

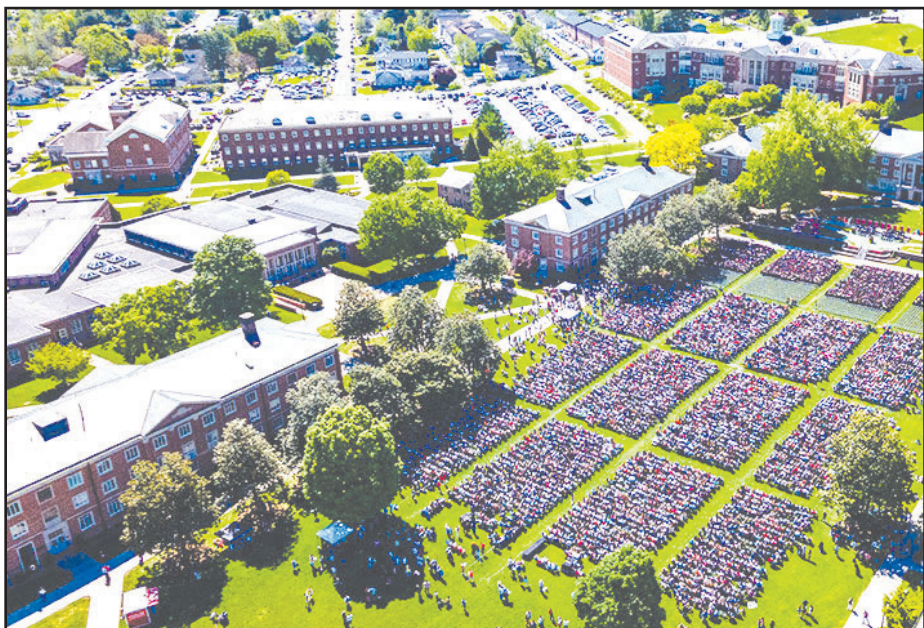


NEWS JOURNAL

Saturday, May 13, 2023 • USPS 387-780 • ourvalley.org • \$1.00



Laurie Shelby '83 delivered the keynote speech at Saturday's commencement. Shelby, a chemistry major at Radford, is vice president of environmental health and safety, sustainability and security at Tesla.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF RADFORD UNIVERSITY

This overhead shot shows the big crowd that assembled for Radford University's Spring Commencement.

Radford graduates receive their degrees at Spring Commencement 2023

RADFORD - Jonathon Halferty seemed to sum up the prevailing mood Saturday morning.

"I've been waiting for this day ever since I came here," he said, standing in line, donning a red first-generation college student stole while eagerly waiting to march with his fellow soon-to-be graduates onto Moffett Lawn at Radford University's 110th Spring Commencement.

"But, I don't want to leave," Halferty confessed. "I had great professors - they are so loving - and I made so many great friends here at Radford."

Halferty, who majored in physics, was among the 978 undergraduate students who received their degrees at the

commencement ceremony on campus Saturday, May 6. Another 220 graduate students earned advanced degrees on the Friday night before at the Graduation and Hooding Ceremony for students of the College of Graduate Studies and Research. The ceremony encompassed graduates from programs on main campus and at Radford University Carilion in Roanoke, Virginia.

In all, 1,198 individuals received degrees over the celebratory two days. Including Halferty, 332 of those were first-generation students.

A number of students, too, had Highlander alumni among their family members watching Saturday's ceremony. Hannah Ramey was one of those legacy

students. The criminal justice major came to Radford, in part, she said, to follow in the footsteps of her father, Chris Ramey '89.

"He's been my role model forever," she said before the ceremony.

As he waited for Hannah to march onto Moffett with the other grads, Chris Ramey stood beneath a shade tree on the sunny morning, reflecting on the advice he gave his daughter years ago.

"I told her she would have the four best years of her life at Radford. Without a doubt."

Keynote speaker Laurie Shelby '83 left no doubt about the valuable experiences she gained as a student at Radford, a place where she met her husband and

earned skills that eventually led to her current position at Tesla Inc.

Shelby, who majored in chemistry at Radford, encouraged graduates to "never lose sight of your passion and commitment to your field - your why," she said. "My why drives me every day to look at challenges differently than many in my profession."

Shelby also came bearing gifts for each graduate, a miniature Tesla Model 3 vehicle.

"Sorry you can't drive it, but it is a one-and-only aluminum diecast model made in California for the Radford University 2023 graduating class," explained

See **Graduates**, page 4



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF GIVELocalNRV

Community Foundation of the NRV celebrates 10th Anniversary of GiveLocalNRV Annual Online Giving Day

BLACKSBURG - This year is the 10th anniversary of the GiveLocalNRV Giving Day, an annual, online event hosted by the Community Foundation of the New River Valley (CFNRV) that encourages charitable giving to nonprofits serving the New River Valley (NRV). Since 2014, thousands of donors in the NRV have come together through this event to raise \$2.6 million for dozens of nonprofits, providing vital support for their missions.

Currently 73 nonprofits are registered for the event, and others are invited to register by Thursday, May 25 at givelocalnrv.org. Organizations that serve the NRV and are categorized as 501c3 by the IRS or those who work with a 501c3 as a fiscal agent are eligible to participate.

This year, the early giving period will begin on Thursday, June 1, which allows participating nonprofits to fundraise throughout the month. The Giving Day will kick off at noon on Wednesday, June 28 and end at noon on Thursday, June 29. During the early giving period and the 24-hour celebration of giving, nonprofits will compete for \$25,000 in incentive grants and prizes provided by the CFNRV and its generous sponsors.

"Giving Day gives us the unique opportunity to extend our reach much further than we would be able

See **Giving Day**, page 4

Historic Radford photograph returns to city at Glencoe

RADFORD - A historic Radford photograph has returned to the city as part of the collection at Glencoe Mansion, Museum & Gallery.

The photograph was donated by Dr. Donald and Mrs. Shirley Miller.

The image depicts a command of men under the charge of Major J.C. Bowman (grandfather of donor Shirley Bowman) being deployed from East Radford for service in World War I. Major Bowman was Dr. Joseph Carroll Bowman, who was a medical doctor who practiced in Radford during the era.

The group was known as the First Virginia Field Hospital when deployed from Radford but later became known as the

115th Field Hospital, 104th Sanitary Train, 29th Division. The group proudly served in France in the Argonne-Meuse Offensive, which was part of the final Allied offensive of World War I.

The photograph is a meticulously made reproduction of an original panoramic photographic that had weathered much over the years. The image has been beautifully framed and made available thanks to the Millers.

Glencoe Mansion is free to visit and is open Wednesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday from 1-4 p.m.

Submitted by *Glencoe Mansion*



PHOTO COURTESY OF GLENCOE MANSION

(Left to right) Donald and Shirley Miller, donors of an historic photograph, along with their friend Kay Cook, at Glencoe Mansion.

Veteran photojournalist Gene Dalton to speak at Radford Photo Club



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE RADFORD PHOTO CLUB

Veteran photojournalist Gene Dalton will present the program at the May Radford Photo Club meeting.

RADFORD - Photojournalist Gene Dalton will be the speaker at the Radford Photo Club meeting on Thursday, May 18, at 6 p.m. at the Radford Public Library.

Dalton, who captured news and life in Southwest Virginia for the Roanoke Times for almost 30 years, will present a program on his photojournalism and taking a photo that tells a story. Some of his photos are on his Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/gene.dalton.771/photos_by.

The Radford Photo Club is made up of

See **Dalton**, page 4

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2551 North Main Street, Blacksburg • (540) 552-7800 • www.memorialgardensnrvalley.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, May 13:

Mount Tabor Ruritan fish fry

Mount Tabor Ruritan Club will hold its May Fish Fry, 5 to 7 p.m. at Slusser's Chapel Picnic Shelter, 1543 Mount Tabor Rd, Blacksburg. Serving fish, fries and slaw; homemade desserts; and beverages. DJ Earl Brown will be spinning some hits to get the 2023 fry season off to a swinging start! Adults-\$12, children under 12 - \$6, (under 3)- free, carry-outs- \$12. Held rain or shine. Call or text 540-449-6178 for further information. On Facebook at MtTaborRuritan.

Rockin' Main Street Concert

Downtown Christiansburg; 5 - 9 p.m. Hosted by The Town of Christiansburg's Parks and Recreation Department. Enjoy musical entertainment by the Carolina Shreds and Miller Holler, as well as beer, wine, and other food and drinks from your favorite local vendors.

Sunday, May 14:

Market Day at Long Way

At Long Way Brewing; 1 - 5 p.m. A dozen artisan vendors will be on site to browse and shop as visitors sip on Long Way Brewing's signature craft brews.

Tuesday, May 16:

Blacksburg AARP May Chapter Program

At the Blacksburg Community Center, 725 Patrick Henry Dr., Blacksburg 11:30-noon (coffee and conversation), 12 -1 p.m. (presentation). Guest speaker will be Dwayne Yancy of Cardinal News. Yancy has more than four decades of experience in Virginia journalism. Non-members are welcome.

DIY Terrariums

At the Christiansburg Library; 4:30 -5:30 p.m. Assemble a miniature terrarium. Ideal for ages 8-plus.

Wednesday, May 17:

VR Wednesday

At the Radford Public Library; 2- 3 p.m. Come take a hike, paint a masterpiece, or explore the international space station at the library! Try all these things and more using our new Meta Quest 2 VR headset. If that's not a good time for you, email duncan.hall@radfordva.gov to schedule a time for a 30 minute demo!

Thursday, May 18:

Community Quilting Bee

At the Blacksburg Library; 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Join us for our weekly quilting and sewing group. Bring your

supplies and join us for conversation.

