultry, and seafood securely wrapped and separated from other foods. This keeps their juices from contaminating prepared/cooked foods or foods that will be eaten raw, such as fruits and vegetables.

Clean your produce. Rinse fresh fruits and vegetables under running tap water before packing them in the cooler including those with skins and rinds that are not eaten. Rub firm-skinned fruits and vegetables under running tap water or scrub them with a clean vegetable brush while rinsing with running tap water. Dry fruits and vegetables

with a clean cloth towel or paper towel before packing.

Follow Safe Grilling Tips. Grilling and picnicking often go hand-in-hand. And just as with cooking indoors, there are important guidelines that should be followed to ensure that your grilled food reaches the table safely.

Marinate safely. Marinate foods in the refrigerator, never on the kitchen counter or outdoors. In addition, if you plan to use some of the marinade as a sauce on the cooked food, reserve a portion separately before adding the raw meat, poultry, or seafood. Don’t reuse marinade that has touched raw meat or poultry.

Cook food thoroughly. When it’s time to cook the food, have your food thermometer ready. Always use it to be

sure your food is cooked thoroughly. That means grilling the following foods to achieve the recommended internal temperatures: whole steaks, roasts, pork and fish: 145°F; ground meat: 160°F; poultry (ground or whole): 165°F.

Grilled food can be kept hot until served by moving it to the side of the grill rack, just away from the coals. This keeps it hot but prevents overcooking.

Don’t reuse platters or utensils that held raw meat, poultry, or seafood for serving unless they have been washed first in hot, soapy water. Using the same platter or utensils that previously held raw meat, poultry, or seafood allows bacteria from the raw food’s juices to spread to the cooked food. Instead, have a clean platter and utensils ready at grill-side

to serve your food.

Keep picnic food at the proper cold and hot temperatures.

Keeping food at proper temperatures - indoor and out - is critical in preventing the growth of foodborne bacteria. The key is to never let your picnic food remain in the “Danger Zone,” between 40° F and 140° F, for more than two hours, or one hour if outdoor temperatures are above 90° F. This is when bacteria in food can multiply rapidly and lead to foodborne illness.

Cold perishable food should be kept in the cooler at 40° F or below until serving time.

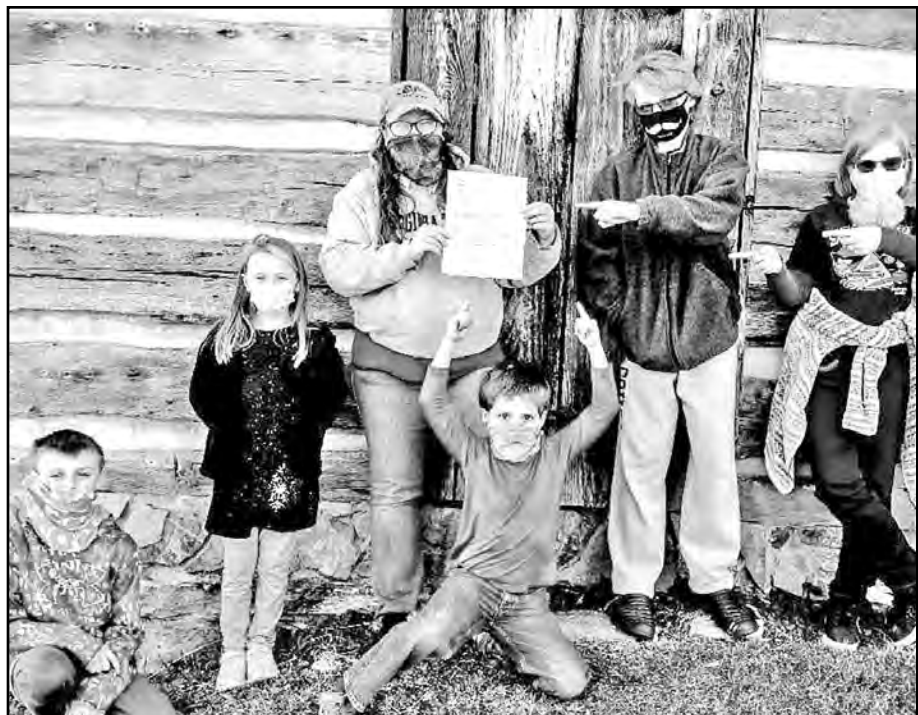
Once you’ve served it, it should not sit out for longer than two hours, or one hour if the outdoor temperature is above 90° F.

Cold foods like chicken salad and desserts in individual serving dishes can be placed directly on ice on your picnic table, or in a shallow container set in a deep pan filled with ice. Drain off water as ice melts and replace ice frequently.

Hot food should be kept hot, at or above 140° F. Wrap it well and place it in an insulated container until serving. Just as with cold food, these foods should not sit out for more than two hours, or one hour in temperatures above 90° F. If food is left out longer, throw it away to be safe.

Joell Eifert is director of the food innovations program in the Department of Food Science and Technology at Virginia Tech.

