



News Journal

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Eleven West supports Radford High School Athletic Boosters

RADFORD – When the Bobcats won the state championship in football, Eleven West was there with the merchandise commemorating the event.

Now, the Radford-based company is donating some of the proceeds from the merchandise to support Radford High School's athletic programs.

Josh Smith, Radford High

School Athletic Booster Club Board Member, was recently presented with a check from John Giesen of Eleven West with the donation to the boosters from the sale of state championship merchandise commemorating Radford High School's undefeated football season. For over 50 years, the Radford Athletic Boosters Club has helped meet the financial needs of Radford High School's

varsity, junior varsity, and eighth grade sports programs. From maintaining facilities to purchasing equipment, Booster Club funding is used to keep RHS athletics competitive. Many thanks to John and the terrific team at Eleven West that continue to support Bobcat athletics!

Radford High School Athletic Booster Club



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE RHS ATHLETIC BOOSTER CLUB
Josh Smith (left), Radford High School Athletic Booster Club Board Member is presented with a check from John Giesen, Eleven West, as a donation from the sale of state championship merchandise.

NRV Amtrak plans pushed back to 2028

Virginia Passenger Rail Authority holding public information meeting Jan. 29



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF AMTRAK

Costs for a proposed Amtrak line through the New River Valley have now skyrocketed to over \$360 million.

Officials with the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority say most of the cost is associated with work on a train tunnel in the Merrimac area of Montgomery County. The work could push Amtrak's arrival to 2028.

But this week, Karina Romero, communications manager for the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority, said the state still hopes to bring Amtrak service to the NRV. The key, according to Romero, is building the infrastructure.

Because of the preliminary work, the overall cost could even double the \$360 million. It's expected 40,000 people would use the service every year.

In 2021, then-Governor Ralph Northam announced that the Commonwealth had reached an

agreement with Norfolk Southern to extend passenger rail service along the former Virginian Line from Roanoke to the New River Valley (NRV) for the first time since 1979. The Governor's announcement marked the beginning of negotiations with Norfolk Southern for Virginia to purchase 28 miles of right-of-way and tracks along the Virginian Line from the Salem Crossovers west of Roanoke to Merrimac (Christiansburg).

A year later, an agreement was reached with Norfolk Southern Railroad to purchase 28 miles of track from Salem to Christiansburg. Improvements to that line would include minor bridge repairs, rockslide fences, at-grade crossings and the expansion of the tunnel.

All of this would facilitate speeds of 40 mph through the Roanoke yard to

See Amtrak, page 4



PHOTO BY PATRICK HAND

Stop-action bird bath wins photo club contest

RADFORD – A photo of starlings enjoying a bath won the Radford Photo Club's theme category for January.

The challenge was black and white outdoor photography. The photo was taken by Patrick Hand and edited by Juan Pablo Cubur.

The open category was won by Linda

Waggaman.

"In Western Canada we took a boat tour on Maligne Lake headed toward Spirit Island, seen on the right," she said. "It was a cold and misty morning allowing for some mystical looking shots."

The Radford Photo Club is made up of professional and amateur

photographers from throughout the New River Valley. Meetings, events, and outings are open to the public. If you have questions about the club, email Lucy Gilmore at lucyg.gilmore@gmail.com or Michele Borgarelli at mborgarelli@gmail.com.

Radford Photo Club

BAE Systems supports Brush Mountain Park project

BAE Systems Ordnance Systems Inc. (OSI) sponsored the Brush Mountain Park project with the New River Land Trust, providing funding to create a new multi-use park trail.

"BAE Systems is an excited sponsor of this key environmental resource for the New River Valley community," said John Swift, vice president and general manager of BAE Systems Ordnance Systems Inc. "Employees at the Radford Army Ammunition Plant are looking forward to using the Brush Mountain trail

to maintain a healthy work-life balance. It is part of our company's purpose to contribute to the prosperity of the community where we live and work."

The New River Land Trust is dedicated to protecting farmland, forests, open spaces, and historic places in Virginia's New River region. The land trust has protected 57,000 acres, 27 miles of New River waterfront, and 758 acres of new parkland in Blacksburg, Virginia.

"We are thrilled to welcome BAE Systems as a supporter of the Brush

Mountain Park," said John Eustis, executive director of the New River Land Trust. "The sponsorship supported the completion of a new section of the trail, and improved a popular existing trail at the Park's second property, Stonecutters Hollow. The Land Trust's conservation efforts would not be possible without support from the community, including the business sector. It is great to have BAE Systems, one of the region's largest employers, support conservation

See BAE, page 4



PHOTO COURTESY OF BAE SYSTEMS

U.S. Army and BAE Systems leadership at Brush Mountain Park. From left to right: (Back) Chief Ray Meals, Pierre Franco, Commander LTC Adrien Humphreys, John Swift, Tom Yates. (Front) Rob Davie, Stephanie Chatagnier, Laura McLaughlin.

CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY

FEBRUARY 20-APRIL 16

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GRAPHIC COURTESY OF THE RADFORD CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

Citizen Police Academy returns to Radford

The Radford City Police Department has announced the return of the RCPD Citizens Police Academy starting on Feb. 20, 2024.

The academy will take place for nine weeks, meeting once a week on Tuesday nights from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. at the Radford City Police Department (with one Saturday session).

"This is an exciting way to learn and engage with your local police department. It provides community members the chance to learn, ask questions, and engage in healthy discussions," the department announced.

"The Citizen Police Academy is designed to allow citizens to gain a realistic view of law enforcement operations of the Radford City Police Department," the department's announcement states. "It is our hope that insight gained by participating in this program will be both informative and enjoyable. The main goal of the Citizen Police Academy is to build

relationships with the citizens and creates a community that is better informed about the reality of police work."

Curriculum includes K-9, communications / E911 center, criminal investigations, patrol, swat, community engagement and firearms.

Qualifications / rules include:
 Must be a minimum of 18 years of age or older.
 Applicant must be able to pass a criminal history background check.
 No participation in a similar program within the past six months
 Participants are required to dress in proper attire. Jeans and t-shirts are not permitted, except with the approval from the coordinator for certain classes.
 Follow all instructions by the instructor during the program. No interference with the performance of the instructor shall be permitted.

See Police Academy, page 4

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, Jan. 27:

Family Movie Matinee

At the Radford Public Library; 11 a.m. "Paw Patrol: the Mighty Movie." The PAW Patrol pups end up with superpowers after a meteor crash-lands nearby. Rated PG; 88 minutes.

Grownup Board Game Club

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

Winter Starlight Storytime & Craft

At the Radford Public Library; 6:30 -7:30 p.m. Stop by the library for a winter-themed evening children's storytime! Wind down for the day with stories and friends at the library. There will be a craft after! Pajamas and stuffies encouraged!

Quilting Marathon

At the Meadowbrook Library; 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. The Meadowbrook Quilters are hosting a quilting marathon! The public is invited to see these skilled individuals quilting. The group will be working on individual projects. This is a great opportunity for you to see their handiwork and bring your quilting projects or questions for assistance. This program is open to all ages!

So, You Want to Be a Beekeeper?

At the Christiansburg Library; 1- 3 p.m. Are you interested in beekeeping but not sure where to start? Now is the time to get all the answers to your questions! How much does beekeeping cost? How much time will it take? How much honey will I get? How important are honeybees for pollination? Can I keep bees in town? Learn about all this and more in our beginner's class - a free presentation/ discussion, no sign-up required.

Monday, Jan. 29:

Enrollment Opportunities for Homeschoolers with NRCC

At the Christiansburg Library; 2- 3 p.m. Enrollment Coach, Matthew Spring of New River Community College will host an informational session as part of a new effort to reach out to our homeschool and private school populations. Matthew will give a brief presentation and a financial aid advisor will be present to help with questions about enrollment and affordability.

