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Radford City Public Schools begins process of naming interim superintendent

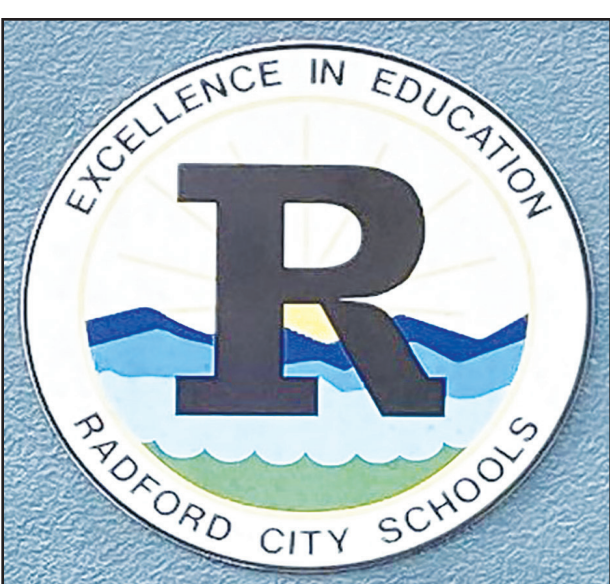


PHOTO COURTESY OF RCPS

Heather Bell
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RADFORD - The Radford City School Board began the process of appointing an Interim Superintendent on Thursday in a special convened meeting.

The meeting was held in closed session since it involves a personnel matter.

Graham resigned his post Tuesday, June 6 and has since been named Superintendent of Pulaski County Public Schools.

The June 6 school board meeting at which Graham resigned was marked by a crowd of more than 100 supporters of Graham's who felt some members of the school board had created a negative environment for Graham, leading to his decision to resign. In a message to the community, School Board Chair Jenny Craig Riffe addressed that support, and talked about the next steps for RCPS.

"We are overwhelmed by the passion and support from our staff, parents, and wider community for our RCPS administrators and our Superintendent, Mr. Graham," Riffe

said. "We wish Mr. Graham the best as he crosses the bridge to begin his leadership of Pulaski Co. Public Schools."

"We thank each and every one of you who has shared your thoughts, your prayers, your concerns, and yes, even your criticisms with the Board," Riffe continued. "Our Bobcats are our future, and we look forward to working with you to make sure we keep focused on 'Every Student, Every Day.'"

According to Riffe, the interim superintendent must be appointed by July 1.

"The Board is now tasked with appointing an interim Superintendent to lead our division by July 1st, 2023," she said. "We are focused on finding an individual who will support our current administrators and staff while the Board make plans for a wider search for a permanent Superintendent this coming school year. Time is of the essence, so we [called] a special closed meeting [for] Thursday, June 15 at 5 p.m. to get the process started."

The next school board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 20 at 6 p.m.

Radford University once again named a College of Distinction

Radford University has again earned recognition as a College of Distinction by the national guide for college-bound students.

Additionally this year, the university was named one of the best public schools in Virginia, and it was singled out for its undergraduate programs in business, education and nursing, as well as for its student support services for career development and military veterans.

Founded in 2000, Colleges of Distinction focuses on innovative, teacher-centered undergraduate education that empowers students through engagement and prepares graduates to succeed in their careers. For nearly the past quarter century, it has served as a trusted resource for parents, academic advisors, guidance counselors and hundreds of colleges and universities across the country.

Colleges of Distinction's selection process is based on in-depth research and detailed interviews with the schools, with an emphasis on four distinctions: engaged students, great teaching, vibrant communities and successful outcomes.

With its designation as a College of Distinction 2023-2024, Radford has demonstrated excellence in each of those areas.

"Radford University's dedication to experiential learning shows us that each of its students has the opportunity to play an active role in their education," Tyson Schritter, the chief operating officer at Colleges of Distinction, said in a news release. "We are deeply inspired by how Radford immerses students in their academic pursuits, fostering a welcoming community that provides unwavering support throughout their college years and beyond."

Radford has been deemed a College of

Distinction each year for at least the past half-decade, dating back to 2018.

In addition to the institution-wide recognition, Colleges of Distinction this year also singled out the achievements of several of Radford's academic programs and student support services, citing, among other qualities, their accreditation, collaborative learning experiences and stability.

The Radford University academic programs recognized by Colleges of Distinction this year were:

The undergraduate business program, which excels at graduating students into the workforce with solid, well-developed critical thinking skills and the ability to adapt to an ever-changing society.

The undergraduate education program, which delivers leading-edge undergraduate education programs as education transforms alongside constant changes in technology, public policy, employer demands, and more.

The undergraduate nursing program, which prepares its students to excel and take action in high-pressure situations and challenges them to remain curious and compassionate throughout their rigorous careers.

The Radford student services recognized by Colleges of Distinction were:

Career development, which is well-equipped to help students graduate with confidence through offering comprehensive four-year plans, advising and more.

Military support, which provides personal and academic support for the unique challenges veterans and active military personnel face, helping these students overcome obstacles and achieve success.

Neil Harvey for Radford University



PHOTO COURTESY OF RADFORD UNIVERSITY

Radford University has again earned recognition as a College of Distinction by the national guide for college-bound students.



PHOTOS BY ETHAN BELL

Paul Pallante (left) and his employee Couper Doyle (left) are ready to help people have fun through Radford on the River, Pallante's new tube, kayak and canoe rental venture.

New outfitter offers river recreation and relaxation

RADFORD - There's nothing quite like a day floating down the New River for summer fun, and a new outfitter in Bisset Park is offering the watercraft to do it.

Radford on the River, owned and operated by Paul Pallante, is open for business in Bisset Park's west side (Shelter three) with a variety of tubes and kayaks for rental, and a shuttle bus to bring customers back and forth. Tubes and kayaks are offered for a daily rental fee, meaning customers can float

as many times as they want throughout the day.

In a recent interview at the Radford on the River site, Pallante said he combined his love of river recreation with his desire to fill what he saw as a void in Radford's quality of life offerings in creating the new venture.

"We're called the New River City and there were not a lot of opportunities to utilize the river for recreation and

See **Outfitter**, page 4

Grucci to invest \$5.5 million to expand operations to Pulaski

Fireworks by Grucci and Pyrotechnique by Grucci, the sixth-generation family business and worldwide fireworks design and performance company and manufacturer of fireworks and pyrotechnic devices for the U.S. military, will invest \$5.5 million to expand its assembly,

storage, and distribution operations to Pulaski County.

The company will occupy the former Koinonia Tapes and Foams 30,000-square-foot facility in ShaeDawn Industrial Park in proximity to its manufacturing operation at the Radford Army Ammunition

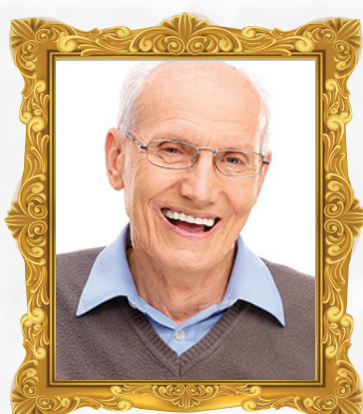
Plant in Montgomery County. Virginia successfully competed with New York for the project, which will create 45 new jobs.

"Magnificent displays of fireworks have brought generations of families together for more than a century because of

See **Fireworks**, page 2

Grandpa's Coming Off the Shelf....

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, June 17:

Summer Solstice Fest

Downtown Blacksburg; 1 – 11 p.m. Live music, food trucks, vendors, children's activities, petting zoo, yoga and more! For full schedule, www.downtownblacksburg.com.

Radford 2023 Summer Concert Series

Music by Cassette Rewind, 80's cover band. The monthly concerts will take place on the fields of Glencoe Mansion, located at 600 Unruh Dr., Radford. Admission is \$5 per person and children 12 and under are free. Food trucks will be available, and the Radford Chamber of Commerce will be supplying alcohol for purchase. Bring a chair and come out and enjoy the sounds of summer. Additional concerts for the series include: Saturday, July 22: Tee Tones- Doowop/Motown/Soul; Saturday, August 19: Chairman of the Board- Beach music; and Saturday, September 23: Ryan Perry- country, with opening act Sofie Lynn.

