



News Journal

Saturday, December 2, 2023 • USPS 387-780 • radfordnewsjournal.com • \$1.00

Glencoe Mansion celebrates 25th anniversary



Glencoe as it appeared in 1981 when Kollmorgen Corporation began clearing the surrounding trees and shrubs.



Glencoe Mansion is celebrating its 25th anniversary.

RADFORD - Glencoe Mansion is pleased to announce the celebration of its 25th anniversary on Saturday, Dec. 2, from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m., with a special program of recognition taking place at 4:30 p.m. The event is open to the public, and there is no admission charge.

The Glencoe Mansion was completed in 1875 as the home for Gen. Gabriel C. Wharton and his wife Nannie Radford Wharton. The house remained in family hands until 1981. According to Director Scott Gardner, "It is really amazing that we can still talk with Wharton descendants who knew Glencoe as a house and not a museum." He adds, "They are very glad that their ancestral home can serve as such a great part of the community."

When the Wharton family sold Glencoe it was purchased by the

Kollmorgen Corporation, which was looking to expand their facility. As part of their campaign, they built the large parking lots that line West Main Street. During their improvements, they also cleared the many trees and shrubs that had obscured Glencoe from the view of the community. For many, this century-old home was a new discovery. In 1996 Kollmorgen donated the Glencoe structure to the City of Radford for the creation of a museum that City leaders had wanted to develop for the community.

The City of Radford began the restoration of Glencoe in 1997. It was a massive project that entailed far more than anyone had imagined. There were major structural repairs that had to be made, but in the end, they saved a City treasure. Tom

Starnes, the Mayor of Radford at that time, was a keen advocate for the museum.

Starnes recently said, "Twenty-five years later as I reflect upon actions taken to preserve Glencoe and a portion of Radford history, I am convinced that it was the correct decision."

When the restoration was completed in 1998, the City of Radford tasked the nonprofit Radford Heritage Foundation with the operation of the museum. The doors were opened to the public on October 10, and have been open since that point. The City of Radford and the Radford Heritage Foundation, now 25 years later, are still partnering to provide a major asset to the local community.

See **Glencoe**, page 4



PHOTOS COURTESY OF GLENCOE MANSION
Then Radford Mayor Tom Starnes at the ceremony in which Kollmorgen Corporation donated the Glencoe structure to the City in 1996 for a future museum.

Radford University's Winter Commencement 2023 Speaker: A trailblazer in healthcare leadership

RADFORD - Radford University is honored to welcome Susan Carroll '96, MBA, M.H.A., as the distinguished speaker for the Winter Commencement ceremony, set to inspire the graduating class of 2023.

Carroll currently serves as the President of Inova Loudoun Hospital and Senior Vice President of Inova Health System. Her impressive portfolio includes providing daily direction for system-wide functions in Security and Emergency Management and Patient Support Service.

With over 25 years of invaluable experience within Inova, Susan is hailed as a highly accomplished health system executive. Her journey began in 1996 at Inova Loudoun Hospital, where she started as the Director of Business Affairs. Over the years, she ascended through the ranks, holding key positions such as Chief Operating Officer, Vice-President of the Inova Cancer Service Line, CEO at Inova Alexandria Hospital, Chief Executive

See **Carroll**, page 4



PHOTO COURTESY OF RADFORD UNIVERSITY
Radford University alum Susan Carroll is the 2023 Winter Commencement speaker at Radford University. She serves as the President of Inova Loudoun Hospital and Senior Vice President of Inova Health System.

Harvest still life photo wins Radford Photo Club contest

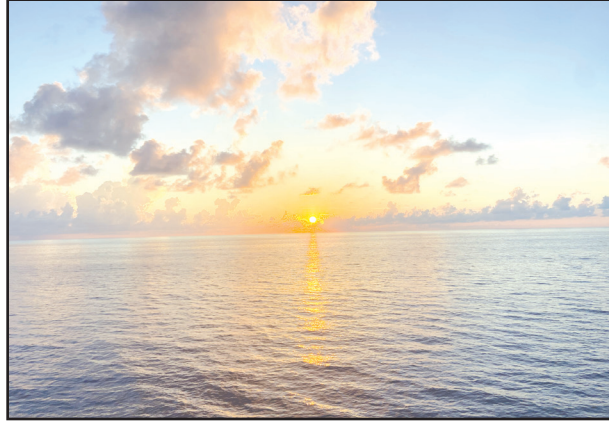
RADFORD - A photo by Debby Ring of Radford won the Still Life theme category at the November Radford Photo Club meeting. Joyce Sims of Radford tied with Tracy Burlingame of Riner in the open theme category. Sims' photo was of a frosty chrysanthemum in her yard and Burlingame's photo was of a dramatic sunrise in a cloudy sky taken during her Charleston to Nassau cruise.

The next meeting will be Thursday, Dec. 21, at 6 p.m. at the Radford Public Library. For the December program, those who wish to will bring their three best photos of the year to discuss. Photos will be on a thumb drive so they can be shared on the projector. One of the photos, as a print, will be an entry in the theme category.

The Radford Photo Club is made up of professional and



Still life by Debby Ring



Dramatic Sunrise by Tracy Burlingame

amateur photographers from throughout the New River Valley. Meetings, events, and outings are open to the public. If you have questions, email Lucy Gilmore at lucyg.gilmore@

gmail.com or Michele Borgarelli at mborgarelli@gmail.com.

Submitted by the Radford Photo Club



PHOTO COURTESY OF RADFORD UNIVERSITY
High school students and their career and technical education (CTE) teachers from across the region visited Radford University's cybersecurity summit to explore its unique education and networking opportunities.

Summit highlights cybersecurity careers for rural students

Ema Haga stood in the coolly lit grand hall, processing the abundance of data presented to her over the past hour.

"We don't really have a lot of unique programs like this," said Haga, a student at Northwood

High School in Saltville, Va.

She, along with six other students from Smyth County schools, joined scores of students and faculty at Radford University's Classroom to Career Cybersecurity

Summit 2023 on Thursday, Nov. 9, at the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center in Abingdon, Virginia.

This daylong event, hosted by Radford's Vinod

See **Summit**, page 4



Frosty Chrysanthemum by Joyce Sims

PHOTOS COURTESY OF RADFORD PHOTO CLUB



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UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, Dec. 2:

Breakfast with Santa

The Christiansburg High School Music Department will host its annual community event Breakfast with Santa 2023, 8 a.m. - 12 noon in the CHS cafeteria. Admission includes a pancake breakfast, fun games, and holiday crafts. Bring your camera or phone for a photo op with Santa. Cost is \$6 for children 12 and under and \$8 for children 13-99. Kick-off the holiday season with Santa, his elves and reindeer, live music and the music students of CHS.

