



# NEWS JOURNAL

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GRAPHIC COURTESY OF THE CITY OF RADFORD

## City cites short-term cash crunch in need for bond

**Heather Bell**  
Editor

RADFORD – The City of Radford will look into procuring a short-term bond of four million dollars to take care of a “short term cash flow stagnation,” Radford City manager David Ridpath said during the Monday, Sept. 11 city council meeting.

“We have a very conservative budget and we pay as we go,” said Ridpath. “We have very little debt for a community our size. This is a momentarily cash flow stagnation and is not long-term. This is a cash flow assistance measure.”

Ridpath explained the city has to expend about 20 percent of its annual budget in the first two months of the fiscal year. This year, the delay in getting a state budget finalized, among other factors, led to the city having to spend a lot of money while waiting longer for monies to come into the city coffers than in previous years. The bond, a Revenue Anticipation

Note, will be issued for no longer than a year at somewhere between 4.5 and 7 percent interest. The city has not made a decision about which credit offer to accept yet.

“This allows us to free up some cash flow,” said Mayor David Ridpath. “Having no state budget until September has had an impact.”

The city gets reimbursed by the state for a myriad expenses that it has to pay for up front.

“I believe this is the right decision to get us through this rough patch, and our economy is still strong,” said Ridpath. “We’re very attractive to the debt market.”

The city can legally carry about \$80 million in debt and currently has less than \$30 million in total debt.

Vice Mayor Seth Gillespie said he agrees with the measure but also thinks the city needs to keep an eye on factors that could impact revenues

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## School Board chooses firm to assist with superintendent search



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF RADFORD CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**Heather Bell**  
Editor

RADFORD - The Radford City School Board has chosen Real Synergy, LLC to lead the search for the next school superintendent.

“After reviewing and sharing information from the four proposals we received at our August meeting and hearing presentations from the three firms

and the Virginia School Board Association at our September meeting, the RCPS School Board is confident that Dr. David Martin with Real Synergy, LLC is the right choice to help us select our next Superintendent,” said Radford City School Board Chair Jenny Riffe in a message to the school community. “Dr. Martin will be singularly focused on

See **Superintendent**, page 2

## Radford Theatre brings its voice to Silent Sky

RADFORD - Radford University’s first play of the season, *Silent Sky*, mixes science and history with relatable human emotion and powerful philosophical questions.

Directed by Associate Professor Molly Hood, this biographical play tells the story of Henrietta Swan Leavitt, an astronomer working at the Harvard Observatory at a time when women were utilized extensively behind the scenes as human computers but not permitted to touch the telescopes.

Henrietta, or Henri as she’s frequently called in the play, was an important but generally unsung scientist. Her work with luminosity and Cepheid variables enabled the first meaningful measurement of galactic distances and her research

was later used by Edwin Hubble to establish the expansion of the universe.

However, few people have heard of her or her work, especially by comparison to male astronomers like Hubble.

Hood said she chose this play after researching the writer, Lauren Gunderson, and working with sections of *Silent Sky* as scene studies in her acting classes.

“Once I read the script, I fell in love with it,” Hood said.

“These amazing women I had never heard of, and Gunderson’s fresh, modern writing knitted together with historic content, captured my

See **Silent Sky**, page 3



Left to right: Ashlee Ramey, Kiyaari Wilson and Tessa Harmon rehearse. *Silent Sky* opens September 26.

## Senator Tim Kaine tours MELD manufacturing during NRV stops



PHOTO BY LORI GRAHAM

Senator Tim Kaine (left) and Nanci Hardwick CEO of MELD Manufacturing meet at the Christiansburg facility on Friday during Kaine’s stops in the NRV.

**Lori Graham**  
Contributing writer

MONTGOMERY COUNTY – United States Senator Tim Kaine was met by Nanci Hardwick, CEO of MELD Manufacturing and Aeroprobe Corporation, and Robb Hudson, CEO and President of MELD Printworks for a tour of the facility on Friday, Sept. 15.

The MELD Corporation holds numerous patents of revolutionary technology in the metal processing business, which could provide necessary support to military branches currently experiencing backlogs in replacement parts.

In the fall of 2022, Hardwick met with U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen, along with Kaine, to discuss how MELD’s manufacturing could support supply chain demands, according to an article in *The Sun Chronicle*.

MELD Manufacturing uses revolutionary technology in 3D printing and machining to design and manufacture a variety of metal materials into custom parts. Metals that are typically heated to a melting point to make similar materials, are manufactured without this intense melting process at MELD. Not only does MELD have a reputation of quality design and production, but parts can sometimes even

be ready within a few hours, making their company extremely vital to the military’s defense.

Senator Kaine serves on the Armed Services Committee and is Chairman of the Seapower Subcommittee, and a member of the Foreign Relations Committee.

“We’ve got the largest Navy base in the world,” Kaine said. “I think we have the best shipbuilding and ship repair in the world, in Hampton Roads.”

Kaine also serves on the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee. According to Kaine, low unemployment rates have made it difficult for employers to fill necessary job roles. For these reasons, building the defense’s supplies and maintaining a defense system has met recent challenges.

Kaine’s defense work is the very reason that MELD brought him to southwest Virginia for a visit of the facility.

“We are really facing, in the Navy but the other service branches too, a lot of backlogs on parts and supplies that are slowing down the pace of production whether its ships or subs, or the repair of refueling for ships and subs,” Kaine said. “Then you have a big percentage of your ships and subs that are

See **MELD**, page 3

## Body discovered in submerged vehicle in lake at Claytor Lake State Park

DUBLIN – On Saturday, Sept. 16, 2023, at approximately 7 p.m., a Claytor Lake State Park Law Enforcement Ranger was notified of a vehicle fully submerged in the lake behind the picnic/day use area of the park.

State Park Law Enforcement Rangers, deputies from the Pulaski County Sheriff’s Office, and first responders

from Pulaski County Fire & EMS Special Operations Team and the Newbern Fire Department, were called in to assist with the recovery of the vehicle.

Divers entered the water and found a Jeep Grand Cherokee in approximately 12 feet of water, with the body of Jean Cecilia Lester, 79, from Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania, inside the vehicle.

The body was taken to the Roanoke medical examiner’s office, and the incident is under investigation. No additional information is available at this time.

*Dave Neudeck, Communications and Marketing Director, Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation*

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Wednesday, Sept. 20 – Friday, Sept. 22:

### Airport Road Closure/Detour

Blacksburg Public Works crews to close and detour Airport Road between Southgate Drive and Allendale Court. Due to the recent heavy rains a section of the storm sewer network under Airport Road has begun to fail. The existing pipe crossing Airport Road and connecting structures will be removed and replaced. In order to perform the work the roadway must be closed. During the closure, traffic will be detoured utilizing Allendale Court, Millhurst Street, Edgewood Lane, and Southgate Drive. The work is located immediately north of Dunton Drive, therefore, Dunton Drive traffic will need to access and exit at the Southgate Drive intersection and will not be able to turn north on Airport Road. Additionally, pedestrian traffic along the sidewalk will be impacted, however, access will be maintained but may be rerouted at times as the work progresses. The roadway will be restored daily by 4 p.m. with the closure being reestablished the following day at 9 a.m. All work is scheduled to be completed by Friday, Sept. 22 by 4 p.m. For more information, contact Public Works at 540-443-1200.