Family Movie Matinee

At the Radford Public Library; 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. See the movie "Night at the Museum" on the big screen. A night watchman at a museum comes face-to-face with a live dinosaur, tiny soldiers and more because of a curse that brings all the exhibits to life at night! Stars Ben Stiller and Robin Williams. Rated PG; 108 minutes.

Monday, June 19:

Blacksburg town closings

The Town of Blacksburg will be operating under the following schedule in observance of the Juneteenth Holiday:

Town administrative offices will be closed. Blacksburg Transit operating on reduced service in Blacksburg. BT Offices will be closed. Blacksburg Community Center operating during regular hours. Blacksburg Aquatic Center operating during regular hours. Trash and Recycling pickup will not be affected.

Radford Library closed

The Radford Public Library is closed in observance of Juneteenth.

Town of Christiansburg closures

Town of Christiansburg facilities, including the Aquatic Center, will be closed. The Recreation Center will be open regular hours with administrative offices closed. Solid waste and recycling normally collected on Mondays will be collected on Tuesday, June 20, along with Tuesday's regular collection.

MFRL closures

All branches of the Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library will be closed in observation of Juneteenth

Tuesday, June 20:

American Business Women's Association NRV Express Network Luncheon Meeting

At the Holiday Inn Christiansburg-Blacksburg, 99 Bradley Dr., Christiansburg; 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.- cost \$16. Presentation of the American Business Women's Association NRV Express Network's 2023 Woman of the Year Awards. One member and one community member will be named as Woman of the Year. Katie

Fireworks

from page 1

pyrotechnics leaders like the Gucci family," said Governor Glenn Youngkin. "The Commonwealth is a strategic gateway to markets served by a robust workforce, and we thank Fireworks by Gucci and Pyrotechnique by Gucci for recognizing these advantages and expanding their Virginia footprint into Pulaski County."

"We are proud to have this historic and world-renowned company expand its assembly, storage, and distribution operations in Pulaski County," said

Secretary of Commerce and Trade Caren Merrick. "In addition to fireworks displays that captivate millions around the globe, the Guccis also manufacture pyrotechnic training devices for the U.S. military that prepare our troops. Virginia's combination of connectivity, infrastructure, and talent provide the crucial elements for Fireworks by Gucci and Pyrotechnique by Gucci to thrive, and we look forward to supporting the company's continued success in the Commonwealth."

"Virginia offers our family and employees great incentives of viability, stability, and a path to expand and grow our business that is second to none," said Felix Gucci, CEO of Fireworks by Gucci and Pyrotechnique by Gucci Inc. "This long-term investment and expansion to Pulaski is a testament to our continued commitment to the state of Virginia, the counties of Pulaski and Montgomery, and our employees. My son, Christopher, and his wife, LEMONIA, both working within the family business representing the sixth generation, made a similar commitment by moving from New York to become residents of Virginia."

"We love that Gucci is a sixth-generation family-oriented company, and we are very excited and honored to have them officially join our family of businesses here in Pulaski County," said Laura Walters, Chair of the Pulaski County Board of Supervisors. "This project took a tremendous amount of effort to compete for and win, and I couldn't be more grateful to our economic development team, our board, the EDA, VEDP, our state representatives, and Governor Youngkin for helping bring this world-renowned name in pyrotechnics to our community."

"Gucci is an industry leader that is thriving as part of the advanced manufacturing sector in Virginia's New River Valley," said Katie Boswell, Executive Director of Onward New River Valley. "We are pleased that they have decided to continue their growth in our region with this exciting announcement in Pulaski County."

"I'm thrilled to announce more investment in our region by a great multi-generational family company such as Gucci," said Senator Travis Hackworth. "Working with Governor

Youngkin, we have been able to make our region more attractive to new business and job investments. I look forward to welcoming Gucci to our region and am excited about the jobs they will create for Pulaski!"

Fireworks by Gucci is a sixth-generation, family owned-and-operated Fireworks Performance Company with its primary corporate studio in Bellport, New York. Known as "America's First Family of Fireworks", the Guccis have transformed the night skies to the delight of millions across the globe since 1850. The company is world-renowned for pyrotechnic artistry, scientific innovation, and old-fashioned values. The company's signature performances include the official celebration of the 200th Anniversary of the National Anthem "Star Spangled Spectacular" in Baltimore, eight U.S. Presidential Inaugurations, the Olympic Games in Beijing, Salt Lake City, Los Angeles, and Lake Placid, and commemorations such as the Centennial of the Statue of Liberty. Fireworks by Gucci is also an 11-time Guinness World Record Holder.

Phil Gucci, fifth generation and current CEO, diversified their family business in 1989 by participating in a solicited competition and receiving an award to manufacture a series of Department of Defense pyrotechnic simulators. These simulators are designed as training devices that simulate the distinctive whistle and bang of an incoming mortar round, or the pull, throw, and bang of a hand grenade. Due to the expanded success of this military venture, the family officially founded a training device manufacturing business in 1997 based in Montgomery County, where it leases

See Gucci, page 4

Edson of Edson Family Practice and Edson Aesthetics is the Speaker Sponsor for this meeting. RSVP by June 19. Contact: Terri Welch at paintnfunceramics@gmail.com or Paige Godwin at godwinpaige@gmail.com.

Tuesday Night Book Club

At the Radford Public Library; 6- 7 p.m. Adults and teens are invited to chat with Dave about whatever they happen to be reading or watching at the moment. Snacks and coffee provided.

Mill Mountain Theater presents: Mad Libs Live!

At the Christiansburg Library; 2 – 3 p.m. This program will be outside in the amphitheater space, so bring a blanket or chair! In case of inclement weather, it will be in the library community room. Ideal for ages 7 and up.

Summer Backpack Program

At the Meadowbrook Library; 3:30 – 5:30 p.m. The Summer Backpack Program is intended to help families with children and teens stretch their grocery budget. The bags are filled with nutritious food. This is a drop-in program open to residents of Eastern Montgomery County only. Each week there will be crafts for the kids in addition to the bag of food. If you missed picking up food for the week, call and make an appointment. For more information call the Meadowbrook Library at 540-268-1964.

Wednesday, June 22:

Mingle at the Market

Join the Blacksburg Farmer's Market for the first 2023 Mingle at the Market, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m., at Market Square Park. This event will feature live music, locally brewed beverages, local food and more.

Waffles Club! A Young Writer's Group

At the Radford Public Library; 4- 5 p.m. Join us for a gently guided writing club for kids, aka the Waffles Club (Writing Association for Fun Loving Enthusiastic Students)! Together, we will work on responding to writing prompts, have some quiet writing time, and the opportunity to share work! Geared toward 8-12 year olds. Contact Morgan for more information at morgan.esterhuizen@radfordva.gov. Please bring your favorite writing materials!

English Conversation for Adults

At the Blacksburg Library; 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. We are pleased to host adult English conversation in partnership with the Literacy Volunteers of the NRV. Sign up at www.lvnrv.org/classes.

Monday, June 26:

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

Tuesday, June 27:

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:

Entries sought for July 4th Parade

Participants are needed for Blacksburg's July 4th parade, which is organized by the Mount Tabor Ruritan Club. The parade starts at 2 p.m. from Eheart Street, runs through downtown on Main Street, and ends at Alumni Mall. Entries can be floats, bicycles, wagons, marchers, walkers, antique/classic cars, Jeeps, trucks, fire engines, scouts, bands, sports teams, etc. Information is available on the Mount Tabor Ruritan Club's Facebook page, or by texting 540-449-6178.

