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Police chief addresses homelessness at city council meeting

Heather Bell
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RADFORD – Radford Interim Police Chief Jerry Holdaway says his department is using a community policing approach to address homelessness in the city.

At the Sept. 25 meeting of the Radford City Council, Holdaway said his department has altered their response to citizen complaints about homeless individuals and is working with community agencies, such as New River Community Action (NRCA), to link up people without a home with resources that can help them.

“We want what’s best for our citizens,” said Holdaway. “Previously, if we responded to a citizen complaint and there was no mental health issue or criminal complaint, we would just clear them out and move onto the next call. This new model includes collecting data and passing it along to agencies that can help. We’re using it as an opportunity to provide services for them within our community.”

“This gives us a chance to invest in a societal approach instead of just a basic law enforcement standard,” he continued. “We are not the only agency facing this problem, but I like to think we are the spearhead, where other jurisdictions are just dealing with it, we are actually trying to implement a model that is going to evolve and get something moving in the right direction.”

Holdaway said the department and NRCA are in the process of completing a resource card to give to people in need

to let them know of the help that is available to them. He said officers, along with NRCA personnel, recently went out around the city at 4:30 a.m. to count and communicate with homeless individuals and made contact with eight people, but he said the numbers fluctuate and it is often difficult to make contact with them. Radford Mayor David Horton lauded the department for its efforts.

“This is a huge challenge and I know that a lot of homeless people are transient many times and come and stay here for a time and then may go to another community so it’s always hard to capture the number [of homeless individuals at any one time],” said Horton. “We really appreciate the work you all are doing, and I think this is the right approach to start building some channels for communication and start helping folks find that there are resources.”

Vice Mayor Seth Gillespie agreed. “I think this is a good, proactive approach,” he said. “You can’t arrest your way out of homelessness. To take this approach and really try to get to the bottom of some answers, I really appreciate.”

“This is just part of the ongoing community policing efforts, led by Sergeant [Emily] Hite,” added Horton. The work she and the whole team have done has just been remarkable.”

The Radford City Council’s next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, Oct. 9 at 7 p.m. in the Radford Administration Building, located at 10 Robertson St., Radford.



PHOTO BY ETHAN BELL

Celtic band Syr, a member of which is pictured here at the 2022 festival, is one of two headlining bands for this year’s Highlanders Festival.

Radford Highlanders Festival set for Oct. 14

RADFORD - The Radford Highlanders Festival is scheduled for Oct. 14, 2023 on the campus of Radford University, with the main activities on Moffett Quad.

The festival features the crowd-favorite Scottish Heavyweight Games, sheepherding, live entertainment, food, vendors, and festivities for all

ages. The festival is a partnership between Radford University and the City of Radford.

“Whether a family’s background is of Scots-Irish origin or of other descent, the day always brings with it an air of excitement and anticipation,” a description of the festival reads. “There is no place more beautiful than Southwest Virginia

in the fall and the Blue Ridge Mountains provide a beautiful back-drop for the fall festival.”

The festival is open to the general public with free admission.

The Radford Highlanders Festival began in the mid-1990s with an approximate crowd of 3,000. Over

See Festival, page 4

Business students, employers put supply and demand into practice at Firm Night

At the heart of Firm Night, the annual networking forum held by the Davis College of Business and Economics, lies a very basic concept, and a fitting one at that.

“All we’re really doing is commingling supply and demand,” said Associate Professor of Accounting Mike Chatham, who co-coordinated this year’s event, now in its 17th year.

“The demand is that these firms need either interns or full-time employees or both. And we have a great supply of accounting majors and other business students,” Chatham said.

Sponsored by the Department of Accounting, Finance and Business Law, Firm Night took place Sept. 14 in Kyle Hall’s third-floor conference room and hosted representatives from 25 companies who met with more than 60 students.

The more than two dozen organizations

that attended ranged from accounting firms (such as Brown Edwards & Company; Ernst & Young; FORVIS; Keiter CPAs; Robinson, Farmer, Cox Associates and many others) to banking (including Carter Bank & Trust, Freedom First Credit Union and Truist) to government entities (such as the Auditor of Public Accounts, Internal Revenue Service and the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency) to business and industry (Food City, Kollmorgen and more).

Next year’s event will further expand to include information systems firms.

“They’ll bring a whole new set of prospective recruiters, and that’ll be a cool overlap,” Chatham noted.

One Highlander who attended Firm Night this year was Reyna Osuna, an accounting major from Galax.

A first-generation college student, Osuna

likes to plan ahead. She took a year off after high school to do basic training with the Army. Now a Radford University junior, she’s also a reservist with three years of service under her belt, and she’s also in ROTC.

Though not yet ready to graduate, Osuna said she applied for internships in the hope of gaining experience in accounting.

“I’m curious what a workday as an accountant would look like, especially for auditors, because that’s what I’m interested in,” she said. “I feel like seeing that through an internship would definitely help me get my mind straight on what I want to do.”

Two of the representatives who returned to the fair are Radford alums now with PBMares, an accounting, tax and consulting firm, and they were seeking to

See Firm Night, page 4



PHOTO COURTESY OF SINKLAND FARMS

The Sinkland Farms pumpkin patch has thousands of pumpkins for visitors to choose from.

Sinkland Farms Pumpkin Festival now underway

Acres of pumpkins, gourds, squash, and sunflowers are ready to escort families near and far into everyone’s favorite season.

The annual Pumpkin Festival, now in its 32nd year, is the premiere local destination for fall festivities unlike anywhere else. The traditional fall harvest brings out the best of farm life during this not-to-miss event.

There is something for everyone. Take a hayride to the pumpkin patch to pick out your own “great” pumpkin, make your way through a five-acre corn maze or visit the farm animals. There will also be horseback trail rides, pony rides, a huge kid’s zone with giant slides, games, a kid-friendly zip, a barrel train ride, plus a new 150-foot-long Super Mega Ride-n-Slide, Jumper Pad, and Spider Climber.

Enjoy local live music and A-Capella groups while sipping craft beer and wine on the terrace. Watch pig racing, and savor delights from visiting food trucks. There will be many artists and crafters ready to entice you with hand-crafted goods. For a sweet treat, enjoy hand-dipped ice cream and, of course, Sinkland’s extra special kettle

korn. The Cottage Shoppe will be stocked full of seasonal treats and gifts.

The HokieBird, the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets marching band, the Highty-Tighties, and many more entertainers will be making special appearances.

The Pumpkin Festival began Sept. 30 and runs five weekends plus a Wine Festival on the sixth weekend, Nov. 4-5. It is open on Saturdays and Sundays, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Remaining dates include:
October 7 and 8 – Amateur Dog Show with prizes
October 28 – Super Hero Costume Day

October 29 – Gearheads for a Cause Car Show will sponsor a Trunk & Treat event and a Kids Halloween Costume Contest
October 29 – Hokie Spirit Day with the Highty Tighties VT Regimental Band, VT Spirit Squad, and Hokie Bird

November 4/5 – Wine Festival with all the Pumpkin Festival Activities
Sinkland Farms has been voted the

See Pumpkin, page 4



PHOTO COURTESY OF RADFORD UNIVERSITY

Firm Night, held at Radford University’s Davis College, brings together students and employers each year.

