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New River Valley passenger rail plan moves forward

Marty Gordon

NRVsports@ourvalley.org

The return of passenger rail service to the New River Valley took another step forward this week with a major announcement by the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority (VPRA), who announced an agreement with Norfolk Southern Corporation to purchase the Manassas line.

The path would bring Amtrak service to a former passenger station in the Cambria section of Christiansburg, and the possibility of a layover stop in Radford, further down the line.

According to a press release, through this new agreement, the VPRA will have the ability to extend its state-supported Amtrak Virginia service to the New River Valley (NRV) sooner and at a lower cost than originally planned. In addition, the purchase of the Manassas Line will enable VPRA to increase the Virginia Railway Express' (VRE) Manassas Line service in the future with additional frequencies including both evening and weekend options.

Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin said a vote by the VRE will advance a better, faster, and cheaper solution to bring passenger rail back to a historic location in the New River Valley while also providing opportunities to bolster service in Northern Virginia,



RENDERING COURTESY OF VPRA

An artist rendering shows what a passenger station and its stop in Christiansburg could like when passenger rail comes back to the area.

See RAIL PLAN, Page 6

Rain subject of photo club challenge

RADFORD - Joyce Sims and Linda Waggaman, both of Radford, tied to win the Radford Photo Club rain challenge for August.

Sim's photo shows a young bluebird enjoying the rain in a mud puddle. Waggaman's photo was taken during a short weekend vacation with the family in Townsend, Tenn., as they watched from their deck the storm coming over the mountains.

Michele Borgarelli of Blacksburg won the open contest with a photo titled "The Old Stone Bridge." The bridge of the hamlet of Forno was built in 1477 along the mule track to Viù close to

Torino, Italy.

"It is characterized by two unequal arches: the wider one constitutes the actual bridge, the other serves as a connection with the bank," Borgarelli said. "The aedicule, dedicated to the Madonna, was originally frescoed. During WWII it was used to place a machine gun, and a window was opened. It was closed again after the war, but the painting was gone."

The Radford Photo Club's next meeting will be at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 19, at the Radford Public Library. Toni Pitts, a professional photographer

See PHOTO CLUB, Page 6



PHOTOS COURTESY OF RADFORD PHOTO CLUB

By Michele Borgarelli



PHOTOS COURTESY OF RADFORD PHOTO CLUB

By Joyce Sims



PHOTOS COURTESY OF RADFORD PHOTO CLUB

By Linda Waggaman



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE VAPDC

The Recovery Ecosystem team (left to right): Walter Midkiff, Kinsey Weaver, Anna Champion, Julie Fox and Holly Lesko.

New River Valley Recovery Ecosystem earns Virginia Association of Planning District Commissions award

The Virginia Association of Planning District Commissions (VAPDC) has announced the winner of the Robert M. deVoursney Best Practices Award for 2024 as the New River Valley Recovery Ecosystem.

The award was presented at a recent meeting of the New River Valley Regional Commission. The Best Practices Award recognizes organizations that have initiated innovative regional activities which have contributed significantly to the effectiveness of a region.

The New River Valley Recovery

Ecosystem (NRVRE) is a five-year collaborative, regional opioid abatement program bringing together five jurisdictions for project delivery. It has received just under \$4.4 million in funding through two years from the Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority (OAA), along with more than \$1.5 million in local matching funds to date. In addition to the local governments that are involved, other regional organizations and school divisions are partners in the

See AWARD, Page 6

Remembering Tech students' tragic murder at Caldwell Fields

Marty Gordon

NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Heidi Childs and David Metzler were murdered in the Caldwell Fields parking lot of the Jefferson National Forest in Montgomery County, just two weeks into their sophomore year at Virginia Tech.

The year was 2009 and the date was Aug. 26, a Wednesday. The couple had driven from the campus in nearby Blacksburg just to talk and enjoy each other's company.

What happened next is a mystery. They parked their car and would be

found shot to death the next morning by a man walking his dog.

This week marked the 15th anniversary of the event with no real movement in the investigation. Authorities have been scratching their heads for years, hoping someone with some information would come forward.

The fields are nestled on a section of Craig Creek Rd., approximately eight miles from Rt. 460, on Jefferson National Forest property, about 15 miles from the campus of Virginia Tech. Students from the school were known to and still do

See MURDER, Page 8



PHOTO BY MARTY GORDON

David Metzler and Heidi Childs were found shot to death in the Jefferson National Forest Aug. 26, 2009.

UPCOMING EVENTS

**Saturday, Aug. 31 –
Sunday, Sept. 8:**

Blacksburg Aquatic Center closed

The Blacksburg Aquatic Center will be closed for annual maintenance. This closure will extend through Sunday, Sept. 8, and will reopen on Monday, Sept. 9.

Saturday, Aug. 31:

Blacksburg Farmers Market

At Market Square Park, 100 Draper Rd SW, Blacksburg; 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. The Blacksburg Farmers Market is a local, family-friendly gathering place in downtown Blacksburg featuring farmers of locally grown produce and meats, alongside artisans of baked goods and handmade crafts. For more information, visit <http://blacksburgfarmersmarket.com>.

Radford Farmer's Market

Every Saturday through October; 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. on the grounds of Glencoe Mansion, 600 Unruh Dr. Visit weekly for an ever-changing supply of homemade goodies, crafts, plants, meats, produce, and more.

Sunday, Sept. 1:

Vintage Market

At Market Square Park, 100 Draper Rd SW, Blacksburg; 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. The market is made up of a carefully chosen group of vendors selling a wide selection of quality vintage items, upcycled crafts, and occasional antiques. For more information, visit blacksburgfarmersmarket.com/vintage-market/.

Wednesday, Sept. 4:

Blacksburg Farmers Market

At Market Square Park, 100 Draper Rd SW, Blacksburg; 2 - 6 p.m. The Blacksburg Farmers Market is a local, family-friendly gathering place in downtown Blacksburg featuring farmers of locally grown produce and meats, alongside artisans of baked goods and handmade crafts. For more information, visit <http://blacksburgfarmersmarket.com>.

Market Square Jam

Blacksburg's Market Square Jam is an official Crooked Road affiliated venue that provides fun and entertainment on Wednesday evenings, June through September. The Jam takes place at Market Square Park from 7-9 p.m. For more information and a list of hosts, please visit blacksburg.gov/marketsquarejam.

Thursday, Sept. 5:

Route 460 Business Corridor Bicycle, Pedestrian and Transit Study public meeting

The New River Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (NRV MPO) will hold a second public input meeting for the Route 460 Business Corridor Bicycle, Pedestrian, and Transit Study, 4 - 6 p.m. in the Joseph W. Meredith Training & Event Center at the Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center. Find out about the study's progress and the potential safety improvements along Route 460 Business in Blacksburg, Christiansburg, and Montgomery County. Questions or not able to attend? Public meeting materials will be posted by Sept. 3 on the NRV MPO website and will be available for comment until Sept. 21 at 5 p.m. Citizens may submit written comments online, at the meeting, or via email to 460study@RKK.com.

Brush Mountain Park community feedback meeting

The Town of Blacksburg and the Brush Mountain Park and Trail project staff will host a community feedback meeting, 5:30 - 7 p.m. at the Town Annex, (the old Blacksburg Police Station, adjacent to the Blacksburg Library). The purpose of the meeting is to collect community feedback on the Brush Mountain Trail Park and Trail system, including the types of users, frequency of trail use, and user priorities, concerns, and questions. The feedback collected will help guide decision-making for the continued development of the trail network and ongoing management of the park. For more information on the Brush Mountain Trail System, please visit letstalkblacksburg.org.

Disinformation in the Digital Age

"Disinformation in the Digital Age," a free non-partisan public information program, will be held 7:30-8:30 p.m. at the Lyric Theatre, 135 College Ave. in Blacksburg. The program's focus will include social media, generative AI, fact-checking, finding reliable sources and how all of this may impact elections. The program will conclude with a Q&A, and with tips for responding to disinformation.

