

# News Journal

Wednesday, September 25, 2024 • USPS 387-780 • radfordnewsjournal.com • \$1.00

## University-City partnership awarded ARC grant to support former foundry site redevelopment efforts

A grant recently awarded to Radford University will enable students to lead two interdisciplinary research projects this fall, investigating the redevelopment possibilities for the historic Radford Foundry site, a key industrial property acquired by the City of Radford in 2023.

The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) supplied the funding to participate in the Appalachian Collegiate Research Initiative (ACRI). The \$8,000 grant award will support the projects, with \$2,000 specifically designated for use by the City of Radford.

Through two course-based projects, one within the Honors College and the other housed in Appalachian studies, students will work with the City of Radford's Department of Economic Development to assess potential future uses of the former foundry site. The property, which once housed the

Radford Iron and Coal Company, is now a priority for revitalization, with plans to transform the 80-acre site into the West Radford Commerce Park, a multiuse space combining business, recreation, and green spaces.

"The goal will be to develop an interdisciplinary approach to evaluating the property's best uses, focusing on both its unique qualities and similar redevelopment projects," said Jason Davis, professor and leader of the Honors College team. "Students will present general recommendations to the City of Radford, giving the community insights on how the foundry can be reimagined."

Students will explore a variety of facets of the redevelopment process, including historical research, community interviews, and comparative studies of similar post-industrial projects across

See **Foundry**, page 3



PHOTO COURTESY OF RADFORD UNIVERSITY

The grant team includes (left to right): Tim Thornton, adjunct faculty and leader of the Appalachian studies team; Kim Repass, Radford's director of economic development; Jason Davis, professor and leader of the Honors College team; and Charlie Jewell, director of economic development.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SINKLAND FARMS

The Sinkland Farms Pumpkin Festival kicks off this weekend. Sinkland Farms was recently named as the number three pumpkin patch in the United States.

## Sinkland Farms Pumpkin Festival named in top 10 pumpkin patches in U.S.

Sinkland Farms has been named in the top 10 pumpkin patches in the United States by USA Today.

The Riner farm was ranked number three in the list and is the only Virginia pumpkin patch to make the list.

"It's an incredible honor, and we

couldn't have done it without [the public's] support," said Susan Sink, owner of Sinkland Farms, when the farm was nominated to be in the running.

"At these 10 pumpkin patches — selected by an expert panel and voted as the best in the United States

by our readers — you're sure to find the perfect pumpkin for carving or decorating your dining table," USA Today says of the list. "Some even offer pie pumpkins for baking. Plus,

See **Pumpkins**, page 3

## Pie contest at Pawpaw Festival to raise money for food pantries

The inaugural Pies to Thrive Community Bake-Off invites citizens, businesses and organizations to bake a pie for a good cause, and bragging rights, of course.

The contest will be held in conjunction with the Pawpaw Festival, coming up Oct. 5 at Nesselrod on the New. Pies will be dropped off by participants at the festival in the morning and judged on site.

The deadline to apply for the contest is this Saturday, Sept. 28 at 11:59 P.M., using this link: <https://forms.gle/wQ3ya2BxeBkq23iV8>. The cost to enter is \$5.

Pawpaw Festival

organizer Jesse Kelly says he hopes the pie contest will be a fun community builder. Proceeds from entry fees will benefit local food pantries.

"In addition to raising food, funds and awareness for tremendous New River Valley food pantries, we hope the "Pies to Thrive" Community Bake-Off will create new avenues for connection across generational gaps, cultural differences, geographic boundaries and socioeconomic status," said Kelly. "We aspire to give local bakers the

See **Pies**, page 3



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF NURSERY NATIVES

## Man killed by Christiansburg police officer

A man was killed by a Christiansburg police officer after a 911 call about a suspicious person led to a foot chase after the man displayed a knife.

According to the Town of Christiansburg, Christiansburg Police and the Montgomery County Sheriff's Department responded to a call about a suspicious person observed near Viewland Circle in the Mud Pike area of Montgomery County near the Christiansburg town limits on Friday, Sept. 20, 2024 at approximately 1:51p.m.