NRCC's Fletcher Gallery to host art gallery show

New River Community College will host an art gallery, "Heavy Metal Apocalypse pARTy," by Pulaski artist Dave Rupe. The art is on display now and will be on display until December 15 at the Fletcher Gallery in Godbey Hall on NRCC's campus in Dublin. An artist talk and reception with Rupe is scheduled for Thursday, October 5 from noon to 2 p.m. in the Fletcher Gallery. "What is Art? To me all art is communication with the invisible world," said Rupe. "We are all spiritual beings who have a divine individual experience in physicality. Every machine, building,

landfill...it's all art in my opinion. From Mozart to a child's crayon drawing, it's all magic as well. If you ask me, a human's purpose simply is to live out loud." Rupe grew up in Pulaski and graduated from Bridgewater College in 1994, where he obtained a bachelor's degree in studio art. He attended graduate school at Radford University in 1995, and that same year he joined the Army where he served in Bosnia. He has been in numerous solo and group shows in the New River Valley and Virginia since 1994. Gallery hours are Mondays and Wednesdays from 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays on request (ext. 3646), and Fridays from 10 a.m.- noon. More information is available by contacting Tammy Parks at (540) 674-3600 ext. 4468 or tparks@nr.edu.

Submitted by NRCC



PHOTO COURTESY OF RADFORD UNIVERSITY
Radford University Carilion students to the Roanoke Higher Education Center (RHEC) in December.

RUC nursing programs moving to RHEC ahead of spring 2024 semester

The nursing programs at Radford University Carilion (RUC) in Roanoke will be moving from Carilion Roanoke Community Hospital to the Roanoke Higher Education Center (RHEC) in December 2023. Nursing students will begin classes at RHEC in January 2024 at the beginning of the spring semester. This move

See Nursing, page 6

ONLINE AUCTION Ends Thursday, October 26th at 4 PM Wooded Tract of Land for Sale in Christiansburg VA TBD Mud Pike Rd., Christiansburg, VA 24073 Bid Now at VAAuctionPro.com



Check out this great opportunity to own a large tract of land just outside the Town of Christiansburg in Montgomery County. This +/- 5.13 acre property features public utilities and a newly completed survey. It has over 485' of frontage on Mud Pike Rd. The tract is mostly wooded. A1 zoning gives property multiple potential uses.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF NRCC

New River Community College will host an art gallery, "Heavy Metal Apocalypse pARTy," by Pulaski artist Dave Rupe.

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

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, Oct. 7:

National Solar Event at Warm Hearth Village

At the Warm Hearth Village Center, 2387 Warm Hearth Dr.; 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Organized by village residents in cooperation with Sustainable Blacksburg. Showcase of solar technologies, home energy efficiency improvements and electric powered vehicles, bikes, trikes and scooters. Practical applications and advice in solar technology. Learn how you can save money and help the environment at the same time. Exhibitors include local solar installers, homeowners, energy efficiency evaluation and building experts, electric vehicle owners and community organizations working to encourage the use of these technologies. In addition to exhibitors at the WHV Village Center, a home will also be on the tour and attendees will be able to see solar panels, battery electric vehicle (BEV) charger and energy monitoring system as well as plans for energy storage.

Grownup Board Game Club

At the Radford Public Library; 2 – 4:30 p.m. Bring a friend, bring a game, or just bring yourself! Come play board games with us at the library. You can pick a game from our collection or bring something from home and teach us how to play!

Sunday, Oct. 8:

Fire Prevention Week Open House

Fire Prevention Week is October 8 – 14, 2023. Join the Blacksburg Volunteer Fire Department for an Open House on October 8 from 1 – 4pm. See fire trucks and equipment displays and learn about fire safety and prevention. This Open House will be held at Fire Station #3, located at 407 Hubbard St., Blacksburg.

Monday, Oct. 9:

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. 10:

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.

Radford City School Board meeting

The Radford City School Board will convene for its regular meeting at 6 p.m., to be held at the School Administration Building, 1612 Wadsworth St. The agenda for the meeting can be viewed at www.rcps.org.

Wednesday, Oct. 11:

CommUNITY Yoga for Self-Care for Adults

At the Radford Public Library; 5:45- 6:45 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 mediation 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. 14:

Radford Highlanders Festival

On the campus of Radford University, Moffett Quad; 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Live music, food and craft vendors,

heavy Scottish games and much more.

Tuesday, Oct. 17:

Central Business Committee Meeting

The Christiansburg Central Business District Committee will meet at 5:30 p.m. in the Administrative Conference Room of Christiansburg Town Hall.

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.

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, 3204 Riner Rd. Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) are also invited to this meeting. For further information, please call 540-320-4315 or 540-239-9864.

On-going:

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

See Events, page 6

THE FINCASTLE HERALD The Vinton Messenger THE NEW CASTLE RECORD SALEM TIMES REGISTER News Messenger RADFORD News Journal

<p>Legals - Montgomery County</p> <p>NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION</p> <p>Pursuant to the provisions of Section 15.2-2204 & 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, the Montgomery County Planning Commission hereby gives notice of a public hearing to be held on October 11, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Christiansburg, Virginia, in order to hear citizen comments regarding the Planning Commission's intention to act on the following request:</p> <p>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</p>	<p>Legals - Montgomery County</p> <p>March 11, 2019. The proposed amendments would allow for the construction of singlefamily attached dwellings (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 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</p>	<p>Legals - Montgomery County</p> <p>Route 1145). The property is further identified as Tax Map Numbers 052-A-32, 52-1-20, 52-A4A, 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 an area designated as Village Expansion in the 2025 Montgomery County Comprehensive Plan, and is further identified as LowDensity 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/pendingapplications</p> <p>ADVERTISE!</p>	<p>Legals - Montgomery County</p> <p>NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS</p> <p>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 10, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Christiansburg, Virginia, in order to hear citizen comments regarding the Board of Supervisors' intention to act on the following Resolution:</p> <p>A resolution adopting the "Transportation Matters" master transportation plan for the County of Montgomery, Virginia to replace the existing transportation chapter of the 2025 Montgomery County Comprehensive Plan. The</p>	<p>Legals - Montgomery County</p> <p>"Transportation Matters" plan provides recommendations to improve transportation infrastructure, increase safety, expand public transportation options, and strengthen funding applications for transportation projects throughout the unincorporated areas of Montgomery County. Copies of the "Transportation Matters" plan 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/pendingapplications.</p>	<p>Legals - Montgomery County</p> <p>NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION</p> <p>Pursuant to the provisions of Section 15.2-2204 & 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, the Montgomery County Planning Commission hereby gives notice of a public hearing to be held on October 11, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Christiansburg, Virginia, in order to hear citizen comments regarding the Planning Commission's intention to act on the following Special Use Permit request:</p> <p>A request by Harvey Morris & Susan R. Cochran for a Special Use Permit (SUP) to allow a Contractor's Storage Yard within the A-1, Agricultural Zoning District. The property is located at the end of Rustic Trail (Private Rd) which</p>	<p>Legals - Montgomery County</p> <p>intersects with Peppers Ferry Road (St. Rt. 114). The property is further identified as Tax Map 076-18 (Parcel ID: 018773), 37.220 acres, zoned Agricultural (A-1) in the Riner Magisterial District. The property currently lies in an area designated as Rural in the 2025 Comprehensive 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/pendingapplications.</p>
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Christiansburg Huckleberry Trail Park provides entertainment and exercise for all ages

Lori Graham
Contributing writer

CHRISTIANSBURG - The Christiansburg Huckleberry Trail Park, located at 300 Peppers Ferry Rd. and just past the Uptown Christiansburg mall, is a 50-acre all-inclusive park packed with fun for all ages.

Designed for best practices for play and recreation, the playground equipment, obstacle course, dog park, mindfulness relaxation area, splash pad, picnic pavilions, restroom facilities, and multipurpose playing fields invite local and visiting families and individuals to exercise or just relax in the outdoor environment.

Christiansburg recreational sports are one attraction for the park, as local children can have practices and play games on the multipurpose fields.