Maintaining brain health throughout aging - Everyday lifestyle choices that make a difference

At Warm Hearth Village Center, Tall Oaks Hall, 2387 Warm Hearth Dr., Blacksburg, 2 p.m. Speaker: Ben Katz, an Associate Professor of Human Development and Family Science at Virginia Tech and a Faculty Affiliate of the Center for Gerontology. His research focuses on the neural underpinnings of executive function development throughout the lifespan, and how it might be modulated through experience and intervention, including lifestyle behaviors. Prior to his career in academia, he worked as a game designer in Austin and San Francisco.

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. For further information, please call 540-250-2283 or 540-239-9864.

Friday, Sept. 6:

The Glencoe Sessions

A FRIENDS of the Blue Ridge and Glencoe Mansion partnership with rising bluegrass star Addie Levy, held the first Friday of each month Sept. to Dec. in Glencoe Mansion, 6 - 7:30 p.m. Sept. 6: Jim Lloyd—Musical eclectic, singer, old-time banjo great, public radio host, music teacher, bluegrass rhythm guitarist, storyteller, banjo museum curator, barber of Rural Retreat and a towering figure in Appalachian music. Tickets \$15 per person per session, or \$50 for all four sessions. To purchase tickets please visit blueridgejamboree.com or blueridgefriends.org. There will be beverages available for purchase.

Monday, Sept. 9:

Radford City Council meeting

The Radford City Council will hold its regularly scheduled meeting at 7 p.m. in council chambers at the Radford Municipal Building, 10 Robertson St., Radford. Citizens are invited to attend and allowed to speak at each meeting. See the agenda at www.radfordva.gov.

Montgomery County Board of Supervisors meeting

Public meetings are normally held 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, Sept. 10:

Blacksburg Town Council meeting

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

Christiansburg Town Council meeting

Regular town council meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month beginning at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Town Hall (100 E. Main 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.

Saturday, Sept. 14:

Fish Fry

Mount Tabor Ruritan Club will hold its September Fish Fry 5 to 7 p.m. at Slusser's Chapel Picnic Shelter, 1543 Mount Tabor Rd, Blacksburg. Serving fish, fries and slaw; homemade desserts; and beverages. Adults-\$12, children under 12-\$6, (under three free), carry-outs-\$12. This month, we welcome the Blue Ridge Vocal Connection to our music tent. Held rain or shine. This is the last fry in 2024. Call or text 540-449-6178 for further information. On Facebook at MtTaborRuritan.

Shred-A-Thon

The Town of Blacksburg will host a Shred-A-Thon 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. at the Blacksburg Community Center. This free event is a great opportunity to recycle unneeded household documents, records, etc. Please plan to bring documents in a box, tote, or paper bag and observe the limit of five containers per vehicle. Items that cannot be shredded include metal, three-ring binders, composition notebooks, hardback books, and non-paper materials. This is a drive-thru event only. Please remain in your vehicle during drop-off. For more information, contact the Town of Blacksburg Recycling office at 540.443.1212.

Thursday, Sept. 19:

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. For further information, please call 540-320-4315 or 540-239-9864.

Ongoing:

Menagerie, exhibit at Fine Arts Center for the NRV

Fine Arts Center for the New River Valley presents Menagerie, celebrating the diverse talents of artists residing in the NRV. At the Fine Arts Center in Pulaski at 21 West Main St., Pulaski, through Oct. 5, 2024. Some artwork contains mature content and may not be suitable for children.

Inaugural Radford Community Fest a smash hit thanks to university-city partnership

Thousands of community members, university employees and students, and visitors from farther afield flocked to East Main Street in Radford on Saturday, Aug. 24, for the inaugural Radford Community Fest.

A steady flow of participants traversed the festival grounds from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., browsing and sampling a wide variety of products and services offered by the 70-plus vendors set up along Main Street between Virginia Street and Tyler Avenue. From smoothies and snow cones to candles, soaps, plants and scents — and virtually everything in between — the vendor booths offered something for everyone.

On a day that saw temperatures rise into the mid-80s, adults enjoyed the cold, refreshing beverages of the Beer Garden sponsor Long Way Brewing in the shade of tented seating areas. Food trucks from 800 Degrees Woodfired Pizzas, Countryman Jamaican Grill and Soul on the Go offered attendees a veritable smorgasbord of tasty treats. Children, meanwhile, enjoyed the Kids Zone, featuring inflatable bounce houses and arts and crafts hosted by

Radford University's Fraternity and Sorority Life. Everyone was treated to an eclectic mix of live music on center stage, including Solacoustix, Music Road Co Trio, The Floorboards and Florencia & The Feeling, along with gravity-defying entertainment by the acrobatic ensemble Fluidity Performance Troupe.

The first-ever festival was the brainchild of a reinvigorated partnership between the City of Radford and Radford University.

"Community Fest is the start of something bigger," Radford University President Bret Danilowicz said. "Opportunities to bring our community and university together, to celebrate the bonds and shared culture that unite us, will continue to raise the quality of life for all of us. We are one community, and the possibilities are unlimited."

Planning and execution for the event was led by Tricia Smith, associate vice president of Student Life at Radford University, and Melissa Skelton, director of Planning and Zoning for the city. In conjunction with a planning committee, they recruited event sponsors, bands, vendors and more than 100



PHOTO COURTESY OF RADFORD UNIVERSITY

Thousands of residents and visitors attended the Radford Community festival.

volunteers from the university and city communities to help ensure logistics ran smoothly.

"This idea was sparked two years ago in hopes that we could offer exciting, shared experiences for all members of our Radford community," Smith said. "We were blown away by the support from merchants, artists, creators, vendors and participants. It is so rewarding to live, work and play alongside people who value one another and love this place so deeply!"

"I am incredibly grateful to our leaders for the opportunity to be a part of the Radford Community Fest team and for trusting us with the vision to create such an event for all our community members," Skelton remarked. "Our goal was to welcome our new and returning students, as well as bring our local and regional community members together for a day of fun, and I believe we did just that. The success of this event is an example of what we can

achieve when people who have a heart for community work together as one."

The city and university plan for the community fest to be an annual event, and planning for the 2025 edition will begin soon. If you have ideas for making next year's event even better, please email them to Tricia Smith at pssmith1@radford.edu.

David Perryman
for Radford University

Bet on a fun and safe Labor Day holiday by hedging distractions and risks on the road

RICHMOND—The odds of having a fantastic Labor Day weekend are in your favor, though the chances of becoming a traffic safety statistic are something to keep in mind.

Virginia State Police stopped 4,475 speeders and 1,945 reckless drivers during 2023's four-day Labor Day weekend. State troopers also cited 491 seat belt violations and 150 child restraint violations during that time period.

According to Virginia Traffic Crash Facts, 673 injuries resulted from 1,216 crashes throughout 2023's holiday weekend.

Fourteen individuals died in 10 of those Virginia traffic crashes. Half of them involved motorcycles; seven motorcycle operators and passengers lost their lives.

The fatal crashes occurred in Virginia Beach, and Campbell, Hanover, James City, Montgomery, Nelson, Pittsylvania, Rockbridge, Scott and Wythe counties. Last year's 14 fatalities were up from 12 in 2022, and 10 in 2021.

Transportation officials, law enforcement and outreach organizations like Drive Smart Virginia work to push the number of crashes and fatalities toward zero. But it can't be done without motorists who are free

of distraction or impairment, said David Tenenbaum, senior actuarial manager at Virginia Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Co., who also serves as DSV treasurer.

"No matter where you are in Virginia, or how you plan to celebrate this long holiday weekend, we all share the responsibility of roadway safety," he said. "Part of that responsibility is knowing traffic

safety laws recently adopted in Virginia."

In 2021, it became illegal in Virginia to hold a mobile device while driving. A "Do Not Disturb" app can block incoming correspondence while the vehicle is in motion. Otherwise, use your device's hands-free options carefully.

Virginia's Move Over law for emergency vehicles was amended in 2023. Drivers must

now change lanes when possible or slow down for any vehicle on the roadside flashing amber or hazard lights, triangles or flares. This includes utility, tow and roadside assistance trucks.

The American Red Cross offers tips for safe Labor Day travel:

Be well rested and alert, use your seatbelts, and observe speed limits. Clean your headlights, and turn them on as

dusk approaches or in inclement weather.

Don't drink and drive. Have a designated driver available.