Meadowbrook Quilters

At the Meadowbrook Library; 6:30 - 8 p.m. All age groups and skill levels are encouraged to participate in this informal gathering of individuals who love quilting or just want to learn the craft. Meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month, in the Studio Room of the Meadowbrook Center.

Sons of Confederate Veterans

The Sons of Confederate Veterans, Stuart Horse Artillery Camp 1784 will meet at 7 p.m. at Aly's Italian Family Restaurant on 3204 Riner Rd. Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy are also invited to this meeting. For further information, please call 540-320-4315 or 540-239-9864.

Monday, May 22:

Radford City Council meeting

The Radford City Council will hold its regularly scheduled meeting at 7 p.m. in council chambers at the Radford Municipal Building, 10 Robertson St., Radford. See the agenda at www.radfordva.gov.

Montgomery County Board of Supervisors meeting

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

Tuesday, May 23:

Blacksburg Town Council meeting

Town Council meets in regular session the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Roger E. Hedgepeth Chambers of the Blacksburg Municipal Building, 300 S. Main St. These meetings are open to the public and televised live on WTOB Channel 2.

Christiansburg Town Council meeting

Regular Town Council meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month beginning at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Town Hall (100 E. Main Street). The public is welcome and encouraged to attend, with a citizen hearing time reserved at each meeting for residents to bring any matter they desire before the entire council.

On-going:

Glencoe Mansion announces call for art for Mary Draper Ingles Show

Glencoe Mansion is calling for art for its July-August 2023 Gallery Exhibit, "A Journey For All," a multi-artist show themed on the life and times of Mary Draper Ingles. Accepted artwork should reflect the life and times of Ingles (Colonial times). Can include depictions of local landmarks (Ingles Farm, the Cultural and Heritage Park, Ingles Tavern and other connected sites in the region), and Colonial style art. Painting, plein air, illustration, digital media, textiles, mixed media and photography will be considered - up to three works per artist. Applications will be accepted through 5 p.m. on June 13. Open to artists in and around the NRV area. Entry forms at www.glencoe mansion.org or by contacting arts@glencoe mansion.org.

Blacksburg Farmers Market

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

Christiansburg Farmers Market

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

Radford Farmers Market

2023 season of the Radford Farmers Market kicked off Saturday, April 22 on the grounds of Glencoe Mansion, Museum and Galley, located just off West Main Street, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. each Saturday until October 14. Features produce, plants, baked goods, artisans, fresh squeezed lemonade, eggs, meats, cheeses and more.

Radford Field of Honor

Field of Honor on the grounds of Glencoe Mansion, Museum and Gallery- displayed until the Fourth of July by the Radford Noon Rotary Club. Sponsor flags to honor a veteran, first responder, family member, teacher, associate, etc. Individual flags - \$50. Blue sponsorship - \$500, includes five flags plus signage. White sponsorship - \$1,000, includes 10 flags plus signage. Red sponsorship - \$2,500, includes 10 flags plus premium signage. Money raised benefits scholarships to RHS students attending Radford University, polio eradication, Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, Glencoe Mansion, Radford-Fairlawn Daily Bread, Elf Shelf, the Women's Resource Center, Sleep in Heavenly Peace, Vittles for Vets, Beans and Rice, the Wheelchair Foundation, Wonder Universe Children's Museum, Shelterbox and Sunset Garden. Contact Tom Alston with Radford Noon Rotary at rotary.club.of.radford.noon@gmail.com or register at: <https://registrations.dacdb.com/Register/index.cfm>.

NRVHBA celebrates 2022 Excellence in Building Awards



PHOTO BY KRISTIE LEA PHOTOGRAPHY

2022 Excellence in Building Award Winners: from left: Ed Tuchler (Shelter Alternatives); Jeff Nosenzo (Brown Insurance); Stephanie Bell (Foresight Design Services); Sara Purpura (White Builders, Inc.); Cat White (Tyris Homes); James Ulmer (Back to Nature Landscaping and Construction); Sean Beliveau (Slate Creek Builders); Cassidy Jones (Slate Creek Builders); and Isaiah Baker (Slate Creek Builders).

CHRISTIANSBURG — The New River Valley Home Builders Association (NRVHBA) presented the Excellence in Building Awards at their annual Gala event on Friday, April 28. Justin Boyle, CFO of Green Valley Builders and President of the NRVHBA, announced the winners in

eight different categories.

Nominees are required to submit design plans, client letters of satisfaction, and before/after photography. Winners are chosen by their peers among the 170 members of the New River Valley Home Builders Association. Among the Design Excellence Awards, White Builders, Inc. won the Best Kitchen category, Slate Creek Builders was awarded the Best Remodeled Home, and Back to Nature Landscaping & Construction took home the Best Outdoor Living award for the sixth year in a row. Tyris Homes won the Best Bath category and was awarded the Best New Home for the second year in a row.

Stephanie Bell of Foresight Design Services was awarded the 2022 Association Service Award for her outstanding committee and volunteer work throughout 2022. Brown Insurance was recognized as the NRVHBA Associate Member of the Year, awarded each year to a non-Builder member of the NRVHBA for outstanding service and contributions to the industry and association.

Tyris Homes won the coveted Builder of the Year for building and operating with quality and integrity in mind, their consideration of community impact when planning and building, and having a high customer satisfaction rating. "On behalf of our Tyris family, I would

like to thank everyone from the NRVHBA for this honor. It would not be possible without the hard work of our dedicated partners, our vendors, subcontractors, and the collaborative efforts with our clients," said Cat White, Vice President of Tyris Homes.

At the 2023 event, the NRVHBA debuted the NRVHBA Legacy Award, which is awarded to a member of the association for long-term outstanding service and meaningful contributions to the industry. The 2023 Legacy Award was awarded to Ed Tuchler, Owner of Shelter Alternatives. "Ed Tuchler and Shelter Alternatives have been an integral part of the NRVHBA and the New River Valley building industry. We are so grateful for his service and guidance over the last 20 years," said Justin Boyle, 2023 NRVHBA President. "We are also so proud of all our award nominees and winners from the 2022 Excellence in Building Awards. It goes without saying that we have some truly talented people and companies that represent the best of the NRV in construction."

To see a full list of nominees and winners, please visit the NRVHBA website: www.nrvhba.com/awards.

Submitted by The NRV Home Builders Association

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Christopher Willey graduates from University of the Cumberlands

WILLIAMSBURG, KY - Christopher Willey, of Radford, recently graduated from University of the Cumberlands. It was another joyful graduation weekend at University of the Cumberlands as the campus hosted annual commencement ceremonies. More than 2,100 graduates celebrated the completion of their undergraduate or graduate degrees from Cumberlands this spring. Many graduates attended commencement ceremonies in person on the university's Williamsburg campus the first weekend in May to celebrate their accomplishments.

"Graduates, today marks a significant milestone in your lives," said Dr. Larry L. Cockrum, university president, during the ceremonies. "You have persevered

through years of hard work and dedication and now stand here, ready to take on the world. I am honored to congratulate each and every one of you on your outstanding achievements."

Cockrum offered heartfelt advice to the newest graduates - in short, to dream big, work hard, make mistakes, and always be kind. He said those were the lessons that have gotten him through his life and made all the difference and encouraged graduates to try it for themselves.

Owen Embree, of Blacksburg, completes semester abroad

IRVING, TEXAS - With the school year coming to a close, Blacksburg's Owen Embree, a student at the University of Dallas, has completed a semester to

remember.

Embree spent the Spring semester studying abroad at UD's campus in Italy. During the Rome trip, a fundamental part of the UD undergraduate experience, "Romans" see for themselves the settings of the classic texts they've read. Embree and other students lodged at UD's Due Santi campus for the semester, intermittently traveling around the Mediterranean to recite Sophocles in the theaters where his tragedies were performed, admire Michelangelo in St. Peter's Basilica and follow in the footsteps of Aeneas carrying his heritage from Troy.

By the time they embarked on this trip, Embree and the other sophomores had already read the masterworks of Homer, Plato, Aristotle, Vergil, Augustine, Aquinas and Dante. Now, as they prepare to begin their junior year at the University of Dallas, they can confidently say

See Achievements, page 3

Achievements

from page 1

they have lived these texts as well.

Caitlin Williams, of Christiansburg, graduates from the University of Georgia

ATHENS, GA - Caitlin Marianna Williams is among the more than 7,000 candidates for graduation in the University of Georgia's Class of 2023 who were celebrated during Commencement exercises. Williams, of Christiansburg, VA, is a candidate for a PHARM D Pharmacy. "We are delighted to celebrate the incredible achievements of our University of Georgia students in the Class of 2023," said President Jere W. Morehead. "Commencement offers students, friends and families an opportunity to recognize the tireless dedication UGA students have shown during their time on campus. We look forward to seeing all the great things these students will go on to do as alumni of the University of Georgia."

Skylar Miles, of Radford, graduates from Bridgewater College

BRIDGEWATER, VA - Skylar Miles of Radford, graduated cum laude with a

Bachelor of Science in health and exercise science from Bridgewater College during the April 29, 2023 commencement exercises.

Approximately 315 undergraduate and 25 graduate students from the Class of 2023 received degrees. Dr. David W. Bushman, president of Bridgewater College, conferred the degrees.

Rev. Dr. Robbie Miller '79, college chaplain, served as the Commencement speaker for 2023. In his address, "The Measure of Success," he said, "The measure of success in our brief span of life-represented by that little 'dash' between the year we're born and the year we die-is not the money we earn or the things we accumulate or the degrees we acquire or the recognition we receive, but the love we share and the difference we make."

Teagan Danilowicz initiated into Omicron Delta Kappa

LEXINGTON, VA - Teagan Danilowicz, a native of Radford, was recently initiated into the Florida State University Circle of Omicron Delta Kappa, the National Leadership Honor Society. The Society welcomed 787 new initiates from 32 universities during March 2023.