"It's a large, inclusive park with a lot of amenities and well landscaped," Bobbie Moulton of Christiansburg said.

Moulton's son plays recreation football at the park.

"There are lots of walking spaces, and the turf is nice," Moulton said. "Some basketball courts would be a welcomed addition."

The park also provides a place for homeschooled children to play or meet up with other families for

See Park, page 6



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF CHRISTIANSBURG PARKS AND RECREATION

Pumpkin from page 1

Best Pumpkin Patch in Virginia, the Best Farm to Visit, a Most Unique Festival, a Virginia Top 10 Epic Wedding Venue, and Best Special Event Venue for parties, reunions, dances, and corporate events. Celebrate your family tradition at the Sinkland Farms Pumpkin Festival!

For more information and to purchase tickets: sinklandfarms.com.

- Sinkland Farms



PHOTO COURTESY OF SINKLAND FARMS

Live music is part of the fun at the Sinkland Farms during the annual Pumpkin Festival, now underway.

Firm Night from page 1

recruit employees as well as an incoming crop of interns.

"Our summer internship program has a mix of tax and audit work," said senior accountant and supervisor Shannon Sparger '16.

Todd Swisher '94, who's a partner at PBMares, was particularly optimistic about the possibilities

now open to accounting majors.

"The opportunities in accounting are currently off the charts. I don't know of an accounting firm that's really fully staffed, that isn't looking for staff," Swisher said. "If you're willing to come in and do some work, the path upward in a public accounting firm right now

is wide open. You can write your own ticket."

Swisher's forecast connects soundly with the supply and demand concept put forth by Chatham, and it's also the kind of news the Firm Night coordinator relishes. "For professors in my area, and for me personally," Chatham explained, "the greatest

joy comes from a student walking into your office saying they got a job."

As the event moves steadily toward marking two full decades, Firm Night seems fully dedicated to seeing that particular goal consistently fulfilled.

Neil Harvey for Radford University

Festival from page 1

the past 25 years, the festival has more than tripled in size, and now attracts an estimated crowd of 10,000 people.

Two bands are the headliners for this year's festival. They are:

Albannach, which is Scots-Gaelic for "Scottish" or "Scotsman". Albannach is comprised of two Scotsmen and one Scottish lass, all born and bred in Scotland, plus one American born Scot and an Irishman. "Our

main purpose in life is to share our intriguing culture, history and heritage with you by means of our music," says the band.

SYR (sire) is a Celtic Folk Rock band from Columbia, SC. Taking inspiration from Celtic history, stories and myth, SYR creates powerful songs with themes of battle, love and victory, celebrating the rich heritage of the Celtic Nations in a contemporary style with broad audience appeal.

SYR's reputation for a high-energy performance has made them a popular attraction for many Celtic festivals and events, building a following across the US and internationally. Their much anticipated third album releases this year.

Radford News Journal staff report

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

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Crossword puzzle grid with numbered squares for clues.

- CLUES ACROSS
1. Flat-topped hill
5. Move upward
11. Admiration
14. It's useful for serving food
15. Kidnap
18. One of the Greek Muses
19. A type of media
21. Screenshot rating
23. Former Michigan coach Brady
24. German town devastated in WW2
28. Gasteyer and Ortiz are two
29. Leave
30. Forearm bone
32. Very fast airplane
33. Helps little firms
35. Defunct economic organization
36. Science-based students organization (abbr.)
39. Feels ill
41. Indicates position
42. Beverage containers
44. Assists
46. Science accreditation organization (abbr.)
47. Purpose
49. Group of elected officials
52. Hebrew prophet
56. They help you drink
58. Lawmaker
60. Charitable
62. Doctrines
63. Footwear
CLUES DOWN
1. Where wrestlers work
2. Duelling sword
3. Practice fight
4. Genus of clams
5. Fear of heights
6. What some tell their dog
7. The Golden State
8. When you expect to get there
9. Pointed ends
10. Extinct flightless bird
12. Feeds
13. Nape of neck
16. Descendant
17. Small boats found in Turkey
20. To avoid the risk of
22. Athlete with no contract (abbr.)
25. 13th letter of the Greek alphabet
26. Brew
27. Feeling of anxiety
29. Young girls group
31. Perform on stage
34. White clerical vestment
36. Popular musical awards show
37. Bumpkins
38. One who acts on another's behalf
40. Direction
43. Look at with fixed eyes
45. One who helps professors (abbr.)
48. A large number of
50. Type of powder
51. Large jug
53. ___ Christian Anderson, children's author
54. American state
55. Muslim inhabitant of the Philippines
57. Witness
58. Landscapers lay it
59. Type of bread
61. Of I

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OBITUARIES

Baylor, Fannie Belle Chatten

Fannie Belle Chatten Baylor, 79, passed away Tuesday, Oct. 3, 2023.

She retired from Virginia Tech where she was a kitchen manager, and a member of First Baptist Church on Rock Road. She was preceded in death by her parents, Allie and Hattie Chatten; husband, Donald Lee Baylor, Sr.; brother, Allie Man Chatten, Jr.; and sisters, Diane Chatten and Syrthra Chatten.

Those left to cherish her memory are her sons and daughter-in-law, Donald Lee, Jr. and Linda Baylor, and Datoma Baylor; grandchildren Donald Lee Baylor III, Brittany Dawn-Leigh Breckenridge, Deion Lattrell Baylor, Samira Baylor, and Selena Baylor; great grandchildren



Kylie Baylor, Audrey Revin, Wrenly Baylor, and Shalen Baylor; brother, Joseph Chatten; sisters and brother-in-law, Louise Cummins Law and Phillip, Rhonda Wray, and Ledale Chatten; and many nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Graveside services will be held at 2:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 12, 2023, at Roselawn Memorial Gardens in Christiansburg with Rev. Hiawatha Spragins and Deacon James Baylor officiating.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Radford Health and Rehab.

The Baylor family cares for the Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford.

Caldwell, Thelma Robinson

Thelma Robinson Caldwell, 94, passed away at her home Aug. 10, 2023 after a long battle with cancer. There will be a Celebration

of Life Oct. 21, 2023 at 1 p.m. to honor her. The celebration will be at the Robinson Cemetery in Blacksburg.

McCoy, Terry Wayne

Terry Wayne McCoy, 72, passed away peacefully at home Oct. 1, 2023, after a courageous two-year battle with a rare form of kidney cancer.

He was preceded in death by his father, Bryce J. McCoy, and his mother, Frances A. McGhee.

Terry wore many hats in his family. His most important and beloved hat was as half of the team that he and his wife of 53 years, Brenda, made. They often finished each other's sentences and you rarely saw one without the other. Together, they provided a loving and supportive



home where their family learned the value of honesty, hard work, and being open to new things. He was Dad to his son, Travis and daughter, Tracy, and their spouses, Tammy and Andy. He was Gramps to his four grandchildren, Carmen and Sarah McCoy, and Jack and Drew Johnson. His immediate family also knew him as Mr. Goodwrench, as there was never a problem he couldn't resolve. He was brother to Danny and wife, Sandra McCoy, and brother-in-law to Debbie and husband, Cliff Farlow. He was a

Send community news and photos to communitynews@ourvalley.org

See Obituaries, 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.sttfc.org for mid-week masses and events. (In Roanoke, go E on Hershberger, L on Hubert to 4910).

BAPTIST

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

First Baptist Church on 3rd Ave., 215 Third Ave at the corner with Downey St. We nurture meaningful connections to God and others through worship, spiritual growth, and community ministry. We celebrate the dignity and worth of all persons, created in the image of God. Sunday Bible Study Groups - 9:45, Sunday Worship - 11:00. Website: 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: clcradford.org.

