



News Journal

Saturday, November 25, 2023 • USPS 387-780 • radfordnewsjournal.com • \$1.00

RHS Class of 76 creates lasting legacy by supporting Bobcat Career Chats

By Susan Rockwell

Every Friday, Radford High School students are invited to join a Bobcat Career Chat session with professionals from various careers, held in the RHS library during each lunch period.

Started in 2019 and run by Margaret Sproule, RHS Career Coach, and Jamie Little, Educational Specialist with the Radford City Public Schools, these career chat sessions give RHS students an opportunity to explore and learn about all different types of careers, including engineering and technology, healthcare, law, business, marketing, hospitality and tourism, trades and military – just to name a few!

Members of the RHS Class of 1976 spoke to city school administrators and faculty in the spring and summer of 2023 regarding ways their class could give back to the high school. The bicentennial class of 1976 is the largest graduating class in the school's history with 176 graduates. Starting this fall, continuing in the spring of 2024, and through at least the 2024-25 school year, the RHS Class of 1976 is donating funding for the lunches provided during the Bobcat Career Chats.

Alumni of the RHS Class of 1976 have attended periodic career chats, have suggested speakers, and also volunteered themselves. On Oct. 20, three members of the class attended the career chat on biomechanical engineering (presented by Robyn Hansen, graduate



PHOTOS COURTESY OF RHS
Pictured: members of the RHS Class of 1976, along with Margaret Sproule, RHS Career Coach (right), and Jamie Little, Educational Specialist with the Radford City Public Schools (left) and an RHS student.

student at Virginia Tech), served lunch to students, and had the opportunity to speak to many of the current Bobcats in attendance. Class members plan

to return on Jan. 19 to kick off the second semester and are planning raffle-type giveaways for the students.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION
Participants at the 2023 Walk to End Alzheimer's celebrate raising \$65,000 during the Bisset Park event.

NRV Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's raises \$65,000

RADFORD – New River Valley residents participated in this year's Walk to End Alzheimer's at Bisset Park on Sunday, Nov. 5, raising more than \$65,000 to support the care, support and research programs of the Alzheimer's Association.

"We set our goal at \$53,000 and it was no match for the community which has surpassed that amount with donations and support," said Nikki Hicks, Walk Manager. "We are so proud of the top team, the young women of Sigma Kappa Epsilon Chi from Virginia Tech. They have raised \$45,600 so far, putting them

See Walk, page 4

'Winter in the Valley' artist reception today at Glencoe Mansion, Museum & Gallery

Reception held in conjunction with Small Business Saturday

RADFORD - Glencoe Mansion, Museum & Gallery is excited to announce its multi-artist winter-themed exhibit, "Winter in the Valley."

This exhibition features over 25 pieces of original art in a variety of mediums and styles. The artist reception will take place today, Saturday, Nov. 25 from 1-3 p.m.,

held in conjunction with Small Business Saturday. Attendees can meet the local artists.

Nov. 25 celebrates Small Business Saturday and Glencoe Mansion Gift Shop features great gift ideas, from local artisans and authors, Radford souvenirs, Radford and Virginia themed items, holiday décor, and more.

The Glencoe Gift shop will be open from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. to allow plenty of time to get a kick start on holiday shopping.

Glencoe Mansion, which will be decorated in a picturesque fashion for the holidays, is open for tours, photo opportunities, and visits

See Reception, page 4



PHOTO COURTESY OF RADFORD UNIVERSITY
Planetarium shows at Radford University are popular with the public and with students.

Planetarium popular feature at Radford

Do you know how many people watch shows at the Radford University Planetarium?

The numbers are astronomical! OK, perhaps that's a bit hyperbolic, but each year, thousands enter the 55-seat domed theater space to travel virtually

through the cosmos. The planetarium is the center for astronomy and space science education for Radford University and the surrounding area, offering regular free public shows while also hosting numerous

See Planetarium, page 4

Forecast predicts a warmer winter with more snow; expert explains why

With Halloween and the peak of fall foliage in the rearview mirror, the question of what winter might have in store looms larger. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration recently released a winter outlook predicting that winter weather patterns will be affected by the Pacific Ocean climate pattern known as El Niño.

"This forecast suggests both a warmer winter overall and a snowier winter than last year," said Andrew

Ellis, a hydroclimate scientist in the College of Natural Resources and Environment at Virginia Tech. "With a strong El Niño and the potential of a super-El Niño, there is a definite lean toward wetter

conditions for winter across Virginia. During El Niño years, wetness is often predicated on an increase in coastal storms that originate along the

See Snow, page 4



IMAGE COURTESY OF PEXELS VIA VIRGINIA TECH

GLENCOE MANSION PRESENTS

Winter in the Valley

a multi-artist exhibit

ARTIST RECEPTION: NOV 25; 1-3PM
GLENCOE MANSION; 600 UNRUH DR. RADFORD

Visit the **SHOP SMALL** GLENCOE GIFT SHOP

FULLY STOCKED WITH UNIQUE, ONE OF A KIND HANDCRAFTED & LOCAL ITEMS

GIFT SHOP & GALLERY OPEN 10AM-4PM

GRAPHIC COURTESY OF GLENCOE MANSION

United Way of Southwest Virginia recognized as Virginia's "Community Star"

United Way of Southwest Virginia has been named Virginia's 2023 "Community Star" by the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health (NOSORH).

On the third Thursday of November, NOSORH leads National Rural Health Day (NRHD), an annual celebration that shines a light on those who serve the vital health needs of the nearly 61 million people living in rural America. United Way of Southwest Virginia was featured prominently on the official NRHD website, PowerOfRural.org, on Nov. 16, 2023, alongside other Community Stars from across the nation. The platform showcases each Star's remarkable dedication and contributions to rural healthcare.

"We are honored to be named Virginia's

Community Star for 2023 for our work in the recovery process in multiple Southwest Virginia localities after devastating flooding in 2021 & 2022," said Mary Anne Holbrook, VP of Community Impact, United Way of Southwest Virginia. "Through our work with donors, stakeholders, and other agencies, we are well on the way to returning a sense of normalcy to those affected by these disasters. The 'Power of Rural' translates in our work to 'Rural does not mean less.' The power of rural is quick, trusted relationships that share an unwavering commitment to their communities."

In 2015, the Community Star Recognition Program was established in conjunction with NRHD to tell the stories of the people and organizations

who make a difference in rural communities. Since then, over 300 inspiring rural stars have been honored nationwide on NRHD.

Additional information about National Rural Health Day can be found at PowerOfRural.org. To learn more about United Way of Southwest Virginia, visit www.unitedwayswva.org.

United Way of Southwest Virginia fights for the health, education, and financial stability of every person in Southwest Virginia because they are the building blocks for a good quality of life. Through an initiative-based cradle-to-career approach, United Way of Southwest Virginia is creating sustainable solutions to address the challenges facing tomorrow's workforce. United Way convenes



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE UNITED WAY OF SWVA

Personnel from the United Way of SWVA are recognized as Community Stars by the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health.

cross-sector partners to make an impact on the most complex problems in our region. Through collaboration with government, businesses, nonprofits, and individuals, United Way innovates for positive, lasting social change.

With a footprint that covers nearly 20% of the state of Virginia, United Way of Southwest Virginia programs and initiatives serve the counties of Bland, Buchanan, Carroll, Dickenson, Floyd, Giles, Grayson, Lee,

Montgomery, Pulaski, Russell, Scott, Smyth, Tazewell, Washington, Wise, and Wythe, and the cities of Bristol, Galax, Norton, and Radford.