"Deputies with the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office responded and observed an individual who displayed a knife and then fled on

foot, deputies followed," according to the information released by the Town of Christiansburg. "Deputies temporarily lost sight of the suspect and a foot search followed. Due to the proximity of the call, Christiansburg Police responded to assist with search operations."

"At approximately 2:15p.m. Christiansburg Police observed the suspect. The suspect then fled into a wooded area. Christiansburg Police and Montgomery County Sheriff's deputies followed. As officers pursued, the suspect exited the tree line and pointed a weapon at a Christiansburg Police officer. Christiansburg Police then shot the suspect. Officers rendered aid to the suspect, until

Christiansburg EMS arrived. The suspect was pronounced dead at the scene."

No law enforcement officers were injured in the incident.

The incident has been turned over to Virginia State Police for investigation. According to the VSP the Virginia State Police, Bureau of Criminal Investigation, Salem Field Office, will be investigating the shooting

"Upon the completion of the investigation, the findings will be turned over to the Montgomery County Commonwealth Attorney's Office for review and adjudication," the VSP stated.

Staff report

## Woman killed in two-vehicle crash on Radford Road

A 22-year-old woman was killed in a car crash Monday morning on Route 11 just outside the City of Radford in Montgomery County.

According to the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office (MCSO), the crash occurred just after 7:30 a.m. on Monday, Sept. 23. The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, Montgomery County Fire and Rescue, Christiansburg Fire Department, Christiansburg Rescue, Radford City Police Department and Radford City Fire/EMS responded to the crash, which occurred near the 3800 block of Radford Road.

"There were two vehicles involved, the

driver of the vehicle traveling west lost control due to slick pavement caused by rain and crossed into the path of a vehicle traveling east," according to MCSO. "The driver of the vehicle traveling west was a 22-year-old Kelsey Patton of Max Meadows, who was pronounced deceased at the scene. The other vehicle was occupied by an adult male, adult female and a small child. All three of those occupants were transported to local hospitals with unknown injuries."

The scene is being investigated by the New River Valley Regional Crash Team.

Staff report

## Suspicious person report leads to recovery of missing juvenile

RADFORD — A juvenile missing from Delaware was discovered in Radford last week after the report of a suspicious person led to the arrests of two women.

According to the City of Radford, the case began when officers from the Radford City Police Department responded to a report of a suspicious person in the 1800 block of Smith Avenue on Thursday, Sept. 19, 2024 at approximately 6:54 a.m.

"Upon arrival, officers discovered a disabled vehicle occupied by two juveniles and an adult female," the statement reads. "During the investigation, the vehicle's license plate was found to have been reported stolen out of Bedford County."

"The adult female in the vehicle initially provided a false identity but was later identified as Kacheri Blount. Blount was wanted by the Richmond Police Department on four felony and six misdemeanor warrants," the statement continues.

Blount was taken into custody on the outstanding warrants from Richmond and local charges are pending.

"As officers conducted an intensive roadside investigation, they determined that the

vehicle was connected to a missing juvenile case from Delaware," according to the City of Radford. "The missing juvenile was located inside the vehicle and had been disguised as the opposite gender in an apparent attempt to conceal their identity. Officers revealed that both females in the vehicle took extensive measures to hide the juvenile's identity."

A second individual involved, Kacheri Ieisha Allen, was located in the 2000 block of Preston Street and was arrested and charged with contributing to the delinquency of a minor and carrying a concealed weapon.

Radford City Police Department Captain, J.L. Slaughter commended the officers for their work.

"The quick thinking and determination of our officers led to the safe recovery of a missing juvenile and the arrest of two individuals with multiple charges," he said. "Their ability to piece together critical information under pressure was instrumental in resolving this situation. I am proud of their dedication to keeping our community safe."

Staff report

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Wednesday, Sept. 25:

### Blacksburg Farmers Market

At Market Square Park, 100 Draper Rd SW, Blacksburg; 2 – 6 p.m. The 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](https://blacksburg.gov/marketsquarejam).

### Free GED Prep Classes with NRCC

At the Radford Public Library, 9 a.m. – noon. Join NRCC in the community room for free GED prep classes! For more info call 540-674-3682.

