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Council incumbents re-elected along with three newcomers



FILE PHOTO

Heather Bell
communitynews@ourvalley.org

RADFORD – Radford Mayor David Horton and council member Jessie Foster were re-elected to four-year terms in Tuesday's election and will be joined by three new council members.

Horton, who was running unopposed, garnered 2,481 votes (77.27%), and 730 write-in votes (22.73%) were cast. Of the write-in votes, 519 were cast for former Radford vice-mayor Keith Marshall, 133 were cast for multiple individuals and 98 were invalid (Mickey Mouse, none of the above, etc.)

Foster received 1,715 votes (16.07%). Seth J. Gillespie (2,127 votes, 19.94%) earned the most votes in the council contest and will join Horton and Foster for a four-year term.

Kellie Banks Artrip (1,702 votes, 15.95%) and Bobby L. Davis Jr. (1,491 votes, 13.98%) will fill the unexpired terms of two council members who resigned before their terms were finished and will serve until the end of 2024.

Artrip and Davis will begin their terms "as soon as the Electoral Board Certifies and issues a certificate of Election" explained Radford Voter Registrar Tracy Howard. Gillespie's term will begin Jan. 1, 2023.

"[The certification] can't happen until Tuesday after certifying the remaining ballots on Monday," said Howard. "Their terms will end on Dec. 31, 2024. The next council election will be concurrent with the 2024 presidential election."

Howard said a few ballots remain to be

See **Council election**, page 4

Three new Radford city school board members elected

Heather Bell
communitynews@ourvalley.org

RADFORD – Three new members of the Radford City School Board will join two current members of the board this January after being elected in Tuesday's election.

The three incumbents whose terms were up for re-election – Liz Altieri, George "Lynn" Burriss, and Lee Slusher – chose not to run for another term. The new members are Gloria W. Boyd, who earned 2,138 votes (28.76%), Chris B. Calfee, who received 1,882 votes (25.32%), and R. Jane Swing, who garnered 1,710 votes (23.00%). It was a close race, with the remaining candidate, Ed J. Dickenson, receiving 1,609 votes (21.64%). There were 95 (1.28%) write-in votes.

Boyd, a retired teacher from Radford City Public Schools, said she hopes to be a voice for all stakeholders in RCPS.

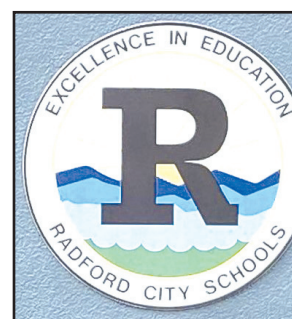
"I could not be more grateful and humbled by the support and

vote of confidence I have been given," she said. "My pledge was, and is, to be a voice for families, teachers, students, and all stakeholders. I stand on that pledge and look forward to serving. Thank you for entrusting me with the well-being and education of your children."

Calfee has children who attend RCPS and said he looks forward to bringing commonsense reasoning to the board.

"I am honored to be elected to serve all citizens of Radford as a school board member," he said. "I appreciate the trust that was placed in me by everyone who voted for me. I also hope to show everyone that through my willingness to have conversations with anyone, and then relay that information to the rest of the board team, then I can prove that I have the best interest of all parents, students, and staff of RCPS at heart. Through open conversations, fair consideration, and responsible commonsense reasoning we can make our schools great and best serve everyone."

Swing retired as the Director of the Office of Adult Education and



FILE PHOTO

Literacy at Radford University and is also a former K-12 teacher. She said she is excited to help make the best environment possible for RCPS students.

"I am honored to have earned a seat at the Radford City School Board table," she said. "I look forward to learning more about the strengths and challenges facing our school system. I am excited to direct my experience and energies to working with all stakeholders to provide the best educational environment possible for all of our students. This is a great opportunity to focus our work on being united as Radford Bobcats."

The school board members are elected to four-year terms. The new members join School Board Chair Jenny Riffe and Vice Chair Jody Ray.

Contest looking for Radford's best autumn photographs

Heather Bell
communitynews@ourvalley.org

RADFORD - Planetary Produce, Nursery Natives, and Feeding Appalachia are teaming up for a new contest designed to get people out to appreciate Radford's finest natural sites.

The Fall into Radford Nature Photo

Contest is open to the public and entries are being taken now.

Jesse Nealy of Nursery Natives said he thinks the contest is a great way to get people outside and to foster community connectivity.

"Radford is so beautiful, and it's a wonderful time of the year," said Nealy. "We believe a photo contest encourages

residents to get outside, appreciate nature, and share special moments with each other. Opportunities to connect creatively and appreciate our city can strengthen our community as a whole."

Katie McFall of Planetary Produce agrees. "I'm really excited to see areas in Radford that I haven't seen before," she said. "Most of us have a few favorite spots or vistas,

and with cameras on our phones, a photo contest is a highly accessible way for the community to be creative and to celebrate the beauty of our city together. It would be great to have the local photography community emerge for this contest, and I hope that we might open the door for more

See **Photo contest**, page 4



PHOTO BY EMMY HUGHES

Scott Evans, a postdoctoral researcher with Virginia Tech's Department of Geosciences, at a 2021 dig for Ediacaran fossils at the Nilpena Ediacara National Park in South Australia.

Geobiologists shine new light on Earth's first known mass extinction event 550 million years ago

A new study by Virginia Tech geobiologists traces the cause of the first known mass extinction of animals to decreased global oxygen availability, leading to the loss of a majority of animals present near the end of the Ediacaran Period some 550 million years ago.

The research spearheaded by Scott Evans, a postdoctoral researcher in the Department of Geosciences, part of the Virginia Tech College of

Science, shows this earliest mass extinction of about 80 percent of animals across this interval.

This included the loss of many different types of animals, however those whose body plans and behaviors indicate that they relied on significant amounts of oxygen seem to have been hit particularly hard," Evans said. "This suggests

that the extinction event was environmentally controlled, as are all other mass extinctions in the geologic record."

Evans's work was published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, a peer-reviewed journal of the National Academy of Sciences. The study was co-authored by Shuhai Xiao, also a professor

See **Geobiologists**, page 4

Intelligent.com rates Radford one of Virginia's best online colleges

Accelerated degree programs cited as one highlight of rating

RADFORD - A national higher education resource guide has included Radford University in its newly released review of Virginia's top online colleges for the upcoming year with praise specifically targeted at the school's accelerated degree programs.