Tuesday, Jan. 30:

Virtual Author Talk with Dr. Robert Lustig

Hosted by the Radford Public Library; 2- 3 p.m. Launch your New Year healthy with Dr. Robert Lustig, a pediatric neuroendocrinologist who has long been on the cutting edge of medicine and science. Dr. Lustig's book, *Metabolic: The Lure and the Lies of Processed Food, Nutrition, and Modern Medicine*, weaves the interconnected strands of nutrition, health/disease, medicine, environment, and society into a completely new fabric by proving on a scientific basis a series of iconoclastic revelations, among them: Register: <https://library.org/radfordlibrary>.

Thursday, Feb. 1:

American Legion meeting

The American Legion, Harvey-Howe-Carper Post 30 will meet at 6 p.m. at the VFW Post Home, 102 Watts St., Radford. If Radford City Public Schools are closed on Thursday or Friday of this week due to weather, the meeting will be cancelled. For further information, please call 540-250-2283 or 540-239-9864.

Saturday, Feb. 3:

Book Sale

There will be a book sale at the Radford Public Library 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Lots of selections and low prices. Come and support the Radford Library.

Southwest Virginia High School Art Show

The art of high school students from throughout Southwest Virginia will be on display at The Art Museum on Tyler (214 Tyler Ave., Radford) Feb. 3 - Feb. 17 Opening reception: Saturday, Feb. 3 at 1 p.m. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and 12- 4 p.m. Saturdays.

Monday, Feb.12:

Radford City Council meeting

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

Montgomery County Board of Supervisors meeting

Public meetings are the second and fourth Monday of each month at the Montgomery County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St. in Christiansburg. Closed sessions begin at 6 p.m. if needed. Open sessions begin at 7:15 p.m. Citizens are invited to attend and allowed to speak at each meeting. All regular meetings of the Board of Supervisors are rebroadcast on Montgomery County Comcast and Shentel Channels 190 daily.

Tuesday, Feb. 13:

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 St.). 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.

Thursday, Feb. 15:

Sons of Confederate Veterans meeting

The Sons of Confederate Veterans, Stuart Horse Artillery Camp 1784 will meet at 7 p.m. at Aly's Family Italian Restaurant, 3204 Riner Rd. Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) are also invited to attend. Member Will Reed will speak on "Animals of the War Between the States". If Montgomery and/or Floyd County Public Schools are closed on Thursday or Friday of this week due to weather, the meeting will be cancelled. For further information, please call 540-320-4315 or 540-239-9864.

Monday, Feb. 19:

The Dinosaurs are coming!

Looking for a fun, family-friendly activity to enjoy together? Join us 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the Blacksburg Community Center for Dino Squad! Explore fossils, cast replicas and museum models of dinosaurs during this interactive, educational program. \$3/child, \$2/ additional child. Adults free when accompanying a child. Register in advance online, or in-person at the door. Keyword search "Dino Squad", activity number: 201014. For more information, call 540.443.1100.

National Bankshares, Inc. to acquire Frontier Community Bank

National Bankshares, Inc. ("National Bankshares" or the "Company") (Nasdaq: NKSH) and Frontier Community Bank ("Frontier") have jointly announced they have entered into a definitive merger agreement for National Bankshares to acquire Frontier.

As of Sept. 30, 2023, Frontier had total assets of approximately \$154 million. Upon completion of the transaction, National Bankshares is expected to have total consolidated assets of approximately \$1.7 billion based on September 30, 2023 financial data.

"We are pleased to announce our partnership with Frontier Community Bank, and we believe that our compatible cultures and shared values will enhance our position as a true Virginia community bank," said Brad Denardo, Chairman, President and CEO of National

Bankshares. "This acquisition will also help us achieve a higher level of financial performance for our shareholders by gaining meaningful entry into markets with attractive growth opportunities. We look forward to continuing Frontier's commitment to its customers and the communities it serves."

Alan Sweet, President and CEO of Frontier, added, "We are excited to combine Frontier Community Bank into the National Bankshares team. This transaction allows Frontier to improve the products and services we offer our customers while continuing to operate with the culture and values of a community bank. National Bankshares' trading on the Nasdaq stock market provides Frontier's shareholders with the opportunity to benefit from enhanced

stock trading liquidity."

Under the terms of the merger agreement, shareholders of Frontier will have the right to receive either 0.4250 shares of National Bankshares common stock or \$14.48 in cash for each share of Frontier common stock they hold. Shareholder elections are subject to adjustment so that the overall mix of consideration to be paid to Frontier shareholders consists of at least 90% National Bankshares common stock. The aggregate value of the transaction is approximately \$17.1 million. Upon completion of the acquisition, Frontier will merge into The National Bank of Blacksburg, the wholly owned bank subsidiary of National Bankshares.

The transaction, which received unanimous approval by both National Bankshares' and Frontier's Board

of Directors, is subject to customary closing conditions, including the approval of the merger agreement by Frontier's shareholders and the receipt of all required regulatory approvals. All executive officers and directors of Frontier have entered into support agreements to vote the shares of Frontier they own in favor of the transaction. The transaction is expected to close in the second quarter of 2024.

Piper Sandler & Co. served as financial advisor to National Bankshares, and Williams Mullen served as its legal counsel. Performance Trust Capital Partners, LLC served as financial advisor to Frontier, and Woods Rogers Vandeventer Black served as its legal counsel.

National Bankshares, Inc.

Business REVIEW

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Marijuana seized at Roanoke/Blacksburg Regional Airport

Several pounds of marijuana were seized last week at the Roanoke/Blacksburg Regional Airport.

According to the Virginia State Police, on Friday, Jan. 19, 2024, members of the Star City Drug and Violent Crime Task Force "conducted a narcotics interdiction at the Roanoke/Blacksburg Regional Airport in the City of Roanoke" after task force members discovered two suspicious pieces of luggage on an inbound passenger flight. A narcotics K-9 was used, and members received a positive alert on the two pieces of luggage."

Task force members then obtained and executed a search warrant on the two bags and the luggage was found to contain 33 pounds of illegal marijuana. The marijuana was seized, and a suspect was identified. The suspect has not yet been named by police, and the incident is still under investigation.

The Star City Drug and Violent Crime Task Force is Comprised of



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE VIRGINIA STATE POLICE

Several pounds of marijuana were seized last week at the Roanoke/Blacksburg Regional Airport.

the City of Roanoke Police Department, Salem City Police Department, The Roanoke County Police Department and the Virginia State Police.

Staff report

Montgomery Museum of Art & History receives ArtStars Award from Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation

CHRISTIANSBURG – The Montgomery Museum of Art & History has been awarded a \$10,000 ArtStars Award from the Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation. The Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation named five nonprofit arts organizations across the Commonwealth as 2024 Dominion Energy ArtStars for inspiring people of all ages in creative endeavors. The organizations, each with an annual operating budget under \$1 million, represent five regions across Virginia.

Each received a \$10,000 grant to support its winning arts or cultural education programs. “We are honored to represent Southwest Virginia and accept this gift from the Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation, which supports our mission to promote the arts within the region while offering creative and impactful art exhibits and programs to the community,” said Casey Jenkins, the Executive Director of the museum. “These organizations have found opportunities where the arts can make a meaningful

difference in young people’s development and in the overall quality of life in their communities,” said Hunter A. Applewhite, president of the Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation. “Relying largely on donations and volunteers, they make Virginia a better place to live for us all.” The grant award, which celebrates the museum’s endeavors to combine arts and education in the community, will be used to highlight how the Montgomery Museum is expanding the definition

of the arts through cultural programming to include performing arts, literary arts, culinary arts, and much more. “We are very grateful to Dominion Energy and their support of our vital work in the community,” said Jenkins. “This funding will have a direct, local impact on Montgomery County and the New River Valley and enable the museum to be a positive agent of change through our cultural programming.”