## 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.

### 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.

## Friday, Sept. 22:

### VR Tour of the Anne Frank House

At the Radford Public Library; 11 a.m. – noon. Take a self-guided tour of the Anne Frank House using a Virtual Reality headset. We also have downloaded for this month only an immersive documentary that puts you in the middle of the Russia-Ukraine conflict. If you'd prefer a 30-minute demo another day, email duncan.hall@radfordva.gov.

### Friends of the Library Two-Day Book Sale

At the Meadowbrook Public Library; 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Stock up on books (plus DVDs and CDs) at our Book Sale! Fill a bag paper grocery bag (provided) for \$5. All proceeds benefit the Friends of the Library.

## Saturday, Sept. 23:

### Radford Summer Concert

Last installment of 2023 concerts, featuring country artist Ryan Perry and opening act Sofie Lynn. Held on grounds of Glencoe Mansion, just off West Main St. (600 Unruh Dr.). Gates open at 6 p.m., music starts at 7 p.m. Cost is \$5 per person; children under 12 are free. Food trucks and adult beverages.

### Mornings with the Mayor

Join Mayor Leslie Hager-Smith, 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. to learn how the Town of Blacksburg operates. Tour the new police station, explore the Town's history and geography and learn how to get involved at any age! Program

admission is free. Open to ages 8 – 12 years. Program admission is limited to 12 participants. Participants must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. To register, call 540.443.1026 or email lspaulding@blacksburg.gov.

## Monday, Sept. 25:

### Special Education Advisory Committee

A Radford City Public Schools Special Education Advisory Committee meeting will be held at 4:30 p.m. at McHarg Elementary School, 700 12th St., Radford. The public is invited to attend. The meeting will also be available virtually using Google Meet. To be invited using Google Meet, contact Anne Goodman, Chair, at 540-267-7144, or Kate Leeper, Vice Chair, at 540-267-7223, to obtain a virtual meeting link. We hope to see you there!

### 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.

### Family Movie Matinee: Coco

At the Radford Public Library; 6:30 p.m. Come see 'Coco' on the library's BIG projection screen! Rated PG; 105 minutes.

## Tuesday, Sept. 26:

### 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.

## Wednesday, Sept. 27:

### Grownup Mario Kart "Tournament"

At the Radford Public Library; 6- 7:30 p.m. Adults are invited to race in a friendly Mario-Kart tournament using the library's Nintendo Switch on the huge TV in the teen section.

### Radford Photo Club presents Cityscapes with Michele Borgarelli

At the Radford Public Library; 6 p.m. All skill levels are welcome to our discussion of photographing cities. This will be a two-part discussion that carries over into our next meeting on Thursday, Oct. 26.

## Friday, Sept. 29:

### Basic Computer Skills

At the Radford Public Library; 10:30 a.m. -noon. This eight-week adult education opportunity is for beginners looking to learn how to safely incorporate the internet into their daily lives. Lunch is provided after class. Please call the Literacy Volunteers of the New River Valley at (540) 382-7262 to register. Spaces are limited. Laptops are provided during the classes.

## Thursday, Oct. 19:

### Blood Drive

The New River Health District will be hosting a blood drive on in the Community Room at the Montgomery Co. Health Department from 10 a.m.- 2 p.m. We have set a goal of having 20 donors for the day and need your assistance. Donors of all blood types are urgently needed now to ensure patients at hospitals across the country continue to receive critical medical care. Each donor for this drive will receive a \$15 Amazon gift card as a thank you for your donation. Register at www.redcrossblood.org.

## On-going:

### Hydrant Testing

The Town of Blacksburg will test fire hydrants in the Southwest Quadrant of Town between Sept. 12 – Oct. 5. Hydrant testing can cause temporary pressure fluctuations and discolored water. These conditions will subside after the testing is completed. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Town of Blacksburg Engineering Department at (540) 443-1300.

### 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.

# 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.

*Say "Bone' jour" to Pierre! This pup will benefit from a home that will provide patience and understanding, as he tries to navigate the world. Pierre tends to be a bit timid and unsure. He could use some guidance from caring humans who help him grow his confidence and live his best doggie life.*



*Tater is a sweet boy. He's good with dogs and is litter box trained. He also enjoys playing with and being carried by his favorite humans. Stop by the Animal Care and Adoption Center to see if this guy is your purrfect match!*

## Bond

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in the future.

"I know how tough it is to pay for things on the front end and have to wait to get [the money] back, and that this is strictly a cash flow issue," he said. "Moving forward though, I do think we need to keep in mind that I don't think there's any more COVID money coming, and we need to be aware that there is less off campus student consumption of energy, for example, and that will affect the budget."

Ridpath said he thinks the revenues budgeted for the current fiscal year will come to fruition as budgeted, and the city should also be able to reach its goal of increasing reserves.

"We want to get those reserves back up," said Ridpath. "Our goal is by the

end of the fiscal year to get those back up to \$5.5 to 6 million and I don't have any reason to believe we won't be there."

Ridpath also said if revenues come in stronger than expected, the city will pay off the note early.

Also during Monday's council meeting, council voted to name the 80-acre industrial land the city recently purchased, which is the former site of the Radford Foundry as the West Radford Commerce Park. The city purchased the site for \$250,000.

"This gives us a way to market," said Mayor David Horton. "We're working with the state on this process to better visualize what can be there and to work with our businesses and our possibilities."

## Superintendent

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coaching and supporting the RCPS Board to create a search profile, interview, and hiring process that focuses on community input and engagement - both within RCPS and the larger Radford community - that is data driven, committed to communication and transparency, and all at an excellent price point."

Former Superintendent Robert Graham resigned in June and is now the Superintendent of Pulaski County Public Schools. Dr. Roger Collins, former superintendent of Nelson County Schools, is serving as interim superintendent.

"Dr. Collins, our current Interim Superintendent, has a long and distinguished career within public schools, educating administrators and superintendents on the graduate level, as well as has previously contracted with search

agencies such as Real Synergy, LLC," Riffe said. "He is colleagues with members of each firm and is familiar with the association that presented to us and remains steadfast in his commitment to supporting the Board in finding our "perfect fit" for a permanent RCPS superintendent."

"Information including, but not limited to, surveys, reports, and updates will be available on the RCPS website for our community to access, in a continuous effort to keep everyone informed of the progress being made and encouraging opportunities for participation," Riffe concluded. "We look forward to working with Dr. Martin as he helps the RCPS School Board work with all our stakeholders to identify, interview, and hire our next superintendent."

