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City says customers should expect high electric bills as frigid weather impacts usage

RADFORD – With electric bills squeezing the budgets of many utility customers in Radford, the city has issued advice and efficiency tips.

“With persistent frigid temperatures this winter, the City of Radford advises electric customers to expect the possibility of higher electric bills, due to higher usage of electricity,” the city announced recently. “January 2022 was the coldest January in Radford in recent years. Blacksburg weather data show that the average high for January 2022 was 39.3 (degrees) and the average low was 18.2.

“Because of these colder temperatures, we anticipate customers who heat their homes and offices with electric heating systems will see an increase in their electrical usage during January; this will result in higher electric bills,” the announcement says.

“When outside temperatures get extremely cold, heating systems run longer to maintain warm temperatures inside our homes and offices. When the outside temperature is 50 degrees, heating systems might need to run only a few minutes each hour to maintain the inside temperature, but when the temperature drops to near zero and below, the system runs more often and longer to maintain the indoor thermostat setting.”

To improve energy efficiency in the home or office, the city offers the following tips:

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF HEAT FROM THE SUN

Open curtains on the south-facing windows during the day to allow sunlight to naturally heat the home and close them at night to reduce the chill from cold windows.

COVER DRAFTY WINDOWS

Use a heavy-duty, clear plastic sheet on a frame or tape clear plastic film to the inside of window frames during the cold winter months. Make sure the plastic is sealed tightly to the frame to help reduce infiltration.

Install tight-fitting, insulating drapes or shades on windows that feel drafty after weatherizing.

ADJUST THE TEMPERATURE

Set the thermostat as low as is comfortable when residents are up and around.

FIND AND SEAL LEAKS

Seal the air leaks around utility cut-through for pipes (“plumbing penetrations”), gaps around chimneys and recessed lights in insulated ceilings, and unfinished spaces behind cupboards and closets.

Add caulk or weather stripping to seal air leaks around leaky doors and windows.

MAINTAIN THE HEATING SYSTEMS

Schedule service for the home’s heating system. Replace the furnace filter once a month or as needed.

For wood- and pellet-burning heaters, clean the flue vent regularly and clean the inside of the appliance with a wire brush periodically to ensure that the home is heated efficiently.

REDUCE HEAT LOSS FROM THE FIREPLACE

Keep the fireplace damper closed unless a fire is burning. Keeping the damper open is like keeping a window wide open during the winter; it allows warm air to go right up the chimney.

When using the fireplace, reduce heat loss by opening dampers in the bottom of the firebox or opening the nearest window slightly – approximately 1 inch – and closing doors leading into the room. Lower the thermostat setting to between 50° and 55°F.

If the fireplace is never used, plug and seal the chimney flue or install tempered glass doors and a heat-air exchange system that blows warmed air back into the room.

Check the seal on the fireplace flue damper and make it as snug as possible.

Purchase grates made of C-shaped metal tubes to draw cool room air into the fireplace and circulate warm air back into the room.

Add caulking around the fireplace hearth.

Visit: http://energy.gov/energysaver/downloads/energy-savers-guide for more tips on energy efficiency.

Virginia’s 4 p.m. burning law now in effect

The Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF) and fire departments throughout Virginia are reminding the public about the 4 p.m. burn ban, which began Tuesday, Feb. 15.

The law prohibits burning before 4 p.m. if the fire is in or within 300 feet of woodlands, brush, or fields with dry grass and other flammable materials.

More than 60% of the commonwealth’s annual average of 700 wildfires happen in the spring, especially in March and April.

Many areas have had a lot of moisture recently, but Virginia is still recovering from a significant deficit last year. Sunny days with brisk winds can easily dry out fuels such as storm-downed limbs, increasing the potential for wildfires.

Even though burning is allowed from 4 p.m.

to midnight, the Virginia Department of Forestry says people burning debris should be cautious of weather conditions and winds. “The 4 p.m. burning law is one of the most important tools we have in the prevention of wildfires in Virginia,” said John Miller, VDOF’s director of fire and emergency response. “The number one cause of wildfires in the commonwealth is people burning yard debris and/or trash, and the 4 p.m. burning law goes a long way toward reducing the risk associated with wildfires each year.”

Violation of the burn law is a Class 3 misdemeanor and is punishable with a fine of up to \$500. Forestry officials say those who allow a fire to “escape” are liable for the cost of suppressing the blaze and any property damage it causes.

RHS hosts school Olympics to build teamwork and more

Heather Bell communitynews@ourvalley.org

RADFORD – As elite athletes perform on the world stage in the Winter Olympics, Radford High School students have been competing at school and learning life lessons along the way.

Radford High School started a new program this year. Each student has been assigned an advisory class with small groups of students, typically around 15, that meet together with a faculty member for thirty minutes each week.

“The topics addressed each week in advisory classes vary, but the goal remains constant: forming connecting relationships,” said Rebecca Cauffman, library media specialist for Radford High School and Dalton Intermediate School.

“This month RHS

advisory classes are participating in Advisory Olympics, which coincide with the 2022 Winter Olympics,” said Cauffman.

The Advisory Olympics began on Feb. 2 with a Winter Olympics Trivia Game.

“Through this game students learned interesting facts such as which country has hosted the most Winter Olympics, what do the five Olympic rings represent, and what is the name of this year’s mascot?” Cauffman said. “With this background knowledge in place, each of our 38 advisory teachers opened a sealed envelope and informed their group which country they would be representing in our Olympic games. Groups were encouraged to research their country, decorate, and get ready for Feb. 9, when our events would begin.”

On Wednesday, Feb. 9,



SUBMITTED PHOTO

the school held an opening ceremony, which was live-streamed from the RHS Bobcast YouTube News Channel.

“News anchors Liam Cherry and Vance Steele got teams ready for their first

two events: Distance Throw and Free Ski Big Air,” said Cauffman. “All members of the school were asked to participate in the two events, and advisory coaches

See RHS, page 4

Radford University names recipients of awards for faculty excellence

By Justin Ward, Radford University

RADFORD - Five distinguished Radford University faculty members are now recipients of the university’s most prestigious award.

The recipients of the 2021 Dalton Eminent Scholar Awards are Karen Powers, Ph.D., professor of biology in the Artis College of Science and Technology; Kristan Morrison, Ph.D., professor and graduate program coordinator of the School of Teacher Education and Leadership in the College of Education and Human Development; Sharon Roger Hepburn, Ph.D., chair and professor of the Department of History in the College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences; Robert Trent, D.M.A., interim chair, graduate program coordinator and professor of the Department of Music in the College of Visual and Performing Arts.