Montgomery Museum of Art & History



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF DECF

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

Katie Forbes earns President’s List honors at Shenandoah University

WINCHESTER - Katie Forbes, of Blacksburg, is one of 519 students who made the President’s List at Shenandoah University for the Fall 2023 semester. To qualify for this prestigious academic recognition, students enrolled in baccalaureate degree programs must complete at least 12 semester hours and earn a semester GPA of 3.90 or higher. All President’s List honorees are also recognized on the university’s Dean’s List, reserved for students who complete at least 12 semester hours and earn a semester GPA of 3.50 or higher.

Iowa State University announces fall semester 2023 Dean’s List

AMES, Iowa – More than 10,800 Iowa State University students have been recognized for outstanding academic achievement by being named to the fall semester 2023 Dean’s List, including Leah May Greiner, 4th year student, Animal Science, of Christiansburg. Students named to the Dean’s List must earn a grade point average of at least 3.50 on a 4.00 scale while carrying a minimum of 12 credit hours of graded course work.

Owen Embree named to Fall 2023 Dean’s List

IRVING, Texas - Owen Embree of Blacksburg was named to the fall 2023 dean’s list at the University of Dallas for earning a semester GPA of 3.5 or higher. Embree is a Senior Mathematics major. Undergraduate students at the University of Dallas must complete two years of fundamental coursework in the humanities, sciences, politics, mathematics and fine arts. Students must also complete coursework in Ancient Greek, French, German, Italian, Latin or Spanish.

Avery Carver named to Dean’s List Fall 2023

CEDARVILLE, OHIO - Avery Carver of Christiansburg was named to the Fall 2023 Dean’s List at Cedarville University. Students receive this recognition for obtaining a 3.5 GPA or higher for the semester and carrying a minimum of 12 credit hours.

Sarah Weatherspoon named to Trine University President’s List

ANGOLA, IN - Sarah Weatherspoon of Blacksburg was named to the President’s List for the fall 2023 semester. Weatherspoon is majoring in Elementary Education/Special Ed Dual Licensure. To earn President’s List honors, Trine University students must complete a minimum of 12 hours and have a grade point average of 3.750-4.000.

Freed-Hardeman University announces Fall 2023 President’s, Dean’s lists

HENDERSON, Tenn. - FHU has released the names of students who made the President’s and Dean’s Lists for the Fall 2023 semester. To be on the President’s List, a student must be full-time and have a 4.0 grade point average. Students on the Dean’s List have earned a minimum 3.4 grade point average for the semester. Kenna Smith, a junior from Christiansburg, was named on the Dean’s List. Smith is earning a Bachelor of Arts in Photography.

Addie Vice named to the College of Charleston Fall 2023 President’s List

CHARLESTON, S.C. - Addie Vice of Radford was named to the College of Charleston Fall 2023 President’s List (Highly Distinguished). Vice is majoring in Undecided. To qualify for the President’s List (Highly Distinguished), students must earn a GPA of 3.800 or higher and complete a minimum of 12 semester hours. To qualify for Dean’s List (Distinguished), students must earn a GPA of 3.500 or higher and complete a minimum of 12 semester hours.

James Madison University announces fall 2023 dean’s list

HARRISONBURG - James Madison University is pleased to announce that the following students made the dean’s list for the fall 2023 semester. Emily Clark of Fairlawn who is majoring in Dance - BA. Natalie Jones of Radford who is majoring in General Psychology - BS. Ashleigh Bethea of Radford who is majoring in Health Sciences - BS. Jonathan Woods of Radford who is majoring in Sport and Recreation Management - BS. Erin Wilson of Radford who is majoring in Theatre - BA.

Radford resident named to James Madison University president’s list

HARRISONBURG - Ragan Hale of Radford has been named to the president’s list at James Madison University for the fall 2023 semester. Students who earn president’s list honors must carry at least 12 graded credit hours and earn a GPA of 3.900 or above. Hale is majoring in Nursing - BSN.

James Madison University announces fall 2023 graduates

HARRISONBURG - James Madison University

is pleased to announce the following students who graduated during the December 2023 commencement exercises.

Kerrigan Quesenberry of Radford has graduated with a degree in Health Sciences - BS. Alexander Walter of Blacksburg has graduated with a degree in Marketing - BBA. Ragan Hale of Radford has graduated with a degree in Nursing - BSN. Emily Clark of Fairlawn graduated Cum Laude with a degree(s) in Dance – BA

Abigail Barnes named to Fall 2023 Provost’s List at Hofstra University

HEMPSTEAD, N.Y.- Abigail Barnes of Radford achieved a perfect 4.0 GPA during the Spring 2023 semester, earning a spot on the Provost’s List at Hofstra University. Abigail’s major is Speech-Language Hearing Sciences.

Shenandoah recognizes Dean’s List students for Fall 2023

WINCHESTER - Shenandoah University recognizes the 1,126 students who made the Fall 2023 Dean’s List. Students who were named to the Dean’s List include: Katie Forbes of Blacksburg, Nicklas Bissey of Christiansburg and Madison Bruce of Elliston. To qualify for the Dean’s List, students enrolled in baccalaureate degree programs must complete at least 12 semester hours and earn a semester GPA of 3.50 or higher. Dean’s List students who achieve a semester GPA of 3.90 or higher are also recognized on the university’s President’s List.

Brian Bush named to Western Carolina University’s Fall 2023 Chancellor’s List

CULLOWHEE, N.C. - Congratulations to Brian Bush of Blacksburg for being named to the Western Carolina University Fall 2023 Chancellor’s List. Bush was among more than 1,600 students to achieve this honor. To qualify for the Chancellor’s List, students must earn a GPA of 3.8 or higher while completing a minimum of 12 credit hours.

Spencer Amacher earns Fall Semester Dean’s List Recognition at Ohio Wesleyan University

DELAWARE, Ohio - Spencer Amacher of Blacksburg has been named to the 2023 fall semester Dean’s List at Ohio Wesleyan University. To earn Dean’s List recognition, Ohio Wesleyan students must achieve a grade point average of 3.5 or better on a 4.0 scale in all applicable classes.

See Achievements, page 4



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LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG PLANNING COMMISSION
 The Town of Christiansburg Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, January 29, 2024, 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 Roger Woody, Registered Agent, RWW 36 LLC, Property Owner, and Denise E. LaCour, Managing Director, Denstock LLC, Applicant, to amend a previously approved Planned Housing Development (“The Verge Apartments”) from 209 multi-family residential dwelling units to 206 multi-family residential dwelling units and to change the proposed layout on approximately 18.82 acres located at the terminus of Farmview Road NE, consisting of all of Tax Parcel 436-((A))-41, Parcel ID 017576; a portion of Tax Parcel 436-((A))-36, Parcel

ID 021677; all of Tax Parcel 436-((A))-37, Parcel ID 032861; a portion of Tax Parcel 436-((A))-38, Parcel ID 021678; all of Tax Parcel 436-((A))-39, Parcel ID 021679; all of Tax Parcel 436-((A))-40, Parcel ID 021680; and a portion of 436-((A))-35, Parcel ID 033701; 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.
 B. Conditional Use Permit request by Rockstep Christiansburg LLC, Property Owner, to allow a Carnival from April 28, 2024 through May 12, 2024 on the property located at 782 New River Road NW, Tax Parcel 435 - ((A)) - 41, Parcel ID 007741, zoned General Business District B-3. The proposed time period includes the set-up and operation of the Carnival. The property is designated as Business/Commercial on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan. A copy of the applications, 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 awaren@christiansburg.org, with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations.
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Friday. Contact Andrew Warren, Assistant Town Manager, at (540) 382-6128, ext. 1130 or by email at awaren@christiansburg.org, with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations.



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Achievements from page 1

Billie Woodward named to SNHU Dean's List
MANCHESTER, N.H. - Billie Woodward of Radford has been named to Southern New Hampshire University's Fall 2023 Dean's List. The fall terms run from September to December. 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.