United Way of Southwest Virginia

Virginia schools receive \$12 million in school security equipment grants

RICHMOND — The Virginia Department of Education has announced \$12 million in state School Security Equipment Grants to protect students, faculty and visitors in 483 schools in 98 school divisions, including \$25,719 for John N. Dalton Intermediate and Radford High schools in Radford.

The grants will pay for security card access systems, visitor ID badging systems, surveillance cameras, security vestibules, two-way radios, voice and video internal communication systems, interior school bus cameras, two-way radios for buses, mass notification systems and other security enhancements.

Grants for the 2023-2024 school year were awarded on a competitive basis to school divisions and grant funds awarded were based on a ranked order on the competitive application criteria. The criteria developed by VDOE and the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services gives priority to schools most

in need of modern security equipment, schools with relatively high numbers of offenses, schools with equipment needs identified by a school security audit, and schools in divisions least able to afford security upgrades.

Virginia Department of Education

RHS students inducted into National Honor Society



Students at Radford High School are inducted into the National Honor Society in a recent ceremony in the school's auditorium.

PHOTO COURTESY OF RADFORD HIGH SCHOOL

Residents, businesses invited to compete in Chamber holiday decorating contest

RADFORD
CHAMBER of COMMERCE

CALLING ALL RADFORD BUSINESSES AND RESIDENTS
THIRD ANNUAL
HOLIDAY DECORATION CONTEST

Celebrate the holiday season by coming up with your best business window or home display! Register now for a friendly competition that will light up our city.

This year, we are not charging to participate in the Holiday Contest. Please register your business or home, then let the public pick their favorite!

Enter by **11/29**
Decorations must be up by **12/10**
Public voting (via link) **12/10 - 12/20**

Follow our FB for detailed entry photos
Post pictures on Facebook!

Full list of contest rules & a map of participants
www.radfordchamber.com

GRAPHIC COURTESY OF THE RADFORD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Annual Radford Chamber of Commerce Holiday Decorating Contest is underway, with registration required by Nov. 29 and decorations required to be up by Dec. 10. There is no fee to participate.

ESA protections have helped Virginia's bats weather White-Nose Syndrome

There hasn't been much good news for bat populations in Virginia since the discovery of white-nose syndrome in 2009, as the bat populations of certain species such as little brown, Indiana, and tri-colored bats in Virginia have dropped by more than 90 percent.

And while the Endangered Species Act (ESA) can't protect bats from white-nose syndrome, ESA protections have helped bat populations in other ways that has enabled them to continue being part of Virginia's diverse array of wildlife, even as white-nose has ravaged their numbers.

"The ESA provides a higher profile for those species, so more emphasis is placed on trying to address the issues, such as white-

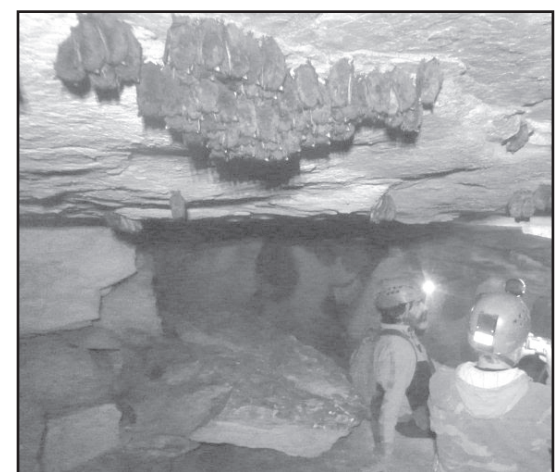


PHOTO BY RICK REYNOLDS/DWR

A close-up photo of a bat with white fungus growing on its face and legs. White-nose syndrome, as seen on the muzzle and wings of this little brown bat, is an insidious disease killing thousands of bats.

nose, that are impacting the species," said Rick Reynolds, a non-game biologist with the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR). "There's a lot of effort out there, and scientists are making progress on some methods to help bats get through the hibernation period, when white-nose has its greatest impact.

They are looking at different types of treatments, not just on the bat itself, but also on the habitat. Additional resources are being directed toward helping the summer colonies, with management and protection at those sites."

White-nose syndrome (WNS) is caused by the

See **Bats**, page 6

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, Nov. 25:

Holiday Décor Swap

At the Christiansburg Library; noon – 4 p.m. Tired of your old Holiday Décor? Bring it in and swap it for something new. Please make sure all donations are clean and in good working order. Décor can be dropped off at the library the week of the swap, or bring it with you to the swap!

Wednesday, Nov. 29:

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 meditation techniques to help calm the nervous system. This class is FREE to the public and is funded by grant money via the Virginia Department of Health.

Thursday, Nov. 30:

Waffles Club! A Young Writer's Group

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

for more information at morgan.esterhuizen@radfordva.gov. Please bring your favorite writing materials!

Saturday, Dec. 2:

SWVa Legal Aid Society meeting

The Board of Directors of Southwest Virginia Legal Aid Society will meet at 9 a.m. at The Inn at Virginia Tech, 901 Prices Fork Rd., Blacksburg. The public is welcome to participate.

Sunday, Dec. 3:

NAACP Veterans Affairs Committee

The NAACP Veterans Affairs Committee will present a program to honor veterans at 3 p.m. at the Asbury United Methodist Church, 500 Stuart St, Christiansburg. The guest speaker will be former Navy Commander Dr. David Points of Roanoke.

Saturday, Dec. 9:

NAACP year-end meeting

The NAACP will hold its year-end meeting 9 -11:30 a.m. at Asbury United Methodist Church, 500 Stuart St., Christiansburg. Douglas Asante will speak about Ghana and the slave trade.

Sunday, Dec. 17:

Luminary display

The annual Stroubles Mill Neighborhood Association Luminary display will begin at 5:30 p.m. in Blacksburg (Hethwood). Rain date is Monday, Dec. 18.

On-going:

Blacksburg stormwater utility credit application deadline

The deadline for Stormwater Utility Credit Applications is Jan. 1, 2024. If you are located within the Town of Blacksburg and have a stormwater management facility on your site, you may qualify for a credit on your monthly stormwater utility fee. Go to www.blacksburg.gov/stormwaterfund and review the Stormwater Utility Credit Manual to know more about whether you qualify. Please note that stormwater management facilities are typically ponds (either dry ponds/dry detention basins or wet retention basins). Other types include underground storage structures (usually located under parking lots in commercial areas), vegetated areas like bio-retentions, and mechanical filters that remove oil and sediment from stormwater runoff. For questions, please contact stormwater@blacksburg.gov or call 540-443-1354.

Blacksburg Police Department survey available

The Blacksburg Police Department (BPD) is asking the community to complete a short (approximately three-minute) survey ranking individual satisfaction with the department. All responses are recorded anonymously and honest feedback is appreciated. These responses will help the BPD continue its efforts to serve the Blacksburg community. Access the survey at surveymonkey.com/t/Q8SHQH8.

Blacksburg Comprehensive Plan Amendment application process

In 2021, Town Council adopted the

updated Comprehensive Plan. As part of the mid-way evaluation between five-year updates, the town accepts privately initiated applications for amendments to the Comprehensive Plan. These amendments include changes to Future Land Use Map designations or the text of the Plan. Applications will be due on Jan. 15, 2024. A pre-application meeting is required prior to submittal. Contact Maeve Gould, Comprehensive Planner, at (540) 443-1300 or CompPlan@blacksburg.gov, with questions, or to schedule a pre-application meeting.