Richard Gruss, assistant professor of management in the Davis College of Business and Economics, was the recipient of the Rising

See Excellence, page 4

News brief: Judge throws out former state senator’s plea agreement

A Giles County Circuit Court judge has rejected a plea agreement in the embezzlement case of former state senator Joseph Yost, who resides in Blacksburg.

Yost had entered a guilty plea with the understanding of a plea agreement. With the denial earlier this week, Yost withdrew his guilty plea in the case. He

has been charged with embezzling money from the Giles County Historical Society.

From 2012 through 2018, Yost represented the 12th Senate District that includes Radford, Giles County, and portions of Montgomery and Pulaski counties in Southwestern Virginia.

A new court date has been set for April 12.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Former Virginia state senator Joseph Yost

Virginia House passes bill making parole board votes public information

RICHMOND - House Bill 1303, which classifies parole-board votes as public information and subject to the Freedom of Information Act, originally introduced by Delegate Wren

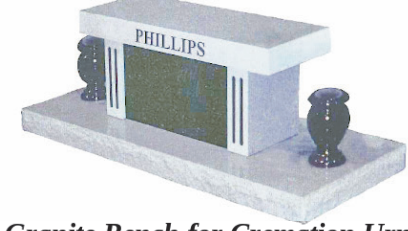
Williams (R - Stuart) on Jan. 19, has passed the Virginia House of Delegates with a 95-5 vote.

Williams submitted this legislation as a response to the series of scandals pertaining to the

parole board’s votes and disregard for legal guidelines, which led to convicted murderers and cop killers being released on the street with no notice given to victims’

See Parole, page 8

Cremation Memorialization helps the family move forward from grief to remembrance



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UPCOMING EVENTS

Now through Feb. 28:

MFRL adult winter reading program

The Montgomery Floyd Regional Library's adult winter reading program challenges patrons to read during January and February and keep track of their reading on the library's Beanstack site. Earn badges with each book read and activity completed. <https://mfrl.beanstack.org/>.

Grab & Go meals

All the month of February at the Meadowbrook Public Library. Children and youth 18 years and younger can come and get a weeks' worth of meals and snacks. Each box contains a five-day supply free to all children/teens during library hours. Sponsored by Feeding South-west Virginia.

Saturday Feb. 19:

High School Art Show

At the Radford University Art Museum on Tyler, 214 Tyler Ave., Radford. An opening reception will be held at 11 a.m. Artwork of area high school students will be on display until Saturday, Feb. 26.

Through Feb. 21

The Great Backyard Bird Count

Each year in February millions of people count the variety of birds that can be seen and heard in their own backyards. This year's bird count continues through Monday, Feb. 21, 2022. The Great Backyard Bird Count allows people from all over the world to come together and share their love of birds while celebrating and learning about migration patterns. These observations help scientists better understand global bird populations before one of their annual migrations. Participants in the bird count need only to log the birds in a 15-minute period on at least one of the days of the event. Those who want to participate can download the Merlin Bird ID app to help identify the area's birds. The Great Backyard Bird Count contributes to a global study that helps protect bird populations all over the world.

Caturday

At the Christiansburg Library; noon. Sign up at the front desk for a 15-minute slot to read to a cat from the Montgomery County Animal Care and Adoption Center to practice reading and to socialize shelter cats. All ages. Email shodges@mfrl.org for more information.

Teen DND

At the Blacksburg Library; 2 p.m.

Sunday, Feb. 20:

Chess Club

At the Blacksburg Library; 3 p.m. Ages 8 and up can come sharpen their chess skills. Supplies are provided. All skill levels are welcome.

Monday, Feb. 21:

Radford Public Library closed

The Radford Public Library will be closed in observance of George Washington Day.

Blacksburg Administrative Offices closed

All Town of Blacksburg administrative offices will be closed for Presidents Day. All Blacksburg Parks and Recreation administrative offices will also be closed. Blacksburg Transit will operate with a full schedule in Blacksburg. All BT administrative offices will be closed. The Blacksburg Aquatic Center is closed for maintenance and repairs. The Blacksburg Community Center will be open for its regular hours. There will be trash pickup in the southeast quadrant.

Radford offices closed

Radford City offices will be closed for Presidents Day. Solid waste collection scheduled for Monday, Feb. 21, will be collected on Feb. 22. Garbage should be ready for collection at 7:30 a.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 22:

Is it love? Or a scam?

At the Radford Public Library; 1 p.m. Adults of all ages are looking for love and com-

panionship and often using a dating website or app to make connections. The downside of this romantic potential is the risk of finding a phony suitor, and romance scams can even lead into other forms of fraud. Riley Ginger of the Better Business Bureau serving Western Virginia will educate attendees on romance scams.

National Hedgehog Day

At the Meadowbrook Public Library; all day. The original celebration for this date is Feb. 2, but the hedgehog tends to live in the "shadow" of GroundHog Day. Celebrate this later date all day with hedgehog craft and a hedgehog bookmark. This celebration is for all ages.

Black History Month storytime

Join Morgan at the Radford Public Library for a special storytime in honor of Black History Month; 5 p.m. Black History Month is an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time for recognizing their central role in U.S. history. Two picture books celebrating this history will be read.

Kids candle making

At the Blacksburg Library; 4:30 p.m. Come make your own candles. Supplies will be provided. Registration is required. Email mroach@mfrl.org with any questions.

Science fiction/fantasy book club

At the Blacksburg Library; 6:30 p.m. To be discussed is "Klara and the Sun" by Kazuo Ishiguro. Call (540) 552-8246 for more information or to reserve a copy.

Wednesday, Feb. 23:

Lunch and Learn: Listening Session

At the Blacksburg Library; noon. This month's lunch and learn program will feature both organizers and volunteers discussing some of the most impactful projects in the area and how everyone can get involved.

Complete a Pokédex Event

At the Blacksburg Library; 5 p.m. Bring a Rolodex and Pokémon games to trade with other Pokémon trainers to complete a Pokédex. Find missing version exclusives, evolve a trade-evolution Pokémon, and enjoy meeting others in the area who love Pokémon. Email Trainer Sally at sstauffer@mfrl.org with any questions.

Virtual program: Radford reads with Matthew Raidbard

Author and former basketball coach Matthew Raidbard will join the Radford Public Library on Zoom at 6 p.m. to talk about his book, "Lead Like A Pro: Effective Leadership Styles for Athletic Coaches." This event is free and is open to the public. Join on Zoom with event ID 897 6700 7543.

Thursday, Feb. 24:

Bad Art Night (for Adults)

At the Blacksburg Library; 6:30 p.m. Staff will be setting out random craft supplies for an evening of really awful art. Have a laugh and turn off the self-judgment and perfectionism that keeps everyone from truly enjoying their creativity. Registration is recommended. Adults only.