Students initiated into the Society

must be sophomores, juniors, seniors, or graduate/professional students in the top 35% of their class, demonstrate leadership experience in at least one of the five pillars, and embrace the ODK ideals. Fewer than five percent of students on a campus are invited to join each year.

Omicron Delta Kappa Society, the National Leadership Honor Society, was founded in Lexington, Virginia, on December 3, 1914. A group of 15 students and faculty members established the Society to recognize and encourage leadership at the collegiate level. The founders established the ODK Idea-the concept that individuals representing all phases of collegiate life should collaborate with faculty and others to support the campus and community. ODK's mission is to honor and develop leaders; encourage collaboration among students, faculty, staff, and alumni; and promote ODK's leadership values of collaboration, inclusivity, integrity, scholarship, and service on college and university campuses throughout North America.

Blacksburg High School student wins National Merit scholarship

Samuel C. Woolsey, of Blacksburg High School, has been named a National Merit \$2500 Scholarship winner.

The 2,500 Merit Scholar designees were chosen from a talent pool of more than 15,000 outstanding Finalists in the 2023 National Merit Scholarship Program. National Merit \$2500 Scholarship winners are the finalists in each state judged to have the strongest combination of accomplishments, skills, and potential for success in rigorous college studies. These scholars were selected by a committee of college admissions officers and high school counselors, who appraised a substantial amount of information submitted by both the finalists and their high schools: the academic record, including difficulty level of subjects studied and grades earned; scores from the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test; contributions and leadership in school and community activities; an essay written by the finalist; and a recommendation written by a high school official.

Woolsey plans to study Engineering.

The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi Inducts New Members

BATON ROUGE, LA - The following people recently were initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines.

See Students, page 6



The Fincastle Herald | The Vinton Messenger | The New Castle Record | Salem Times-Register | News Messenger | Radford News Journal

For Sale - Misc

FOR SALE

Men's Black Tuxedo, Brooks Bros. brand Worn 1 x, Drycleaned. Jacket size: 42" long, Trousers w/ Satin side strip, Size 34 x 34. Includes: White pleated-front dress shirt, size 16 1/2 x 36, with Cuff Links and Studs.

2 Cumberbunds (1 Black, 1 Tartan) Men's Black dress shoes, size 9, Brooks Bros. brand. Will Sell ALL for \$600. Option to purchase shoes only for \$75.

Men's casual and dress-type shoes, Johnston Murphy brand Size 9, All in good condition, 20 Pairs.

Will sell ALL for \$450. Selling separately, optional.

Dog Cages, Wire, Retriever brand, 1 large, 1 small. Both in great condition, minimal use.

Will sell both for \$60 with option of selling separately.

CONTACT: 540-392-8613

Legals - Montgomery County

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL

The Town of Christiansburg Town Council will hold a Public Hearing on, Tuesday, May 23, 2023, 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. Rezoning request by RWW36, LLC, Property Owner, and Christiansburg VA (SEQ US Highway 460 and Roanoke) LLC, Applicant, to rezone approximately 1.976 acres located at the southeast corner of Rt. 460 Bypass and Roanoke St. and identified as Tax Parcel 529 - ((A)) - 48, Parcel ID 230045; from General Business District B-3 to Limited Industrial District I-1. The property is partially designated as Mixed Use with Buffer (Residential/Business) on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan. Town Hall will be open and available to receive public comment in-person at the time of this Public Hearing. A copy of the application, the Town's Zoning Map, Zoning Ordinance, and Future Land Use Map may be viewed in the Planning Department Office, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073 during normal office hours of 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contact Andrew Warren, Assistant Town Manager, at (540) 382-6128, Ext. 1130 or by email at awarren@christiansburg.org, with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations.

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Parcel 529 - ((A)) - 48; Parcel ID 230045, currently zoned General Business District B-3 and proposed for rezoning to Limited Industrial District I-1. The property is partially designated as Mixed Use with Buffer (Residential/Business) on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan. Town Hall will be open and available to receive public comment in-person at the time of this Public Hearing. A copy of the application, the Town's Zoning Map, Zoning Ordinance, and Future Land Use Map may be viewed in the Planning Department Office, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073 during normal office hours of 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contact Andrew Warren, Assistant Town Manager, at (540) 382-6128, Ext. 1130 or by email at awarren@christiansburg.org, with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations.

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Legals - Montgomery County

MONTGOMERY COUNTY ELECTION INFORMATION June 20, 2023 - Democratic Primary

4th Senate District Only Registration Deadline: Tuesday, May 30, 2023 In-Person Early Voting at the MONTGOMERY COUNTY OFFICE OF ELECTIONS 1546 North Franklin Street, Christiansburg, VA. May 5 - June 16 from 8:30am - 5pm In addition, we will be open from 9am to 5pm Saturday, June 10, 2023 and Saturday, June 17, 2023 Note: The last day qualified voters can apply for an absentee ballot by mail: Friday, June 9, 2023 by 5:00 PM A Ballot Drop Box will be available inside the Montgomery County Office of Elections from May 5, 2023 - June 20, 2023, during normal business hours.

The Constitution of Virginia requires that in order to be qualified to vote in the General & Primary Election you must be a citizen of the United States, be eighteen years of age on or before the next General Election, have domicile and a place of abode in Montgomery County and that you be registered in the precinct in which you reside. An acceptable ID will be required when you vote. A voter may show either voter registration confirmation documents, valid Virginia Driver's License, valid United States Passport, or any other identification issued by the Commonwealth, one of its political subdivisions, or the United States; any valid student identification card issued by any institution of higher education located in the Commonwealth or any private school located in the Commonwealth; any valid student identification card issued by any institution of higher education located in the Commonwealth; any valid employer identification card containing a photograph of the voter and issued by an employer of the voter in the ordinary course of the employer's business or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows the name and address of the voter. Contact the Montgomery County Office of Elections if you have any questions at 382-5741 or the Department of Elections at elections.virginia.gov. Connie Viar, Director of Elections/General Registrar

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Christiansburg Town Council will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, May 23, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Christiansburg Town Hall,

Legals - Montgomery County

100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments concerning an unbuilt right-of-way vacation request by Denstock LLC for the vacation of an unimproved 0.169-acre portion of the eastern most end of Farmview Road, NE right-of-way. Information on the preceding ordinance, the Town's Zoning Map, Zoning Ordinance, and Future Land Use Map may be viewed in the Planning Department, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073-3029 during normal office hours of 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contact Andrew Warren, Assistant Town Manager by phone at (540) 382-6120 ext. 1130 or by email at awarren@christiansburg.org with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations. Written comments may be sent to the preceding address; please allow adequate mailing time.

Order of Publication

Commonwealth of Virginia VA Code §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316.20-104 Case No. CA23000012-00 MONTGOMERY COUNTY Circuit Court, 55 EAST MAIN STREET, SUITE 1, CHRISTIANSBURG, VA 24073 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re CHRISTINE ELIZABETH GIBSON, DANIEL WARD GIBSON v. COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA The object of this suit is to: IN RE: DESTINEE EVONLYNN HOBACK. It is ORDERED that BETTY JOY THOMPSON appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before JULY 5, 2023. MAY 5, 2023, ROBERT M.D.TURK, JUDGE TIFFANY M.COUCH, CLERK

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG

PROPOSED OUTSIDE CORPORATE LIMITS WATER, SEWER, GARBAGE/SOLID WASTE FEE INCREASES

A public hearing will be held on Tuesday, June 13, 2023, at 7 pm at Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 East Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia in Council Chambers for the purpose of discussing the proposed water, sewer, and garbage/sewer fee increases for customers outside of the corporate limits. Effective Date: July 1, 2024 Authority: Code of Virginia §15.2-2119 Water rates outside of

Legals - Montgomery County

corporate limits will increase from 150% to 200% of the inside corporate limits rates. Water rates: First 0 to 1,000 gallons from \$13.50 to \$20; Additional 1,000 gallons from \$16.50 to \$24.00; Over 50,000 gallons from \$12.38 to \$18.00. Sewer rates outside of corporate limits will increase from 150% to 200% of the inside corporate limits rates. Sewer rates: First 1,000 gallons from \$15 to \$20; Additional 1,000 gallons from \$15.38 to \$20.50. Garbage/Solid Waste service rates outside of corporate limits will increase from 150% to 200% of inside corporate limits rates. This proposal may be examined during regular business hours at the office of the Town Manager. 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, VA between the hours of 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday. All interested citizens will have the opportunity to give written or oral comments. Randy Wingfield Town Manager

Classified Advertising

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To place your ad, call 389-9355

Dalton

from page 1

professional and amateur photographers from throughout the New River Valley. Meetings, events, outings are open to the public. Learn more by

searching for “Radford Photo Club” on Facebook. If you have questions, email Lucy Gilmore at lucyg.gilmore@gmail.com or mborgarelli@gmail.com.

Submitted by the Radford Photo Club

Giving Day

from page 1

to on our own,” said Morris Fleischer, vice president of the board of the Giles County Christian Service Mission, a long-time GiveLocalNRV participant. “It provides us with a platform for sharing our story, a conduit through which we can extend our gratitude and appreciation to previous donors, and a catalyst for attracting new givers.”

The grants and prizes reward nonprofits for things such as the highest number of unique donors and most money raised. As a special prize

this year, participating nonprofits will have the opportunity to compete to be featured on an episode of Buzz4Good, which airs weekly on Blue Ridge PBS and features the work of regional nonprofits to generate more “buzz” for their missions.

“We are so excited to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the GiveLocalNRV Giving Day with the New River Valley community,” said Jessica Wirgau, Chief Executive Officer of the CFNRV. “This event shines a light on how when

many people come together, they can make a huge impact. Every donation, no matter what size, makes a difference to the participating nonprofits.”