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.

Holiday Craft Show

Annual Christiansburg Lions Club Holiday Christmas Craft Show at the Christiansburg Recreation Center, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 2 and Sunday, Dec. 3:

Artists host Holiday Open House benefitting charities

Annual open house event at 408 Eighth Street, Radford, (corner of Berkley and Eighth) with parking on Berkley, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. The show will feature artwork by Blacksburg painter Charlotte Chan, Christiansburg

colored pencil artist Jennifer Carpenter, and Radford photographer Susan V. Lockwood. Originals, prints (framed and unframed), and cards will be available. Area residents are invited to stop by and enjoy fine art and refreshments. Also, 10% of all sales will be donated to a local charity of each artists' choice.

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.

Holiday Bazaar

"Second Chance at the Bazaar" at First Baptist Church, 555 West Rock Rd., Radford; 1-3 p.m. Lots of holiday items to choose from. Stop by and get a hot dog for lunch. This is sponsored by the Women with a Vision Bible Study.

Tuesday, Dec. 5:

Radford Holiday tree-lighting ceremony

Join Radford Public Library in the 21st Radford Tree Lighting Ceremony. Doors open at 5 p.m. Hodge Podge Cookies is bringing their sugar and chocolate chip cookies and hot chocolate to hand out. Thanks to our Lamplighters for funding these delicious treats which are free to attendees. Santa will be on hand for

photo opportunities and will offer a festive reading. The Grove United Methodist Church Handbell Choirs will perform at 6 p.m. Following the performance there will be interactive playing. Bells will be (temporarily) provided for your musical participation. Tree lighting at 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 7:

American Legion meeting

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

Friday, Dec. 8:

Christmas on Main in Downtown Christiansburg

Join The Town of Christiansburg starting at 5 p.m. for Christmas at the Market featuring local crafters and other vendors, followed by the Tree Lighting Ceremony and Christmas Parade. The Tree Lighting Ceremony with the mayor will take place at Town Square at roughly 6:50 p.m., with the Christmas Parade starting at 7 p.m.

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

See Events, page 6



Legals - City of Radford

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING DISPOSITION OF REAL PROPERTY

Pursuant to Virginia Code §§ 15.2-1800, 15.2-1813, and 15.2-2100, the Radford City Council will hold a public hearing on December 11, 2023, at 7:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers of the City Municipal Building, 10 Robertson Street, Radford, VA 24141.

The purpose of the public hearing will be to receive public comment on the proposed marketing and sale by the City of property commonly known as Prospect Hill in the City of Radford, Virginia, Tax Parcel Numbers 19-(1)-9, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 9-(7)-Sec20-1 thru 4, 19-(7)-Sec21-1 thru 13, 19-(7)-Sec22-1 thru 8, 19-(7)-Sec22 13 & 14 containing 20.89 acres, more or less.

Copies of the proposed ordinance to approve the disposition of real property may be obtained by contacting the Office of the City Clerk at (540) 731-3603 or Jenni.Goodman@radfordva.gov

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED VACATION OF RIGHTS-OF-WAY

Pursuant to Virginia Code § 15.2-2006 et seq., the Radford City Council will hold a public hearing on December 11, 2023, at 7:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers of the City Municipal Building, 10 Robertson Street, Radford, VA 24141.

The purpose of the public hearing will be to receive public comment on the proposed vacation by the City of the unimproved portions of Oakland Avenue, Prospect Avenue, and Elmwood Street that extend into the real property commonly known as Prospect Hill in the City of Radford, Virginia, Tax Parcel Numbers 19-(1)-9, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 9-(7)-Sec20-1 thru 4, 19-(7)-Sec21-1 thru 13, 19-(7)-Sec22-1 thru 8, 19-(7)-Sec22 13 & 14 containing 20.89 acres, more or less.

Copies of the proposed ordinance and preliminary sketch of the unimproved portions of Oakland Avenue, Prospect Avenue, and Elmwood Street proposed for vacation may be obtained by contacting the Office of the City Clerk at (540) 731-3603 or Jenni.Goodman@radfordva.gov

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TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 1813 7TH STREET, RADFORD, VA 24141.

In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated August 12, 2013, in the original principal amount of \$94,106.00 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Radford City, Virginia as Instrument No. 201301075. The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for the City of Radford, 619 Second St., W., Radford, VA, or any such temporary alternative Circuit Court location designated by the Judges of the Circuit Court, on January 8, 2024, at 2:45 PM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: ALL THAT PARCEL OF LAND IN RADFORD CITY, COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA, AS DESCRIBED IN DEED BOOK 168, PAGE 435, ID# 1643, ID# 14 -(8)-SEC 14-2-3, BEING KNOWN AND DESIGNATED AS: LOT 2 AND SOUTH 1/2 OF LOT 3, SECTION 14, PLAN H, RADFORD LAND AND IMPROVEMENT CO SHOWN ON PLAT 168, PAGE 437. TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit of ten percent (10%) of the sale price or ten percent (10%) of the original principal balance of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, in the form of cash or certified funds payable to the Substitute Trustee must be present at the time of the sale. The balance of the purchase price will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Purchaser's deposit may be forfeited to Trustee. Time is of the essence. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser may, if provided by the terms of the Trustee's Memorandum of Foreclosure Sale, be entitled to a \$50 cancellation fee from the Substitute Trustee, but shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. A form copy of the Trustee's memorandum of foreclosure sale and contract to purchase real property is available for viewing at www.bwwsales.com. Additional terms, if any, to be announced at the sale and the Purchaser may be given the option to execute the contract of sale electronically. This is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. The sale is subject to seller

Legals - Montgomery County

confirmation. Substitute Trustee: Equity Trustees, LLC, 8100 Three Chopt Road, Suite 240, Richmond, VA 23229. For more information contact: BWW Law Group, LLC, attorneys for Equity Trustees, LLC, 6003 Executive Blvd, Suite 101, Rockville, MD 20852, 301-961-6555, website: www.bwwsales.com. VA-360519-1.