# Silent Sky

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Ashlee Ramey stars as Henrietta Leavitt, a pioneering Harvard astronomer.

imagination.”  
Henrietta is played by Ashlee Ramey, a junior, who has spent much of her time at Radford behind the scenes as a stage manager, props master and assistant lighting designer. This is her first lead, which she has taken to heart.  
“Although backstage gives you an insight of what happens onstage there’s a drastic difference, especially being the lead role,” Ramey explained.  
“There’s a lot of work going on outside of the rehearsal space to fully bring the character alive for the audience. Because Henrietta Levitt was a real person who made such a mark on the world of astronomy, doing the research behind the character is vital.”

Ramey describes Henrietta as a goal-oriented character who faces serious social and personal obstacles with willpower and courage. She is also a bit of a dreamer.  
“I love the aspiration of this play,” Ramey said. “It is full of women with dreams and goals who refuse to let worldly matters get in the way.”

Ramey is one of a cast of just five characters. Ryan Lewis plays Peter Shaw, the fictional assistant to Dr. Edward Pickering who runs the Harvard Observatory. He plays Henrietta’s somewhat awkward and initially dismissive love interest.  
Sydney Purnell plays Williamina Fleming. Like Leavitt, Flemming was a real-life astronomer working for Pickering at Harvard in the early 1900s.  
Tessa Harmon plays Henrietta’s sister, Margaret Leavitt. She has a unique perspective since Harmon is a double majoring in biology and theatre.

Harmon says her character is a religious woman who plays the philosophical foil to Henrietta’s devoted scientist. Margaret must struggle with the distance between the two points of view.  
“They respect each other’s beliefs, but conflict with this kind of difference always arises in some way,” Harmon noted.  
“Being able to play this character has allowed me to bring situations that have tested my faith into my character, so I know, truly, the conflict she is feeling.”  
Harmon has been on the main stage before in the 2022 production of the musical, *The Drowsy Chaperone* as Mrs. Tottendale.  
“This rehearsal process is very different,” she said. “For *The Drowsy Chaperone*, we had months to memorize our lines and get the blocking and choreography.”  
“This time we had two weeks to be off book and two more weeks until opening. It’s a very fast rehearsal process.”  
Kiyari Wilson, a double major in Theatre and Psychology, plays Annie Jump Cannon, an astronomer who oversees the women’s department at the Harvard Observatory. Wilson describes her as a woman committed to excellence as a scientist and as a friend to Henrietta.  
“I try to find a similarity between myself and whatever character I play,” says Wilson, “and I find we are both a little headstrong. She is like a stern schoolteacher who holds other people to a standard because she wants you to succeed.”  
Cannon is also based on a real person. A natural leader, the historical

character is a religious woman who plays the philosophical foil to Henrietta’s devoted scientist. Margaret must struggle with the distance between the two points of view.  
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Annie Cannon made significant scientific contributions and fought for women’s equality and respect. Cannon was also a passionate suffragist and even dared to wear pants in a time when such a thing was practically unthinkable.  
Despite its scientific and historical underpinnings, Wilson says *Silent Sky* carries meaningful subtext in its relationships and can be very emotional.  
“I want people to come see it,” Wilson explained, “because it will put everything into perspective about who we are, where we are and why we are.”  
*Silent Sky* will open on Sept. 26 in the Bondurant Auditorium in Preston Hall on Radford’s main campus and run through Oct. 1. Tickets can be purchased at the Theatre box office in 240 Walker Hall, online at [rutheatertickets.com](http://rutheatertickets.com) or at the door.

Sean Kotz for Radford University

# MELD

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in the dock whether than performing the mission.”

The Senator said MELD brings to the table flexibility on providing parts, quickly, and with less use of energy.

Kaine also has been working on a bipartisan bill with (R-IN) Senator Mike Braun called the Jump Starting Our Businesses by Supporting Students (JOBS) Act that would provide grant money to individuals who wish to pursue technical education, versus a two-year or four-year degree.

“PELL grants can’t be used for high-quality career and technical education; they can only be used for college,” Kaine said. “A lot of our community colleges like New River, what they would really like to do is deliver some technical training in like 6-8 weeks, super intense courses, eight hours a day/five days a week, and you get more classroom hours in that then you would get in a 15-week long college course...but you can’t have PELL grants.”

The JOBS Act is pending but Kaine is hopeful that the time is right for the bill to be passed.

More information about MELD manufacturing can be found at their website ([www.meldmanufacturing.com](http://www.meldmanufacturing.com)).

During his visit to the NRV, Kaine also visited SWVA Biochar in Floyd to “learn more about their process to manufacture biochar, a specially produced charcoal used to enhance soil fertility, improve agricultural yields, and reduce carbon emissions, and that has the potential to remove dangerous ‘forever chemicals’ like PFAS from water supplies,” according to information released by Kaine’s office. “The visit comes as the Senate prepares to consider a Farm Bill, and it follows multiple visits by Kaine with farmers in Virginia to discuss how he can best shape that bill to benefit Virginia. Kaine has also long supported efforts to strengthen sustainability and helped pass the Inflation Reduction Act, which made significant investments in clean energy to tackle climate change.”

On Saturday, Sept. 16, Kaine met with ROTC cadets at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg “to share his national security priorities and discuss VT’s Defense Civilian Training Corps (DCTC), a new pilot program for students to build civilian careers related to acquisition, digital and critical technologies, science, engineering, and finance within the Department of Defense (DOD)” according to his office.

# Food City kicks off School Bucks Challenge

## Food City to award \$800,000 to local schools

Food City has pledged \$800,000 in contributions for the upcoming school year.

With Food City’s School Bucks Challenge, it’s easy to earn reward points. For every \$1 a customer spends using a Food City ValuCard, one point is earned.

“Our Food City School Bucks Program has provided much-needed support for thousands of schools throughout our market area and our School Bucks Challenge makes points collection easy and efficient,” said Steven C. Smith, Food City president and chief executive officer.

The 2023-2024 School Bucks Challenge began Sept. 6, 2023 and continues through May 7, 2024. To ensure points credit to the school of choice, simply go online to <https://www.foodcity.com/schoolbucks> to link a Food City ValuCard to a preferred school.

Food City has pledged \$800,000 for the upcoming school year. School allocations are based upon the percentage of customer purchases assigned to each school. Schools can monitor their progress biannually online at [foodcity.com](http://foodcity.com).

“Food City is committed to supporting the education of our youth,” said Smith. “Since the program’s inception, we’ve awarded over \$22,100,000 in much-needed educational equipment and tools to more than a thousand participating area schools.”

For more information about the new Food City School Bucks Challenge, please contact your local school, visit [foodcity.com](http://foodcity.com) or contact the Food City School Bucks Coordinator, Lisa Johnson at 1-800-232-0174.

# Food City Pharmacy offers seasonal flu vaccine

Company officials recently announced that area Food City Pharmacy locations will once again be providing the flu vaccine this immunization season.

“Food City’s immunizing pharmacists are certified to administer vaccinations in accordance with the standards set forth by the American Pharmacists Association and the corresponding state pharmacy associations. Food City Pharmacy offers the added convenience of a number of affordable preventative health care options, including the RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus) vaccine,” said Mickey Blazer, Food City executive vice president of pharmacy operations.