Radford

WORSHIP DIRECTORY

Almighty God

Read Genesis 40:1 through 41:57

Joseph spent two years in a dungeon after interpreting the dreams of Pharaoh's cupbearer. Joseph had asked this man to mention him to the king upon being reinstated, but, as each day dragged on, no communication came from the Pharaoh. When Pharaoh had a dream and told it to all his wise men, no one could interpret it. The cupbearer finally remembered Joseph and told Pharaoh about him.

So Pharaoh sent for Joseph, and he was quickly brought from the dungeon. When he had shaved and changed his clothes, he came before Pharaoh (Genesis 41:14).

Joseph was going to be taken into the presence of the nation's highest ruler. His first order of business was to make himself presentable. His prison clothing and his haggard appearance were hardly appropriate to stand before royalty. Joseph prepared to see the king, honoring the authority and majesty of Pharaoh.

We have the privilege of an audience at any time with our King, Jesus Christ. May we never forget His majesty or approach Him with less than honor and adoration.

Thought for Today: Consider the majesty of God.

Quicklook: Genesis 41:1-14

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@stmlc.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

Park from page 4



East children, Stella (11), Elsie (9), Vayda (6), and Oakley (4), enjoy a fun soccer game at the park.



PHOTOS BY LORI GRAHAM

Christiansburg Trail Park offers amenities such as restroom facilities and picnic areas to visiting families and individuals.

community interaction and socialization opportunities.

"We really enjoy it because, where we homeschool, we can come here any time during the day and let the kids play and be outside and enjoy the nice weather. The facilities are really, really nice," Sarah East said. "They really like the obstacle course, and they love this soccer game."

The soccer pad is an electronic, interactive game that children can play by kicking the ball into a square that lights up in different colors. To score points, children have to hit the appropriate color that matches up with the colored triangles while still defending their own goal.

"Here, it is very good for kids of all ages; big kids, little kids," East said. "They also have a thing where you can race and do a 40-yard dash and it times you and tells you how fast you ran."

The mom of four girls shares that the splash pad is a lot of fun for kids as well but encourages parents to remember to bring extra clothes because children love to get wet.

The water for the splash pad is not circulated producing fresh, clean water for children to run and splash through. The water facility is cleaned with eco-friendly solutions according to conveniently

located fact sheets found on the fence line near the splash pad. Additional information about the cleaning and maintenance of the attraction is also provided on the fact sheet.

The park hosts special events for the community and visitors to the area as well.

On Oct. 28, the Christiansburg Recreation Department will be hosting Getting Scary on the Huckleberry with a trunk or treat event, 5K race, games, activities, and of course, candy. The Recreation department encourages everyone to come dressed in a favorite costume with the event kicking off at 9 a.m. with trick or treating and the kids' fun run/walk. The 5k will follow immediately after the fun run. The kids run is free for ages 10 and under, and the 5K is \$30 for ages 9 and older.

A bonus for race participants will be pumpkin pancakes.

On Nov. 5, 2-5:30 p.m., the Huckleberry Fall Hat Tournament 2023 will take place. It is an ultimate Frisbee competition. The event is free, and participants should bring cleats, a dark and a white shirt, and water. Registration can be found on the Christiansburg Parks and Recreation Facebook page.

Nursing from page 2

will only include nursing programs at RUC. This move will not impact nursing students on the main campus in Radford.

All graduate and undergraduate (junior/senior level) nursing faculty and students in levels 1 - 4 (upper division) and courses will be moving. First-year and sophomore nursing students will remain at RUC for all freshman- and sophomore-level courses, including pathophysiology.

After the move, nursing students learning at RHEC will still have the same access to RUC as they do now,

Office of Student Affairs services like counseling, accommodations, housing and wellness services, as well as those offered by the Highlander Success Center, like tutoring, peer academic coaching and writing assistance. Those students will also be welcome to attend all programs, events and activities available to students at RUC.

The move to RHEC, located at 108 N. Jefferson St. in Roanoke, allows for additional instructional space for high-impact practices focused on student success, including laboratories and

classrooms. Additionally, the Radford School of Nursing Clinical Simulation Center in Roanoke is located at RHEC on the first floor.

There is an increased demand for new nursing graduates, and the Radford University School of Nursing is dedicated to helping meet that demand while providing students with an engaging and interactive educational experience. The move will allow us to enroll more students in the nursing programs.

Mark Lambert for Radford University

Events from page 3

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.

Obituaries from page 5

and well-respected friend to extended family, classmates, and co-workers.

Terry was a proud retiree of Volvo Trucks North America with over 40 years of dedicated service. He served in the National Guard for 11 years where he retired with the rank of Staff Sergeant. He was also a member of Dublin United Methodist Church. He loved to travel, an exciting NASCAR race, a good book, and tackling any kind of home project with Brenda.

A service of celebration of Terry's life will be held at Dublin United Methodist Church Saturday, Oct. 7, at 2 p.m. Visitation will be held for family

NRV Master Gardener Assoc. accepting grant applications for 2024

NRV Master Gardener Assoc., a volunteer organization of the Virginia Cooperative Extension, is accepting grant applications for 2024 gardening projects. Grants awarded based on merit to educational, care-giving or community organization seeking to educate, involve, and/or improve quality of life through a gardening-related project. Organizations in the counties of Floyd, Giles, Pulaski and Montgomery (and towns within), and the City of Radford, are eligible. Applications must be electronically received (if emailed) or postmarked (if mailed through the USPS) by Oct. 15, 2023. Extra pages may be used for plan images/ illustrations. For more information and to submit your project application, contact Carol Trutt: nrvmastergardenerassoc@gmail.com. Email is preferred or mail to Carol Trutt: 95 N Surry Circle, Christiansburg, VA 24073.

and friends before the service, 1-2 p.m.

The family would like to thank friends, extended family, Blue Ridge Cancer Center, Carilion Clinic Home Care, and associated medical teams for their unwavering support during the past two years. Special gratitude to Dr. Michael McCormack and the oncology department at Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist in Winston Salem, N.C. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations be made to Dublin United Methodist Church at PO Box 577, Dublin, VA 24084.

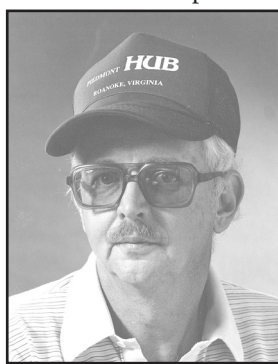
The McCoy family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford.

Osborne, Jeffrey Wayne

Jeffrey Wayne Osborne, 81, of Radford, passed away Sunday, Oct. 1, 2023.

He retired from the Radford Army Ammunitions Plant. He was preceded in death by his parents, John and Eudora Osborne; sister, Janice Snell; and nephew, Brian Jones.

Survivors include his wife, Peggy DeHart Osborne; daughters, Belinda Davis (George), and Wendy Osborne (William Weaver); son, Greg Osborne (Melissa); seven grandchildren; 10 great grandchildren; and many other relatives and friends.



Special thanks to caregiver and granddaughter, Majesta Osborne, for her continued care until the end.

The family will receive friends 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 7, 2023, at Bain Chapel Pentecostal Holiness Church. Memorial services will follow with Pastor Jordan Myers officiating.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to the Wounded Warrior Project.

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

Wilson, Joan Ethel

Joan Ethel Wilson, 89, of Dublin, passed away Tuesday, Oct. 3, 2023. She was a member of the Bethel Assembly of God in Sycamore, Ill. and attended Heritage Church in Dublin. She retired from NIU after 15 years of service and was a professional dog groomer. Joan was preceded in death by her parents, Revs. Charles G. Friedley and Lillian G. Friedley; her husband, Vernon Douglas Wilson; and sister, Betty Elliot.