Market Square Jam

Held Wednesdays, June through September, in Blacksburg on the corner of Draper Road and Roanoke Street; 7 – 9 p.m. Catering to traditional Old-Time music, Blacksburg's Market Square Jam brings musicians together to pick a tune, enjoy fun times with friends and family, and take in all that downtown Blacksburg has to offer. Blacksburg's Market Square Jam is an official Crooked Road affiliated venue that provides fun and entertainment.

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.

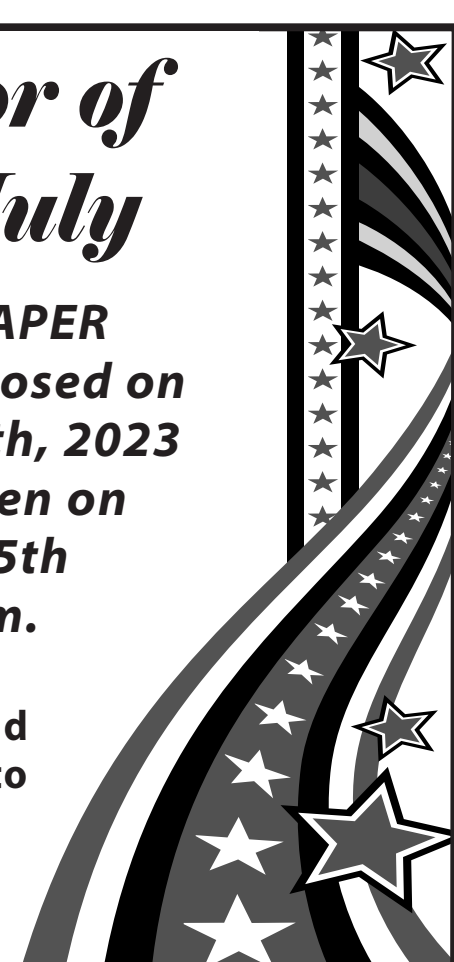
Radford Farmers Market

Held 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.

***In honor of
4th of July***

**OUR NEWSPAPER
offices will be closed on
Tuesday, July 4th, 2023
And will reopen on
Wed., July 5th
@ 8:30 a.m.**

**All ads for July 5th and
July 6th papers need to
be in our office by
Friday, June 30
at 12:00 Noon.**



Juneteenth should drive Americans to action, says local expert

It's been two years since the United States designated Juneteenth a federal holiday.

But America still has a long way to go to recognize and correct racial injustice on a wider scale, says a Virginia Tech expert.

Onwubiko Agozino is a professor of sociology at Virginia Tech. His scholarly work is focused on people of African descent and other marginalized groups globally. He believes that the commemoration of Juneteenth should drive people to recognize and stop racism that still exists in society. The June 19 holiday marks the day two months after the Civil War that enslaved Black people in Galveston, Texas, learned that they were free.

"Misguided administrations around the country are busy banning the teaching of critical race theory and restricting the teaching of African American history in schools," Agozino said. "But Juneteenth should serve as a reminder that racism-sexism-poverty are joined together and should be resisted in solidarity and in coalitions in the interest of all."

Many in the African American community will celebrate the day with picnics, parties, and remembrance events. Agozino said he believes that Juneteenth should be marked by reading relevant history books. Agozino himself plans to attend the Christiansburg Institute's Juneteenth event this Saturday, June 17.

"What needs to be learned from the Juneteenth commemoration is that racism is a threat to the entire society and not only against people of African descent or people of color alone," he said. "We are to be united as human beings the way Martin Luther King, Jr. put it."

Onwubiko Agozino is a professor of sociology and a scholar-activist who values inclusive excellence and diversity with critical attention focused on people of African descent and other marginalized groups around the world. He emphasizes race, class, and gender issues in his contributions to learning, discovery, and community engagement beyond the boundaries of the classroom.

Jenny Kincaid Boone for Virginia Tech

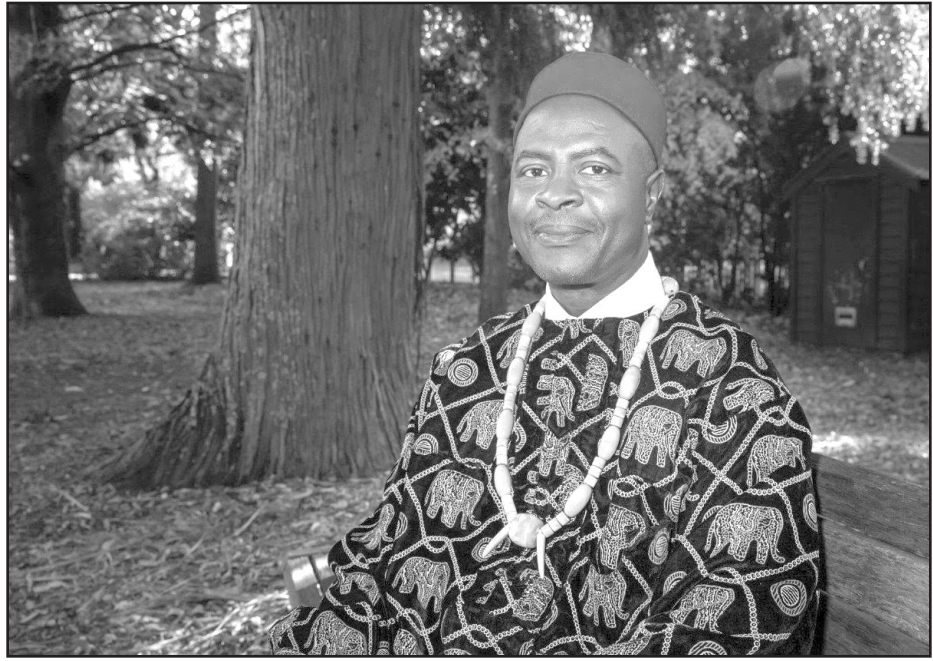


PHOTO COURTESY OF VIRGINIA TECH

Onwubiko Agozino is a professor of sociology at Virginia Tech whose scholarly work is focused on people of African descent and other marginalized groups globally.

Summer Solstice Fest set for today in downtown Blacksburg

The 15th Annual Summer Solstice Fest returns to Downtown Blacksburg, today, Saturday, June 17, 1 – 11 p.m.

Enjoy live music, food, arts, crafts, performances, and more.

Hilby the Skinny German Juggle Boy will be performing in the Family Fun Zone. You will find Hilby on top of unicycles of all shapes and sizes, juggling objects ranging from bowling balls to hedge trimmers. He has superb technical skills and wacky comedy in the tradition of vaudeville. You will be sure to laugh out loud! In addition to Hilby, the Family Fun

Zone will feature a petting zoo, pony rides, and an obstacle course.

The PanJammers will kick off the music on the Freedom First Credit Union stage leading a fun-filled line up including The Breakfast Club, The Red Ferns, Off Our Rockers, Ripejive, and Appalachian Space Train. Visit the website for the full schedule.

The festival will also feature performances by The Mystical Witches of Floyd, and Blacksburg's Summer Musical Enterprise with songs from their upcoming performance of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat.

Summer Solstice Fest will be happening on Main Street and Lee Street with a fantastic line up of family fun and entertainment for all, rain or shine. From festival foods, live music, the Cabo Fish Taco Beach, yoga by In Balance Yoga, to the Downtown Sundown 5K Run, there will be something fun for everyone!

For more information and the full schedule for the day, please visit: downtownblacksburg.com/events/summer-solstice-fest.

Submitted by Downtown Blacksburg, Inc.

Angela Hill appointed Montgomery County Administrator

MONTGOMERY COUNTY –Angela Hill, the current Deputy County Administrator and CFO of Montgomery County, has been named County Administrator, effective November 1, 2023.

Hill, who was appointed to the position by the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors on June 12, will be only the second woman to serve as Montgomery County Administrator since it was established in 1776. Prior to Hill, Betty Thomas held the position from 1981 to 1997, and for a five-month period in 2009, Carol Edmonds served as Interim County Administrator.