NRV Community Foundation accepting 2021 grant applications



2020 Community Foundation Responsive Grant Program recipient

The Community Foundation of the New River Valley is accepting applications for its 2021 Responsive Grant Program through Friday, July 23, at 5 p.m.

This program responds to ongoing and emergent community needs as recognized by the area nonprofits serving those needs directly. The 2021 Respon-

sive Grant Program will offer only general operating support grants of up to \$4,000 to be used at the grantee’s discretion.

Any registered 501c(3) organization serving the NRV or a unit of local government, such as a school or a library, may apply.



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Pride

from page 1



PHOTOS BY HEATHER BELL

The procession during Saturday's march, which started at the Radford Public Library and ended at the Radford administration building, heads down the street.



The crowd gathers following Saturday's march, which brought out about 120 people. Attendees got a lot of support from passersby, who honked car horns and cheered in support of the LGBTQ+ community.

the Radford administration building that houses the city manager's office and the Radford Police Department, taking a group photo and pausing for conversation and fellowship at the end of the march.

The RADICAL Change Commission spearheaded the march "to celebrate love and the incredible courage it takes" and "in recognition to our LGBTQ+ friends and neighbors, their advocates and allies, and our unified commitment to love at all costs."

Highlander

from page 1

officiated the ceremony, explaining the project's ideation and commending all those who made it a reality.

"This day has been in the making for what seems like a very long time, especially in the midst of a pandemic. My entire team is here, and they all played a role in the hotel," Cox said. "In 2019, the vision for a hotel became a recurring topic of discussion among the members of the Board of the Radford University Foundation and the Radford University Real Estate Management LLC, which manages the foundation's real estate

assets, and university leadership. And in October of 2019, President Hemphill – for the first time – publicly discussed those plans as part of his annual State of the University address."

Addressing ceremony attendees on behalf of the Radford University Foundation Board of Directors, Chair Christopher Huther called the project, "The best of what the foundation and the university can do for students, their families, alumni, the Radford community and the commonwealth. It will create opportunities, improve the local economy, and provide a beau-

tiful place to gather and celebrate the university and the region."

Also offering remarks were project partners Tony Peterman, executive vice president of Jones Lang LaSalle (JLL); Ramiro Albaran, managing director of Preston Hollow Capital; and Stephen B. Ballard, president and chief executive officer of S.B. Ballard Construction Company.

The three men reminisced about the early stages of the hotel planning process, the in-person brainstorming sessions that soon turned to Zoom conference calls in the midst of the COVID-19

outbreak in early 2020. They also talked about the tremendous amount of support behind the project and its future.

Ballard referred to these people as "the champions."

"On a project like this, you have to have three good champions, and I believe President Hemphill, John Cox, and Ramiro Albaran did a fantastic job pushing this project forward," Ballard said. "This is going to be an amazing first-class facility."

President Hemphill concluded the ceremony by recognizing all the individuals who helped bring

this exciting project to life.

"I would say what an incredible day this is for each of us, an incredible day for Radford University, and an incredible day for this community, the City of Radford and the New River and Roanoke valleys," he said. "This was a project that a lot of hard work, energy, time went into with so many Zoom calls and meetings. Today's event really represents a bold step forward for this university and this community."

*-Mary Hardbarger
Radford University*

Hemphill

from page 1

we all wish President Hemphill and his family the very, very best. We know how fortunate the Old Dominion University community is to have President Hemphill and his family."

Speaking on behalf of the Board of Visitors, many of whom were in attendance, Archer also thanked First Lady Marisela Rosas Hemphill "for her time and commitment" to Radford University. "She has devoted untold hours, and she will be missed."

Archer was the first of many people from the campus and community to share fond memories of their years working with President Hemphill, many of which brought smiles and laughter.

Carter Turner, a professor of religious studies and associate

director for University Advancement, spoke about the many ways the University faculty have strengthened under President Hemphill's leadership.

"We didn't get here by accident," said Turner, in referring to the university's growth and progress. "It takes a leader who does what he says he is going to do; that's what we've had, and we're really fortunate as a university. I hate to lose him, but we are a better university, and I am very grateful."

Chris Davis, who served as Student Government Association (SGA) president for the 2020-21 academic year, called President Hemphill a "tremendous leader and mentor" and recalled receiving a phone call from President Hemphill on the

day of the SGA elections.

"I got a random call; I thought it was spam," Davis said to laughter. He didn't answer, but he received another call moments later. "Usually a spam doesn't call you back."

Davis took the second call and learned it was President Hemphill calling to congratulate him on winning the election. "I was like, 'Oh my gosh.' The president's first impression of me is I ignored him," he said to more laughter.

Davis's impression of President Hemphill, he said, was, "Wow, he really cares about me. He is a very caring and loving and genuine man."

Executive Director of Alumni Relations Laura Turk and Radford University Alumni Association

President Kevin Rogers presented gifts to the president and first lady, including an official designation as honorary alumni.