Sherif Mahmoud named to SNHU President's List
MANCHESTER, N.H. - Sherif Mahmoud of Radford has been named to Southern New Hampshire University's (SNHU) Fall 2023 President's List. The fall terms run from September to December. Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above for the reporting term are named to the President's List.

Emory & Henry students named to Fall 2023 Dean's List
EMORY, Va. - Emory & Henry College congratulates students named to the fall 2023 Dean's List. To be named to the Dean's List, a student must be a full-time student and earn a 3.6 GPA for the semester. Anna Beeken of Blacksburg, Makayla Dowdy of Blacksburg, Mary Graham of Radford, Sophie Graham of Radford, Molly Keller of Fairlawn, and Baylee Reasor of Christiansburg have been named to the Dean's List.

Audrey Mosby of Radford earns Midway University Dean's List honors
MIDWAY, Ky. - Midway University is pleased to announce Audrey Mosby has been named to its Dean's List for the 2023 Fall Semester. To be named to the list, a student must be classified as full-time and obtain a 3.60 grade point average for the semester. There were 419 students who made the Dean's List.

Caroline Jones recognized by UNG president for earning 4.0 GPA
DAHLONEGA, Ga. - Caroline Jones of Blacksburg has been named to the President's Honor Roll at the University of North Georgia (UNG) for achieving a 4.0 grade point average during fall 2023. Dr. Micahel P. Shannon, president of UNG, recognized students who reached this academic achievement during the fall 2023 semester. Students enrolled in 12 or more credit hours in bachelor's degree programs who achieved a 4.0 grade point average were named to the President's Honor Roll. Students enrolled in associate degree or dual enrollment programs who met the same level of achievement were named to the President's List.

Chandon Thomson named to Berea College Dean's List
BEREA, Ky. - Chandon Thomson, a resident of Christiansburg, has been named to the Fall 2023 Dean's List at Berea College. A student is named to the Dean's List who achieves a GPA of 3.4 or higher while passing at least four total credits, a course load equivalent to 16 semester hours.

Tanner Long of Christiansburg awarded gold stars for fall 2023 at The Citadel
CHARLESTON, S.C. - Tanner Long of Christiansburg is one of the more than 650 cadets and students recognized for their academic achievements during the fall 2023 semester. Gold stars are awarded to cadets and students at The Citadel who achieved a 3.7 grade point average or higher. Cadets and students who achieve gold star recognition are also placed on The Citadel's dean's list. Those cadets may wear gold stars on their uniforms throughout the semester following their academic achievement. A gold star recognition certificate is awarded to non-cadet students who meet the requirements; veteran and active-duty students are also awarded challenge coins.

Chase Beams of Blacksburg named to University of Alabama Fall 2023 Presidents List
TUSCALOOSA, Ala. - Chase Beams was named to The University of Alabama Presidents List for fall semester 2023. A total of 13,950 students enrolled during fall semester 2023 at The University of Alabama were named to the dean's list with an academic record of 3.5 (or above) or the president's list with an academic record of 4.0 (all A's). These driven students are making waves across UA's more than 70 undergraduate programs and 12 colleges and schools.

Carson-Newman University recognizes fall Dean's List students
JEFFERSON CITY, Tenn. - The following Carson-Newman University students made Dean's List for the fall 2023 semester: Luke Goforth of Blacksburg and McKenna Spaulding of Christiansburg. The university awards Dean's List honors to students earning a grade point average of 3.5 to 3.9 while taking 12 or more credit hours.

Carson-Newman University celebrates 2023 fall graduates
JEFFERSON CITY, Tenn. - The following student graduated from Carson-Newman University at the conclusion of the institution's fall semester: Luke Goforth of Blacksburg, Bachelor of Science.

Sadia Alam Shammi among Mississippi State University's fall 2023 graduates
MISSISSIPPI STATE, Miss. - Sadia Alam Shammi, of Blacksburg, VA, is among more than 1,500 students graduating from Mississippi State University in fall 2023. Shammi received the Master of Science from MSU's Bagley College of Engineering.

Police Academy from page 1

The program may be terminated at any time during participation by the coordinator. Participants are required to conduct themselves in a mature, professional manner at all times.

Participants shall not be armed. Applications are currently being accepted for the academy and will be accepted through Feb. 14, 2024. Please visit radfordcitypolice.org and click on the Citizen Police

Academy tab for more details and how to apply online.

Staff report

BAE from page 1

of and public access to ecologically and culturally important open space."

"BAE Systems is an excited sponsor of this key environmental resource for the New River Valley community."

Brush Mountain Park contains more than 13 miles of trails and is visited by pedestrians on foot for hikes and runs,

along with mountain bikers and horseback riders. Members of BAE Systems' leadership team and Radford Army Ammunition Plant Army staff attended a hike with Eustis to preview the sponsored trail.

"The employees of Radford Army Ammunition Plant are dedicated to giving back

to our community," said Lieutenant Colonel Adrien Humphreys, Radford Army Ammunition Plant Commander. "The Army is deeply committed to environmental preservation and conservation efforts, and in collaboration with BAE Systems, this project allowed us to do just that." The Brush Mountain

Stonemasons Hollow project construction is complete and open for community use.

BAE Systems OSI has been the operating contractor of the Radford Army Ammunition Plant since 2012.

BAE Systems

Amtrak from page 1

the Salem Crossovers and then to Christiansburg.

The New River Valley Passenger Rail Project will bring passenger rail service to the region for the first time since 1979.

Last month, \$2 million in federal funding was approved to study improvements and the extension of Amtrak deeper into southwest Virginia, possibly to Bristol. An estimated \$500,000 of the overall funding is slated for the Bristol plan.

A 2022 report said the

Commonwealth planned to double Amtrak service over the next 20 years. Initially the NRV project had been slated for construction in 2024 and be completed by 2026 with plans for a passenger station near the NRV Mall.

As part of the that project, a passenger train would have to travel through the tunnel and join a current rail line near the Corning plant along N. Franklin Street.

The New River Valley Passenger Rail Station Authority met in mid-

December and elected officers. Christiansburg Mayor Mike Barber was elected chair, Vice-Chair Angie Hill from Montgomery County, Secretary Lynsay Belshe from Virginia Tech, and Treasurer Dirk Compton from Pulaski County.

The Virginia Passenger Rail Authority is holding a public information meeting Jan. 29 at 4:30 p.m. at the Blacksburg Recreation Center.

Staff report

RADFORD NEWS JOURNAL

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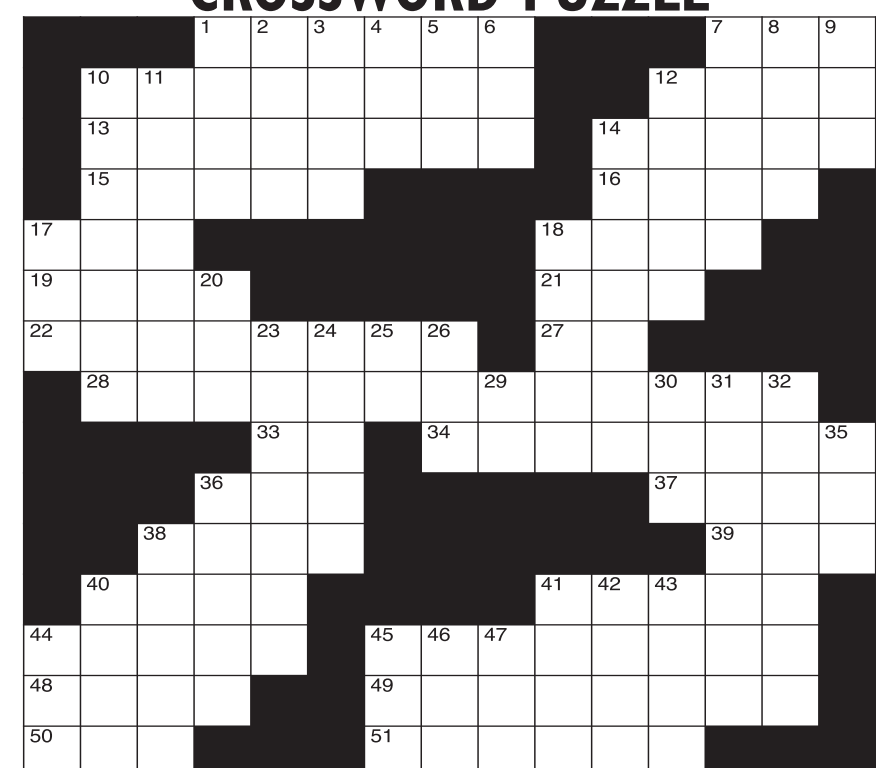
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Radford News Journal is a newspaper of, by and for the people of Radford. We encourage letters from our readers on topics of general interest to the community and responses to our articles and columns. Letters must be signed and have a telephone number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