Hill will be the successor to F. Craig Meadows, the current Montgomery County Administrator, who announced his retirement in May 2023.

"When we learned of Craig's planned retirement we began talking about how to proceed with his soon-to-be vacant position," said Montgomery County Board of Supervisors Chair, Sherri Blevins.

"We quickly began looking at Angie as a strong candidate. She has been with Montgomery County for over 25 years. She has demonstrated outstanding leadership qualities throughout her career, especially in her role as Deputy County Administrator. We are confident her skills, knowledge and ability will continue to lead Montgomery County in a strategic and innovative direction," said Blevins.

Hill joined Montgomery County in October 1997 as Director of Financial and Management Services. Prior to joining the county, she worked as an auditor at Brown Edwards, a regional certified public accounting firm, where



PHOTO COURTESY OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Angela Hill

she specialized in governmental audits.

"It is my honor to serve as Administrator for Montgomery County," said Hill. "In my various roles during my 25 years of service to the citizens of Montgomery County, I have been able to build strong relationships and be a part of an extraordinary team. I welcome this opportunity to continue to lead Montgomery County in my new role."

As Montgomery County Administrator for the past 14 years, Meadows led the County through significant growth and even a few tragic events with grace and strength. He has facilitated over 20 new construction and renovation projects in Montgomery County to address education, public safety, recreation and key infrastructure needs. He also focused on economic development opportunities, growing and expanding existing businesses in our community.

"My choice to retire this year was something I've thought about for some time," said Meadows. "With the County on sound financial footing, strategic initiatives underway that reflect our focus on the future, and growth projections that indicate we're on the right track, now seemed to be the perfect time to pass on the leadership reins. Montgomery County is in a great position to continue to move forward with Angie as County Administrator."

A search will be conducted to fill the open Deputy County Administrator/Chief Financial Officer position.

Radford News Journal staff report



On April 25, students in the new esports marketing class held The Brawlhalla Bash, a gaming tournament at Cook Hall that was watched by more than 140 viewers and involved 15 live competitors.

Esports marketing students learn about the hard work that goes into having a good time

On April 25, students in the new esports marketing class held The Brawlhalla Bash, a gaming tournament at Cook Hall that was watched by more than 140 viewers and involved 15 live competitors.

The current esports phenomenon is fueled by lots of different factors.

There's the excitement of real-time competition against other live players, the rapidly evolving technology and increasing interconnectivity, and, of course, a seemingly endless array of tantalizing lights, sights and sounds.

The engine that truly drives it forward, however, is business.

Forbes last year reported that the combined value of the top 10 largest esports companies is \$3.5 billion, nearly double 2020's figures, but the magazine also pointed out that while the field shows rapid growth, the terrain remains challenging.

Last semester, 70 students became well acquainted with the nuts-and-bolts level of the growing industry through Marketing in Esports, a new 200-level business course. It is designed and taught by Assistant Professor Luke Liska with the aim of illustrating, through applied learning, how marketing concepts can be crafted to meet the specific needs of advertisers and sponsors.

"The overall goal of the class is for the students to host an esports tournament," Liska said, and indeed, the course culminated with the group doing exactly that.

On April 25, just over 100 online viewers attended the elimination-based

competition between 15 players, which was streamed over Twitch, and about 40 guests turned up at the Cook Hall esports center to provide a live audience to the onscreen contests. Dubbed "The Brawlhalla Bash," it centered around the head-to-head fighting video game "Brawlhalla," in which cartoon-style opponents do their best to send each other flying off a floating platform.

The Brawlhalla Bash centered around the head-to-head fighting video game "Brawlhalla," in which cartoon-style opponents try to send each other flying off a floating platform. A trio of sportscasters – Sam Craft, Roger Basham and Zachary Reed – provided banter and lively commentary and analysis across the tournament's three-hour span.

The students used surveys and debates to choose the game that would be played. Separate teams found outside sponsors who donated door prizes, figured out the event logistics and encouraged others to take part through promotion and social media activity.

"They're doing things that they would typically do in industry if they were involved with the media side of a marketing group," Liska said. "If you're with a smaller firm, you're going to be doing all these activities anyway."

Fittingly for the topic, Liska built his class around a gamified structure. Students start at zero, points-wise, and gradually "level up" by accomplishing different activities and earning various badges. This offers them a greater range of learning options and opportunities for feedback, he said.

And while the planning and preparation for the event occupied the bulk of the students' efforts, they couldn't just kick back once the games' tip-off time arrived. In fact, that's when things really got busy.

"One challenge we ran into was Steam, the platform we used to run the game, shut down," said marketing major Jay Fortney, who added that the technical difficulties were resolved within about 20 minutes. "A lot of people think no planning goes into something like this because it's an online thing, but it has all the aspects other sports have to plan for."

A trio of sportscasters – marketing majors Sam Craft and Roger Basham, who have since graduated, and Zachary Reed, a junior studying sports management – also had to come up with fresh banter and lively commentary and analysis across the tournament's three-hour length.

"Don't be a ghost watcher, be a keyboard warrior," Reed told spectators as the games began, while Craft got in plugs for some of the sponsors, including Arabica Café and Bakery.

"Word on the street is, they're the best coffee in Radford," Craft offered between the play-by-play.

"This is gonna be a long night, bro," Basham said with a wry chuckle after the close of the first round.

Aside from the Steam maintenance issue, the tournament concluded without any significant hitches, and Liska rated it a success.

"I was blown away by the positive feedback from the students, both in their reflections and our class discussion," he said later.

In the post-game analysis, armed with firsthand experience, the class devised

ways to improve the event going forward, such as reorganizing to give students single dedicated tasks to focus on, instead of multiple jobs, and posting cameras by the players to capture video and audio of them in the flesh as they compete.

"Given that this was our first tournament, we were all pleasantly surprised at how smooth it went," Liska noted.

"Our student-staff did an amazing job," he said.

Marketing major Dylan Armes, who graduated last month, said he hopes the event carries on in years to come.

"I love watching gaming content and tournaments, but it made it even cooler to be on the other side of it," Armes said. "I learned many lessons from the class, mainly what actually goes into the marketing of events and streams."

Neil Harvey for Radford University



PHOTOS COURTESY OF RADFORD UNIVERSITY

The Brawlhalla Bash centered on the head-to-head fighting video game "Brawlhalla," in which cartoon-style opponents try to send each other flying off a floating platform. A trio of sportscasters – Sam Craft, Roger Basham and Zachary Reed – provided banter and lively commentary and analysis across the tournament's three-hour span.

Outfitter from page 1

enjoyment in an easy, approachable way," he said. "I saw a void. The main thing I want to do is make river recreation fun and easy for the public."

Pallante said offering tubes and kayaks is not only a good quality of life outlet for people who live in Radford, but also makes the city a more likely place for visitors to come, adding another activity for people to do on a visit to the city and the New River Valley as a whole.

"We've already had customers stop by from all over the place," he said. "This weekend alone there were folks from San Francisco, Charlotte, Stuart, Mount Airy, Pulaski County, Christiansburg,

Blacksburg and more. It just goes to show that the New River is a signature tourism draw for Radford when getting on the water is easy and fun."

Couper Doyle, 16, works at Radford on the River and said he thinks it is the perfect summer job.

"I like this a lot better than working a minimum wage job inside," he said. "It's outside, it's enjoyable and fun, and I get to work for someone I know."

Radford on the River offers single, double, and four-person tubes, including with coolers. Tubes can be harnessed together to keep groups together, and even come with cellphone protectors so you can snap photos

while tubing. Single and double kayaks are also available for rent, as are canoes. Kayakers can choose to embark on their float at either the Sportsman (near Exit 105) or at Riverview Park off West Main Street. Tubers generally start at Shelter Three in Bisset Park and end at Dudley's Landing. There are shuttle buses to ferry customers from Dudley's Landing back to the starting point, and customers rent the tube or kayak for the day, so multiple floats can be made for the day. The hours are operation are Friday – Sunday 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. and Wednesday and Thursday by appointment. Pricing

and more details can be found at their website, radfordontheriver.com. Customers can book and pay on-line, and can also pay on-site with cash or card.