Friday, Feb. 25 and Saturday, Feb. 26:

Radford Public Library Book Sale

The Radford Public Library will hold book sales on Friday, Feb. 25, and Saturday, Feb. 26, from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. Book topics during the sale include fantasy, science fiction, fishing, and cooking plus DVDs, CDs, and gun books. The sale will feature a free table. All hardbacks are \$1 and paperbacks are \$.50. Children's books are half that. Funds raised will assist the Lamplighters.

Sunday, Feb. 27:

Chess Club

At the Blacksburg Library; 3 p.m. Ages 8 and up are welcome to come sharpen their chess skills. Supplies will be provided. All skill levels are welcome.

Monday, Feb. 28:

Talking about Books: "The Book of Longing"

At the Blacksburg Library; 11 a.m. To be discussed is "The Book of Longing" by Sue Monk Kidd. Call (540) 552-8246 to reserve a copy.

Crafternoon Delight for Adults Only

Learn how to knit or crochet with library staff at the Radford Public Library; 1 p.m. Needles, crochet hooks, and yarn will be available for tutorials and practice during this session of Crafternoon Delight. Bring any project.

Thursday, March 3:

American Legion Meeting

American Legion Harvey-Howe-Carper Post 30 will meet at 7 p.m. at the VFW Post Home on 102 Watts St. in Radford. If Radford City Public Schools are closed on Thursday or Friday of this week due to weather, the meeting is canceled. For further information, contact 540-250-2283 or 540-239-9864.

Friday, March 4:

Christiansburg Aquatic Center free fitness Fling


At the Christiansburg Aquatic Center from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and from 5:30 – 7 p.m. Try a 10-to-12-minute sampling of various fitness classes offered at the aquatic center and ask instructors questions about the classes.

Tuesday, March 8:

Sons of Confederate Veterans Meeting

Sons of Confederate Veterans, Stuart Horse Artillery Camp 1784, will meet at 7 p.m. at Aly's Family Italian Restaurant, 3204 Riner Road. Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) are invited to attend. Mr. Will Reed will continue with Part Three of his series on "Confederate Small Arms." If Montgomery County Public Schools are closed on Tuesday or Wednesday of this week due to weather, the meeting is canceled. For

See **Events**, page 3



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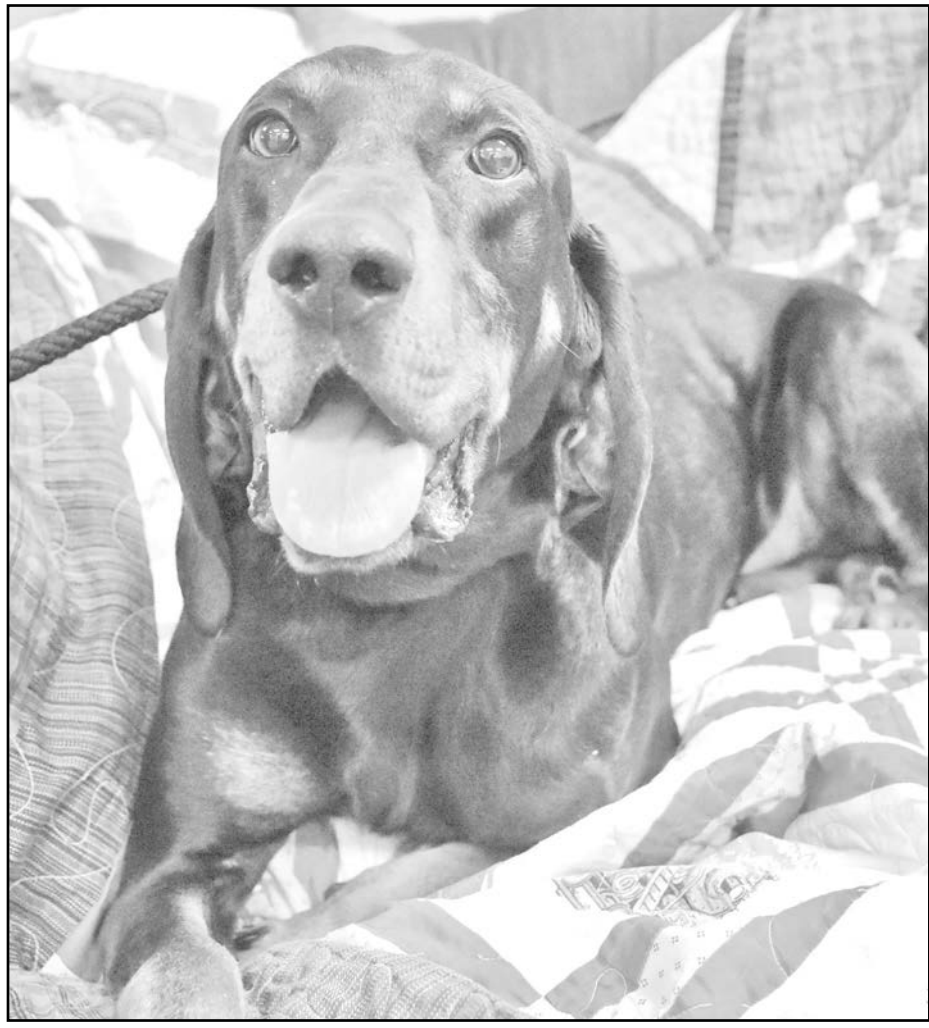
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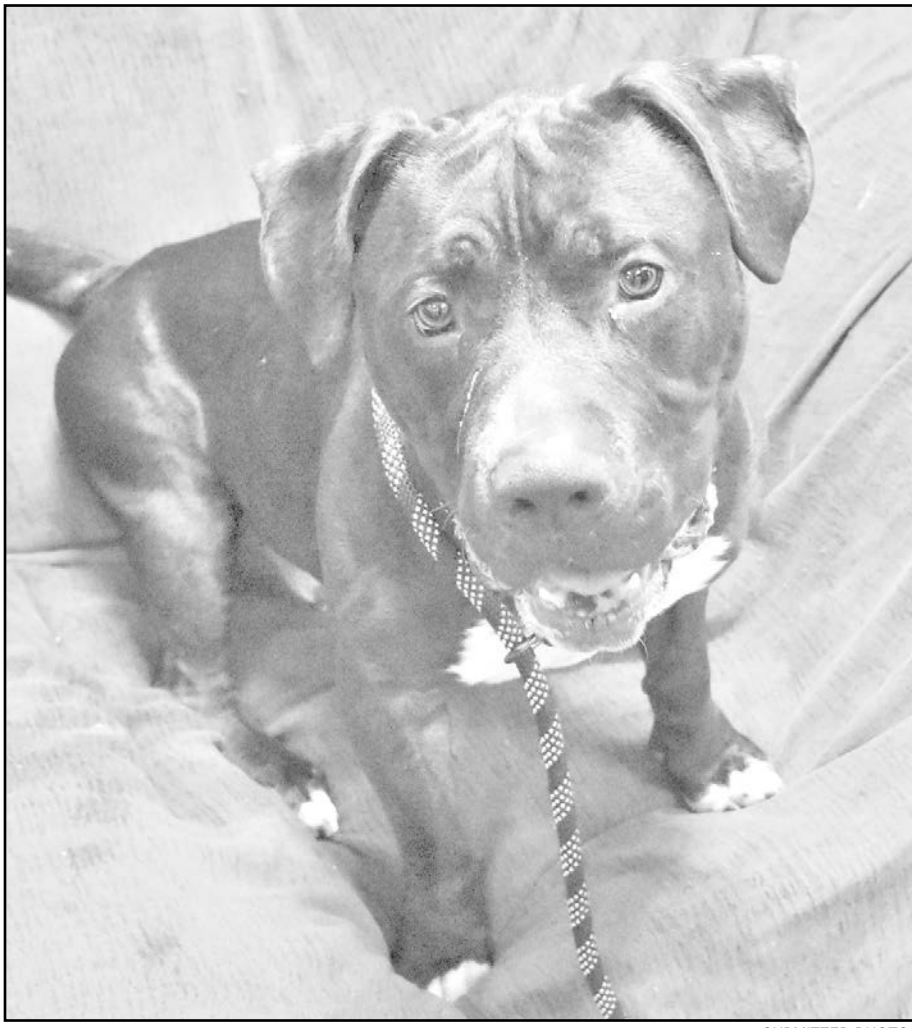
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PETS OF THE WEEK



