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Wednesday, September 6, 2023 • USPS 387-780 • radfordnewsjournal.com • \$1.00

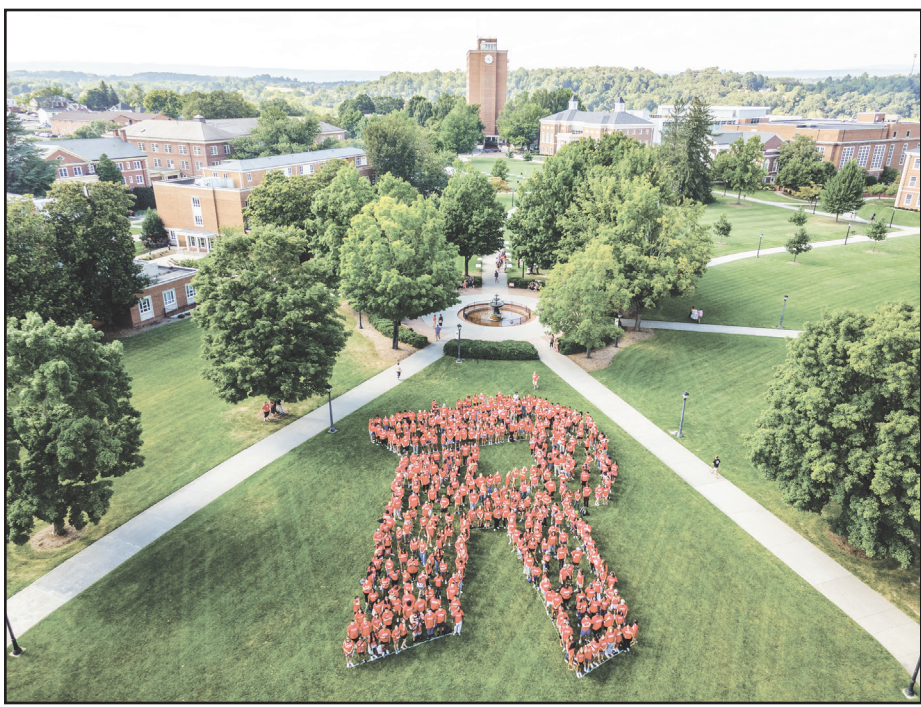


PHOTO COURTESY OF RADFORD UNIVERSITY

The incoming class at Radford University has the highest GPA of any class entering the university

Radford University freshman Class of 2027 achieves highest high school GPA

RADFORD - Radford University's reputation for academic excellence reaches new heights as the Class of 2027 achieves a remarkable milestone: attaining the highest GPA in the university's history.

This class had an average high school GPA of 3.47 on a 4.0 scale, an increase from the 3.41 average GPA of last year's class.

This accomplishment is accompanied by a surge in retention rates, painting a picture of an academic community that is not only attracting top students but also nurturing an environment where they can thrive.

"High-achieving students are selecting Radford University as they learn of the rich learning environment that we offer," said President Bret Danilowicz. "The university has seen significant growth within our Honors College, a living-learning community that has reached its largest total headcount this fall by enrolling a record-setting new student cohort. High-performing students are also attracted to our widely available research experiences, which are typically only offered to graduate students at other institutions. And in recent years, top students have been offered distinguished scholarship awards, making a Radford

University degree more affordable for excellent students."

Among these exceptional students is Alexis Perkins, a former valedictorian from Lakeland High School in Suffolk, Virginia, who embodies the spirit of achievement and ambition that defines this freshman class. Her decision to attend Radford University was fueled by a genuine connection to the campus atmosphere and a deep appreciation for the uplifting environment it offers.

"I chose this college because I fell in love with the campus, and the environment seemed very positive and uplifting. I felt like a perfect fit at that school," she shared with the Suffolk News-Herald earlier this month. "I also fell in love with Radford's nursing program and decided that that's what I wanted to commit to."

Students like Perkins shine as examples of ambition and achievement. The Class of 2027 cements its place in Radford University's history as the institution stands ready to continue its legacy of excellence. The exceptional academic performance, paired with the increased retention rates, serves as inspiration for all members of the university community.

Justin Ward for Radford University

Man arrested after standoff with police

CHRISTIANSBURG - Joseph Nathan Penn, 34, of Christiansburg, has been arrested following a standoff with Christiansburg Police and the U.S. Marshall's office, who were trying to serve him with an arrest warrant.

"On Friday Sept. 1, 2023 at approximately 2:20 p.m., Christiansburg Police received a call from the U.S. Marshall's Task Force after an individual barricaded himself in a residence," the Town of Christiansburg announced. "The U.S. Marshall's Task Force was attempting to serve an arrest warrant to [Penn] when Penn immediately locked himself inside a residence on the 100 block of Hunter's Ridge Rd."

"Law enforcement attempted to

negotiate with Penn for more than two hours but he refused to surrender and broke off communication with law enforcement," the announcement continued. "At approximately 4:52 p.m. officers administered a chemical irritant. Penn came out of his barricaded position three minutes later and was immediately taken into custody. There were no injuries to Penn or officers."

"The original arrest warrant was issued for capias that required Penn to return to Court to re-instate a previously suspended sentence on a previously adjudicated felony. Additional charges may be forthcoming."

Radford News Journal staff report

Virginia Tech student dies in single vehicle crash

BLACKSBURG - David Gudiel, a 20-year-old resident of Springfield, Va. and a Virginia Tech junior majoring in robotics and mechatronics in the College of Engineering, died early Saturday morning after a single vehicle crash.

"On Sept. 2 at 3:40 a.m., Virginia Tech Police and Blacksburg Police responded to a single vehicle crash on Research Center Drive near Pratt Drive," Virginia Tech announced Sunday. "Arriving officers found one individual, believed to be the driver, on scene but out of the vehicle.