So far, the experience is getting rave reviews.

Bree Guillot, Jesse Guillot, Gwendolyn Stover were Pallante's very first customers.

"They were our very first customers, hailing from New Orleans originally, they fell in love with this area after they moved here in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina," he said. "They've now come down two weekends in a row, and Bree left this recommendation on our Facebook page: 'The

people here are so helpful and friendly! They made our experience great! We recommend the deluxe tubes!'"

Pallante said he hopes his new venture will be something people will enjoy.

"There is no better way to enjoy the outdoors than a day on the river," he said. "You get to enjoy the water, soak in the rays, and enjoy time with friends or family. What could be better?"



PHOTO BY ETHAN BELL

The River Bus is one of Radford on the River's shuttles, which pick customers up at Dudley's Landing after their float.

RADFORD NEWS JOURNAL

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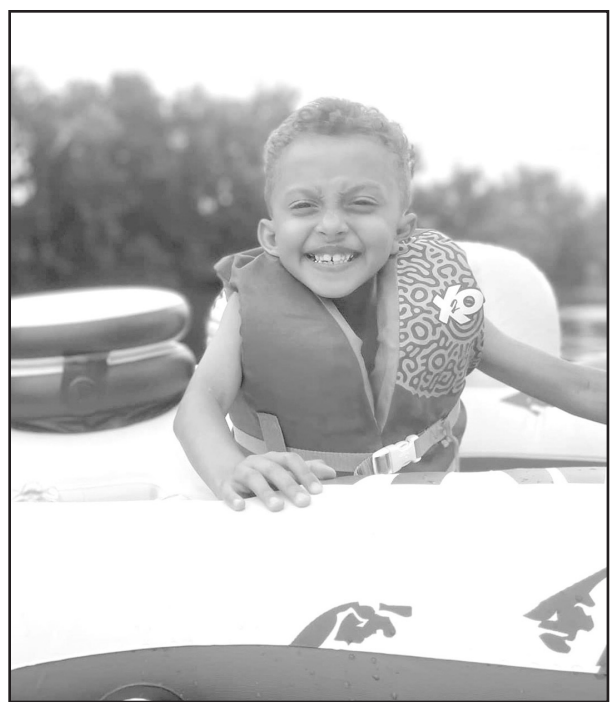
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Radford News Journal is a newspaper of, by and for the people of Radford. We encourage letters from our readers on topics of general interest to the community and responses to our articles and columns. Letters must be signed and have a telephone number 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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Ambrose and Derek Kimbrough enjoy a recent float with equipment from Radford on the River.



PHOTOS BY AMBROSE KIMBROUGH

Adrek Kimbrough has a ball tubing on the New River on a recent sunny afternoon in Radford.

Grucci from page 2

400 acres at the Radford Army Ammunition Plant.

The Virginia Economic Development Partnership worked with Pulaski County and Onward New River Valley to secure the project for Virginia. Youngkin approved a \$212,000 grant from the Commonwealth's Opportunity Fund to assist Pulaski County with the project. Fireworks by Grucci is eligible to receive state benefits from the Virginia Enterprise Zone Program, administered by the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development. Funding and services to support the company's employee training activities will be provided through the Virginia Jobs Investment Program.

From the Office of Governor Glenn Youngkin



PHOTO COURTESY OF GRUCCI, INC.

Fireworks by Grucci and Pyrotechnique by Grucci has announced it will invest \$5.5 million to expand its assembly, storage, and distribution operations to Pulaski County.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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| <p>CLUES ACROSS</p> <p>1. Baby's first words</p> <p>5. Expression of creative skill</p> <p>8. Reddish-brown coating</p> <p>12. Spanish province</p> <p>14. Stinging insect</p> <p>15. Greek temple pillars</p> <p>16. Refurbish</p> <p>18. Cave-dwelling amphibian</p> <p>19. Millisecond</p> <p>20. Removes something</p> <p>21. Trendy</p> <p>22. The Buckeye State</p> <p>23. "Taken" actor</p> <p>26. Of the skull</p> <p>30. Made a mistake</p> <p>31. Malignant tumor</p> <p>32. Not night</p> <p>33. German heavyweight boxer</p> | <p>34. Indicates weight</p> <p>39. Businessman</p> <p>42. Charged negatively</p> <p>44. Indian instrument</p> <p>46. Helps you know where you're going</p> <p>47. Written works</p> <p>49. Kate and Rooney's last name</p> <p>50. Fast, flightless Aussie bird</p> <p>51. Jerry, George, Kramer and</p> <p>56. Dodger great Hershisser</p> <p>57. Where wine ferments (abbr.)</p> <p>58. Supreme Allied Cmdr. Europe</p> <p>59. Vedic god of fire</p> <p>60. Not well</p> <p>61. They grow into plants</p> <p>62. Variety of pear</p> <p>63. Where golfers start</p> <p>64. Posterior</p> | <p>CLUES DOWN</p> <p>1. Challenge</p> <p>2. Assert</p> <p>3. A female operatic star</p> <p>4. Expression of sorrow or pity</p> <p>5. Resistance unit</p> <p>6. Attached a new backing canvas</p> <p>7. Method painting</p> <p>8. Branched</p> <p>9. Barefooted</p> <p>10. Beer mug</p> <p>11. Beloved Mexican dish</p> <p>13. Make better</p> <p>17. One-time king of Troy</p> <p>24. Pie ___ mode</p> <p>25. St. Anthony's fire</p> <p>26. Reciprocal of a sine</p> <p>27. ___rah skirt</p> <p>28. Notre Dame coach</p> <p>29. Computer hardware</p> | <p>company</p> <p>35. Policeman</p> <p>36. Black tropical American cuckoo</p> <p>37. Popular basketball player Jeremy</p> <p>38. Electrocardiogram</p> <p>40. Cheese dish</p> <p>41. Prickly shrub</p> <p>42. Atomic mass unit</p> <p>43. Nostrils</p> <p>44. Enchantresses</p> <p>45. Emphatic typeface</p> <p>47. One of the Florida Keys</p> <p>48. Soft, fine material</p> <p>49. Mountainous tract in Jordan</p> <p>52. Breezes through</p> <p>53. Professional assn. for tech pros</p> <p>54. Class of comb jellies</p> <p>55. Formerly (archaic)</p> |
|---|---|--|---|

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OBITUARIES

Dalton, Ashley Ann



Ashley Ann Dalton, 34, of Radford, brother, Ricky Lawrence; cousin, Ginny Sculla; and many other relatives and friends.

Services will be private. In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to the American Autism Association.

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

Services will be private. In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to the American Autism Association.

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

Eiss Jr., Norman Smith



Norman Smith Eiss Jr. died peacefully in 1953 and at home June 12, 2023, at the age of 92 after a three-year battle with cancer.

Norm is survived by his loving wife of 48 years, Nancy Jean (Siegrist) Eiss; his children Martin Eiss (Jeanne), Christine Wyckoff (John), Jennifer Volland (Doug); stepchildren of Jeffrey (Jeff) Schmidt and Pamela Klustner (Gary Johnson); grandchildren Lauren Bridgers, Madison Drysdyn, Sydney Eiss, Nicole Fiscus, Ally Volland, Jay Klustner, Jordan Klustner, and Kaleyanna Schmidt; great grandchildren Theo Bridgers, Violet Bridgers, Zoe Drysdyn, Amelie Drysdyn and Hudson Fiscus; and siblings Valerie Koch, Mary Andrus, Martie Preg and Dorothy Maritime.