Meet Ice! Despite his name, he's more of a goofy canine than a cool cucumber. He is the epitome of hound dog-ness. He likes to sniff, roam around, sing songs periodically, and eat yummy treats. He would do best in a home where he is the only pet. Stop by the Animal Care and Adoption Center to get to know Ice.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Ozzy is a friendly dog who is ready for his forever home. At two-years-old, he's a younger boy who will need some basic doggie training, including walking on a leash. Ozzy is treat-motivated, which may help his learning. He also enjoys attention from his favorite humans.

Virginia Tech's orbital launch vehicle team celebrates successful launch in California

By Jama Green

In business terms, taking a "30,000 foot view" means stepping back and gaining a high-level, big-picture perspective on a project or challenge. The metaphor also fits the Orbital Launch Vehicle Team (OLVT), a Virginia Tech student design team that has learned to slow down, move forward from past missteps, and take the time needed to build toward its long-term goals in measured, incremental steps.

While some student design teams work all year long toward an annual competition, the OLVT team has loftier, long-term aspirations in sight. For several years, team members have worked continuously to progress technology on their launch vehicles and advance opportunities for student rocketry and small satellite teams in hopes of becoming the first collegiate organization to deliver an object into low Earth orbit.

The team recently moved one giant step closer, with a successful launch of its current subscale test rocket, the Test Turkey, in the Mojave Desert.

Test Turkey
It's been a long two years since this team has attempted any sort of large-scale launch. During this period, the OLVT team has taken its time to develop and iterate a number of technologies on Test Turkey, striving to design and fabricate the cleanest, safest, and most effective launch vehicle possible. Team members rigorously verified their designs, regularly meeting with their faculty advisors and gathering input from industry experts.

This past semester, the team specifically focused on developing an efficient recovery system, or parachute ejection system. According to Reece Preisser, a senior majoring in physics and OLVT co-president, this

proved to be one of the most elaborate parts of building the rocket.

"In space, we'll need to use CO2 cartridges to eject, and it's important that we learn how to properly deploy that system at any altitude for a safe recovery," Preisser said. "With a good system in place, we'll be able to successfully recover this rocket, or an even larger-scale launch vehicle down the road."

Trip to the desert
Depending on the scale and magnitude of any amateur rocketry flight, finding a launch site can be complicated. While the OLVT team is able to perform small-scale tests at nearby Kentland Experimental Aerial Systems Laboratory, the sheer size of the Test Turkey and its projected altitude would require the launch to be executed in a vast open space, far from civilization.

The team predicted that the Test Turkey would fly to an altitude approaching 50,000 feet. Because the Federal Aviation Administration requires waivers to fly high-power rockets weighing more than 3.3 pounds and flying on greater than 4.4 ounces of propellant, potential launch sites for the Test Turkey proved to be limited.

Working with the Friends of Amateur Rocketry organization, a not-for-profit organization providing infrastructure for testing and launching large amateur and experimental rockets, OLVT applied to launch the Test Turkey before the Thanksgiving holiday. The organization's test and launch facility is located in California just north of Edwards Air Force Base and near the Mojave Desert. With the site's strict safety regulations and higher launch ceilings, it quickly emerged as one of the only organized and viable places to launch the Test Turkey.

Kevin Engel, who serves as OLVT co-president along with Preisser, remembered



SUBMITTED PHOTO

As the Virginia Tech orbital launch vehicle team works toward development of the Hokie 0.75, a two-stage sounding rocket designed to place a 5-kilogram payload beyond the Kármán line, members have created a subscale version dubbed Test Turkey. Test Turkey recently flew to an altitude of 30,000 feet in the Mojave Desert. Photo courtesy of OLVT.

the anticipation felt by the team members on launch day. "One of the key things we tried to do was keep what is known as 'rocket fever' at bay," said Engel. "That build-up of

excitement and nervous energy can outweigh common sense if you let it get a hold of you.

See **Launch**, page 4

Events

from page 2

further information, call 540-320-4315 or 540-239-9864.

Wednesday, March 23:

Radford Army Ammunitions Plant Community Meeting

At the Christiansburg Public Library; 6 p.m. This community meeting will discuss modernization and environmental projects and compliance and corrective actions at the Radford Army Ammunition Plant. Staff members from the U.S. Army and BAE Systems will be on hand to engage with the public. Questions: usarmy.radford.peo-eis.list.rfaap-public-affairs@mail.mil.

Ongoing: Blacksburg Aquatic Center closed for repairs

Repairs on the hot tub, gutters and deck surface at the Blacksburg Aquatic Center are ongoing. The Aquatic Center will remain closed for several more weeks. A re-opening date will be announced once it is confirmed.

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VT class fights for Appalachia

By Melody Warnick

If you live near Virginia Tech's Blacksburg campus, chances are good you live in Appalachia, the storied cultural region that meanders through 13 states, from Mississippi to New York. That doesn't mean you know much about it. For many, Appalachia is a fuzzy concept, a combo-pack of stereotypes and statistics.