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

In Re: The Adoption of a Minor Child Under Eighteen Years of Age, to be known as SERITA DANIELLE TICKLE By: MILDRED ANNE TICKLE, FRED LEE TICKLE, JR. Petitioners ORDER Case No. CA23000019-00 ORDER OF PUBLICATION The object of this cause is to obtain an adoption of the minor child, Serita Danielle McLemore, by your petitioners, Mildred Anne Tickle and Fred Lee Tickle, Jr., husband and wife. An affidavit having been made and filed, pursuant to Virginia Code §8.01-316(1950), as amended, showing that the biological father, Kenneth McLemore (aka Kenneth Sturdivant), despite the exercise of due diligence on behalf of Petitioners, could not be personally served with legal process for this action and his last known address is unknown, though he is known to be residing in and around the Montgomery County, Virginia area. It is therefore ORDERED that Respondent Kenneth McLemore, appear at this Court on or before **January 12, 2024 at 1:00 pm** before the Montgomery County Circuit Court and do what is necessary to protect his interest thereby. And, it is further ORDERED that this Order shall be published once a week for four (4) successive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation, serving the area of Montgomery County, Virginia, the locality of father's last known whereabouts, and contemporaneously posted in a conspicuous location at the Montgomery County Courthouse. Enter this 1st day of November, 2023. Robert M. D. Turk, Judge

I ASK FOR THIS: R. Cord Hall, Esq, VSB 77637 R. CORD HALL, ATTORNEY-AT-LAW, P.C. 106 S. Franklin Street, Suite B-2 Christiansburg, VA 24073 (540)381-0707 (540)381-0505-Facsimile Counsel for Petitioners

Legals - Montgomery County

Notice of Public Hearing

Town of Blacksburg Planning Commission

Tuesday, December 5, 2023. Notice is hereby given that the Planning Commission of the Town of Blacksburg will conduct a public hearing on Tuesday, December 5, 2023 during its meeting beginning at 6:30 PM in the Roger E. Hedgepeth Council Chamber, 300 South Main St, Blacksburg, VA on the following item: CUP-23-4-Conditional Use Permit Request for multi-family use on the ground floor in the GC-General Commercial zoning district on 3.94 acres of an 8.44 acre parcel at 203 Country Club Drive SW (Tax Map No. 287-A 41A) by Balzer and Associates for Diversified Investors XIII, LLC (owner) The project site is part of what is known as the Rugby Field next to Country Club Drive. The proposed use of the property is for an age restricted (60+) apartment building. There will be a mix of 1 and 2 bedroom units for a total of 123 units with 187 bedrooms. This equates to a density of 47.46 bedrooms per acre/31.21 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/public hearings 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.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

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 December 13, 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: To amend the 2025 Montgomery County Comprehensive Plan by adding information concerning Large-Scale Solar Energy Systems to the Utilities chapter of the Comprehensive Plan. The proposed amendments include adding background information to the Current and Historical Conditions and Trends section of the Utilities chapter, and by establishing a new section 2.4 of the Utilities chapter to outline proposed goals for Large-Scale Solar Energy Systems within the County. The proposed goals to be added include: establishing a maximum of 4,500 acres of allowed acreage for the development of large-scale solar energy projects within the County, promoting shared agricultural uses within large-scale solar energy projects, considerations related to project scale and project siting, and consideration of natural resources in the approval of large-scale solar energy systems.

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.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

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 December 13, 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 Ordinance: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 10 ENTITLED ZONING OF THE CODE OF THE COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY, VIRGINIA RELATING TO SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM USES IN THE COUNTY BY AMENDING SECTION 10-61 DEFINITIONS BY DELETING SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM MAJOR AND SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM MINOR AS DEFINED USES AND CREATING NEW DEFINED USES SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM COMMUNITY SCALE WHICH HAS THE CAPACITY TO PROVIDE FIVE OR LESS MEGA WATTS, SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM UTILITY SCALE CAPACITY TO PROVIDE MORE THAN FIVE MEGA WATTS AND A NEW DEFINED USE BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM WHICH TEMPORARILY STORES ENERGY BEFORE GOING TO THE DISTRIBUTION NETWORK; AND BY ADDING SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM COMMUNITY SCALE AS A USE PERMISSIBLE BY SPECIAL USE PERMIT IN SECTIONS 10-21(4) A-1 AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT, 10-23 (4) R-R RURAL RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT, 10-28 (4) GB GENERAL BUSINESS DISTRICT, 10-30 (4) M-1 MANUFACTURING DISTRICT, 10-31 (4) M-L MANUFACTURING-LIGHT DISTRICT, 10-33 (4) PIN PLANNED INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT, 10-34 (4) PUD-COM PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT COMMERCIAL DISTRICT, AND 10-35 (4) PUD-RES PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT;

Legals - Montgomery County

PERMIT IN SECTIONS 10-21 (4) A-1 AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT, 10-30 (4) M-1 MANUFACTURING DISTRICT, 10-31 (4) M-L MANUFACTURING-LIGHT DISTRICT, AND 10-33 (4) PIN PLANNED INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT; AND BY ADDING SUPPLEMENTAL REGULATIONS FOR SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM, COMMUNITY AND UTILITY SCALE IN SECTION 10-48 (10) ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS FOR SPECIAL USES; AND BY DELETING THE NO LONGER DEFINED USE SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM, MINOR AS A USE PERMISSIBLE BY RIGHT IN SECTIONS 10-21(3) A-1 AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT, 10-30 (3) M-1 MANUFACTURING DISTRICT, 10-31 (3) M-L MANUFACTURING-LIGHT DISTRICT, 10-33 (3) PIN PLANNED INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT, 10-34 (3) PUD-COM PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT COMMERCIAL DISTRICT, AND 10-35 (3) PUD-RES PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT;

AND BY DELETING THE NO LONGER DEFINED USE SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM, MAJOR AS A USE PERMISSIBLE BY SPECIAL USE PERMIT IN SECTIONS 10-21 (4) A-1 AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT, 10-30 (4) M-1 MANUFACTURING DISTRICT, 10-31 (4) M-L MANUFACTURING-LIGHT DISTRICT, 10-33 (4) PIN PLANNED INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT, 10-34 (4) PUD-COM PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT COMMERCIAL DISTRICT, AND 10-35 (4) PUD-RES PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT. Copies of the proposed ordinance 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.

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Summit from page 1

Chachra IMPACT Lab, is part of the Professional Accelerated Cyber Education (PACE) program. The summit was designed to accomplish two main objectives. One was to strengthen the coordination among regional businesses and governments, K-12 schools and workforce development agencies to prepare rural students for the changing needs of the current workforce.

The second objective was “to see how we can improve outcomes for rural students like you so that we can actually build out the career pipelines that you need in order to be successful,” said Matt Dunleavy, Ph.D., executive director of Radford’s IMPACT Lab, in his opening remarks.

“That means you go by the vendor tables, introduce yourself and ask them, ‘Hey, what are you looking for in an IT security analyst? How can I prepare now in high school to get a job in your company?’”

Those vendors included several representatives from a number of businesses and education institutions that call Southwest Virginia home, including Radford University, Food City, Wize Solutions, First Bank and Trust and others.

High school students and their career and technical education (CTE) teachers from across the region visited the summit to explore its unique education and networking opportunities. In addition to Smyth County, summit-goers came from Botetourt County, Bristol City, Carroll County, Danville City, Galax City, Russell County, Smyth County, Washington County and Wise County public schools.

