



# News Journal

Saturday, October 21, 2023 • USPS 387-780 • radfordnewsjournal.com • \$1.00

## The HUB at Radford for Economic Development officially opens



PHOTO COURTESY OF RADFORD UNIVERSITY

City, university and regional leaders pose before cutting the ribbon signifying the opening of The HUB at Radford.

RADFORD - The HUB at Radford for Economic Development officially opened following a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Oct. 17 hosted by the Radford University Division of Economic Development and Corporate Education and the Radford Chamber of Commerce.

Radford University created The HUB at Radford to serve as an economic development support system to help businesses thrive in the City of Radford

and across the region. The dynamic facility will transform how the university engages with businesses and communities to support economic development while carrying out its mission.

“Radford University is proud to partner with the city of Radford and other regional partners to strengthen our region’s economic positioning through the HUB at Radford,” said Radford University President Bret Danilowicz,

Ph.D. “Students and faculty members have emphatically expressed their desire to share skills and expertise with local businesses and government agencies to improve quality of life in the region. The HUB will allow us to make meaningful connections now and energize future growth for the region.”

Located adjacent to main campus in downtown Radford, the newly renovated facility is home to the Radford University

Division of Economic Development and Corporate Education. The division includes Economic Development and the innovative Vinod Chachra IMPACT Lab, which delivers self-paced, competency-based education for high-demand workforce areas.

“The HUB at Radford is a testament to our commitment as a university to be

See HUB, page 4



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

Recreation on the New River is a central part of the NRVRC’s recently released Bike-Ped-Paddle Plan.

## Bike-Ped-Paddle Plan for the New River Valley was recently released

RADFORD - The New River Valley Regional Commission recently developed an interactive plan to highlight existing bikeway, walkway, and Water Trails throughout the region.

Community stakeholders, local government, and transportation professionals identified areas where infrastructure

could enhance alternative transportation capabilities in the New River Valley. The Bike-Ped-Paddle Plan presents a vision of safe, reliable, healthy, and environmentally-friendly alternatives to motorized transportation.

Existing and proposed bikeways and walkways are showcased in each of the five areas to include the counties of Floyd, Giles,

Montgomery, Pulaski and the City of Radford. Examples of area priorities include: improving access to Jefferson National Forest, extending the Huckleberry Trail further into downtown Christiansburg, extending Heritage Pathways in Floyd, connecting the New River Trail to Randolph

See Plan, page 4

## Local World War II veteran celebrates his 100th birthday with friends and family



James Flinchum, born October 15, 1923, celebrates his 100th birthday with friends and family in attendance.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JIM FLINCHUM

James Flinchum served his country during World War II, including in the Battle of the Bulge.

**Lori Graham**  
Contributing writer

Not many people can say they have lived to see three digits on their birthday cake, but James I. Flinchum of Christiansburg certainly can.

Flinchum celebrated his 100th birthday with a party on Oct. 15 surrounded by close family and friends.

Flinchum, a local who grew up in the Indian Valley section of Floyd County with ten other siblings, is also the last living World War II veteran in Montgomery County.

Serving in the Army Air Force from the spring of 1943 until his discharge on Dec. 16, 1945, Flinchum was stationed in England and then went on to fight in the Battle of the Bulge in Europe. The attack from German soldiers was believed to be one of the bloodiest battles fought by the United States, in extreme cold weather of the Ardennes

mountains.

The following excerpt was provided by James Flinchum’s son, Jim Flinchum, who shared a bit about his father’s time in Europe:

“As luck – bad luck – would have it, when they were offshore of Normandy and needed to off-load the fire engine, the seas became so heavy that the crane for lifting the first engine collapsed, dropping their fire engine to the bottom of the English Channel.

It was almost dark when they finally moved past Omaha Beach, where it was like a fireworks show. Realizing that “what goes up must come down”, he crawled under a jeep to wait for the ammo to stop dropping out of the night sky. Unfortunately, he had to share that safe place with a dead German soldier.

After the 24,000 paratroopers dropped behind enemy lines and the

See Flinchum, page 4

## Radford University offers direct admission for incoming freshmen and transfer students

RADFORD - Radford University is excited to share an initiative that simplifies the application process and offers a streamlined pathway for incoming students.

By offering Direct Admission, we recognize and reward talented students who meet specific academic criteria, ensuring they have a clear and direct route to admission at Radford University.

Direct Admission removes barriers to access Radford University by eliminating much of the admission process. Applicants who meet the criteria are automatically offered admission without committee review.

For all new enrolling students: Radford University will offer Direct Admission to prospective students who meet the following criteria:

- Freshman applicants:
  - A completed, submitted application for admission
  - A minimum cumulative weighted GPA of 3.3
  - A passing grade in algebra II
- Freshmen application guidelines
- Transfer students:
  - A completed, submitted application for admission

See Students, page 6



PHOTO COURTESY OF RADFORD UNIVERSITY

A streamlined process will make it easier for some students to apply to Radford University.



# Daughters of the American Revolution celebrates 100th Anniversary

RADFORD - The General William Campbell Chapter National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, celebrated their upcoming 100th Anniversary on October 7, 2023 at the Radford Recreation Center. Guests were welcomed by Regent Betty Henley. The Honorable David Horton, Mayor of the City of Radford, gave a greeting to the guests and members. A presentation "Life in the 1920's" was given by Mr. Scott Gardner, Director of Glencoe Mansion, Museum and Gallery. Mr. Dana Jackson, Adjutant of VFW Post 776, gave a brief acknowledgement on the partnership between VFW Post 776 and the General William Campbell Chapter DAR. Other guests included District VII

Regents and members from Alleghany Chapter DAR, Colonel William Preston Chapter DAR, Fort Lewis Chapter DAR, Roanoke Valley Chapter DAR, the DAR State Recording Secretary, Adele Morris, Dr. Mickey Hickman, President of Calfee Cultural and Community Center and Sarah Carter of the Radford Heritage Foundation. Light refreshments were enjoyed by all.

For more information or interest in joining please feel free to visit <https://www.virginiadar.org/general-william-campbell-chapter>.

*Submitted by the General William Campbell Chapter National Society Daughters of the American Revolution*



The General William Campbell Chapter National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, celebrates their upcoming 100th Anniversary during an event on Oct. 7, 2023 at the Radford Recreation Center.



The chapter began in 1923 and celebrates its centennial this year. PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE DAR

## Student volunteer, NRHD hosting community health event today



FILE PHOTO  
New River Valley Community Health Event, held in conjunction with the New River Health District (NRHD), will be held today at the Agape Center, 1175 Cambria St. NE in Christiansburg, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

**Heather Bell**  
[hbelle@mainstreetnewspapers.com](mailto:hbelle@mainstreetnewspapers.com)

CHRISTIANSBURG – Kayla Bernstein, a senior at Virginia Tech, has been a volunteer at the Agape Center NRV throughout her undergraduate career and she is hosting an event today to culminate her efforts and provide free health screenings to the community.

The New River Valley Community Health Event, held in conjunction with the New River Health District (NRHD), will be held today at the Agape Center, 1175 Cambria St. NE in Christiansburg, 10 a.m. – 2

p.m. "I am optimistic and enthusiastic about hosting something that can bring community members together in a way that makes people feel supported, valued, and cared for," said Bernstein. "My long-term career goal is to become a physician, so I care deeply about the health of my community."

"There will be four nurses at the event who will be administering flu vaccines," she explained. "There will be six medical students from VCOM who are going to be providing health care advocacy information, blood pressure

checks and discussion of results, and health screening via USPSTF (United States Preventative Task Force). Individuals 65+ will be eligible to participate in two CDC assessments: TUG (Timed Up & Go) and 30-second chair stand which both assess risk of falling."