Call to Artists: Signal Cabinet and Utility Box Public Art Project


Town of Blacksburg Public Arts Committee is seeking design submissions from artists who are local, regional, or familiar with the Blacksburg area. Designs will be installed on utility boxes or traffic signal cabinets at selected intersections around town as public art, beginning in summer 2024. Submissions are accepted via email and must be submitted by Friday, Dec. 15, 2023, to be considered by the selection committee. Before submitting a design for consideration, interested artists are highly encouraged to visit https://letstalkblacksburg.org/publicarts-utilitybox to learn more about the project details and submission information. Questions: contact Kenna Jewell, kjewell@blacksburg.gov, 540.443.1092.

Eligibility applications for Christmas Store 2023

Online applications are being accepted and reviewed now through Dec. 6, 2023 to shop at the Montgomery County Christmas Store in December. Go to the Christmas Store website at www.mcchristmasstore.org and click on Apply to Shop. First, you will see the documents you need to have ready to upload before beginning the application process. Then scroll down some more to see the criteria you must meet to see if you are eligible

See Events, page 6



<p>Legals - Montgomery County</p>	<p>Legals - Montgomery County</p>	<p>Legals - Montgomery County</p>	<p>Legals - Montgomery County</p>	<p>Legals - Montgomery County</p>	<p>Legals - Montgomery County</p>	<p>Legals - Montgomery County</p>
<p>LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE TOWN OF CHRISTIANBURG PLANNING COMMISSION</p> <p>The Town of Christiansburg Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, December 4, 2023, at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073, pursuant to Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia, as amended. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments concerning: A. Conditional Use Permit request by Trustees of Blacksburg Church of Christ Missions & Cole Burch Properties LLC, Property Owners, and Carter Machinery Company, Inc., Applicant, to allow for machinery and equipment sales, service and storage, and for a contractors equipment storage yard, and for rental of equipment commonly used by contractors, on approximately 5.81 acres located south of Roanoke St. and west of Simmons Rd. SE, also addressed as 2091 and 2095 Roanoke St. including several vacant parcels, identified as Tax Parcels 499-(16)-1-4, 8A, 9-12; 499-(16)-4A, 5-8; 529-(1)-13-17, 23-26; 529-(1)-18, 19; 529-(2)-4-9; 499-(A)-15; Parcel IDs 007705, 014072, 007704, 014069, 020750, 230046; zoned General Business District B-3. The property is designated as Mixed Use with Buffer (Residential/Business) on</p>	<p>the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan. A copy of the application, the Town's Zoning Map, Zoning Ordinance, and Future Land Use Map may be viewed in the Planning Department Office, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073, during normal office hours of 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contact Andrew Warren, Assistant Town Manager, at (540) 382-6128, ext. 1130 or by email at awarren@christiansburg.org, with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations.</p>	<p>approximately 7.497 acres located at the terminus of Sunset Drive NE, identified as Tax Parcels 436-(A)-43; 436-((A))-23A; 436-((A))-42, 436-((A))-22A; Parcel IDs 001575, 021982, 007729, 024266; zoned General Business District B-3. The property is designated as Mixed Use with Buffer (Residential/Business) on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan. A copy of the application, the Town's Zoning Map, Zoning Ordinance, and Future Land Use Map may be viewed in the Planning Department Office, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073, during normal office hours of 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contact Andrew Warren, Assistant Town Manager, at (540) 382-6128, ext. 1130 or by email at awarren@christiansburg.org, with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations.</p>	<p>Christiansburg, Virginia, in order to hear citizen comments regarding the Board of Supervisors' intention to act on the following Special Use Permit request:</p> <p>A request by DW, LLC (Agent: Ernest Woods) for a Special Use Permit (SUP) to allow an additional 10,000 cubic yards of rubble landfill for the disposal of inert debris on 2.12 acres of a 46.777-acre parcel. The property currently contains a by-right rubble landfill totaling 15,000 cubic yards of inert debris, the maximum volume of fill permitted by-right in the Zoning Ordinance. The property is located off Brammer Lane, approximately 0.41 miles east of the intersection of Brammer Lane and Houchins Road (State Route 758). The property is further identified as Tax Map 080-5 1 (Parcel ID: 033688), 46.777 acres, zoned A-1 Agricultural in the Shawsville Magisterial District. The property currently lies in an area designated as Rural in the 2025 Comprehensive Plan.</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 November 27, 2023 at 7:15 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 Special Use Permit request:</p>	<p>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>units per acre. In February 2022, a conditional use permit was approved for a townhome development (CUP 21-0006) on this parcel. This application includes a request that the previously approved CUP (Resolution 2-C-22) for this site be voided if this CUP request is approved. The Future Land Use (FLU) is Commercial and Mixed Use E. Residential uses are allowed in this designation subject to the standards in the GC zoning district. Persons affected by or interested in the conditional use permit request may appear and present their views. After the hearing, the Planning Commission will take action. Copies of the request and all related items may be found online at www.blacksburg.gov/publichearings or reviewed in person at the Blacksburg Planning and Building Department, 400 South Main Street, Blacksburg, Virginia. You may also call the office at (540) 443-1300 for more information. Individuals with disabilities who require special assistance to attend and participate in the public hearing on the above should contact the Planning & Building Department at (540) 443-1300, or (540)-443-1000-TDD.</p>
<p>LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE TOWN OF CHRISTIANBURG PLANNING COMMISSION</p> <p>The Town of Christiansburg Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, December 4, 2023, at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073, pursuant to Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia, as amended. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments concerning: A. Conditional Use Permit request by HS Development II LLC & STMOB LLC, Property Owners, and HS Development II LLC, Applicant, to allow for a Planned Housing Development consisting of a 114-unit apartment community on</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 November 27, 2023 at 7:15 p.m. in the County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St.,</p>						
<div data-bbox="730 3258 949 3444" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p>MAKE AN "A" IN ADVERTISING! Call 389-9355</p> </div> <div data-bbox="1453 3072 1671 3444" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>HAVE SOMETHING TO SELL?</p>  <p>To place your ad, call 389-9355</p> </div>						

Send community news and photos to communitynews@ourvalley.org

www.montcova.com

Walk from page 1



Purple is the color of the day at the Walk to End Alzheimer's held in Radford earlier this month.



Staff from English Meadows, who sponsored this year's walk, have candy at the ready for the walkers.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION

Representatives from Food City, one of the sponsors of the event, give out refreshments to walkers.

at number six in the nation among Sigma Kappa chapters participating in walks.”

Sigma Kappa is a national team in the Walk to End Alzheimer's and nationwide has raised over \$1.3 million so far this year. Also in Virginia, the James Madison University Sigma Kappa chapter has raised over \$36,000.

Sponsors of the Walk this year included Food City and English Meadows.

More than 6 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's disease – a leading cause of death in the United States. Additionally, more than 11 million family members and friends provide care to people living with Alzheimer's and other dementias. In Virginia alone, there are more than 150,000 people living with the disease and 354,000 caregivers.

The Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's is the

world's largest event to raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer's care, support and research. Since 1989, the Alzheimer's Association mobilized millions of Americans in the Alzheimer's Association Memory Walk; now the Alzheimer's Association is continuing to lead the way with Walk to End Alzheimer's.

Submitted by the Alzheimer's Association

Planetarium from page 1

K-12 and community groups.

From the beginning of January through the end of October, the planetarium has welcomed more than 4,700

visitors for 190 separate shows. That number includes 1,175 school kids, teachers and chaperons for Science Days hosted by the Artis College of Science and Technology.

Since the planetarium inside the Center for the Sciences opened in the spring of 2016, 29,132 people have oohed and aahed at the marvel at the wonders of the universe at 1,294 separate shows.