Survivors include her daughters,

April Johnson (Nathan), and Cynthia Wilson; son, Mike Wilson (Judy); grandchildren, Tawnya, Joshua, Jonathon, Justin, and Zachery; four great grandchildren; sister, Lillian Hyre; and many other relatives and friends.

The family will receive friends 5 - 7 p.m. Monday, Oct. 9, 2023, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services will begin at 7 p.m.

The Wilson family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home in Radford.

Radford City Council to meet Monday

RADFORD - The Radford City Council will hold its regularly scheduled meeting this Monday, Oct. 9, 2023 at 7 p.m. at the Radford Administration Building, 10 Robertson St.

Items on the agenda include:

- Citizen comments on public matters
- Proclamation: Rick Cormany
- Old business: Vacation of Right of Way (110 Tyler Avenue), Ordinance 1794, Vacation of Right of Way (52 Walker Street), and Ordinance 1795.
- New business: update on Equipment Surplus List, Appropriation Ordinance 1787.12 (\$12,000 - VSP Heat Reimbursement), Appropriation Ordinance 1787.13 (\$38,015 - Library State Aid), Appropriation Ordinance 1787.14 (\$204,683 - P.Y. 23 CDBG Allocation), city manager comments, and council member comments.

From www.radfordva.gov

**RADFORD CITY
GENERAL ELECTION
INFORMATION
November 7, 2023**

Senate of Virginia - 5th District
Virginia House of Delegates - 42nd District

Voter Registration Deadline:
Monday, October 16, 2023

Final day to apply for an Absentee Ballot by mail:
Friday, October 27, 2023 at 5pm

The polls will be open on Election Day
from 6am - 7pm

**In-Person Early Voting at the
Radford City Office of Elections**
619 2nd St. Room 143 Radford, VA. 24141
September 22 - November 3 from 8:30am - 5pm

In addition, we will be open from 9am to 5pm
Saturday, October 28, 2023 and
Saturday, November 4, 2023

A Ballot Drop Box will be available
outside the Radford City Courthouse
front door through Tuesday, November 7, 2023.
Ballot Drop Boxes will also be available on
Election Day, November 7, 2023
at each polling place.

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

Contact the Radford City Office of Elections
if you have any questions at 540-731-3639 or the
Department of Elections at elections.virginia.gov.

Lindsey H. Williams
Director of Elections/General Registrar

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

Not all viruses are harmful, says Virginia Tech expert

During the COVID-19 pandemic, people became well aware that viruses can be extremely harmful. But can viruses also be helpful?

Bryan Hsu aims to find out by studying viruses that infect bacteria in the bellies of mammals.

Bryan Hsu (at far right) and his team are breaking new ground in their research on the role of viruses in the gut microbiome of mammals. An assistant professor of biological sciences, Hsu was the recipient of a five-year \$1.9 million Maximizing Investigators' Research Award from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences to develop a model to test the role of these lytic bacteriophages, or phages as they are commonly called, in the mammalian gut.

"We think there is some kind of role of phages in the gut, and it is really hard to study because everything is linked," said Hsu, also a faculty affiliate of the Center for Emerging Zoonotic and Arthropod-borne Pathogens. "Normally phages and bacteria are intrinsically linked because you have this constant infection process, and it's really hard to separate the phage particles and bacterial cells."

Many organisms living inside the human body contribute to a healthy gut microbiome, one of which is a virome — a community of phages. These phages are viruses that invade bacterial cells. There are two types: lytic phages that replicate and kill the bacteria cell and temperate phages that hide within it. These phages only infect bacterial cells, but scientists know little more about their actual role in the human gut.

Hsu and his team of researchers in the College of Science plan to remove lytic phages without affecting the bacteria inside a mammalian gut. This has been done in a culture dish but it has not been done inside a mammal.

"We will not only deplete the viral community, but also replenish it to see if it comes back, to see if we can reconstitute the phage community," said Hsu. "There have been a lot of correlations between the gut biome and disease. You see different compositions of viruses so there are hints that there is a relationship there, or there's some kind of health impact. But how it happens is an open question."

Gut microbiomes are generally specific to individual mammals, but when mice are housed together, sharing a cage and bedding contributes to similar microbiomes. Hsu's team will work with two groups of such mice. One group will go through phage depletion protocol and then will be given phages extracted from another group via fecal transplants.

"Real-world application would be fecal virome transplants, just like fecal microbiota transplants except with just the phage part," said Hsu.

Fecal microbiota transplantations are the delivery of a healthy human donor stool to another person via enema, colonoscopy, or capsule. They are generally given for debilitating gastrointestinal infections, such as recurrent *Clostridioides difficile* infection, but the procedure isn't perfect. Bacteria with antibiotic resistant qualities or pathogenic bacteria can be accidentally transplanted.

"Usually screens are supposed to



PHOTO COURTESY OF VIRGINIA TECH

Bryan Hsu (at far right) and his team are breaking new ground in their research on the role of viruses in the gut microbiome of mammals.

catch this, but sometimes they don't," Hsu said.

Hsu pointed to one small study in which the bacteria from the stool transplant was filtered out, yet the fecal microbiota transplants were still successful in treating recurrent *Clostridioides difficile* infection. While the results are only suggestive, they point to the possibility that bacteria are not the only important component in a healthy gut microbiome.

Hsu believes that phages could have played a role in those successful outcomes, as well as other outcomes, by having a positive impact on the overall bacterial community.

Phages may also help with the

growing number of drug-resistant bacteria. In an experimental treatment in 2016 at the University of California, San Diego, doctors successfully used phages to treat a patient with organ failure from an antibiotic resistant bacteria.

Research using these phages to fight drug-resistant bacteria is expanding, but the big picture, the actual role of the phages in the mammalian gut, is still not well known.

"There's no good model to study it, and that's what I propose to do," Hsu said.

Jenise L. Jacques for Virginia Tech



PHOTO COURTESY OF VIRGINIA TECH

Dan Williams, assistant professor of computer science, will spend the next five years exploring ways to modernize the foundation of Linux operating systems under the auspices of a five-year, \$600,000 National Science Foundation CAREER award.

NSF CAREER award invests in the future of stable computing

Every night, uncounted numbers of devices across the globe update their operating systems (OS), and everyday users log on expecting fast, secure connections and services to keep their increasingly online lives moving forward. But as artificial intelligence and other more complex systems come online, the foundation of all them is teetering.

Every aspect of society — from government and industry to education and entertainment — relies on devices with stable operating systems. And every OS relies on a collection of millions of lines of code that underpin its functions. That large and growing collection of code is collectively called "the kernel," and like the seed it is named for, it is essential to financial markets, business and industry, education, government, and national security.

"If it stops working, then nothing will work. The world would pretty much shut down," said Dan Williams, assistant professor of computer science in the College of Engineering.

The problem? The kernel is written in an aging coding language called C and constantly grows bigger and more complex to serve more devices and applications. Meanwhile, fewer computer scientists become interested in working on it.

"It's hard to get students interested in a tangled mess of code written in C when there is so much going on with artificial intelligence and other innovations. But all those innovations rely on the kernel. We need more people

working on it," Williams said.

To further that goal, Williams recently received a five-year, \$600,000 National Science Foundation (NSF) Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) award to explore new ways to stabilize and update the existing Linux kernel — globally one of the most frequently used kernels. The grant also will support educating new generations of computer scientists in the skills needed to work with the kernel.

"Dan Williams' commitment to innovative work on this critical global challenge is emblematic of how our faculty and students lead the way," said Cal Ribbens, head of the Department of Computer Science. "I believe the work his team does will encourage current and future students and faculty to tackle deep technical issues, such as a stable and robust OS kernel."