That changes fast for students in Virginia Tech's transdisciplinary Appalachian Commu-

nity Research (ACR) course, an elective in the new Appalachian Cultures and Environments Pathways minor. For Emily Satterwhite, an associate professor in the Department of Religion and Culture, who's co-taught the class for three of the past four years, the proof is in the end-of-semester student reflection papers. "There's a strong theme of, 'How have I been here three or four years and not ever spoken to a local person about what it's like to live here?'"

she said. Or, as one past student put it, "Academia rarely seems to be more than peripherally connected with its greater community. This class was very special in the way that it was entirely shaped by it."

The course is shaped by it, and hoping to have an impact on it, most recently by tackling one of Appalachia's most intractable problems: its substance use crisis.

See Appalachia, page 6



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Members of the Appalachian Community Research class join professor Emily Satterwhite (back row center) on the porch of Solitude.

RHS from page 1



The Free Ski Big Air, pictured here, is one of several events in the RHS Olympics competition.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Radford High School Advisory Olympics kicks off with an opening ceremony in the school library in this Feb. 2 photo.

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recorded the best score on a school-wide form. While the activities began, we also had a torch relay that began at the RHS library and traveled from class to class."

This past Wednesday, students participated in their final two events: sailing and diving. They will wrap all the

festivities up with a closing ceremony on Wednesday, Feb. 23, when school winners will be announced and given their medals.

"Advisory Olympics may look like just a bunch of fun and games but it is actually so much more," Cauffman

said. "These Olympics strengthen relationships, address all of Virginia's 5 C's [critical thinking, creative thinking, communication, collaboration, and citizenship skills], highlight world events, and unite us together as Bobcats."

Excellence from page 1

Star Award. The 2021 Dalton Eminent Scholar Award goes to faculty members with distinguished national or international reputations in their fields. The annual awards provide these faculty members the opportunities they deserve to go above and beyond in their respective disciplines.

Each faculty winner receives a \$10,000 award to fund research travel and materials and a \$5,000 award following successful completion of research and scholarly activity. The awards are provided by the Radford University

Foundation, Inc., through the Dalton Eminent Scholars Fund.

They were originally established in the late 1980s and early 1990s to honor United States District Judge Ted Dalton and former Virginia Gov. John Dalton. Through a grassroots fundraising campaign, more than \$700,000 was raised for the endowment, which now has funds totaling nearly \$2 million. "The remarkable faculty who have been selected for the 2021-2022 Dalton Eminent Scholar Award truly represent the impressive caliber of faculty who call Radford University home," said Interim President Carolyn Ringer Lepre. "Each recipient has demonstrated a commitment to academic excellence and student success through research and scholarship. It is an honor to recognize their achievements and invest in their academic endeavors as they continue to leave their indelible impact on Highlanders for generations to come."

Powers, who has focused on collaborating with federal and state agencies to best manage rare and threatened mammals during her 15-year

career at Radford University, said, "I am grateful that Radford University recognizes our continued hard work in balancing teaching and scholarship, especially in challenging COVID times. This award will directly benefit undergraduates, as it opens avenues to new queries and investigations in ongoing wildlife conservation efforts." Morrison, who helps prepare the next generation of teachers regionally and nationally, said, "I was delighted to receive this award; this recognition of my past professional contributions and investment in my future scholarship is so encouraging! The award shows that Radford University is an institution that actively works towards developing knowledge and expertise to share with our students and the world."

Hepburn, who joined the Radford family in 1995, said, "I am honored to be recognized as a Dalton Eminent Scholar and extremely grateful to the Dalton family for their continued commitment to faculty scholarship. This award will not only allow me to gather archival materials

essential to my work but will also provide history students with the opportunity to work with those archival materials themselves to produce scholarship of their own."

Trent, who also manages the annual Radford University International Guitar Festival and regularly performs, records and conducts, said, "Having received this award both humbles me, yet serves to drive me to do and be even better. I love my work, and I am grateful for all the opportunities and support I have received. Many thanks for those who thought so well of the work. I'm immensely proud of our faculty and students. They've won national and international accolades and standing for Radford University, for the profession and for the good of society. They are high-impact people!"

Rising Star Award recipient Gruss said, "I'm honored that our work is being recognized. There is a lot of outstanding research being done here at Radford, every day, all over the university, and I'm thrilled that I get to work here among such talented and dedicated people."

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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- CLUES ACROSS**
- Emperor of Russia
 - Abounding in rocks
 - Increase in speed
 - Music app
 - Not nice
 - Tables (Span.)
 - Decomposes
 - student: learns healing
 - Nursemaid
 - Joke-teller
 - Male parent
 - Group of countries (abbr.)
 - "Rambling Rose" actor
 - Midway between south and southwest
 - Cartoon Network (abbr.)
 - Peacock network
 - Principal ethnic group of China
 - Made of fermented honey
 - and water
 - Exclamation of surprise
 - Evaluates skill or knowledge
 - Stage in ecological succession
 - Ethnic group of SE Asia
 - Not small
 - A cat is one
 - Broken piece
 - French president
 - Artist's workshop
 - Ability to apply knowledge and skills
 - Visually stunning
 - Ancient region south of Dead Sea
 - Communists (slang)
 - Subjects to hostility
 - A major division of geological time
 - Hitting statistic (abbr.)
 - British thermal unit
 - Influential envoy to Woodrow Wilson
 - Fits on neck of animal
 - Fertile soil
 - Type of battery
 - Khoikhoi peoples
 - Consist of two parts
 - Small group of trees
 - Execute or perform
 - Millihenry
 - 007's creator
 - Associated with esoteric doctrine
 - Electronic counter-measures
 - Schenectady County Airport
 - No (Scottish)
 - Position of leadership
 - Statement
 - Raccoons belong to this genus
 - One who diagnoses
 - True mosses
 - Blood type
 - Albanian
 - Emergency response notification system
 - College reservists
 - Away from wind
 - Tough outer layer
 - Art __, around 1920
 - Born of
 - The greatest of all time
 - Georgia rockers
 - Natural logarithm

Launch from page 3

We tried to tone that down, and our preparation with outlining launch procedures really helped with that."

Once ready, the team members found one group ahead of them, and anxiously waited approximately 30 minutes to load the Test Turkey onto the launch rail. All participants onsite were directed to take shelter in bunkers, and the safety officers announced OLV's launch over the communications system. The countdown began, and the group held a collective breath. With a thunderous roar and a flash of flame and smoke, the rocket lifted off.

"The launch of our vehicle was successful," said Preisser. "The motor worked properly, it left the ground, our parachutes successfully deployed, and we were able to find the rocket shortly after launch. After about three seconds, you aren't able to see what happens to the vehicle in flight, so we rely on the onboard avionics and data collection systems for our results. While it didn't quite

make the height we initially predicted, many of the systems we wanted to test were a complete success."