But that's only part of the story. The original Radford University Planetarium operated on the ground floor of Curie Hall and Professor of Physics Rhett Herman began offering public shows there in September 1999. Combining the two locations, the old and the new, more than 70,000 people have visited the Radford University campus for shows.

Popular current shows such as “Big Astronomy” and “Worlds of Curiosity” have the planetarium firmly on pace to welcome more than 5,000 visitors for 2023.

“As President [Bret] Danilowicz said when announcing the new brand identity, the planetarium is a big part of both the university and the surrounding community,”

Herman said. “Through our Science Days outreach and other public shows and community events, we are happy to be a major resource for science education in the New River Valley and surrounding areas.”

The planetarium is “not only an educational tool that benefits astronomy students in their studies, but it also fosters a connection between the science community and the general public,” said Jordan Eagle '16, who once operated the Radford Planetarium and is now a NASA postdoctoral program fellow at Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland. “Engaging with our broader communities is something we should never take for granted and should always be one of our top priorities as scientists.”

Plus, Herman notes, “It's about the coolest work-study job on campus. In fact, the only reason we have so many shows is that the vast majority are run by enthusiastic work-study students.”

Chad Osborne for Radford University

RADFORD NEWS JOURNAL

Serving Radford since 1884

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P.O. Box 1125 • Salem, VA 24153

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Michael Showell, *Publisher*

Heather Bell, *Editor*..... hbell@mainstreetnewspapers.com

Aila Boyd, *Executive Editor*..... aboyd@ourvalley.org

W3ndi Craig, *Advertising Consultant*..... advertise@ourvalley.org

Give us your view: communitynews@ourvalley.org

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

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.

Snow from page 1

Gulf Coast states. With that being the case, western Virginia finds itself on the cold side of the storms, so snow chances are greater.”

Ellis answered further questions about what the forecast does and doesn't predict.

Does the newest NOAA outlook enable any predictions for how much snow is coming?

“El Niño winters are often warmer across Virginia for the balance of the winter, but the increased moisture and coastal storm track increases the chances that cold air finds moisture more frequently to generate a snowier winter overall. This is often from a few larger snowfalls.”

How might climate change affect the forecast?

“It is difficult to imprint the effect of recent climate change on the winter season forecast. Climate change effects on precipitation and on El Niño dynamics are not very clear. The most reliable influence of climate change is an overall warming, but once precipitation is involved, all bets are off because increased clouds and precipitation have an overall negative effect on temperature, thus canceling out the warming effect.”

How accurate have previous winter outlooks proven to be?

“Seasonal forecasting, in general,

is difficult, and accuracy is limited. Hence, seasonal forecasts are only slight leans in one direction regarding moisture and temperature. However, the El Niño and La Niña climate phenomena correlate most strongly with winter climate across the United States. During ‘neutral’ years when those phenomena are not present, the forecast is largely a coin-flip for nearly all of the country. However, with this being a strong El Niño year, there is a greater sense of confidence in the winter season forecast.”

Mike Allen for Virginia Tech

Reception from page 1

throughout the season. There will be wonderful opportunities to support local businesses, artisans, and crafters, including the annual Handcrafted

Holiday Pop-Up Market slated to take place on Dec. 9 11 a.m.- 3 p.m. on the grounds of Glencoe Mansion.

“Winter in the Valley”

will be on display until Jan. 28, 2024.

All activities are family friendly and free to attend. Glencoe Mansion is open Wednesday through

Saturday 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. and Sunday 1- 4 p.m.

Glencoe Mansion, Museum and Gallery

CROSSWORD

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CLUES ACROSS

- Easy as 1-2-3
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- A woman's undergarment
- British bathrooms
- Assemblages of parts into one entity
- Semitic fertility god
- Dull & uninteresting
- Yemen capital
- Stare impertinently
- Banished persons
- Heart failure & energy supplement
- Reduction in force
- Women's ___ movement
- Polynesian wrapped skirt
- Double-reed instruments

CLUES DOWN

- Linen vestment worn by priests
- The trunk of a tree
- Transmission line cable
- Freshwater duck genus
- Bulk storage container
- Oil obtained from flowers
- Shopping containers
- Abnormal breathing
- Brew
- Bake eggs in their shells
- Serviceable
- A person in the navy
- A child's slight injury
- Fain
- Supports trestletree
- Parian Chronicle discovery site
- Greek famous for fables
- Farcical afterpiece
- Dispatches by mail
- Hall of Fame (abbr.)
- Aah
- Unnaturally pale
- Before
- Fixed in one's purpose
- Madames
- Frosts
- City drains
- Baseball playoff
- Cruise
- Steeple
- Precipitation
- Cas ___: winter melons
- A unit of two
- Viewed
- Taxis
- 4840 square yards
- London radio station
- Perform work regularly
- Longest geological time

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OBITUARIES

Gibson, Dorothy Bond

Dorothy Bond Gibson, 88, of Gibson; daughter and son-in-law, Sally Radford, passed away on Monday, Nov. 20, 2023.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Harry and Margaret Cayton Bond; husband, Donald Lewis Gibson, Sr.; son, Donald Lewis Gibson, Jr.; daughter, Donna Martin; her great-grandson, Jacob Mustard; brothers, Roger Bond and Harry Bond, Jr.



and Ray White; eight grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; sister, Rita Hite; and many other relatives and friends.

Graveside services will be held at 1 p.m., Nov. 27, 2023, at Sunrise Burial Park in Radford with Pastor Brian Cockram officiating.

Survivors include her son and daughter-in-law, Gary and Camela Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford.

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

Nester, Mary M.

Mary M. Nester, 80, of Chesapeake, died Thursday, Nov. 16, 2023, in Chesapeake Regional Medical Center with her children by her side. Formerly of Radford, Virginia, she enjoyed her lifelong love of sewing.

Mary leaves behind her children, Lucinda Nester of Richmond, R. Scott Nester of Chesapeake and Jennifer Ashbrook (Frank) of Virginia Beach; and two grandchildren, Ashley and Andrew Ashbrook. Mary was predeceased by her husband of 32 years, Lewis Nester.

At Mary's request, a funeral service will not be held. A private graveside service for family members will be held Saturday, Nov. 25 at 11 a.m. in Browns Cemetery, Belspring, Va.



“Mom, we will always carry your memory in our hearts”. Family and friends are invited to sign the online guestbook and share memories at www.mullinsfuneralhome.com.

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

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 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

True and Reasonable

Read Acts 25:1 through 26:32

Late at night, a burglar attempted to enter a home by crawling head-first down the chimney. A few feet into his endeavor he found himself stuck. His cries for help went unanswered because the residents were sound asleep. In the morning, sounds of whimpering coming from the family room led to the man's discovery, and the police were summoned. After the demolition of a few bricks, the perpetrator was in handcuffs. The man claimed not to remember anything. "I'm innocent," he said. His actions spoke much louder than his words.

At this point Festus interrupted Paul's defense. "You are out of your mind, Paul!" he shouted.

"Your great learning is driving you insane." "I am not insane, most excellent Festus," Paul replied. "What I am saying is true and reasonable" (Acts 26:24-25).

Not everyone who hears of our hope will accept our message. The evidence of our lives—the joy we have and the peace we know—speak loudly on our behalf. When we are caught living our faith, some will see our trust in Jesus as true and reasonable.

Prayer Suggestion: Lord, help me to be innocent of sin and guilty of living my faith for all to see.

Quicklook: Acts 26:19-31

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. lchristopher695@comcast.net. Sunday school at 10 a.m. and morning worship is 11 a.m. Evening service at 6 p.m. and Wednesday at 7 p.m.