There will also be free Naloxone training and free health education. Attendees are asked to please bring insurance if you have it.

Agape Center NRV is a multi-church, mentorship-based outreach center focused on serving people in the New River Valley when they need a hand up.

# Warm Hearth Village Green Committee donates benches to LewisGale Hospital

BLACKSBURG – Since March 2020, the Warm Hearth Village (WHV) resident-led Green Committee, coordinated by Cheryl Pearson, has participated in a plastic film recycling initiative sponsored by Trex.

For every 500 pounds of plastic (about 40,500 plastic bags) collected, the Village has received a high-performance composite bench. The benches are worth approximately \$300. Every six months, they can apply to collect for a new bench and plan to continue because the program has been so successful. To date, thanks to

the recycling efforts of village residents and employees, a total of nine benches have been earned. Seven of those have been placed along walking trails throughout the village and the last two were donated to the hospital.

Staff, resident and community collaboration contributes to Warm Hearth's mission to nurture a culture where people live and work in community.

"The innovative thinking and work of the Green Committee is one shining example of the culture of our community," said William

Lester, President & CEO. "Warm Hearth and LewisGale Hospital Montgomery are partners on many fronts and the benches are an expression of gratitude for the longstanding relationship."

"We are doing our best and we are so happy with what we've accomplished," said Pearson. "And we are working to do a lot more," she added. Other initiatives include education on how, what, and where

to recycle, working with WHV staff on Federal grants for solar panels, electric bike storage and cardboard recycling on a larger scale.

Warm Hearth Village is a nonprofit senior living community in Blacksburg that provides a full continuum of living options on our campus and in the home.

*Submitted by Warm Hearth Village*



PHOTO COURTESY OF WARM HEARTH VILLAGE  
(Left to right): Tim Haasken, CFO; Devin Tobin, COO; Lauren Dudley, CEO; and Karen Nelson, Assistant Director, Housing & Resident Services.

**ESTATE AUCTION & REAL ESTATE AUCTION**  
**LIVE IN-PERSON AUCTION! NO ONLINE BIDS**  
**SAT. OCTOBER 28 9AM**  
ESTATE AUCTION: 9AM, REAL ESTATE/AUTOS SELL AT NOON  
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Beautiful home in serene C'Burg subdivision. Perfect for family living. Two different living rooms, one w/fireplace. Woodsy backyard. Sit on the deck & enjoy the wildlife. Full basement w/workbench. Ready for a workshop, play area, office, craft space, den, bar, or even use it for extra sleeping space. Endless possibilities!  
2,420 SQ FT. plus the full basement sitting on about .413 AC

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Terms: REAL ESTATE: A Non-refundable \$5,000.00 earnest money deposit will be due immediately after the auction. Cash or good check. A 10% Buyer's Premium will be added to the final hammer price. Balance due within 30 days at which time property deed will be delivered. The sale of this property will be subject to Seller's confirmation. This auction will be conducted with a reserve price on the Real Estate. Any starting bid, advertised or spoken, is not guaranteed. Real Estate is offered and sold As Is, with no warranties implied or given. Buyer is expected to complete their own due diligence/inspections by placing a bid. Any announcement made from the auction stand shall take precedence over any printed/advised material. ESTATE: Cash, Good Check, Visa or Mastercard. An 18% buyer's premium will be added to the final hammer price. 3% will be credited if payment is made by cash or good check. Autos will have a reserve price. All personal property sold is subject to 5.3% sales tax, including the Buyer's Premium, pursuant to Virginia law. Sale is Being Conducted by: Michael Dailey, VAAL #4861. All information contained in this listing was derived from sources believed to be correct, but is not guaranteed. Any announcement made from the auction stand shall take precedence over any printed/advised material. For ALL items sold at auction, Real Estate & Estate, by placing a bid you indicate you have thoroughly inspected the property and find it suitable for your use and accept all faults & defects, known or not. NOTE: This is a partial listing of the TERMS. Complete listing of terms available at auction or visit [HomeplateAuctions.com](http://HomeplateAuctions.com).

To view Real Estate prior to the auction contact Auctioneer Michael Dailey at 540-320-2135

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**DEMOTTS FOR DISTRICT G**

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**RE-ELECT APRIL 10:**

- ✓ Increase funding for public schools
- ✓ Increase funding for parks and recreation
- ✓ Promote high quality, responsible economic development

**ELECT APRIL 10**  
**DeMotts**  
DISTRICT G  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ENDORSED BY: **MCC** **MCEA PAC**  
Paid for and authorized by DeMotts for District G

Send community news and photos to community news @ourvalley.org



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Saturday, Oct. 21:

### 2023 Craft & Draft

Nine years in the running, Craft & Draft is a one-day festival featuring handcrafted wares, live music, food trucks, craft beer, memories, and more. Join the party from 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. at Glencoe Field, the green space and parking lot next to Glencoe Mansion, Museum & Gallery in Radford.

### Craft Supply Swap

At the Blacksburg Library; 1-3 p.m. Clean out your craft area and bring in items to swap with other crafters. The event is free and open to everyone, even if you don't have supplies to swap. Leftovers will go to benefit library craft programs and the Creative Reuse Center. Supplies may be dropped off at the library now, or bring them the day of the swap!

### Trunk or Treat

At the Meadowbrook Public Library; 3 - 5 p.m. Wear your best costume and visit us at Trunk or Treat! For ages 2 and up. For more information please call the Meadowbrook Library at 540-268-1964.

## Monday, Oct. 23:

### 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, Oct. 24:

### 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.

### Pre-K Yoga with 'The Whole You'

At the Radford Public Library; 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. Join us for a session of Pre-K Yoga with Kelly McCoy of "The Whole You"! There is no registration necessary for this event.

## Wednesday, Oct. 25:

### CommUNITY Yoga for Self-Care for Adults

At the Radford Public Library; 5:45 p.m. Join Kelly McCoy of The Whole You for an all-level yoga class for adults. Learn poses to help strengthen and lengthen your muscles as well as some breathing and meditation techniques to help calm the nervous system. This class is FREE to the public and is funded by grant money through the Virginia Department of Health.

## Saturday, Oct. 28:

### Blues, Brews & BBQ

At St. Luke & Odd Fellows Hall; 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. The Blacksburg Museum and Cultural Foundation's 9th Annual Blues, Brews & BBQ. The event is free, though a \$10 donation is encouraged. Music by JoJo Stockton, Lady D & Mi\$\$ion, and Isaac Hadden. Food and brews from Feast and Company, Papa's Box, and Blue Ridge Beverage will be for sale. They need volunteers to assist with beer pouring, ticket sales, and more during the event. Please email info@blacksburghistory.org if interested and they can figure out a spot just for you!

### Fundraising Pancake Breakfast

The Kiwanis Club of Montgomery County-Blacksburg is sponsoring a pancake and sausage breakfast, 8 to 11 a.m. in the Blacksburg United Methodist Church's Whisner Building. BUMC has a parking lot on the corner of Penn and Lee Streets. Cost is \$8 per person and tickets can be purchased at the door.

## Friday, Nov. 3 and Saturday, Nov. 4:

Book Sale  
There will be a book sale at the Radford Public Library; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Along with our regular items, there will be an abundance of children's, science fiction, fantasy, young adult, and Christmas items for sale. Come and get a bargain and support the Radford Public Library.