"This decree is made on behalf of our 80,000 alumni as a testament of faithful support, in recognition of your proud loyalty and your abiding interest in our alumni association," Turk said.

Sandra Davis, who along with her husband, Jack, has committed \$8 million for scholarships in the Davis College of Business and Economics and the College of Visual and Performing Arts, said she has sat back "these past five years and marveled and loved" the work President Hemphill has done at the University. "Jack and I appreciate you so much, and you and your family will always

be in our hearts," she said.

Ray Smoot, a retired vice president for administration and treasurer at Virginia Tech and former chief executive officer of the Virginia Tech Foundation, said the words he has used to describe President Hemphill over the years have been "positive, hard-working, open, reassuring, bold and engaging. These are all attributes of a successful university president."

Standing behind the lectern for his final time as RU president, Hemphill spoke to the gathering, thanking everyone for their kind words, their friendship and professionalism and dedication to the University.

*-Chad Osborne
Radford University*

Virginia Department of Transportation road watch

The following is a list of forecasted highway projects that may impact traffic traveling in the 12-county Salem Transportation District

this week. Work schedules and construction project timelines are always subject to change and weather dependent. The Salem District cov-

ers Bedford, Botetourt, Carroll, Craig, Floyd, Franklin, Giles, Henry, Montgomery, Patrick, Pulaski, and Roanoke counties.

FOURTH OF JULY HOLIDAY

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) will suspend many highway work zones and lift most lane closures on interstates and other major roads in Virginia from noon on Friday, July 2, until noon on Tuesday, July 6.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

I-81 NORTHBOUND AT EXIT 105 NEW RIVER BRIDGE REPLACEMENT IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY – Lane and shoulder closures may be in place near exit 105. Lane closure may be in effect during the week from 8 p.m. to 7 a.m. Shoulder closures may be in effect at any time during the week. Slow rolls may be performed on I-81 in the north and southbound lanes from mile marker 104 to 106 from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. Speed limit is reduced to 60 miles per hour in the work zone. Shoulder closures will remain in place though the duration of the project. Project completion is estimated by June 2022.

Alternating lane closures will be in place southbound between mile marker 105-104 from 9 p.m. on Monday, June 28, through 5 a.m. on Tuesday, June 29 and if needed, on Tuesday, June 29, through 5 a.m. on Wednesday, June 30.

SLOW ROLLS: Slow rolls may be utilized periodically on both the northbound and southbound lanes from mile marker 98-

109 for structural steel deliveries and setting beams.

I-81 BRIDGE REPLACEMENT AT EXIT 114 IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY – The bridge replacement of the two Interstate 81 bridges over Route 8, northbound and southbound, is underway. Drivers can expect alternating lane and shoulder closures, northbound and southbound, from mile marker 114 to 115. Exit 114 ramp shoulder closures will be ongoing from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Speed limit is reduced to 60 mph in the work zone. Route 8 will have alternating northbound and southbound shoulder and lane closures, day or night, as needed between the I-81 on and off ramps. A temporary traffic signal will direct traffic on Route 8 throughout the duration of the project. Access to all properties will be maintained during construction. Estimated completion is summer 2021.

Nighttime lane closures may be in place periodically on I-81 southbound from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning.

DMV Notice: The bridge on I-81 northbound at mile marker 114 currently has a restricted width for wide loads of 26 feet or larger.

ROUTE 669 CLOSURE - Route 669 (Fairview Church Road) is closed for a low water slab replacement between Route 606 (Sidney Church Road) and Route 670 (Dairy Road) through Wednesday, Aug. 11. Detours will be in place and signs will be posted to assist drivers in the area.

ROUTE 11 BRIDGE DECK REPLACEMENT - Work is underway on Route 11 southbound to replace the bridge deck over the Norfolk Southern Railroad. The bridge is located .4 miles north of the intersection with Route

748 (Big Spring Drive) and .4 mile south of the intersection with Route 603 (North Fork Road). The left lane of both Route 11 north and south is closed with a detour in place until the completion of the project. Once in place, the detour will re-route Route 11 south traffic through the left lane of Route 11 north, limiting each direction to a single lane. The expected completion date is November 2021.

TRAFFIC SWITCH: A new traffic pattern is in place detouring Route 11 southbound traffic through the left lane of Route 11 northbound between the intersections above, limiting each direction to a single lane.

ROUTE 636 BRIDGE REPLACEMENT AT SENECA HOLLOW - Work has begun replacing the bridge on Route 636 over the Roanoke River at Seneca Hollow. Beginning August 3, a road closure will be in place from Echo Hills Road to .36 mile south of Route 460. A detour will be in place. The detour will restrict access to Route 460 at Seneca Hollow and will require travelers to enter/exit Route 460 at Friendship Road near Wheeling Hollow. The project is expected to be completed in the Fall of 2021.