Compassion Church, 1820 Second Street, Radford, 639-6287, Our music is passionate, our worship is real, and Pastor Chandler Jones brings relevant messages for everyone at any place on their journey, Sunday Worship Experience at 9:30 AM & 11:00 AM, Wednesday Family Night at 7 PM, Children Ministry provided for all services. Our vision is to see all Saved. Freed. Restored. Fulfilled. Find us on facebook and Instagram

Walton Pentecostal Holiness Church, 4003 Morning Glory Rd., off Walton Rd. on Rt. 114. 731-1755. Lee Sarver, pastor. Sun. School 9:30 a.m., Worship 10:30 a.m. & 6: p.m., Wed., 7p.m.

PRESBYTERIAN

Join us at **The Presbyterian Church of Radford**, 201 4th Street, at the corner of 4th & Randolph. 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 pcfradford@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

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Local students named to SNHU Dean's List

MANCHESTER, NH - Gabriel Palma, of Blacksburg, and Rachel Perkins, of Christiansburg, have been named to Southern New Hampshire University's Summer 2023 Dean's List. The summer terms run from May to August.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.500 to 3.699 for the reporting term are named to the Dean's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired eight-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) is a private, nonprofit institution with a 90-year history of educating traditional-aged students and working adults.

Blacksburg resident named to James Madison University dean's list

HARRISONBURG - Rebecca Linkous, of Blacksburg, has been named to the dean's list at James Madison University for the summer 2023 semester. Students who earn dean's list honors must carry at least 12 graded credit hours and earn a GPA of between 3.5 and 3.899. Linkous is majoring in Individualized Study - BS.

Founded in 1908, James Madison University is a public university located in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley.

JMU congratulates participants in Dukes Making a Difference

HARRISONBURG - More than 140 students, many of them new to JMU, participated this August

in DMAD: Dukes Making a Difference, to volunteer with nonprofit agencies in the Harrisonburg area, including Logan Boone and Emma Lucero, of Christiansburg. The program gives students an opportunity to meet other service-minded Dukes, to learn about Harrisonburg's most pressing social issues and to interact with individuals and organizations making the Harrisonburg community a better place for all residents.

Ohio Wesleyan Student Spencer Amacher presents research at science symposium

DELAWARE, OH - Spencer Amacher, of Blacksburg, was among the student-scientists presenting original research at Ohio Wesleyan University's 31st annual Patricia Belt Conrades Summer Science Research Symposium.

Amacher presented "Prolonged Heart Preservation: Assessment of Cardiac Function With Intermittent Left Atrial Perfusion" conducted at the University of Michigan. Amacher is a Biochemistry - Basic and Pre-Medicine/Pre-Dentistry major.

The university's Sept. 28 symposium featured more than 40 OWU students discussing their original research and answering questions at the two-hour event. Laura Tuhela-Reuning, director of the Summer Science Research Program (SSRP), shared her thoughts on the value of such mentored research experiences.

"One of the most rewarding parts of SSRP for me is watching the students grow as scientists, seeing them take command of a research project, and knowing that they are gaining the confidence to speak and act as scientists," Tuhela-Reuning said. "Science cannot be learned solely from a book. Science must be experienced through research, and at OWU, we encourage students to plunge in, preparing them to be successful researchers both at

OWU and at other universities."

Learn more about the OWU Connection and Connection Conference at www.owu.edu/OWUConnection and more about the Summer Science Research Program and annual symposium at www.owu.edu/ssrp.

Radford student awarded Coast Guard Foundation Scholarship

The Coast Guard Foundation has awarded 187 new scholarships, totaling \$650,000 in support for the 2023-2024 academic year. Since the program's inception in 1990, the Foundation has awarded more than \$6.9 million in scholarships, ensuring Coast Guard children can build strong futures through a college education or technical school training.

Meredith Dabney, child of the late Coast Guard Petty Officer 1st Class James Dabney from Radford was awarded a Coast Guard Foundation Scholarship. She attends Texas Tech University.

Coast Guard Foundation scholarships benefit the children of people who are serving or have served in the U.S. Coast Guard, whether active duty, reserve, retired or deceased.

"We are, as always, absolutely committed to ensuring that Coast Guard service members and their families have everything they need to be successful," said Susan Ludwig, president of the Coast Guard Foundation. "This includes, on an essential level, supporting their children's goals in education. These are talented, high-achieving students who are already serving their communities the way their family members do. Our scholarships are made possible by generous donations from individuals, families, corporations and foundations across the country."

VT researchers awarded grant to increase understanding of industrial hemp

With the significant increase in industrial production of hemp, there is a demand for newly discovered uses of its products.

The uses of industrial hemp include pain medication, cancer treatment, and more, but little is known about the regulation of biosynthetic pathways for cannabinoid production.

Virginia Tech researchers in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences are working to improve the understanding of these processes to allow for better selection for, or modification of, plants with particular cannabinoid content. This could increase profit and

reduce risk for growers as well as advance further use of cannabinoids in medical treatments.

The project is led by Bastiaan Bargmann, assistant professor in the School of Plant and Environmental Sciences and affiliated faculty member with the Fralin Life Sciences Institute.

This work will make possible the generation of new varieties, either through conventional or new plant breeding technologies, with enhanced, reduced, or abolished production of specific cannabinoid compounds.

To achieve these goals, the objectives are to study

the gene regulatory networks that govern cannabinoid biosynthesis and to measure the effect of manipulation of this regulation on the metabolic profile of cannabis.

The research is funded by a \$600,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the work will be performed in collaboration with the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research in Danville, Virginia, and York University in Canada.

Max Esterhuizen for Virginia Tech

Local employers sponsor CTE Takeover Day at East Mont. High School

ELLISTON — Branch and Carilion joined several local businesses to take over Eastern Montgomery High School on Monday, Nov. 6 for the area's first Career and Technical Education (CTE) Takeover Day.

"While employees have long worked closely with local schools to attend career fairs, recruit apprentices, and showcase career options to classes, students often don't have time to explore careers in depth and talk to professionals who have made a living in that career," according to a statement by Branch. "Branch sought a solution to this problem and engaged the local school, which has high participation in their CTE (Careers and Technical Education) program.

"The construction industry is in unprecedented times, with unprecedented opportunities and fewer workers," said Donald Gaul, Branch CEO. "Branch

always embraces opportunities like this CTE Takeover Day to dispel common myths about the engineering and construction industry."

Building the future construction workforce is a top priority for Branch, as 53% of the nation's skilled workforce is expected to retire by 2035. Branch, along with partners Carter Machinery, E.C. Pace, Trane, and the New River Home Builders Association showcased several construction paths, including Construction Management, Heavy Equipment Operator, Heavy Equipment Mechanic, Construction Technology, GPS Surveying, and the skilled trades of Electrical, Mechanical, Welding, and HVAC.

Since Branch focuses on careers in construction and the skilled trades, they invited Carilion Clinic to engage the students who are interested in a healthcare path.

Carilion interacted with students interested in careers in Emergency Management, Respiratory Therapy, Patient Transport, Medical Imaging, and Nursing.

Carilion's Director of Emergency Management, Craig Bryant, says he is an advocate for early career exploration opportunities and bringing awareness to the variety of careers available in healthcare.

"We look forward to speaking with students and educating them on career paths and opportunities within Carilion," said Bryant prior to the event. "Our commitment to taking care of patients, keeping our community healthy, and making sure our facilities are safe and operational requires a team approach from multiple career fields."