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. Switches
 - 7. Legal financial term (abbr.)
 - 10. Sweeties
 - 12. Competition
 - 13. Measures electrical resistance
 - 14. Psychotherapy researcher
 - 15. Causes injury to
 - 16. Open
 - 17. Polish peninsula
 - 18. Hebrew calendar month
 - 19. Whale ship captain
 - 21. Children's accessory
 - 22. Unknown point
 - 27. Exists
 - 28. Extremely confident
 - 33. Expression of disgust
- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Partial
 - 2. "Mad Men" leading man
 - 3. The ___ of March
 - 4. Healthy
 - 5. Where golfers begin
 - 6. Soviet Socialist Republic (abbr.)
 - 7. Of the cheek
 - 8. Injury reminder
 - 9. Statesman Franklin
 - 10. For an unknown reason
 - 11. Brain parts
 - 12. Islamic calendar month
 - 14. Avenue where ad men work
 - 17. Possesses
 - 18. Accept
 - 20. Stake
 - 23. Former British PM May
 - 24. US battleships circa 1939
 - 25. Greek alphabet letter
 - 26. When you hope to get there
 - 29. Top lawyer
 - 30. Fiddler crabs
 - 31. Intolerant
 - 32. Persons that cause extreme fear
 - 35. Car mechanics group
 - 36. Capital of Ghana
 - 38. Famed ballplayer Hank
 - 40. Emphasizes insignificance
 - 41. Light-colored
 - 42. Distinctive smell
 - 43. Muckraking journalist Jacob
 - 44. Sunscreen rating
 - 45. Short-term memory
 - 46. Japanese delicacy
 - 47. One point north of due east

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OBITUARIES

Bishop, Frank Roger

Frank Roger Bishop, 81, of and William Bishop; sisters, Patsy Belspring, passed away Tuesday, Jan. 23, 2024.

He was a talented craftsman for over 50 years. Frank enjoyed spending his time trout fishing, hunting, and spending time with his grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Oakley Homer, Sr. and Mamie Snider Bishop; his loving wife, Judith Scaggs Bishop; and 11 of his siblings. Survivors include his son and daughter-in-law, Steve and Lisa Bishop; grandsons, Caleb



Young and Patricia Tinley; and many other nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

The family received friends Friday, Jan. 26, 2024 at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services followed with Teresa Tolbert officiating. Burial followed in Roselawn Memorial Gardens.

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

Brockway, III, Jack Wolston

Jack Wolston Brockway, III, 57, of Papadopoulas (John); brothers, Anthony and Brian Brockway; sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Trudi Alberts (Frank); and many other family members and friends.



A private memorial service will be held at a later date.

The Brockway family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in

Radford. He was preceded in death by his father, Jack Wolston Brockway, Jr.; and his canine companion, Lucy.

Survivors include his wife of 36 years, Traci Taylor Brockway; daughters, Hannah and Emma Brockway; mother, Maria Radford.

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 midweek 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.trinityc'burg.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.

Radford

WORSHIP DIRECTORY

DEAR DIARY

Read Ezekiel 40:1 through 42:20

How do you handle the pain of loss or tragedy? Our natural tendency is to hold on to past pain and keep track of hurtful events. "Fifteen years ago today, my wife asked for a divorce." "Four years ago this week, our son drowned." "It's been twenty years, but I vividly remember the day dad died of cancer."

Remembering tragedy is not wrong, but God wants us to see our pain in light of what He can do to bring healing to our lives.

In the twenty-fifth year of our exile, at the beginning of the year, on the tenth of the month, in the fourteenth year after the fall of the city—on that very day the hand of the Lord was on me and he took me there. (Ezekiel 40:1).

Ezekiel and the exiles of Israel would always remember the painful years, but God was at work even during this dark season of their history. In our own lives, we can expect "that very day the hand of the Lord" will become evident in our circumstances.

Thought for Today: Are you measuring the days since your last heartache, or looking to the day of God's provision?

Quicklook: Ezekiel 40:1-4

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

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. 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 we 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." You'll love our minister, The Rev. Dr. Wes Jamison, who engages us in God's word. St. Michael started and administers Micah's Caring Initiative which includes Micah's Backpack, Soup for Seniors, Garden, Closet, and Mini Pantry, with tremendous community impact. Partnering with Rainbow Riders and Total Action for Progress, we opened the first Early Childhood Head Start in our community (6 weeks to age 3). We sponsor an awesome Scouting program of Scouts Boy & Girl Troop, Venture Scouts for older youth, and a Cub Pack for girls & boys kindergarten - 5th grade, amongst many other programs. Directions: From Price's Fork Road, turn onto Merrimac Road. St. Michael is ~quarter mile on the left. For more information: Phone 540.951.8951; Email hope@stmlc.us; Website www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org

PENTECOSTAL HOLINESS

Merrimac Pentecostal Holiness Church, Rev. Larry

Christopher (540) 552-7194. l.christopher695@comcast.net. Sunday school at 10 a.m. and morning worship is 11 a.m. Evening service at 6 p.m. and Wednesday at 7 p.m.

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

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

PRESBYTERIAN

Join us at **The Presbyterian Church of Radford**, 201 4th Street, at the corner of 4th & Randolph. Sunday School is at 10:00 a.m. and Sunday Service 11:00a.m. Rev. Don Makin will be leading worship. Phone 540-639-2585, Email pcfcradford@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

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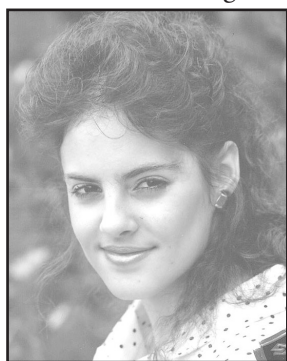
Obituaries from page 5

Brugh, Kimberly Terrell

Kimberly Terrell Brugh, 51, of Dublin, passed away Saturday, Jan. 20, 2024.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Herman Farris and Joyce Ann Riggins Brown; and her sister, Sandra Woolridge.

Survivors include her daughter, Hailey Brugh (Eli Conrad); grandchildren, Colten, Trinity and Ashton; sister, Angela Brun; niece, Heather Martin (Jamie); and many other



nieces, great nieces and nephews, relatives and special friends.

The family will receive friends 5 - 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 31, 2024, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Memorial services will begin at 5:30 p.m. with Jerry Martin officiating.

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

Helms, Donald Dempsey

Donald "Don" Dempsey Helms, 92, passed away Tuesday, Jan. 23, 2024, at his home in Pulaski. He was a member of the 82nd Airborne and a retired Iron Worker.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Ervin and Nora Helms; brothers, Ervin, Rudy, Richard, James and Samuel Helms; and sisters, Dorothy Fulks, Maxine Wren, Phyllis Humphries and Pamela Clay.

Survivors include his wife of nearly 70 years, Lelia Helms; sons, Jeffrey Helms (Laura), Randy Helms (Debbie),



Johnny Helms (Tammy), and Larry Helms (Teri); daughters, Beverly Amburgey, and Cindy Carroll (David); 15 grandchildren and 26 great grandchildren; sister-in-law, Hilda Helms; and many other nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Graveside services with full military honors will be held at 1 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 29, 2024, at the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin.