Seasonal flu vaccine provides protection against the most common strains of influenza. Vaccinations are available on a walk-up basis at Food City immunizing pharmacies and will continue throughout flu season, based upon vaccine availability. Visit [foodcity.com](http://foodcity.com) for a complete list of immunizing locations.

Food City Pharmacy will be following the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Guidelines. While all individuals are encouraged to receive a flu shot, the CDC strongly recommends vaccination for individuals considered high risk. High risk individuals include persons 65 or older, residents of long-term care facilities, persons 2-64 years of age with comorbid (more

than one) conditions, and pregnant women. The CDC also recommends the flu shot for healthcare personnel who provide direct patient care and household contacts or caregivers of children under six months of age. Food City Pharmacists can immunize individuals 12 years and older.

Flu vaccines are available in Quadrivalent or Quadrivalent High Dose. Insurance, including Medicare Part B will be accepted, many with a zero copay. Other vaccines, including COVID, RSV, pneumonia, and shingles shots, will be available as well. Please consult your local Food City Pharmacy or visit [foodcity.com](http://foodcity.com) for details.

Flu viruses are most common during the fall and winter months. Influenza activity often begins to increase in October and November. Most of the time, flu activity peaks between December and February and can last as late as May.

“Food City takes pride in serving our community and we’re proud to once again offer our loyal customers the added convenience of flu vaccinations,” said Steven C. Smith, Food City president and chief executive officer.

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(3) Paid Distribution Outside the Mails Including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside the Mail	481	475	
(4) Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail®)			
<b>c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), and (4))</b>		857	841
d. Free or Nominal Rate (1) Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County Copies included on PS Form 3541	4	4	
(2) Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies included on PS Form 3541	8	8	
(3) Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail)			
(4) Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means)	100	100	
<b>e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3) and (4))</b>		112	112
<b>f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e)</b>		969	953
g. Copies not Distributed (See Instructions to Publishers #4 (page #3))		81	47
<b>h. Total (Sum of 15f and g)</b>		1050	1000
i. Percent Paid (15c divided by 15h times 100)		89.5	89.4

16. Electronic Copy Circulation

a. Paid Electronic Copies		Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
(1) Paid Electronic Copies (Line 15c)	98	103	
<b>b. Total Paid Print Copies (Line 15c) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)</b>	965	103	
<b>c. Total Print Distribution (Line 15f) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)</b>	1067	1056	
d. Percent Paid (Both Print & Electronic Copies) (16b divided by 16c × 100)			

I certify that 90% of all my distributed copies (electronic and print) are paid above a nominal price.

17. Publication of Statement of Ownership  
 If the publication is a general publication, publication of this statement is required. Will be printed in the 9/27/20 issue of this publication.  Publication not required.

18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner: Michael Showell Date: 09/12/2023

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# OPINION

## Financial Focus: Own a business? Consider these retirement plans

If you own a small business or are self-employed, you've always got plenty to do, but you can't forget about the days when you'll be less busy — that is, when you're retired. How can you prepare for that time of your life?

One key step is establishing a retirement plan for your business or yourself. And thanks to the 2022 SECURE 2.0 Act, you can now receive tax credits for opening and administering a 401(k), SEP-IRA or SIMPLE IRA. These aren't the only plans available for small businesses or sole proprietors, but they are among the most popular. Let's look at each of them:

**401(k)** – A 401(k) offers several key benefits: First, any earnings growth is tax deferred, and your contributions can be tax deductible. (Taxes are due upon withdrawal, and withdrawals prior to age 59½ may be subject to a 10% penalty.)

If you choose a Roth 401(k), your contributions aren't deductible, but your earnings and withdrawals will be tax free, provided you meet certain conditions. And a 401(k) offers a variety of investment options. If you have workers, you'll need to consider whether to offer matching contributions, which are tax deductible to you, up to the limit of 25% of compensation paid to eligible employees.

But even if you're self-employed, with no employees other than your spouse, you can establish what's known as a "solo" or "owner-only" 401(k). In 2023, you can put in up to \$22,500 as an employee, plus a catch-up contribution of \$7,500 if you're 50 or older, for a total of \$30,000. Plus, you can contribute an additional 25% of earned income as an employer, up to an overall employee and employer maximum of \$66,000 (or \$73,500 if

you're 50 or older).

**SEP-IRA** – An SEP-IRA may be attractive to you if you're self-employed or if you own a business but have few or no employees. That's because you must contribute an equal percentage of your own compensation to every eligible employee. In 2023, you can contribute up to \$66,000 or 25% of your income, whichever is less.

**SIMPLE IRA** – A SIMPLE IRA is easy to establish and administer. As with an SEP-IRA, earnings in a SIMPLE IRA can grow on a tax-deferred basis. If you have employees, they aren't required to contribute to this plan — but you are. You must match up to 3% of employees' contributions or provide 2% of their annual salaries, although you do have some flexibility. If your business goes through a rough patch, you can temporarily decrease

SIMPLE IRA contributions to 1% for up to two years out of the previous five. Your contributions to your employees' accounts are tax deductible, but in terms of building resources for your own retirement, a SIMPLE IRA may be less appealing because of its contribution limits, which are relatively low compared to a 401(k) or SEP IRA. In 2023, you can put in up to \$15,500, or \$19,000 if you're 50 or older.

You should consult with your tax advisor to determine which retirement plan is right for you. Your financial advisor can also help you explore your options. And the sooner you put a plan to work, the better.

*This article was written by Edward Jones, Member SIPC, and submitted by Edward Jones Financial Advisor Meghan Kuczmarzki, 540-944-1511.*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

Lily Franklin is the Democrat running for the House of Delegates in the 41st District - a brand new, open seat in this battleground district. Lily is a former teacher who was Chief of Staff for

Delegate Sam Rasoul for a number of years. Lily grew up in the region and has five generations of family living here.

I support Lily as the only candidate who has actually written and passed legislation. She'd be a huge asset to the region. Her priorities include protecting

abortion, fully funding Virginia's public education system, making healthcare accessible, keeping our air and water clean, and fighting for a family-friendly economy.

She's been endorsed by EMILY's List, Giffords, Run for Something, Clean

Virginia, WinVA, and U.S. Senators Tim Kaine and Mark Warner.

*Su Clauson-Wicker  
Blacksburg*

Dear Editor,

Montgomery County is fortunate to have Tiffany Couch running for Clerk of Court. The clerk's office handles many more documents than most of us are aware of. The office handles marriage licenses, recorded real estate deeds, keeps probate records provides jurors for our courts and keeps courts records.

Before being appointed Interim Circuit Court Clerk by the judges, Couch had 4 years of experience as Deputy Clerk. She's been a key player in obtaining grants to preserve our county's historical records

dating back to the 1700s.

Couch has the training for the job – we don't need to waste time while a newcomer learns the ropes. She has attended many workshops and has been certified as a Master Deputy Clerk. Her college degree is in Criminal Justice from Radford University.