40th Annual Shawsville 5K Race – Beginning at 8 a.m. on July 3, 2021, the 40th Annual Shawsville 5K Race will take place. The course will start near the Shawsville Middle School and proceed west along Oldtown Road. At the intersection with Route 460, the runners will swing left and run along the shoulder of 460 until they reach BB&T Bank where they will again turn left onto Stewart Lane. At the top of the hill, the runners will return to Oldtown Road and finish the race just past the school.

ONLINE ONLY AUCTION

**Commercial Development Opportunity in Blacksburg VA
26.7 Acres on Harding Rd, Blacksburg VA 24060**



**Bidding Opens Aug. 26th & Ends Sept. 9th at 4 PM
Go to VaAuctionPro.com**

26.7 acres of open development land in the Town of Blacksburg VA. Within walking distance to downtown Blacksburg & VA Tech. Property has ideal topography for development with 1,365 +/- ft of road frontage on Harding Road. Town water & sewer at site and readily available along with Natural Gas & Gigabit Internet Connectivity. Property is gently sloping and allows for potentially unblocked mountain views from every lot. Property is equally suited for Single or Multi-Family Development, Student Housing, 55+ Active Adult or Retirement Community and/or Private Estate.

There is extensive local & regional public transportation network (Blacksburg Transit) & Smart Way Commuter Bus with direct links to Airport, & Northern VA. Newly approved rail service and Amtrak Station scheduled for 2024. Existing Bus Stop within 100 ft of property. Walkable Community to all convenient amenities.

Download Bidder Pack for Maps, Terms, Zoning, Sample Purchase Contract, sample development plan. Sample Development is not approved & is shown only for illustration purposes of what might possibly be accomplished. Bidders are expected to do their own research and due diligence for their own ideas for intended use approval and feasibility.

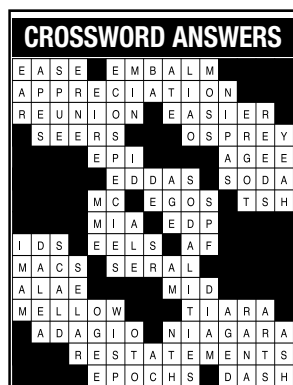
Terms – Bidding opens on August 26th. 10% Buyer's Premium will be added to final high bid to arrive at contract price. Buyers are expected to complete due diligence prior to bidding. Earnest Money Deposit of \$150,000 required on day of sale. Close in 60 Days. Subject to seller confirmation. Property sold as is where is any and all faults. Auction starts ending at 4 PM on September 9th 2021. Please note that during the last two minutes of bidding, if a new bid is placed, the clock is automatically extended an additional two minutes.

**Contact – Broker & Auctioneer Matt Gallimore at
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OBITUARIES

Asbury, Michael Anthony “Tony”

Michael Anthony “Tony” Asbury, 59, of Elliston, Va. died peacefully Tuesday night, June 22, 2021, at LewisGale Medical Center in Salem.

Born March 23, 1962, Tony was the son of the late Raymond Eugene Asbury and Shirley Richardson Asbury. He was a graduate of Princeton High School and the Little French Beauty Academy. He was of the Christian faith.

All of his life, Tony worked in helping professions where he served and cared about people: first, at group homes where he worked with the mentally handicapped and disabled; then a Catawba State Hospital in Catawba, Va., before finishing his career with the Good Samaritan Hospice of the New River Valley.

Tony enjoyed cooking, traveling, and being with family and friends. He loved his many pets over the years.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his two brothers, Dana Scott Asbury and Timothy Eugene Asbury.

Left to cherish his memory is his wife of 30 years, Janice Asbury of the home; stepsons Matt Carter of the home and Mark Carter of Bluefield,



W.Va.; granddaughter Hannah Carter of Bluefield, W.Va.; nephews Chris Asbury of Christiansburg, John Asbury of Radford, and Josh Asbury of Princeton, W.Va.; brother-in-laws Ivan Marshall of Elliston and Kenneth Widener of Bluefield; sister-in-law Jo Ann Henry and husband Claude of Botetourt, Va.; dear friends Clayton

Hall and Eddie Smith of Princeton, W.Va.; and his beloved dog, Dusty, of the home.

Funeral services were held at 1 p.m. at Seneca Baptist Church in Elliston on Monday, June 28, 2021. Interment followed at Woodlawn Cemetery in Bluefield. Pallbearers were Chris Asbury, John Asbury, Matt Carter, Mark Carter, Clayton Hall, and Kenneth Widener.

The family would like to thank Dr. Richard Prokopchak, Dr. Michael Davis, Dr. Laflam and the Davita Dialysis Center, Intrepid Home Healthcare, and the Shawsville and Christiansburg Ambulance Service.

McCoy Funeral Home in Blacksburg was in charge of arrangements. Condolences may be left at their website.

Dyer, Reva Emmalene

Reva Emmalene Dyer passed away on June 26, 2021, at her home in Blacksburg with her loving children by her side.