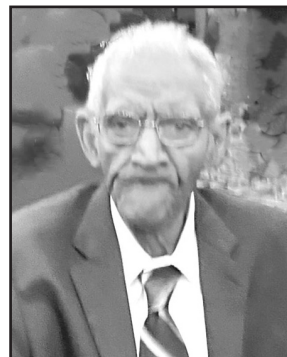
The Helms family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford.

Stigger, Robert Levi

Robert Levi Stigger, 92, of Warm Hearth Drive, Blacksburg, peacefully passed away Jan. 18, 2024, at Heritage Hall, Blacksburg.

Robert was born Oct. 12, 1931, to William Levi Stigger and Anna Lucille Lester, Stigger in the bustling little county of Pulaski.

Robert enlisted into the 25th Army Infantry Feb. 26, 1953, as Private-1st Class. He later transferred to the Army Reserve to complete his eight years service, under the Universal Military Training and Service Act. Afterwards, Robert worked for



several years in food service at the Tyler Hotel. In his spare time, he pursued his love of fishing and spending time with his family and friends.

Robert had a lifelong relationship with Christ, being reared in a home of devout Christians, he often told stories of them attending New Hope Methodist

Church in New River on the Sundays the boys went to church with their mother and First Missionary Baptist Church in New River, when they went with their father. The girls of the family would go with the other

parent.

Robert liked to laugh and tell jokes. Quite often, he'd forget that he had told you a joke and would tell it again. Most would laugh at it again because he was laughing.

Robert was predeceased by his mother and father, brothers James Stigger, William Stigger and sisters Laura Delapp, Alma Beaver, and Hazel Miller. He is survived by a host of nieces, nephews and other

family members.

Services will be held at Mullins Funeral Home, 120 West Main St., Radford today, Saturday, Jan. 27, 2024, at noon.

Interment with full military honors will be held Monday, Jan. 29, 2024 at Southwest Virginia Veteran's Cemetery, Dublin.

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

Tuck, Judith Darlene Kirtner

Judith Darlene Kirtner Tuck, 80, passed away Friday, Jan. 19, 2024, at her home in Christiansburg.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Woody DeWitt and Mary Kirtner; her husband, Peter John Barth, Jr.; and granddaughter, Sierra Akers.

Survivors include her daughter, Laura Davidson (Justin Gillespie); son, Duane Tuck (Stacy); grandson Isaiah Tuck (Makayla); great grandson Westin; special nephew, Jeffrey Dobbins; brother, Roger D. Kirtner (Shelia); former husband, Charles



Tuck; best friend, Barbara Coalson; and many other nieces, nephews, other family and friends.

The family will receive friends 4 - 6 p.m. Monday, Jan. 29, 2024, at the Max Creek Baptist Church. Funeral services will begin at 6 p.m. with Pastor Mike Coleman officiating. Interment will be held at a later date in the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin.

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

Whittaker, Donald Lee

Donald Lee Whittaker, 62, of Newport, died Monday, Jan. 22, 2024, at his home.

He was preceded in death by his father, Mark Whittaker, Jr., and his infant sister, Debbie Whittaker. He is survived by his wife of 46 years, Pamela Jean Whittaker; son, Randy Whittaker and girlfriend, Cassie Miller; grandchildren, Wyatt, Waylon, and Oaklee Whittaker; mother, Shirley Ann Whittaker; brothers and sisters-



in-law, David and Wanda Whittaker, and Michael and Teresa Whittaker; as well as numerous nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Friday, Jan. 26, 2024, at 11 a.m. in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel with Pastors Steve and Lou Akers officiating. Interment followed at Westview Cemetery, Blacksburg. The family received friends prior to the service at McCoy Funeral Home.

www.montcova.com

Virginia Tech graduate student awarded \$101,000 National Institute of Health grant

Before she felt the allure of scientific discovery, Meghan Sedovy thought she'd be a doctor.

Her father is a surgeon, and her mother is a nurse. She spent hours hanging around the hospital, even observing surgeries back home in Rockbridge County, Virginia, so she came by the desire to help and heal honestly.

But when she was an undergraduate at Virginia Tech, a different idea intruded. We need doctors, a professor said in a speech, but there's also opportunity for powerful impact on human health further upstream, developing the drugs, methods, and technologies that doctors use in the clinic.

Now a doctoral candidate in Virginia Tech's Translational Biology, Medicine, and Health Graduate Program, Sedovy is moving fast along that very path.

She was recently awarded a three-year, \$101,000 Ruth L. Kirschstein Predoctoral Individual National Research Service Award from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to explore wound healing in arteries after heart

surgery. Her research is based on a discovery she made in the Johnstone Lab at Fralin Biomedical Research Institute at VTC - that arteries used in heart bypass surgeries are often stripped of a crucial layer of endothelial cells, without which a surgery's chances of long-term success can be significantly impaired.

"I just want to make cellular-level discoveries, to really understand what's happening in disease and why it's happening," Sedovy said. She's partly motivated by growing up in a rural setting. "Cardiovascular disease is the most-deadly disease there is, but it does disproportionately affect rural communities. The desire to help my community is an inspiration for wanting to be able to correct these problems and keep people from dying from preventable diseases."

Sedovy's mentor, Scott Johnstone, believes she will make a difference.

"The success that she's had is not accidental," said Johnstone, assistant professor at the Fralin Biomedical Research Institute and Virginia Tech's Department of Biological Sciences. "Meghan came to the lab with very clear goal in mind, to do translational

research. She is the example of what you want for a graduate student. She works hard. She takes initiative. She cooperates well with others, she trains people. She's got a great attitude and she's got a clear vision for what she wants."

Sedovy was previously awarded an American Heart Association predoctoral fellowship, but relinquished it in order to be able to accept the NIH grant, which is based on her discovery of the absence of endothelial cells in the blood vessel samples.

Johnstone's lab studies blood vessels, how they are put together, and what happens to them in health and disease.

As part of that, the lab obtains sections of blood vessels left over after heart bypass surgeries at Carilion Clinic's Roanoke Memorial Hospital. Sedovy drives to the hospital, waits outside the operating room, and collects the vessels herself.

The lab's research had focused on smooth muscle cells in the arteries - which make up artery walls and give them shape and structure as well as regulate the flow of blood and pressure in the vessels through dynamic changes in their tone.



PHOTO BY CLAYTON METZ FOR VIRGINIA TECH

Meghan Sedovy, a doctoral candidate in Virginia Tech's Translational Biology, Medicine, and Health Graduate Program, was awarded a three-year, \$101,000 Ruth L. Kirschstein Predoctoral Individual National Research Service Award from the National Institutes of Health to explore wound healing in arteries after heart surgery.

But vessels also contain endothelial cells - a one-cell thick layer that lines the vessel interior and prevents leakage.

When Sedovy went to see what that layer of cells looked like in the hospital samples, she found it was missing, apparently destroyed in the process of removing and storing the vessels from patients' legs for use in the heart. The researchers went back to the hospital for samples that were preserved immediately after surgery and found the endothelial layer was still badly damaged.

With that cell layer gone, the transplanted vessel could produce clots as it tries to heal, which could stop blood flow to the heart with sometimes fatal results.

With the NIH grant,

Sedovy is studying how to promote healing in these cases. Her research focuses on a protein called Connexin 43, which is more abundant in smaller arteries that have been injured. Sedovy and Johnstone believe the protein facilitates healing. Sedovy's research aims to learn how with plans to use that information to create a new therapy to aid heart surgery patients. Sedovy's long-term goal includes creating start-up companies to deliver such innovations to doctors and patients, and she believes she's in the right place to get started.