They heard from experts in the cybersecurity field, including retired U.S. Rear Admiral David Simpson; Jessica Gulick, commissioner of U.S. Cyber Games;

David Raymond of Virginia Cyber Range; Kara Joyce, registered apprenticeship consultant with Virginia DoLI’s Registered Apprenticeship Division; James Blevins, director of the Rural IT apprenticeship program; Crystal Breeding, director of employer and workforce services at United Way of Southwest Virginia; Rob Graham, superintendent of Pulaski County Public Schools; and Alex Leonard, an IT specialist and instructor at Carroll County Public Schools.

Radford University Professor Prem Uppuluri, director of the university’s School of Computing and Information Science, was there, too, providing expertise through a series of panel discussions. Uppuluri also led groups of students – separated into red, blue and green teams – through simulated activities such as capture the flag exercises, which simulate real-world computer security challenges and are a common learning tool at Radford’s School of Computing and Information Science.

In addition to those exercises, students had a chance to explore Washington County Public Schools’ mobile STEM Lab, which was equipped with robotics, drones and virtual reality activities.

Hosting the Career Cybersecurity Summit 2023 was possible through a \$1.2 million U.S. Department of Education – Rural Postsecondary and Economic Development grant. Through the funding, Radford is continuing efforts through the IMPACT Lab to develop and deliver cybersecurity micro-credentials, courses and certificates to students and teachers.

For the past six years, the IMPACT Lab has delivered online, self-paced, competency-based education (CBE) in high-demand workforce areas throughout Virginia and several neighboring states. The CBE approach

focuses on teaching specific job-related skills needed to complete a critical task within the workplace. To date, the IMPACT Lab has secured approximately \$16 million in external funding to support its work, including the largest grant in the history of the university.

“We want to rapidly empower learners to obtain career-gain skills. We also want to strengthen our current workforce,” Dunleavy noted while also explaining that all the programs are online and self-paced.

“That means you can integrate this into your existing curriculum,” he said to teachers in the room. And, to students, “you can actually work through these credentials as you’re doing your regular schoolwork.”

In addition to cybersecurity, IMPACT Lab programs include geospatial intelligence, data science and K-12 education.

“I think it’s really interesting to learn about all the paths you can go in,” Haga said just before walking outside to pilot a drone at the mobile STEM lab. “This is a great opportunity for us, and it’s nice to find out Radford, somewhere near us, actually has programs like this.”

Those words were music to the ears of her teacher, John King, the senior technology specialist at Smyth County Public Schools, who also completed the IMPACT cybersecurity certificate.

“It solidified what I’ve been telling them and teaching them,” said King, who teaches cybersecurity fundamentals in Smyth County. “It brings it all together. It lets them know there are real-life opportunities for what they are learning in class.”

Chad Osborne for Radford University

RADFORD NEWS JOURNAL

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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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Carroll from page 1

Officer of the Eastern Region, Interim President of Inova Fairfax Hospital, and President of Inova Fair Oaks Hospital.

Carroll’s educational background is as diverse as her professional journey. She holds a Master of Health Administration and a Master of Business Administration from Ohio University, showcasing her commitment to excellence in both healthcare and business. Her journey comes full circle as she earned her Bachelor of Arts in Social Science from Radford University.

In addition to her impactful role at Inova, Susan is an active member of the healthcare community, serving on the Board of Trustees at Shenandoah University and as a member of the Loudoun CEO Cabinet. She also sits on the Inova Fairfax Radiology Board and the Loudoun Surgical Center Board. Susan’s commitment extends beyond the healthcare sector; she has served on various community boards, including the Loudoun Free Clinic, Children’s Science Center,

and the Loudoun Credit Union.

In 2022, she received the esteemed Rotary’s Paul Harris Fellow, a recognition of her outstanding community service, particularly during the challenging times of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Beyond her professional achievements, Carroll finds joy in her personal life. She resides in Ashburn with her husband and two boys, embracing a love for travel, skiing, and actively participating in her boys’ sports activities.

Her wealth of experience and dedication to service will

undoubtedly leave a mark on the graduating class.

Radford University will celebrate the achievements of nearly 380 graduates on Dec. 8 and 9.

The graduate commencement and hooding ceremony starts at 5 p.m. on Dec. 8 in Bondurant Auditorium, Preston Hall. The undergraduate commencement ceremony is Dec. 9 at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. in Bondurant Auditorium, Preston Hall.

Radford University

Glencoe from page 1

“The celebration of the 25th anniversary is an opportunity for us all to look back and reflect on all the individuals who have worked over the years to make Glencoe a success,” said Director Scott Gardner. “The development of the museum has been a team effort, and it is hoped all those teammates through the years will come to celebrate.”

The celebration is Saturday, Dec. 2, from 3:30 to 5:30 pm. There will be refreshments. There is no admission charge, and the public is welcome as Glencoe Mansion celebrates 25 years as a museum.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GLENCOE MANSION

The Ribbon cutting for the opening of Glencoe as a museum in 1998.

Submitted by Glencoe Mansion

CROSSWORD

1	2	3				4	5	6			
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- CLUES ACROSS
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|------------------------------------|--|---|---|
| 1. German rapper | river | measure | 19. Last decade of the 20th cent. |
| 4. Aries sign | 25. Baked pastry-lined dish | 2. Island in Venice | 20. A major division of geological time |
| 7. Atmosphere | 26. Basics | 3. Establish by law or with authority | 23. Causes to expand |
| 8. Send payment for | 27. Manson murder book | 4. Exuding a strong odor | 24. Ed Murrow's network |
| 10. Digs | 34. Actress May | 5. Walked leisurely | 25. Happening in quick succession |
| 12. Pathetically weak | 35. Dry white Italian wine from Verona | 6. A unit of length equal to 1760 yards | 26. They ___ |
| 13. Give a thrashing to | 36. Easily conversed | 8. Return to a useful condition | 27. Perceiver of sound |
| 15. How a witch laughed | 38. Java pepper vine | 9. CNN's Turner | 28. The last part of anything |
| 16. Being of use or service | 39. Eagle nests | 11. Young herring in Norway | 29. Top left corner key |
| 17. Lassie's breed | 40. Irish mother of gods | 12. Disengagement | 30. Opposite of quiet |
| 18. XXX Olympic site | 41. Belongs to St. Paul's architect | 14. The lion zodiac sign | 31. Knights' outer tunic |
| 21. Tax collector | 42. Soak flax | 15. Mt. Washington railroad | 32. Made level |
| 22. Above average in size | 43. CGS work unit | 17. The brain and spinal cord (abbr.) | 33. Refutes in a legal case |
| 23. It carries genetic information | 44. Tooth caregiver | | 36. Sound of a crow |
| 24. E. central English | CLUES DOWN | | 37. In this place |
| | 1. Common detergent | | |

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OBITUARIES

Burnette, Betty P.