## Friday, Nov. 3 - Sunday, Nov. 5:

### New River Stage presents "Last Word on Jesse James"

New River Stage (NRS) announces their

fall production of Last Word on Jesse James. Performance location is Proclamation Theatre at Knights of Columbus Hall in Christiansburg. Proceeds benefit New River Community Action's To Our House program. The play depicts the famed outlaw through the eyes of a story telling Mississippi River fisher. Living on the streets, telling big fish tales, the fisher becomes an internet celebrity who attracts people from all over meet them person. Tickets are available at proclamationtheatre.com.

## Saturday, Nov. 4 and Sunday, Nov. 5:

### Women with a Vision Bible Study's Holiday Bazaar

At First Baptist Church, 555 West Rock Rd., Radford. Saturday 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. and Sunday 12:30 - 3 p.m. Hot dogs, baked goods, coffee mugs, aprons, stockings, estate jewelry, cards, unique gifts, decorations, much more.

## Wednesday, Nov. 8:

### MCCC hosts Buy Local showcase

The Montgomery Chamber of Commerce is hosting a Buy Local Showcase, 3:45 - 6 p.m. at the Inn at Virginia Tech. How important is it that you buy local this holiday season? Shopping local supports area businesses, their employees, our schools, and services. Showcase will include over 75 local businesses. Door prizes and raffles every 15 minutes. Event exclusive discounts and deals. Great place for holiday shopping and free to attend.

## On-going:

### Call for participants: 2023 Blacksburg Annual Holiday Parade

Citizens are invited to participate in Blacksburg's annual Holiday Parade, organized by Blacksburg Parks and Recreation. This year's theme is "Miracle on Main Street". Parade entries may be floats, bicycles, wagons, marchers, walkers, antique/classic cars, Jeeps, trucks, scout groups, bands, sports teams and more. The parade will be held on Friday, Dec. 1 at 7 p.m. In the event of inclement weather, the parade will be rescheduled to Saturday, Dec. 2. For more information on how to get involved, contact David Goodman, Community Programs Supervisor at degoodman@blacksburg.gov or 540.443.1106.

### 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.

# Shake off the ordinary

Christiansburg Library celebrating the eras of Taylor Swift

We're inviting you to step out of the rain, say goodbye to this Cruel Summer, and leave your Cardigan by the door because You Belong with us! Just Shake It Off and join us for a Taylor Swift-themed library program.

Join us on Thursday, Oct. 26 at 6 p.m. at Christiansburg Library as we transform our humble space into a Swiftie's dream, a place where attendees can immerse themselves in the magic of Taylor Swift's music and lyrics as we anticipate the release of 1989: Taylor's Version.

Throughout the evening, attendees will have the chance to experience the wonder of Taylor Swift's world. You will have the opportunity to showcase your Style by creating Delicate and Gorgeous crafts, including friendship bracelets that


will make you feel like you're in a Love Story.

Highlights of the evening include:  
Enchanted Crafts: Unleash your creativity as we provide the materials for crafting beautiful and Delicate items, including friendship bracelets you can keep or trade!

Fearless Fashion: Embrace your inner Taylor Swift and don your most Fearless outfit to show off your Style.

Trivia Night: Bring your Mastermind for trivia that will leave you feeling like a Blank Space has been filled in your knowledge of Taylor Swift. Prizes await the Swifties who prove they know their Taylor Swift lyrics and facts the best!

Snacks: What would the evening be without a treat or two?



**Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library**  
*One stop, unlimited possibilities*

GRAPHIC COURTESY OF MFRL

Don't miss this opportunity to belong with fellow Swifties of all ages for FREE. We can't wait to see you there!

For more information, contact Kerri Copus, Library Program Coordinator, at

kcopus@mfrl.org or (540) 382-6969 or visit our website at www.mfrl.org.

Submitted by Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library



**Marketplace** ourvalley.org

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**Auctions**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
The contents of the listed unit will be sold at Public Auction October 27, 2023 at 11am at 1st Security Self Storage 5 Midway Plaza Dr. Christiansburg, VA. D020 D025 1st Security reserves the right to refuse any bid. Terms: CASH OR CREDIT CARD AT SALE.

**MAKE AN "A" IN ADVERTISING!**  
Call 389-9355

**Legals - Montgomery County**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 15.2-2204 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors hereby gives notice of a public hearing to be held on October 23, 2023 at 7:15 p.m. in the County Government Center,

**Legals - Montgomery County**

755 Roanoke St., Christiansburg, Virginia, in order to hear citizen comments regarding the Board of Supervisors' intention to act on the following request: A request by Shah Development, LLC (Agent: Foresight Design Services) to amend the proffered conditions and approved concept plan of the rezoning of the Preserve at Walnut Springs Major Subdivision, originally approved by the Board of Supervisors on March 11, 2019. The proposed amendments would allow for the construction of single-family attached dwellings

**Legals - Montgomery County**

(townhomes) and multi-family residential dwellings (apartments) in an area of the development previously approved for the construction of multi-family residential dwellings (apartments) only. The proposed amendments also increase the maximum allowed number of single-family attached dwellings (townhomes) in the development from one-hundred fifty-four (154) units to two hundred nine (209) units, and decrease the maximum allowed number of multi-family residential dwellings (apartments) from one hundred eight (108) units to eighty-four (84) units. The proposed

**Legals - Montgomery County**

amendments would maintain the previously approved overall density of 2.185 units per acre. The property is located off of Price's Fork Road (State Route 685), approximately 0.34 miles west of the intersection of Stratford View Drive (State Route 1145). The property is further identified as Tax Map Numbers 052-A-32, 52-1-20, 52-A-4A, and 52-A-1A (Parcel IDs: 017474, 160511, 280553, and 280550), totaling 124.665 acres, currently zoned Planned Unit Development - Residential (PUD-RES) in the Price's Fork Magisterial District. The property lies in

**Legals - Montgomery County**

an area designated as Village Expansion in the 2025 Montgomery County Comprehensive Plan, and is further identified as Low-Density Residential in the Price's Fork Village Plan. Copies of the proposed plans, applications, ordinances or amendments may be examined at the Department of Planning and GIS Services, County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Suite 2A, Christiansburg, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. or at http://www.montgomerycountyva.gov/pendingapplicatio ns.

**Classified Advertising**

SEVEN DAYS



# Flinchum

from page 1

brave Marines scaled the deadly cliffs under intense fire, James was able to assemble with his unit. His job was to provide landing support for the P-51 "Mustang" fighter planes, putting the fires out and pulling the surviving pilots out. As soon as the temporary landing strip was available, he watched General Eisenhower land and refuel to tour the progress of the Allies – the good guys.

As he approached the Battle of the Bulge, he spent several nights as a lookout in ditches. He would challenge all passersby for the password. I think the most difficult night was when the sergeant told him to aim his rifle at the door of a particular church with instructions to kill anybody coming out of the door. Being a Christian and respective of all churches, he prayed all night that he wouldn't have to kill any person coming out of church. God smiled that night, as

nobody came out of the church.

As the war neared its end, Dad was sent to a Nazi death camp, where the surviving Jews were being discharged as soon as they were able. It was a horrible sight for James, but he chose to focus on something less horrible. Being a farm boy from the mountains of Virginia, he focused on how hard the ground was, where so many thousands of Jews waited and suffered."

After Flinchum's discharge from the service in 1945, he then became a Security Specialist in the Fire Department of Little Creek Amphibious Base in Virginia Beach. He retired Feb. 1, 1975.

Shortly after returning from his service, Flinchum met his wife, Nora Childress, and they were married in 1946, and their son arrived in 1947. The couple later settled in Riner and were married for 67 years.