Life-saving measures were immediately initiated by emergency personnel but were unsuccessful. The individual was pronounced deceased at the scene. There were no other individuals in the vehicle."

The crash is being investigated by the Virginia Tech Police Crash Investigation Team. Research Center Drive was closed for several hours between Pratt Drive and Kraft Drive while officers completed the on-scene portion of the investigation.

Radford News Journal staff report

Artists to get chance to participate in upcoming Glencoe exhibit



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF GLENCOE MANSION

Glencoe Mansion will be hosting an open call to art for its upcoming winter themed art show, "Winter In The Valley". The show will be accepting all wall-hanging mediums. More information will be announced shortly.

Counselor education professor spends summers at camp - helping kids



PHOTO COURTESY OF RADFORD UNIVERSITY

The Radford team from left are: Rebekah Skinner, Rachel Hughes, assistant professor of Counselor Education Wally Scott, Liz Mazzello and Kassie Wall. Not pictured is Lauren Rutledge, a graduate from the M.S. in Counselor Education program who continues to volunteer at the camp.

"It has all my favorite things," Wally Scott said, listing the many reasons he has served as a counselor at the Royal Family Kids Camp for nearly a decade of summers.

Those favorite things? Helping and working with children.

In addition to his role as an assistant professor in Radford University's Department of Counselor Education, Scott has worked in the counseling field for more than 30 years in professional settings.

"I've spent my career working with children and families from foster care in the Department of Social Services, to residential care, to outpatient care for children in a community mental health setting, to court services," he said. "And I've served as director of counseling at Family Service in Roanoke."

Scott first learned of the Royal Family

Kids Camp when his daughter, attending college in Huntington, West Virginia, near the camp's location, mentioned it to him. That was more than nine years ago. He volunteered and quickly realized it was perfect place for him.

The Royal Family Kids Camp is a summer camp designed to "make moments matter" for children in foster care systems. Camps provide numerous activities for the children. They swim, fish, climb a rock wall, stretch into yoga poses, do arts and crafts and dabble in photography. On Wednesday, there is a birthday party for all the camp kids, and on Thursday, they show their skills and abilities in a talent show. For the 12-year-olds who are aging out of the camp, there is a graduation ceremony at the end of the week.

Camps operate at more than 240 locations across North America and in 12

countries. Scores of volunteers work at the weeklong camps each summer.

This year, Scott brought along to the Putnam County, W.Va., camp four of his current M.S. in Counselor Education program students - Rebekah Skinner, Liz Mazzello, Rachel Hughes and Kassie Wall - and program alumna Lauren Rutledge.

"My experience with the camp was and has been amazing - from beginning to end, I really love getting to know and understand my campers," Mazzello said. "Every child deserves to have motivation and a light in their lives, and I wanted to be that light for a child, even if only for a week."

The Royal Family Kids Camp operates on three principles that are constantly practiced throughout the camp, Scott explained. The first is to treat kids like royalty," like they matter, are valued and really loved," he elaborated.

Camp staff also strive to make so many moments matter. That's the second principle.

"We are not there to treat trauma - although these children come with past traumas - but things will invariably happen and unfold, and when they do," Scott said, "we step into those moments in loving, caring and understanding ways to hopefully affect a different outcome."

The third camp principle involves movement, as in "keep moving forward," Scott said. "Trauma work is all about moving forward, not getting stuck in a scary, painful place, but continuing to take steps, which is how you get to the "other side" of the scary stuff. We practice these three principles constantly during the camp."

Each camp is "well-structured and organized," Scott noted, which creates a sense of safety. There is room, however, for flexibility. "We try to find a path to 'yes,' the professor said, because children so often hear the word "no."

"We pour love into these children and safely love them, so they feel valued and cared for," he continued. "Once the children experience this, it becomes like a magnet that draws them toward."

Providing more insight into the camp's philosophies, Scott evoked the words of the late Karyn Purvis, who led the Institute of Child Development. "She was known to say that when you look into the eyes of a child, you need to be prepared to look back and reflect their preciousness," Scott said. "I do not look into the eyes of a child unless I'm ready to reflect back their preciousness."

"Can you see how healing this is?" he asked.

Spending a week with staff and volunteers who love children as much as he does - and "love each other," he said, is also part of the joy Scott gains from volunteering each summer.

When his daughter, Cecelia, first mentioned and explained the camp, she said, "Dad, it has all your favorite stuff!"

"She was right!" Scott said.

Chad Osborne for Radford University

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, Sept. 6:

Radford Army Ammunition Plant community meeting

The Radford Army Ammunition Plant (RFAAP) will hold the next Commander's Community Meeting at 6:30 p.m. at the Christiansburg Library at 125 Shelton St. The meeting will also be broadcast on Facebook Live from the Radford Army Ammunition Plant Facebook page. These meetings are open to the public and are an opportunity to learn about RFAAP Modernization and Environmental Projects. Our commitment to responding to your questions extends beyond the community meeting. You can reach out to us for questions or to conduct research on your own through several resources, including: Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/RadfordArmyAmmunitionPlant/>; Homepage: <http://www.jmc.army.mil/Radford/RadfordDefault.aspx>; or Email: USARMY.RIA.JMC.MBX.AMSJM-PA@ARMY.MIL.

Thursday, Sept. 7:

Blood Drive

Central Church, 803 Wadsworth Street in Radford, is sponsoring a Blood Drive, 1- 5 p.m. in the Family Life Center. Walk ins are welcome but in order to be seen more quickly, please call 1(800) RedCross to schedule an appointment.

American Legion meeting

The American Legion, Harvey Howe Carper Post 30, will meet at 6 p.m. at the VFW Post Home located at 102 Watts St. in Radford. For further information, please call 540-250-2283 or 540-239-9864.