Betty P. Burnette, 83, of Dublin, passed away Tuesday, Nov. 28, 2023.

She was preceded in death by her husband, "Doc" Burnette; parents, Euell H. and Virginia Poff; brother, Robert Poff; and her sisters, Marjorie Faye King and Norma Jean Williams.

Survivors include her sisters, Myra P. Wray and Coleta P. Fralin; sister-in-law, Claire E. Poff; and numerous nieces, nephews, relatives and special friends.



The family will host a private ceremony at a later date.

Betty's family wishes to express their heartfelt thanks to all of her friends and the staff members of Highland Ridge Rehab Center for the loving care and compassion they showed to Betty.

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

Blevins, Pervis Earl

Pervis Earl Blevins, known to everyone as "Blackie," passed away from his earthly life into his eternal one on Nov. 24, 2023 at the age of 90.

Blackie was born on July 15, 1933, the fourth of 11 children to Wheeler and Edna Sluder Blevins in Shady Valley, Tenn., both of whom preceded him in death.

Blackie was a 1953 graduate of Johnson County High School, Mountain City, Tenn. After graduation, he enlisted into the US Army and served his country, in Korea, during the Korean War. He was discharged in 1955, returning home to attend East Tennessee State University in Johnson City, Tenn. After college, Blackie moved to Flint, Mich. to work in the automobile industry, but quickly learned that he missed his family and home.

On June 30, 1957, Blackie married Phyllis Forrester of Mountain City, Tenn. Blackie and Phyllis moved to Roanoke before moving to Salem,

where they bought their first home and started their family. Steve was born in the spring of 1958 and Craig in the fall of 1960. The family of four then moved to Radford before making their final home in Blacksburg. In 1976, his daughter, Beth, was born.

Blackie worked for C&P Telephone Company, Inc., from 1957, where he remained until his retirement in 1988. Blackie loved his years of retirement, where he spent most mornings on the water, fishing and afternoons, on the golf course. Blackie spent many days with good friends, on both the water and the golf course. Fishing and good friends took him all over the United States, where he brought back fish and entertained friends and family with countless fish fries. His greatest joy, both in his career and his retirement was his family and his best



See Obituaries, page 6

Send community news and photos to communitynews@ourvalley.org

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

NO LONGER A STRANGER

Read: Ephesians 1:1 through 3:21

Being a stranger in a new setting always causes a little anxiety. There are new faces and places. There are strange smells and sounds. There are new sights. The more foreign the land, the more intense these differences seem. Having a guide, someone who is familiar with the place and who can introduce us to new people, is very helpful.

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household (Ephesians 2:19).

At one time, we were all strangers to God's kingdom and to His promises. But in Christ, we find our way. He has "brought us near" when once we were "far off." It is through His blood that He has brought us into the Kingdom. Because of Him we are no longer strangers and foreigners, but we are fellow citizens in God's house.

Like a guide, Jesus is the one who has bought our passage and shown us the way. Because of Him, we can claim the status of being part of God's household.

Prayer Suggestion: Thank God for bringing you into His Kingdom.

Quicklook: Ephesians 2:11-22

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 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

Planning a holiday shopping budget is the best way to navigate the season, says Virginia Tech experts

As the holiday season approaches, it is important to begin budgeting for your gift shopping ahead of time.

Taking proactive steps now will help you manage expenses wisely and make the most of the festive season. Virginia Tech economics and finance experts share why.

“Shoppers need lists of recipients and gifts, prioritizing essential items, and tracking expenses to avoid overspending,” says Jadrian Wooten, collegiate associate professor in the Department of Economics at Virginia Tech. “It’s tempting to be lured by good deals and go off-budget, but staying disciplined is incredibly important.”

Wooten explains that consumers are often presented with promotions that create the impression of financial losses if they don’t make an immediate purchase.

“In reality, sticking to a budgeted plan is a wiser choice.”

R e s p o n s i b l e

budgeting, before we start shopping, ensures a joyful holiday season without the added stress of financial burden,” says Wooten. “The holiday shopping culture revolves around generosity, tradition, and emotional spending, which often leads to emotional spending.”

To avoid falling into this trap, Wooten recommends people be aware of these cultural dynamics and set up realistic spending limits that are in line with their financial situation.

“It’s no secret that inflation has increased the prices of the goods we want and need,” says Virginia Tech finance expert Jesse Lineberry, who also offers his perspective on the effect of holiday budgeting. “If you’re having a hard time budgeting for gifts this year, consider making crafts or building gifts instead of purchasing items at the store.”

Looking past the holidays, Lineberry advises avoiding high-interest-rate debit use through credit

cards.

“Avoid buying gifts with interest-bearing debt and consider using a debit card or cash if you can.”

If you are going to use a credit card, Lineberry recommends paying it off in full every month.

“Pre-emptive budgeting can help ensure that we have the proper funds to avoid taking on debt.”

Budgeting in advance allows shoppers to worry less about gifts when the holidays finally arrive and allows for more quality time with friends and family. “A budget will allow you to shop with freedom knowing that you can celebrate the holidays without causing damage to your financial well-being,” says Lineberry.

Wooten is a collegiate associate professor with the Department of Economics at Virginia Tech’s College of Science. He is also the author of “Parks and Recreation and Economics.” Wooten has been featured in USA Today, WJLA ABC 7 Washington, D.C.,

Scripps News, and NBC News, among scores of other media outlets. He also writes a weekly blog on economics issues, Monday Morning Economist. Read more about him here.

Lineberry is an

assistant professor of practice in the Pamplin College of Business at Virginia Tech. He teaches multiple courses on financial planning and serves as the Financial Planning Program’s director. In addition

to spending nearly a decade in the financial planning profession, he holds the CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ designation.

Margaret Ashburn for Virginia Tech

Obituaries from page 5

four-legged girl, Riley. He took Riley to countless places and she became a staple in the community, just like Blackie. Blackie’s infectious smile and love of people will forever remain as part of his legacy.

In addition to his parents, Blackie is preceded in death by his oldest son, N. Steven Blevins, in 1996, and his best fishing buddy, Riley, in 2017.

Blackie is survived by his wife of 66-and-a-half years, Phyllis, of the home; his son, Craig Blevins of Blacksburg; his daughter, Beth Blevins of Lexington, N.C.; his granddaughter, Kelsey Blevins of Virginia Beach; his grandson, Tyler Blevins and wife, Ann, along with

great-granddaughter, Elena Marie of Philadelphia; and his English Springer Spaniel, Katie, who has taken excellent care of him, just where Riley left off.