Norm was born in Buffalo, N.Y., March 13, 1931 and has been a resident of Blacksburg since 1966. He retired as a member of the Mechanical Engineering Department in 1998. Norm graduated from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

and began work at DuPont's rayon plant in Buffalo as a mechanical process engineer. He left the company a year later to become an officer in the U.S. Air Force, specializing in radar maintenance. In 1956, he joined the Cornell Aeronautical Laboratory where he worked as a mechanical engineer for seven years.

He took time off to earn M.S. and Ph.D degrees from Cornell University where he also taught as an instructor in mechanisms. As a member of the Mechanical Engineering Department at VT, he authored numerous papers related to polymer wear mechanisms and surface topography characterization and participated actively in the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the Society of Tribologists and Lubrication Engineers, the American Society of Engineering Educations and the

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 stedfast, 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

Watch Out For Pride

Read 2 Chronicles 24:1 through 26:23

After Uzziah became powerful, his pride led to his downfall. He was unfaithful to the Lord his God, and entered the temple of the Lord to burn incense on the altar of incense (2 Chronicles 26:16).

Uzziah became king in Judah at sixteen years of age. During his reign, he fortified towers, dug wells, increased agriculture, invented weapons, and raised an impressive army. However, after forty blessed and prosperous years as king, he made a monumental mistake in judgment. He let pride settle in.

He entered into the sanctuary to offer incense on the golden altar, a ministry rite belong-

ing to the consecrated temple priests, not him. When the high priest, along with a band of eighty priests, withstood him, Uzziah became furious. While screaming back at the priests, leprosy broke out on Uzziah's forehead. Sadly, he remained a leper, living in an isolated home until the day he died.

Pride can slip into a believer's life almost unnoticed. The consequences are never good. If pride ever raises its ugly head, deal with it immediately. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you.

Thought for Today: Humility is our best defense against pride.

Quicklook: 2 Chronicles 26:16-23

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

American Society of Testing Materials. He had a long record of service to these societies, including chairing numerous technical and planning committees and national and international conferences. He was also a director of STLE and in 1988 he was elevated to the membership grade of Fellow in this society. In 1989 he was named the George R. Goodson, Jr. Professor of Mechanical Engineering.

In addition to an active career, Norm had numerous hobbies and interests. He especially enjoyed family gatherings like trips to the beach. He enjoyed traveling, gardening, the arts,

hiking canoeing, white water rafting and tennis. He was also active in community organizations, including the Community Foundation of the NRV, Life Long Living Institute, Habitat for Humanity, YMCA at VT, the Moss Center. AARP and Warm Hearth Foundation.

The family would like to thank friends and neighbors, the Good Samaritan Hospice team, doctors, nurses and aides for their love and support during this difficult time. A celebration of Norm's life will be announced at a later date.

Hammond, Margaret Marie Hughes Berry

Margaret Marie Hughes Berry of Fredericksburg; grandchildren, Hammond, 96, of Radford, passed away comfortably in her home on Wednesday, June 7, 2023.



Margaret is preceded in death by her parents William B. Hughes and Dorothy Camper Hughes; grandson, Elliott Michael Horton; and sister, Barbara A. Baker.

She is survived by her sister Geraldine (Teny) Morris; sons and daughters-in-law, Gregory (Bobbie) Berry of Standardsville, Va., and Bradley (Donna) Berry of Conyers, Ga.; daughters and sons-in-law, Vickie Heil (Brad Williams) of Steamboat Springs, Colo., Barbara Horton (Mike) of Radford, and Margaret Ann Berry

of Fredericksburg; grandchildren, Sarah Heil Goodwin, Paul Berry, Susan Berry Duckworth, Jessica Horton Price, Jonathan Berry, and Leslie Berry; great-grandchildren, Alex, Emma, Katie, Ben, Owen, Colton, Charlee, and Claire; and many other relatives and friends.

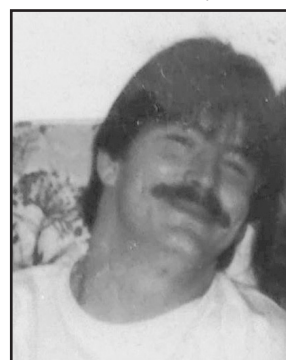
The family would like to thank Intrepid Hospice for the loving care they gave Margaret. Services will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Radford Animal Shelter.

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

Hefley, Evan Eugene

Evan Eugene Hefley, 58, of Evelyn Hefley, and Elizabeth Belspring, passed away on Sunday, June 11, 2023. He was preceded in death by his parents, Edward and Eva Hefley; and his sister, Ellen Hefley.



Survivors include daughters, Alexis Hefley (Brandon Moren), and Kara Hefley; sons, Jacob Hefley, Evan Hefley, and Ricky Hefley; granddaughter, Aubree Hefley; brothers, Ed Hefley, Eric Hefley, and Ernie Hefley; sisters,

Hefley; and many other relatives and friends.

The family would like to thank his close friend, Mary Gearheart for all her care.

Per his request, no services will be held at this time.

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

Vest, William

William ("Bill") Vest, of Dublin, passed away on Monday, June 12, 2023 at the Pulaski Health and Rehabilitation Center.



He was preceded in death by his parents, William M. Vest and Myrtle Bandy Vest; his first wife, Joyce Robertson Vest; his sister, Sarah Lou Vest Parsell; and brother, Tommy Vest.

Also, Bill was preceded in death by Jackson and Myrtle Morris Vest, who reared him after his parents died when he was a young boy.

Bill was a Vietnam Veteran, having served in the United States Air Force for five years in the early sixties. He then began a long career in construction. Bill retired from Branch and Associates where he worked as a construction superintendent on large building projects at Virginia Tech, Radford University, VMI, and many other college campuses. Bill loved bass fishing, gardening, and visiting with his family and friends.

Bill is survived by his wife, Debra K. Bond; his daughter and son-in-law, Casey and Tim Delph, Dublin; his step-daughters and husbands, Amy and Dustin Nester, Hillsville and Sharon and Richard McDougal, Pulaski; his granddaughters and husbands, Kelsey and Alan Lang and Samantha and Coy Smith, all of Dublin; his step-grandchildren, Anna Nester and Katherine Marshall and Jace and Ryleigh McDougal; and his

great-grandchildren, Colton and Cora Smith.

Surviving siblings include Freda Wright, John Doug Vest, and Rachel and Jerry Davis, all of Dublin. Surviving sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law include Brenda Nester, Roanoke, Julian Bond, Christiansburg, Alan and Jennifer Gardner,

Dugspur, Phyllis and Harold Kirk, Dublin, Bud and Jean Robertson, Pearisburg, Geraldine Croy, Christiansburg, Carol Speer and Sue and Doug Mullins, all of North Carolina.

Also surviving are many nieces and nephews, who dearly loved their "Uncle Bill."

Funeral services were held Wednesday, June 14, 2023 at the Pulaski Church of God with Pastor Donald Jones officiating.

Graveside services were held Thursday, June 15, 2023 at the Southwest Virginia Veteran's Cemetery, Dublin, with military honors provided by the Langley Air Force Honor Guard, the Dublin American Legion Post # 58 and the Pulaski VFW Post # 1184.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial donations be made in Bill's honor to the American Heart Association, www.heart.org/donate, 1715 Pratt Dr, Blacksburg, VA 24060.

The Vest family is in the care of A. Vest & Sons Funeral Home, White Gate, avestandsons.com, (540) 921-2985.



PHOTO COURTESY OF KATHY HOSIG

Kathy Hosig (second from left) with the VCE's award at the National Adult and Influenza Immunization Summit in Atlanta on May 10.

Virginia vaccination project named national 'immunization champion'

With funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) through the Extension Foundation, Virginia Cooperative Extension collaborated with experts from the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine's Department of Population Health Sciences and Virginia State University to get more shots in arms.

Virginia Cooperative Extension was recognized by the National Adult and Influenza Immunization Summit, which named the organization an "Immunization Neighborhood" Immunization Champion. The summit, which addresses and resolves adult and influenza immunization issues, is made up of over 700 partners across the United States. Extension was chosen from 25 nominations for the national award.