Community Quilting Bee

At the Blacksburg Library; 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Join us for our weekly quilting and sewing group. Bring your supplies and join us for conversation.

Saturday, Sept. 9:

Fish Fry

Mount Tabor Ruritan Club September 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. Adults-\$12, children under 12-\$6, (under 3)-free, carry-outs-\$12. Entertainment by Simple Gifts of the Blue Ridge. The fish fry is a fundraiser for the Ruritan Club's community service projects and scholarships. Held rain or shine. Call or text 540-449-6178 for further information. This is the last fish fry in 2023. On Facebook at MtTaborRuritan.

Monday, Sept. 11:

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, Sept. 12:

Blacksburg Town Council meeting

The 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.

Saturday, Sept. 16:

Wilderness Trail Festival

The 50th annual Kiwanis Wilderness Trail Festival will take place in downtown Christiansburg, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Location of vendors will extend on Main Street all the way from Town Hall to Burger King. A record number of vendors have registered this year.

The event will include the usual local arts and crafts vendors, craft demonstrations, an enhanced children's area, two stages, an emergency services location, great food all day, classic cars, raffles, a silent auction, and more.

Ladies Night Out Workshop

At First Missionary Baptist Church, 7318 Manns Dr., Fairlawn, Va., 5 p.m. Speaker will be Ruth Wolford New Mount Olive UMC—Radford. Sponsored by Deaconess Ministry—FMBC. Refreshments will be served.

Shred-A-Thon

Town of Blacksburg Shred-A-Thon; 9 a.m. – noon, 725 Patrick Henry Dr. Free event is a great opportunity to recycle unneeded household documents, records, etc. Please bring documents in a box, tote or paper bag and

observe the limit of five containers per vehicle. Items that cannot be shredded include metal, three-ring binders, composition notebooks, hardback books, and non-paper materials. This is a drive-thru event only. Remain in your vehicle during drop off. For more information, call the Town of Blacksburg Recycling office at 540-443-1212.

Thursday, Sept. 21:

Sons of Confederate Veterans meeting

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

On-going:

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.

Free GED classes

New River Community College is offering free GED at the Meadowbrook Library every Monday and Tuesday through Tuesday, Dec. 12. For more information or to sign up please call the Library at 540-268-1964.

Join author Jim Minick for discussions of his latest book



Jim Minick

Literature enthusiasts and history buffs alike are invited to join author Jim Minick as he takes the audience on a journey through the pages of his latest book, "Without Warning: The Tornado of Udall, Kansas".

The author will appear at two upcoming library events: Thursday, Sept. 7, at 7 p.m., at the Blacksburg Library, located at 200 Miller St. Blacksburg, and at the Jessie Peterman Memorial Library, at 321 W. Main St. Floyd, on Thursday, Sept. 14, at 6 p.m. These free events provide the public with an opportunity to engage with the author and gain a deeper understanding of the catastrophic events that unfolded

on May 25, 1955, when an F5 tornado struck Udall, Kansas, without any forewarning.

Minick will read from "Without Warning: The Tornado of Udall, Kansas", which narrates the story of the Udall tornado—the most devastating tornado in Kansas' history and one of the worst in the annals of the United States. Minick's book is more than a historical account; it serves as a poignant reflection on the past and an urgent call to reckon with the realities of our changing climate. The harrowing tale of Udall's devastation and subsequent rebirth offers pertinent lessons as society navigates an uncertain future.

During both events, attendees will have the opportunity to purchase their own copies of "Without Warning: The Tornado of Udall, Kansas", and the author will be available to sign them.

Jim Minick is an accomplished author or editor of eight books, including "The Intimacy of Spoons" (poetry, forthcoming), "Fire Is Your Water", (novel), and "The Blueberry Years: A Memoir of Farm and Family". Minick's work has appeared in many publications including The New York Times, Poets & Writers, Oxford American, Orion, Shenandoah, The Sun,

Conversations with Wendell Berry, Appalachian Journal, Wind, and The Sun. He serves as co-editor of the literary magazine Pine Mountain Sand & Gravel.

For more information about these events and the author, please visit <https://jim-minick.com/> or contact Kerri Copus, Library Program Coordinator at (540) 382-6969 ext. 215 or email kcopus@mfrl.org.

WITHOUT WARNING

THE TORNADO OF UDALL, KANSAS

Jim Minick



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MFR

Minick will be discussing his latest book, "Without Warning: The Tornado of Udall, Kansas."

Submit letters
to the editor to
editor@ourvalley.org



DONATE BLOOD. HELP SAVE LIVES.

Blood Drive
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Family Life Center
803 Wadsworth Street
Radford, VA 24141

Thursday, September 7, 2023
1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: 351493 to schedule an appointment.



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Follow Glencoe Mansion's Instagram for historical tidbits

Glencoe Mansion's "This Day in Wharton History" posts interesting

information about Radford and the Wharton family each Tuesday, highlighting the Wharton letters and learning what Gabe and Nannie Wharton were doing and thinking on this day in the 1860s.

"We have talked before in this post series about how Civil War officers would often return home or have their families join them when they were nearby and there was a lapse in the fighting," the post reads. "Gabe's letter from August 29, 1863 demonstrates two issues with this practice.

First, after spending time with Nannie from August 18-28, he was no longer sure of what was going on

around the camp. He wasn't sure if "the enemy had escaped and we will have to march" or "the enemy have re-inforcements... and turn again upon us." Second, he then goes on to talk about bringing Nannie to visit him after this march, but he doesn't know where yet. So, he isn't sure where or when he will be able to call for her."