## Thursday, Sept. 26:

### Christmas Store fundraiser at Eastern Divide

The Montgomery County Christmas Store will kick off its fundraising campaign at Eastern Divide from 3 to 9 p.m. For each pint, flight, or soda sold, Eastern Divide will donate \$1. Featured will be a silent auction with many great items (<https://auctria.com/auction/MCCSFallFundraiser>). Bring a package of children's socks or underwear and be entered to win a door prize. Come out to raise money for the Christmas Store to help neighbors in need.

### Montgomery Museum Aviation Art + History reception

Above: A History of Montgomery County Aviation," sponsored by Wing Aviation. Exhibit explores and celebrates the county's rich legacy in aviation, featuring historic artifacts and stories highlighting the community's impact on the skies above us. Historic photographs, uniforms, and World War II aviator gloves provide tangible links to the important local contributions to the war effort during the 1940s. Two modern commercial delivery drones and other artifacts will showcase the culmination of the work, research, and innovation produced by the Virginia Tech Mid Atlantic Aviation Partnership. Complementing the historical exhibit is a special art showcase celebrating 'Flight,' featuring works by local artists. The exhibit opening and reception will take place Thursday, Sept. 26, from 5 – 7 p.m. at the Montgomery Museum of Art & History, located at 4 East Main St., Christiansburg. Guests will enjoy free hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar during the event.

### International Paddling Film Festival at The Lyric

Blacksburg Parks and Recreation will host the 19th annual Paddling Film Festival at the Lyric Theatre at 6:30 p.m. The Paddling Film Festival is an international adventure film tour presenting the world's best paddling films of the year – whitewater, sea kayaking, canoeing, SUP, action, and lifestyle – in more than 120 cities and towns across Canada, the United States, and around

the world. With 29 inspiring paddling films shortlisted for the World Tour, including the 11 festival category winners, audiences will see hairy whitewater action, sea kayakers exploring remote coastlines, northern river canoe expeditions, international river travel films, motivating environmental documentaries and grueling kayak fishing battles. The Paddling Film Festival World Tour is produced by Rapid Media. Doors open at 6 p.m. Tickets are on sale now: <https://www.thelyric.com/event/2024-paddling-film-festival/>.

## Saturday, Sept. 28:

### Pilot Community Center Celebration

The Pilot Community Center (former Pilot School) was recently added to the State and National Registers of Historic Places. Celebrate these designations and also honor former teachers and students of the Pilot School, 1 p.m. Pilot Community Center, 4449 Brush Creek Road, Pilot. Unveiling of historical designation plaques, live music, refreshments, prizes, and lots of good memories. This event is free to the public.

### Annual Blues, Brews & BBQ

Blacksburg Museum and Cultural Foundation's 9th Annual Blues, Brews & BBQ, noon – 5 p.m., at St. Luke and Odd Fellows Hall. Admission is free, though a \$10 donation is suggested. Seating is limited. Attendees are encouraged to bring chairs. Performance schedule: 12:30-1:30 p.m. The JoJo Stockton Project, 2-3 p.m. McFadden and Friends. 3:30-4:30 p.m. Lady D and Mi\$\$ion. Beer and wine, barbeque, and sweet treats for purchase from Blue Ridge Beverage, Kirk's Famous BBQ, and Next Door Bake Shop. NAACP and The League of Women Voters will provide voter registration information. Free parking at the Gilbert Street Parking Garage. Proceeds go toward the continued preservation of St. Luke and Odd Fellows Hall, which will be open to guests during the event. For more information, visit: <https://blacksburgmuseum.org/>.

### 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. 29:

### 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/](https://blacksburgfarmersmarket.com/vintage-market/).

## Monday, Sept. 30:

### Free GED Prep Classes with NRCC

At the Radford Public Library, 9 a.m. – noon. Join NRCC in the community room for free GED prep classes! For more info call 540-674-3682.