A Celebration of Blackie’s remarkable life was held Thursday, Nov. 30, 2023, at Blacksburg Christian Church with Rev. Gary McCoy and Rev. J.B. Beane officiating. The family received friends after the service in the fellowship hall. Interment was private.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests contributions be made to Blacksburg Christian Church, where Blackie and his family have been members since coming to Blacksburg.

Carden, Donna Raye

Donna Raye Carden (nee a sister-in-law, nephews and nieces, Martin) went home to the Kingdom of Heaven on Nov. 24, 2023, at Roanoke Memorial Hospital.

Donna was born in Pembroke, Va. on March 15, 1947, to Nellie and Watson Martin. The family moved to Blacksburg when Donna was nine years old. Donna Carden graduated from Blacksburg High School in 1965. She then went to work for Blacksburg Laundromat for two years before meeting and marrying James W. Carden in 1967. James and Donna moved to Christiansburg in 1970 and Donna then worked for the Imperial Reading Factory on Roanoke Street for 20-plus years. The family moved to the Belview area of Route 114 in 1979.

Donna was preceded in death by her husband, James W. Carden in May 2017 after 49 years of marriage. She was an active member of the Original Pentecostal Holiness Church in Pulaski, Va. for the last 15 years.

She is survived by two children,



a bonus son, and seven grandchildren. Her sister-in-law, Jean Horton, lives near Chattanooga, Tenn. Her son, Donald W. Carden and his wife, Carolyn Carden, live in Chesterfield, Va. with four grandchildren (Patrick, Liam, Zachary and Cadence Carden). Her oldest grandchild,

Kristi N. DeNovo (nee Carden) and her husband Anton live in Sydney, Australia. Her daughter, Melissa “Missy” Carden and her partner Anthony Albert, live in Christiansburg with two other grandchildren, Renay and Peyton Albert. She is also survived by a bonus son, Timothy “Tim” Leake who lives in Fairlawn.

Donna’s family will accept visitors 4- 6 p.m. at Mullins Funeral Home in Radford (120 West Main St.) on Monday, Dec. 4. The funeral ceremony will be held Tuesday, Dec. 5 at 10:30 a.m. at the funeral home. Interment will follow in West View Cemetery in Radford.

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

Trail, Curtis Dean

Curtis Dean Trail, 61, of Pulaski, passed away Sunday, Nov. 12, 2023.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Gordon and Almada Trail; and sister, Vickie Sands.

Survivors include his brothers and sisters-in-law, Michael Trail and

Kathryn, and Dennis Trail and Janet; and many nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Services will be held at a later date.

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

Relay For Life Montgomery County hosts Tree of Hope ceremonies

Come join us for a night of music, joy, celebration and remembrance while supporting the Relay for Life of Montgomery County as we host our annual Tree of Hope Lighting Ceremony on Tuesday, Dec. 5 at 6 p.m. at LewisGale Hospital Montgomery and Wednesday, Dec. 6 at 6 p.m. at LewisGale Hospital Pulaski.

The Trees of Hope are located inside the hospital lobby during the month of December. The trees are adorned with Christmas ornaments personalized with the names of cancer survivors, caregivers and the names of those who have lost their battle. The ornaments are purchased through our Relay teams and the names are read aloud during the tree lighting ceremony.

“The Trees of Hope are a way for Relay For Life of Montgomery County to partner with Lewis Gale and show the impact cancer has on our communities. We hope through the acts of honoring and remembering loved ones impacted by cancer with the ceremonies, we can bring greater awareness to the cause and continue fighting for a cure,” said Daniel Haller, the Relay for Life Event Leader.

“The Trees of Hope are a symbol of our dedication to honor loved ones while fighting for a cure,” said Linda Howell, Relay for Life representative. “The money we raise throughout the year is used to improve the lives of people with cancer. Funds are used for research, patient support, awareness, and advocacy. Research brings new treatment

options which moves us one step closer to a cancer free world.”

All are welcome to join this community event. For more information, visit www.relayforlife.org/montgomeryva or follow our Facebook page Relay For Life of Montgomery County, VA.

Submitted by Linda Howell



PHOTO COURTESY OF RELAY FOR LIFE MONTGOMERY COUNTY

The Trees of Hope are adorned with Christmas ornaments personalized with the names of cancer survivors, caregivers and the names of those who have lost their battle. The ornaments are purchased through Relay teams and the names are read aloud during the tree lighting ceremony.

Events from page 3

Stuart St., Christiansburg. Douglas Asante will speak about Ghana and the slave trade.

Monday, Dec. 11:

Radford City Council meeting

The Radford City Council will hold its regularly scheduled meeting at 7 p.m. in council chambers at the Radford Municipal Building, 10 Robertson St., Radford. See the agenda at www.radfordva.gov.

Montgomery County Board of Supervisors meeting

CROSSWORD ANSWERS grid with letters filled in.

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, Dec. 12:

Blacksburg Town Council meeting

The council meets in regular session the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Roger E. Hedgepeth Chambers of the Blacksburg Municipal Building, 300 S. Main St. These meetings are open to the public and televised live on WTOB Channel 2.

Christiansburg

Town Council meeting

Regular Town Council meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month beginning at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Town Hall (100 E. Main Street). The public is welcome and encouraged to attend, with a citizen hearing time reserved at each meeting for residents to bring any matter they desire before the entire council.

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:

Radford “Candyland”

Parade registration

Radford’s Holiday Parade, themed “Candyland”, will take place on Friday, Dec. 1, 2023 at 7 p.m. Line-up begins at 6 p.m. The parade route will line-up on East Main Street between Tyler Avenue and University Drive Bridge and proceed westward along Main Street to the Central Square Shopping Center. To register, complete the form at www.radford.gov and return it to: Radford Parks and Recreation, Attention: Donna Wolfe, 200 George St., Radford.

Blacksburg stormwater utility credit application deadline

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. 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. Questions, contact stormwater@blacksburg.gov or call 540-443-1354.

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 plan. Amendments include changes to Future Land Use Map designations or the text of the Plan. Applications 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.