To read the rest of Gabe's letter, visit Glencoe to get a copy of "The Whartons' War." Glencoe's Gift Shop is open 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Wednesday to Saturday and 1-4 p.m. Sunday.

Radford News Journal
staff report



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF GLENCOE MANSION

Civil War officers would often return home or have their families join them when they were nearby and there was a lapse in the fighting.

FISH DAY

It's Time to Stock Your Pond!

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Thursday, Sept. 21th

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OBITUARIES

Carter, Danny Mark

Danny Mark Carter, 69, of Salem, passed away Thursday, Aug. 31, 2023. He was a carpenter and plumber. Danny was preceded in death by his parents, Glee and Wilma Carter; brother, Robert Samuel Carter; sisters, Barbara Flo Melvin and Phyllis Jean Bessler.

Survivors include his brother, Roy Carter, Sr.; niece, Faith Kobrehel (Michael); sister, Elizabeth Hamblin; nieces, Sandi (Brian) Cantel, Wilma (Warren) Melvin, Linda Shoemaker, Sherry Graham, and Kim Bessler; nephews, Ron (Stacey) Melvin, Andy (Sheila) Hamblin, Mike Hamblin, Jeff Carter, Rick (Kathleen) Bessler, Ray Bessler, Roy (Angel) Carter, Jr., and Shannon (Ammie Jo) Carter; many

great nieces and nephews; and many other relatives and friends. The family would like to thank the staff at Salem Health and Rehab. Per Danny's request, services will be held at a later date. The Carter family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford.

Groseclose, Ila Catherine Linkous



Ila Catherine Linkous Groseclose, 85, of Christiansburg, walked into the arms of Jesus and gained her Heavenly home on Aug. 31, 2023, after a brief battle with lung cancer. She was surrounded by beloved family in her home at the time of her passing.

Ila was born in February of 1938 in McComas, W.Va., but spent most of her early childhood in the Christiansburg area. Her parents moved to Speedwell, Va. in Wythe County her first year of high school. As the second oldest child, and all of her brothers being younger than her, Ila began working on the farm alongside her daddy, and later, her brothers too. Ila always preferred to be outside, which carried over into her enjoyment of growing beautiful roses, her love of camping, and caring for her many flowers around her home in her retirement years. After graduating from Speedwell High School in 1954, Ila completed business school. She was a career woman before that phrase was ever coined. Ila worked for many years as a legal secretary. It is rumored that her typing speeds were lightning-fast. Ila began a career at Virginia DMV in 1976, where she was loved and respected by coworkers and customers alike, especially dealerships and trucking companies because of her expertise and professionalism. She retired from DMV after over 30 years of dedicated, loyal service to the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Kayla Groseclose, Amber Sisson (and Adam), Tanner Linkous (and Kayla), Lexi Moore, and Kelsie Groseclose; great-grandchildren Brittany, Maddie, Brianna, Matthew, Jackson, Owen, Ellie, Bryce, and Liana; and great-great grandchildren Beau and Easton. Ila is survived by her stepdaughter Wilma Nidifer (and Jim) and stepson Keith Groseclose, as well as step-grandchildren Michelle Cassell, Mandy Cassell, Matthew Nidifer, Chelci Groseclose Bolton, and Makenzi Groseclose Witchley. Ila is also survived by her siblings, sister Shirley Linkous Williams, brother Nelson Linkous (and Barbara), brother Jimmy Linkous (and Brenda), sister Mellie Linkous Meadows, special aunt, Barbara (Speckles) Shepherd Ratliff, and so many other beloved family members.

Ila's belief and faith in Jesus was important to her and she prayed constantly for her family members to have that same faith, and for God to take care of each and every one of them. She attended various churches over the years, but her most recent regularly attended church was Alleghany Church of Christ in Christiansburg. In recent years she was not able to attend church regularly, but she spent all day on Sundays watching or listening to church services on TV and was enthusiastic to share what she heard and learned with others. After Ila's retirement, she continued to serve the community by volunteering with Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) of Montgomery County. During Ila's retirement years, she enjoyed camping with many of her family and friends. Family was important to Ila and she loved spending time with her brothers and sisters, her children, her grandchildren, nieces and nephews, and many other beloved family members too numerous to mention. Ila and her brothers and sisters have always been an example of how close a family should be during all the joys and trials of life. Ila especially enjoyed the time she was

able to spend with her 18 grandchildren. During her working years, she was not able to spend as much time with her older grandchildren as she would have liked, but she loved on them in the ways she was able to at the time. After retirement, she got so much enjoyment from helping care for the younger grandchildren. She loved all 18 so very much! Ila's best friend over the last 12 years of her life was Spice, her faithful dog, that she raised from a puppy and loved so much. She also had close friendships with many special neighbors and friends.

The family would like to thank the healthcare providers at Lewis Gale Hospital Montgomery, Lewis Gale Medical Center Salem, Valley Ridge Home Health, Blue Ridge Cancer Care, Good Samaritan Hospice, and Christiansburg Rescue Squad, who provided such amazing care for Ila during her brief illness. Ila's children also wish to thank special family members, granddaughter and nurse Amber Sisson, sister and retired nurse Shirley Williams, and niece Jana Testerman, who helped ensure she had wonderful care at home, and made it possible for Ila to have her wish to stay at home during the last weeks of her life.

Ila was preceded in death by her husband of 19 years, Harry Clayton Groseclose, Jr.; her parents Frank J. Linkous, Jr. and Nina Bell Shepherd Linkous; her brother Larry Linkous; beloved brothers-in-law Ronnie Meadows and Ronald Williams; and by many other loved ones. Ila is survived by her children, son and daughter, Dennis and Brenda Barteel of Fincastle, Va.; son, Jeff Groseclose of Christiansburg; daughter and son, Lori and Joe Linkous of Pilot, Va.; and daughter, Cyndi Groseclose of Christiansburg. She is also survived by her grandchildren Sara Lowe (and B.J.), Heather Rogers (and Shawn),

options for every American worker," according to Forbes. Participants were asked if they would recommend their employer to others, and to evaluate their employer based on working conditions, diversity, compensation packages, potential for development, company image and more. Participants also assessed employers beyond their own, Forbes said.