Give your full attention to the road.

Use caution in work zones (Virginia's Move Over law does not apply in highway work zones).

Don't follow other vehicles too closely.

Farm Bureau Virginia

Gas prices cool off ahead of Labor Day

GasBuddy, the leading fuel savings platform providing North American drivers with the most ways to save money on gas, today released its annual Labor Day travel forecast, predicting the average price of gas will continue its recent downward trend, falling to \$3.27 per gallon on Labor Day, the lowest Labor Day price since 2021. At \$3.27 per gallon, this Labor Day's national average would be 50 cents per gallon, or 13% below last year's \$3.77 tally, saving Americans a combined \$750 million over the Friday-through-Monday travel period.

Since peaking at \$3.69 per gallon in mid-April, prices at the pump have eased, with lower demand helping to bring the price of gas down. Some states are seeing significantly lower Labor Day prices this year compared to last year. For instance, average

gas prices on the West Coast stand over 65 cents lower than a year ago, with Oregon's average down 90 cents per gallon, while Washington is down 87 cents and Alaska 84 cents. And, outside of the West Coast, all 50 states will see lower gas prices this Labor Day weekend than a year ago. According to GasBuddy's summer travel survey in May, Labor Day was the least popular summer holiday to hit the road, with just over a third of respondents planning to road trip to bid farewell to summer.

"It's been a great summer for motorists to hit the road with gas prices generally lower than last year," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy. "But heading into Labor Day, the year-on-year gap has grown substantially thanks to few refinery outages or heatwaves impacting

refineries this month. Hurricane season has also been quiet so far. With no threats to major gasoline and diesel producing refineries, it's looking more and more likely that we may avoid a late summer price spike. While many Americans may wish summer could last forever, the good news is we're seeing perhaps the best opportunity in years for the national average to fall below \$3 per gallon. As we get closer to Thanksgiving, we should see tens of thousands of stations ultimately fall back below that level, all thanks to falling seasonal demand and cheaper winter gasoline, which is right around the corner."

Gas stations in most states will start transitioning to winter blend gas Sept. 16, which will likely help accelerate the decline in gas prices.

Gas Buddy

Legals - Montgomery County

ABC NOTICE

SHREE MAHAVEER, LLC trading as D&D SPEEDY MART, 1225 Roanoke Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073.

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Wine and Beer, OFF Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

CHIRAG PATEL, OWNER.

NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

Legals - Montgomery County

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>.

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, September 16, 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. Rezoning request by Robert P. Fralin, Registered Agent for F & B Land, L.P., Applicant and Property Owner, to rezone property located on the west side of Moose Dr. NW at the College St. NW, intersection, identified as Tax Parcel 556-((A))-9; (Parcel ID 018095), and consisting of approximately 16.330 acres, from Agricultural District (A) and General Business District (B-3) to Multi-Family Residential District (R-3). The property is designated as Residential on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.

B. Conditional Use Permit request by Robert P. Fralin, Registered Agent for F & B Land, L.P., Applicant and Property Owner, to allow a planned housing development for a multi-family project of a maximum of 162 apartments in the proposed Multi-Family Residential District (R-3) zoning district on property located on the west side of Moose Dr. NW at the College St. NW, intersection, identified as Tax Parcel 556-((A))-9; (Parcel ID 018095), and

Legals - Montgomery County

consisting of approximately 16.330 acres. The property is designated as Residential on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.

C. Rezoning request by Roger Woody, Registered Agent for RWW 34 LLC, Applicant and Property Owner, to rezone property located on the southeast corner of Sherwood Dr. NE and Maid Marian Ln., and adjacent to the US Rt. 460 Bypass, identified as approximately 2.31 acres of a 10.227 acre parcel; identified as Tax Parcel 499-((A))-12; (Parcel ID 018085), from Single-Family Residential District (R-1) to General Business District (B-3). The property is designated as Residential on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.

D. Conditional Use Permit request by Roger Woody, Registered Agent for RWW 34 LLC, Applicant and Property Owner, to allow a 90-unit Townhome Residential Development in the General Business District (B-3) zoning district on the southeast corner of Sherwood Dr. NE and Maid Marian Ln., and adjacent to the US Rt. 460 Bypass, identified as Tax Parcel 499-((A))-12; (Parcel ID 018085), and consisting of approximately 10.227 acres. The property is designated as Residential 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 Retta Jackson, Planning Director, at (540) 382-6128, ext. 1120 or by email at rjackson@christiansburg.org, with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations.

Legals - Montgomery County

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG PLANNING COMMISSION

The Town of Christiansburg Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, September 3, 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. Rezoning request by Robert P. Fralin, Registered Agent for F & B Land, L.P., Applicant and Property Owner, to rezone property located on the west side of Moose Dr. NW at the College St. NW, intersection, identified as Tax Parcel 556-((A))-9; (Parcel ID 008095), and consisting of approximately 16.330 acres, from Agricultural District (A) and General Business District (B-3) to Multi-Family Residential District (R-3). The property is designated as Residential on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.

B. Conditional Use Permit request by Robert P. Fralin, Registered Agent for F & B Land, L.P., Applicant and Property Owner, to allow a planned housing development for a multi-family project of a maximum of 162 apartments in the proposed Multi-Family Residential District (R-3) zoning district on property located on the west side of Moose Dr. NW at the College St. NW, intersection, identified as Tax Parcel 556-((A))-9; (Parcel ID 008095), and consisting of approximately 16.330 acres. The property is designated as Residential 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

Legals - Montgomery County

24073, during normal office hours of 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contact Retta Jackson, Planning Director, at (540) 382-6128, ext. 1120 or by email at rjackson@christiansburg.org, with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, By the Board of Supervisors of the County of Montgomery, Virginia

that the Board of Supervisors hereby advertises a proposed Ordinance Amending Chapter 3, Animals of the Code of the County of Montgomery, Virginia by amending Section 3-34 by adding any dog that served as a police or law enforcement dog or as a military working dog to dogs no license tax shall be levied on to be considered by the Board of Supervisors at their regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, September 9, 2024, at 7:15 p.m., or as soon thereafter at the Montgomery County Government Center, 2nd Floor Board Room, 755 Roanoke Street, Christiansburg, Virginia.

A copy of the full text of the Ordinance is on file in the Office of the County Administrator and is available 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday for public inspection or copying.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Angela M. Hill
County Administrator

Legals - Montgomery County

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, By the Board of Supervisors of the County of Montgomery, Virginia

that the Board hereby schedules a public hearing on Monday, September 9, 2024 at 7:15 p.m. or as soon thereafter at the Montgomery County Government Center, 2nd Floor Board Room, 755 Roanoke Street, Christiansburg, Virginia, to hear citizen comments on the proposed Ordinance Amending the Assessment Fee for the Law Library as part of costs in Civil Actions from Two Dollars (\$2.00) to Four Dollars (\$4.00) pursuant to Section 42.1-70 of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended.

A copy of the full text of the Ordinance is on file in the Office of the County Administrator and is available 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday for public inspection or copying.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Angela M. Hill
County Administrator

Legals - Montgomery County

land; thence with the line of Hancock's land, N 71° E. 50.0 feet to the BEGINNING, containing an area of 0.05 acre, according to a plat dated April 11, 1968, made by S.D. Richardson, a copy of which plat is filed herewith and made a part of this deed."

The Town is hereby making the property available for purchase through sealed bids. Sealed bids should be submitted to the Town at the address below by September 30, 2024 at 4:00 p.m., at which time they will be opened in the Town Manager's office. The Town will accept the highest bid for the property and reserves the right to restrict construction of a single-family residence on the property unless it is combined with another property and made compliant with applicable zoning and subdivision regulations by deed restrictions. The Town also reserves the right to retain a portion on the eastern side of the property for street widening and the right to retain public utility and drainage easements on the remaining property through the transfer deed, which will be prepared by the Town Attorney. Town Council reserves the right to reject any and all bids and cancel the sale at any time.

A copy of the proposed resolution and information on the preceding item may be viewed in the Office of the Town Manager, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073-3029 during normal office hours of 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information, contact Randy Wingfield by phone at (540) 382-6120 ext. 1119 or by email at rwingfield@christiansburg.org.