Along with her research, Sedovy has completed the Fralin Health Sciences and Technology Commercialization Fellowship Program, which trains budding

scientists in the methods and language of commercialization of discoveries including pitching their ideas to potential investors.

She's grateful for the support of Johnstone, who works closely with her both in the lab and on presentations and proposals as well as the Fralin Biomedical Research Institute and the Translational Biology, Medicine, and Health Graduate Program.

"They've created this environment that lets you go out and try things, to try to be exceptional and they're there to support you," she said. "They really give off this impression that your success is their success."

Virginia Tech

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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RADFORD SPORTS

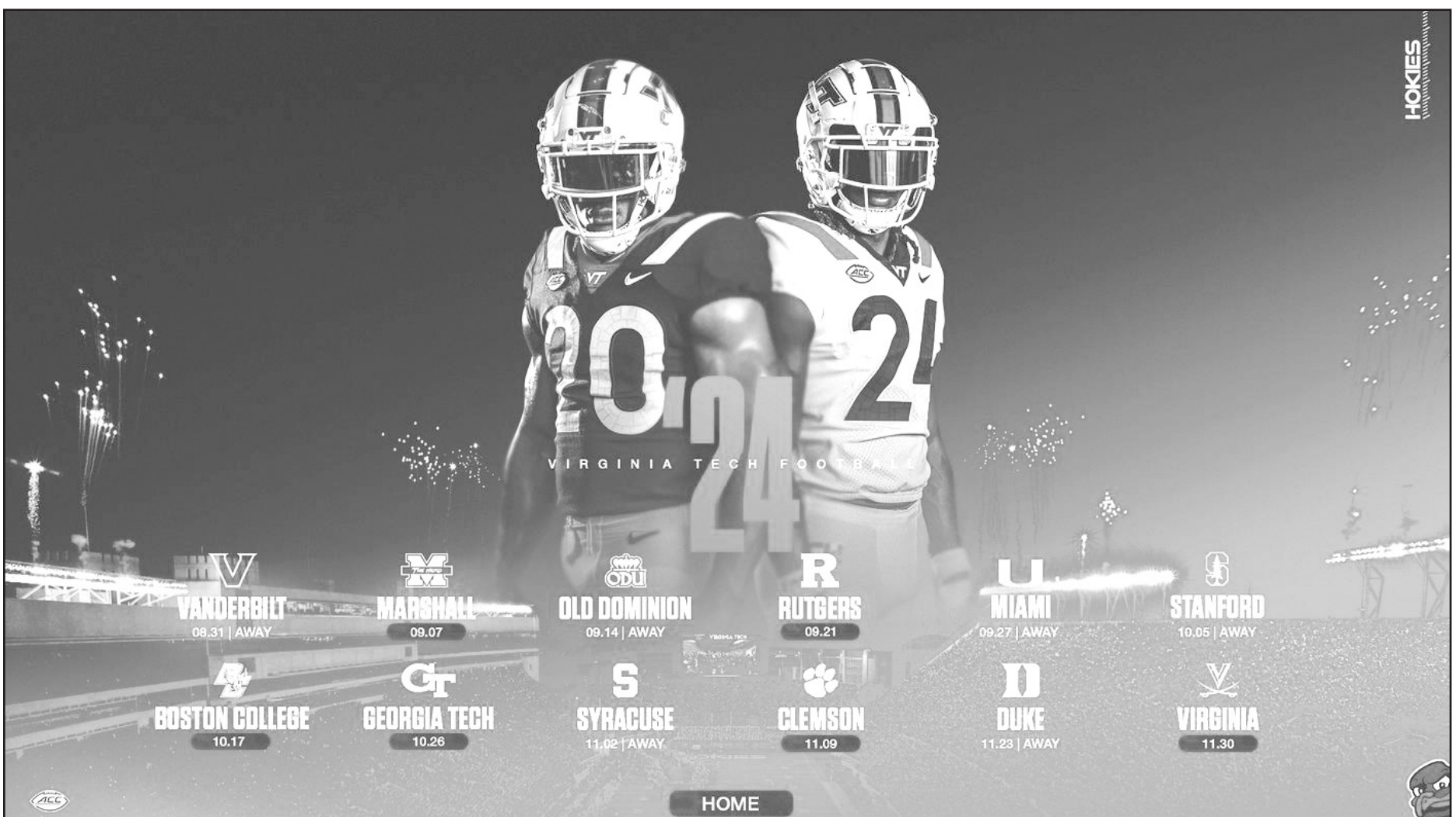


PHOTO COURTESY OF VT ATHLETICS

Hokies open 2024 season on the road

The Virginia Tech football team will open the season on the road against Vanderbilt on Saturday, Aug. 31.

The following week, Hokie Nation will be jumping again inside Lane Stadium, with Marshall coming to Blacksburg on Saturday, Sept. 7.

Virginia Tech football's full 2024 schedule was officially announced during ACC Network's Schedule Release Show on Wednesday. Each matchup is finalized for the Hokies' 12-game slate, including exciting matchups against nationally-ranked Clemson and in-state rival Virginia, as well as the electric Thursday night atmosphere of Lane Stadium.

Entering his third season at the

helm, Brent Pry returns the majority of his offensive playmakers, alongside quarterback Kyron Drones, and numerous starters on defense, which finished fourth nationally and first in the ACC in fewest passing yards allowed. Tech has a great opportunity ahead to build upon its 2023 season, ending the season by winning five of its last seven games, which ended in a Military Bowl victory.

A Big Ten opponent will make its way to Blacksburg for the second straight season with Rutgers facing Tech on Sept. 21, and two ACC programs in Clemson (Nov. 9) and Georgia Tech (Oct. 26) will find themselves competing on Worsham

Field.

The Hokies will play on Thursday night for the third consecutive season as they host Boston College on Oct. 17. They will also play during Friday Night Lights when they travel to South Florida for a matchup with the Miami Hurricanes in late September, beginning conference play.

A small change from recent seasons, the Hokies will enjoy two open dates, one in mid-October and the other in mid-November.

With five conference games in November, Pry and staff will face off against two new head coaches in the ACC. Pry and the Hokies will travel

to Syracuse on Saturday, Nov. 2, for a meeting with the Orange and head coach Fran Brown. Three weeks later, they hit the road again in a matchup against Duke and new head coach Manny Diaz.

Tech will travel to the west coast and face Stanford on Saturday, Oct. 5, in what will be the inaugural season in the ACC for the Cardinal.

To wrap up the season, the Hokies will host the Smithfield Commonwealth Clash against Virginia on Saturday, Nov. 30 for the first time since 2020.

Kick times for the first three games of the season will be announced at a later date.

Virginia Tech Athletics

Blacksburg Striders claim national title

A team representing the Blacksburg Striders running club won the national team title in the men's 50+ team competition at the USA Track and Field Cross Country Championships in Richmond on Jan. 20.

The Striders team included 12 runners from Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Radford, and Roanoke. In total, 460 athletes from 40 states competed in the championships.

In the men's 50+ team competition, the Blacksburg Striders won the national title scoring 46 points as they defeated the Santa Barbara Running Club of

California by two points with the Colonial Road Runners capturing the team bronze with 78 points. Team members for the Blacksburg squad (in order of finish) were Anderson Norton, Ignacio Moore, Kevin McGuire, Durrelle Scott, Michael Stowe, and Sean McGinnis.

In the men's 40+ team competition, the Blacksburg Striders team finished in fifth place. Team members (in order of finish) were David Angell, Matthew Wisnioski, Daniel Kolasa, Kevin Byrd, Bradley Paye, and Glen McGuire. Angell also excelled as an

individual, finishing fifth overall in the men's masters race and first in his 45-49 age group.

The Blacksburg Striders running club was created more than 50 years ago to provide community involvement and a source of camaraderie for local runners to enjoy group events, races, social activities and community service. The group hosts weekly group runs and races, including the Blacksburg Classic 10-miler and 5K run on Feb. 10, 2024. Register at runsignup.com/BlacksburgClassic.