Jim Flinchum, son of

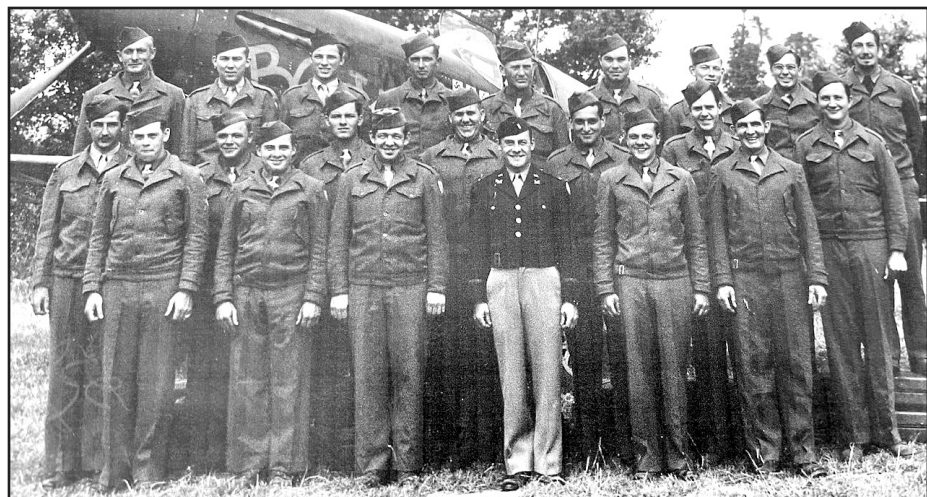
James and Nora, said his father once wrote to his mother on an anniversary that "getting married was fun but staying married was even more fun."

James' wife Nora passed away in March of 2014.

Jim Flinchum says like a lot of combat veterans, talking about his time in Europe has been particularly difficult for his dad.

"That often exposes too much emotion or too little emotion," Jim Flinchum said. "However, he does enjoy his memories of living in the mountains and the many good people there! He especially enjoys the company and humor of his one surviving sister, Nelva Shelton of Floyd and is thankful for the care and attention received from his niece, Joy Volner of Riner, and his nephew, Wendell Flinchum of Christiansburg."

Jim Flinchum, a Vietnam veteran, is semi-retired in Virginia Beach.



James Flinchum (far left front row) and the 354th Fighter Group, World War II.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JIM FLINCHUM

WWII veteran James Flinchum (left) and son, Vietnam veteran Jim Flinchum (right).

# Plan

from page 1



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE RADFORD TOURISM DEPARTMENT

## Radford's riverway trail is part of the NRVRC's new Bike-Ped-Paddle Plan.

Park in Pulaski County, connecting parks and schools to the Riverway Trail in Radford, and extending the New River Water Trail from the Claytor Lake dam to its current terminus at the Giles County line, among other priorities.

The Bike-Ped-Paddle

Plan is a web-based, interactive resource that was prepared in coordination with the Virginia Department of Transportation, local governments, and planning departments throughout the region. A new interactive format was implemented to build

upon and enhance the accessibility of previous versions of the Bike-Ped-Paddle plan.

The adoption of this plan is a step towards reaching regional goals of multimodal transportation, connectivity of trails within and beyond the

region, and development of new facilities in coordination with Virginia Department of Transportation projects.

The Bike-Ped-Paddle Plan can be viewed at <https://arcg.is/1W188H>.

- New River Valley Regional Commission

## RADFORD NEWS JOURNAL

Serving Radford since 1884

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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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Radford News Journal (USPS 387-780) is published twice a week for \$44 a year in the City of Radford, \$53 elsewhere in Virginia, and \$54 out of state by Virginia Media Inc., P.O. Box 429, Lewisburg, WV 24901. Periodical postage paid at Christiansburg, VA. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to RADFORD NEWS JOURNAL 1633 W. Main St., Salem, VA 24153.

# HUB

from page 1

a positive educational and economic driver for the communities where we live, learn and work," said Angela Joyner, Ph.D., vice president of Economic Development and Corporate Education at Radford University.

"Our location in downtown Radford is symbolic to the vital role we play as an anchor institution and as a strong contributor to the well-being of the City of Radford

and the region," Joyner said. "The HUB will help our region connect to university resources, such as student talent, faculty expertise and workforce solutions. It can also serve as a place to collaborate on initiatives that will help our region thrive."

City of Radford Mayor David Horton said The HUB represents "a great new chapter in the partnership between Radford City and Radford

University."

"Together, we will help businesses establish, evolve and expand in Radford and across the New River Valley," said Horton. "New jobs and opportunities will be born here, and great ideas will thrive with the support of this wonderful new resource."

Justin Ward for Radford University

CROSSWORD

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**CLUES ACROSS**

1. Mother (var.)
4. Not happy
7. Reciprocal of a sine
10. Periods of time
12. Relating to wings
14. Alias
15. Hebrew lawgiver
17. Beget
18. Middle East chieftain
19. Worldly and refined
22. Having a distinct existence
23. Mexican painter Frida
24. Showing sound judgment
25. Surrounding circle of light
26. 1/6-inch printing unit
27. Atomic #28
28. Spreads grass for drying
30. Common animal parasite
32. Nursing degree
33. Prefix for again
34. Circle width (abbr.)
36. Freshwater duck genus
39. English philosopher
41. Opposite of 24 across
43. Angina medication
46. Political action committees
47. Those mentioned
48. Pops
50. Rt. angle building wing
51. Capital of Yemen
52. Fish traps
53. Alternate H. S. diploma
54. Pitch
55. Soak flax
21. Express pleasure
28. Barcelona gestural theatre
29. Makes into law
30. Old French monetary unit
31. Eyeglasses
34. Magnate Trump
35. Blemish or spoil
37. Moses' elder brother
38. Twisted Sister's Dee
40. Bon \_\_\_\_: witty remarks
41. 8th Jewish month
42. Related on the mother's side
44. Stairs leading down to a river in India
45. Songstress Horne
46. Pirate's prosthesis
49. Very fast airplane

**CLUES DOWN**

1. 13th Hebrew letter
2. Got up
3. Bricklayers
4. Impertinent
5. Perched
6. Afghan Persian
7. Massee Lane Garden flower
8. 23 \_\_\_\_: Go away
9. Automobile
11. Thin dividing membranes
13. Take heed
16. Polished
18. Colorless, odorless gas used as fuel
20. Single units

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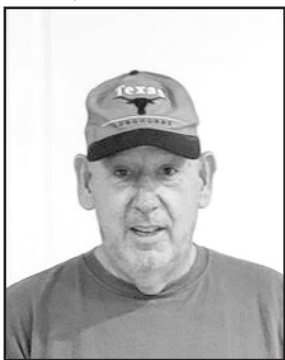
# OBITUARIES

## Gregory, Eric Taylor

On Saturday, Oct. 14, Eric Taylor Gregory, 67, finished his battle with colon cancer.

He moved to palliative care on Friday and passed peacefully the next morning holding his wife's hand as the solar eclipse started over San Antonio, his hometown. Eric was a caring and supportive husband and father who loved his family well.

He was a successful architect and worked on many beautiful buildings including the Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art in Amherst, Mass. An incredible chef, scale model railroader, and model builder (or collector of enough unbuilt models to open his own store), he enjoyed creating and sharing with others. He had a quiet



demeanor with a wonderful wit and he will be dearly missed.