Intelligent.com, which provides program ratings and higher education planning, ranked Radford University in the upper end of its recent list, "Best Online Colleges in Virginia 2023."

"This recognition is an endorsement of the good work Radford's faculty and staff have done to put many of our important courses and entire programs online, making them more available to students with work or family obligations, regardless of their geographic location," Interim Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Marten denBoer said.

The company's guide identifies top schools in the state based on tuition costs, the number of credits required to graduate, and the online coursework delivery format.

The list itself derives from a methodology that ranks each institution from 1 to 100 across six categories, comparing each

school according to tuition, admission, faculty, reputation, and retention and graduation rates, as well as the resources provided for online students.

On that basis, Radford University was rated 94.69 out of 100.

Additionally, the website gave Radford its award for Best Accelerated Degrees.

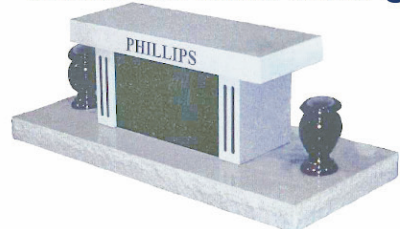
"Some of its [Radford University's] remote programs are incredibly unique, like the Master of Fine Arts in Design Thinking, which can be completed in two years and prepares graduates for leadership roles in a variety of industries," editors for Intelligent.com wrote.

"The university also offers several degree-completion programs through its Davis College of Business and Economics that are intended for working professionals who already have an associate degree and are looking to earn a bachelor's degree quickly," it added.

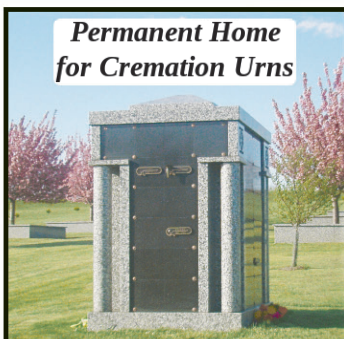
Noting that Radford is one of Virginia's doctorate-granting public universities, Intelligent.com pointed out that three of its doctorates could be earned entirely online.

- Becky Brackin
Radford University

Cremation Memorialization helps the family move forward from grief to remembrance



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UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, Nov. 12:

Bingo! Bingo!

At the Meadowbrook Public Library; 1:30 p.m. This is an afternoon of fun Bingo. Children are welcome, but they must be accompanied by an adult.

Winter wreath workshop

At the Blacksburg Library; 2 p.m. Welcome the winter season with a holiday-themed wreath workshop. This hands-on event will provide all the materials required to make a grapevine wreath. The staff will even teach participants how to make a ribbon bow. This workshop is recommended for adults, but families can work together if they wish. One wreath per family please. Registration is required, but if participants are working as a family, only one person need register. Spots are limited.

Family movie fun

At the Radford Public Library; 11 a.m. Superman's dog Krypto, the Super-Dog, must rescue his owner in the DC League of Superpets. Rated PG for action, mild violence, language, and rude humor. (2022)

Sunday, Nov. 13:

Women's only swim night

At the Christiansburg Aquatic Center, 6 to 8 p.m. This is an evening of girl power. All participants, including the staff, will be women. The cost is \$6. Call 540-381-POOL to register..

Knit and chat

At the Christiansburg Library; 2 p.m. Participants can bring their newest work in progress to knit, crochet, spin, or weave.

Monday, Nov. 14:

Montgomery County Board of Supervisors meeting

The Montgomery County Board of Supervisors will meet at the Montgomery County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St. in Christiansburg. A closed session will begin at 6 p.m. if needed. An open session will follow at 7:15 p.m. Citizens are invited to attend and will be allowed to speak at each meeting. All regular meetings of the Board of Supervisors are rebroadcast on Montgomery County Comcast and Shentel Channels 190 daily.

Radford City Council meeting

The Radford City Council will meet in the Starnes Council Chambers at the Radford Municipal Building, 10 Robertson St.; 7 p.m.

English Conversation for Adults

At the Blacksburg Library; 6 p.m. English Conversation for Adults will be led by Carole and Bob Dellinger. Call the library at 540-552-8246 for more information. No childcare is provided for this class.

Crafting for the holiday: Scrabble ornament

At the Radford Public Library; 1 p.m. Participants will use scrabble tiles, a hot gun, and a few other items to assemble an ornament. Supplies will be provided while they last.

Monday movie matinee

At the Blacksburg Library; 1 p.m. A Korean-American family moves to an Arkansas farm in search of their own American dream. Amid the challenges of this new life in the strange and rugged Ozarks, they find the undeniable resilience of family and what really makes a home. Rated PG-13.

STEM Club

At the Christiansburg Library; 1 p.m. This is a homeschool STEM club in which students will explore science, technology, engineering, and/or math. For ages 8 and up.

National Animal Shelter Appreciation Week

At the Meadowbrook Public Library; 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Participants are invited to drop in to make toys for their dogs, cats, and other furry friends. No registration is needed.

Monday, Nov. 14 through Friday, Nov. 18:

Teen glow-paint gloves

At the Radford Public Library; 3 to 5 p.m. Teens can spend an afternoon chilling and decorating gloves with glow paint.

Tuesday, Nov. 15:

See Events, page 6



Marketplace



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Public Notice **Environmental Permit**

PURPOSE OF NOTICE: To seek public comment on a proposed permit that will allow the continued land application of water treatment plant residuals in Pulaski County, Virginia. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: November 12, 2022 to December 13, 2022 PERMIT NAME: Virginia Pollution Abatement issued by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), pursuant to applicable water laws and regulations APPLICANT/PERMITTEE NAME, ADDRESS AND PERMIT NUMBER: City of Radford Water Treatment Plant, 20 Forest Ave., Radford VA 24141; VPA02069 NAME AND LOCATION OF PERMITTED ACTIVITY: New River Valley Airport, 5391 C.V. Jackson Road, Dublin, VA 24084 Pulaski County PROJECT DESCRIPTION: City of Radford Water Treatment Plant has applied for the reissuance of a permit authorizing the land application of water treatment plant residuals to 88.34 acres of agricultural land at the New River Valley Airport located within

ADVERTISE!