Randy Wingfield
Town Manager

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 15.2-2204 & 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors hereby gives notice of a public hearing to be held on September 9, 2024 at 7:15 p.m. in the County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Christiansburg, Virginia, in order to hear citizen comments regarding the Board of Supervisor's intention to act on the following Special Use Permit request:

A request by Foster Ridpath for a Special Use Permit (SUP) to allow a restaurant (gross floor area of 2,000 sq ft or less). The property is owned by Kimberly D. Ridpath and is located at 3035 Riner Road. The property is further identified as Tax Map 106-11-3 (Parcel ID: 031860), 1.904 acres, zoned Agricultural (A-1) in the Riner Magisterial District. The property currently lies in an area designated as Rural in the 2025 Comprehensive Plan.

Copies of the proposed plans, applications, ordinances or amendments

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 15.2-2204 & 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors hereby gives notice of a public hearing to be held on September 9, 2024 at 7:15 p.m. in the County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Christiansburg, Virginia, in order to hear citizen comments regarding the Board of Supervisor's intention to act on the following Special Use Permit request:

A request by Foster Ridpath for a Special Use Permit (SUP) to allow a restaurant (gross floor area of 2,000 sq ft or less). The property is owned by Kimberly D. Ridpath and is located at 3035 Riner Road. The property is further identified as Tax Map 106-11-3 (Parcel ID: 031860), 1.904 acres, zoned Agricultural (A-1) in the Riner Magisterial District. The property currently lies in an area designated as Rural in the 2025 Comprehensive Plan.

Copies of the proposed plans, applications, ordinances or amendments

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 15.2-2204 & 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors hereby gives notice of a public hearing to be held on September 9, 2024 at 7:15 p.m. in the County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Christiansburg, Virginia, in order to hear citizen comments regarding the Board of Supervisor's intention to act on the following Special Use Permit request:

A request by Foster Ridpath for a Special Use Permit (SUP) to allow a restaurant (gross floor area of 2,000 sq ft or less). The property is owned by Kimberly D. Ridpath and is located at 3035 Riner Road. The property is further identified as Tax Map 106-11-3 (Parcel ID: 031860), 1.904 acres, zoned Agricultural (A-1) in the Riner Magisterial District. The property currently lies in an area designated as Rural in the 2025 Comprehensive Plan.

Copies of the proposed plans, applications, ordinances or amendments

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Copies of the proposed plans, applications, ordinances or amendments

Public Notice The Christiansburg Town Council will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, September 10, 2024

at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Room, Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street to receive comments on a resolution for the disposition of a Town-owned property located on the western side of Silverlake Road, N.W. (0.05-acre Tax Parcel 525 – ((2)) – 63; Parcel ID 080323). The property is described as follows in the deed:

"Beginning at a stake in the west line of Silver Lake Road, a corner to S.E. Hancock's land; thence with the west line of Silver Lake Road, N 18° W 50.0 feet to a stake; thence two new lines with the land of Floyd S. Childress, Jr., S 71° W 50.0 feet to a stake, and S 18° E 50.0 feet to a stake in a line of S.E. Hancock's

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ASA funds Virginia Tech research to investigate space weather

Rain delays at a sporting event. Tornado damage to a rural town in the Great Plains. Icy roads during a morning work commute in the winter months. We've all experienced the impacts of inclement weather, but did you know weather conditions high in our atmosphere also can affect our everyday lives?

"While space weather can spark the beautiful auroras across our skies, it also has the potential to cause disruptions for us here on Earth and can be dangerous for our spacecraft and astronauts in space," said Nicola Fox, associate administrator of the Science Mission Directorate at NASA Headquarters in Washington, D.C.

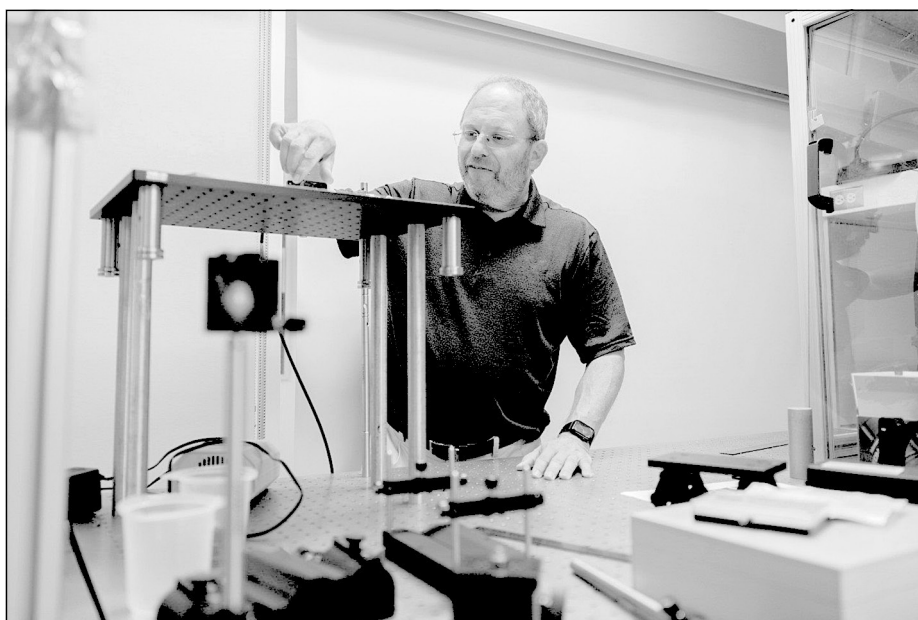
Space weather can interfere with satellite communications, GPS signals, and even our electrical grid, but there has been limited research about these complex factors in the upper atmosphere and how these factors are impacted by effects from the Earth's surface.

Virginia Tech researchers in the College of Engineering, along with several partners and collaborators, are seeking the answers to these relatively unexplored impacts that loom just beyond the clouds. With the help of a \$2 million grant from NASA, they hope to use next generation instrumentation to shed light on the upper atmosphere and how its motions are driven by both the sun and weather at the Earth's surface.

"I could not be more proud of the team and the robust, comprehensive plan we put together to answer NASA's DYNAMIC objectives," said principal investigator Scott Bailey, director of Space@VT and professor in the Bradley Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering. "I'm grateful for all of our partners, everyone who participated in the proposals, and Virginia Tech for supporting the effort at all levels of the administration."

Step one: Three proposals. Nine months. \$2 million.

This is the first of a two-step selection process to investigate the complex region of space that surrounds our planet and how it's influenced by Earth's dynamic atmosphere. Virginia Tech is one of just three academic institutions selected, and



Scott Bailey with optics equipment.

PHOTO BY BEN MURPHY FOR VIRGINIA TECH

future funding of \$250 million — in 2023 dollars — will be up for grabs after the nine-month concept study is completed.

"This project will address very important gaps in our knowledge with a data set that will revolutionize our understanding of the upper atmosphere and how different regions of the atmosphere affect each other," Bailey said.

Similar to the ocean, the upper atmosphere has tides that vary from day to day, Bailey said, but we've not been able to observe those variations because of limits in satellite technology.

"Our novel design and use of multiple satellites will allow us to gather more data and see the changes in tides and other weather phenomena every three hours or so in comparison with previous instruments that could collect data only once every 24 hours," Bailey said.

To make this project a success requires expertise in many areas: engineering and building the instruments, operating the instruments and the spacecraft, analyzing the data, knowledge of the dynamics and chemistry of the upper atmosphere, and expertise in running numerical simulations of the near-Earth space environment.

"A mission of this scope requires expertise and resources from different institutions," said Scott England, associate professor in the Kevin T. Crofton Department of Aerospace and Ocean Engineering and principal investigator on one of the three instruments. "The best people to put together the key elements of the spacecraft may be found at a university, a national lab, or a private company. We've done our best to find the individuals at the forefront of each of those disciplines and bring them together. For a project of this magnitude it takes many people working all across the U.S. to provide the breadth of expertise necessary to succeed."

Researchers seek to answer these questions:

How do upper atmospheric tides vary from day to day?

How are the lower and upper atmosphere coupled as part of an interconnected system?

How do influences from the sun compete with influences from meteorology near the Earth's surface?