Freezes and fixes

Part of the operating system of every server, computer, and networked device, the kernel acts like an air traffic controller — making sure software and cloud-based services run without crashing into each other. It sits between the hardware, software, and cloud services that users interact with, managing all communications between them. When a user touches an object on the screen or types on a keypad, it's the kernel that ensures those commands are followed.

"When a computer freezes, that often points to a mistake in the kernel,"

Williams said. "It's working to fix something that went wrong. If it can't fix it, the computer crashes — sometimes taking important data with it."

All those overnight updates your OS does for you? Williams said many of those are fixes to bugs that have cropped up in the kernel. But the updates are bandages. Bugs, viruses, memory shortages, and other issues can slow it down and make the system vulnerable to attacks, like ransomware.

Globally, computing relies on just a handful of kernels, Williams said. A vast swath of devices, including Google, Amazon, and Android, run on the Linux kernel. No matter which OS a system uses, all kernels suffer from similar weaknesses, he said.

According to an analysis conducted in 2021, there are more than 28.8 million lines of code in the Linux OS kernel.

"It is so complex that no one person can understand all its functions," Williams said. "And in some ways, it is mysterious even to those who study it. It's a black box."

Williams spent 10 years at IBM Research testing new ways to fix or replace the Linux kernel. But so many industries and critical government systems rely on it, changes can cause unintended problems. And the stakes are so high that it's functionally impossible to replace it wholesale with a new one.

"The kernel is in many ways too big to fail. And this unchecked kernel complexity has become a significant

Altered Art featured at Fine Arts Gallery

Gallery hosts a unique exhibit featuring the work of talented local artists

A troupe of artists from throughout the New River Valley will present three dozen exotic works recreated from found art and objects, at the Fine Arts Center for the New River Valley.

The show runs from Oct. 13 through Nov. 18 at the center, located at 21 W. Main Street in downtown Pulaski. There is a reception with the artists that is open to the public on Friday, Oct. 20 from 5-7 p.m.

"We are thrilled to be hosting this creative perspective," said Nikki Pynn, gallery committee chair. "Not all art is intended to last forever, but these artists have found a way to give new life by creating new art from art they've found."

The exhibit is organized by local artist, Diane Relf.

"People are excited to be showing off their unusual work," Relf said. The artists use different strategies to create

their new works of art, with some being a recognizable modification to others being an inspired transformation.

Each piece will be displayed with a before image and artist explanation. The show will also include two pieces that visitors will be invited to alter as a collaborative art project throughout the show, perhaps inspiring new art to be created inspired by the show.

The gallery is open Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. The show closes Nov. 18. There is no charge to attend the show. For more information about the exhibit or other programs at the Center, visit the Center's website at FACNRV.org, email at info@FACNRV.org, or call 540-980-7363.

Submitted by the Fine Arts Center for the New River Valley

barrier to entry for students and practitioners to learn or innovate at the kernel level," said Williams. "If this is not addressed, we may lose any hope of improving, securing, or maintaining the essential kernels our society depends on."

A new approach

Two years ago, Williams came to Virginia Tech with an idea for a new approach that could help stabilize the kernel and could also help more students get interested in studying it. Under this NSF CAREER grant, his research team will experiment with building a new open-source extension framework that would target existing weaknesses in the kernel.

The idea is to build these sections of code in the more flexible and robust Rust language and install them as bypasses to problematic sections of the existing kernel. If the approach is successful, adding more extensions could, over time, replace the existing kernel with a better one — without disrupting existing applications and users.

Williams said his lab will work on creating a new model of the kernel for undergraduate and graduate students to experiment with. It could be used in new computer science classes and educational "boot camps." Because anyone can use the open source code the team develops, it could spur more broad interest and experimentation.

The work also could prepare students for internship

opportunities in industry to work on existing kernels in real-world situations.

"Without exposure to the real systems in use today, the number of students qualified and interested in operating systems kernels will fall below what it should be for a piece of software as crucial for society as the OS kernel," Williams said. "Our efforts

on this project can help us reach our educational goals, and the open-source nature of our work will allow those already working in this space to engage in innovative thinking and approaches around OS kernels."

Suzanne Miller for Virginia Tech

AUCTION SALE!

**OCTOBER 21, 2023
STARTS AT 10:00 A.M.**

Bins available for auction are subject to change due to customer payment prior to sale.

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RADFORD SPORTS

Blacksburg High sets new Hall of Fame class

Blacksburg High School has announced its Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2023.

Inductees include:

Stuart Dowling – Class of 2001
85-1-1 team record while a member of BHS Soccer Team

1998, 1999, 2000 State, Region, and District Champions, 2001 State runner-up, Region, and District Champions

2001 Timesland (Roanoke Times) POY, AA State POY, Region POY, District POY as well as 1st Team Timesland, All-State, Region, and District

2001 VHSL All-Star Game MVP

2001 Scholar All-America by NSCAA

2000 AA Co-State POY, Region POY, District POY as well as 1st team All-State, Region, and District

1999 1st Team All-District, Honorable Mention All-Region

2000 Honorable Mention All-District in Basketball

Played one season at Division I Lehigh University

Stuart lives in Belmont, N.C. with his wife Whitney and their three children, Hampton (6), Watson (6), and Evan (4).

Travis Eschenmann – Girls Soccer Coach 2008-2022

Coach Eschenmann served as the Girls Soccer Varsity Head Coach from 2008-2022, winning three state titles in 2014, 2015, and 2016.

Career varsity record is 248-40-11 (85%) through his 14 varsity seasons and reached the VHSL Final Four in 11 of those seasons (did not compete in 2020 due to COVID).

Coach Eschenmann and his teams set numerous VHSL records for girls soccer including:

Most Consecutive Wins: 45 over three seasons (2014 -2016)

Most Consecutive Unbeaten Games: 78 over four seasons (2014 – 2017)

Most Shutouts in a Season: 20

Lowest Goals Against average in a season: .09

Currently stands as the 2nd highest winning coach in all of VHSL Girls Soccer.

River Ridge District Coach of the Year (2010, 2011, 2012, and co-COY in 2013, 2018)

Conference 32 Coach of the Year (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017)

Region IV Coach of the Year (2011 and 2012)

Region 3A West Coach of the Year (2014, 2015, 2016)

Region 3D Coach of the Year (2022)

All Timesland Coach of the Year (2010, 2011 and 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016).

Selected to coach in the 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017 VSCHA All-Star games

In addition to his high school career, Coach Eschenmann has actively served as a volunteer across the local soccer community in multiple capacities including:

Served as a Head Coach for the NRU U9 and U10 Boys Academy

Served as a New River United coach for various age groups such as the 2004 Boys, U-18 and U-13 Girls teams

Served as a member of the New River United Board of Directors for 8 years

Served as certified referee for the VHSL, USSF and PIAA

Served as a member of the women's soccer committee of the VHSCA Legislative Council, Executive Committee for the VSCA and a former VHSCA 3A All State Classification Chair for Girls Soccer

Coach Eschenmann stepped down from the Blacksburg High School Girls Soccer program in 2022 as the second highest winning coach of all time in VHSL Girls Soccer Coach. He and his wife, Megan Eschenmann, are enjoying watching their three sons, Wyatt, Ethan and Carter on the soccer field.