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Before the Council of the Town of Christiansburg for Execution of a Naming, Advertising, and Sponsorship Agreement with the Town of Christiansburg for Naming, Advertising, and Sponsorship at the Christiansburg Huckleberry Park Facility. Pursuant to the requirements of §§ 15.2-2100, 15.2-2101, 15.2-2102, et seq., Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, the Town of Christiansburg, Virginia (Town) hereby gives notice that the Town is inviting bids from qualified bidders to enter into a Naming, Advertising, and Sponsorship Agreement (Naming Rights Agreement) with the Town. Under the Naming Rights Agreement, the successful bidder will have the right to have its name on the facilities at the Christiansburg Huckleberry Park complex located at Booker T. Washington Parkway, N.W., adjoining Peppers Ferry Road, N.W., Christiansburg, Virginia (a portion of Montgomery County Tax Map No. 435 – ((A)) – 3A; Parcel ID 270079), subject to certain terms and conditions of such Naming Rights Agreement. The term of the Naming Rights Agreement shall be ten (10) years, starting on April 1, 2023 and ending March 31, 2033. The term of the Naming Rights Agreement is also subject to termination as set forth in the Naming Rights Agreement or in accordance with the law. The Naming Rights Agreement will also allow the successful bidder to have certain exclusive advertising rights at the Christiansburg Huckleberry Park Facility within the successful bidder's Product Category, as that term is defined in the Bid Form and Naming Rights Agreement. Any such agreement, use, and advertising being subject to approval of the Town. If the Town elects to award a Naming Rights Agreement, Town Council will be requested to adopt an ordinance granting such an award, which ordinance will provide in substance for a Naming Rights Agreement as set forth above. A copy of the full text of the proposed Ordinance and a draft of the Naming Rights Agreement are on file and may be reviewed in the Office of the Town Manager, Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073. Any

interested entity is invited to submit a written bid, including a completed bid form, for a Naming Rights Agreement as set forth above. Each bidder shall submit at a minimum the following information:

1. The legal name of the entity submitting the bid, including the Identification Number issued to it by the Virginia State Corporation Commission.
2. The aggregate amount of the annual payments for the naming right to be made to the Town of Christiansburg for such Naming Rights Agreement. The minimum acceptable amount is \$750,000.00.
3. The amount of the payments for each year of the term of the Naming Rights Agreement. The minimum acceptable amount for the first year of the term of the Naming Rights Agreement is \$200,000.00.
4. The agreement of the bidder to make payments during each year in accordance with the schedule of payments set forth in the Naming Rights Agreement.
5. The identification of the bidder's primary business which will constitute the bidder's Product Category for all purposes in the Naming Rights Agreement. The term "primary business" is defined in the Naming Rights Agreement.
6. The name proposed by the bidder for the Christiansburg Huckleberry Park facility.
7. The financial ability of the bidder to make the payments that will be due during the first year of the term of the Naming Rights Agreement.
8. Information that (i) demonstrates the character, judgment, integrity, experience, and reputation of the bidder in the conduct of its business and performance of its contracts and agreements, and (ii) demonstrates the bidder's ability and commitment to collaborate with the Town in the promotion of the Christiansburg Huckleberry Park facility.
9. The agreement of the bidder to execute the Naming Rights Agreement.
10. The bidder acknowledges that this process is subject to § 15.2-2100, et seq, Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, the bidder agrees, if its bid is accepted, to post a bond with surety in favor of the Town pursuant to § 15.2-2104, Code of Virginia (1950), as amended.
12. Other information as the bidder deems appropriate. Bids are to be submitted in a sealed envelope or container to the Town Manager at the address

noted herein on or before 7:00 p.m., local time, Tuesday, December 13, 2022. The outside of the bid envelope should be marked as follows: "Bid for Naming Rights Agreement with Town of Christiansburg for Naming, Advertising, and Sponsorship at the Christiansburg Huckleberry Park Facility, Not to Be Opened Until the Bid Opening at 7:00 p.m. on December 13, 2022." The bid should be addressed to the Office of the Town Manager, Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia, 24073. All bids received will be held by the Town Manager, unopened, until 7:00 p.m., local time, on Tuesday, December 13, 2022, at which time they will be opened in the Council Chambers, Christiansburg

Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia, 24073, and thereafter be publicly opened and read aloud in accordance with § 15.2-2102, Code of Virginia (1950), as amended. The Town reserves the right to cancel this Invitation for Bids and/or to reject any and all bids, to waive any informality or irregularity in the bids received, and to accept the bid which is deemed to be in the best interest of the Town. The necessary bid form, a copy of the proposed Naming Rights Agreement, and the proposed Ordinance may be obtained from the Town Manager's Office at the above address after Tuesday, November 1, 2022. Pursuant to the requirements of §§ 15.2-2100, et seq., Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, notice is hereby given that the Council of the Town of Christiansburg will hold a public hearing on the above matter at its regular meeting to be held on Tuesday, December 13, 2022, at 7:00 p.m., local time, or as soon thereafter as Council is available, in the Council Chamber, Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia, 24073. The bids received will be announced and any additional bids may be received at this time. All parties and interested persons may appear on the above date and time and be heard on the matter. For further information on this matter, you may contact the Office of the Town Manager at (540)382-6128. If you are a person who needs accommodations for this hearing, please contact the Town Manager's Office at (540) 382-6128 before 12:00 noon on the Thursday before the date of the hearing listed above.



PHOTO BY JACOB LEVIN FOR VIRGINIA TECH

Blacksburg High School students and the Sharing the Road team in front of the VTTI truck.

Outreach team teaches local students about driver safety

By Jacob Levin

Research shows that car, pickup truck, and SUV drivers, including teens, initiate more than 75 percent of incidents involving heavy trucks. The Virginia Tech Transportation Institute (VTTI) Sharing the Road with Trucks program is dedicated to reversing this by educating this group of young drivers.

“Over the past 30 years, we’ve done a lot of research to identify contributing factors to heavy vehicle crashes,” said Matt Camden, team leader for VTTI’s Research to Practice and Outreach group. “This program puts those lessons learned to practice so that we can teach people what we know about these types of crashes and what causes them, which ultimately leads to a future of safer drivers.”

Camden and VTTI researchers Mark Golusky and Scott Tidwell lead the VTTI Sharing the Road team that travels to high schools across the mid-Atlantic to provide engaging learning opportunities for new teen drivers.