According to Engel, the Test Turkey landed about 1.2 miles away from the launch rail, and with the assistance of drones relaying live video back to the team, the students were able to walk into the desert and find the body of the rocket in a quick and painless recovery.

After returning to Blacksburg, the team reviewed the data collected and examined the external factors leading up to the launch. While waiting their turn to get on the launch rail, their camera battery had died early, and their altimeters began logging data during that period, causing it to run out of storage space too soon. The motor did not burn as long as the team had expected, resulting in an altitude of 30,000 instead of 50,000 feet. In addition, the main parachute deployed a bit early, as the rocket was spinning, and caused some vibrations that had an effect on the shear pins that enclosed the chute.

OBITUARIES

Bussey, Carolyn Faye Mitchell

Carolyn Faye Mitchell Bussey, Crissman, Joy B. Burton, and 69, of Radford, passed away Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2022.

She was a member of Pulaski Seventh Day Adventist Church.

Carolyn was known to many as a school crossing guard, the lady at the window serving you at Hardee's, and as a private caregiver. She was preceded in death by her parents, Claude and Merlie Mitchell, and her husband, Bobby Bussey.

Survivors include her son, Dale E. Hunt; a daughter, Angela Hunt Carlile; stepchildren Barbara Robertson, Nancy Overton, Kathy



Richard Bussey; grandchildren Haley, Bella, Thomas, and Taquilla; and many other relatives and friends.

The family will receive friends from noon until 2 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 20, 2022, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Memorial services will follow with Pastor A. J. Groschel officiating.

The Bussey family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford. www.mullinsfuneralhome.com.

Epperly, Ritchie Wayne

Ritchie Wayne Epperly, 63, of Christiansburg, was a man of many trades. Throughout his life, he constructed things as big as homes to pieces as small as a peach seed whittled into a basket.

Later in life, Oreo and he could be found in his carport with a piece of wood constructing hope chests, Johnny outhouses, tables, wardrobes, china cabinets, potato bins and many others. Projects he started usually developed into a production where one piece became ten and was then given to family and friends.

Ritchie was preceded in death by his father, Luther Willard Epperly; his mother, Helen Furrow Epperly; and his best bud of 18 years, Oreo.

Left to cherish his memory is his

son, Phillip Epperly and his wife, Ashley; his daughter, Brooke Epperly and her fiancé, Seth Van Hoy; his one and only granddaughter, Vivienne Epperly; his brother, Barry Epperly and his wife, Diane; his niece and nephew, Corissa and Caleb Epperly; and his uncle and puzzle buddy Ray Epperly and his wife, Edith; as well as a number of friends.

Friends meant the world to him, and he was always grateful for the time he got to spend with each of them. The family will receive friends from 4 to 6 p.m. today, Saturday, Feb. 19, 2022, at North Fork Baptist Church, 905 Lusters Gate Rd. Blacksburg, Va. 24060.



radfordnewsjournal.com

See Obituaries, page 6

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 steadfast, 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 are committed to personal spiritual growth and to providing leadership in 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: www.fbcradford.org, 540-639-4419. Worship is broadcast live on 105.9 FM, 101.3 F, 1430AM.

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.

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

CHURCH OF 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.

EPISCOPAL

Grace Episcopal Church, 210 4th Street, Radford, 639-3494. A friendly, mission-

Radford

WORSHIP DIRECTORY

PLACE OF REFUGE

Read Numbers 32:1 through 36:13

Select some towns to be your cities of refuge, to which a person who has killed someone accidentally may flee. They will be places of refuge from the avenger, so that a person accused of murder may not die before he stands trial before the assembly. (Numbers 35:11,12).

God commanded that if anyone died because of violence, and murder was assumed, the murder suspect was not automatically to be considered guilty. Instead, he was allowed to flee to a city of refuge (one of six to be chosen in the Promised Land) that would assure the accused would be treated justly and justice would be done. In this way God provided justice in a culture where protecting the innocent was not a typical response.

When we hear accusations of guilt against others, our first response should be to provide them with a place of refuge in our hearts. That is, we should not rush to judgment, assume their guilt, and be careless in our speech about them. We should treat them fairly, as God intended.

Prayer for Today: Ask the Lord to make your heart and mouth a place of refuge rather than a fount of accusation for others.

Quicklook: Numbers 35:6-15

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

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.org.

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

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. Sunday school at 10am; worship at 11am in the sanctuary, masked & distanced. Phone 639-2585. Watch the service live on Facebook: The Presbyterian Church of Radford. www.pcradford.org. We are called to share the love of Christ in this community & beyond. Kelsey & Peter Hawisher-Faul, Co-Pastors.

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

OBITUARIES

Lawson, LaVonda Shaver

LaVonda Shaver Lawson, 54, of Narrows, died Sunday, Feb. 13, 2022, at her home. She was born in Blacksburg on July 17, 1967, and was preceded in death by her husband, Wally Lawson, and her father, Ralph Shaver.

She is survived by her mother, Brenda J. Shaver; a sister and brother-in-law, Angie and Greg Frazier; a nephew, Levi Frazier; a niece, Ella Frazier, who affectionately called her "DaDa"; a step-niece, Devon Frazier; aunts and uncles

Janie Moss, Jackie and Ramonia Vaught, Jeanne Davis, Melvin and Melinda Shaver, and Yvonne Shaver; plus numerous cousins and other relatives and friends.

A funeral service was held on Wednesday, Feb. 16, 2022, at 2:00 p.m. in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel with Pastor Shake Smith officiating. Interment followed at Roselawn Memorial Gardens, Christiansburg. The family received friends from noon to 2 p.m. prior to the service at McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg.

Monroe, Mary Margaret Marston

Mary Margaret Marston Monroe, 75, of Blacksburg, passed away peacefully on Sunday, Feb. 6, 2022.

Born July 8, 1946, she was the daughter of the late Ralph George Marston and Hester Vivian Fergurson Marston. She was preceded in death by her parents, a sister, Suzanne Marston Borck, a brother, Dr. Ralph Scott Marston, and her husband, Richard Walter Monroe.

Mary was raised in Takoma Park, Md., and she is a graduate of W.T. Woodson High School (1964) and the University of Mary Washington (1968). In high school she was active in the school choir and was a cheerleader. In college, Mary earned a bachelor's degree in education and subsequently taught elementary school in Stafford and Fairfax counties.

She married Richard Walter Monroe in 1971 and accompanied him through numerous career locations in six different states. Richard and Mary were happily married for 51 years. She enjoyed being involved with her children's school activities, volunteering in their classrooms, and teaching part-time and full-time in several school systems. She also taught preschool for a number of years.

As a member of Blacksburg United Methodist Church, Mary served on the church visitation committee, calling on members in their homes and assisted-living facilities. She also helped lead a weekly balance and strength class.