Submitted by Carilion Clinic

Rogers, Henry Litchfield

Henry Litchfield "Litch" Rogers, 72, of Dublin, passed away on Thursday, Aug. 31, 2023. He was preceded in death by his parents, DeWitt Ted and Dorrice Litchfield Rogers; and his granddaughter, Tess Carrington Rogers.

Survivors include his sons, Hank Rogers (Hannah) and Joseph Rogers; daughter, Jean Marie Rogers; grandchildren, Katlyn Marie, Nicole Ritamarie, James David "J.J.", Zachary, and Daisy Gracelyn; a brother; and many other relatives and friends. The family will receive friends 10 - 11 a.m. Friday,

Sept. 8, 2023, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. A graveside service will follow at 11:30 a.m. in Highland Memory Gardens in Dublin with Bob Peek officiating. The Rogers family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford.

Breeden, Roberta L.

Roberta L. Breeden, 78, passed away on Friday, Sept. 1, 2023.



She was born April 19, 1945, in Montgomery County to Ethel and Elijah Collins. She retired from Radford University where she enjoyed serving food to all the students and staff. She was preceded in death by her loving husband, Doug Breeden; parents, Ethel and Elijah Collins; son, Gene Breeden; daughter-in-law, Susan Breeden; brothers, Tater, Russell and Bud Collins; and sisters, Pauline Booth and Rosemary Gathercole.

and was always there cheering them from the car. Survivors include her children, Junior Breeden, David Breeden, Judy Breeden, Pam McManus, Kaleigh McManus, and Amanda Kitchner (Carl); sister and brother-in-law, Lulu and Charlie Moore; brother, Buck Collins; great grandchildren, Christian Kitchner, Danny and Daryl Stanley, Bubbie and Trenton Ramirez; and many other relatives and friends.

The family received friends Tuesday, Sept. 5, 2023, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 6, 2023, at the funeral home with Pastor T. Michael Bond officiating. Interment will follow in the Centennial Christian Church Cemetery in McCoy.

In lieu of flowers, please consider contributions to the Blue Ridge Cancer Center. The family would like to thank Blue Ridge Cancer Center (Dr. Mock), Deetta Ray, Dr. Ringold, Dr. Skewes, and all of the Intrepid Hospice family.

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

PETS OF THE WEEK

These pets and many others are available for adoption at the Montgomery County Animal Care and Adoption Center, 480 Cinnabar Rd., Christiansburg. Phone: (540) 382-5795.

RB is a shy cat who may open up with his purrfect match! This handsome guy typically spends his time in a community cat room with other felines at the ACAC, so a home with a buddy would likely work well for this guy.



Rosemary is ready to meet you! She is a rambunctious puppy with a lot of energy and curiosity. She would benefit from some training and daily exercise. Stop by the Animal Care and Adoption Center to meet this happy gal.

Forbes names Carilion among America's best employers by state

Carilion Clinic has been named to Forbes fifth annual list of America's Best Employers by State.

According to its website, Forbes worked with market research firm Statista to survey 70,000 workers at companies with at least 500 workers in all 50 states, asking participants to assess their employers.

"These aren't the best large or midsize employers nationally, but a deeper look at which companies are closer-to-home

options for every American worker," according to Forbes.

Participants were asked if they would recommend their employer to others, and to evaluate their employer based on working conditions, diversity, compensation packages, potential for development, company image and more. Participants also assessed employers beyond their own, Forbes said.

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RADFORD SPORTS



Max Kanipe catches a pass near the sideline to pick up a big gain after the catch in Friday's 35-0 win. Kanipe finished with five catches for 71 yards.

Radford Bobcats down Giles 35-0



Couper Doyle intercepts a rare Giles passing attempt in the second quarter of the Bobcats' win Friday night.



Luke Woodard catches a pass under a defender and scores on the run after the catch. Friday's game was held at Bobcat Stadium.



Sincere Taylor races up the sideline for a touchdown after catching a long pass for one of his five receptions on the night with 154 yards.

PHOTOS BY BRYANT ALTIZER

Hokie's track and field legend to retire

Virginia Tech director of track and field and cross country Dave Cianelli announced Thursday his intention to retire upon the conclusion of the 2024 outdoor season, marking the end of one of the most illustrious careers in school history.

"I would like to thank Jim Weaver and Tom Gabbard for giving me the opportunity to come to Virginia Tech back in 2001," Cianelli said. "Thank you to Whit Babcock and Chris Helms for supporting our program during the past nine years. Our program would not have attained the level of success it has enjoyed without these four individuals.

"A huge debt of gratitude to all of the coaches and staff who worked so hard throughout the past 22 years and contributed so much of themselves to this program. To our Virginia Tech alumni and donors, thank you for your loyalty, financial gifts and faith in our program as we move forward. Most of all, thank you to the hundreds of student-athletes who chose to attend Virginia Tech and help build this program.

"To my family, Ellen, Mariah and Sebastain, thank you for your love and patience during this journey."

Cianelli's legacy as one of the sport's most influential coaches is marked by his 74 NCAA Championships, 490 All-America honors, 373 individual conference champions, 32 World Championship qualifiers, and 22 Olympic qualifiers. At Tech alone, Cianelli has overseen the success of 20 NCAA individual champions, 13 top-10 team finishes at the NCAA Championships, 242 ACC individual champions, and 21 ACC team titles. The 19-time ACC Coach of the Year and 18-time USTFCCCA Southeast Region Coach of the Year enters his 23rd season directing the Hokies.