Since the program began, the team has instructed over 13,000 students in virtual and in-person visits across five states: Virginia, Delaware, North Carolina, Maryland, and West Virginia. Now, with a new \$600,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation’s High Priority Grant program to continue the outreach, the team estimates that the Sharing the Road program will be able to reach up to an additional 9,000 students this academic year.

One of the events that helps to build toward this goal and the mission of increasing driver safety was at Blacksburg High School on Oct. 31 and Nov. 1. Across the two-day series of sessions, nearly 200 driver’s education students learned how to safely share the road with trucks.

During the demonstration, teen participants had the opportunity to see a semi-truck up close and experience the large blind spots from a semi-truck driver’s perspective from behind the steering wheel to reinforce how difficult it is to see surrounding objects.

Researchers: Highly processed foods can share the addictive qualities of tobacco

When someone feels stressed, they might end up reaching for a bag of chips or a pizza.

“No one is going and grabbing the broccoli,” said Alex DiFelicantonio, associate director of the Center for Health Behaviors Research at the Fralin Biomedical Research Institute at VTC.

DiFelicantonio and Ashley N. Gearhardt, a psychology professor at the University of Michigan, analyzed whether highly processed foods such as sugary soft drinks, baked goods, chips, burgers and fries can be considered addictive by comparing their properties to those of tobacco.

In a Nov. 9 opinion and debate article in the journal *Addiction*, they conclude that their addictive potential “may be a key factor contributing to the high public health costs associated with a food environment dominated by cheap, accessible, and heavily marketed” highly processed foods.

Gearhardt and DiFelicantonio applied three scientific criteria outlined in the 1988 Surgeon General’s report on tobacco products to highly processed foods. They found that highly processed foods share the addictive characteristics of tobacco because they cause compulsive use; have psychoactive, or mood-altering effects on the brain; and are highly reinforcing. They added a fourth attribute, informed by an advanced understanding of behavior and the human brain, that the foods “trigger strong urges and cravings.”

“What we knew about the brain in 1988 is kind of laughable,” DiFelicantonio said. “The idea that dopamine is important for these processes is actually relatively new.”

There is a consensus that all addictive substances increase dopamine release in the brain’s reward circuits. Gearhardt and DiFelicantonio note that when delivered orally, highly processed foods and nicotine increase dopamine in the same part of the brain at a similar magnitude — 150 percent to 200 percent over baseline

for highly-processed foods compared to 150 percent to 250 percent for nicotine.

The hallmarks of highly processed foods are that they lack fiber; they include a significant amount of added sugar, salt and fat; and their nutrition labels include a long list of often unrecognizable ingredients. They have become a growing part of the American diet as manufacturers have produced inexpensive, convenient foods with a long shelf life.

“The ability of highly processed foods to rapidly deliver unnaturally high doses of refined carbohydrates and fat appear key to their addictive potential,” DiFelicantonio said.

“Minimally processed, nourishing foods, such as fruits and vegetables, do not meet these addiction criteria,” Gearhardt said. Tobacco manufacturers and the general public were slow to accept that tobacco was addictive and harmful. “This delayed the implementation of effective strategies to address this public health crisis.”

“There is no agreed upon amount by which a drug has to increase dopamine for us to consider it addictive,” DiFelicantonio said. “Even though we know a lot more about the neurochemical signature of a lot of these processes, we don’t actually use them to define addiction.”

So how does this help improve human health?

“Making a mistake and classifying these substances as addictive when they’re not causes less harm than the other way around,” DiFelicantonio said. She hopes the debate gets more people thinking and talking about the addictive qualities of highly processed foods and their impact on human health, and that it drives demand for more research.

“I’m willing to see data on either side, but the truth is we need to run better experiments rigorously designed to test these ideas,” she said.

- Leigh Anne Kelley,
Virginia Tech Dir. of Communications

New cows at veterinary college enhance learning opportunities

The cows have come home.

The Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine recently welcomed the several new residents — of the bovine variety. The college is now home to 21 dairy cows that will aid in the education of veterinary students.

The cows will help veterinary students learn many different skills. Under the guidance of faculty, students will learn handling, restraint, and basic husbandry as well as how to put cows into a chute for health checks and vaccines. As they progress through the curriculum, students will learn how to assess milk quality and how to perform diagnostic techniques such as rectal palpation.

“Virginia Tech was built as an agricultural university, that’s part of our heritage. I think it’s a cool thing to see that coming in,” said Virginia Edwards, collegiate assistant professor and service chief of Animal Care for Education (ACE). The ACE team provides husbandry, medical care, and enrichment to the animals who assist the veterinary teaching program.

“We absolutely need cows to teach veterinary students with,” said Sierra Guynn, clinical assistant professor of production management medicine in the Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences. “Dairy cows

are better because they’re handled and have a much smaller flight zone as they are handled twice a day regularly.”

In the past, the veterinary college has used the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS) facilities, but logistical issues have made the new facility a necessity. Having cows so close to the college will help with class scheduling and student commute.

“The ability to come from class in the morning, to jump out here real quick, to go to class in the afternoon without 40 minutes of driving is a big advantage,” said third-year student Josh Smith of Syracuse, president of the Food Animal Club.

“It’s nice to be near the school because all of our supplies are here,” said third-year student McKenzie Kyger of Ocean City, Md. “So if we need another clinician, they’re right there. If we need more ultrasounds or palpation sleeves or anything like that, it’s close by.”

In the future, the veterinary college plans on acquiring cows from other farms and will seek out cows of different ages, which will better represent what veterinary students will encounter in practice.

“We have the teaching herd for about two months in the fall and two months in the spring,” Guynn said. “All three of the years will use the herd starting with The Normal

Animal course in year one, then the Breathing and Circulating and Eating and Eliminating in year two, and then the third year will use them in Food Animal Theriogenology.”

Getting the cows to campus has truly been a team effort, with many people across the university working in collaboration to bring the cows to the college. Several teams coordinated, including the veterinary college, CALS, Smithfield Plantation, and even Virginia Tech Athletics.

Casey Underwood, associate athletics director for facility management and capital projects, and Andy McReynolds, associate director of fields, were charged with coordinating a cattle crossing over the cross country track while keeping the track within ACC-level competition standards.