Mary took great pride in her home and family. She treasured family gatherings and loved to entertain. She had a remarkable gift for remembering every family birthday, always taking time to send a card to her many grandchildren, nieces, and nephews as well as other friends and family.



She loved crafting of all kinds, especially making Christmas decorations as gifts to others. She treasured her Christian family heritage and worked to organize and document it for generations to follow.

She is survived by her children, Jennifer Monroe Holliday and Spencer Grant Monroe; a son-in-law, Todd Holliday, and

a daughter-in-law, Kelli Simpson Monroe; grandchildren Grant Monroe Holliday, Samuel Ayers Holliday, and Keeton Elizabeth Monroe; a brother-in-law, Jonathan Searle Monroe; a cousin, Elizabeth Brand Monroe; sisters-in-law Rosa Crocker Monroe and Deborah Cahoon Monroe; nephews James Lord Borck and Owen Searle Monroe; nieces Kimberly Borck Pollard, Amity Borck Dey, Frances Tucker Monroe, Megan Monroe Guerrero, Meredith Monroe Rodriguez, and 21 great-nieces and great-nephews.

The family is grateful for the love and support from family, friends, and many medical professionals. A memorial service will be held in Mary's honor on March 7, 2022, at 2:30 p.m., preceded by a visitation at 2 p.m. at Blacksburg United Methodist Church. The family requests that those attending kindly wear a mask.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to Blacksburg United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 931, Blacksburg, VA 24063.

Arrangements are in the care of McCoy Funeral Home, Inc., 150 Country Club Drive SW, Blacksburg, VA 24060; (540)-552-3211. Online condolences can be shared at www.mccoyfuneralhome.com.

See Obituaries, page 8

Muse, Willie Junior

Willie Junior Muse of Christiansburg entered his heavenly home on Feb. 14, 2022.

Junior was born in Pittsylvania County on Aug. 29, 1931, to John Swanson and Mary Muse on the family farm in Penhook.

He was married to Lola Francis Muse for 45 years until her death in 1999. He was preceded in death by siblings Claude Muse, Dudley Muse, Clark Muse, Monsey Muse, Francis Muse, and Hazel Ray, and his beloved border collie, Maggie.

Junior is survived by his sons, Barry Muse (Vickie), Kevin Muse (Sebrena), and Aaron Muse (fiancée Kelly Doss); daughters Deborah Zimmerman, Teresa Muse, Tammy Goodyear (Ken), Renee Dalton, and Stephanie Harris (Scott); 10 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Junior began working on the family tobacco farm at a very young age helping to grow crops and milking cows. After leaving the farm, he joined the United States Air Force and was promoted to staff sergeant while serving in the Korean Conflict and was honorably discharged in 1956.

Junior then started selling produce throughout West Virginia, North Carolina, and Virginia before settling in Christiansburg and opening the B & M

Market that was well known for some of the best produce and fresh meats in the area. While working in his market on a daily basis, he began farming and raising hogs and sheep while concentrating on his cow calf operation.

Junior was supportive of his family and was a volunteer 4-H leader in Montgomery County, helping his children with their livestock projects and taking time off from work to take them to livestock shows throughout Virginia. Junior was a member of Fellowship Baptist Church where he enjoyed the fellowship and word of the Lord.

The family received friends on Friday, Feb. 18, 2022, at Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. with Pastor James Bradley officiating. Interment with full military honors followed in the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin.

In lieu of flowers, please consider contributions to the Christiansburg Rescue Squad, 190 Depot St. NW, Christiansburg, VA 24073 or the Auburn High School FFA, 1650 Auburn School Dr., Riner, VA 24149.

The Muse family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford. www.mullinsfuneralhome.com.



Even During This Pandemic, Everyone Deserves a Burial Service So Their Family and Friends Can Say One Last "Goodbye"

We Offer Graveside Services with Social Distancing, at no additional cost.

- Services can be broadcast to attendees' car radios.
- At the completion of the service, the family will receive visitors via drive-through visitation as the attendees leave the service.
- Families have been very appreciative of these services.
- Arrangements can be made on very short notice.

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Appalachia

from page 4

Between April 2020 and April 2021, 100,000 Americans died from drug overdoses. That's like an airplane full of people falling out of the sky every single day for a year.

Things are particularly dire in Appalachia, where the overdose mortality rate in 2018 was 43 percent higher for 25- to 54-year-olds than it was elsewhere in the country.

Yet, until he signed up for the Appalachian Community Research class in fall 2021, none of this was really on Saket Bikmal's radar. "I'd heard of the opioid crisis in Appalachia," said the senior in computational and systems

neuroscience, who hails from Northern Virginia. Beyond that, "I was actually pretty clueless to this whole thing."

On the first day of class in Solitude, the 200-year-old historic home near the Duck Pond, Satterwhite and co-teacher Julia Gohlke, an associate professor of environmental health in the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine, challenged their students to develop policy recommendations for substance use disorder recovery in Southwest Virginia. ACR participates in a grant program from the Appalachian Regional Commission, called the Appalachian Teaching Project, which stipulates that students conduct original research and develop an innovative project to bolster community development in Appalachia.

One of the best conversations happened early in the semester with community partner Bently Wood, a peer recovery specialist with New River Valley Community Services, who shared his personal experiences with drug addiction and recovery. Hearing Wood's story changed Bikmal's ideas about substance use. Suddenly he could see how someone's life could land here. How Wood wasn't so different from him. "I think that's probably what started the emotional connection for me," he said.

ACR students from a cross-section of majors such as public health, biological sciences, and humanities for public service embraced Wood's guidance on person-first language, abandoning the term "addict" in favor of the less-stigmatizing "person with substance use disorder."

The course's 11 stu-

dents conducted interviews with 27 key informants, including government officials, local nonprofit leaders, and medical professionals. Cheryl Hartman, a faculty member in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine at Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine, spoke with students several times, as did Sam Rasoul, a member of the Virginia House of Delegates from Roanoke.

One issue that came up repeatedly in interviews with key informants was the pervasive lack of housing and treatment facilities in Southwest Virginia for those who suffer from substance use disorder.

Currently, services are available for only about one in 10 people who need them, said Wood. Pregnant women, new mothers, and those with additional health problems are at particular risk.

Perhaps, it was suggested, Catawba Hospital, a sprawling state mental health facility northeast of Blacksburg, could be expanded into a substance use disorder treatment facility.

Hannah O'Malley, a senior majoring in neuroscience, didn't think college students took field trips. But early in November, she found herself riding in a Virginia Tech van through the autumn leaves outside Blacksburg, headed toward Catawba Hospital's 700 forested acres. "I had never heard of this happening in a class before," O'Malley said. "Usually you go in, and you take a test."