"Coach Cianelli is one of the most successful coaches in the history of Virginia Tech Athletics," director of athletics Whit Babcock noted. "He is the consummate professional and his leadership ushered in an era of sustained excellence for our track and field programs. Dave's illustrious career is filled with championships and national honors. However, he would be the first to tell you the relationships he builds with his student-athletes and coaches is what he cherishes the most.

"Dave is a model leader, who managed his programs the right way. He was also a great resource to our other head coaches, mentoring them along the way. We look forward to celebrating Coach Cianelli and our programs as he takes a final lap over the 2023-24 seasons."

In 2007, Cianelli claimed the program's first-ever ACC indoor championship title. Nearly two months later, the Hokies' captured their first outdoor title proving Tech was a force to be reckoned with in track and field. The men's team won their first ACC title at the 2011 indoor championships becoming the first host school since 1979 to win the conference title.

The Hokies backed their indoor success with an outdoor conference title in 2012. Flash forward, a few months later, and the Virginia Tech cross country team brought home their first-ever ACC title in a 55-49 defeat of second-place Virginia at Tech's Buford Meredith Cross

Country Course in Blacksburg.

By 2016, Cianelli was already reaching new heights after racking up 10 conference championships. Tech went on to win six additional team titles before the success was shortly paused during the pandemic-riddled 2020-21 season. The next season, the Hokies came back stronger than ever winning the 2021 ACC Indoor Track and Field Championships with the largest margin of victory in the modern era of the ACC 136-81 over second-place North Carolina.

Coming back from a second-place finish at the 2022 ACC Outdoor Championships, the Hokies were ready to continue their indoor dominance by winning the 2022 ACC Indoor Championships 105-72 over second-place Florida State. The women's team tied for first with Duke scoring 86 points.

The Virginia Tech dynasty continued in 2023 with the men's and women's teams winning both ACC Indoor Track and Field Championship titles. The men's team picked up their third-straight team title with 110.5 points, and the women claimed their second-straight title with 93 points.

In 2018, Cianelli led the charge in the \$18 million renovation of Rector Field House – the home of the Virginia Tech track and field program. With the addition of the new east wing, Rector created increased storage for track along with other further enhancements such as a new roof, new lighting and a new surface for the track. Altogether, the enhancements to Rector added approximately 32,000 square feet to the structure.

At the end of the 2024 outdoor track and field season, Cianelli will hand the program over to the Hokies' new head track and field coach Ben Thomas.

"Coach Dave Cianelli has written one of the greatest rags to riches stories in NCAA track and field history in his 22 years at Virginia Tech," said Thomas. "I was fortunate to be on his first staff at Tech. We had a few scholarships, not many resources, and some young talented assistant coaches. To be part of the program's 21 ACC Championship team titles, countless ACC individual titles, national champions, and All-American performances, has been one of the greatest joys of my professional career.

"To take the reins from Coach Cianelli, I will truly be walking in the shadows of a giant in the history of track and field coaching. I am grateful for Virginia Tech's trust in me to be the next director of track and field and cross country."

Thomas returns to Blacksburg as a three-time USTFCCCA National Assistant Coach of the Year, having most recently won back-to-back indoor honors for the Oregon Ducks' incredible success during the 2020 and 2021 seasons. He earned his first national award during his time at Virginia Tech following the 2017 season, becoming the first ACC assistant to ever win the award. Thomas is also a 10-time USTFCCCA Regional Assistant Coach of the Year.

Thomas graduated from Virginia Tech ('92) with a bachelor's degree in English. He and his wife, Ann, have three children: Reilly, Seamus and Roisin.

Virginia Tech Athletics

Radford, Christiansburg move to 2-0

Marty Gordon

NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Week number two on the grid iron saw both Christiansburg and Radford pick up easy wins, while Eastern Montgomery and Blacksburg are still looking for their first win of the season.

Games this week:

William Byrd at Christiansburg

This week is a battle from two offensive teams. Byrd beat Hidden Valley 47-7 contest. Meanwhile, Christiansburg rolled on the road with a 45-7 win at Abingdon.

Byrd is 2-0 for the first time since 2018 and rushed for 171 yards on Friday night as QB Israel Hairston completed 6 of 11 passes for 48 yards and ran for 78 yards on seven carries with two touchdowns. Brayden Andrews added 73 yards.

Tanner Evans was five of nine through the air for 136 yards with a 33- and 73-yard touchdowns. Jacob Evans and JT

Thompson, each had a score through the air. Evans also was five of 74 on the ground with touchdown runs of 40 and five. Matt Annis had the other score for Christiansburg, who is now 2-0.

Annis rushed nine times for 107 yards. Max Fernandez had 32 yards and Izaiah Cotto had three rushes for 12 yards.

Prediction: Christiansburg 34, William Byrd 28.

Blacksburg at Floyd

Floyd is coming off a 20-12 loss to Ft. Chiswell to fall to 0-2 on the 2023 season. Floyd's Joseph March ran 13 times for 91 yards and Eion McPeak caught seven passes for 61 yards.

This past week is a game Blacksburg wants to forget. Lord Botetourt rolled in an 83-6 win as Blacksburg lost its 29th straight game.

Prediction: Floyd 28, Blacksburg 14.

Radford at Virginia High

Radford remained unbeaten on the season in a 35-0

shutout of Giles. Landen Clark threw for 273 yards and three touchdowns in a 14-of-22 night.

Virginia High is now 1-1 after a 13-6 win over John Battle.

Prediction: Radford 34, Virginia High 14.