Which impacts on GPS, satellites in low Earth orbit, and global communications can occur from various space weather phenomena?

Step two: A DYNAMIC mission

The DYNAMIC mission is designed to make measurements within Earth's upper atmosphere between about 50 to 125 miles, or 80 to 200 kilometers, in altitude. After a nine-month initial phase, NASA will select one proposed satellite technology for mission implementation. If chosen for flight, Virginia Tech's proposed plan includes two satellites with state-of-the-art instrumentation, priced at \$250 million in 2023 dollars for a duration of 10 years.

"We designed a mission that uses two satellites instead of one, and a new technique that can collect data during day and night conditions," Bailey said. "Because the instrument looks out both sides of the two satellites, it can collect two to four times as much information as our competitors."

With multiple spacecraft, DYNAMIC's simultaneous observations from different locations will give scientists a more complete picture of how waves propagate upward through this part of the atmosphere, expanding our understanding of how space weather influences our home planet.

"The DYNAMIC mission represents a groundbreaking effort to understand the intricate interplay between Earth's lower atmosphere and space weather. Our concept will deliver transformational observations, throughout the mesosphere and lower thermosphere, that will forever change the way we think about weather in the upper atmosphere," said Lynn Harvey, mission deputy principal investigator and research scientist at the Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics at the University of Colorado, Boulder.

Grant at a glance

Agency: NASA
 Funding: \$2 million
 Duration: Nine months
 Principal investigator: Scott Bailey
 Virginia Tech co-investigators: Scott England with Brentha Thurairajah and Justin Carstens, both of Space@VT and the Bradley Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering

Key partners

Virginia Tech's College of Engineering
 University of Colorado, Boulder
 Southwest Research Institute in San Antonio, Texas
 Space Dynamics Laboratory in Logan, Utah
 Global Atmospheric Technologies and Sciences in Newport News, Virginia
 Computational Physics, Inc. in Boulder, Colorado
 Other universities and government labs

The goals

Beyond understanding the intricacies of Earth's upper atmosphere better, this technology could also help with increasing air traffic concerns from the number of satellites being launched. People have sent about 16,000 objects into space in the last 65 years. Since 2020, we have added almost 7,000 satellites with 2,600 of those launched in 2023 alone. Policies have not been created quickly enough to safely accommodate the exponential growth.

"When Elon Musk recently launched hundreds of satellites in a short time, there was a one percent chance that it would hit another satellite already in orbit, one in which Virginia Tech has a leadership role. That sounds small, but when you consider the cost of losing a satellite, this is a significant risk," Bailey said. "As times go forward, this risk will only increase. Space regulation hasn't been able to move fast enough to keep up with the influx of technology. Our mission could help address this situation and allow for better prediction of satellite orbits and better quantification of the risks."

Chelsea Seeber for Virginia Tech

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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1	2	3	4			5	6	7	8
9						10			
11						12			13
14			15			16			17
18						19		20	
		21		22	23	24			
				25				26	
			27					28	
		29				30			
	31						33	34	
	35						36		37 38 39
40			41				42		
43			44					45	
46		47						48	
49								50	

CLUES ACROSS

- Sustained dull pain
- Hoover Dam Lake
- An earnest appeal
- Tree trunk used in sport
- Close by
- Indicated horsepower (abbr.)
- Delaware
- Makes in salary
- Fringe-toed lizard
- Two-year-old sheep
- = to 198 liters in Egypt
- Barnum & Bailey
- Destruction
- Shock treatment
- A priest's linen vestment
- Consumed
- Etymology (abbr.)
- Doctors' group
- Tsetung or Zedong
- Subroutines
- Maintenance
- Sacred shrine in Mecca
- Mutual savings bank
- The cry made by sheep
- Fell back from flooding
- Farm state
- British Isle in the Irish Sea
- Georgian monetary unit
- Turkish rulers
- Utter sounds
- Mains
- Fashionable water resorts
- CLUES DOWN
- Temporary cessation of breathing
- Not cloudy
- Listened
- Acquired by effort
- Chart of the Earth's surface
- Eastbound
- Yellow-fever mosquitos
- Small amount of residue
- With great caution, warily
- One who copies behavior
- One point E of due S
- Fiddler crabs
- A large cask
- Adult male swan
- Of the whale & dolphin
- Frozen water
- Metric ton
- Marine or parasitic protozoas
- Cologne
- Built by Noah
- Indicates physician
- Parts per billion (abbr.)
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Supplement with difficulty
- Dark fur coat animals
- Utilization
- Unit = to 10 amperes
- Stalin's police chief
- Almost horizontal mine entrances
- Missing soldiers
- More (Spanish)
- Express surprise

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The Radford News Journal is not simply a newspaper. It can be a useful device to help get household pests under control. Sure we keep you informed of news in your area, but we do more! Your copy of The Radford News Journal is one heck of a way to swat a fly or nail a mosquito ... simply roll it up and give it a try (after you have finished reading, of course). And best of all, we'll send you a new fly swatter every week for a year with your subscription!

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OBITUARIES

Trenor, Diane Bishop

Diane Bishop Trenor, 76, of Newport, Va., went to be with her Lord and Savior Tuesday, Aug. 27, 2024.

Diane leaves behind her loving husband of 55 years, Ty Trenor; two daughters, Michelle Long and Tina Trenor; three grandchildren, Colton Long, Billy Long, and Josie Long; her sister Maybelle McNeil (Winston); and countless other close family and friends.

Diane was born Jan. 15, 1948. She loved Jesus, her family, and so many others like they were family. She was like a second mom to some and known as Maw Maw to so many others over the



years that she dearly loved as if they were her own.

She was preceded in death by her son-in-law, Brian Long (Michelle), and her parents Edsel and Frances Bishop.

Funeral services will be held Tuesday, Sept. 3, 2024, at 2 p.m., with visitation 1-2 p.m. at McCoy Funeral Home in Blacksburg and officiated by Pastor Craig Reed. Burial will follow at Sunset Cemetery in Christiansburg.

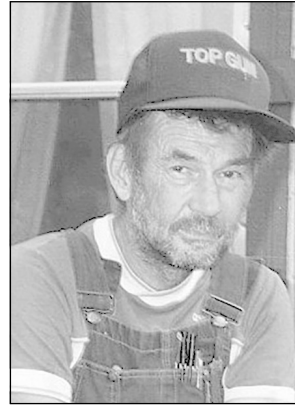
Special thanks to Amedisys Hospice for their compassionate care and assistance during the past couple of weeks.

Phillips, Sr., Jay Thomas

Jay Thomas Phillips, Sr., 93, of Dublin, passed away Tuesday, Aug. 27, 2024, at the VA Hospital in Salem.

He was a U.S. Army veteran and spent his lifetime farming. He was preceded in death by his loving wife, Mary Hall Phillips; parents, Jehu Thomas and Maude Long Phillips; four brothers, Burman, Woodrow, Mark and Dewey Phillips; and three sisters, Beulah Bird, Ella Mae Long and Alice Graves.

Survivors include his children, Eva P. Collins (Michael), Harold Dean Phillips (Rita), Jay Thomas Phillips, Jr., Charlotte P. Newby (Clifford), Chris



Phillips (Melissa), Randall Keith Phillips (Karen), and Teresa P. Brown (Kenneth); 16 grandchildren, 17 great grandchildren, one great grand daughter; and many other relatives and friends.

The family received friends Thursday, Aug. 29, 2024, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services and interment with full military honors followed in the Phillips Family Cemetery in Snowville.

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



Radford News Journal

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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. 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: fbradford.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

Radford

WORSHIP DIRECTORY

God Repays

Read Ezekiel 24:1 through 27:36

Why do people sometimes seem to get away with sinning? Does God look away when these evils come against His children?

“Your wealth, merchandise and wares, your mariners, sailors and shipwrights, your merchants and all your soldiers, and everyone else on board will sink into the heart of the sea on the day of your shipwreck” (Ezekiel 27:27).

When Israel turned away from the Lord, the people became prey for the enemies of God. The nations that attacked Israel assumed God would not judge their sin, but they were mistaken. God watched and recorded every evil deed. A day of accounting was decreed.