Emmalene was born in Big Isaac, W.Va., on Sept. 13, 1933, and grew up in Salem, W.Va. She graduated from Salem High School in 1951 and graduated from the Medical College of Virginia School of Nursing, Richmond, with a RN degree in 1954. She met Ray Dyer Jr., and was married 50 years.

Emmalene was preceded in death by her husband; her parents Lena and Raymond Goldsmith; her brother, Jennings Goldsmith; her sister-in-law, Marion Goldsmith; her brother-in-law, Dennis Gloeckner; and her nephew, Buster Goldsmith.

She is survived by her sister, Shirley Goldsmith Gloeckner, her children, Ray Dyer III and daughter-in-law Vincent Rawlings Dyer; Charlotte Dyer Dooley and son-in-law, Kirk Dooley; Scott Dyer and daughter-in-law Stacey Holland Dyer; grandchildren Doug Dyer, Hayley Dyer, Catherine Dyer, Taylor Dyer Dressler and husband Al Dressler, Connor Dyer, Maggie Doolley, and Kellis Dooley.

Emmalene is also survived by nieces Cheryl Goldsmith and husband, Jack Plotkin; Denise Gloeckner Bryson and husband, Phil Bryson; Emily Gloeckner and son, Jackson Price; Heather Juarez and children Thomas Juarez and Aiden Juarez.

Emmalene and Ray moved to Blacksburg in 1960, and she helped her husband through 35 years in various roles at times, including office

manager and nurse of his medical practice. Emmalene also volunteered in the community with various organizations and through donations helped support various local charities.

She was a member of Blacksburg United Methodist Church and Blacksburg Country Club. Emmalene was active in four bridge clubs and was an avid supporter of the Hokies. She loved raising her children and told them, “Always be kind to one another and no bickering.” Her favorites included family gatherings and visits, annual beach trips, red roses, and her Weimaraner and dachshund dogs.

In Emmalene’s later years, she focused on family, long-time friends, faith, and her church, supporting favorite charities, watching all the Hokie football and basketball games, playing bridge and reading several books each week and the daily newspaper. Emmalene’s family is very thankful for the wonderful care given at LewisGale Hospital Montgomery, Carilion Clinic Hospice, and Traci’s Caregivers.

A memorial service for Emmalene was held at Blacksburg United Methodist Church at 11 a.m. on June 29, 2021, with a reception immediately following. In lieu of flowers, the family would be grateful if donations are offered to Carilion Clinic Hospice - NRV (give.carilionfoundation.org/donate-now - designate New River Valley Hospice) or Blacksburg United Methodist Church (www.blacksburgumc.org). Online condolences may be made by visiting McCoy Funeral Home website, mccoymfuneralhome.com.

Teates, H. Bennett

H. Bennett Teates, 79, of Blacksburg, died on June 23, 2021, surrounded by family. He was born in Fauquier County, Va., on February 22, 1942, to the late Bryan W. Teates and Mae Afton Bennett Teates.

His ‘Love until the End of Time’ was Judith Keister Teates.

He is survived by his children, Andrea Teates Robinson and her husband, J. D., Andrew Bennett Teates and his wife, Shelby, and Jennifer Teates Niemiera and her husband, Jesse Overcash; and his grandchildren, William Sharpe, Matthew Sharpe, Alexis Niemiera, Olivia Niemiera, and Bennett Niemiera.

Bennett earned his Bachelor of Science in electrical engineering from Virginia Tech in 1964 and was also a distinguished military graduate. He held advanced degrees from George Washington and Johns Hopkins universities. He was a member of the Highty Tights and the Old Guard.

Bennett worked in the national security arena. His experience included serving in the Armed Forces during the Vietnam War, being a director of command and control programs at the Georgia Tech Research Institute, and serving as a program manager at the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory. He founded and was president of Command Control, Inc, in Atlanta, which did research and prototype development for the Department of Defense and the power



industry. He served as executive director for the Virginia Tech Applied Research Corporation (VT-ARC) Blacksburg operations.

Bennett was always interested in adventures, be it training and riding his horse, Gem, or riding his motorcycle cross country and achieving the motorcycle accolade “Iron Butt” from the world’s

toughest motorcycle riders by visiting all four corners of the U.S. He was always trying to improve his golf game on The Hill and Tech’s Golf Course.

He served the communities where he lived. Such work included EquiTrails in Cherokee, Ga., to establish and preserve horse trails, and helping to recognize Prices Fork’s historical significance, working to preserve the village and surrounding communities. He was a member of Blacksburg Rotary and the Price Family Historical Society.

The family would like to thank the team at the Blue Ridge Cancer Center and LewisGale Montgomery Hospital nurses and doctors.

Graveside services will be conducted today, Wednesday, June 30, 2021, at 11 a.m. at the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin. To attend the services, please arrive at the cemetery by 10:30 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Prices Fork United Methodist Church, 4236 Prices Fork Road, Blacksburg, VA, 24060.

Services are being provided by McCoy Funeral Home.