Couch grew up in Christiansburg. She's always been active in our community promoting the town, the NRV and local businesses and activities. Her husband is retired from the U.S. Marines.

Among her goals in her next term are to: provide a faster and more convenient way for jurors to be paid; provide appointments for citizens regarding probate matters; and provide civil case online filings.

Tiffany Couch has the experience, the education and qualifications to continue to make our Clerk of the Court's office as efficient as possible and efficient as possible."

*Ernie Bentley  
Pilot*

## Virginia gas prices on the rise

Average gasoline prices in Virginia have risen 3.1 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.58/g today, according to GasBuddy's survey of 4,081 stations in Virginia. Prices in Virginia are 8.0 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 19.5 cents per gallon higher than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has risen 9.9 cents in the last week and stands at \$4.53 per gallon.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Virginia was priced at \$3.13/g yesterday while the most expensive was \$4.47/g, a difference of \$1.34/g. The lowest price in the state yesterday was \$3.13/g while the highest was \$4.47/g, a difference of \$1.34/g.

The national average price of gasoline has risen 4.6 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.83/g today. The national average is down 1 cent per gallon from a month ago and stands 19.9 cents per gallon higher than a year ago, according to GasBuddy data compiled from more than 11 million weekly price reports covering over 150,000 gas stations across the country.

Historical gasoline prices in Virginia and the national average going back ten years:

September 18, 2022:	\$3.39/g	(U.S. Average: \$3.64/g)
September 18, 2021:	\$3.00/g	(U.S. Average: \$3.19/g)
September 18, 2020:	\$2.08/g	(U.S. Average: \$2.17/g)
September 18, 2019:	\$2.41/g	(U.S. Average: \$2.66/g)
September 18, 2018:	\$2.62/g	(U.S. Average: \$2.84/g)

September 18, 2017:	\$2.51/g	(U.S. Average: \$2.60/g)
September 18, 2016:	\$2.03/g	(U.S. Average: \$2.20/g)
September 18, 2015:	\$2.04/g	(U.S. Average: \$2.30/g)
September 18, 2014:	\$3.12/g	(U.S. Average: \$3.36/g)
September 18, 2013:	\$3.28/g	(U.S. Average: \$3.49/g)

Neighboring areas and their current gas prices:

Roanoke- \$3.53/g, up 4.2 cents per gallon from last week's \$3.49/g.

Richmond- \$3.56/g, up 5.9 cents per gallon from last week's \$3.50/g.

West Virginia- \$3.63/g, up 5.2 cents per gallon from last week's \$3.57/g.

"The national average rose slightly over the last week due to continued refinery challenges in the western U.S. that have pulled gas prices up considerably in some states, while some 1 in 5 states have seen average gasoline prices decline in the last week," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy. "With the transition back to cheaper winter gasoline now upon us in nearly every state, we should see prices eventually cooling back off, but if refinery issues continue to develop or linger, especially now that we're entering maintenance season with less available capacity online, the expected decline could certainly be offset. In addition, with oil prices now above \$91 for the first time in nearly a year, there remains some offset from the rising price of oil thanks to Saudi Arabia and Russia's war on low oil prices, now in its third month."

*Submitted by GasBuddy*

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Michael Showell, *Publisher*  
Heather Bell, *Editor*..... hbell@mainstreetnewspapers.com  
Aila Boyd, *Executive Editor*..... aboyd@ourvalley.org  
Wendi Craig, *Advertising Consultant*..... advertize@ourvalley.org

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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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**CLUES ACROSS**

- One of the four Vedas
- Part of (abbr)
- At the peak
- African antelope
- Expression of satisfaction
- Yankees' ace
- Belittled
- A baglike structure
- Utah Jazz coach Snyder
- Actress Tomei
- Explosive
- Formal for "on"
- Cruelties
- Country singer Brad
- Make very happy
- Binary compound of hydrogen with a metal
- Albanian currency
- Subatomic particle
- Type of salt
- 007's creator

**CLUES DOWN**

- Crease
- "Honey" actress Jessica
- Broad volcanic crater
- Product safety watchdog
- Southern Colombian city
- Part of a church
- Perceptible by touch
- Pronounce not guilty of criminal charges
- Hairpiece
- Variety acts
- "Mystic River" actor Sean
- Remove salt
- Went out with
- Type of bread
- Popular Eagles song
- Philosophy degree
- Yes vote
- Passports and licenses are two
- No seats available

**CLUES DOWN**

- Pounds per square inch
- A way to launch an attack on
- The lowest cardinal number
- Popular Miller beer
- Pokes holes in
- Closest to
- Folk singer DiFranco
- Rivne's former name
- Flat ruler
- Lacking the means to do something
- Cockatoo
- Dred Scott decision deliverer
- Explosion exclamation
- Canadian flyers
- Houston university
- At some prior time
- Red, swollen pig

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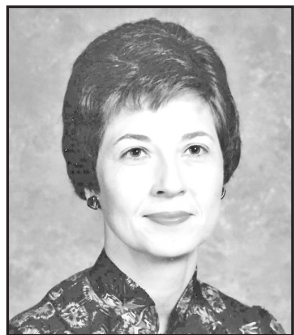
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# OBITUARIES

## Dishon, Maxine Shelburne

Maxine Shelburne Dishon, 85, of Pulaski, passed away Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2023, in Richmond.



She was born in Pulaski County on Sept. 2, 1938, to the late Edna Louise Ridpath and Roscoe Josiah Shelburne. Maxine was a graduate of Radford College (1959). She was a high school English teacher for 42 years, serving 12 years in Franklin County, and the remainder of her career in Pulaski County Schools. She was a member of Alpha Delta Kappa, the Honorary Society for Women Educators, having been initiated on May 20, 1966. Her service to ADK included serving as president of the local chapter. Also, she was a member of Memorial Baptist Church in Pulaski, and in more recent years, enjoyed attending services at First Baptist in Radford.

Maxine was preceded in death by her husband, Clayton Duane Dishon, and brother, Rodney Teel Shelburne.

She is survived by her only child, Clayton Duane Dishon, Jr. of Richmond; daughter-in-law, Leah Michelle Thomas of Petersburg; sister-in-law, Nancy Morris Shelburne of Snowville; brother-in-law Garnie Franklin Dishon of Radford; nieces, Sandy Shelburne Landreth of Radford and Lori Shelburne Angle of Snowville; nephews, Ronald Teel Shelburne of Snowville, Richard Franklin Dishon and Brian Keith Dishon of Radford.

Maxine inherited significantly more than blue grey eyes from her mother Edna. She shared her mother's tenacity, quick wit, keen insight, and seemingly indefatigable strength. All

traits which served well within the classroom. She dearly loved her aunts, Iva Ridpath Phillips and Eunice Ridpath Phillips, and spoke of them considerably in later years and how they had impacted her life.

Family mattered much to Maxine. She counted amongst her dearest friends, her brother Rodney and Everett Martin, as they had shared so much growing up together.