Northwood at Eastern Montgomery

Northwood is 0-2 after losses to Twin Springs and Rye Cove. Last week, they were on the losing end of a 42-0 game at Rye Cove. They finished 3-7 in 2022 and included a 20-6 win over this week's opponents.

Eastern Montgomery fell to 0-2 last week in a 40-0 loss to Rural Retreat.

Prediction: Eastern Montgomery 21, Northwood 20.

Players of Week: Sincere Taylor caught five passes for 154 yards for Radford in a big win over Giles.

Area Top Five: 1) Christiansburg, 2) Radford, 3) Salem, 4) Glenvar, 5) Narrows.

Notables from Hokies win over ODU

Winning its season opener and first home game of the year, Virginia Tech football defeated Old Dominion 36-17 Saturday at Lane Stadium, setting a good benchmark of performance statistics to build upon for the season.

For a deeper look at the numbers:

Stats with Salas

Safety Dance

Tech opened the scoring in the game thanks to a bad snap from ODU's center

that went over its punter and through the back of the endzone for a safety. The 2-0 score to start the game for Tech was the first time since Stephan Virgil blocked a Nebraska punt that went through the back of the end zone in the first quarter at Memorial Stadium on Sept. 27, 2008.

TDs in Debut

Ali Jennings made his dream of being a Hokie a big one Saturday night. He became the first wide receiver to score a

touchdown in their first game in maroon and orange since Tayvion Robinson scored on a 20-yard pass from Ryan Willis at Boston College to open the 2019 season. It's just the third time since 1987 that it's happened. Bryan Still made his Hokie debut in the seventh game of the 1992 season at Miami. Still made his first catch with 1:50 to go in the game, a 7-yard pass from Maurice DeShazo. In fact, Jennings, Robinson and Still's first

career catches were for a touchdown.

Transfers Leading the Way

The transfer portal is proving itself so far this season with four new faces on the team having big impacts for the Hokies. Bhayshul Tuten (NC A&T) leads all rushers with 55 yards and had a 21-yard kick return, Ali Jennings (ODU) leads all receivers with 72 yards and

See Hokies, page 10

Hokies

two touchdowns. Jaylin Lane (Middle Tennessee) tops the all-purpose yards list with 107 including 20 punt return yards. Defensively, Antwaun Powell-Ryland (Florida) picked up 6 tackles (4 solo, 2 assists), 2.0 sacks for 9 yards and forced a fumble.

Brotherly Love
We had to dig deep into the stats archives, which go back to 1985, for this one. We found just six prior games where two players with the same last name had a reception in the game. Allan and Kent Thomas against West Virginia in 1985, Cornelius and Ranall White against Rutgers and Virginia in 1993, Emmett and Richard Johnson against UConn and Miami in 2001 and again against Rutgers in 2002. Despite the Hokies having 34 sets of brothers on the team since 1987, including 17 sets of brothers on the team at the same time, none of them were related. Enter Benji and Stephen Gosnell, the brothers from North Carolina became the first pair of brothers since at least 1985 to both have a reception in the same game, getting it done last night versus ODU.

Converting When it Counts
Good football teams find ways to extend drives

and that comes down to being efficient on third down offensively. Saturday, the Hokies did just that, recording an 8 for-16 clip (50%) on money downs, marking just the second time in the Brent Pry era that they've converted on at least half of their third-down tries (Wofford; 7-for-13; 53.8%). Of their eight conversions versus the Monarchs, it was an even split of passing (4) and rushing (4). However, three of the four passing plays ended up being chunk plays caught by Jennings (44 yards) and Lane twice (34 yards, 20 yards), including his touchdown. Tech's average on third down was 7.4 yards to the first-down marker.

Uniform Tracker
The Hokies wore white helmets, maroon jerseys and white pants to open the season. It was the first time the Hokies opened the season in that combination and are now 11-2 since 1987.

Tech Playmakers
Third Phase Executes When Called Upon

Tech's return units showcased the possibility of being a crucial cog in shifting momentum during games when a spark is needed. In his lone punt return, sophomore Tucker Holloway ripped off a 66-yard return late in the

fourth quarter after Old Dominion's final offensive possession. Overall, special teams executed well in the opener, with kicker John Love knocking both of his field goal attempts through the uprights and captain Peter Moore booting the longest punt of the day for 57 yards. Finding success on special teams is crucial to maximizing opportunities, and the player wearing No. 25 sets that tone.

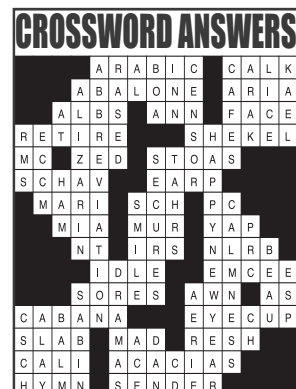
No. 25 Shows Up in a Big Way

Safety Nasir Peoples performed at a very high level as the first player to wear Beamer's iconic number this season. The Abington, Pennsylvania native made plays all over the field, tying for second on the team in tackles (7), forcing a fumble late in the third and recovering a fumble earlier in the quarter. Peoples was named a defensive captain for the season and set a high standard for the remainder of the defense.

Creating takeaways early

Turnovers were hard to come by for the defense in 2022, finishing with only nine on the season. Tech's 'Lunch Pail' defense was reminiscent of its past, creating three takeaways and amassing a third of last year's production in a single outing. Under the guidance of defensive coordinator Chris Marve, the team forced three fumbles and added an interception by cornerback Dorian Strong. Generating more opportunities for the offense by creating takeaways is a formula that the defense could thrive on.