No tests that day. Satterwhite drove the van onto the Catawba Hospital grounds. Five students hopped out. With supervision from the hospital's chief operating officer, Cynthia McDaniel, they explored the grounds, originally built in 1858 as a resort.

Marketplace

ourvalley.org

For Sale - Miscellaneous

FOR SALE
Unprinted end rolls of newsprint. Great for packing & shipping, moving & storage and for art projects. Various sizes available. Stop by the Salem Times-Register 1633 West Main St. or call (540)389-9355 for details.

Help Wanted - General

Part Time Newspaper Production Help
The Salem Times-Register has openings for afternoon/evening shift work inserting, labeling and bundling newspapers for delivery. No experience necessary. Hours may vary. Will train. \$7.50 per hour. Contact Lynn Hurst, General Manager, Salem-Times Register (540)389-9355 or email lhurst@ourvalley.org

Legals - Montgomery County

ABC NOTICE
K and S Food Mart LLC, trading as K and S Food Mart, 3620 S Main St, Blacksburg, Montgomery County, Virginia 24060-7015.

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Wine and Beer Off Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

Khem R Wagley, Member

NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

Legals - Montgomery County

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG PLANNING COMMISSION
The Town of Christiansburg Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, February 28, 2022 at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments concerning:

A. Conditional Use Permit request by Jacqueline Marshall, owner, and Shaun Chuyka, lessee, to allow a contractor's equipment storage yard in the General Business District (B-3) on property located at 301 Depot Street, NW, Tax Parcel 526 - ((23)) - (BK1) - 12, Parcel ID 007535. The property is designated as Business/Commercial on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.

Legals - Montgomery County

Garand Hopkins III, contract purchaser, from Agricultural District A to General Business District B-3 for a portion of the property located at 710 Peppers Ferry Road, Tax Parcel 435 - ((A)) - 23; Parcel ID 021274. The property is designated as Residential 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 Benjamin Tripp, Planning Director, at (540) 382-6128 ext. 1120 or by email at btripp@christiansburg.org with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations.

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RADFORD SPORTS



Former CHS assistant football coach Zach Leonard is the new head football coach at Blacksburg High School.

Zach Leonard named new Blacksburg head football coach

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Blacksburg High School has a new head football coach. He is Zach Leonard, who has coached for the past four years at Christiansburg High School after stops in Rural Retreat, Glenvar, and

Patrick Henry. Blacksburg High School Athletic Director Peter Lyell said Leonard brings an abundance of football knowledge and experience to the football program. "Zach's passion for the game and impeccable moral character make him the perfect fit for BHS," he said.

He replaces Eddie Sloss who resigned last year after completing Blacksburg's second winless season. The program has also fought the participation bug in the midst of COVID as they did not field a junior varsity team two years ago.

See Leonard, page 8

Auburn's Allyson Martin signs to play volleyball at Bluefield State

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Auburn High School's Allyson Martin will continue her volleyball career at Bluefield State College in Bluefield, West, Virginia. The two-time state player of the year signed a letter of intent Tuesday in the school's library in front of family, friends, coaches, and teammates.

Martin said she chose Bluefield State because of the campus and the coaching staff. She was named the 1A State, Region C, and Mt. Empire District Player of the year her junior and senior seasons and this past season reached the 1,000-kill plateau.

At Auburn, she was a part of four straight outstanding teams that brought home back-to-back state trophies.

Bluefield State has a current enrollment of 1,228. The school's athletic teams compete as a member of the Division II level of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) and as a member of the United States Collegiate Athletic Association (USCAA).



Twice the state volleyball player of the year, Auburn High School's Allyson Martin (middle) signed on the dotted line Tuesday to play at Bluefield State. Also pictured at the signing are members of Allyson's family (from left): Kevin Martin, Rodney Martin, Kim Bruce, and Mark Bruce.

PHOTO BY ASHLEY AKERS

The Bluefield State volleyball team finished 12-11 this past season.

Savanna Hammond is entering her first season as head coach for the Bluefield State women's volleyball team at Bluefield State. Hammond was a walk-on at Radford University where she earned a full scholarship for her last three seasons. Her team at Radford earned two Big South regular-season titles, one Big South Tournament

championship, and one NCAA Tournament berth in 2013. Hammond is also an Associate Club Director for the River Valley Juniors Volleyball Club where she has coached at the nationals level for the last four club seasons.

At Bluefield State, Martin plans to major in nursing. On the court, she hopes to play as a freshman and make a quick positive impact.

East Mont girls roll past Bath 62-20 in region tournament



Eastern Montgomery's Maddie Bruce eyes the basket as she drives into the lane against Bath County in a first-round Pioneer District tournament game. Bruce had 15 points in the Mustangs' 62-20 win.



Eastern Montgomery's Skyann Holloway puts up a fast-break layup against Bath County.



Eastern Montgomery's Lily Underwood scored 15 points against Bath County Monday night.



Morgan Bahnken looks to pass inside to a Mustang teammate during the first half against Bath County.

PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING

Big South spans RU's Nichols; Smith steps down at High Point

Marty Gordon
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First-year Radford University men's basketball coach Darris Nichols is in hot water with the Big South Conference. Nichols has been reprimanded for a violation of the League's Ethical Conduct Policy in publicly criticizing the officiating following the Feb. 9 Radford game at Winthrop.

On the court, the team has had a rough first-year season under the former Radford High School and West Virginia University point guard. The Highlanders are 9-16 overall and 5-8 in Big South play.

The Nichols news comes on the same day as another major coaching change in the conference. Longtime Kentucky coach Tubby Smith has resigned his High Point University coaching position effective im-

mediately after contracting COVID-19 for the second time.

Smith said he felt that after contracting COVID 19 for a second time in less than a year and having been away from the program for an extended period that the timing was right for this change,

"I feel blessed to have had an amazing career leading, coaching, and teaching great young men at first-class institutions," he said.

Associate head coach G.G. Smith, Tubby's son, will take over the team for the remainder of the season and will serve as head coach in 2022-2023.

Tubby Smith will remain involved with the school through the end of the season with alumni, community engagement, and fundraising efforts, according to a release from High Point University.

He was an assistant at Kentucky from 1989-1991

before he got his first coaching job at Tulsa. After four seasons there, he coached at Georgia for two years before returning to Kentucky, going 263-83 in 10 years, winning five SEC titles, five SEC tournaments, and a 1998 NCAA title.

Tubby Smith currently holds an overall 642-369 mark including 11-15 this year at High Point.

Smith came to High Point University as a student in 1969. Soon after, Smith found his place on the men's basketball team and earned a reputation as a hard worker and a natural leader.

Smith captained the basketball team and earned all-conference honors as a senior before graduating from High Point in 1973.

In the spring of 2018, High Point University announced that Tubby Smith would return to lead the men's basketball program.