Harder, Embree Newton Prater

Embree Newton Prater Harder, of Blacksburg, passed away on June 17, 2021, at Heritage Hall. She was born in Bristol on March 9, 1936, a daughter of the late Price and Lena Newton Prater. She was preceded in death by her husband of 57 years, Lloyd “Doc” Harder, a much beloved pharmacist in Blacksburg; and her two cherished sisters, Elizabeth Prater Carter of Bristol, Va., and Mary Gene Barnhill of Boston, Mass.

Embree was a devoted family member. Left to cherish her memory are her two sons, David Lloyd Harder and his wife, Mary, of Blacksburg, and Michael Harder of Christiansburg; five grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews, all whom she loved dearly.

Embree was an avid reader and loved



to collect cookbooks and family photographs.

Lloyd and Embree spent the early part of their marriage in Bristol, Tenn., where Lloyd worked for Embree’s uncle at Buntings Drug Store. Later they lived in Bassett, Va., before settling in Blacksburg in 1969 where Lloyd owned Center Drug, which later sold out to People’s Pharmacy.

Embree was buried with Lloyd at the Southwestern Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin, where there was a graveside service on Tuesday, June 29 at 11 a.m.

The family would like to thank the dedicated staff of Heritage Hall-Blacksburg, who provided such love and care for Embree during her last years of life. Arrangements by McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg.

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to communitynews@ourvalley.org

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF AN APPLICATION BY ATMOS ENERGY CORPORATION FOR APPROVAL OF A 2021 SAVE RIDER PROJECTED FACTOR AND TRUE-UP FACTOR CASE NO. PUR-2021-00121

On June 1, 2021, Atmos Energy Corporation (“Atmos” or “Company”) filed an application (“Application”) with the State Corporation Commission (“Commission”), for approval of a revised Infrastructure Replacement Current Rate (“Projected Factor”) in addition to an Infrastructure Replacement Reconciliation Rate (“True-up Factor”) under the Company’s Commission-approved Steps to Advance Virginia’s Energy Plan (“SAVE Plan”). The Company filed this Application in accordance with the Commission’s August 21, 2020 Order Approving SAVE Rider Projected Factor and True-Up Factor in Case No. PUR-2020-00107.

The Company’s total proposed SAVE Plan investment for fiscal year 2022 is approximately \$4,149,889. Based on the proposed SAVE investment for fiscal year 2022, Atmos requests a Projected Factor revenue requirement of \$738,222. A proposed True-Up Factor credit of \$5,183 reduces the overall 2021 SAVE Factor Revenue Requirement to \$733,039. The Company proposes that the SAVE Rider rate become effective with the first billing cycle in October 2021. As proposed, the combined 2021 SAVE Rider Rate for residential customers will be \$0.90 per month, an increase of \$0.41 over the current rate of \$0.49 for such customers.

Further details are set forth in the Company’s Application and supporting exhibits, and interested persons are encouraged to review these documents. While the total revenue requirement that may be approved by the Commission is limited to the amount produced by the Company’s proposed rates, TAKE NOTICE that the Commission may approve revenues, and adopt rates, fees, charges, tariff revisions, and terms and conditions of service that differ from those appearing in the Application and supporting documents and may apportion revenues among customer classes and/or design rates in a manner differing from that shown in the Application and supporting documents.

The Commission entered an Order for Notice and Comment that, among other things, directed the Company to provide notice to the public and provided interested persons an opportunity to comment on the Company’s Application.

The Commission has taken judicial notice of the ongoing public health emergency related to the spread of the coronavirus, or COVID-19, and the declarations of emergency issued at both the state and federal levels. In accordance therewith, all pleadings, briefs, or other documents required to be served in this matter should be submitted electronically to the extent authorized by 5 VAC 5-20-150, *Copies and format*, of the Commission’s Rules of Practice and Procedure (“Rules of Practice”). Confidential and Extraordinarily Sensitive Information shall not be submitted electronically and should comply with 5 VAC 5-20-170, *Confidential information*, of the Rules of Practice. For the duration of the COVID-19 emergency, any person seeking to hand deliver and physically file or submit any pleading or other document shall contact the Clerk’s Office Document Control Center at (804) 371-9838 to arrange the delivery.

Pursuant to 5 VAC 5-20-140, *Filing and service*, of the Rules of Practice, the Commission has directed that service on parties and the Commission’s Staff in this matter shall be accomplished by electronic means. Please refer to the Commission’s Order for Notice and Comment for further instructions concerning Confidential or Extraordinarily Sensitive Information.

An electronic copy of the Company’s Application may be obtained by submitting a written request to counsel for the Company, Timothy E. Biller, Esquire, Hunton Andrews Kurth, LLP, 951 East Byrd Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, or tbiller@huntonAK.com.

On or before July 23, 2021, any interested person may file comments on the Application by following the instructions found on the Commission’s website: scc.virginia.gov/casecomments/Submit-Public-Comments or by filing such comments with the Clerk of the Commission, c/o Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2118. All comments shall refer to Case No. PUR-2021-00121.