Virginia Tech Athletics



Land Transfers

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James W Helms to Courtney Snead, 0.2041 Acre Lot E-1 Towns of Christiansburg, \$245,000

Jason Blevins to Lindsey P Dobbins, 0.2463 Lot 16 Blue Ridge Court Subdivision Section V, \$272,000

SAS Eagle Givens LLC to Kevin C Lingle, 0.187 Acre Lot 115 Mount Tabor Magisterial District, \$916,531

Steven Rowson to Thomas Powers, 0.344 Acre Lot 65 Highland Park Town of Blacksburg, \$415,000

John Francis Peterson Jr. to Montgomery Regional Hospital, 0.274 Acre Metes and Bounds Town of Christiansburg, \$295,000

Shah Development LLC to Graham Farm and Rentals LLC, 0.4591 Acre Shawsville Magisterial District, \$7,000

Shah Development LLC to Howard E Sawyers Trust, 0.152 Acre Area A & 0.128 Acre Area B Shawsville Magisterial District, \$36,591

RCBB Developers LLC to Carol Rule, 0.194 Acre Lot 11 Town of Christiansburg, \$419,900

Danny R Keith to Diane Clarkson, Lot 23 Belmont Estates Section I Town of Christiansburg, \$325,000

Juanita Nystrom to Ethan T Margherio, Tract 40 Section I Prices Fork Magisterial District, \$500,000

Stateson Homes LLC to Rosalba Caro, Lot 198 Westhill Subdivision Prices Fork Magisterial District, \$412,150

Greg M Lewis to Jesse John Miner, Lot 2 PH 1 Mount Tabor Meadows Subdivision Town of Blacksburg, \$735,000

James P Viers to Greg M Lewis, 7.32 Acres Prices Fork Magisterial District, \$540,000

Harold Jackson Wimmer Jr. to Donald Ray Wimmer Jr., 34.284 Acres Shawsville Magisterial District, \$562,000

Michael K Jones to Carrie J Fearer, 0.55 Acres Lot 515 Blacksburg Country Club Estates, \$860,000

David Hericks to Anna L Wehr, Lot 54 Oak Tree Townhomes PH VII Town of Christiansburg, \$235,000

Brian D Squibb to Jennie D Tylec, Lot 26 PH I Vistavia Subdivision Town of Christiansburg, \$289,900

Michael R Jones to Mei Lin, Lot 20 Ridgeview Subdivision Section II Town of Christiansburg, \$396,000

Frederick S Smith to Casey Allen Dillow, 11.477 Acres Riner Magisterial District, \$150,000

William D Huber Executor to Carmen E Recupero, Lot 49 Cedar Orchards Subdivision PH III Bloc A and B Mount Tabor Magisterial District, \$473,000

Ecodynamic Investments Inc. to Goldsmith Design Build LLC, Lot 24 Kelseywood PH II Town of Christiansburg, \$39,000

Jennifer L Renshaw to Mike Perry, 0.193 Acre Town of Christiansburg, \$190,000

R Fralin Construction Inc. t Courtney Loan, 0.49 Acre Lot 5 PH II-A Cloverlea Subdivision Riner Magisterial District, \$445,000

Kipps Farms LLC to Stateson Homes LLC, Lot 6 Westhill Subdivision Prices Fork Magisterial District, \$136,097

Janice B Litschert to Jacqueline P Read, Lot 3 Cedar Orchard PH IV-A Mount Tabor Magisterial District, \$135,000

Vera J Wall to Vera J Wall Family Trust, Two Parcels; 73.04 Acres Parcel I and 1.521 Acres Parcel II Mount Tabor Magisterial District, \$10

Stateson Homes LLC to Logan Winters, Lot 199 Westhill Subdivision Prices Fork Magisterial District, \$390,900

Chin-Cheng Yang to Patrick Ray Messer, 0.141 Acre Lot 47—B PH IIA Village at Tom's Creek Town of Blacksburg, \$414,400

LJCJ LLC to Lud Eng, 19.220 Acres More or Less Metes and Bounds Mount Tabor Magisterial District, \$133,000

Adel Eltawansy to Alison G Cronk, Lot 7 Section 1 Prices Fork Magisterial District, \$325,000

Stateson Homes LLC to William J Adams, Lot 200 Westhill Subdivision prices Fork Magisterial District, \$419,850

Jennifer Meagan West to Richard T Crane, Lot 34 Sturgill Estates Town of Christiansburg, \$650,000

Phyllis G Schmidt to Young Cao, Lot 48 Shenandoah PH III Town of Blacksburg, \$530,000

Reed S Nagel to Ekaraj Paudel, Lot 17 Echols Village PH I Town of Blacksburg, \$408,000

Xtream Springz LLC to Spencer Christian Wilhelm, Two Parcels; 2.816 Acres Lot 6A and 1.368 Acres Lot 6B Midway Plaza Town of Christiansburg, \$1,800,000

Jon David Byers to Benjamin J Freeland, Lot 85 Cambria Crossing PH II Town of Christiansburg, \$420,000

Jill M Sundie to Emtion LLC, Lot 11 Stroubles Mill Section IX Town of Blacksburg, \$295,500

Henry H Fann to Aditya Chavan, Lot 21 Block 5A5 PH I Pheasant Run Townhomes Town of Christiansburg, \$318,000

William D Hartley II to Yemu Zheng, Condo Unit 434 Building 4 Cascades Condos Town of Blacksburg, \$175,000

John J Charonko to Georgia H Doremus, Family Unit 40E Building 9 PH II Piedmont at Blacksburg Town of Blacksburg, \$234,800

Andrew R W Buckwalter Fairfield to Anita Jo Chaves, 0.985 Acre Lot 1B Thurman Oaks Subdivision Town of Christiansburg, \$225,000

William W King to Eric S Gwynn, Family Unit 38F Building 9 Piedmont at Blacksburg PH II Town of Blacksburg, \$152,000

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