"Carilion's team includes doctors, nurses, engineers, construction trades, police, paramedics, business and safety

experts and many more who are dedicated to the community and our patients," he continued. "In our workplace, we're devoted to the success of our employees. Some begin their career here in one of our many positions that require no prior experience. Other team members join Carilion as an experienced professional."

Eastern Montgomery is rounding out the program with alumni and students' parents in varying careers participating. Those groups provided an opportunity for student engagement in eye health, emergency medicine, surveying, forestry, welding, graphic design, and pet grooming.

"We are excited for the chance to partner with community employers to help our students learn about different career opportunities," said Assistant Principal Matthew McDaniel. "We focus on making sure

students graduate college and career ready. We invite colleges and universities to meet with students to talk with them about those post-secondary paths, but this gives an opportunity for students that would rather go directly into the workforce after graduation to learn about and connect with local employers. We hope this will open their eyes to different career paths that they may be unaware of and learn some of the skills that will be necessary to succeed after they leave EMHS."

Students chose five to six careers to explore, in lieu of their regular classes. Additionally, all students received guidance in soft skills, professionalism, and information on how to get the education or training they need to pursue one of these careers.

Staff report

Bats from page 2

fungus *Pseudogymnoascus destructans*, or Pd for short. Pd grows best at temperatures between 40-50 degrees and high humidity levels—the same temperature gradient and humidity levels present in the caves in which most of Virginia's bats prefer to hibernate. The fungus grows into the exposed dermis (skin) of the bat's tail membrane, wings, ears, and muzzle. The fungus both irritates the bats and disrupts their water balance, dehydrating them. This causes them to wake up twice as often during hibernation as they normally would. The additional activity depletes the bats' fat stores as they use additional precious energy flying to find insects to eat. The effects can be fatal.

Pre-white-nose, initial listing of bat species on the federal Endangered and Threatened Species List came from population declines due to human

disturbance at cave hibernacula (caves where they hibernate) during the hibernation period (winter). Protections and strategies put in place by the ESA helped mitigate those threats.

"The ESA basically gave us the funding and the opportunity to identify the primary hibernacula for several of the endangered species and then allowed us the opportunity to protect those sites, either through land acquisition or landowner cooperative agreements," said Reynolds. "We've installed bat-friendly gates on the hibernacula, to minimize disturbance at those sites during hibernation period. Twenty or 30 years ago, disturbance during hibernation was the main issue with respect to bats and their decline. We've got a pretty good handle on the threatened and endangered bat species with respect to winter hibernacula and protection of those sites."

The habitat and protection work done under the ESA was valuable for bats as white-nose began in the '90s. Biologists in other states are working to find treatments for white-nose in both bats and their habitats, and Virginia biologists are keeping informed about their work through the White-Nose Syndrome Response Team. This Response Team has developed a national plan and working groups. Virginia's efforts have been focused on surveillance, conservation and recovery, and outreach, as well as supporting researchers studying treatments for the disease. Identifying the locations of surviving populations is key to being able to protect and manage them.

"I think what we're beginning to see is population stabilization with some of the species that are being impacted by white-nose," said Reynolds. "They are kind of

taking care of themselves, if you will, by making some behavioral modifications. In New York, researchers found that little brown bats going into hibernation are fatter post white-nose than pre-white-nose, in some cases by almost a whole gram. I think these bats are learning that the fat bat fares better over the winter. Things that we have noticed in Virginia and other states is that it seems like the bats push the limitations of going into hibernation—waiting later to enter the caves and leaving earlier than they did pre-white-nose." Because the fungus needs that cold, moist climate of the cave hibernacula to survive, the bats are "limiting the time that they spend in the environment that makes them sick," said Reynolds.

By Molly Kirk, Department of Wildlife Resources

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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Events from page 3

to apply to shop at the store in December. If you qualify to shop at the store Dec. 5-9, you will receive the link to select your shopping appointment.

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 dgoodman@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.

RADFORD SPORTS

Radford signs two for women's basketball

Radford University Women's Basketball Head Coach Mike McGuire has announced the exciting signing of two future Highlanders for the 2024-25 season.

Ava Sawi, a 5'7 guard from Alexandria, Va. and Anna Stromberg, a 6'2 forward from Andover, Minn. round out the duo of new Highlanders who will be making their collegiate debuts next season.

Ava Sawi

Guard | 5-7 | Alexandria, Va. | Episcopal High School

Quentin Roosevelt Character award winner

Named basketball MVP in her district for the 2022 season

Two-time all-state honoree and two-time all-league

Was named the Alexandria Sportman Club Athlete of the Month for January 2022

Coached by Katrina Reed at Episcopal High School and is a member of the Boo Williams AAU squad coached by Boo Williams

Daughter of Jay Sawi

Ava on why she chose Radford: "I chose Radford because I love the coaching staff. The area and campus are also beautiful and stuck out to me."

McGuire on Ava: "Ever since Ava visited with us last October, we have been blown away with her as a person. Ava is so well rounded. She will bring immediate maturity, verasatility, and playmaking to our perimeter. Ava is driven, focused and has a strong work ethic that will impact our culture and mindset on a daily basis. We are looking forward to getting to work with Ava."

Anna Stromberg

Forward | 6-2 | Andover, Minn. | Legacy Christian

Averaging 19.6 points, 16 rebounds, 2.1 assists, 1.4 steals and 2.1 blocks per game

Was a member of the National Honor Society in 2022 and 2023

Named all-conference basketball in 2021-21

Named team captain for the 2022-23 and 2023-24 seasons

Is a four-year letter winner in basketball as well as volleyball

Well-versed in robotics being named captain of the robotics team in 2023-24 and went to Robotics Nationals in 2022

Coached by Nate Lindholm at Legacy Christian and is a member of the Legacy Hoops AAU squad coached by Nisha Fisher

Daughter of Harry and Wendy Stromberg

Anna on why she chose Radford: "After visiting Radford with Coach

McGuire and his staff, I was encouraged by their devotion to this team and this program. Not only that, but I was excited to be a part of this business community that values entrepreneurial and innovative thinking at Radford."

McGuire on Anna: "Our staff saw Anna for the first time during the July evaluation period. We immediately were attracted to her and her upside. As we continued to get to know her, we knew she was a great fit based on her value system and what she believes in. Anna is a versatile post with great size and a high ceiling. She comes from an extremely hard-working family and working hard has been instilled in her. We are really excited to help Anna find her best in a Highlander uniform."

Radford University Athletics

Jones, Johnson ink with Virginia Tech



PHOTO COURTESY VT ATHLETICS

Virginia Tech men's basketball head coach Mike Young announced Tuesday the signings of Tyler Johnson and RJ Jones to national letters of intent for the 2024-25 season.

The Hokies' 2024 class is currently ranked 46th in the nation by 247Sports.

Tyler Johnson

6-5 | 190 | Guard
Orlando, Fla.
Oak Ridge High School
Florida Rebels

High School: A four-year letterwinner at Oak Ridge where he was coached by Steve Reece. All-Metro and Orlando Sentinel All-Central Florida first team as a junior ... Coached by Steve Reece and Sean Campbell while playing on the EYBL circuit with the Florida Rebels ... Consensus three-star

recruit ... Rated the 189th-best prospect in the 2024 class on 247Sports ... Recognized as the 17th-best player in the state of Florida and the 36th best at his position nationally, according to 247Sports ... Chose Tech over FAU, Texas State and Hofstra.

Personal: Born in Orlando, Fla. Son of Edgar and April Johnson. Father, Edgar, played basketball at the University of West Florida. Uncle, Jamal Davis, played Division I football at Eastern Kentucky University. Has one sister, Tayla. Honors student (4.4 GPA). Planning on majoring in engineering. Career objective is to play well in college and advance his career to the next level.