## Monday, Oct. 14:

### 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](http://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, Oct. 15:

### 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.

## 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.

### Glencoe Mansion art exhibit by Sidra Kaluszka

Glencoe Mansion, Museum & Gallery will host "Do You Dream In Color," an art exhibition by artist Sidra Kaluszka for September and October at Glencoe Mansion, located at 600 Unruh Dr. in Radford. The exhibition will be on display from now until Oct. 27.

# Cancer researcher wants to make treatment better, more accessible

In the ongoing search for better cancer treatments, immunotherapies are the cutting edge, harnessing the body's own immune system to attack tumors more effectively.

But only fraction of cancer patients benefit.

DaeYong Lee, a new assistant professor and cancer researcher at the Fralin Biomedical Research Institute at VTC, wants to use biomaterials to improve immunotherapies and expand their access to reduce disparities in cancer treatment outcomes.

"I'm an engineering person, so I want to reduce the cost of therapies and at the same time optimize their effects," said Lee, a member of the research institute's Cancer Research Center — Roanoke and assistant professor in Virginia Tech's Department of Biomedical Engineering and Mechanics. "We can increase the applicability of immunotherapies to both diverse patients and diverse types of tumors."

Lee's research focuses on development of synthetic proteins, or polypeptides, that can enhance the body's own immune responses.

"DaeYong represents what we really want to grow here, which is engineering approaches to solve cancer's big problems," said Jenny Munson, professor and director of the Cancer Research Center — Roanoke. "He does what we as biomedical engineers should do. He identifies a problem, which in his lab is new ways to use the immune system against cancer, and then he builds a solution."

"Dr. Lee is a great addition to our growing cancer research programs at the research institute and across Virginia Tech," said Michael Friedlander, executive director of the research institute and Virginia Tech's vice president for health sciences and technology. "He is one of the new faculty members whose position was made possible through the generous support of the Fralin Biomedical Research Institute by the Red Gates Foundation. His skills in chemical engineering and knowledge of immune system function in cancer, along with his outstanding training at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, place him in a strategic position to make major advances in research."

While pursuing his master's degree, Lee worked on a nanoparticle to aid in delivering insulin in diabetic patients, but he soon turned his attention to cancer.

During his doctoral studies and as a postdoctoral researcher, Lee developed polypeptides to make immunotherapies more effective.

Immunotherapies include CAR T cell therapy, in which cells from a patient's immune system are removed, engineered to include chimeric antigen receptors to find and fight cancer, and returned to the patient's blood; cytokines, or synthetic versions of proteins that increase immunity; checkpoint inhibitors, drugs which block proteins that keep the immune system from attacking cancer cells; and cancer vaccines.

According to Lee, the body's immune cells can become "exhausted," which reduces the potency of immunotherapy. He aims to develop biomaterials



PHOTO BY CLAYTON METZ FOR VIRGINIA TECH

**Cancer scientist DaeYong Lee, who recently joined the Fralin Biomedical Research Institute at VTC, is an engineer who develops biomaterials for cancer treatment. His goal is to use biomaterials to improve immunotherapies, make them applicable to more patients, and lower their cost to reduce disparities in treatment outcomes.**

that can "re-educate" immune cells to increase their effectiveness and reduce undesired toxicity.

One polypeptide he developed has been shown to have the ability to selectively target, penetrate, and kill cancer cells. Another protein Lee designed has been shown to disrupt cancer cell function, triggering cell death, and increase anti-tumor effects in the body's immune cells.

While immunotherapies are proving to be powerful cancer therapies, Lee notes that because they are developed as highly personalized treatments, relatively few patients benefit.

An overarching goal of Lee's work is improving access to immunotherapies by broadening their applicability. He wants to identify more universal biological markers in cancers and focus on those to make immunotherapies more available. Having therapies that reach more patients reduces disparities in treatment outcomes.

In addition, the more widely used a drug can be, the more cost effective its production, lowering the cost to consumers.

Lee's initial work will focus on breast cancer. He will also continue the lines of research that he began during his doctoral research while at the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology in Daejeon, South Korea, and from his postdoctoral work there and at the MD Anderson Cancer Center.

Lee, a native of Incheon, South Korea, was drawn to the Fralin Biomedical Research Institute because of its state-of-the-art facilities and high quality of research.