Maxine possessed a distinctive accent that did not betray her identity as a proud Snowvillian. Regardless of being a grammarian of the first order, her speech was befitting with all manner of idiomatic expression and colloquialisms, some for which references elsewhere have not been found. She was natural and authentic in her presentation, and it appeared that it would not have dawned on her to be any other way.

She did not suffer well domineering and foolish men. Most fortunately, the love of her life, Duane Dishon, whom she married on July 29, 1961, was far from being either of those things. Their love was an exemplary sort, distinguished by respect, kindness, and tremendous affection. There's was a partnership of equality and rare compatibility. Their son Clay, counts this as a supreme blessing of his life, never having to give

a single thought as to whether his parents loved one another, or whether that love extended in his direction.

Maxine was a fun mom to her son. She loved him unconditionally and refused to believe that he was as nearly incorrigible as he seemed at times, most times. There were no lengths at which she would refrain with regards to the boy. Emblematic of such, fearing that he would skip out on a college exam to get concert tickets, she called him up at school one day and said that she had a lead and would procure the desired ticket, that he need not worry, and moreover, that he needed to keep his rear end in class. She proceeded to head to the Ticketron outlet in the old Heironimus department store at the University Mall in Blacksburg, standing in what surely was an altogether ridiculous line, in order to get her wayward son the much needed Grateful Dead ticket. She wanted to share his life and learn all she could of his burgeoning interests. Encouragement and care was how that got conveyed.

Maxine would back away from these words. Attention was never a thing she sought. She was dignified and private and she loved with all her heart. To say that she will be greatly missed is the most considerable understatement written here.

The family received friends Tuesday, Sept. 19, 2023, at the Snowville Baptist Church in Snowville. A celebration of life followed with Neil Wood officiating. Interment followed in Sunset Cemetery in Christiansburg.

## Fisher, Brenda Mae

Brenda Mae Fisher, 63, of Christiansburg, passed away Friday, Sept. 8, 2023. She was a member of Compassion Church in Radford. Brenda was preceded in death by her parents, Robert and Eula Lytton; and brothers, Ronnie and Robert Lytton.

Survivors include her

husband of 33 years, David Fisher; sons, Michael Cantrell and Amy, James Cantrell and Colin, and Jason Cantrell and Brandy; four grandchildren; sisters and brother-in-law, Ellen and Bobby McGuire, and Lisa Lytton and son Chris; and many other nieces, nephews, other relatives

and friends.

Memorial services were held Monday, Sept. 18, 2023 at the Compassion Church in Radford with Pastor Chandler Jones officiating.

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



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE VIRGINIA DCR

Virginia state parks depend heavily on volunteers for everything from trail maintenance to interpretative programs.

## Virginia State Parks celebrate National Public Lands Day, provide free parking Sept. 23

On Sept. 23, 2023, state parks across Virginia will celebrate National Public Lands Day (NPLD), the nation's largest single-day volunteer effort for public lands.

NPLD, now in its 30th year, highlights the vital impact of public lands on our well-being, from the air we breathe to the spaces we inhabit, and it brings together thousands of volunteers across the country, fostering community, teamwork and the enjoyment of public lands for education and recreation.

In Virginia, the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), the state's lead natural resource conservation agency, manages nearly 130,000 acres of land, including nearly 80,000 acres of public land across 41 state parks.

"Since 1936, Virginia State Parks have provided citizens a fun, safe place to connect with nature, learn and participate in outdoor recreation," said DCR Director Matt Wells. "For National Public Lands Day, we invite Virginians to support their state parks by volunteering to help restore, improve and protect the lands they cherish, preserving them for future generations to enjoy."

There's a state park within an hour's drive of every Virginian, and each park depends heavily on volunteers for everything from trail maintenance to interpretative programs. In 2022 alone, volunteers across the state donated 210,693 hours of service, equivalent to 101 full-time employees.

"Our skilled and passionate volunteers play a vital role in our mission to protect, conserve and enhance our natural resources," said Virginia State Parks Director Dr. Melissa Baker. "Without them, the parks that millions of visitors have come to love would not be the same."

One of those parks is Mason Neck, located in Northern Virginia. Chief Ranger of Visitor Experience Jamie Leeuwrik said their highly dedicated volunteer base has helped the park's

staff provide excellent service and opportunities for the public.

"From our volunteer paddle guides leading kayak trips to the Fairfax Master Naturalists revitalizing pollinator gardens, there has been a significant impact made by our volunteers," said Leeuwrik. "The Friends of Mason Neck State Park have also been instrumental in numerous projects over the decades, including our work toward improving accessibility in the park, establishing the pollinator gardens and helping to organize the annual Eagle Festival."

Established and new volunteers are invited to Virginia State Parks for NPLD. They can choose from more than 30 NPLD events, including invasive species removal, shoreline cleanup, habitat restoration and environmental education activities.

"National Public Lands Day is a reminder that the preservation of our natural treasures depends on the dedication of volunteers," said Katie Gibson, chief ranger of visitor experience at Douthat State Park, in Millboro, Virginia. "Their efforts embody the spirit of unity and stewardship that ensure the beauty, diversity and wonder of these spaces remain accessible and protected for generations to come."

For the complete list of NPLD events, click here. Volunteers should dress for the weather and the project and bring water, insect repellent and sunscreen.

Standard parking fees, such as trailhead parking, will be waived at most state parks for NPLD. The parking fee at Grayson Highlands and the admission fees for Natural Bridge and Southwest Virginia Museum will not be waived. To learn more, go to [www.virginiastateparks.gov/parking-fees](http://www.virginiastateparks.gov/parking-fees).

NPLD also coincides with Bike Your Park Day. Visitors and volunteers are encouraged to bring their bikes to their park on Sept. 23.

Submitted by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRIS OBENSHAIN

Republican candidates gather Tuesday at their new headquarters in Blacksburg.

## Republican headquarters opens in Blacksburg

BLACKSBURG - On Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2023, Chris Obenshain, candidate for House of Delegates, District 41, and a unified slate of Republican candidates opened their headquarters, located at 3966 Prices Fork Rd., Blacksburg.

"We are running a unified campaign focused on turning Montgomery County red at the state and local level," said Obenshain. "Under Governor Youngkin's leadership, Republicans have cut taxes and helped working families through recent car and grocery tax relief. It is paramount that Republicans are elected up and down the ballot to move Governor Youngkin's agenda of empowering parents and growing the economy forward. This Headquarters will serve as the heart

of our effort to elect common-sense, experienced leaders to help the working families of Southwest Virginia."

Obenshain was joined by Senator Travis Hackworth, Senator David Suetterlein, Delegate Jason Ballard, Sheriff Hank Partin, Supervisor Darrell Sheppard, candidate for Clerk of Court Cody Rush, candidate for Treasurer Mary Weaver, candidate for Supervisor Meredith Hutton, and candidate for School Board Lindsay Rich. Residents are invited to visit the new headquarters to pick up signs, stickers, and information, and to sign up to volunteer.

Submitted by Chris Obenshain

## NRCC to offer fall motorcycle safety courses

New River Community College is offering several beginner motorcycle rider safety weekday and weekend courses throughout the fall.