On or before July 23, 2021, any interested person or entity may participate as a respondent in this proceeding by filing, with the Clerk of the Commission, at the address set forth above or at scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling/, a notice of participation in accordance with the Commission’s Rules of Practice. Such notice of participation shall include the email addresses of such parties or their counsel. The respondent simultaneously shall serve a copy of the notice of participation on counsel to the Company. Pursuant to Rule 5 VAC 5-20-80 B, *Participation as a respondent*, of the Commission’s Rules of Practice, any notice of participation shall set forth: (i) a precise statement of the interest of the respondent; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent then known; and (iii) the factual and legal basis for the action. Any organization, corporation, or government body participating as a respondent must be represented by counsel as required by Rule 5 VAC 52030, *Counsel*, of the Rules of Practice. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2021-00121. For additional information about participation as a respondent, any person or entity should obtain a copy of the Commission’s Order for Notice and Comment.

On or before July 23, 2021 any interested person or entity may file, with the Clerk of the Commission, at the address set forth above or at scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling/, a request that the Commission convene a hearing on the Company’s Application. Requests for hearing must include the email address of the filer or its counsel along with: (i) a precise statement of the filing party’s interest in the proceeding; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent then known; (iii) a statement of the legal basis for such action; and (iv) a precise statement why the issues raised in the request for hearing cannot be addressed adequately without a hearing. All such filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2021-00121, and copies thereof simultaneously shall be served on counsel for the Company.

The public version of the Company’s Application, the Commission’s Rules of Practice, and the Commission’s Order for Notice and Comment may be viewed at scc.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information.

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RADFORD SPORTS

Auburn softball wins Class 1 state championship



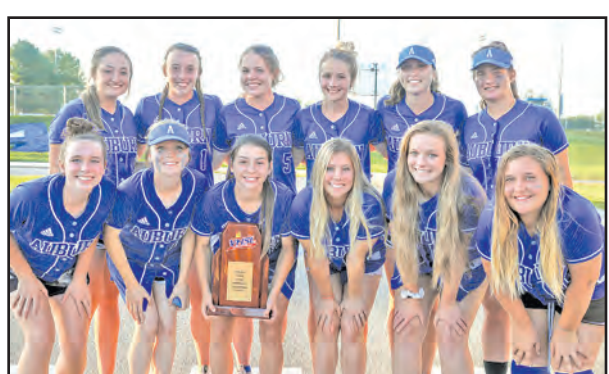
PHOTOS BY ASHLEY AKERS
Units from Riner Rescue and the Riner Fire Department lead the way in welcoming the Auburn High School softball team home Saturday after they won the Class 1 state title. Waiting for the girls were the state baseball champions, also from Auburn High School.



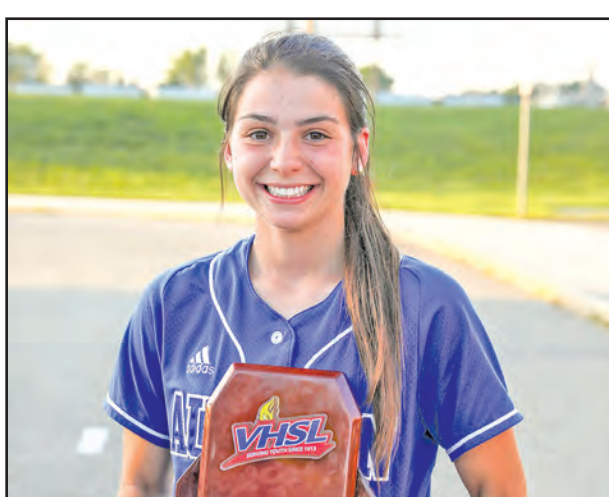
The state champion Auburn Eagles hold the trophy through the sunroof as they pull up to the parking lot at Auburn High School.



The Auburn baseball and softball teams get together to recreate a similar photo in 2019 after both teams had won the state championships.



The state championship Auburn High Eagles: (front row, left to right) Kendra Scaggs, Jordan Coutant, Emily Coe, Kylie Smith, Grace Wilson, and Corinna Hoose; (back row, left to right) Avery Zuckerwar, Kirsten Fleet, Emma Greenhalgh, Rachel Brotherton, Hannah Shepherd, and Harley Hurd.



The Auburn softball team's lone senior, Emily Coe, is all smiles as she holds up the state championship trophy.



Auburn baseball head coach Eric Altizer (left) and Eagle softball head coach David Hurd pose with their state championship trophies.

Former VT swimmer Ian Ho qualifies for Tokyo Olympics

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Ian Ho, a member of the Virginia Tech swim and dive team from 2015-2019, has qualified for next month's Tokyo Olympics in the 50-meter freestyle event as a representative on the Hong Kong National Team.

While at Tech, Ho qualified for the ACC championships all four years and competed in high level collegiate meets including the NCAA championships and the Toyota U.S. Open. As a Hokie, he was a member of several team relays and competed in his own sprint events at the top collegiate level.