"I can find collaborators here, and I really want to use the technology here to improve my own research," he said. "I like the environment here, and the people here. It's the very best fit for me."

*Leigh Anne Kelley for Virginia Tech*



# OPINION

## I-81 improvements will benefit local area with needed infrastructure upgrades, delegate says

On Sept. 10, Governor Glenn Youngkin visited the VDOT Southwest Traffic Operations Center in Salem to receive a briefing on ongoing I-81 improvement projects. Due to massive investments from the Virginia General Assembly, great project management from VDOT, and safe and efficient construction from contractors, the ongoing improvement projects are proceeding at – and in some cases – ahead of schedule. This is great news for all who rely upon I-81 for business or personal travel.

As a refresher, the I-81 Improvement Program projects began in earnest six years ago. Projects identified in the plan were designed to improve the safety and efficiency of this major corridor with tangible benefits including reducing annual hours of traffic delay by more than 6 million, and reducing annual crashes in the corridor by 450 (an approximate 29% reduction in traffic accidents). This is to be achieved through several avenues, to include construction of acceleration/deceleration lanes, auxiliary lanes, truck climbing lanes, road widening, curve improvements, and operational improvements. Operational improvements include additional traffic cameras, VDOT Safety Service Patrols, the Towing and Recovery Incentive Program (TRIP), and



**Delegate Jason Ballard**

Virginia General Assembly

additional digital message signs. Due to fiscal year 2024 General Fund budget surpluses, I-81 should receive \$175 million in General Fund appropriations during the 2025 General Assembly Legislative Session. This means that the larger widening projects will be fully funded sooner than planned. Local projects of significance on the corridor include widening I-81 to three lanes from Exit 128 to Exit 137 (Ironto to Salem), with construction set to begin in 2026. Also slated to be three-laned is the northbound stretch of I-81 from Mile Marker 116 to Exit 128 (Christiansburg to Ironto), with construction starting in 2030. And acceleration lanes will be added at Exit 94 (Pulaski County) and Exit 105 (Radford), with a completion date of 2027. All

told, our region will be gaining some much-needed infrastructure improvements in the near future.

As a member of the House Committee on Transportation and the I-81 Advisory Committee, I'm proud that our hard work toward improving I-81 is beginning to pay off. We have a strong ally in Governor Youngkin, and VDOT has done a tremendous job of ensuring – through incentives and best practices – that projects are staying on-time and on-budget. Seeing these projects through will continue to be a top priority of mine in the General Assembly, as will other projects of regional significance (such as sorely needed widening on Route 100). Don't be disheartened by the traffic cones and ensuing road construction that will soon be more noticeable in our region – it's a sign of better traffic days ahead!

As the delegate representing the 42nd House District in the Virginia General Assembly, your concerns are my greatest priority. If ever I may be of assistance to you and your family, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at DelBallard@House.Virginia.Gov. You can also follow me on Twitter @JasonBallardVA or like my Facebook page, Jason Ballard for Delegate, to keep up to date with what I am doing in Richmond and in our community on your behalf.

## Montgomery Museum Aviation Art + History reception set for tomorrow

CHRISTIANSBURG - The Montgomery Museum of Art & History is proud to announce its upcoming history exhibit, "Above: A History of Montgomery County Aviation," sponsored by Wing Aviation.

This exhibit explores and celebrates the county's rich legacy in aviation, featuring historic artifacts and stories highlighting the community's impact on the skies above us.

Montgomery County has long been at the forefront of aviation and aerospace innovation, from the establishment of the aeronautics curriculum at Virginia Tech in 1929 to the role of the Radford Arsenal in rocket fuel development. The region's

contributions to the field continue into the modern era, with the first U.S. commercial drone delivery by Wing, a subsidiary of Google's parent company, Alphabet, taking place in Christiansburg in 2019.

Historic photographs, uniforms, and World War II aviator gloves provide tangible links to the important local contributions to the war effort during the 1940s. Two modern commercial delivery drones and other artifacts will showcase the culmination of the work, research, and innovation produced by the Virginia Tech Mid Atlantic Aviation Partnership, an FAA-designated UAS test site whose research propelled new, safe drone applications such as those used by Wing.