"The ultimate goal of this work is to get more people vaccinated," said Kathy Hosig, who spearheaded the project. "CDC worked with Cooperative Extension across the country through Extension Foundation because we have presence in all the communities and we know the communities."

Hosig is an associate professor, the director

of the Center for Public Health Practice and Research at the veterinary college, and a public health Extension specialist.

As the front door to the land-grant mission at Virginia Tech, Extension is how research is put into action and shared with the commonwealth's communities.

"We have Extension agents who work with family and consumer sciences, working with families, financial management, and healthy living," Hosig said. "These are the agents we are working with through this project."

Through Extension, Hosig has worked on public health problems such as diabetes management, prevention of obesity, and substance misuse and addiction.

The hands-on immunization project focused on areas in the state with the lowest vaccination rates, getting the word out about COVID vaccination through Extension agents and faculty. Outreach has ranged from vaccine clinics to education booths to opportunities for residents.

The ultimate goal is to increase adult vaccination as a whole. Several vaccines, such as the shingles vaccine, are given exclusively

to adults, and adults need boosters for some vaccines they received as children.

In addition to Hosig, the Extension team includes:

Sophie Wenzel, an assistant professor of practice in the Department of Population Health Sciences and associate director of the Center for Public Health Practice and Research

Kristina Jiles, a research assistant professor in the Department of Population Health Sciences and public health Extension specialist

Amanda Hensley, a graduate research assistant in the Department of Population Health Sciences

Domenique Villani, a graduate research assistant in the Department of Population Health Sciences

Natalie Martin, a graduate research assistant in the Department of Population Health Sciences

Karen Munden, a family and consumer sciences Extension agent and state program leader for health for Extension

Brad Jarvis, agriculture and natural

resources Extension agent for Extension

Tiffany Freer, health specialist for Extension at Virginia State University

Jordan Everett, health extension associate for Extension at Virginia State University

While accepting the award at the National Adult and Influenza Immunization Summit, Hosig participated in a panel discussion explaining Extension's work.

"Winning this award has been able to add value to the relationships with our state department of health and with our funder, CDC. It's going to be great for Extension as well — all of this work over the past three years has given us visibility on a national scale," said Hosig.

Virginia Cooperative Extension recently received two more years of funding. Wenzel will lead that project, and the team that spans Extension, the veterinary college, and Virginia State University will apply what they've learned and increase their efforts to increase adult vaccination and improve the health of Virginia's local communities.

Andrew Mann for Virginia Tech

Radford student-athletes have high academic performance for spring 2023 semester

RADFORD – In one of the best academic semesters the Radford University Athletics Department has ever seen, 86% of Highlander student-athletes achieved a 3.0 grade point average or better during the Spring 2023 semester.

An astonishing 243 out of 281 student-athletes reached the 3.0 mark, helping 15 out of the 16 Highlanders' varsity athletics programs report a team GPA of 3.0 or better as well.

"I am so proud of our student-athletes' performance in the classroom this spring!"

said Associate Athletics Director for Student-Athlete Support Services Allison McCoy. "Our student-athletes put in so much hard work and it is wonderful to see it pay off in such an incredible way."

Beyond that, 193 Highlanders earned a 3.40 GPA or higher, placing

them on the Radford University Dean's List, while 62 of those student-athletes achieved a perfect 4.0.

The women's tennis team, led by first-year head coach Grace Reed, topped all squads with a 3.84 term GPA and a 3.91 cumulative GPA. Women's basketball (3.65 GPA) and women's lacrosse (3.63 GPA) were

close behind while fellow first-year head coach J.D. Shade's men's tennis program led all men's teams with a 3.57 GPA.

GPA is only one measurement of success away from athletic competition, and Radford's student-athletes also represented the department extraordinarily well in faculty-led research

opportunities, internships, community service/volunteer outreach, and more.

For more information on Radford Athletics visit RadfordAthletics.com, follow @RU_Athletics on Twitter, 'radfordathletics' on Instagram or Radford University Athletics on Facebook.

- Radford University

DOWN-EAST WOOD DUCKS VS SALEM RED SOX

JUNE 20TH 7:05PM
GAME 1 - GATES OPEN AT 6:00PM

JUNE 21ST 7:05PM
GAME 2 - GATES OPEN AT 6:00PM

JUNE 22ND 7:05PM
GAME 3 - GATES OPEN AT 6:00PM

JUNE 23RD 7:05PM
PRIDE NIGHT - GATES OPEN AT 6:00PM

JUNE 24TH 6:05PM
MARVEL'S DEFENDERS OF THE DIAMOND - GATES OPEN AT 5:00PM

JUNE 25TH 3:05PM
GAME 6 - GATES OPEN AT 2:00PM

radfordnewsjournal.com

RADFORD SPORTS

Lady Bobcat wrestling reaching for brass ring

Marty Gordon
Nrvsports@mainstreetnewspapers.com

Women's wrestling is one of the fastest-growing sports at the scholastic and collegiate level, and this past year, the Virginia High School League issued a mandate to create a whole separate level for female wrestlers.

According to the National Wrestling Hall of Fame, opportunities for girls and women to wrestling began in the late

1980's, when the international wrestling federation United World Wrestling began hosting competitions. But only recently has the sport really taken off.

As of January, 32 states including Virginia have some form of female wrestling. In September, the VHSL Executive Committee voted to designate girls wrestling as an "emerging sport" starting with the 2022-23 season.

Separate tournaments specifically for girls, like the Virginia Girls Wrestling

Championship, exist and are sanctioned by the Virginia High School League.

The exact number of females that participated in VHSL wrestling this past season is not known, but Radford High School had two girls wrestle and several others inquire about joining the team.

In anticipation of this increase, the RHS wrestling program has launched a fundraising effort for monies to buy wrestling singlets for the girls.

Radford athletic director Greg Wade points to the fact it is an emerging sport here in southwest Virginia.

"We are hoping to expand the sport. We had two girls this past year, and in the future, we hope to have two teams," he said.

The exact amount of the fundraising goal is not known, but Radford is hoping to gather enough to serve as the foundation for the separate sports team.

Blue Ridge Golf Tour starts season

Young golfers gathered at the Pete Dye River Course of Virginia Tech on Tuesday June 13 to compete in the June Oblinger Shott Foundation Junior Classic. The event was part of the Blue Ridge Junior Golf Tour and marked the first tournament of the 2023 season for junior players up to age 18. It's the 25th year for the familiar and celebrated regional golf tour, one that has enjoyed the cooperation of golf courses in southern West Virginia and southwest Virginia throughout the years.

Here is a recap of the action.

17-18 Age Group

Clayton Gilmore of Moneta claimed the age-group title in his very first start on the Tour. Gilmore played steadily on the inward nine collecting five pars enroute to an 18-hole score of 82. Lucas Beeler of Radford and Radford University recruit McKenzie Weddle of Floyd tied for second with scores of 84.

15-16 Age Group

Peyton Mason of Willis defeated Andrew McCoy of Glasgow in a sudden-death playoff to claim the age group title after both players had posted impressive scores of two over par 74.

Mason made the turn at one under par and then made six pars on the second nine holes to force the playoff. McCoy also was off to a good start, making the turn at even par. He continued the trend through the first seven holes on the inward nine before a double bogey on the difficult par 3-17th derailed his hope of the victory.

The playoff occurred on the par 4-11th hole where Mason made a par to defeat McCoy. Harris Camp of

Roanoke was third just one stroke back at 75. Hunter Crist of Radford and Rocky Frye of Bramwell, WV tied for fourth with scores of 77.

Ryan Highfield of Blacksburg shot 78 and Josh Cummings of Christiansburg shot 79 to finish sixth and seventh respectively in the deeply talented age division.

13-14 Age Group

Another playoff was needed to settle this age group as Carter Dudash of Christiansburg defeated Evan Singleton of Pulaski on the first hole of the additional play.