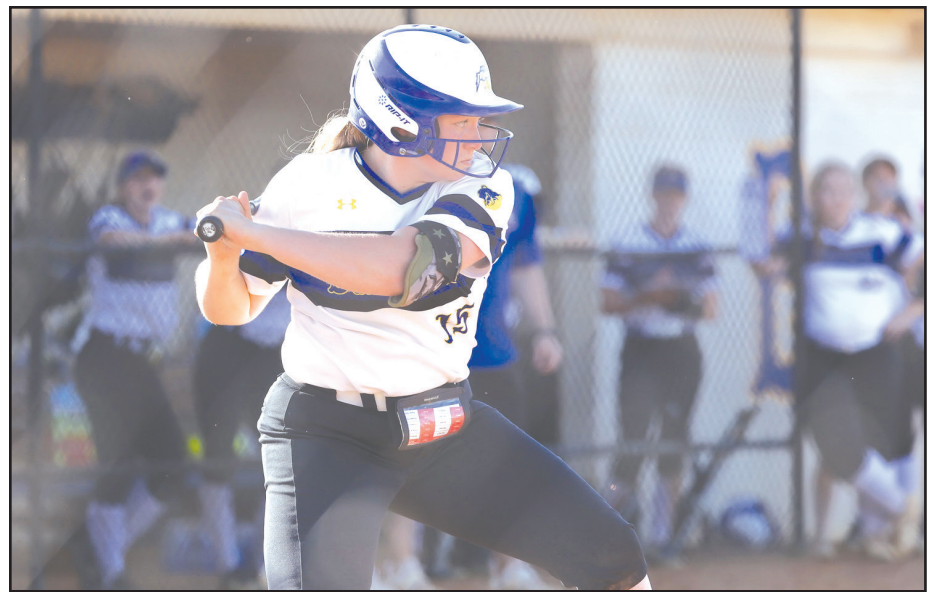
Eligibility applications for Christmas Store 2023

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 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.

RADFORD SPORTS



Clara McMahon makes a catch during Blacksburg High School's 2023 River Ridge District win over Christiansburg.



Blacksburg Lindsey Polan is developing into one of the area's top hitters.

FILE PHOTOS

Bruins to play softball in college

Marty Gordon

NRVsports@mainstreetnewspapers.com

Two more softball players from Blacksburg High School have announced plans to play at the next level.

This comes on the heels of two committing to Carson Newman earlier in the week.

Clara McMahon and Lindsey Polan hope to continue their careers at schools in southwest Virginia with at least one being very close to home.

Polan is a senior and chose UVA-Wise because of the coaching staff.

"They were extremely nice and helpful during my recruitment," she said. "They just got a brand new turf field and new weight room. I also chose the school because of the location it is very rural and what I'm used to as I grew up on a farm.

She plans to play first, third or catch at Wise. Surprisingly, Polan only started playing softball in 2019, but since then things have taken off including

being one of the tops in the country in several categories.

Her maximum distance she has hit has been 272 ft and the average exit velocity is 77 and my max is 82 miles per hour.

McMahon, who is a junior, chose Radford University.

"I have always wanted to play at the D1 level and Radford is 100% the place for me. The campus is gorgeous and the perfect size. It is also 30 minutes from home which is great because I wanted to stay close to home," she said earlier this week.

When talking about the coaching staff, she feels they will push her to be the best player and person I can be.

"On my visit, I got to eat lunch with the team and got to see the relationships that the players have made together, that is another reason why I knew Radford was where I wanted to go. One of Radford Softball's main goals is student before athlete, and that was a huge green flag for me. I just cannot wait to continue my softball and educational career at Radford

University."

McMahon, who is a junior, hopes to pitch at RU as her speed on the mound has already reached 64 miles per hour.

As a sophomore, she had a .647 WHIP mark with 24 strikeouts in 17 innings with only one earned run. At the plate, McMahon had a .327 batting average, .925 on base percentage, two homeruns and 13 RBI's in 18 games as Blacksburg was the 2023 Ridge River District champs.

During that span, she pitched a no hitter with 11 strikeouts while hitting a homerun.

This past summer as a member of the Maroon Crush Fastpitch travel team, McMahon pitched 33.1 innings with 64 strikeouts and a 1.52 ERA, holding opponents to a .216 batting average.

Polan plans to major in elementary education so she can give back to the community.

At the moment, McMahon hopes to gain a Bachelors in Biology and minor in teaching as well.



PHOTO COURTESY OF VT ATHLETICS

Eight Hokies earn All-ACC honors

Virginia Tech football's Bhayshul Tuten and Antwaun Powell-Ryland were named to the 2023 All-ACC Second Team, while Dorian Strong and Tucker Holloway earned Third Team accolades, the ACC announced Monday evening.

Tuten was recognized as an all-purpose player and Powell-Ryland was named on the defensive team.

Strong was named to the defensive team while Holloway was selected as a specialist. Five Hokies also received honorable mentions, a group that includes tight end Dae'Quan Wright, defensive lineman Norell Pollard, linebacker Keli Lawson, kicker John Love and Tuten as a running back.

Tuten (5'11", 205) led Tech in all-purpose yardage, totaling 1,436 yards in 12 games. His explosiveness was quite an asset, as the North Carolina A&T transfer returned two kickoffs for touchdowns, one for 99 yards against Florida State and the other for 94 yards in the regular season finale versus Virginia. He is one of two Power Five kick returners who co-lead the nation in touchdowns, ranking third nationally in average kick return yardage (30.6). Among Tuten's 16 kick returns this season, eight have qualified as explosive plays totaling 20 yards or more, including returns of 99, 94, 50 and 35 yards. The

Paulsboro, New Jersey native is also the Hokies' rushing leader with 727 yards on the ground and eight touchdowns. Tuten's versatility was consistently on display as he hauled in 25 receptions for 220 yards and two scores.

Powell-Ryland (6'3", 244), commonly referred to as APR, may have a new nickname as the 'Mayor of Sacksburg'. The Florida transfer recorded 9.5 sacks, the most by a Tech player since 2014. As a new addition to Tech's defensive front, the junior was very disruptive, leading the team in tackles for loss (13.5), forced fumbles (3) and quarterback hurries (7). APR amassed 39 tackles in the regular season and registered four sacks against Wake Forest, the most in a Tech game since 1995.

Strong (6'0", 182) primarily held down the boundary's secondary role for Tech's cornerback and finished with a career-high 80.4 defensive grade, according to Pro Football Focus (PFF). He is just the second FBS cornerback since 2014 with 300+ coverage snaps that has given up less than 10 receptions and less than 100 yards receiving. Strong has given up just 9 receptions for 83 yards on 340 coverage snaps. The redshirt junior snagged three interceptions for 28 yards. He also led the Hokies in pass breakups with eight. Strong

totalled 21 tackles on the year and assisted on a TFL.

Holloway (6'2", 185) brought big play ability to the table as a punt returner, leading the Hokies with 258 return yards on 19 attempts. The Andrews, North Carolina native returned two punts for more than 50 yards. The first went for 66 yards in the season opener versus Old Dominion, and the latter against Syracuse for 57 yards. Holloway ranks eighth in the country, first in the ACC in average yards per return (13.6). The sophomore wideout also recorded his first offensive touchdown against Virginia on a 33-yard rush.