Complementing this historical exhibit is a special art showcase celebrating 'Flight,' featuring works by local artists including Susan Hansen, Sue

Hossack, Susan Lockwood, Jim Marchman, Wayne McKinney, Judy Niehaus, Savannah Penven and Charlie Whitescarver. This art exhibit provides a variety of perspectives and inspiration on the topic of aviation including aerial photography and landscape art.

The exhibit opening and reception will take place Thursday, Sept. 26, from 5 – 7 p.m. at the Montgomery Museum of Art & History, located at 4 East Main St., Christiansburg. Guests will enjoy free hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar during the event. This unique celebration of aviation and flight as seen through art and history will serve as a testament to the region's talents, innovation, and technological advances.

Montgomery Museum of Art & History

### 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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**Above**  
A History of Montgomery County Aviation

World War II Pilot Jack Graybeal of Christiansburg  
Gift of Betty Jo Graybeal Sims, 2015

### Aviation Art + History Reception

Thursday, September 26  
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Sponsored By: **Wing**

Flight - Aviation Theme Art Show

Our human fascination with the sky above us has led to the development of a vast number of technologies. Montgomery County has played a role in these developments from the establishment of the aeronautics curriculum at Virginia Tech in 1929, the opening of the Blacksburg Airport in 1931, and the important role in rocket fuel development played by the Radford Arsenal during the mid-to-late twentieth century.

GRAPHIC COURTESY OF MONTGOMERY MUSEUM OF ART AND HISTORY

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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59					60				61		
62					63				64		

**CLUES ACROSS**

1. Fall down
5. Gas usage measurement
8. Golf score
11. A superior grade of black tea
13. Wrath
14. Eating house
15. Delay leaving a place
16. People now inhabiting Myanmar
17. Canadian flyers
18. Walks back and forth
20. Frequently
21. Humans have two
22. Surrounds with armed forces
25. Made proper
30. Medical buildings
31. Patty Hearst's captors
32. Hits with a drop shot
33. Italy's PM 1919-20
38. Promotions

**CLUES DOWN**

1. Parts per thousand (abbr.)
2. Jump
3. Eaten as a vegetable
4. Residual paresis after anesthesia
5. Brunchtime staple
6. Makes money off of
7. Refined
8. Nocturnal S. American rodents
9. From a distance
10. Officials
12. It helps you see
14. Central Canadian indigenous person
19. Invests in little enterprises
23. They help in tough situations
24. Industrial port in Poland
25. Type of screen
26. Peyton's little brother
27. Alcoholic beverage

**CLUES DOWN**

28. Newspapers need it
29. Herbal tea
34. Distinctive practice
35. Exercise system \_\_\_-bo
36. Explosive
37. Belonging to a thing
39. Presidential candidates engage in them
40. Of the Swedes
41. Meadow-grass
42. "Rule, Britannia" composer
44. Hooray!
45. Greek city
46. One way to do it by example
47. Imitated
48. "Game of Thrones" actress
51. Swiss river
52. Drought-resistant plant
53. A French abbot
54. One point east of northeast
58. Get free of

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**Legals -  
Town of Vinton**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 15.2-2204 of the 1950 Code of Virginia, as amended, the Town of Vinton, Virginia, hereby gives notice of a joint work session to be held by the Planning Commission and the Town Council in the Town Council Chambers, 311 S. Pollard Street, Vinton, on Tuesday, October 1, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

The purpose of the joint work session is to receive an update on the Vinton 2050 Comprehensive Plan Update presented by Mike Callahan, President, 3TP Ventures.

Further information concerning the work session may be obtained from the Planning and Zoning Department located at 311 South Pollard Street, Vinton, Virginia 24179, by phone: 540-983-0605. Interested persons may attend the work session.

Persons requiring special assistance to attend and participate in this public meeting should contact the Vinton Town Manager's Office at (540) 983-0607.

Anita J. McMillan  
Planning and Zoning  
Director

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# RADFORD SPORTS

## Gridiron report: Christiansburg, Blacksburg, Radford win

**Marty Gordon**

*NRVsports@ourvalley.org*

Three area teams picked up wins (Radford, Blacksburg and Christiansburg) in week four of the high school football schedule.