This year’s generous sponsors of GiveLocalNRV are: National Bank of Blacksburg, Atlantic Union Bank, First Bank and Trust, Carter Bank and Trust, Olio Financial Planning, Automation Creations, Inc., Meridian Bird Removal, Virginia Community Capital, Brown, Edwards, and Co. LLP, Jim and Sue McAlister, 5 Points

Creative, Buzz4Good, and NRV Magazine.

For all the details on this year’s event, the grants and prizes, and how to register your organization, please visit givelocalnrv.org. For more information on how to participate as a nonprofit or a donor, please reach out to the CFNRV team at cfnrv@cfnrv.org.

Submitted by the Community Foundation of the NRV

Graduates

from page 1

the vice president of environmental health and safety, sustainability and security at Tesla.

Shelby also delivered the keynote address, and the miniature Tesla cars, at Friday night’s Graduation and Hooding Ceremony.

Radford President Bret Danilowicz could not present for the ceremony.

He and his family were with his daughter, Teagan, at her graduation at another college campus.

He did, however, deliver a heartwarming message to graduates via video and received a roaring cheer when he concluded with the words, “Go Highlanders!”

Graduates also heard

from Student Government Association President Justine McLaughlin, who heard cheers as she made her way to the podium.

“I am so proud of you all,” said the biology major from Waldorf, Maryland. “You all are some of the most resilient, creative and adaptive students. You all are here because you earned it through hard work and perseverance.”

McLaughlin also thanked Radford for giving her “the opportunity to grow into an excellent professional, leader and person.” She will continue her education at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in Baltimore, Maryland.

Radford introduced a new commencement tradition at Saturday’s ceremony by recognizing ROTC (Reserve Officers’ Training Corps) graduates who had been commissioned to the U.S. Army as second lieutenants in a ceremony on campus Friday. Graduate Alexis Parker took the stage with her grandfather, retired Lt. Col. Walter Z. Parker, to represent all officers in this spring’s graduating class.

Once speeches were delivered, graduates from each college marched across the Moffett Lawn stage to receive their diplomas. Board of Supervisors Rector Debra K. McMahon conferred the degrees in place of the president.

Before graduates from the College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences walked across the stage, their dean, Matthew J. Smith, made a somber announcement about the awarding of a

posthumous bachelor of science degree in social science to Paulette Ashlin Wright of Claudville, Virginia, who died in December.

“Paulette dreamed of being a teacher and was deeply committed to achieving her goal. Warm and energetic, she was a natural teacher with an innate ability to draw in students. She could find a connection with anyone and was a gentle leader, graciously supporting those around her,” Smith said. “You will see her fellow students honoring her today, and her family has joined us for this special moment. While we may not realize everything that Paulette had yet to give to the world, her memory and her dreams will be with us forever.”

Several ceremonies took place on campus Friday to honor graduates from various programs. One of those was the ROTC commissioning of seven cadets into the United States Army. They earned the rank of second lieutenant and were commissioned as officers at a ceremony at the Hurlburt Student Center Auditorium.

One by one, they took the Army’s oath of office, sealing their entry into the Officer Corps of the United States military, then stood as their second lieutenant rank insignia was pinned to their uniforms before finally making their first salute. In each of these customs, they were assisted by friends, family members and colleagues.

In his keynote speech, retired U.S. Army Col. Paul Mele offered graduates a collection of

short, deadpan stories that illustrated the dangers of complacency and needing to be liked, as well as the virtues of discipline, sound leadership and humility.

“Go out and lead with the mantra, ‘It’s not about me,’” Mele advised. “Because if it’s not about you, it’s got to be about somebody else: Your soldiers; the mission; the country; the customer; the Constitution.”

Later Friday morning, at the Covington Center, a total of 35 Radford University Honors College graduates received medallions commemorating their academic accomplishments. Of those, 24 were declared Highlander Honors Scholars for completing a 27-credit honors curriculum, presenting a scholarly capstone project in their fields of interest and achieving a grade point average of 3.5 or higher. Each student’s award was presented to them onstage by their faculty mentors.

“This is the highest recognition for undergraduates of Radford University, and you have earned the praise of the entire campus,” Niels Christensen, Ph.D., professor of psychology and director of the Honors College, told the medallion recipients.

“At the university ceremonies tomorrow, please wear your Honors College regalia with pride.”

The School of Nursing pinned 138 undergraduates and graduates at an afternoon ceremony in Bondurant

Auditorium. “Nursing is and always will be part of who you are,” said keynote speaker Sarah Gilbert ’80, M.S. ’05, an associate professor in the School of Nursing. “We are so proud of all that you have accomplished.”

Following the individuals pinning from family, friends and others, graduates took the traditional Nightingale Pledge in honor of Florence Nightingale.

Twenty-nine Doctor of Physical Therapy (D.P.T.) students received white coats and pins at a ceremony Friday in Charter Hall in the City Market Building in downtown Roanoke. The students received their white coats and were pinned by family members and loved ones. D.P.T. Associate Professor Shala Cunningham served as the event’s keynote speaker.

The Center for Diversity and Inclusion held a Multicultural Congratulatory Ceremony in the Bondurant Auditorium on Friday evening to wrap up the day’s events.

The majority of 2023 Radford spring graduates, about 93%, were Virginia residents. Other graduates came to Radford from North Carolina (21), Maryland (11), Washington, D.C. (4), New York (4) and Pennsylvania (4). Three graduates came to Radford from Ethiopia, two each from Germany, Greece and India and one from Zambia.

Chad Osborne for Radford University

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Radford News Journal is a newspaper of, by and for the people of Radford. We encourage letters from our readers on topics of general interest to the community and responses to our articles and columns. Letters must be signed and have a telephone number where you can be reached for verification. All letters will be verified before publication. We reserve the right to deny publication of any letter and edit letters for length, content and style.

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CROSSWORD

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- CLUES ACROSS**
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 - Polynesian wrapped skirt
 - Double-reed instruments
 - Own (Scottish)
 - Summer window dressings
 - Many not ands
 - Paddle
 - Being a single unit
 - Silly behavior
 - Insecticide
 - A blank area
 - Reduces stress
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 - Tear away roughly
 - Elevated
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 - Bake eggs in their shells
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 - Perform work regularly
 - Longest geological time



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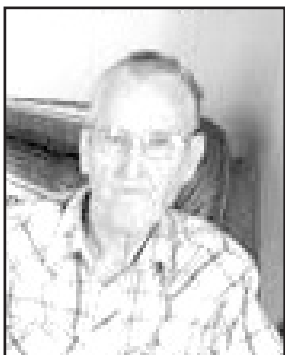
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OBITUARIES

Cumbee, Roy Miller

Roy Miller Cumbee, 86, of grandchildren, Brandon Spencer, Dublin, died, Monday, May 8, 2023, at Pulaski Health and Rehabilitation Center.

He was born on June 8, 1936, to the late Charlie and Lida Bell Cumbee. He is also preceded in death by his sisters, Marie Janney, Buelah Ann Shaver, and Maybelle Dooley; and brothers, Alfred Cumbee, Calvin Cumbee, and David Cumbee. He is survived by his daughter, Cheryl Stephanie Spencer; son, Roy Christopher Cumbee;



great-grandchildren, Briley Spencer and Hunter Harshbarger; brother, Richard Cumbee (Barbara); sister-in-law, Dorothy Cumbee; several nieces, nephews, special friend Sheila, and his dog Murray.

Graveside services will be conducted Monday, May 15, 2023, at 11 a.m. in the Westview Cemetery with Pastor David Neal officiating.

Gaines, Linda Lee Wilcher

Linda Lee Wilcher Gaines passed away peacefully at home with her family on May 7, 2023, due to complications from Lewy Body Dementia.

Linda was born in Hagerstown, Md. on June 23, 1947, and was the daughter of Master Sergeant Robert Lee and Catherine Wilcher. She traveled considerably in Europe and in the United States with them while her father was serving in the U.S. Army. She settled on the Eastern Shore of Maryland when her father retired from the military. She graduated from North Dorchester High School and received an Associate's Degree from Goldie Beacom College.

She had two sons, John C. and Michael, and raised them in Federalsburg, Md. She worked at the Trinity Episcopal Church of Easton, Md., for the Bishop of Easton where she met the Rev. Charles and Jean Ellestad. Her friendship with the Ellestad family led her to opportunities in Frankfort, Kentucky, where she became the Administrative Assistant to the Rector, the Rev. Charles Ellestad. This critically important work was at



the Episcopal Church of the Ascension. While employed there, Linda met Dr. Paul Gaines.

They were married for 26 years and shared a loving family with their four sons and the children of their sons. She was a loving wife, mother, and grandmother, who always put her family first. She loved being Nana to her grandchildren.

Linda made a significant impact at Inorganic Ventures, where she served as a key executive. She was instrumental in relocating the company from New Jersey to Christiansburg in 2009. She was a visionary in long-term sustainability and growth through ownership restructuring. Linda's work in this capacity was critical in the subsequent success of Inorganic Ventures.

Linda is survived by her husband, Dr. Paul Gaines; her brother, Bobby Wilcher (Kay); and her sister, Kelly LeCates (Daniel). She also is survived by her sons: Chris Gaines (Mary Kate),

See Obituaries, page 6

Send community news and photos to communitynews@ourvalley.org

ANGLICAN CATHOLIC

St. Philip's Anglican Church, 306 Progress Street, NE, Blacksburg, Virginia 24060, (540) 552-1771, www.stphilipsblacksburg.org. Reverend Fr. Wade Miller, Priest. Eucharist Sunday's at 11am and Wednesday's at 12pm.