In the summer after his freshman year, Ho competed in the U.S. Olympic Trials and finished 36th overall in the 50-meter freestyle. After graduation, he continued his training within the states and internationally in pursuit of his Olympic dream, which has now come to be a reality.

The 2020 Olympic Games will begin July 23.

Ho grew up in Blacksburg, started swimming at the Blacksburg Aquatic Center, and swam competitively for Blacksburg's club team, the H20kies. He also spent time in the summers at Virginia Tech's Maroon and Orange Camp where college swimmers counsel and coach high schoolers.

From there, Ho started swimming at Virginia Tech in what is called the sprint freestyle in the 50- and 100-meter events.

Ho was named to the All-ACC Academic Team and the ACC Academic Honor Roll as a mechanical engineering major and took his training to the pool at the Christiansburg Aquatics Center.

Racing by himself at the Hong Kong LC Swimming Time Trial IV, Ho became the first man from his nation ever to get under the 22-second threshold in the 50m freestyle. In the final heat, he set a 21.97 mark, making him just the sixth Asian man in history to break the 22-second mark.



FILE PHOTO
Ian Ho, who swam for the Hokies from 2015-2019, has qualified for the Tokyo Olympics in the 50-meter freestyle event.

RU baseball hires new pitching coach

The Radford baseball program has announced the hiring of Damian Stambersky as its next pitching coach.

Stambersky has more than 20 years of coaching experience as both a championship pitching coach and most recently serving as a head coach at CSU-Pueblo.

"It is important to me that we surround our players and baseball program with a championship pedigree," commented RU head baseball coach Karl Kuhn. "Damian has taken two pitching staffs to the Division II College World Series. He has competed for championships at the division one level as a player and has coached in championship settings on Division II's grandest stage."

"Our players and our program will be better for the addition of Damian into our fold,"

Kuhn said. "I am honored and humbled that Damian, his wife Valerie, and their two children will be joining our Radford baseball family."

In just his first season at CSU-Pueblo fighting the COVID-19 pandemic Stambersky posted a 15-24 overall record. While Stambersky was at the helm, the Thunderwolves recorded victories over the 25th ranked, 21st ranked, 18th ranked, and 1st ranked teams in Division II. The team's highlight of the season came when they handed the top-team in Division II, Colorado Mesa, just their third regular season loss of the season and snapped their 21-game winning streak.

Before his time at CSU-Pueblo, Stambersky spent six seasons as the pitching coach at the University of Central Missouri. While there, the Mules made

two NCAA Division II College World Series appearances (2016 and 2019) and compiled a 210-91 record. The Mules captured two Mid-American Intercollegiate Athletics Association (MIAA) regular season championships, made three NCAA Regionals appearances, and won three MIAA Tournament championships while he was an assistant coach with the program.

In 2020 before the season was shortened due to COVID-19, Stambersky coached three pitchers who would eventually sign with the Philadelphia Phillies, the Milwaukee Brewers, and the Houston Astros, which brought his total to seven players signed by MLB teams during his career.

Stambersky's pitching staff ranked in the top two in the MIAA in ERA during all six of his seasons at Central Missouri. In 2019, the team posted a 46-

16 record with a 3.86 ERA, which included striking out an MIAA-best 562 batters. Opponents were held to a .227 batting average that season, and in the postseason the program posted a 2.70 ERA on the way to a third-place finish in Division II.

Stambersky also coached 17 pitchers to All-MIAA honors and another two to All-American honors. Among his primary duties as top assistant coach were the coordination and implementation of all recruiting efforts. He was responsible for all advanced scouting and defensive game planning and ran all prospect and youth baseball camps. As the pitching coach, he designed individual pitching development plans, managed pitching staff usage, and created individual strength and conditioning plans for the pitchers.

Before his time at Central Missouri, he spent 11 seasons coaching at Kansas City Community College as an assistant coach and recruiting coordinator. While there he coached nine players to Division I opportunities and four players who would move on to play professionally.

Stambersky got his coaching start with four seasons as an assistant at his alma mater, the University of Arkansas Little Rock. The Trojans won 109 games during his tenure there with a school-record 33 wins in 2000.

Stambersky earned his bachelor's degree in business administration and entrepreneurship from the University of Arkansas Little Rock in 2000. He obtained a master's degree in exercise science in 2007 from California University of Pennsylvania.

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Montgomery Co. team wins district softball tourney

SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Montgomery County All-Stars won the District 10 under-12 tournament this past week. Pictured are (front row, left to right) Sammie Brein, Macie Akers, Erica Bookout, Faith Wilson, Kaylee Ramrattan, Johnnie Gaynor, Isabella Perkins and Katie Salyer; (back row, left to right) Hope Wilson, Reagan Smith, Coach Rob Brein, Makaylee Hughes, Coach Chis Ramrattan, Athletic Supervisor Chris Slusher, Manager Brian Wilson, and Coach Mark Akers.