Coach Webster on Johnson: Tyler Johnson is the epitome of a big guard. He is very versatile

and can play with the ball in his hands or off the ball and use his size to post up smaller guards. He will bring that versatility and toughness to the defensive end as well, being able to defend guards and forwards. He comes to us from a great high school program at Oak Ridge (Fla.) and has been coached by one of the best in the country in Steve Reece.

RJ Jones

6-8 | 225 | Forward/Center
Gainesville, Fla.
The Rock School
Judah Nation

High School: A five-year letterwinner at The Rock School where he was coached by Justin Harden. Offensive player of the year as a sophomore and SIAA first team as a junior. Played AAU with Judah Nation. Won

a gold medal with Team USA at the 2021 FIBA Americas U16 Championship. Consensus four-star recruit, rated the 69th-best prospect in the 2024 class on 247Sports. Recognized as the 12th-best player in the state of Florida and the 12th-best center nationally, according to 247Sports. Chose Tech over Florida.

Personal: Ryan Jones Jr. (RJ). Born in Lafayette, Ind. Honors student and member of the student council. Son of Ryan Sr. and Monica Jones. Cousin, Dain Dainja, plays basketball for Northwestern. Uncle, Don Jackson, played basketball for Northwestern. Has two sisters, Avery and Allicia. Plans on majoring in graphic design. Career objective is to play in the NBA or find a career he loves.

Coach Giltner on Jones: We are excited about RJ officially joining the program for a lot of reasons. His ability to play inside and out, shoot the ball at a high clip, and impose his physicality inside will be a perfect fit for us. After getting to know him and his family for the past few years, it's easy to see that they are great people who value similar things we value. Coming from The Rock, where Coach Harden and his staff have prepared him well, we know we are getting a team-first, hard-working, reliable member to the squad. I know he is excited to embrace Hokie Nation as family, but similarly, Hokie Nation should be excited about him and his potential here at VT!

Virginia Tech Athletics

RU basketball breaks out alterative look

Radford University Athletics, in collaboration with the City of Radford and Nike, has revealed a men's basketball "City Edition" alternate uniform and merchandise line to be debuted on Sunday, Dec. 3.

The uniforms draw inspiration from the official branding of the City of Radford - from the vibrant colors to the signature logos that represent our hometown.

"Our new home alternative jersey is a nod to the City of Radford and its official nickname - New River City," said Deputy Athletics Director Cory Durand. "Our players and coaches take great pride in representing not only our University but the community they live in. This has been a fun collaboration with Nike and the City of Radford and we hope our fans enjoy the new look on the hardwood."

"The New River City loves Highlander Basketball!" said Radford Mayor David Horton. "We are excited for this wonderful extension of the partnership between the City of Radford

and Radford University. We are proud to host Highlander Athletics, and excited to share the love for the New River City with all students, faculty, staff, and alumni at Radford University. Go Radford!"

The Highlanders' home contest against Elon on Dec. 3 will be New River City Day and fans in attendance will have the first opportunity to get their hands on a number of tie-in merchandising items. T-shirts, hoodies, and more will be available at the team shop in the Dedmon Center, and will then become available in the university bookstore and online at RadfordTeamShop.com the following day, Monday, Dec. 4.

Radford will have extra support when they take on the Elon Phoenix thanks to the Radford High School band and cheerleaders who will be performing inside the Dedmon Center for the game as well.

Radford University Athletics

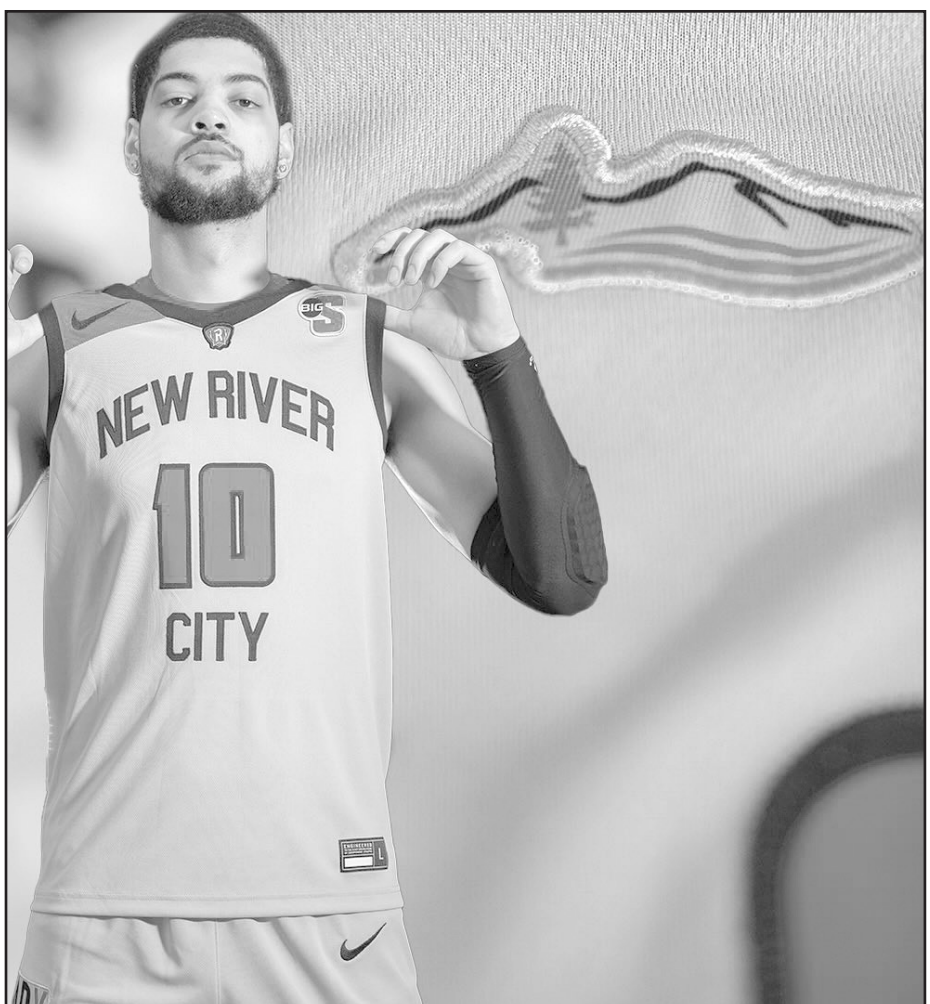


PHOTO COURTESY OF RU ATHLETICS



Riley Corvin of Virginia Techniques Gymnastics will continue her gymnastics career in the sport Acro and Tumbling at Mars Hill College.



Eva Dicken of Virginia Techniques Gymnastics will continue her gymnastics career in the sport Acro and Tumbling at East Texas Baptist University.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF VIRGINIA TECHNIQUES

Local gymnasts to compete at next level

Marty Gordon
 NRVsports@mainstreetnewspapers.com

Two gymnasts from Virginia Techniques Gymnastics in Christiansburg have signed National Letters of Intent to continue their careers on the collegiate level.

Riley Corvin is headed to Mars Hill and Eva Dicken to East Texas Baptist, both to participate in the gymnastics sport of Acro and Tumbling. The two live in Christiansburg.

The sport is the evolution of different disciplines of gymnastics, which includes the athletic aspects of competitive cheerleading. The format was created at the collegiate level in 2009 to address the interests and abilities of young women competing in this skill set.