St. Thomas Anglican Church- located at 4910 Hubert Rd, NW Roanoke, Va. Traditional Liturgical Lenten Services, Sunday at 10:30 am. Call (540) 589-1299 or visit www.sttofc.org for 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

ON GUARD

Read 1 Chronicles 7:1 through 9:44

It was a great privilege and honor to be one of the men chosen to be gatekeepers at the entrance to God's house. Even more awesome was the responsibility of four principal gatekeepers who guarded the rooms and the treasuries.

They would spend the night stationed around the house of God, because they had to guard it; and they had charge of the key for opening it each morning (1 Chronicles 9:27).

No doubt some nights must have felt especially long, but falling asleep while on duty was not an option. The gatekeepers needed to remain alert to any sound or movement that might indicate the treasures they guarded were in danger.

Today many churches install electronic security systems, although they probably rely on a person to make sure all the windows and doors are locked each night. But when it comes to guarding that which is most important—our children and youth—nothing can replace the prayers of parents and the church family.

Challenge for Today: Ask the Lord for the name of a young person He wants you to safeguard with prayer.

Quicklook: 1 Chronicles 9:22-27

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 open the first Early Childhood Head Start in our community (6 weeks to age 3), and have numerous other programs including a Justice & Mercy Fund providing assistance for those needing emergency assistance with critical bills. Further St. Michael sponsors an awesome Scouting program of Boy & Girl Scout Troops, Venture Scouts for older youth, and a new Cub Pack for girls & boys kindergarten - 5th grade. Directions: From Price's Fork Road, turn onto Merrimac Road and St. Michael is 3/10ths of a mile down on the left. For more information about any of our activities: Phone 540 951-8951. Email hope@stmcl.us or visit our Website www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org

PENTECOSTAL HOLINESS

Merrimac Pentecostal Holiness Church, Rev. Larry

Christopher (540) 552-7194. lchristopher695@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.

Obituaries from page 5

Michael Scott, Greg Gaines (Lynne), and John C. Scott (Michelle). She was blessed with numerous grandchildren, among whom are Brittani and Phillip Scott; Ben, Katie, and Jena Scott; Evie and Brodie Gaines; Dylan, Avery, and Emerson Gaines. Memorial Service

will be held at McCoy Funeral Home in Blacksburg at 11 a.m. Saturday, May 13. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to The Hopkins' Economics of Alzheimer's Disease and Services (HEADS) Center. Johns Hopkins is the leading organization for dementia research.

Albert, Barbara Olinger

Barbara Olinger Albert, 73, of Christiansburg, died early Monday morning on May 8, 2023.

She passed away into the waiting arms of her Heavenly Father, as she slept peacefully. Her faith was in her Lord Jesus Christ and she accepted him as her Lord and Savior. Barbara worked diligently for 50 years, starting at a Virginia Tech drugstore as a waitress, Cooks Clean Center and ending at Federal-Mogul, where she worked her final 43 years as an inspector.

Barbara took great pride in her work, her family and her home. She kept a spotless home and she is probably cleaning and shining the pearly gates and streets of gold in Heaven. Barbara was a beautiful lady who was serious about her appearance. You would never find her even visiting the mailbox without wearing her favorite lipstick. Barbara was the boss of her daughter Trena and made it clear to always look nice even if you were going outside for a minute. Barbara was known for her delicious chicken and dumplings, and she made sure to cook good things for her family. Barbara loved feeding her birds outside her living room window, where they waited patiently twice a day for her to visit them. Her hobbies included watching Wheel of Fortune and minding her business.



Barbara was a wonderful caregiver. Through the years she cared for her sister Judy, her brother Richard, and most recently her beloved husband Kenny.

Barbara is survived by her daughter Trena French, and husband, Paul; stepson Kevin Albert and wife, Lisa; and stepson Byron Albert. Barbara has four grandchildren, Christopher and Joshua Albert, and Bryson and Renee Albert. She is also survived by her sisters Sarah Denig and husband, Joe, and Connie Huff and husband, Boyd; and sister-in-law Peggy Eads and husband, Ray; along with numerous nieces and nephews.

Barbara was pre-deceased by less than two months, by her loving husband of 44 years, Kenneth Albert. Barbara was also pre-deceased by her brother Richard Olinger, sister Judy Horne, and parents Pierce and Lucy Olinger.

Barbara's family received friends Wednesday, May 10, 2023 at McCoy Funeral Home, 150 Country Club Drive SW, Blacksburg where a service celebrating Barbara's life also was held in the chapel. Family friend Jimmie Lee Price, Dallas Vines, and daughter Trena French officiated. There was no graveside service.

Neishell, Clara Saul

Clara Saul Neishell, 83, of New River, passed away Saturday, May 6, 2023.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Charles William, and Willie Viers Saul; brothers, Chuck and Eddie; and sister, Marie Dobbins.

Survivors include her sisters, Shelia Saul King, Bonnie Saul Thornton, and Sherry Saul Mitchell; brothers-in-law, Jerry Thornton and Otey Mitchell; sister-in-law, Mary Lee Saul; sons, Charles Morgan Lessner and Michael Jon Lessner; daughter-in-law, Valerie Lessner;



grandson, Donald Lessner; great-grandchildren, Lilly, Avery and Mason; and many other relatives and friends.

A graveside service will be held on Monday, May 15, 2023, at 11 a.m., at Highland Memory Gardens in Dublin with Robyn Angle officiating.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to Pulaski Health & Rehab.

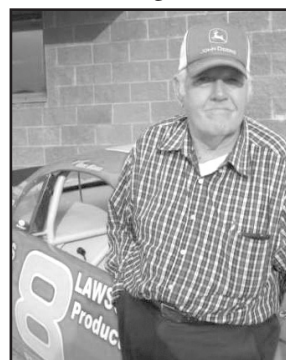
The Neishell family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford.

Nester, Bobby Lee

Bobby Lee Nester, 85, of Parrott, passed away on Sunday, May 7, 2023.

Bobby was a founding member of the Twin Community Fire Department and served for over 20 years. He was preceded in death by his parents, Virgil Lee and Margaret Albert Nester; grandson, Shaun Whittaker; great-granddaughter, Skylon Amos; and his two brothers.

Survivors include his loving wife of 67 years, Molly Jean Nester; sons and daughters-in-law, Bobby Edward Nester (Shirley), Chuck Nester (Michele), and Ricky Gravley (Diane); daughters and sons-in-law, Joan McCoy (Rusty) and Mary Cullop (Rocky); grandchildren, Ashley and Christopher; great-



grandchildren, Bella and Matthew; sister, Lois Assad; family friend, Misty Smith; and many other nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

The family received friends Friday, May 12, 2023, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services followed with Rev. Eddie Dalton and T. Michael Bond officiating. Interment followed in Brown Cemetery in Belspring.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Twin Community Fire Department, P.O. Box 7, Parrott, VA, 24132.

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

Nester, Marvin Wayne

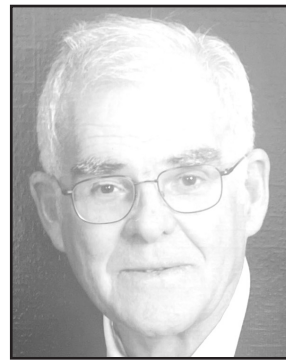
Marvin Wayne Nester, 76, of Radford, went to be with his Lord and Savior on May 8, 2023.

He was the eldest son of the late Marvin and Elda Nester. He was a member of Calvary Baptist Church in Radford for over 50 years, serving faithfully as a deacon, church treasurer, Sunday school teacher and Awana leader.

Mr. Nester was an electrician, beginning his career with the family business, Star Electric. He also held positions at the Radford Army Ammunition Plant and Southern Air and retired from Volvo Trucks, New River Valley Plant. Mr. Nester enjoyed tennis, hiking, and traveling.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 46 years, Donna Nester; his brother and sister-in-law Vander and Velma Nester, of Christiansburg; and his niece, Tracy D'Souza, of Roanoke.

Survivors include his son and daughter-in-law, Paul and Amy Nester and their son, Jack, of Salem; daughter and son-in-law, Lesley and Andy Morgan and their children, Andrew, Elijah and Olivia of Bridgeport, W.Va.; brothers and sisters-in-laws, Allen and Jill Nester of Scottsdale, Ariz.; and Tim and Joyce



Nester, of Radford; sister and brother-in-law Sonja and Dennis D'Souza, of Roanoke; three sisters-in-laws and brothers-in-laws, Judy and Buddy Linkous, of Roanoke; Karen and David West, of Altavista; and Mary Ruth and Parks Schaefer, of New Bern, N.C.; and other family and friends.

The family would like to express their sincere gratitude for the compassionate and professional care Mr. Nester received recently at Friendship Health and Rehab Center South, the SICU and 6th floor of Lewis Gale Medical Center and Blue Ridge Cancer Care.

The family will receive friends Saturday, May 13, 2023, at Calvary Baptist Church, Radford, VA, from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. Funeral services will begin at 1 p.m. with Pastor Timothy Worles officiating.

In lieu of flowers, Mr. Nester requested that contributions be made to the Calvary Baptist Church Mission Fund, 624 Sixth Street, Radford, VA 24141.

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

O'Dell, Lois Crigger

Lois Crigger O'Dell, 84, of Dublin, lost her battle with Alzheimer's Saturday May 6, 2023, at Summer Stone Health and Rehabilitation Center in Kernersville, N.C.

Mrs. O'Dell was a kind and loving person who lived her life in the support of others. She was a member of the Pulaski Church of Christ. She was preceded in death by her husband,



Oris O'Dell; parents, Walter and Edith Crigger; two brothers, Franklin Crigger and Stan Crigger; and one sister, Elva Bratton.