Both had posted scores of 88 to tie for the lead. Mike Bateman of Salem and Jack Herbert of Blacksburg tied for third two shots back at 90. Campbell Sayers of Marion was a stroke back at 91 and finished fifth.

10-12 Age Group

J.J. Robertson of Blacksburg shot 43 to win the age group playing nine holes. Robertson's score was four better than Liam Smith of Elliston, who finished second. Seth Alba of Blacksburg finished third with a score of 51.

9 and Under Age Group

Colton Caudill of Wytheville shot 51 over nine holes and won the age group. Silas Edmonds, also of Wytheville shot 55 and finished second. Michael Brown of Blacksburg shot 59 and finished third.

The Tour continues next week with a tournament at Draper Valley scheduled for Tuesday June 20.

News Messenger staff report

OUTDOOR REPORT

Pathogen found farm-raised rainbow trout

An emerging strain of harmful bacteria has been found for the first time in farm-raised rainbow trout in Virginia.

"Other people that are culturing trout in the state need to know about it, and individuals in states around our state need to know about it," said Stephen A. Smith, professor in the Department of Biomedical Sciences and Pathology and director of the Aquatic Medicine Program at the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine. "Because they're going to be seeing it probably in North Carolina soon and probably some other places with the transportation of fingerlings between states. I wouldn't be surprised if it's already spread to other states."

The discovery was published in the peer-reviewed Journal of Aquatic Animal Health, entitled "First isolation of *Carnobacterium maltamaticum* from farmed Rainbow Trout in Virginia."

"This was one of my diagnostic cases that was submitted to our college," Smith said. "The fish came in with skin lesions that were not typical of more common trout diseases we have in the United States."

"We were able to isolate this bacterium that had never been reported by our lab, and I've been doing diagnostics here for 30 years. I've never seen that particular genus and species of bacteria isolated from those fish."

Smith said colleagues at Michigan State were able to point him toward cases they had found previously, and analyses determined it the same strain of bacteria they had seen in the Great Lakes region.

Courtney E. Harrison and Thomas Loch of

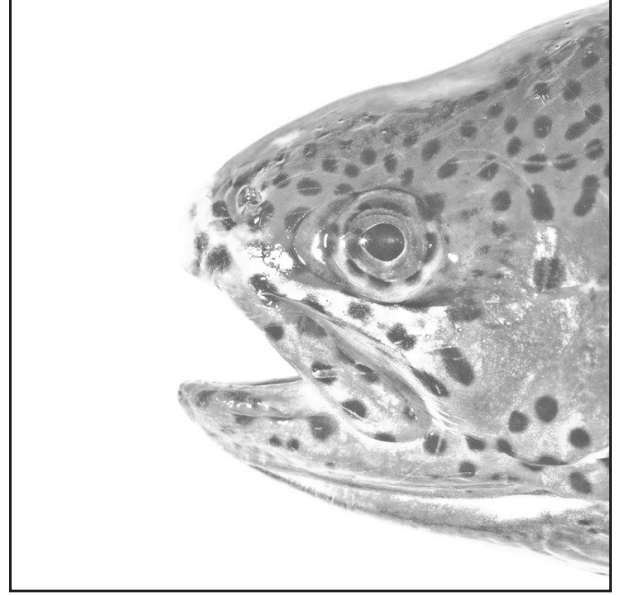


PHOTO COURTESY OF STEPHEN SMITH

Some Farm-raised rainbow trout from Virginia have been found to have a bacterial pathogen that outdoorsman must watch for.

Michigan State University are co-authors with Smith, as is Shelley J. Newman of Newman Specialty VetPath in Hicksville, New York.

Smith said *C. maltamaticum* can cause skin lesions and kidney and liver problems in trout. If left untreated, large-scale fish die-offs are possible. Treatment with antibacterial agents have proven effective, he said.

"This is an emerging disease, we've got it in Michigan, we've got it in a number of different places around the Great Lakes, we have it now in Virginia," Smith said. "It's an emerging disease that people should know about. That's why we did such a thorough workup of the phenotypic characterization and then we also did some molecular sequencing of it to make sure it was exactly the same."

While some previous studies found female fish more susceptible to the *C. maltamaticum*, the Virginia discovery of the bacterium was in an

"all-male rainbow trout broodstock population, suggesting that pseudo-kidney disease can ensue if conditions are favorable, regardless of sex," Smith's paper states.

The site of the Virginia discovery is described in the paper as "a commercial aquaculture facility with spring-fed, flow-through raceways" that "experienced morbidity and mortality of production-sized rainbow trout over a two-week period in January 2018."

Water quality and oxygen levels were found within acceptable ranges, ruling those out as factors. Affected fish displayed anorexia, wasting, skin lesions, and abnormal floating.

Smith has been on the veterinary college's faculty since 1991, performing diagnostics and research on aquatic animals and teaching courses on wildlife and exotic animals.

Kevin Myatt for Virginia Tech

RU women add four for 2023-24 season

Radford Women's Basketball Head Coach Mike McGuire has announced an exciting addition of young talent in four freshmen to the roster for the 2023-24 season.

Adelyn Traylor-Walker, a 5'7 guard coming from Bella Vista Preparatory School and Terissa Lavoile-Brice, a 6'0 forward from Saint-Laurent, Quebec, Canada join the team as incoming freshmen. Joi Williams, a 5'8 guard from Ashburn, Va. and Arshae Jackson, a 5-10 guard coming from James River High School round out the quartet of new Highlanders who will be making their collegiate debuts next season.

Adelyn Traylor-Walker Guard | 5-7 | Franklin, Ind. | Bella Vista Preparatory School

During her senior season at Bella Vista Prep, Adelyn averaged 14.2 ppg, 5.4 spg, 5.8 apg and 10.1 rpg

Was a varsity letter all four years Voted MidState all-conference twice and Defensive Player of the Year once

Scored 1,287 career

points Indiana State championship runner-up her junior season and a world champion at Grind Session her senior year

Was named MVP at the 2021 Memorial Weekend Tournament in Ohio

Played for the AAU Team Blaze coached by Derrick Cross and Ron McClennon

Terissa Lavoile-Brice Forward | 6-0 | Saint-Laurent, Quebec, Canada | Winston-Salem Christian School

Most recently played at Winston-Salem Christian School but also played at Ecole Secondaire Saint-Laurent in her high school career

Averaged six points, eight rebounds and three assists

In 2018 she helped her team towards a Provincial Championship and placing third-place in the Canada Games

In 2019 she helped lead the team towards another Provincial Championship and a first-place finish in the Canada Games

Named first team all-star in 2019

Earned academic merits for the 2021-22

and 2022-23 seasons

Played AAU with the Phoenix Elite and Bluehounds coached by Delaney Rudd and Trevor Williams

Joi Williams Guard | 5-7 | Ashburn, Va. | Virginia Academy

While at Virginia Academy, Williams averaged 23 ppg, 5.2 rpg and 3.1 apg

Finished with 1,903 points in her high school career

Was a three-time state champion for the season 2020-21, 2021-22, and 2022-23

Named the Virginia State Player of the Year three times for the 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23 seasons

Named an All-MET Selection by the Washington Post

Was a member of the AAU Fairfax Stars EYBL in 2021 and 2022 coached by Aggie McCormick

Arshae Jackson Guard | 5-10 | Church Hill, Va. | James River High School

Averaged 7.8 rebounds, 4.1 assists, 4.9 field goals and 11.9 points per game at James River High School

Was a 1,000-point career scorer

game time
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Small Children Are Being Poisoned by THC

The number of children under the age of 5 accidentally poisoned by cannabis edibles has soared 1,375% since 2017.

Journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Jan. 2023

JUST SAY
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JustSayKNOW.org

This message is brought to you by the Radford Youth-Adult Partnership & New River Valley Community Services



Radford Youth-Adult Partnership



*Get involved! Stay informed!
Join the RYAP email list or join our monthly
Zoom meetings.
Email info@nrvc.org to learn more!*