Crews led by Roy Hughes, Chuck Dietz, and Bobby Polly built the cattle crossing, improved the barn entrance, checked storm water management, and installed water lines.

Guynn, Edwards and Hollie Schramm, clinical assistant professor for large animal clinical sciences in the veterinary college, developed the program to support the well-being of the cows.

- Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine



PHOTO BY ANDREW MANN FOR VIRGINIA TECH

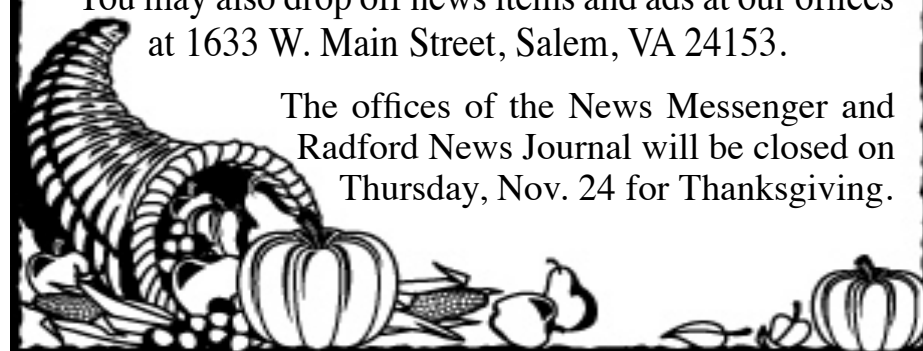
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EARLY DEADLINES FOR THANKSGIVING PAPER

There will be early deadlines for the November 23 issue because of Thanksgiving.

Please send your news items, photos and church news by **Thursday, November 17 at noon** to communitynews@ourvalley.org. Send ads by **Thursday, November 17 at noon** to advertise@ourvalley.org. The paper will be printed on Tuesday, Nov. 22 in order for subscribers to receive it by mail before Thanksgiving. You may also drop off news items and ads at our offices at 1633 W. Main Street, Salem, VA 24153.

The offices of the News Messenger and Radford News Journal will be closed on Thursday, Nov. 24 for Thanksgiving.



Send community news and photos to
communitynews@ourvalley.org

OBITUARIES

Altizer, Megan Kaylie

Megan Kaylie Altizer died by suicide on the last day of October.

(AKA the Girl Grand); her loving mother, Dedra Lynn Smith Altizer; and her amazing grandmother, Anita Smith.



Her family and those who loved her sweet spirit are choosing not to let her final day define the 10,328 she shared with us. Megan was a daughter, sister, wife, cousin, niece, granddaughter, god-sister, friend, comedian, and confidant. She was a prolific artist, who attended the Savannah College of Art and Design and was a former police officer.

Megan was a creative soul and a virtual wizard in all things arts and crafts related. Among her extraordinary talents were painting, sewing, crochet, graphic design, needlework, cake decorating, baking, carpentry, calligraphy, sculpture, and origami. She was brilliant, beautiful, snarky, quick-witted, sly, sometimes loud, sometimes quiet, incandescent, inventive, silly, playful, and curious about all things; but most of all, she was superlatively compassionate. Her megawatt smile and acerbic wit will be sorely missed.

Left to cherish and learn from her time here are her father, Terry Altizer; brother Devin Altizer; godmother Joy Smith; god-grandfather the Rev. Edward Smith (AKA the Boy Grand); husband Mohammad Hyder Ali Shaik; uncle and aunt Dennis and Cheryl Smith; grandfather Don Smith; god-sister LeeAnn Arnold, and her favorite canine companion, Nugget; and many other cousins and friends.

Meggie was preceded in death by god-grandmother Dorothy Smith

A time of remembrance will be held today, Saturday, Nov. 12, 2022, at noon at the Dublin First Church of God, 6330 Courtney Lane, Dublin, VA 24084. Visitation with the family will be from 11 a.m. to noon for those who would like to stop by. In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting a donation be made to the National Alliance on Mental Illness at nami.org or to a mental health/addiction charity of your choosing.

“She was a free bird one minute: queen of the world and laughing. The next minute she would be in tears like a porcelain angel, about to teeter, fall and break. She never cried because she was afraid that something ‘would’ happen; she would cry because she feared something that could render the world more beautiful, ‘would not’ happen.” - Roman Payne, The Wanderess

“Sometimes people leave you/Halfway through the wood/ Others may deceive you /You decide what’s good/You decide alone/But no one is alone” - Stephen Sondheim, Into the Woods

“You cannot let all the world’s tragedies into your heart. You’ll drown. But the ones you do let in should count. Let them manifest action.” - Lin Manuel Miranda

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

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 mid-week 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 nurture meaningful connections to God and others through worship, spiritual growth, and community ministry. We celebrate the dignity and worth of all persons, created in the image of God. Sunday Bible Study Groups - 9:45, Sunday Worship - 11:00. Website: fbradford.org 540-639-4419. Worship is in-person and live-streamed on Facebook and on our YouTube channel: First Baptist Church Radford.

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

CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

(DOC - DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

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

EPISCOPAL

Grace Episcopal Church, 210 4th Street, Radford, 639-3494. A friendly, mission-oriented spiritual community sharing the Word of God. ALL ARE WELCOME. In person and live-streamed services 10:30AM Sundays. Holy Eucharist twice a month. Morning Prayer twice a month. Fellowship and refreshments follow services. Find us on Facebook: Grace Episcopal Church and www.graceradford.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

Radford

WORSHIP DIRECTORY

SPREAD THE WORD
Read John 12:1 through 13:38

A large banner on the semitrailer in the church parking lot announced, “Food Giveaway on Saturday.” Sharon saw the banner as she drove by on her way to work. Just five years earlier, as a single mother of two, she had received two bags of groceries from the same church. This gift enabled her to get through a tough time after her husband deserted her. More importantly, it opened her heart to the message of Christ.

Now a growing Christian, Sharon takes time to tell others about the church’s food giveaway and about the greatest gift of all: Jesus.

The crowd that was with him when he called Lazarus from the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to spread the word (John 12:17).

Those who saw Jesus raise Lazarus from the dead just couldn’t keep quiet. They kept talking about the miracle and generating interest in those who heard. The story of how Jesus has touched one person’s life has the power to touch other people’s lives.

Prayer Suggestion: Jesus, help me to spread the word about You boldly today.