He is survived by his wife, Kitty; two children, Savanna and Sean; and three grandchildren, Asher, Eden and Harper. He had a Service of Death and Resurrection on Thursday, Oct. 19, at 2 p.m. at the Blacksburg Methodist Church, which was followed by a fellowship gathering. "But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body." Philippians 3:20-21.

## Smith, Michael Gene

Michael Gene Smith, 63, of Rustburg, died Tuesday, October 17, 2023, at his home.

He is survived by his sister, Myrtle Yvonne Shaver; brother, James A. Smith; and nieces, Deborah and Billy Smith and family, Rachel and Shane Parson and

family. Funeral services will be conducted Monday, Oct. 23, 2023, at 2 p.m. in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel, with the Rev. John Hopkins officiating. Interment will follow in the Roselawn Memorial Gardens. The family will receive friends from 1-2 p.m. before the service.

# District 41 candidates face-off in candidate forum

Chris Obenshain (R) and Lily Franklin (D) are both running for the Virginia House of Delegates District 41, which covers a large portion of Montgomery County, and parts of Roanoke County.

At a recent forum, moderator Dwayne Yancey, executive editor of Cardinal News, asked the candidates questions about their priorities in the district, such as bipartisan work and teacher shortages that appeared to be areas of agreement. Points of disagreement arose in topics on abortion, transgender rights, gay marriage and gun laws.

Solutions to teacher shortages in schools focused on improving the classroom environment for



PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.OBENSHAINFORDELEGATE.COM  
**Chris Obenshain**



PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.LILYFORDELEGATE.COM  
**Lily Franklin**

instruction, through increased empowerment to educators, and less on increased pay.

"You've got to have good leadership in the schools, leadership that backs up the teachers," Obenshain said. "We have to return to discipline, a disciplined system in the schools that removes disruptive students from the classroom so that

everyone else can learn.

As a former math teacher, Franklin said she feels increased funding in the schools will help with ensuring educators have the appropriate supplies and smaller class sizes to better provide a better educational environment.

"We need to be thinking through what it

See **Candidates**, page 6

### ANGLICAN CATHOLIC

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

**St. Thomas Anglican Church**- located at 4910 Hubert Rd, NW Roanoke, Va. Traditional Liturgical Lenten Services, Sunday at 10:30 am. Call (540) 589-1299 or visit www.sttofc.org for mid-week masses and events. (In Roanoke, go E on Hershberger, L on Hubert to 4910).

### BAPTIST

**First Baptist Church**, 555 West Rock Road, Radford, 639-3873. Rev. Corwin C. Casey, Pastor. Worship with us: 9:45 a.m.; Sunday School: 10:45 a.m.; Praise and Worship: 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship Service; Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord. 1 Corinthians 15:58.

**First Baptist Church on 3rd Ave.**, 215 Third Ave at the corner with Downey St. We nurture meaningful connections to God and others through worship, spiritual growth, and community ministry. We celebrate the dignity and worth of all persons, created in the image of God. Sunday Bible Study Groups - 9:45, Sunday Worship - 11:00. Website: fbcradford.org 540-639-4419. Worship is in-person and live-streamed on Facebook and on our YouTube channel: First Baptist Church Radford. **Trinity Community Church**, 1505 N. Franklin Street, C'burg. John Altizer, Lead Pastor, Brian Cockram, Associate Pastor, 382-8121. Worship at 10:45 a.m., Outreach Ministries - 6:00p.m. Wednesday, Growth Groups - 5:00p.m. Sunday, Youth and Children's Ministry - 5:00p.m. Sunday, www.trinitycburg.org.

### CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

### CHURCH OF GOD

**Childress Church of God**, 4187 Piney Woods Rd., C'Burg. 381-3693. Sun. School 10 a.m.; Worship 11 a.m. & Wed. 7 p.m.

**New Hope Church of God**, 1404 Mud Pike Rd., C'Burg. Rev. T. Michael Bond, pastor, 731-3178. Sun. School 10 a.m., Worship 10:50 a.m., 6 p.m. Thurs., 7:00 p.m.

**West Radford Church of God**, 1824 West Main Street, Radford, VA 24141, Sunday School - 10:00A.M. Morning Worship - 11:00A.M., Children's Church 11:00A.M. Sunday Evening - 6:00P.M., Wednesday Night - 7:00P.M., Pastor Danny Newman, Church Office - 540-639-6562 or 804-921-0828

### CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

**Radford Church of God in Christ**, 206 Russell Ave., Radford. Supt. Ronald A. Watson, Sr.; Elder, 639-5948. Sun. School 9 a.m.; Prayer 11:30 a.m.; Worship 6 p.m.

### (DOC - DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

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

### EPISCOPAL

**Grace Episcopal Church**, 210 Fourth Street Radford. Welcoming and accepting, we have been a part of the Radford community for more than 130 years. ALL ARE WELCOME. Grace offers an 8:00am Contemplative Eucharist and a 10:30am Eucharist with organ music and a choir, with refreshments served afterwards. The 10:30am service is also available on YouTube for those unable to leave their house. Find us on Facebook and www.graceradford.org.

### LUTHERAN

**Christ Lutheran Church**, 201 Harvey St. Sunday worship with communion at 10am; fellowship & snacks at 11am. All are welcome. Upcoming events and fellowship opportunities (Senior Brunch, Faith & Film, Rough Draught, etc.) detailed in weekly email and on website: clcrad-

# Radford

## WORSHIP DIRECTORY

### Facing Change

Read Deuteronomy 9:1 through 11:32

Joe had lived in the country his entire life. Life on his parents' dairy farm was predictable and comfortable. Now he was leaving for college, and a whole new world lay ahead. When Joe's parents dropped him off at the university on orientation day, he reeled from the culture shock. This sure is going to be different, he thought.

The Israelites had a similar experience as they prepared to enter the Promised Land.

The land you are entering to take over is not like the land of Egypt, from which you have come (Deuteronomy 11:10).

After forty years of wandering in the desert, the Israelites were not familiar with cultivating crops. Even their knowledge of Egyptian agriculture, which relied on slave labor and the Nile for irrigation, would provide little help. In their new home, God himself would provide water for their fields and vineyards, as long as they continued to trust Him to do so.

Times of transition can be difficult, but if we rely on God, He will help us navigate each new season of life.

Challenge for Today: Pray for someone you know who is facing a major change in his or her life.

Quicklook: Deuteronomy 11:8-17

**If your church is not listed and if you are interested, call Wendi Craig at 276-340-2445 or email at advertise@mainstreetnewspapers.com**

ford.org. 540-639-2671.

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

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

### PENTECOSTAL HOLINESS

**Merrimac Pentecostal Holiness Church**, Rev. Larry Christopher (540) 552-7194. l.christopher695@comcast.net. Sunday school at 10 a.m. and morning worship is 11 a.m. Evening service at 6 p.m. and Wednesday at 7 p.m.

**Compassion Church**, 1820 Second Street, Radford, 639-6287, Our music is passionate, our worship is real, and Pastor Chandler Jones brings relevant messages for everyone at any place on their journey, Sunday Worship Experience at 9:30 AM & 11:00 AM, Wednesday Family Night at 7 PM, Children Ministry provided for all services. Our vision is to see all Saved. Freed. Restored. Fulfilled. Find us on facebook and Instagram **Walton Pentecostal Holiness Church**, 4003 Morning Glory Rd., off Walton Rd. on Rt. 114. 731-1755. Lee Sarver, pastor. Sun. School 9:30 a.m., Worship 10:30 a.m. & 6: p.m., Wed., 7p.m.