In time, Israel's enemies lost wealth, status, and strength. Some even disappeared from the world altogether.

When trials come, Christians should not presume that God is unconcerned with their struggles. He sometimes uses difficulties to discipline and train them for righteousness. As His people wait upon Him, their faith grows.

One day you will be lifted above your trials, and retribution will be given to those who would plunder you.

Prayer Suggestion: Lord, I trust You even now.

Quicklook: Ezekiel 27:26-31

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

& 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. Celebrate Word and Sacrament as we worship with varied liturgy, hymns and music. Join our inclusive community in person or online Sundays at 10:00 am (youtube.com/@OSLCcburg), followed by refreshments and fellowship. Ministries include Bible study, choir, food ministry, and crafters. Little Free Pantry and Library available 24-7 by the parking lot. Parent's Morning Out offers faith-based activities and play for children 16 month - 5 years select weekdays. Wheelchair accessible. Learn how you may contribute to our ministries at www.oslc-cburg.org. 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@stmcl.us; Website www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

Central Church, 803 Wadsworth Street, Radford. 639-3529. Sunday Services 10:30am Sunday School 9:00am. Child care is provided. www.centralchurchradford.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 and Randolph. Worship will be at 10 am Memorial Day (May 26) through Labor Day (September 1). Pastor Morgan Whitfield, Jr. will lead worship. 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.

St. Paul United Methodist Church, 220 West Main Street, Christiansburg. Rev. Mike Derflinger (540) 382-2410. Sunday Worship at 10a.m. with Children's Church at the same time, Sunday School at 9 a.m. Worship is in-person and Live-streamed on our YouTube Channel: StPaulUMCChristiansburgVA. All are welcome. Website: www.stpaulvaumc.org

OBITUARIES

Frith, Dennis Lee

Dennis Lee Frith, 71, of Radford, died Sunday, Aug. 25, 2024. He was born in Montgomery County Jan. 30, 1953, to the late James Robert and Ernestine Burton Frith. He is also preceded in death by his brother, Avis Frith.

He is survived by his son and daughter-in-law, Jamie and Kelly Reynolds, and brother and sister-in-law, Mark and Pam Frith. There will be no funeral services conducted at this time.

Baker, Sharon Duncan

Sharon Duncan Baker, 62, of Christiansburg, went to be with her Lord and Savior on Aug. 25, 2024. She is preceded in death by her parents, Robert and Julia Duncan, of Radford. Left behind to cherish her memory are her loving sister Vicki Duncan Pinard; her loving brother Todd (Terri) Duncan; nieces Angie (Thomas) Graybeal, Natalie (John) Collins and Chelsea Duncan; four great-nephews and three great-nieces. A special thanks to best friend Linda Alumbaugh for her wonderful and steadfast friendship as she was a daily blessing to Sharon. Also, Vickie Hanks who has always supported and loved Sharon as much as we did. She will be



missed by so many. Even though Sharon had to fight harder than anyone should, her faith never wavered, and her spirit remained grateful and appreciative. She will be immensely missed by her family and friends; however, we will rejoice that she is now whole again. She suffers no more, as now she walks with her Savior. The family would like to thank everyone for all their prayers and support. Funeral services will be conducted Wednesday, Sept. 4, 2024, in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Neal Turner officiating. The family will receive visitors 5 – 6 p.m., and service will follow at 6 p.m.

Va. residents can apply for free beekeeping equipment

RICHMOND—What's all the buzz? The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services is accepting applications for the 2024 Beehive Distribution Program. The program provides free equipment for assembling new beehives to Virginia residents ages 18 and up. Recipients will be selected at random from qualifying applications submitted by Sept. 6. Businesses, nonprofit organizations and government agencies are not eligible

to receive beehive units. Multiple individuals in a household with the same mailing address may apply to the program. Recipients of beehive units must assemble the equipment and occupy it with a colony of honeybees within one year of receiving the equipment. To learn more and apply, visit vdcas.virginia.gov/plant-industry-services-beehive-distribution-program.shtml.
Virginia Farm Bureau

Photo Club from page 1

from Blacksburg, will speak on the exposure triangle and the use of the histogram. 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 Joyce Crowder at joycecrowder2@icloud.com, Michele Borgarelli at mborgarelli@gmail.com, or Tracy Burlingame at racylb3870@gmail.com.
Radford Photo Club

Award

project. A unique aspect of the NRVRE is the oversight and integration across prevention, treatment, recovery, and harm reduction services. The Awards Committee was impressed that the recovery ecosystem intentionally coordinates these elements to develop structural changes that support wellness across the region. The project was successful this past year in launching both a region-wide, anti-stigma campaign reaching over 33,000 individuals and families through various forms of outreach, as well as a collaborative mobile harm reduction outreach program through the New River Health District. Planning District Commissions were enabled by state legislation in 1968,

and most were established the following year. There are 21 PDCs and Regional Commissions in Virginia made up of elected officials and citizens appointed by local governments. The purpose of Planning District Commissions is to encourage and facilitate regional solutions to problems of area-wide significance. This is done by promoting the efficient development of the physical, social, and economic policies of all districts by assisting local governments to plan for the future. The PDCs of Virginia joined together to create the Virginia Association of Planning District Commissions in 1987 to share best practices and further regionalism across the Commonwealth.
Virginia Association of Planning District Commissions

Rail Plan from page 1

“We are excited to deliver these benefits as we continue to accelerate results not only in these two regions, but across the entire Commonwealth,” he said. Just last month, state officials said an original plan to take passenger rail down a secondary track near Christiansburg would push cost to nearly \$1 billion, mainly thanks to the need to renovate a train tunnel at the Merrimac section of the county. The state group and local officials then moved quickly to shift the project back to the M-Line, which comes through the center of the town and would use a former train station that is currently being used as a NS maintenance facility. The cost to renovate the former structure is not known, but under the agreement announced this week, NS would absorb much of the budget. The state would have to move quickly to reach a 2026 completion date with rail work from Roanoke to Christiansburg. “We look forward to finalizing this agreement, which will make passenger rail a viable option for even more Virginians,” said DJ Stadler, Executive Director of VPR. “We appreciate Norfolk Southern’s partnership and look forward to working with them to expand passenger rail in the Commonwealth.” “At Norfolk Southern, we know the power rail has to connect communities and grow economies, and we’re proud to play a role in helping VPR in its mission to support and expand the availability of passenger and commuter rail service in the Commonwealth,” said Norfolk Southern Chief Strategy Officer Mike McClellan. “We want to thank VPR for its partnership and dedication in reaching an agreement that has the potential to benefit generations of Virginians with reliable, convenient rail travel, while also balancing the needs of the freight rail network the economy relies on.” VPR first announced it was in discussions with Norfolk Southern back in June. Responding to public input which supported service to Christiansburg along the N-Line and seeking a more cost-effective and timelier alternative for that service,

VPR reached out to Norfolk Southern who agreed to re-open negotiations. Over the past three months, the two have worked together to develop plans which will allow passenger rail service to return to Christiansburg via Norfolk Southern’s Cambria Yard, which previously served the community from 1904 to 1979. The release said the inclusion of the Manassas Line in the deal will give VPR the flexibility to work with VRE to expand service along their Manassas Line. The ability to add evening and weekend service is something the commuter agency has recently sought as commuting trends have changed, and the need for service beyond traditional commuting times has increased. The combination of the 2024 VPR-Norfolk Southern agreement with the 2021 VPR-CSX agreement means that when the six Phase 1 Transforming Rail in Virginia Construction Projects are complete additional VRE roundtrips could start not only on the Fredericksburg Line but on the Manassas Line as well. The question has always been whether NS could co-exist with a passenger trip to Christiansburg. In other parts of the state, they showed that could happen. Currently, VRE offers eight roundtrips on the Manassas Line with stops at Broad Run, Manassas, Manassas Park, Burke Centre, Rolling Road, Backlick Road, Alexandria, Crystal City, L’Enfant, and Washington Union Station. Following the Board of Directors vote, VPR leadership will move forward to finalize the agreement with Norfolk Southern and close the deal in early September. This move also came as the state said its passenger rail service, Amtrak Virginia, saw another month of record ridership in April. With a total of 118,474 passengers traveling, April 2024 beat April 2023 by 9.8%. All four Amtrak Virginia corridors saw ridership increases resulting in the highest ridership for the month of April since the Commonwealth started state-supported service in 2009. The Norfolk corridor again carried the most passengers with 44,616 traveling.