She is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Vena and Bentley Duncan of Roanoke; son and daughter-in-law, R. A. and Velena O'Dell of Kernersville,

See Obituaries, page 7

www.montcova.com

Montgomery County Administrator announces retirement

Montgomery County Administrator Craig Meadows will be retiring on November 3, 2023, after serving in the role since 2009.

According to a statement by Montgomery County, the Board of Supervisors "will be discussing next steps for the County Administrator position."

"Craig is an absolute champion for Montgomery County," said Montgomery County Board of Supervisors Chair, Sherri Blevins. "His leadership has been and will continue to be valued by both the board and employees. Montgomery County has been extremely fortunate to have such an exemplary leader like Craig. We will all miss him greatly, but we wish him and his family all the very best in his retirement."

Meadows said he will continue to live in the community.

"I have enjoyed my time as County Administrator in Montgomery County," said Meadows. "Our community really is a special place, with a rich history and a very exciting future. This is home for me and my wife, Rhonda. We will continue to be engaged in our community as we enjoy our retirement and our children and grandchildren."

As Montgomery County Administrator for the past

14 years, Meadows "has led Montgomery County through significant growth and even a few tragic events with grace and strength," reads a statement from the county.

"He has facilitated over 20 new construction and renovation projects in our community to address education, public safety, recreation and key infrastructure needs," the statement reads. "He also continues to focus on economic development and growing and expanding existing businesses in our community."

"I was on the Board of Supervisors when Craig was hired as the Administrator," said Montgomery County Board of Supervisors Vice Chair, Mary Biggs. "As soon as we met Craig, we knew he was exactly what Montgomery County needed. He has always been accessible and approachable. He is a wonderful collaborator with local, regional and even national partners and colleagues. His service and leadership in outside organizations has brought both recognition of and increased knowledge to Montgomery County."

Meadows involvement in regional organizations and initiatives over the years "have had a significant impact on [the] community," the county statement reads, including

helping to establish the New River Valley Emergency Communications Regional Authority, which includes the towns of Blacksburg and Christiansburg, Montgomery County, and Virginia Tech.

Meadows also organized a forum to discuss the planning and anticipated growth of Carilion Clinic and Virginia Tech and facilitated a Regional Trail Initiative.

"All of these things have increased efficiency for each locality and greatly expanded and improved services to citizens throughout the region," the county stated.

Meadows serves on the New River Valley Emergency Communications Regional Authority; the New River Valley Regional Water Authority; the Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Board; the Western Virginia Regional Jail Authority; the Economic Development Authority; Montgomery Regional Tourism Board; Public Service Authority; Greater Montgomery Liaison Group and County/School Liaison Group; and the Fire and Rescue Commission. He has had an active role on the New River Valley Regional Public Health Task Force since its inception in March of 2020 to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic.

He also has roles in state and national organizations including the Virginia Association of Counties; the Virginia Local Government Management Association; and the International City/County Management Association.

Meadow's career prior to Montgomery County included a stint as Interim Town Manager of Red Springs, N.C., city manager of Monroe, N.C., and of Bedford, Va., as assistant

city manager in Monroe, N.C., and as Director of Finance of Monroe, as well as assistant city manager and director of finance and administration in Mount Airy, N.C.

Meadows is a certified public accountant who started his career in private industry in accounting. He has an undergraduate degree from Gardner-Webb University and is a graduate of the municipal administration program at

the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's School of Government. He also earned a graduate certificate in local government management from Virginia Tech in 2012 and is a 2015 graduate of the Senior Executive Institute at the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service at the University of Virginia.

News Messenger staff report

Students from page 3

From Radford University:
Brynlee Azevedo of Blacksburg
From The Citadel:
Sarah Harvey of Christiansburg
From Virginia Tech:

John Akanbi of Blacksburg, Enoch Akli of Blacksburg, Asma Al Qahtani of Blacksburg, Younes Alkhallaqi of Blacksburg, Micaela Applebaum of Christiansburg, Caitlin Armstrong of Christiansburg, Giorgia Cannici of Blacksburg, Chelsea Cereghino of Christiansburg, Chelle Connor of Blacksburg, Jon Dance of Christiansburg, Nicholas Dize of Blacksburg, Haley Fore of Christiansburg, Ajinkya Fotedar of Blacksburg, Darwin Gomez of Blacksburg, Chloe Guenette of Blacksburg, Alaina Helm of Blacksburg, Md Sifat Hossain of Blacksburg, Shafquat Islam of Blacksburg, Zhengjie Ji of Blacksburg, Bhavna Joshi of Blacksburg, Sarah Juster of Blacksburg, Shashank Karki of Blacksburg, Samuel Kirsch of Blacksburg, Edward Lai of Blacksburg, Cherith Lavissety of Blacksburg, Yan Liang of Blacksburg, Shaheer Malik of Blacksburg, Grace Mardirossian of Blacksburg, Ian McKellips of

Christiansburg, Zhe Meng of Blacksburg, Amir Mortazavigazar of Blacksburg, Temitope Ojedele of Blacksburg, Rama Krishna Pinnimty of Blacksburg, Tongyuan Qian of Blacksburg, Jessica Russell of Blacksburg,

Antorip Sahu of Blacksburg, Rohit Sathye of Blacksburg, Rhea Saxena of Blacksburg, Kaleena Smith of Blacksburg, Keri Swaby of Blacksburg, Mari Tarantino of Blacksburg, Sunday Ubur of Blacksburg, Daniel Udekwe of Blacksburg, Alexandru Vilcan of Blacksburg, Emily Wilcox of Blacksburg, and Anthony Yusuf of Blacksburg.

They are among approximately 25,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni to be initiated into Phi Kappa Phi each year. Membership is by invitation only and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. Only the top 10 percent of seniors and 7.5 percent of juniors are eligible for membership. Graduate students in the top 10 percent of the number of candidates for graduate degrees may also qualify, as do faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction.

RADFORD SPORTS

Motor Mile changes name to The Pulaski County Motorsports Park

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@mainstreetnews.com

The Motor Mile Speedway, located near Radford, is changing its name. During a press conference on Wednesday, local officials gathered to hear the new name "The Pulaski County Motorsports Park."

The Rusty Wallace Racing Group took over the speedway three years ago. The track has been known over the years as the New River Valley Speedway and has changed its name four times since its opening over 20 years ago.

A five-year agreement was signed in 2020 by RWRG. The multi-year lease agreement allows the RWRE to take over venue operations, with the speedway becoming the home track for the RWRE and its companion companies.

At the time, former NASCAR driver Rusty Wallace called Motor Mile Speedway and Dragway, one of the finest grassroots motorsports facilities in the nation.

"We're excited to confirm a full schedule of racing and could not have picked a better home track for The Rusty Wallace Racing Experience and Pure Speed Drag Racing Experience," said Rusty Wallace. "The opportunity to call this amazing short track home for our more advanced programs has us primed for 2021 today. I can't wait to get up there in the spring."

Pulaski County leaders joined in this week's announcement, saying it will help advance economic development for the growing tourism industry.

The track will be in the national spotlight on Thursday, July 27 when the Superstar Racing Experience Series

(SRX) will be run and broadcast from the local track. County Administrator Jonathan Sweet expressed enthusiasm over the event.

"SRX could not have picked a better track in a better community to host the Superstars of Racing, as we are known for having one of the most entertaining short tracks in the country and some of the best race fans in the world," said Sweet. "This new partnership marks our strong commitment to continue the long tradition of racing here in Pulaski County, and our desire to have our Motorsports Park become one of Virginia's prime tourism destinations as well as a world-class outdoor sports and event venue."

The race will include several superstars, including Tony Stewart, Ryan Newman, Bobby Labonte, Kyle Busch and Marco Andretti.

The President of Rusty Wallace Racing Group, Mark Ebert said he is excited to work closely with the county and SRX.

"The SRX Race will be amazing but that's just the start, we are truly a motorsports park! We have go-karting, IHRA Drag Racing, a world-class racing experience, and the Pulaski County Motorsports Park and the NRV are truly a destination for race fans of all ages."

The park is home to the Rusty Wallace Racing Experience and features a 1/8th mile IHRA-sanctioned drag strip, a .416 NASCAR-sanctioned paved oval track, and the recent addition of a go-kart track.

The name change takes effect immediately. Motor Mile, now Pulaski County Motorsports Park, is celebrating its 34th year anniversary this year.

RU to play in Japan this summer

The Radford University men's basketball program has been invited to participate in the Sun Chlorella presents World University Basketball Series 2023 (WUBS 2023), a champions league-style tournament for world-class university basketball teams.

The tournament will take place in Tokyo, Japan this August.

"It is an honor to be invited to compete in the World University Basketball Series 2023," said Head Coach Darris Nichols. "This will be a tremendous opportunity for us to learn and grow both on and off of the court."

WUBS 2023 is hosted by the All Japan University Basketball Federation (JUBF) with operation support provided by Rakuten Sports, a Rakuten Group business focused on creating partnerships

with professional athletes and other sports services. Held again with presenting partner Sun Chlorella, this year's tournament marks the second in the series following last year's inaugural WUBS and will be held from August 10 to 13 at the Yoyogi National Stadium Second Gymnasium.

For 2023, an expanded roster of universities will compete, with a total of eight men's university basketball teams from seven countries and regions - Australia, Chinese Taipei, Indonesia, Japan, the Philippines, South Korea and the United States.

This year's participating universities are the University of Sydney from Australia, National Chengchi University (NCCU) from Chinese Taipei, Perbanas Institute from Indonesia, the 74th All Japan Intercollegiate Basketball Championship

winners Tokai University and runner-up Hakuoh University from Japan, WUBS 2022 champions Ateneo de Manila University from the Philippines, Korea University from South Korea and the United States' Radford University, which includes Japanese athlete Ibu Yamazaki.