### PRESBYTERIAN

Join us at **The Presbyterian Church of Radford**, 201 4th Street, at the corner of 4th & Randolph. Sunday School is at 10:00 a.m. and Sunday Service 11:00a.m. Our Interim Minister is Steve Willis. Phone 540-639-2585, Email pcofradford@gmail.com, Website www.pcradford.org. We are called to share the love of Christ in this community and beyond.

### UNITED METHODIST

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

**Central Church**, 803 Wadsworth Street, Radford. 639-3529. 8:30 a.m. Sunday Services: 8:30am; 9:45am Sunday School; and 11:00a.m. Child care is provided. www.centralmethodistchurch.com.

**St. Paul United Methodist Church**, 220 W. Main St., C'Burg. Rev. Moonsup "Paul" Song (540) 382-2410. Sunday Worship 10am, Sunday School 9am. Live streaming Sunday Service - www.twitch.tv/stpaulumc.com



# Candidates

from page 5

really means to empower teachers and parents and students, because right now we're leaving a whole community behind," Franklin said.

Obenshain agrees that parents should be a part of the conversation but that "teachers have seen a 7% raise and an historic investment in education."

The candidates also addressed regulation issues with the legalization of marijuana in Virginia. Black market sales, "share shops" that offer a gift of cannabis with a high-priced item, and increased access of marijuana to youth are some of the issues that were mentioned during the discussion between candidates.

"We're now allowing kids to get access to marijuana that's not regulated and that's dangerous for them. There's all kinds of things that can be laced into these, into marijuana and we need to make sure that we're protecting public health and that we are getting the full benefits that we could," Franklin said. "I mean what we could see with legalization is the same thing we saw with micro-breweries across southwest Virginia where we see revitalization."

Obenshain responded on the issue of marijuana that those adults who are using it legally in their home and not causing harm to anyone is not a problem for him.

"What I do have a problem with is several things about this law and one of those is when people who decide to use marijuana and get stoned get behind the wheel of a vehicle and put people's lives at risk," Obenshain said. "The Democrats killed a Republican bill that would have set a blood alcohol limit for marijuana the same way there is one for alcohol."

Obenshain also mentioned the dangers of THC infused edibles that have been found accessible to school children, calling out Franklin for her work under Delegate Sam Rasoul (D).

"I would absolutely agree with you that I do have to take credit for that and that's the reason why Delegate Rasoul stood on the House floor and putting in a bill to ban Delta 7 and Delta 8 and those kinds of legislation because we saw that those were marked to children and that we had to put in legislation to make sure we're protecting those youth," Franklin said.

Abortion questions, sent in by several residents in the district, prompted disagreement between candidates when they were asked to respond to their position on abortion legislation.

Obenshain agrees with Governor Youngkin that "abortions should be banned after 15 weeks, with exceptions for rape, incest, and the life of the mother."

Franklin stands with woman's choice to abort, keeping the current laws in place.

"You would support keeping the current law?" Obenshain asked Franklin.

"Yes," Franklin said.

"You would oppose the amendment Democrats have introduced in the General Assembly; you would vote against that amendment to allow abortion to four weeks?" Obenshain said.

"I'm happy with where the laws are today," Franklin said.

Another point of disagreement between the two candidates concerns more restrictions on gun laws.

"The Republicans have actually made some significant progress on a number of issues in the last legislative session. They put forward a bill to provide a tax credit for safe gun storage. That was a great idea, and it passed overwhelmingly," Obenshain said. "The Republicans have also brought in Project Cease Fire, which has had some success in other places with reducing gun violence without infringing on people's Second Amendment rights."

Franklin agreed that there needs to be bipartisan discussions around these things, such as red flag laws.

"Talking about background checks and talking about again, like Chris was saying, around safe storage. That piece of legislation that passed from the Republicans was a really good piece of legislation that helped move people further," Franklin said.

Obenshain rebutted Franklin's comment on red flag laws, saying it infringes on people's rights because in some of these cases, people have not committed a crime.

However, the audience erupted in disagreement when Yancey asked Obenshain if he should be able to buy an AR-15.

"Absolutely, an AR-15 is just a rifle. It's a rifle," Obenshain said.

Transgender issues such as parent notification when students are requesting a change in gender identity or pronouns and if transgender students should be permitted to play sports in the gender they have transitioned to.

"Absolutely parents should be notified. Parents need to be informed about what's going on for their, with their child, and schools should never be keeping secrets from parents. That should never happen," Obenshain said. "Secondly, boys don't belong in girls' locker rooms. Boys don't belong in girls' bathrooms. It's that simple."

Obenshain said boys should not be competing in girls' sports either.

Franklin did not specifically comment on transgender students competing in sports but stated that she is for what makes students feel accepted and keeping politics out of the schools on this topic.

Obenshain closed by emphasizing his experience and connections to Southwest Virginia. He has spent 15 years as a prosecutor, over 20 years in the military, previously as an enlisted mechanic and now a major in the Army JAG Corps, and five years as a parent. His family is originally from the Prices Fork area of Blacksburg, Virginia.

"If you send me to Richmond, I'll be a partner with the governor to pursue a future based on economic opportunity, parental empowerment, and safe community," Obenshain said.

Franklin ended the discussion forum by reiterating her past, that her family had economic struggles and wanted to help people experiencing the same economic and health issues that citizens are experiencing.

"I am going to fight like heck to ensure that our region has a strong voice in Richmond, because right now that's not happening. This past year, just a few months ago, we passed a budget out of Virginia and the top takeaway is that southwest Virginia got left behind. They cut our critical projects, projects that we needed right here in our home," Franklin said.

Early voting ends Nov. 4 and elections will take place on Nov. 7.

# University launches Virginia Tech Advantage to support students with financial need

Alumni and friends of Virginia Tech joined university leaders and guests on Friday, Oct. 13, to celebrate the launch of Virginia Tech Advantage, kick off a \$500 million fundraising effort for the initiative, and recognize a \$10 million gift that will fund scholarships for students.

President Tim Sands announced plans for Virginia Tech Advantage last fall, and the initiative is now a call to action – a multiyear commitment to offer a broad educational experience to undergraduate students from Virginia who have financial need.

"Virginia Tech Advantage supports our land-grant mission and our Beyond Boundaries vision. And it honors the spirit of our guiding principle and motto of Ut Prosim (That I May Serve)," Sands said. "Today we are calling on Hokies all over the world to join us and help every student succeed."

At Friday's event at The Inn at Virginia Tech, Sands welcomed two members of the Hokie community who have already answered this call with a \$10 million gift endowing a scholarship in their name. The Preston and Catharine White Endowed Diversity Scholarship was announced Oct. 11 and will eventually help 70 to 80 students each year.

"Preston and Catharine are a shining example of a Hokie family stepping forward in support of the university's commitment to meet the needs of our students, and we are extremely grateful," said Sands.

As Preston White took the stage, his favorite song played. Louis Armstrong's "What a Wonderful World" offers a message of optimism and human potential, said White, a message that is needed today.

"When President Sands launched Virginia Tech Advantage, Catharine and I thought, 'How can we help?' We thought about what people can become with education and training. We encourage other Hokies and Hokie supporters to take this opportunity to make not just a better world, but a 'wonderful world,'" said White.

Colin Roberts, president of the Class of 2024 and recipient of the Preston and Catharine White Endowed Diversity Scholarship, shared his story and what the scholarship support has meant to him.

"Coming here and finding my sense of place was made easier with the help of the Preston and Catharine White Diversity Scholarship. It made college more affordable, taking a weight off my shoulders – and it was recognition of my hard work," Roberts said.