This includes a 4.4 percent increase for the Roanoke destination by Amtrak. The additional path to Christiansburg could also allow, according to the VRE, extra stops in the Roanoke Valley. The overall plan could have the first passenger stop coming to the NRV by 2027. In addition to the passenger station, the rail authority and local officials would have to construct a parking area and the overall passenger platforms. “I am pleased that the VPR Board of Directors voted to advance an agreement with Norfolk Southern that will ensure passenger rail service arrives in Christiansburg as soon as 2027,” Delegate Chris Obenshain said in a written statement. “When we recognized that the timeframe and cost of the previous plan was not feasible, legislators from across Southwest Virginia reached out to the administration to try and work together to find a better solution. I thank the Governor, the Secretary of Transportation, and the VPR who took the time to listen to input from those in the New River Valley and beyond regarding the importance and urgency of bringing passenger rail service to our communities.” “I also appreciate the work of the New River Valley Passenger Rail Initiative for their insight and advocacy,” he continued. “I eagerly look forward to future train trips with my own family originating right here in Montgomery County. I am grateful for all the hard work of my colleagues in the legislature and community leaders to ensure the future viability of rail service to the NRV and further into Southwest Virginia.” Senator Tim Kaine also expressed his support of the project. “Great news,” Kaine posted on X. “Starting in 2027, residents of the New River Valley will have access to several Amtrak passenger rail service trains every day. I’ve long supported expanding passenger rail and secured funding to make projects like this possible, bolstering Virginia’s economy.”



Plena Libre performs a free concert on Friday, Sept. 6, at 6 p.m. on the Moss lawn. PHOTO COURTESY OF PLENA LIBRE

Moss Arts Center presents free outdoor concert featuring Puerto Rican band Plena Libre

The Moss Arts Center ushers in its 2024-25 season with a free outdoor concert featuring Puerto Rican band Plena Libre. With mesmerizing hand drumming, raucous horns, and soaring three-part vocal harmonies, the band will bring the audience to its feet for an energy-filled dance party on the Moss lawn on Friday, Sept. 6, at 6 p.m.

group is moving forward, now with Gary’s son Luis Gabriel Nuñez at the reins as artistic director.

Masters of the plena and bomba styles, Plena Libre brilliantly infuses traditional and contemporary music with Afro-Puerto Rican rhythms, creating an electrifying stage performance. Embodying the soul of Puerto Rico and reviving the plena sound for a new generation, Plena Libre has performed everywhere from Morocco’s Fez Festival to the Playboy Jazz Fest and Lincoln Center. With over 15 albums and four Grammy and Latin Grammy award nominations, the band is celebrating its 30th anniversary as San Juan, Puerto Rico’s torch-bearing pioneers of plena, bomba, son, and salsa.

Related event Prior to the performance, from 5-5:30 p.m., learn the Puerto Rican dance style bomba from members of Plena Libre in a free workshop, open to all experience levels. Registration is not required.

The group is performing in memory of its recently deceased founding artistic director, the master composer, bassist Gary Nuñez. In honor of Nuñez, the

This engagement of Plena Libre is supported in part by a gift from Ms. Sherwood Payne Quillen and the Mid Atlantic Tours program of Mid Atlantic Arts with support from the National Endowment for the Arts. Weather, venue, and parking information The performance will be held on the Moss Arts Center lawn, located at 190 Alumni Mall. Convenient parking is available in the North End Parking Garage on Turner Street and in downtown Blacksburg. Find more parking details online. This event is rain or shine. In case of inclement weather, check the Moss Arts Center website for concert and workshop locations.
Katie Gehrt for Virginia Tech

Don’t fall for jury scams, circuit court clerk warns

Scammers are calling members of the community pretending to be court officials or the sheriff’s office, says Montgomery County Clerk of Circuit Court Tiffany Couch. “If you receive a call saying you missed jury duty and owe a fine, please contact the sheriff’s office immediately,” said Couch in a written statement. “Additionally, the circuit court clerk’s office oversees collecting fines/costs for the court and will not call you asking for payment. When this happens keep yourself and your loved ones safe and do not pay these scammers anything.” Couch recommends taking the

following actions:
1. Contact the sheriff’s office directly at 540-382-6915 or go in person.
2. Contact the circuit court clerk’s office directly at 540-382-5760 ext. 7 option 6 or go in person.
3. Always go inside the sheriff’s office or the courthouse and directly speak to someone. Scammers will meet you outside of the building pretending to be an employee. “Together we can help our community from falling for these frequent scams,” said Couch. “Please share this information with your loved ones.”
Staff report

RADFORD SPORTS

Offensive Spotlight: Kyron Drones

Entering his second season with the Hokies this fall, quarterback Kyron Drones has helped revitalize Tech football.

After taking over the starting role last fall, the offensive captain is looking to grow from his offensive output in 2023, where he recorded 22 total touchdowns (17 passing, 5 rushing) and over 2,900 all-purpose yards.

With preseason watch list nods from the Manning Award, Davey O'Brien Award, Maxwell Award, Johnny Unitas Golden Arm Award and Earl Campbell Tyler Rose Award, expectations for the dual-threat quarterback are as high as ever.

Partnered with an exciting running game and explosive wide receiver room, Drones is poised to produce under offensive coordinator Tyler Bowen in their first test at Vanderbilt on Saturday, Aug. 31 at noon ET. The game can be caught live on ESPN.

After assuming the reins in the third week of the 2023 season, Drones quickly found success through his passing game. Over 13 games and 11 as a starter,

the redshirt junior posted 2,084 passing yards with a touchdown-interception ratio of 17-3. The ACC signal caller threw for a season-best 321 yards against conference rival Wake Forest, where 20 of his 29 attempts led to a 30-13 victory.

Against in-state rival Virginia, the Houston, Texas native found the endzone three times alongside 244 passing yards. When facing Vanderbilt, look for Drones to favor the long ball against a defense that allowed 36.2 points per game (129th out of 133 teams) and an average of 6.5 yards per play.

Drones' accuracy will also be on display against the Commodores. The Tech quarterback achieved an adjusted completion percentage of 72.7% last season, ranking higher than many of his ACC quarterback counterparts. Additionally, Drones has little reserve throwing downfield, as seen in gains of 84 and 75 yards last fall. With a wide receiver room made up of predominantly returning talent, look for Drones to attack opposing defenses across all levels of the field.

As the season developed, Drones



PHOTO COURTESY OF VT ATHLETICS

Virginia Tech signal caller Kyron Drones looks to start season on a high note.

utilized his legs in more of a dual-threat role. As one of the ACC's most mobile quarterbacks, the redshirt junior rushed for 818 yards with an average of 4.9 yards per rush, his total being the second highest on the team. Standing at 6-foot-2 and 234 pounds, Drones' stature makes him a force to be reckoned

with in the run game, as seen in his 176-yard rushing game in the Military Bowl. Leveraging his athleticism within the offensive scheme will make RPO a strong option to exploit Vanderbilt's defense.

By utilizing both his arm and his legs, Drones is primed for an explosive season.

Virginia Tech Athletics

Hokies travel to SEC's Vandy

Virginia Tech football officially kicks off the 2024 season against an SEC opponent as it battles Vanderbilt today, Saturday, Aug. 31 at noon ET.

The Hokies are set to open the year on the road at FirstBank Stadium in Nashville, Tenn.

Starting his third year at the helm, head coach Brent Pry is aiming to begin the season on a high note. Entering the year with high expectations, Hokie Nation has been eagerly awaiting kickoff. Supporting the excitement, multiple home games at Lane Stadium have sold out, and fans are encouraged to get seats to the remaining home matchups while tickets are still available.

Important information for the season-opening matchup includes:

How to follow

TV: The game will be televised on ESPN with Roy Philpott (play-by-play), Sam Acho (analyst) and Taylor Davis (sideline) on the call.