Wright led the Hokies tight end room in both receptions (28) and receiving yards (366), both third highest on the team. Pollard racked up 7.5 tackles for loss on the interior, four of which were sacks and 23 total tackles in 12 starts. Lawson led the defense in tackles with a career-high 77 while recording 1.5 sacks, six passes defended and a forced fumble. Handling full-time field goal duties, Love connected on 20 of 22 attempts, including a season-long 47 yards at Virginia. The redshirt freshman was a perfect 39 of 39 on PATs and tallied 99 points on the season.

Virginia Tech Athletics

Using sports analytics to get ahead of the game

The Introduction to Sports Analytics course debuted this fall to prepare students for the more advanced Sports Analytics Statistical Research course. Both are equipping students with the knowledge to be successful in sports and in any number of other careers.

Arguably, no one understands the intersection between sports and analytics better than Kenneth Massey.

The 47-year-old Virginia Tech alumnus developed a college football ratings model that played a large role in determining the two participants in the Bowl Championship Series (BCS) national title game every year for 14 consecutive years from 1999-2013. The Massey Ratings were one of six computer rankings used by the BCS and thrust this mathematics whiz to the forefront of college football conversations every fall.

He became a well-known name among passionate fan bases — many of whom were more than willing to voice their opinions of him and his colleagues.

"We were the villains," Massey said with a smile. "The bad guys."

Massey, who earned his master's degree from the Department of Mathematics within the College of Science in 1999, said that to students during a Q&A session in Sierra Merkes' Introduction to Sports Analytics course held Nov. 3 in one of Hutcheson Hall's quaint classrooms. The approximately 20 students in the course asked numerous questions of Massey, who told of his career journey and relayed other scholarly advice to a group interested in numbers, analytics, and in the case of many, sports.

The Introduction to Sports Analytics course made its debut this fall. Not to be confused with the major in sports media and analytics, this three-credit course resides within the Department of Statistics in the College of Science. Its curriculum uses sports to introduce students to data and data collection methods, visualization techniques, game performance statistics, inferential statistics, and predictive modeling techniques for sports data.

Taught by Merkes, a former Radford University women's soccer player who recently earned her doctoral degree in statistics from Virginia Tech, the course serves a precursor to a more advanced Sports Analytics Statistical Research class taught by Paul Sabin '19, who received his doctoral degree in statistics from Virginia Tech and is well-known in data analytics circles

for his work with ESPN.

"We decided to create this class so that we could get more kids into sports analytics and hopefully get them into statistics, so that maybe they declare that as a major," Merkes said. "We're hoping that students use this class as a focal point. Statistics is very applied. We can apply it to things we love. For a lot of students, that's sports."

Merkes' course features a blend of students pursuing a variety of majors, many with a common interest — a passion for sports. Yet they can apply the concepts, theories, and approaches they learn in these two sports analytics courses to most fields of study.

Many students dream of pursuing a career in sports analytics with a professional sports team, and certainly analytics affects every part of a sports business. Examples include in-game strategy, social media engagement, and return on investment from merchandise sales and marketing deals. Decisions on these examples revolve around data and numbers.

But the sports job market is extremely competitive, leading Merkes to encourage her students to be flexible with their career aspirations.

"The big question my students are asking is, 'How do I get into the field of sports analytics?'" Merkes said. "It's a small industry. To get in there, you need connections. You want to blend your passions, but it's hard because, for one team, there might be only two or three analysts, depending on the sport. So it's very hard to get in and be noticed. A lot of it is networking. But the growth for analytics in general is much bigger."

Massey echoed those sentiments. Despite his name recognition and despite helping a couple of Major League Baseball teams several years ago, he never pursued a career in sports, preferring instead to maintain his Massey Ratings website as a hobby rather than a career. He has even expanded his ratings to sports such as soccer, hockey, volleyball, and handball.

In 2005, he joined the faculty at Carson-Newman University in Jefferson City, Tennessee, and today, he works there as a data analyst while also teaching math courses.

"I would advise students not to intentionally restrict their career path to sports," Massey said. "Try to get working knowledge of other industries as well and have a general understanding of math and statistics and analytics that you can apply to a variety of problems."

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Blacksburg girls down Radford on the court



Blacksburg's Kailyn Brawley shoots over Radford defender Lauren Owens on a Monday night game at Blacksburg. The senior scored seven points in the Bruins first game of the season.



Blacksburg's Charlotte Ellis stretches for a rebound against Radford.



Blacksburg junior guard Brynn Ferguson led the way with 20 points in 64-28 win over Radford on Monday night. Ferguson had 4 three-pointers in the contest.



First year Blacksburg coach Joseph Reid congratulates his team after a season-opening win over Radford.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF BLACKSBURG RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Dean's Body Shop team named co-ed tournament winners

Dean's Body Shop's sponsored team recently won the Blacksburg Recreation Department's Fall Co-ed softball tournament.

Analytics from page 7

"I do know it's a pretty competitive field to get a job with a professional team. Some people can do it, and if you think those opportunities are there, then that's great. Do like I did and start a hobby website where people can find your work, so you have a portfolio that people can see what you've done. But the great thing about math is that it can be applied in a lot of different domains."

Isabella Shaher heard the message. The junior from Centreville, Virginia, is pursuing a degree in computational modeling and data analytics, known more commonly by its acronym CMDA, and dreams of working for her favorite NFL team, the Pittsburgh Steelers.

"That's a big dream of mine, but more realistically, I'll probably be a data analyst," Shaher said. "If it's for a sports team, that would be fantastic, but if it ends up taking me down another

route, like insurance, for example, that would be great as well. Being a CMDA major, everything is generalized, which I think is cool. You get to do a bit of everything. You should always dream big, but realistic."

Shaher and two of her classmates are having some fun and gaining real-world experience at the same time by working on a project with the Virginia Tech volleyball team, with the goal of helping the team improve. Merkes requires the group to give a presentation to the class toward the end of the semester.

"They're Division I, and it's just a big opportunity," Shaher said. "I was very excited about it."

While pursuing her doctoral degree, Merkes worked with computer scientists, engineers, and even the Virginia Tech softball team on various projects. That's a big reason why she half-jokingly insists that

every student pursue a degree in statistics or computational modeling and data analytics.

Data drives today's world, and those with the ability to organize it efficiently and effectively will be in high demand. The Introduction to Sports Analytics and Sports Analytics Statistical Research courses were designed in part to help meet that demand.

"You get to play in everyone's area, and I think that is so cool," Merkes said. "I just want to keep exposing that to the students. Whatever your passion is, I promise you somehow stats is related. You have to analyze data, forecast, understand how the data is working, and if I can get students to realize that stats is important, and it applies to all these different fields, then I'm doing my job and hopefully more kids will come to our classes."

Jimmy Robertson, Virginia Tech Athletics