The Basic Rider Course (BRC) multiday classes are held on NRCC's campus in Dublin. The fall midweek courses are held 6 - 8:30 p.m. Tuesdays and 7 a.m.- 12:30 p.m. or 1 p.m.- 6 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays on Oct. 3-5, Oct. 24-26, and Nov. 14-16.

Weekend fall courses will be held Fridays through Sundays on Sept. 29-Oct. 1, Oct. 20-22, Oct. 27-29, and Nov. 3-5. Course hours are Fridays from 6 p.m.-8:30 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays from 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

The one-credit course includes an online portion and on-motorcycle instruction under controlled range conditions. Riders will learn the basic

skills of motorcycle operation, effective braking, obstacle avoidance and safe riding strategies. Tuition is \$161.16 for Virginia residents and \$361.26 for out-of-state residents. Students must provide their own DOT approved helmets (nothing less than a ¾ size).

Completion of the BRC prepares riders for state licensing with an exemption of skills and written DMV tests and may qualify for discounts with some motor vehicle insurance companies. The program provides motorcycles (no larger than 500cc) and textbooks for each student.

To register for the course, call (540)674-3613 or visit [www.nr.edu/workforce](http://www.nr.edu/workforce). For more information about the program, visit [www.nr.edu/motorcycle/](http://www.nr.edu/motorcycle/).

Submitted by NRCC

## Big teeth, bigger data

Virginia Tech researchers in the College of Natural Resources and Environment are assessing the efficacy of shark sanctuaries by developing a modeling system that utilizes publicly accessible fishing data to determine shark catch and mortality rates.

Published in the journal Science Advances, their findings represent an important step in utilizing data science to tackle oceanic conservation challenges.

"Shark sanctuaries are coastal areas designated by countries as places where the targeted fishing of sharks is prohibited," said Brendan Shea, a Ph.D. student in the Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation and the paper's lead author. "My initial ambition was to use publicly available data to look at these



PHOTO COURTESY OF FRANCESCO FERRETTI

Assistant Professor Francesco Ferretti and Brendan Shea retrieve a drop camera used to film sharks and other fish underwater.





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# RADFORD SPORTS

## From the gridiron: Blacksburg's new streak extended, Christiansburg, Radford still unbeaten

**Marty Gordon**  
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Blacksburg High School has a new streak after winning their second straight contest this past Friday over Rockbridge County.

The Bruins picked up a 38-20 victory. Also, Christiansburg took a win (42-33) in a slugfest with Cave Spring.

Radford also remained unbeaten with a win over Galax. QB Landen Clark was 13 of 18 for 283 yards through the air and rushed the ball eight for 135 in totaling seven touchdowns in a 56-19 win.

Max Kanipe caught one TD pass and finished with 182 yards on five catches for the Radford, who is now 4-0. Couper Doyle had to two scores in the air from Clark.

Meanwhile in Riner, Auburn brought the Golden Helmet back with a 31-16 win over cross-county rival Eastern Montgomery. Austin Stump ran for 211 yards and two touchdowns on 32 carries for Auburn, and Brody Hensel had a rushing touchdown and 40 receiving yards on four catches.

Sidenote from the Christiansburg-Cave Spring game on Friday night. A former CHS player and alum, Spencer Linkous, was the linebacker coach on the

Cave sideline.

Area top five: No change here as Christiansburg remains #1 with Salem #2, followed by Radford, Glenvar and Narrows.

Players of week: An outstanding Friday night across the area means there is a crowded player of the week room. First, Austin Stump continues a good year in Auburn with over 200 yards rushing and two scores in a win over Eastern Montgomery.

Radford's Landen Clark was outstanding in a win over Galax, accounting for seven touchdowns. Tanner Evans rolled to 21 carries for 221 yards four touchdowns in Christiansburg's win over Cave Spring.

Games this week:

Christiansburg at Pulaski

Princeton West Virginia rallied to beat Pulaski 49-40 this past week.

Trevor Gallimore ran for 214 yards on 33 carries and scored five scores. QB Bryant Nottingham rushed for 47 and threw for another 126 yards.

Prediction: Christiansburg 32, Pulaski 24.

Blacksburg at Cave Spring

Cave left everything on the field in a loss this past week to Christiansburg, which leaves them 1-3 on the season. Cave Spring's Jackson Steffen rushed 28 times for 192 yards in the loss with five scores as the

Knights fell to 1-3.

Prediction: Cave Spring 33, Blacksburg 14.

Alleghany at Radford

Alleghany is coming off a 49-10 win over Greenbriar East (WVa.) as Purcel Turner scored four touchdowns as the team moved to 4-0 on the season. Dez Jordan also throw a touchdown pass to Xavier Hayslett and rushed 71 yards for another.

Prediction: Radford 34, Alleghany 28.

Galax at Auburn

Galax is 1-3 after losses to Graham (42-13), Glenvar (39-21) and Radford (56-19). Their lone win came over Carroll County (21-13). Shane Allen enters his fourth season as head coach coming off 7-4 season with a loss in the Region 1C semifinals.

Previously, Galax had a string of seven straight regional titles as well as three consecutive state title game berths.

Prediction: Galax 40, Auburn 14.

Eastern Montgomery at Ft. Chiswell

The Fort is 2-1 after a 44-34 loss to Tazwell this past Friday night. The Pioneers have given up 68 points to opponents while also scoring 68 so far this season.

Prediction: Eastern Montgomery 16, Ft. Chiswell 12.

## Radford remains unbeaten with big win over Galax



Couper Doyle hauls in a pass for a touchdown in Friday's 56-19 win. He had two receptions for scores in the game against Galax.



Max Kanipe reaches out to make a catch as a flag flies in for pass interference. Kanipe finished with 182 yards on five catches for Radford.



Radford QB Landen Clark high steps out of a tackle to score on a run up the middle during Friday night's win.



PHOTOS BY BRYANT ALTIZER

Brandon Thompson reaches out to pull in a pass reception and take it to the end zone for another Bobcats' touchdown. Radford is now 4-0 on the season.

## From the Sidelines: Five things learned about Hokies

**Marty Gordon**  
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

The Virginia Tech Hokies saw a game slip through their fingers this past weekend at Rutgers, and it left onlookers scratching their heads about this year's team. Many questions are hanging on the bulletin board.

The Hokies are still looking for a leader under center. Wells was out this week, despite the fact he took warm-ups before the game. Baylor-transfer Kyron Drones provided a spark going 19 of 32 with a touchdown and interception.

Drones was also playing behind an offensive line that has not been able to protect any of the Tech signal callers. For now, he could be the answer.

The running game really does not exist. The Hokies did generate 129 yards on the ground against Rutgers, but 74 of it was from Drones, who carried the rock 22 times. It's nice to have a QB who can run with the ball.

You just hope he is not your team leader each ball game.

Malachi Thompson and Bhayshul Tuten combined for 57 scattered in the game. Tuten did cross the goal line once, but what has been seen so far in 2023 is not getting the job done. Fans might see several wide receivers taking snaps in sweeps and reverses. This will depend on several of those players also healthy as the season progresses.