Jeremy Alvarez Patel- Class of 1991

Four-year varsity letterman girls basketball

Two-year varsity letterman girls track

1988, 1989, 1990 All District, All Region, All State honors

1990 led the girls basketball team to the State Championship game

1991 All District, All Region, All State player of the year

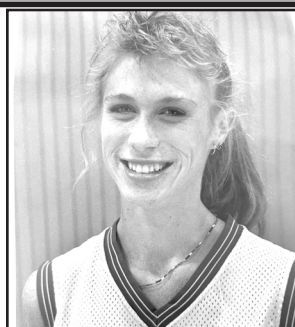
1991 All- Timesland Female Athlete of the Year

1991 selected to the 10-member AAU team for the state of Virginia

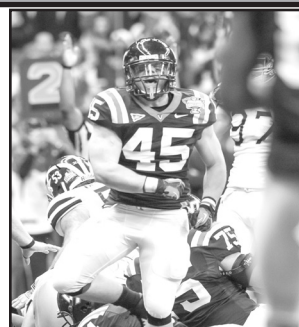
1991 won the 1600 in the All-American Relays

1991 won the state championship for the 1600 and the 1600 m relay

Helped lead the track team to the State



Jeremy Alvarez-Patel



Joey Phillips



PHOTOS COURTESY OF BHS
Travis Eschenmann

Championship
1989, 1990, 1991 received the academic excellence award

1991 received a Blacksburg sports club, Outstanding Senior award for Basketball and Track

Average 20 points and 17.1 rebounds per game

1991 led the Virginia High School Coaches Association All-Star team to victory

Earned a full D1 scholarship for basketball to Boston University

Jeremy currently lives in Northern Virginia with husband Kash and their seven children and teaches elementary school.

Joey Phillips – Class of 2008

11 BHS varsity letters (3x Football, 4x Wrestling, 4x Baseball)

Team Captain (Football 2007, Wrestling 2007 & 2008, Baseball 2008)

Two time All District (Football)

Two time All District second baseman (Baseball)

1st Team All Region and 1st Team All State second baseman (2008)

1st Team All-Timesland second baseman (2008)

1st All-Time BHS in career hits, RBIs, and doubles; 2nd All-Time career runs scored

Two Time District Champion – 189 (wrestling)

2008 Regional Champion & 3rd Place State – 189 LBs (wrestling)

10Time winner of individual tournaments – 171 LBs & 189 LBs (wrestling)

Two-time regional tournament medalist

2nd team All-Timesland – 189 LBs (wrestling)

125 career wins (wrestling)

Five-year member Virginia Tech Football (2008/09- Fall 2012/13)

Two-year starter at Fullback & 2x ACC champion; Virginia Tech football

Team Captain & Strength and Conditioning Athlete of the Year (2012)

Five-time bowl game participant

All ACC Academic Team (2011, 2012)

Semi Finalist: 2012 NFF William Campbell Trophy

Excalibur Strength and Conditioning Award Winner

Lawrence White award winner (2012)

Four-time Athletic Directors Honor Roll BS with Honors (2012); MA with Honors (2013)

Phillips lives in Raleigh, N.C. with his wife Lauren DeCarlo and daughter Luisa Grace and is a director of technology in the recruiting industry.

Samuel Wheeler – Class of 2003

Three-year letterman in football while playing running back, wide receiver, linebacker, tight end and also punted

Senior year rushed over 300 yards, caught 14 passes for 293 yards and four touchdowns

Targeted three times with two touchdowns in a game his senior year

Recorded 103 tackles senior year

All-District Honors all three years playing BHS Football

Ranked 30th player in State by TSL

Ranked 33rd player in State by Roanoke Times

Ranked 69th All Mid-Atlantic Team by Tom Lemming's Prep Football Report

All-Atlantic Region selection for defensive linemen by PrepStar.com

Ranked 24th Prep School Player in the nation by Rivals.com

Played linebacker, fullback and tight end for Hargrave Military Academy Prep School in 2004

Four-year letterman in Basketball and Earned All-District, Region and State Honors.

Averaged 16.8 points and 8.7 rebounds a game

Recorded 31 rebounds in a game Senior year against Patrick Henry.

Member of 2002 VHSL Basketball State Championship Runner-Up Team

See HOF, page 10

Hokies celebrate another outstanding class

Praised for its excellence on the recruiting trail, the Virginia Tech baseball team has placed for the third consecutive year among Collegiate Baseball Newspaper's top 50 incoming recruiting classes, per the outlet's fall assessment of the Hokies' 2024 newcomers.

Led by head coach John Szeft and recruiting coordinator Kurt Elbin, Virginia Tech ranks No. 45 overall in Collegiate Baseball's recruiting class rankings. Under Szeft and Elbin, the Hokies have appeared annually in the

outlet's offseason listing since 2021, peaking at No. 25 in September 2022.

Collegiate Baseball bases their annual evaluation of recruiting classes on newcomers who enroll at schools during the fall and not those who had initially signed letters of intent or turned professional.

Tech's 2024 squad is highlighted by the addition of two D1Baseball Top 130 Impact Transfers: fourth-year senior utility player Eddie Micheletti Jr. (No. 74, George

Washington) and fifth-year graduate outfielder Ben Watson (No. 107, Elizabethtown). Both Micheletti and Watson led their former programs in batting average last season – .384 and .483, respectively – with Watson collecting 2023 Landmark Conference Player of the Year honors (NCAA Division III).

On the mound, the Hokies added many new faces to their pitching staff, including NCAA Division I transfers Jordan Little (East Carolina), Carson Ohl (Grand Canyon), Wyatt

Parliament (Rutgers), David Shoemaker (Pennsylvania) and Jordan Vera (Mississippi).

Among true freshmen, Tech's commitment to recruiting the Commonwealth of Virginia stood tall as more than half the Hokies' rookie class hails from inside the state.

Virginia Tech's 2024 recruiting class restocks the program after the Hokies produced five MLB signees during the course of the offseason, including four who were taken during the 2023 MLB Draft.

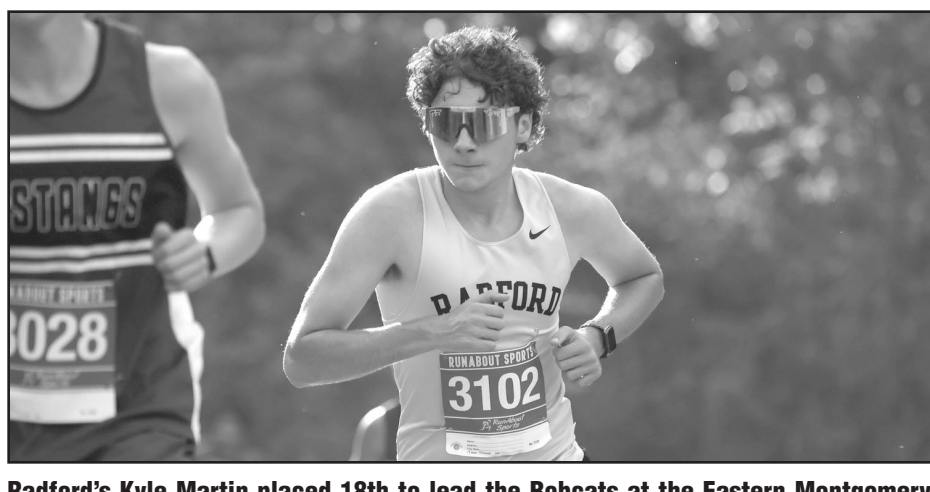
Fans can catch their first glimpse of the 2024 Virginia Tech baseball team on Friday, Oct. 13, when the Hokies host Georgetown during a fall exhibition game at English Field at Atlantic Union Bank Park. A start time will be announced during the coming days while entry into the ballpark is free (general admission seating for all fans).

Virginia Tech Athletics

Local athletes shine at invitational cross-country meet



Radford's Reagan Bryant placed seventh to lead her team at the Eastern Montgomery Invitational on Wednesday.