Quicklook: John 12:17-19

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

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

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

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

PENTECOSTAL HOLINESS

Merrimac Pentecostal Holiness Church, Rev. Larry

Christopher (540) 552-7194. l.christopher695@comcast.net. Sunday school at 10 a.m. and morning worship is 11 a.m. Evening service at 6 p.m. and Wednesday at 7 p.m.

Compassion Church, 1820 Second Street, Radford, 639-6287, Our music is passionate, our worship is real, and Pastor Chandler Jones brings relevant messages for everyone at any place on their journey. Sunday Worship Experience at 9:30 AM & 11:00 AM, Wednesday Family Night at 7 PM, Children Ministry provided for all services. Our vision is to see all Saved. Freed. Restored. Fulfilled. Find us on facebook and Instagram

Walton Pentecostal Holiness Church, 4003 Morning Glory Rd., off Walton Rd. on Rt. 114. 731-1755. Lee Sarver, pastor. Sun. School 9:30 a.m., Worship 10:30 a.m. & 6: p.m., Wed., 7p.m.

PRESBYTERIAN

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

UNITED METHODIST

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

Central United Methodist Church, 803 Wadsworth Street, Radford. 639-3529. 8:30 a.m. Sunday Services: 8:30am (interpreter provided); 9:45am Sunday School (interpreter provided); and 11:00am. Wednesday Bible Study: 6:30pm. Child care is provided. www.centralmethodistchurch.com. **St. Paul United Methodist Church**, 220 W. Main St., C’burg. Rev. Moonsup “Paul” Song (540) 382-2410. Sunday Worship 10am, Sunday School 9am. Live streaming Sunday Service - www.twitch.tv/stpaulumc.

RADFORD SPORTS

Early signing day: Three sign letters of intent at CHS



PHOTO BY MARTY GORDON

Three student-athletes from Christiansburg High School signed national letters of intent on Wednesday to continue their playing careers in college. Pictured are: (from left) McKenna Spaulding (Carson-Newman), Marshall Basham (Concord) and Mason Self (Radford University).

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@mainstreetnewspapers.com

Three Christiansburg High School student-athletes signed letters of intent to continue their playing careers during an early national signing day Wednesday in the school's auditorium. McKenna Spaulding will run track and cross country at Carson-Newman, Marshall Basham will play baseball at Concord, and Mason Self is headed to Radford University.

Spaulding has been running cross country and track for the past years, winning the 4X800 region championship and being a four-time all-region runner.

She has also been a member of the Beta Club, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, all-district band, and the National Honor Society. She is also a two-year varsity lacrosse player, a member of the varsity soccer team, and was the 2019 cross country female runner of the year.

At Carson Newman, Spaulding plans to major in exercise science.

Basham has played varsity baseball at CHS for the past four years. He was named the first-team all-region 3D

catcher and second-team Class 3 catcher in 2022. He is also a member of (Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) and the Student Government Association.

At Concord, he plans to major in health sciences with an emphasis in physical therapy.

Self has also played baseball for the past four years and was named to the first-team All-River Ridge District this past year at first base. He was also named the district player of the year. He was honored on the first-team Region 3D at first base and second team pitcher, in addition being named to the All-Class 3 team at first base.

This past month, he was named the Ray Bellamy Memorial winner by the Salem Roanoke Baseball Hall of Fame. At CHS, he is a member of the BETA club, the National Honor Society, Health Occupational Students of America, and the Student Government Association. This past month, he was named the 2022 Christiansburg High School homecoming king.

At Radford University, Self plans to major in exercise science and kinesiology.

Auburn pitcher Kirsten Fleet signs to play softball at JMU

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@mainstreetnewspapers.com

Kirsten Fleet received a scholarship offer from the University of Georgia when she was a seventh grader. The Auburn High School softball pitcher had been heavily leaning that way as she finished her junior year, but a coaching change had her rethinking that decision.

Wednesday, she made it official, becoming the newest pitching recruit for James Madison University. She signed a national letter of intent in front of family, friends, teammates, and coaches at the Auburn High School library.

As a sophomore, Fleet led Auburn to the Class 1 state title, rolling up 260 strikeouts in 120 innings, compiling a 16-2 record with a 0.29 earned run average.

This past spring, she hit .538 batting average with 14 hits, two home runs and 14 RBI's. On

the mound, she had six wins and one loss with 98 strikeouts and an earned run average of 0.525. She was named the Mt. Empire District and Region C Pitcher of the Year.

The Virginia High School League announced its 2022 Class 1 All-State softball team and Fleet was the Class 1 Player of the Year.

During Auburn's tournament run to a state championship, Fleet, finished 8-0 with a .292 ERA in 48 innings with 116 strikeouts, three one-hitters, and two no-hitters, including a no-hitter in the Eagles' 10-0 win over Riverheads High School in the state finals and a perfect game in the 3-0 win over Buffalo Gap in the state semifinals.

Although she missed 10 games due to injury, Fleet finished the year

with a 14-1 record, 203 strikeouts, and a 0.417 ERA. She allowed only 14 hits and five earned runs. In addition, she batted .500, with four home runs and 25 RBI's with an .820 slugging percentage.

The team picked up its third straight state title, finishing the 2022 season with a 22-5 record.

Fleet reopened her recruitment shortly after the College World Series when the Georgia coach announced her retirement. James Madison grabbed everyone's attention with its outstanding play in the CWS two years ago.

Fleet's early recruitment as an underclassman drew national attention, and two years ago, the NCAA instituted a rule change that would not allow coaching conversations with a player until the player was a junior in high school.

Fleet chose JMU over Auburn, Pittsburgh, and Appalachian State.



PHOTO BY ASHLEY AKERS

Kirsten Fleet has officially signed a letter of intent to continue her softball career at James Madison University. Fleet is a senior for the Auburn High School team, which has won three straight state championships during her time at the school.

Hokies sign top-5 wrestling class

Virginia Tech wrestling head coach Tony Robie Wednesday announced the signing of six nationally ranked prospects, marking the third top-five class in five years and the fifth top-10 class in as many years for the Hokies with Robie at the helm.

Robie and staff signed six state champions: two from Pennsylvania, one from Virginia, one from New Jersey, one from Tennessee, and one from Indiana.

"We are incredibly excited about this incoming class and the competitive spirit they bring to the table," said Hokies wrestling associate head coach Jared Frayer. "These guys crave competition and being the best at their craft, which is why they will continue to elevate this program to the next level."