Michael Stowe



PHOTO BY ELLA BYRD

A group of individuals representing the Blacksburg Striders running club have won a national championship for 50-plus men.



PHOTO COURTESY OF RADFORD ATHLETICS

Alumni Weekend for the Radford men's and women's basketball programs is taking place the weekend of Jan. 27-28, with a game day doubleheader slated for today, Saturday, Jan. 27.

Radford Basketball Alumni events set for today, Jan. 27

RADFORD – Alumni Weekend for the Radford men's and women's basketball programs is taking place the weekend of Jan. 27-28, with a game day doubleheader slated for today, Saturday, Jan. 27.

Women's basketball takes the floor first with a 2 p.m. tip off against Presbyterian College. Men's basketball also takes on the Blue Hose of Presbyterian, with a start time of approximately 4:30 p.m. inside the Dedmon Center.

Alumni of both programs are invited back to the New River Valley for a celebration of their contributions to the success of the Highlanders over the years.

Halftime of the men's basketball game will feature a special recognition of the 1998 men's basketball team. The '98

team was the first in program history to win a Big South title and secure an NCAA Tournament berth, exactly 25 years ago.

Tickets for all home Radford basketball contests are now on sale at RadfordTickets.com.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:
Radford University Volunteer Summit - 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Women's Basketball vs. Presbyterian - 2 p.m.

Basketball Alumni Social (located on back court inside Dedmon Center) - 3:30 p.m.

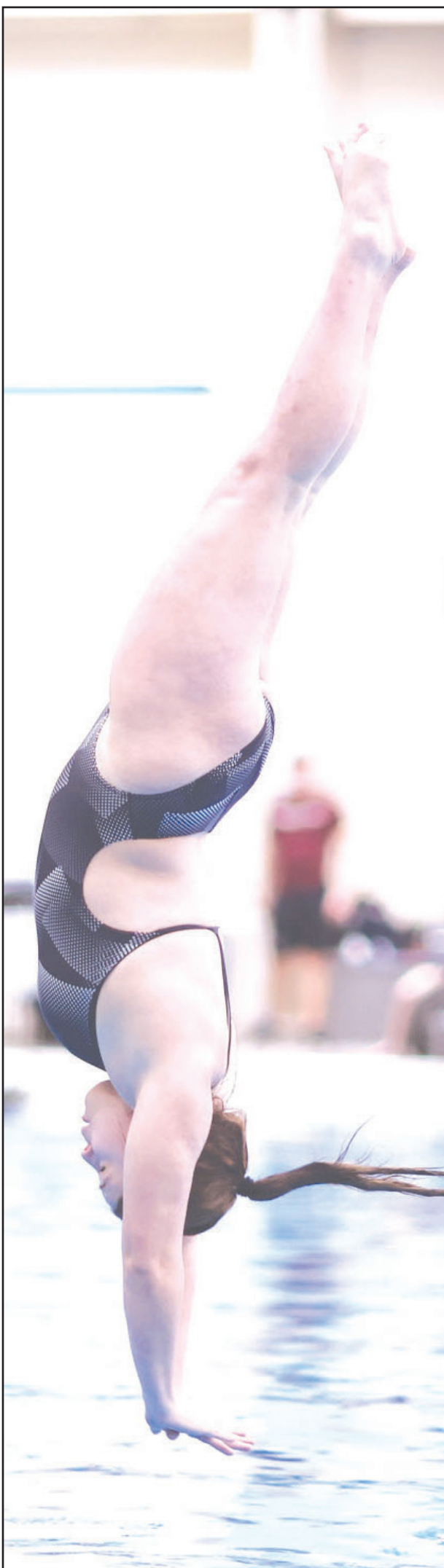
Men's Basketball vs. Presbyterian - 4:30 p.m.

- Radford Athletics

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

RADFORD SPORTS

Local swimmers shine in competition at CAC



Radford senior Hollybrook Cline finishes a reverse somersault dive with a vertical entry during a Monday night competition at the Christiansburg Aquatic Center.



Radford's Jill Grim spins in a tight tuck during a forward 2.5 somersault dive.



Radford's Kiera Sartin swims the opening butterfly leg in the 200-yard IM.



Radford's Joseph Epley races in the 200-yard freestyle at a Tuesday night meet in Christiansburg.

PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING

Town of Blacksburg seeks input on Prices Fork Road, Route 460 Bypass interchange study

The Town of Blacksburg has selected architectural and engineering firm Whitman, Requardt & Associates (WRA) to design conceptual plans for a bicycle and pedestrian crossing at the Prices Fork Road and U.S. Route 460 Bypass Interchange. The work will also include a Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) Operational and Safety Analysis Report (OSAR), and a traffic analysis to determine current usage and circulation patterns, which will inform proposed interchange improvements.

The Prices Fork corridor sees a significant flow of bicycle and pedestrian travel, in addition to vehicular traffic.

This area is home to a sizable population of Virginia Tech students, numerous residential developments in the Town of Blacksburg and Montgomery County, and three public schools situated west of the Prices Fork Road and U.S. Route 460 Bypass Interchange. The existing bridges on the Prices Fork Road and U.S. Route 460 Bypass Interchange, designed and built in the 1970s, were not constructed to handle the large volume of bicycle and pedestrian traffic that is seen today and is predicted in the future.

The central objective of this project is to enhance bicycle and pedestrian mobility through the existing Prices

Fork/Route 460 interchange area by incorporating a 10-foot wide Shared Use Path. Potential future interchange modifications to accommodate traffic growth are also being studied to ensure the compatibility of a new Shared Use Path through the area. It is anticipated that a bicycle/pedestrian crossing, along with providing safe access to the bridge, will require revisions to the entrance and/or exit ramps of the existing interchange. This project is in the early stages of design.

The Town is seeking feedback on the project from January to February 2024. Input gathered will help the project

team assess designs that best address community need. In March 2024, several proposed designs will be provided to the town by WRA, and a public engagement meeting will be held. Conceptual design plans will be ready for the VDOT SmartScale funding application by mid to late summer.

Share your feedback or ask a question about this project by visiting: <https://letstalkblacksburg.org/pricesfork-460-bypass-interchange-study>.

Town of Blacksburg

'Messengers' explores photography as communication

The newest Moss Arts Center exhibition explores the many ways photography is used to communicate — not only through visual aesthetics, but the delivery of more profound personal, cultural, and societal messages.

Featuring the work of artists Leslie Hewitt, Tarrah Krajnak, and Rodrigo Valenzuela, "Messengers" opens on Thursday, Feb. 1, with a reception from 4-6 p.m. in the center's Grand Lobby. Valenzuela will also participate in an artist talk on Friday, Feb. 2, at 11 a.m. in the Moss Arts Center's Cube. The galleries and all related events are free and open to the public.

The title "Messengers" refers to the transcendental nature of photographic images to traverse time and space by capturing the moment in static form. Photography acts as a conduit for the artists' hybrid interdisciplinary approaches, enabling them to convey rich and multifaceted narratives, evolving through their formal and material languages. Hewitt, Krajnak, and Valenzuela transmute the traditional boundaries of photography by juxtaposing constructed and archival images and abstracting the documentary and spatial attributes of images.

"Messengers" will be on view from Thursday, Feb.

1, through Saturday, April 20.

Located at 190 Alumni Mall, the Moss Arts Center's galleries are open on Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. The center offers many opportunities for students, faculty, and community members to engage with artists and their work. To arrange a group tour of the galleries, contact Laura Higgins.

Parking is available in the North End Parking Garage on Turner Street. When not staffed for a special event, visitors may park in the garage by taking a ticket at entry and paying with Visa or Mastercard upon exit.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ARTIST AND GALERIE KANDLHOFFER, VIENNA
Rodrigo Valenzuela's work, "Garabato #21," 2023 (detail); archival inkjet print; 24-by-30 inches; ed. 1/3, 1 AP.