Radford's Kyle Martin placed 18th to lead the Bobcats at the Eastern Montgomery Invitational on Wednesday.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

M	E	S	A	A	S	C	E	N	D			
A	P	P	R	E	C	I	A	T	I	O	N	
T	E	A	C	A	R	T	A	B	D	U	C	T
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C	R	E	E	D	S	S	H	O	E			

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



Radford's Jacob Rupe sprints ahead of Giles Michael Little at the finish of the East Mont Invitational, placing 36th overall.



Radford's Lily Hyatt placed 20th in the East Mont Invitational.

PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING

Christiansburg downs Radford in volleyball



Ela Shepherd digs to keep the point alive against Radford. Christiansburg took the 25-16, 27-25, 22-25 and 25-14 win. Shepherd finished the contest with 23 assists, 13 kills and four blocks.



Blair Self sets the ball to set up the Christiansburg attack. She had 21 assists and 10 digs.



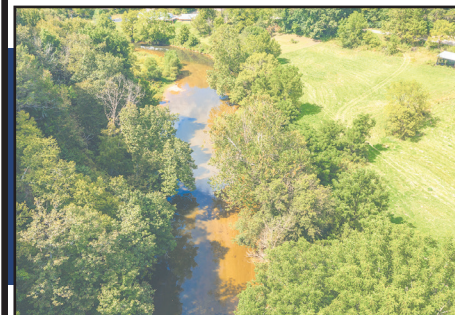
Reese Hall bumps the ball to a Christiansburg teammate in Monday's win.



Christiansburg Katy Hoover spikes the ball against the Bobcats.

PHOTOS BY BRYANT ALTIZER

ONLINE AUCTION
Ends Thursday, October 26th at 3 PM
Recreational Lots for Sale on the Little River
TBD Laurel Ridge Mill Rd., Riner, VA 24149
Bid Now at VAAuctionPro.com



OFFERING #1



OFFERING #2



OFFERING #3



OFFERING #4

Discover the perfect blend of nature and tranquility in these 4 tracts of land that are being sold at auction. Located in a prime location near Floyd, Riner, Christiansburg, Blacksburg, and Radford VA, these properties offer the best of both worlds, the serenity of wooded land and a riverfront haven with easy access to the essential amenities.

OFFERING #1 – +/- 6.015 ac
This 6.015 acre cleared lot would be a prime building spot, especially for a recreational getaway. Property has been perked and awaits your new home! It features 600+ ft of frontage on the Little River. With easy access to the river, you can enjoy all the kayaking, fishing, and swimming you wish! Property also has +/- 735 ft of frontage on Laurel Ridge Mill Rd.

OFFERING #2 – +/- 5.44 ac
This 5.44 acre cleared lot would be a prime building spot. Property has been perked and awaits your new home or recreational getaway! It features 500+ ft of frontage on the Little River. With easy access to the river, you can enjoy all the kayaking, fishing, and swimming you wish! It also has +/- 507 ft of frontage on Laurel Ridge Mill Rd.

OFFERING #3 – +/- 17.727 ac
This 17.727 ac property boasts abundant woodland, which creates a serene and private environment. There are several building spots and the surrounding views of the countryside are unbeatable! Property would be ideal for the construction of your new home.

OFFERING #4 – +/- 17.614 ac
This 17.614 ac property boasts abundant woodland, which creates a serene and private environment. There is a small creek meandering throughout the property. The woodland ensures privacy and seclusion. Property holds several building spots and the surrounding views of the countryside are unbeatable! Property would be ideal for the construction of your new home. There is over +/- 771 ft of frontage on Laurel Ridge Mill Rd.

Terms: 10% Buyer's Premium will be added to final high bid to arrive at contract price. Earnest Money Deposit of \$10,000 per offering required on the day of the sale. Close on or before November 27th, 2023. Subject to seller confirmation. Property sold as is, where is with any and all faults. Buyer is expected to complete their own due diligence. Tracts are being offered individually and if bidder wishes to purchase multiple tracts, bidder will need to be the high/ winning bidder on both offerings. Please note that during the last two minutes of bidding, if a new bid is placed, the clock is automatically extended an additional two minutes. Be sure to register to bid early to ensure you receive notifications regarding any changes to the Auction, Bidder Packet, and/or Pre-Auction offers received. Download Bidder Information Pack for complete terms and conditions, property information, purchase contract and maps at VAAuctionPro.com.

CONTACT – Auctioneer Matt Gallimore at 540-239-2585 or email gallimore.matt@gmail.com. You can also contact Realtor Boogie DeHart at 276-952-5061 or email boogie@yahoo.com

102 S. Locust Street, Floyd, VA 24091 (540) 745-2005 VAAuctionPro.com Lic# 2907004059 **United Country Real Estate** **Blue Ridge Land & Auction Co., Inc.**

HOF from page 9



Stuart Dowling

Member of Coach Beamer's eight consecutive 10-win seasons (2005-2009)

Member of Coach Beamer's 23 consecutive bowl game appearances (2005-2009)

2008 John Mackey Watch list for college football's best Tight Ends.

Member of team that



PHOTOS COURTESY OF BHS

Samuel Wheeler

won 3 regular season ACC championships at Virginia Tech

Earned Bachelor of Science in Apparel, Housing and Resource Management at Virginia Tech (2010) & Master of Business from University of Phoenix (2015)

Wheeler lives in Fredericksburg, with wife

Mollie Wheeler, two sons, four-year-old Maclaren and two-year-old Beauden and manages data centers across the U.S. and in Canada.

The group will be honored Friday, Oct. 13 at the Blacksburg vs. Pulaski football game at Bill Brown Stadium.

Blacksburg High School

ONLINE AUCTION
Ends Wednesday, October 18th @ 3 PM
Wooded Land for Sale at Auction in Blacksburg VA
4262 & 4180 Pandapas Pond Rd., Blacksburg, VA 24060
Bid Now at VAAuctionPro.com

sderekrountree4mcsbdistricte.com
derekrountree4districte@gmail.com

Paid for by S. Derek Rountree for MCSB District

ONLINE AUCTION
Ends Wednesday, October 18th @ 3 PM
Wooded Land for Sale at Auction in Blacksburg VA
4262 & 4180 Pandapas Pond Rd., Blacksburg, VA 24060
Bid Now at VAAuctionPro.com



OFFERING #1



OFFERING #2

Discover an exceptional real estate opportunity! We present 2 distinct tracts of land available for purchase through online auction. The properties are located along Route 460 between Blacksburg and Pembroke VA. Whether you are seeking a commercial venture or recreational escape, these properties have it all!

OFFERING #1 – +/- 35 acres
This offering boasts a generous 35 acres of all wooded land. Property provides a canvas for your vision and great visibility from Route 460. This spacious tract offers versatility for various land uses, from commercial development to recreational activities. Its proximity to the bustling community of Blacksburg makes it an enticing choice for businesses looking to be near Virginia Tech.

OFFERING #2 – +/- 52.5 acres
This offering boasts a remarkable 52.5 acre parcel of mostly wooded land. There is a small cleared section that fronts on Pandapas Pond Rd. Property has great visibility from Route 460. The wooded acreage provides privacy and tranquil environment. It adjoins the Jefferson National Forest. The property features a well, which provides suitability for various purposes, including potential commercial development or a secluded recreational retreat. There is a cellular tower on this offering. Refer to survey in Bidder Packet for exact location on easement to cell tower.

CONTACT – Auctioneer Matt Gallimore at 540-239-2585 or email gallimore.matt@gmail.com. You can also contact Realtor Boogie DeHart at 276-952-5061 or email boogie@yahoo.com

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