Virginia Tech 2023 Recruiting Class

#8 Jimmy Mullen - Kearny, New Jersey (St. Joe's Regional High School)

Mullen is the sixth-ranked pound-for-pound prospect, eighth-ranked in the graduating class, and top-ranked wrestler in the heavyweight division. Mullen signed to wrestle and to suit up for the Hokies on the gridiron. He is a two-time New Jersey State Champion and a three-star defensive end. In addition, Mullen has wrestled on the world stage where he was a

United World Wrestling Cadet Silver Medalist.

Coach Robie on Jimmy Mullen:

"Jimmy is your rare two-sport athlete who plans on playing football and wrestling for the Hokies. Growing up in North Jersey and attending St. Joe's Regional High School, he is battle-tested in both sports. He plays in one of the top high school football leagues in the nation and will keep the pipeline of great New Jersey wrestlers in Blacksburg alive. A Cadet World Silver Medalist and a multiple time New Jersey state champ, he is one of the top overall ranked wrestlers in the class of 2023. Jimmy is a tremendous athlete and an even better kid. He is not your typical HWT. He moves like a little guy. He will be fun to watch."

#17 Mac Church - Waynesburg, Pennsylvania (Waynesburg High School)

Church is the third-ranked prospect in the 138-pound weight class and seventh overall in the Class of 2023 Big Board. He finished third at the Pennsylvania state tournament his freshman season before claiming the title in his sophomore and junior seasons. Church won a Super 32 title in 2019 and has finished top-three at prestigious tournaments Powerade, Fargo, and Ironman since the start of his high school

career.

Coach Robie on Mac Church:

"Mac committed to Virginia Tech early in the process. He and his parents have been on campus several times over the course of the last year. We feel like we know Mac very well at this point and know exactly what he's about. His commitment to the sport and his work ethic are at an elite level. He has established himself as the best wrestler in the state of Pennsylvania the last two years, as well as one of the best wrestlers in the country. It's hard to know exactly what weight Mac will end up at as he is still growing, but we are very excited that he's joining the program and are lucky to have him. He has all the attributes required to be an elite college wrestler and strives for excellence in every area of his life."

#30 Hunter Mason - Greeneville, Tennessee (Greeneville High School)

Mason signed with the Hokies as a three-time Tennessee state champion and is ranked fifth at 138 pounds. Mason has collected All-American finishes at Fargo, Beast of the East, and Super 32. He is on track to become Tennessee's second four-time state champion as he enters his senior year.

- Virginia Tech Athletics

Radford's Evan Rupe commits to play soccer in hometown

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@mainstreetnewspapers.com

Radford High School soccer standout Evan Rupe will continue his playing career at nearby Radford University. He signed a letter of intent Wednesday in the school's gymnasium in front of family, teammates, and coaches.

Rupe was first-team All-Three Rivers District, Region C, and all-state last season, leading the Bobcats with 18 goals. He scored five goals in the game against James River.

He said he likes the idea of playing in his hometown so family and friends can support him. His goal is to land a starting spot, score goals, and help the

team to success.

"It would also be great to push for a conference tournament championship, a conference regular-season championship, or an NCAA tournament appearance," he said.

Rupe participated in the Adidas Winning Generation Soccer Program's National Cup, played and scored overseas in the Gothia Cup in 2019, and played with the VBR Star in the team's USL Pro Academy this past summer.

This fall, Rupe decided to add to his playing resume by joining the football team, missing only one extra point as the kicker.

At RU, Rupe plans to major in graphic design.



PHOTO COURTESY OF RADFORD HIGH SCHOOL

Evan Rupe led Radford High School's soccer team in scoring for two straight seasons, and this week, he made it official: His playing career will stay close to home at RU. Pictured at Rupe's signing are: (seated front row from left) Rupe's grandfather, Larry Masters; Evan Rupe; Evan's grandmother, Rebecca Masters (back row, from left) Rupe's father, Dave Rupe; his mother, Cyndy, and his brother, Zane.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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game time AT THE SUPERBOWL

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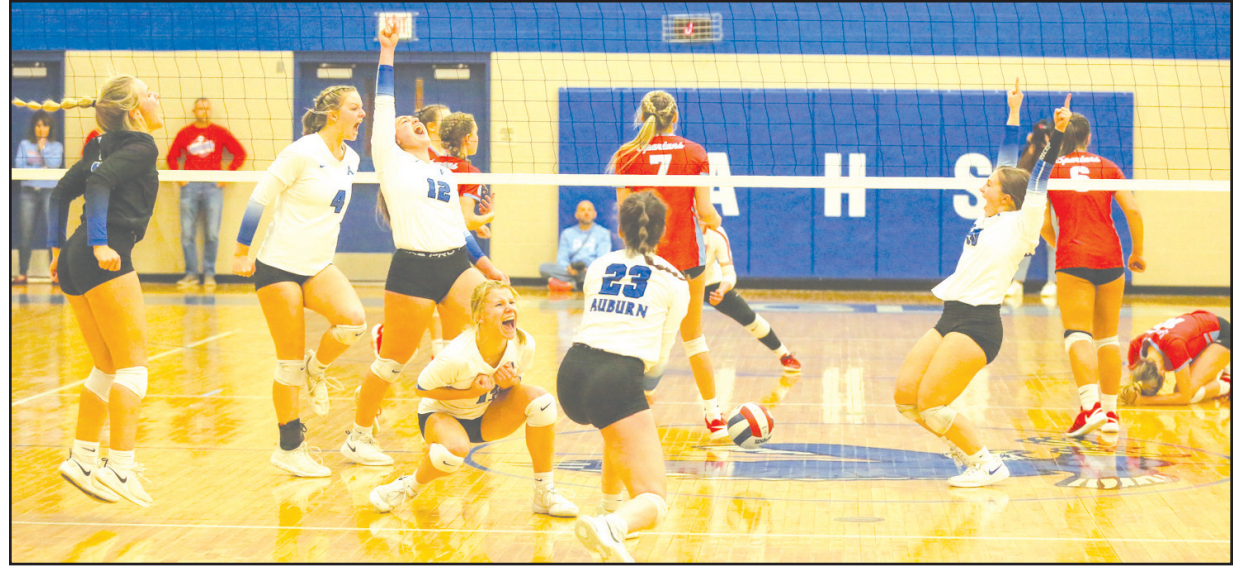
Auburn defeats Giles to win another region volleyball title



Auburn's Madeline Lavergne delivers the boom in hitting the ball across the net during this week's regional final.