He said the financial support gave him the time and opportunity to focus on his studies, participate fully in extracurricular activities, and invest in the resources, books, and technology to be successful.

"For me this is not just financial assistance," Roberts said. "It is a symbol of my ability to make a meaningful impact on our society through my education and future career. I am committed to making the most of this opportunity and, one day, giving back to the community that has supported me."

Rachel Holloway, vice provost for undergraduate academic affairs, works closely with strategies, programs, and resources that support the undergraduate educational experience. She explained during Friday's celebration that the challenges many students may face while pursuing undergraduate education range from insufficient dining dollars and cash at the end of the semester to difficulty covering costs during a summer internship to working long hours to meet their basic needs.

"By changing these dynamics, Virginia Tech Advantage will make a rich and full educational experience a reality for all Virginia students," said Holloway, who co-chaired a working group that helped to outline the structure of the initiative.

Juan Espinoza, associate vice provost for enrollment management and director of undergraduate admissions, reiterated the need to provide more financial and programmatic support to students.

"Here at Virginia Tech, we are committed to providing life-changing learning experiences that prepare all Hokies to lead fulfilling lives and serve their communities."

During the next 10 years, the university plans to raise \$500 million to support the effort.

From the funds raised, \$450 million will support undergraduate scholarships for in-state Pell- and state grant-eligible students. The remaining \$50 million will fund student success initiatives, including basic needs, career preparation, transformational learning experiences, and more.

The philanthropic dollars will complement other sources of revenue, including state and federal support and university resources. At scale, Virginia Tech Advantage aims to add \$51.5 million per year in need-based gift aid for in-state undergraduates.

The Virginia Tech Advantage fundraising effort is part of Boundless Impact: The Campaign for Virginia Tech, an effort to generate the philanthropic resources that are critical to student success. Virginia Tech Advantage will focus on four support strategies:

Increasing affordability for undergraduate Virginians by increasing financial aid and doubling the size of the Presidential Scholarship Initiative

Increasing support for basic needs, including food assistance through The Market of Virginia Tech and through emergency funds

Increasing resources for career preparation by facilitating paid internships and co-ops, offsetting hidden internship costs, and enhancing advising and mentoring

Increasing resources for transformational learning experiences such as study-abroad, research opportunities, and summer experiences

These strategies were shaped by a steering committee co-chaired by Menah Pratt, vice president for strategic affairs and diversity, and Matt Holt, professor and head of the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics. The committee and two working groups focused on student experience and financial feasibility deliberated throughout the spring and summer months to arrive at a series of recommendations that university leaders have adopted.

Both Pratt and Holt cited the life-changing impact financial support during college made in their own lives. Both were proud to "pay it forward" through their involvement in Virginia Tech Advantage.

"Approaching my last year, I ran out of money and couldn't pay tuition," Pratt said. "I shared my predicament with the director of the [University of Iowa] Honors Program, Professor Sandy Barkan. She loaned me \$5,000 and told me to pay her back whenever I could. ... It took me some time to pay her back, but I did."

Holt, a first-generation student who worked part-time throughout college and received Pell grants, spent his summers working. He never considered an internship or other transformational learning experiences that Virginia Tech Advantage will support.

"My perspective was limited and, truthfully, I was scared," said Holt. "I felt confident I could earn the money I needed by working long hours on the farm or in construction. Even though many years have passed, I believe that many first-generation students face similar concerns and constraints today."

Pratt and Holt are proud to be part of shaping Virginia Tech Advantage, an initiative that will change the lives of current and future Hokies for generations to come.

For more information about Virginia Tech Advantage and ways to support the fundraising effort, please visit [vt.edu/advantage](http://vt.edu/advantage).

*Tracy Vosburgh for Virginia Tech*

## October is Pastor Appreciation Month

Want to thank your pastor for all of the wonderful work they do?

Reserve your paid acknowledgment in the Radford News Journal with a Special Tribute to honor Clergy in the Radford Area.

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## Students

from page 1

Transcripts from each previously attended institution

A calculated cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher

Transfer application guidelines

Nursing program applicants:

A weighted GPA of 3.0

Successful completion of algebra II, biology, and chemistry, or anatomy and physiology

Music and Dance majors must successfully audition in their respective program for admission to their major.

Direct Admission is not offered to students applying to degree completion programs, fast-track programs, or programs that require additional faculty review.

"After analyzing the retention and

graduation rates of our students, we learned that these admissions criteria are the best indicators of student success, so we decided to automate the process for these applicants," said Dannette Gomez Beane, vice president of enrollment management and strategic communications.

Radford University is committed to providing accessible and straightforward admission pathways for talented students who meet the established criteria. This initiative reflects the university's dedication to fostering a diverse and academically driven community.

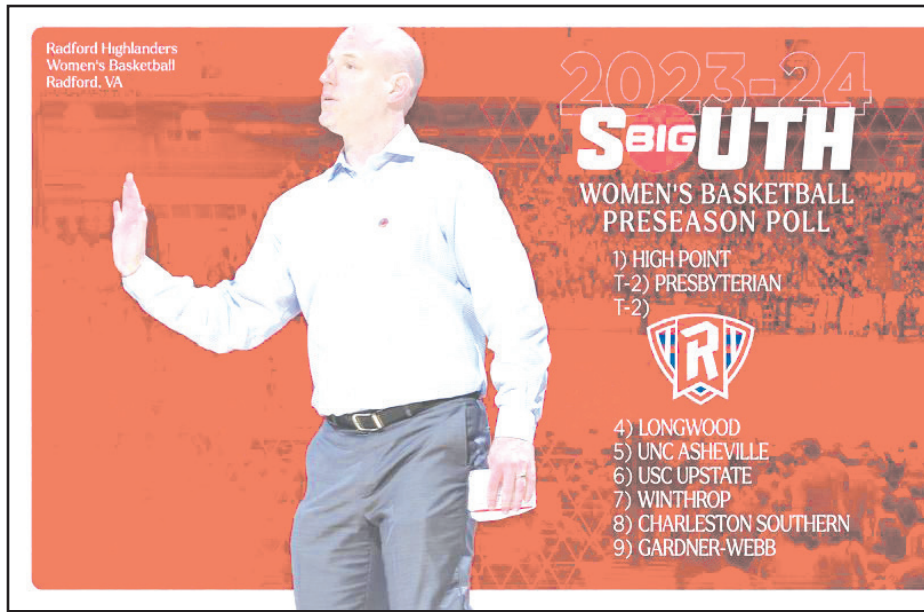
For more information on Radford University's Direct Admission program, please visit [www.radford.edu/apply](http://www.radford.edu/apply).

*Radford University*



# RADFORD SPORTS

## RU men, women picked second in poll



GRAPHICS COURTESY OF RU ATHLETICS

**Marty Gordon**  
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Big South basketball representatives met with members of the media on Tuesday in Charlotte, N.C., and preseason polls predict Radford University's men and women's programs will finish in second place.

The results of the poll, which was voted on by the head coaches of each team in the league as well as members of the media, gave the Highlanders 132

points overall. The RU men received one first-place vote, eight second-place votes and five third-place votes to just outpace Winthrop, which tallied 130 points.

The reigning Big South regular season and tournament champions, UNC Asheville, received 16 of the 19 possible first-place votes. Winthrop and High Point accounted for the final two.

On the women's side of the room, the Lady Highlanders were selected to finish tied for second with Presbyterian among

the nine Big South institutions. High Point owns the top spot in the league's preseason poll with eight first place votes while Presbyterian also received one first place vote.