Acrobatics & Tumbling is a separate and distinct sport from Men's and Women's Gymnastics; the governing body for all teams is the National Collegiate Acrobatics and Tumbling Association. Effective August 1, 2020

Acrobatics & Tumbling was approved as an NCAA Emerging Women's Sport for all three NCAA divisions.

A total of 48 schools sponsored varsity Acrobatics & Tumbling teams during 2021-22. This includes six on the Division I level, 33 on Division II and nine Division III.

Acro dance is known by various other names including acrobatic dance and gymnastic dance, though it is most commonly referred to simply as acro by dancers and dance professionals. Acro is

an especially challenging dance style for dancers as it requires them to be trained in both dance and acrobatic skills.

Baylor University won this past year's national championship in the sport.

Several national sports media outlets has labeled Acrobatics & tumbling as the next big thing in women's college sports.

The two will follow in the footsteps in one of the Christiansburg training facility's alum and current University of Kentucky standout gymnast Rayna Worley.



PHOTO COURTESY OF AUBURN HILLS GOLF

Stayton gets hole-in-one at Auburn Hills

This past week, Keleb Stayton made a hole-in-one on #11 at the Auburn Hills Golf Club in Riner.

Hokies sign nine for new swim class

Virginia Tech's director of swimming and diving Sergio Lopez Miro announced the signing of five women and four men to national letters of intent on Wednesday, Nov. 15.

They are set to join the Hokies in the fall of 2024.

Women

Amanda Barnard-Patrick Henry High School, Rockville, Va.

Honors: Patrick Henry swim captain sophomore and junior year. State champion in 200 IM and 500 free freshman, sophomore and junior year. Holds the state record in the 200 IM. Best time in 1650 free 16:16.73. Best time in 400 IM. Best time in 500 free 4:46.12.

Christine Datovech-Maggie L. Walker Governor's for Government and International Studies, Richmond, Va.

Honors: Three-time NISCA All-America Swimming 2022-2023 (50 free, 100 back, 100 butterfly). Three-time qualifier at 2022 USA Swimming Winter Junior Nationals - East in 50 free, 100 butterfly and 100 free. Participated in the USA Swimming Summer Junior Nationals in Irvine, Calif. in August 2023. Virginia Swimming All-Star Team 2020-2021, 2021-2022, 2022-2023. Two time individual class three VHSL state champion in 100 butterfly and 50 free. Six time VHSL class 3A region Champion. Richmond Times-Dispatch first team All-Metro junior year in 50 free. Richmond Times-Dispatch second team All-Metro in the freshman and sophomore year in 50 free. Richmond Times-Dispatch second team All-Metro junior year in 100 butterfly, 100 back and 100 free. VHSL Class 3 All-State Honors freshman, sophomore and junior year. Member of 2022 and 2023 VHSL Class 3 State Championship

girl's swim team. Member of 2022 VHSL State Champion 400 free relay team.

Julia Murphy-The Bolles School, Burlington, Vt.

Honors: State champion in 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023. 2023 100 fly state champion (53.96). 100 fly team record. 400 free relay team record. 200 medley team and state record. 200 free relay team and state record. 200 free LCM state record.

Sofia Salvato-Liceo Scientifico Valeriani, Imola, Italy.

Honors: Participated at the 2023 European Junior Swimming Championships. Won medals these past two years at Junior Nationals. Joined final B at Nationals these past two years. 50 Back 27.66 (SC) 28.83 (LC). 100 Back 58.97 (SC) 1:01.89 (LC). 200 Back 2:11.23 (SC). 50 Butterfly 27.33 (SC) 28.19 (LC). 100 Butterfly 1:00.71 (SC).

Emily Santos-Montverde Academy, Panama City, Panama.

Honors: Swim team captain for three years. During senior year placed first in the 100 breaststroke with a time of 1:01.44 at the State Championship and placed third in the mixed relay. During junior year, placed third in the 100 breaststroke at the State Championship. Received All-American recognition for 100 breaststroke with a time of 1:02.14. Placed second in the 200 breaststroke and broke national record with a time of 2:30.93 at the 2023 Juegos Centroamericanos San Salvador for Panama. Participated for Panama at the 2023 Panamerican Games and won both B finals and broke national record for 100 breaststroke with a time of 1:09.43.

Men

JC Gordon-Liberty Christian Academy, Lynchburg, Va.

Honors: Three time YMCA National

Champion. Three time State Champion.

Danny Bishop-Vandegrift, Austin, Texas.

Honors: Four-year varsity letterman. Team Captain 2022-2023. Texas 6A state runner up 2023 in 200 free. Texas 6A state bronze medalist 2023 in the 200 Medley Relay. Texas 6A state finalist 2023 in 500 free and 400 free relay. School record holder in 200 free, 200 medley relay and 400 free relay. First Team All-State.

Jakub Poliačik, Gymnázium Grösslingová 18, Slovakia.

Honors: Holds multiple national junior titles. National record in short course 200 free with a time of 1:45.76. Attended 2021 long course European Championship. Attended long course European Junior Championship finals in the 4x200 free. Member of national team at World Junior and European Junior Championships. 11th in 200 free at Otopeni. Placed 18th in 800 free short course at the World Championship. Participated in U23 European Championship long course.

Levente Balogh-Vörösmarty Mihály Gimnázium, Budapest, Hungary.

Honors: 2023 European Junior Swimming Championship: Fourth in 200 butterfly, fourth in 400 medley relay and seventh in 800 free relay. 2023 Hungarian Junior National Swimming Championship: First in 200 butterfly, second in 100 butterfly, third in 50 butterfly, first in 100 back, second in 200 back and third in 50 back. 2023 Hungarian Short Course National Swimming Championships: Second in the 800 free relay, third in 200 fly, third in 400 medley relay and third in 400 free relay.

Virginia Tech Athletics


ONLINE AUCTION

Truck, Tractor, Tools, and Household Goods Auction in Pulaski VA
Ends Wednesday, December 13th at 6 PM
Address: 4207 Lee Hwy, Pulaski, VA 24301
Preview Date: Saturday, December 2nd at 10 AM

Bid Now at VAAuctionPro.com









Items Include: John Deere 5065E Tractor, 2023 2500 HD Dodge Ram w/ Cummins Turbo Diesel (8,000 miles), Nikon D5000 Camera, Kawasaki Mule Pro FX 820, Whirlpool Dishwasher, Ladders, Gas Cans, Duralast Jumper Cables, Yeti Hopper Cooler, Rugs, Filing Cabinets, Stanley Tool Box, Light Fixtures, Flower Pot, Cow Skull, Cannon Gun Safe, King Bedroom Suite, Tools Glassware, Furniture, Christmas Décor, Vera Bradley Totes, Dale Earnhardt NASCAR Collectibles, and MORE!

Pick Up: Saturday, December 16th from 9 AM to 12 PM at 4207 Lee Hwy, Pulaski, VA 24301

TERMS & CONDITIONS: 10% Buyer's Premium and VA Sales Tax Charged. All items being sold "as is, where is". The auction company will charge the credit card on file for total invoices up to \$300 max. Any invoices over this amount must be paid by cash, certified, or cashier's check at pick up. The auction starts ending at 6 PM EST with a soft close. Please note that if a bid is placed in the last 2 minutes of bidding, the clock will be extended an additional 2 minutes. No Shipping is provided by the auction company. It is the Bidder's responsibility to determine the condition and value of items. Bidders acknowledge that all items are sold "as is, where is with any and all faults."

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or email Gallimore.Matt@gmail.com. You can also
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or email dwh@swva.net.

102 S. Locust Street,
 Floyd, VA 24091
 (540) 745-2005
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