Defense has more holes than Swiss cheese. With Head Coach Brent Pry being a defensive guru, this could be the easiest to work out. He just might have to dig deep into the closet in playing a lot of youngsters who will have to grow up faster than he might want them to. At least five top defensive players sat out the game with injuries, and another three on the defensive side were knocked out of the game.

Depth will be the key as the

See Hokies, page 10



PHOTO BY KYMN DAVIDSON-HAMLEY

Donovan Richardson (left) and KJ Jones (right) take down Cave Spring's featured running back Jackson Steffen. Christiansburg recorded the 42-33 win to move to 4-0 on the season.

## Christiansburg beats Cave Spring to remain unbeaten

See Unbeaten, page 10

# Unbeaten from page 9

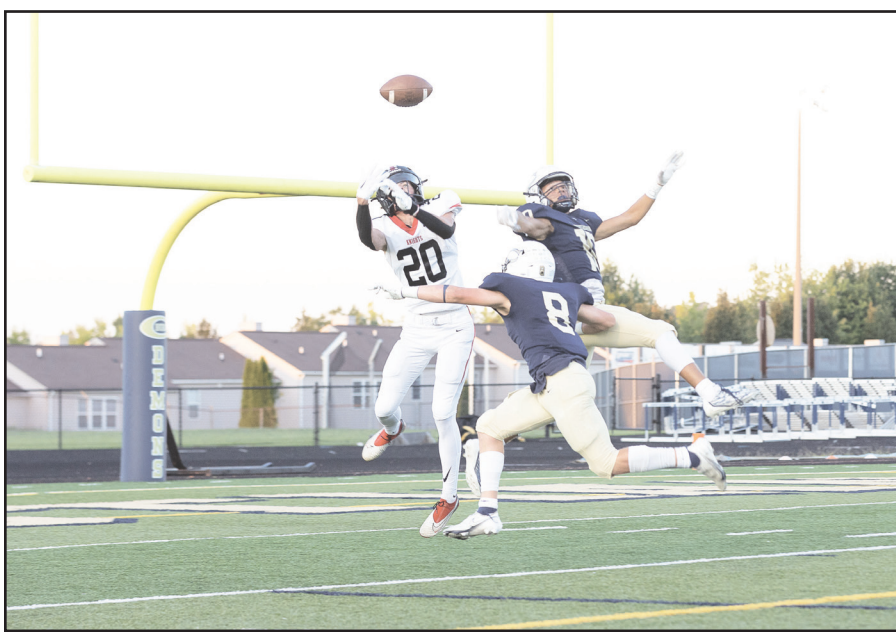


PHOTO BY KYMN DAVIDSON-HAMLEY

**Brody Blount (center) and Izaiah Cotto disrupt Cave Spring receiver from catching a critical pass near the end zone in Friday's game.**

# Hokies from page 9

Hokies move forward with hopes some of those injured will have to get healthy soon.

Play calling depends on personnel. So far, the offense has not been exciting or glamorous. Pry and his staff will have to dig deep into the play book and find something, anything which can work.

He will be quick to point out all of this does depend on who is on the field. Many of those so-called playmakers are nursing injuries.

Depth is a question. The other

need for this team, with all of these injuries is a depth chart full of youngsters, is to find some young players that can shine at this level. Defense could see a lot of those players in the lineup with them growing up quicker than expected or will they.

Pry will find out.

For now, the Hokies have to find their identity. The wins will be tough to come by, and the offense has to start scoring more points.

# RU announces new HOF class

Radford University Athletics has announced five new members that will be inducted into the Radford Athletics Hall of Fame in October. The Class of 2023 will include Eddie Butler (Baseball), Mickey Dean (Softball), Martin Sayer (Men's Tennis), Kristen Shifflett (Softball) and Anthony Walker (Men's Basketball).

The five-member class will be the 20th to be inducted into the Radford Athletics Hall of Fame. This year's induction ceremony will once again help kick off Homecoming Weekend festivities and will be held inside Kyle Hall on October 20. For more information on the Radford Athletics Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, click here.

## EDDIE BUTLER

Baseball | 2010-12

There is no disputing that Butler was one of the most talented players to ever don the Radford Baseball uniform. The righty was a two-time All-Big South selection and was voted as the Big South and VaSID Pitcher of the Year in 2012 after the school's single-season ERA record. He ranks second in program history for career wins (22), third for career shutouts (3), fourth for career strikeouts (232), seventh for career starts (43) and eighth for career ERA (3.84). Butler went on to become the first player in Big South history to be drafted in the first round of the Major League Baseball First Year Player Draft, going 46th overall to the Colorado Rockies.

## MICKEY DEAN

Head Softball Coach | 2007-12

In his six years at the helm of the Radford Softball program, Dean cemented himself as one of the greatest coaches ever to represent the Highlanders. His teams achieved an overall record of 241-116 (.675), including an 84-21 (.800) in the Big South Conference, making Radford the winningest program in the state of Virginia from 2006-09. He led Radford to four Big South regular season championships and a pair of Big South Tournament titles, claiming the program's first three NCAA Tournament victories as well. Dean earned four consecutive Big South Coach of the Year honors as a result. He is currently the Head Softball Coach at

Auburn University in the Southeastern Conference (SEC).

## MARTIN SAYER

Men's Tennis | 2005-09

Following his tragic passing, Martin Sayer will be inducted posthumously. The king of the court for four straight years, Sayer emerged as the most dominant player Radford has ever seen. With the most singles wins in program history (114) and the fourth-most doubles wins in program history (65), Sayer was a four-time Big South Player of the Year, four-time All-Big South player in both singles and doubles, and a four-time NCAA Tournament participant. He is one of just two Big South athletes to ever win at the NCAA Individual Tournament, cementing his place on the 2000's Big South All-Decade Team as well.

## KRISTEN SHIFFLETT

Softball | 2008-11

A catalyst for Radford Softball's most successful era, Shifflett sits at the top of nearly every category in the program's record books. She is first in program history for career runs scored (179) and tied for first for doubles (53), as well as second in program history for career hits (246), home runs (41), slugging percentage (.563), total bases (436) and assists (497). A three-time First Team All-Big South selection and two-time Big South Tournament MVP, Shifflett's premier campaign came in 2010 when she was named Big South and VaSID Player of the Year and Big South Female Student-Athlete of the Year.

## ANTHONY WALKER

Men's Basketball | 1993-97

Walker was named Big South Freshman of the Year in his debut season as a Highlander and never looked back. A two-time All-Big South selection, he is one of just six players in program history to score 1,600 points and is sixth all-time with 14.7 points per game. He dished it out as well as he could score it, ranking second in program history with 510 career assists. Beyond that, Walker remains in the top-10 in Radford Men's Basketball history for career field goals made, 3-point FG made, 3-point FG percentage, free throws made, free throw percentage, steals, and games started.

Radford University Athletics

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PREVIEW – Friday, September 15th at 4 PM

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