Radford's second-place selection is their highest preseason ranking since also being selected to finish second prior to the 2020-21 season. Radford has now been placed in the top-five of the Big South preseason poll in seven of their last 10 preseason polls.

The 2023-24 season is quickly

approaching and will tip-off at home on November 6 against Concord at 7 p.m. on ESPN+.

The Lady High's sophomore Ashlyn Traylor-Walker was named to the preseason first team.

Traylor-Walker had a record-breaking first season with Radford appearing in all 31 games and starting in 28 totaling 885 minutes. Her 405 points and 13.1 ppg were best on the team and ranked

See Poll, page 8

## High Point women, UNC-A heavy Big South favorites

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Voters at this week's Big South Media Day in Charlotte, North Carolina, feel High Point's women's basketball team will win this year's conference title and UNC-Asheville is the favorite on the men's side.

High Point, the 2023 Big South Runner-up, finished with 80 points and eight of the nine

first-place votes from the voting panel of women's coaches. The Panthers return two starters and eight letterwinners from the 2022-23 squad that played in the WNIT and are the preseason favorite for the third consecutive year and fourth time overall.

Presbyterian College

and Radford tied for second in the women's poll with 61 points each.

UNC-Asheville is the preseason favorite for the first time since 2017-18, as the voting panel of head coaches and media bestowed 16 first-place votes and 166 total points upon the defending Big South champions.

Asheville returns four starters and eight letterwinners from a squad

that won a school-record 27 overall games last season as well as a 16-2 mark in Big South contests. This is the sixth time that the Bulldogs are the Big South's men's basketball preseason favorite, as the five previous times were 1989-90, 1997-98, 2002-03, 2011-12 and 2017-18.

Other notes from Big South media day:

UNC Asheville forward Drew Pember (Knoxville, Tenn.) has unanimously been voted the 2023-24 Big South Conference Men's Basketball Preseason Player of the Year by the league's head coaches and media panel, it was announced this morning. Pember is the first Big South student-athlete to be voted Preseason Player of the Year in back-to-back seasons since Chris Clemons from 2017-19.

Pember was the 2022-23 Big South Player of the Year and Defensive Player of the Year, and earned Collegeinsider.com Lou Henson and Lute Olson All-America honors, as well as All-District distinction from the USBWA and NABC.

The Knoxville, Tenn.,

native became the first player in Big South history to lead the league in scoring (20.9), rebounds (9.1) and blocked shots (2.3) in the same season, and was the national leader in free throws made with a Big South single-season record 266. Pember recorded three 40-point outings -- including a school-record 48 points against Presbyterian on Jan. 25 that was the most scored in a Division I game last year.

The 2021-22 Big South Defensive Player of the Year led the Bulldogs to the Big South regular-season and tournament championships, and was voted Tournament MVP after averaging 29.7 points and 11.3 rebounds in the Bulldogs' three-game run to the title. Pember received all 19 first-place votes and 190 total points in the voting to earn the top spot on the preseason All-Conference team.

High Point guard Lauren Bevis (High Point, N.C.) has been voted the 2023-24 Big South Conference Women's Basketball Preseason Player of the Year by the

league's head coaches, it was announced this morning. Bevis is the first player from High Point to receive the conference's top preseason honor since Skyler Curran in 2021-22.

Bevis starred at Gardner-Webb last season and turned in a First-Team All-Conference campaign as part of the Runnin' Bulldogs' run to the Big South regular-season and tournament championships. The graduate transfer ranked second in the conference last year with 15.7 points overall, and upped her average to 17.7 in Big South contests.

Bevis was the Big South's top three-point shooter in 2022-23 at 40.9 percent as well as 97 made threes, and added a 41.5 overall field goal clip and 85.6 percentage from the charity stripe (77-of-90). She brings career totals of 1,389 points, 259 three-pointers and an 85.4 free throw percentage to the Panthers this season. Bevis received seven first-place votes and 79 points in the voting to earn the top spot on the preseason All-Conference team.

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Senior Hollybrook Cline bumps the ball up on a return to start the Bobcats' offense in a 25-19;25-9;25-17 win over Floyd County. Cline had 15 digs and five kills in the contest. Mattox Adams collected 34 assists and 16 digs.



Senior Kathryn Price goes up high to spike the ball in Radford's 3-0 win Tuesday night.

## Radford downs Floyd in volleyball



Radford Abby Hodock tosses the ball for her serve to start the point against Floyd.



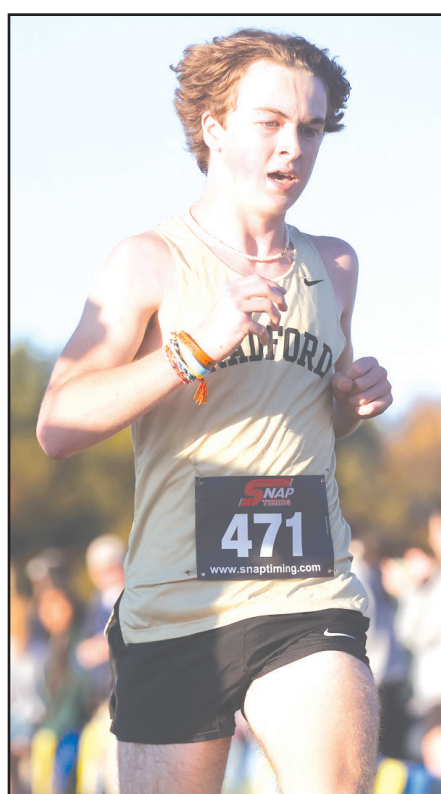
Senior Lilee Hurst gets air to go up and power the ball back to the visiting Buffaloes.

PHOTOS BY BRYANT ALTIZER

## Blacksburg hosts XXC Invitational



Blacksburg's Reese Bradbury (center) leads Radford's Reagan Bryant and Eastern Montgomery's Aija McHone during the first half of the cross-country meet. The competitors finished third, 11th, and 13th respectively.



Jacob Rupe placed 80th for the Radford Bobcats on Wednesday at the Metro Invitational.



Radford's Olivia Close races in the Metro Invitational.

PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING

## Poll

from page 7

top-five in the Big South. The newcomer became the first freshman at Radford to total 400 points and 100 assists in their debut season.

Traylor-Walker was also named Big South Freshman of the Week seven times, a program record and second-most in Big South history. She is the reigning Big South Freshman of the Year and was also named the VaSID

Freshman of the Year.

Also, the men's DaQuan Smith and Bryan Antoine were tabbed for the First Team All-Big South Preseason Team,

Smith racked up awards at the end of last season, being named to the NABC All-District 3 Second Team, VaSID All-State Second Team and All-Big South Second Team. The dynamic

guard played in all 36 games, averaging 13.9 points on 40.4% shooting, as well as 3.3 rebounds, 1.7 assists and 1.0 steals per game.

Antoine played in and started 31 games for Radford last season, averaging 11.4 points per game on 47.9% shooting and a 42.1% three-point clip en route to a All-Big South Honorable Mention accolade. The highly touted

wing added 2.9 rebounds and 1.4 assists per contests while swiping a team-high 52 steals.

This year marks the first time Radford has been represented on the preseason all-conference teams since Carlik Jones (First Team) and Travis Fields Jr. (Second Team) were voted on prior to the 2018-19 season. It is also the first time two Highlanders have made the First Team

since Art Parakhouski and Joey Lynch-Flohr did it in 2009-10.

Now entering the program's third season under Head Coach Darris Nichols, Radford is coming off a 21-win season in 2022-23. Last year's campaign featured a third-place finish in the regular season and a trip to the Big South Tournament semifinals.

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