Auburn High School raised the Region C championship trophy Wednesday night after a 25-22, 14-25, 25-23, 25-19 defeat of Giles.



The Eagles celebrate after getting the final point to complete the defeat of Giles that wrapped up another Region C title.

PHOTOS BY ASHLEY AKERS

Lady Hokies to face West Virginia in NCAA soccer tourney

For the fourth time within the last five seasons, the Virginia Tech women's soccer team is headed to the NCAA Division I Women's Soccer Championship as announced during Monday's selection show. Virginia Tech (10-6-2, 4-5-1 ACC) will travel to seventh-seeded West Virginia for a first-round match at Dick Dlesk Soccer Stadium in Morgantown on Sunday, Nov. 13, at 1 p.m. The Hokies will be making their 13th NCAA tournament appearance and their 12th during Chugger Adair's 17 seasons in Blacksburg (12 seasons as head coach). Monday's NCAA tournament qualification is a direct result of Tech's demanding 2022 regular season schedule that featured seven regular-season matches against RPI top-20 opponents. Entering the selection window, the Hokies

ranked No. 46 in RPI and spent one week of the season ranked inside the United Soccer Coaches top 25 poll. Among the top performances of the 2022 season, Tech went on a three-game winning streak in the ACC, defeating No. 22 NC State (1-0) and Wake Forest (2-0) and finishing with a win at home versus No. 3 North Carolina on Oct. 1 (2-1). Two weeks later, Tech tied No. 13 Virginia (3-3) while hosting the Cavaliers in Blacksburg. Tech is equipped with 12 goal scorers and 16 point earners. The Hokies are led by their 2022 All-ACC third-team and All-Freshman Team selection Taylor Price, who set the pace for freshman forwards in the conference during the regular season, accounting for eight goals and three assists. Tech has the strength and skills to follow in

the footsteps of its 2013 team that advanced as far as the College Cup. As a program, the Hokies have reached the round of 16 on five occasions, most recently in 2018. In 2021, Tech defeated its first-round opponent Ohio State, 3-1. West Virginia was seeded fourth in the Big 12's conference tournament. The Mountaineers knocked off top-seeded Texas, 1-0 during the semifinal round prior to defeating second-seeded TCU 1-0 in the title match. The Hokies are 7-5-0 during NCAA tournament openers and boast a 6-2-1 record during home NCAA tournament matches (considering all rounds). This season, Tech went 5-3 across its eight regular-season away matches, scoring 15 goals with a +2 goal differential.

- Virginia Tech Athletics

Outdoor Report: Deer are on the move

Autumn is here and along with colorful leaves, crisp air and shorter days, deer are on the move. Fall is the breeding season for deer, so deer will be more active over the next couple of months than at any other time of the year. Motorists will also be driving more often in the dark, increasing the likelihood of encountering a deer on the road. Colliding with a deer can cause considerable damage to the animal, people, and property. The Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) recommends the following tips to avoid hitting a deer:

1. Slow down and be attentive, particularly at night (from dusk to dawn). If you see one deer, watch out for others.
2. Deer habitually travel the same areas. Use caution when you see deer crossing signs installed in these areas by the Virginia Department of Transportation.

3. Apply brakes, even stop if necessary, to avoid hitting a deer, but never swerve out of the lane to miss a deer. A collision with another vehicle, tree or other object is likely to be more serious than hitting a deer.
4. Always wear a seat belt. Even if a collision is unavoidable, you are more likely to avoid injury or death if you are wearing a seat belt.
5. If you hit or kill a deer or bear while driving, immediately report the accident to a Conservation Police Officer or other law enforcement officer in the county or city where the accident occurred. If you kill a deer or bear while driving, you may keep it for your own use if you report the accident to a law enforcement officer where the accident occurred and the officer views the animal and gives you a possession certificate.

- Paige Pearson, Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources

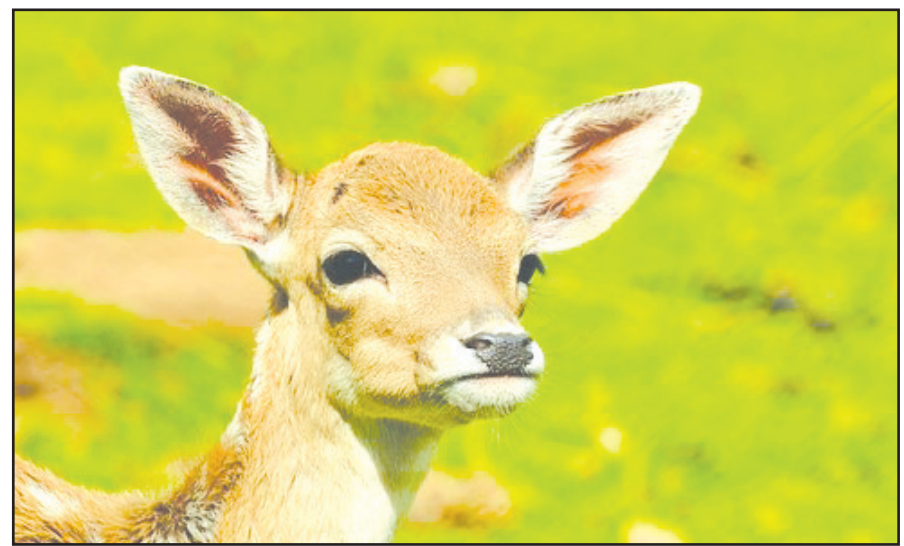


PHOTO COURTESY OF PIXABAY

Send community news and photos to communitynews@ourvalley.org

Obituaries from page 6

Hixon, Micah Edward

Micah Edward Hixon of Blacksburg died Friday, Nov. 4, 2022, at LewisGale Hospital Montgomery. He was born in Blacksburg on Jan. 11, 1983, and was preceded in death by his father, William Wayne Hixon. He is survived by his mother, Tammie Smith Hixon, and his loving furry companion, Maddy. Funeral services were conducted Wednesday, Nov. 9, 2022, in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel. Interment followed in the Smith Family Cemetery.