The teams will compete in a series of 12 knock-out tournament games over three days from August 11 to August 13 to determine the 2023 series champion. In addition, on August 10, an "Opening Night" exhibition game will be held between the U-22 Japan national basketball team (university students) and WUBS 2022 champions, Ateneo de Manila University.

Round 1
Friday, August 11, 2023

See RU Japan, page 8



PHOTO BY ASHLEY AKERS

Auburn athletes sign with colleges

Three student-athletes from Auburn High School have inked their names to continue their careers next year in college. On Tuesday, Kenzie Swicegood (Shot put/Discus at Lynchburg University), Kelsie Groseclose (Soccer at Concord University) and Lauren Connelly (Track and Field at Roanoke College) signed their letters of intent in front of family, friends, coaches and teammates in the Auburn library.

Obituaries from page 1

N.C.; brother and sister-in-law, J. W. and Francie Crigger of Pulaski; grandchildren, Brooks and Katt Duncan, Afion O'Dell and Chris Jones, Landon and Brooke O'Dell; great grandchildren, Harper and Maisie Duncan, Camden Jones and Parker Kate O'Dell.

The family received friends on Wednesday, May 10, 2023 at the Mullins

Funeral Home in Radford, 120 W Main Street, Radford. Funeral services followed with Pastor Burl Bowman officiating. Burial followed in the Shiloh Cemetery in Pulaski County.

The O'Dell family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford.

Smith, Sally Ann Akers

Sally Ann Akers Smith went home to Ellett Valley Pentecostal Holiness Church; as well as many friends and co-workers over the years.

Celebration of Life Service for Sally was held at Ellett Valley Pentecostal Holiness Church. Visitation was Thursday, May 11, 2023 at the church; and going home service was Friday, May 12, 2023 at the church. Graveside service follows at Roselawn Memorial Gardens.

The family would like to thank Dr. Robert Solomon; Medi Home Hospice Care; and the many friends and family who cared for Sally these past few months.

Flowers are welcomed, or donations can be made to Ellett Valley Pentecostal Church in memory of Sally.

"Though the weeping may endure for the night; the Joy comes in the morning..."



Sally was a lifetime member of Ellett Valley Pentecostal Holiness Church where she taught Adult Sunday School for many years.

Sally was preceded in death by her parents, Willie Allen Akers and Mary Stump Akers; brothers Steve, Bob and Elk Akers; and nephew Todd Akers. Left to cherish her memory are her loving husband of 57 years, John Henry Smith; her son, Leon (Melissa) Smith; the apple of her eye, her granddaughter, Chloey Ann Smith; grandson, Christopher Smith (Rachel); and great-grandson, Wylder D. Smith. Sally is also survived by her siblings, Rosemary (Paul) Rutherford; Wesley (Larry) Needham; and Billy Joe (Joyce Akers); her nieces and nephews; special friends and Pastors Steve and Marilou Akers; her church family at

Shepherd, Norma Darleen

Our loving, devoted "Granny Darleen" made her way to heaven to be with her soulmate on Tuesday, May 9, 2023 at the young age of 84.

Her desire to be with him the past two years has been constant, and we rejoice as a family knowing they have been reunited forever.

Darleen was simple, kind, and worked alongside her precious love, Everett, for many years serving as Pastor's wife. She took that role to heart and reached many with her sweet, quiet loving spirit. She also worked for many years at Belview Elementary School as Head Custodian, being a confidant to many of her coworkers who became like family to her.

Not your typical "granny," Darleen wasn't really much of a cook, didn't bake, didn't crochet. What she offered us was her time and love. Riding roller coasters with Lori because Anita and Everett wouldn't, buying Anita a piano because she paid for Lori to have braces. Getting on the floor with the great-grandchildren and playing, giving all the kids a wadded up "piece of money," so each could buy what they wanted. The cool, sponky granny who wore jeans and a button down plaid or denim shirt daily, had her hair blonde until she took her last breath. She was tough as nails, but a gentle precious soul. Our Dr. Pepper drinking, Jesus loving granny is now at peace and receiving her eternal reward she so greatly deserved.

Darleen was preceded in death by her husband, Reverend Everett E. Shepherd; son Larry G. Shepherd; mother and father Pete and Louise Linkous; brothers Ross, Bobby and Kelly; as well as many friends and loved



ones gone before her.

Granny is survived by her grandchildren who she loved and cared for like her own, Lori Tibbs, Anita Bland (Craig), and John Tibbs. Also surviving her are her great-grandchildren, Madison, Haley (Michael), Jordan, Hannah (Daylin), John Isaac and Michaela. She was also blessed to be great-great granny to Zoe. Her daughter-in-law Pamela Shepherd, and sisters in law, Ellen Linkous and Shirley Linkous also survive her.

Our family wishes to thank caregivers, Kathy McCoy, Missy Albert, and Wanda Lang for their love and support of Granny over the past couple years. Also, our gratitude to her nephew Carl Linkous for always stopping in for a visit or taking her for a ride. A special thank you to the nurses and staff at Good Samaritan Hospice for loving our granny and caring for our family during this time. Teresa, Debbie, Betsy, and Denise, you will forever be a part of our family.

And we could certainly never forget how kind and supportive McCoy Funeral Home has been to our family over the years.

Funeral services will be conducted on Monday, May 15 at 11 a.m. with visitation from 10-11 a.m. in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel. Darleen's nephew, Reverend Rodney Linkous will officiate. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Good Samaritan Hospice, 1160 Moose Dr., Christiansburg.

Proverbs 31:29
"Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all".

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

A	B	C	T	U	A	B	A	B	R	A
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game time AT THE SUPERBOWL

NRV SuperBowl Summer Leagues Beginning Soon

Register for the night or day Leagues

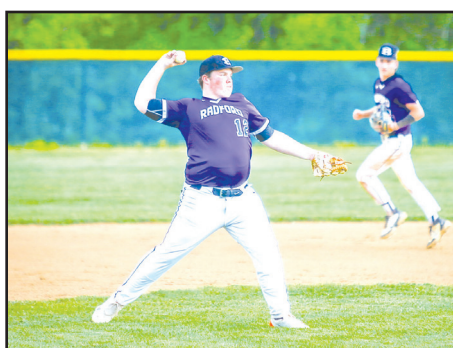
Night Leagues
Monday, Tuesday
Wednesday, Friday
& Sunday

Daytime Leagues
Tuesday morning Coffee League or Thursday Morning Senior Crazy 8's

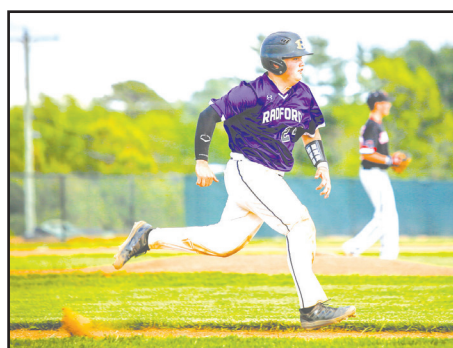
Sign up now for a summer of fun and competition
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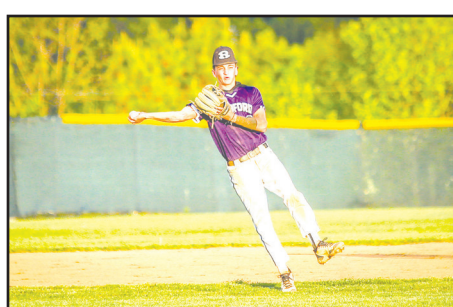
Radford High baseball fall in thriller



Senior third baseman Hunter Hancock fires a throw to first base for an out in Tuesday's game as Radford fell 16-12 in extra innings.



Senior catcher Bryson Gallimore races to first base on what ended up being a double.



Shortstop Joey Raccuia makes a quick throw to get the runner at first.



Senior Tanner Lester maneuvers around the Knights catcher to score a run in the Bobcat's 16-12 loss in an extra inning loss.

PHOTOS BY BRYANT ALTIZER

Former basketball coach back in Blacksburg

Marty Gordon

NRVsports@mainstreetnewspapers.com

In a twist of faith, a basketball coach that had been fired from Virginia Tech is now back with the football program.

James Johnson returns to the university after serving as the head coach of the men's basketball team from 2011-2014. Previously, he had served as an assistant for three years prior and compiled a 22-41 overall mark as the head man on the sidelines.

His new title will be director of high school relations.

"We are super excited to bring J.J. back to Blacksburg," said football coach Brent Pry. "As we have gotten to know each other, I couldn't be more impressed by his infectious personality, ability to connect with student-athletes and mature approach to college athletics. His knowledge

of Virginia Tech combined with nearly three decades successfully recruiting Virginia, the Carolinas, D.C., Maryland and Pennsylvania will be invaluable in his new role. We can't wait for him to get started and begin making an impact in our program."

Johnson has deep roots across the Commonwealth of Virginia and the Mid-Atlantic, allowing him to cultivate and sustain lasting relationships within the Virginia Tech recruiting footprint. He brings nearly three decades of experience in college athletics, including more than 10 years in the ACC with coaching stops at Virginia Tech, Miami and North Carolina State, where he most recently worked under Kevin Keatts for five seasons. Throughout his career up and down

the east coast, Johnson has made countless high school connections, and understands how crucial recruiting is to a successful program.

"J.J. has been in Blacksburg for a large part of his career and is connected to our staff," said Virginia Tech Director of Athletics, Whit Babcock. "He loves Virginia Tech and will be a great ambassador for our university. His relationships in our footprint and his rapport with Hokie Nation are what have led us to this opportunity. His vital connections with high schools will help us to attract the very best to play for the Hokies."

From 2017 to 2022, Johnson served as assistant coach for the North Carolina State basketball team.

Johnson had replaced his former boss, Seth Greenberg, at Virginia Tech but struggled in two seasons.