Radio: The Virginia Tech Sports Network will carry the contest over the airwaves in Blacksburg on 93.1 FM and 105.9 FM. Bill Roth will handle play-by-play duties while Mike Burnop provides color commentary and Zach Mackey reports from the sideline.

Streaming: Catch the game online at ESPN.com and in the ESPN mobile app.

Live Audio: Listen to live audio coverage of the matchup at HokieSports.com/Watch or in the HokieSports mobile app.

Live Stats: Monitor the game through live stats on HokieSports.com, including play-by-play updates and full team and individual statistics.

Players to watch

Quarterback Kyron Drones: Heading into his first season as the bona fide starter with Tech, the redshirt junior is set up for potentially a big year. After spending all of Fall Camp working with the ones, the scheme

under offensive coordinator Tyler Bowen should benefit from the continuity of returning starters. Drones offers plenty of athleticism to extend plays with his legs and tons of arm talent to challenge the third level. Last season, he set a program record for passing attempts without an interception and showcased a consistent ability to take care of the football. If Drones can continue to produce big plays through the air and with his mobility, there should be plenty of reasons to support his case for the Davey O'Brien award.

Wide Receiver Ali Jennings: A familiar name mentioned this time last year, the talented wideout is aiming to pick up where he left off in the 2023 season opener. In his first game donning maroon and orange, Jennings corralled five receptions for 72 yards and two touchdowns. After a dynamic inaugural showcase, the sixth-year Richmond, Virginia, native will look to get back on track after a season-ending injury in week two. Following participation in Fall Camp, Jennings will provide another veteran receiving option alongside Da'Quan Felton and Jaylin Lane, among others.

Linebacker Sam Brumfield: Switching gears to the defensive side of the ball, there are plenty of talented players at defensive coordinator Chris Marve's disposal. One specific addition via the transfer portal that should be one to watch is Sam Brumfield from Middle Tennessee State. Recently named one of seven team captains, the Pearl, Mississippi native is expected to hold down the middle linebacker role for the Hokies. Brumfield comes in with plenty of experience after leading the Blue Raiders in tackles (81) and being named to the All-Conference USA Second Team. The redshirt senior is a solid presence on the second level and is looking to provide some stability across the front seven.

Virginia Tech Athletics

Murder

from page 1



PHOTO BY MARTY GORDON

Flowers lay at the site of the tragic murder of two college students at Caldwell Fields near Blacksburg.

frequent the quiet, isolated area.

The description of the spot where investigators found their bodies was a small parking area, which marks Caldwell Fields. Several thousand have stopped and probably walked the same feet of ground, especially since the tragic accident.

Investigators have dug through hundreds of leads with no real suspect, thus leaving it sitting on the Virginia State Police's cold case website.

In an early 2012 press conference, local police said they were looking for the owners of several cars that had been spotted in the area. The group or owners in no way had been fingered as persons of interest, instead being someone that might have seen something that evening.

The vehicles were:

A green sedan, possibly a Ford Taurus or Dodge Intrepid, was seen stopping in front of residences on Craig Creek Road around 6 p.m.

A dark-blue Dodge Caravan was seen parked near the border of Montgomery and Craig counties, near a logging site, around 8:30 p.m.

A dark-colored van or minivan was parked at Caldwell Fields after dark.

A dark-colored Ford Crown Victoria of Chevrolet Caprice was seen driving on Craig Creek Road around 10 p.m.

A red or red and white Dodge extended-cab pickup with dual exhaust, oversized tires and tinted windows was seen driving up Lee Road at about 11 p.m., directly across from Caldwell Fields.

A gray or cream-colored early 2000s model Pontiac Bonneville, parked near Caldwell Fields around midnight

Local criminologist, retired Radford University professor and former police officer Tod Burke has become an expert in many cases like this one. He said from a law enforcement perspective, it's critical to bring the story back to the forefront. "Whenever there is a cold case, it is important to keep the case active in the public's mind," Burke said. "This is often done during anniversary dates but can and should be done as frequently as practical. Much depends on police resources."

"Law enforcement understands that when they bring a case to the forefront, quite often there will be additional tips from the public. Follow-up on those tips is critical, but it does take resources to do so. The public's involvement in cold cases could prove paramount in closure," he pointed out earlier this week.

Burke said the longer the case remains cold, the more difficult the investigation becomes.

"Witness memory can fade; witnesses may move out of the area; witnesses can die. Similar issues happen with law enforcement. Investigating officers may relocate, retire, or die. The public needs to also understand that a suspect(s) may also move out of the area, be in prison in another state for an unrelated crime, or may be deceased," he said.

While some evidence can be maintained for long periods of time (e.g., DNA), according to Burke, some evidence may deteriorate over time. Then again, advancements in forensic science may actually prove beneficial with cold cases, offering officers with additional tools not available during the initial investigation. "I am also a strong believer in having new eyes on cold cases, when practical to do so. While not dismissing the initial investigation or investigators, fresh eyes may lead to new theories and evidence, minimizing tunnel vision - negating new information because investigators already formed an opinion," he said. Bottomline, the longer a case is unsolved, the more difficult it is to close a cold case.

"That being said, I am hopeful for a resolution to this tragic incident," Burke concluded.

There is a \$100,000 reward for any tips that lead to an arrest. If you have any information please call the Virginia State Police at 540-375-9589.

Newly renovated War Memorial Hall officially opens

War Memorial Hall is a fixture in the college memories of Hokies spanning nearly 100 years. With renovations now complete, the iconic building offers future generations and alumni an updated, accessible, and enhanced facility centered around wellness.

"I used to go there to play racquetball a lot and I played intramural basketball there, but the building was always hot and felt like you were walking back into the 1970s," said Travis Jessee '05, interim assistant vice president for design and construction at Virginia Tech. "But we went because it was the largest rec facility on campus."

War Memorial Hall — built in 1924 as a tribute to soldiers who died in World War I — hadn't undergone such an extensive renovation process on a capital scale since 1975. Jessee has had several roles in the renovation of War Memorial Hall, and he was part of the conversations around the future of the building. He said faculty who have been at Virginia Tech for many years will appreciate the transformation, and students who are new to campus will be excited about all the building has to offer.

"War Memorial Hall has all new, historically accurate windows for the head house [the front of building], we've removed partitions to make the gymnasium space more open, and the lower level was completely demolished and rebuilt to provide modern cardio workout space," said Jessee. "It's a very handsome building, and I'm proud of the improvements."

Student health and wellness

Student health and wellness was a core goal of the renovation plans for War Memorial Hall. The facility will house research space for the Department of Human Nutrition, Foods, and Exercise (HNFE), in addition to classroom space. This newly renovated research space will allow for clinical researchers in HNFE to have a state-of-the-art facility to conduct their innovative research.

War Memorial Hall is also the home of Recreational Sports. Hokies will have access to exercise classes, as well as ten specialized spaces, including a boxing room, two rooms for dance organizations, a mind/body studio, yoga studio, spin studio, one squash court, and five racquetball courts.

Other features include:

- Wet classroom for aquatic and safety instruction
- 7,000 square-foot table tennis space
- Basketball courts with new hardwood floors
- Modern locker rooms and bathrooms that include



PHOTO BY NOAH ALDERMAN FOR VIRGINIA TECH

Among the many renovations to War Memorial Hall are new, historically accurate windows and main doors.

family changing rooms and an all-gender restroom featuring private stalls with a shared space for handwashing

- Centralized air conditioning
- New plumbing and electrical systems
- Energy-efficient LED lighting

Membership and events

There are several events scheduled around the reopening of War Memorial Hall, including self-guided tours, exercise classes, and a grand reopening celebration on Sept. 6 at 3:30 p.m. For up-to-date information, visit recsports.vt.edu/events.

Recreational Sports offers a variety of membership options to various campus community groups to help meet fitness needs. Undergraduate and graduate students enrolled full and part time who pay the recreational fee have access to War Memorial Hall, as well as McComas Hall and the Rec Sports Field House, during normal operational hours. Faculty and staff can try out a membership for one free, 30-day all-access membership to the facility, free group exercise classes, and free towel service.

For a comprehensive list of membership rates for students, employees, alumni, and guests, visit recsports.vt.edu/membership.

Virginia Tech