Johnson spent two seasons with Jim Larrañaga at George Mason. The Patriots advanced to the 2006 NCAA Final Four before falling to eventual national champion Florida.

Johnson served as an assistant coach under Ed DeChellis at Penn State from 2003-2005. Johnson was also the recruiting coordinator for the Nittany Lions during his time in State College.

Young Hokies put nation on notice

When things get hard, that's when you have to be great.

It's the mentality that true freshman Caleb Henson has lived by his entire life — and it resonates through the entire Virginia Tech wrestling room.

Similar values and beliefs have helped foster and maintain a culture of relentlessness within the program from the top down.

Despite each facing adversity at different points in their respective tournament runs, Henson and fellow underclassman Eddie Ventresca battled their way to All-American status in their first NCAA tournament appearances. They were two of Tech's five All-Americans in Tulsa — the program's most since 2017.

While Henson entered the 149-pound bracket as the No. 4 four seed — the highest seeding for a true freshman in program history — Ventresca was awarded only the No. 27 seed at 125 pounds.

After his rocky start to the regular season, the low seed was warranted, but it didn't discourage the redshirt freshman. He viewed it as a chance to reveal how talented he truly is as a wrestler — and he delivered.

"I think that I proved myself [to be a force at 125]," Ventresca said. "Don't get me wrong, there was a lot of doubt, which I don't blame anybody. Me coming in as a No. 27 seed, not having a crazy strong season — people didn't really know what to expect. But also I just had that confidence because I know the work that I've put in and all the dedication I've put into this sport and I feel like other people don't see that. I give credit to my coaching staff because they were always making sure I was in a good mental standpoint [in the] second half of the season, making sure I was confident in myself, confident in my wrestling and I think it showed at the NCAA tournament."

The first domino to fall in Ventresca's underdog run was Northern Colorado's No. 6 Stevo Poulin (4-2), who he edged out in overtime. Then he took down Minnesota's No. 11 Pat McKee (4-2) in the second round.

Ventresca's pair of upset victories were two that few saw coming, but he didn't shock himself at all.

"I feel like in the regular season, every match that I lost, I felt like I was one takedown away," Ventresca explained. "[I was] one little peek away. One little technique standpoint or mental standpoint away from winning those matches."

"I knew that if I figured it out before the NCAA tournament that I was going to be able to make a run at it."

Following a narrow overtime loss to Nebraska's No. 3 Liam Cronin (3-1) in the quarterfinals, he continued to fight back. Ventresca nabbed his third top-11 win in the consolation blood round over Wisconsin's No. 9 Eric Barnett (3-1) to secure his All-American finish.

After falling to Arizona State's No. 10 Brandon Courtney (4-2) in the consolation quarterfinals, the New Jersey native wrapped a bow on his

tournament with a win against West Virginia's No. 28 Killian Cardinale (7-6) in the seventh place match.

His 20-point jump from the No. 27 seed to his seventh place finish was one of the biggest leaps in the entire tournament — proof that he'll be a threat at 125 for years to come.

"It was a great feeling," Ventresca said. "I felt like there was a lot of shenanigans going on at the end of the year with who was starting [at 125] and people obviously didn't know what was going on in the room or anything. It was a good feeling. That blood round match, obviously I was a little nervous for it, who wouldn't be nervous for it. It's kind of do or die in that match and when that last buzzer rang and the whistle blew, I just had this big smile on my face. It was more of a relieving feeling."

Henson faced early adversity in his first NCAA tournament as well.

The ACC freshman of the year was knocked out of the championship bracket in the second round by Indiana's No. 20 Graham Rooks (5-4). The upset loss meant he needed three-straight wins to earn All-American honors.

Already being lauded as a favorite to finish in the top eight at 149 pounds before his first bout in Tulsa, the true freshman never wavered despite the initial hurdle.

"Pressure makes diamonds," Henson said. "I embrace it. It's another part of the tournament that's going to come with years to come. So having that pressure and those expectations, it's something I already have for myself."

Henson grinded out an overtime win over Central Michigan's No. 19 Johnny Lovett (5-3) in the second round of the consolation bracket, before besting Penn's No. 11 Doug Zapf (3-2) a round later.

Facing his first top ten opponent of the tournament, he handled Northwestern's No. 7 Thomas Yahya (7-2) in the consolation blood round to clinch an All-American finish in his first collegiate season.

"Just not having fear," Henson explained his mindset during the clutch run. "Allow my mind and body to do what I've worked so hard [for] just wrestle."

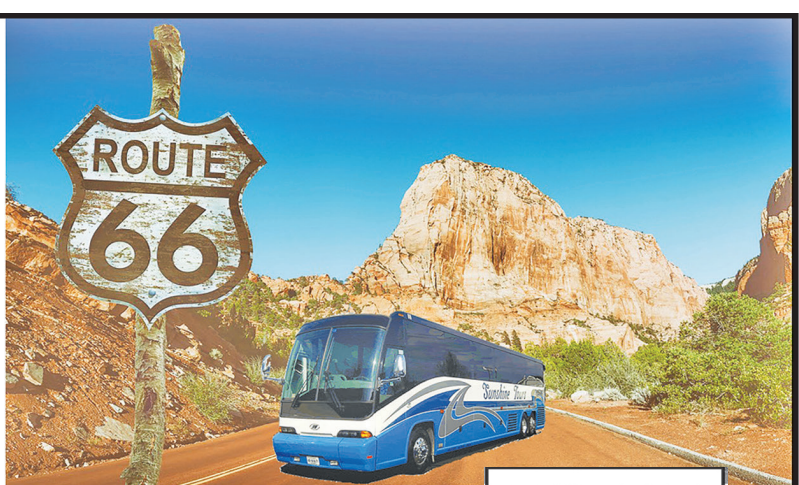
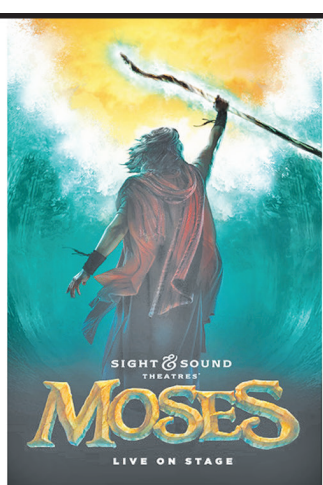
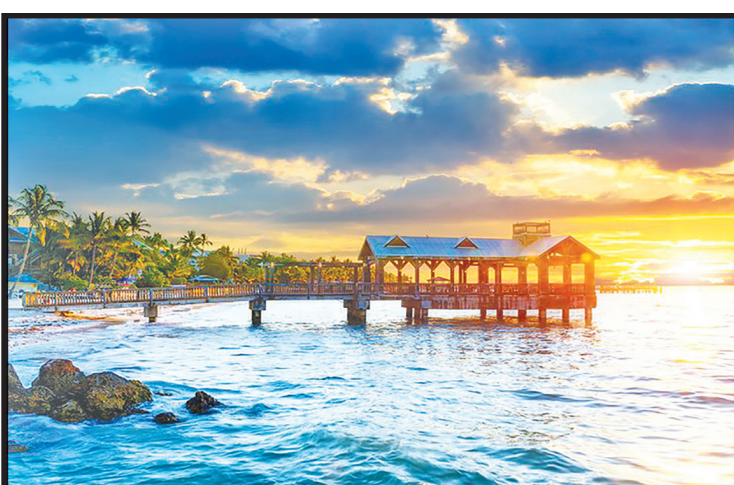
Henson lost to Penn State's No. 12 Shane Van Ness (5-3) in the consolation semifinals, but dominated Iowa's No. 8 Max Murin (12-3) in the fifth place match to finish in the top five at 149.

With a year of starting experience under their belts, Henson and Ventresca will be even more prepared heading into next season — and both are on a mission to ascend to new heights in 2024.

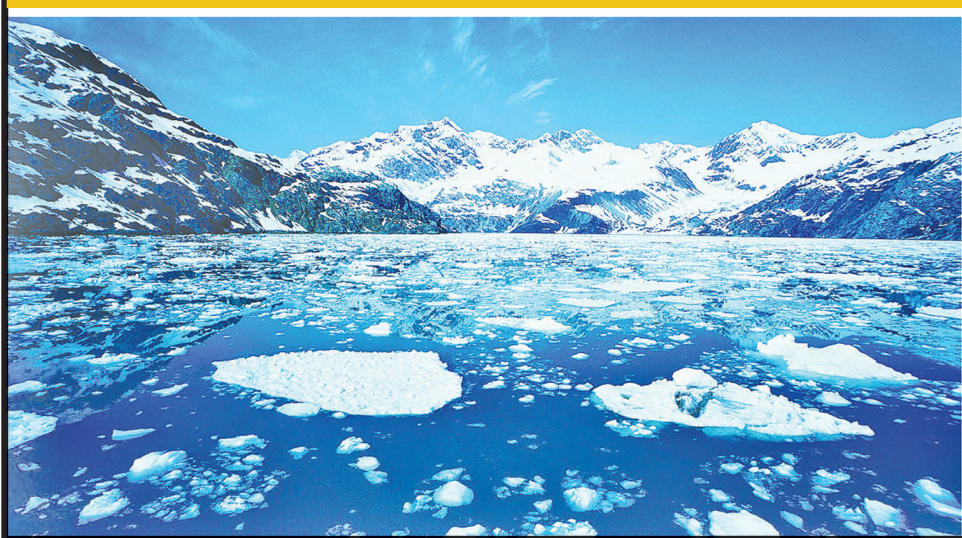
"I'll go back and watch some film and then get to work in the offseason," Ventresca said. "I didn't win [the national championship], so there's obviously places for me to improve. So that's our mentality over the next year."

Virginia Tech Athletics

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