The Virginia High School League (VHSL) is one week out of releasing its first points standings. Radford should be number two in the points, while Christiansburg hangs around the number seven spot.

Former Gretna and Brookville head coach and Radford alum Kevin Saunders was part of history this past week in Georgia. Kevin Saunders is the defensive coordinator at Duluth High School, who won 90-0.

Player of the week back in our area:

Running back Jaxon Keys rushed for 266 yards and four touchdowns in Blacksburg's 44-20 win over Rockbridge. He also caught a pass for another score.

Games this week:

Cave Spring (1-3) at Blacksburg (2-2)

Cave Spring was held under 50 yards of total offense through three quarters in a loss against Christiansburg. So far this season, Cave has been outscored 115 to 44.

Blacksburg is looking for its third win for the first time in four years. As a team this past week, Blacksburg tallied 335 yards on the ground.

Pulaski (0-4) at Christiansburg (2-2)

Pulaski was shutout 62-0 this past week by Princeton (W.Va.) Trevor Gallimore picked up 44 yards on 16 carries.

Christiansburg's Xavier Joplin and Izaiah combined for six scores and over 300 yards in a win over Cave Spring.

Radford (3-1) at Alleghany (4-0)

Alleghany rolled 42-7 in a win against another West Virginia opponent. Des Jordan threw three touchdowns and rushed for another. Jordan finished the game nine of 13 for 124 yards. The school merged with Covington last year and is undefeated for first time since 2010.

Jordan three TD passes to Hunter Knighton, Sarge Persinger and Xavier Hayslett.

Carter Nicely added 79 yards on 11 carries.

Radford moved to 3-1 on the season with a 34-0 win over last year's Class 1 state champ Galax. Luke Gaither threw for 261 yards and two touchdowns,

finishing the night 20 of 31. Louis Webster kicked two field goals and Sincere Taylor had seven catches for 94 yards in the receiving side of the game.

Ft. Chiswell (0-4) at Eastern Montgomery (0-3)

This will be a game of winless teams with both finding trouble on the offensive side of the ball. The Fort, who has been outscored 190-26, fell 51-7 this past week to Tazewell.

Eastern Montgomery was idle this past week after losing a game when Auburn cancelled its 2024 season.

Predictions:

Christiansburg 30, Pulaski 28

Blacksburg 40, Cave Spring 38

Radford 42, Alleghany 30

Ft. Chiswell 32, Eastern Montgomery 12

## Hokies fall short in comeback against Rutgers



QB Kryron Drones was 13-21-1 with 131 yards on Saturday with no touchdowns. He also rushed for 65 yards.



The Virginia Tech defense was all over the Rutgers quarterback on Saturday but couldn't keep them out of endzone late in the game in a 26-23 loss.



Redshirt senior Sam Brumfield celebrates a stop on Saturday by the Virginia Tech defense.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF VT ATHLETICS

Stephen Gosnell caught a two-point conversion pass late in Saturday's game to pull the Hokies within two scores. His brother, Benji, also scored on another two-point conversion.

Coming up short in a potential fourth-quarter comeback, Virginia Tech football lost 26-23 to Rutgers at home Saturday but finished the game with some noteworthy stats.

Even though it was the "White Effect" game, Tech wore white helmets, maroon jerseys and white pants. The Hokies are now 12-3 since 1987 in that uniform combination.

In the game on Saturday, Tech's special teams had two successful two-point conversions. The first was a pass to Benji Gosnell, the second was a pass to Stephen Gosnell. This was the first time the Hokies had two successful two-point conversions in the same game since Nov. 11, 1989 when Rodd Wooten connected with Brian McCall and Phil Bryant against Virginia in Scott Stadium.

Virginia Tech is now 5-5 all-time on what has become known as "Earth,

Wind & Fire Day." The first football game the Hokies played on Sept. 21 was a 7-0 win in 1935 against Roanoke College. The other wins on Sept. 21 were against Carawba in 1940, Rutgers in 1996, Texas A&M in 2002 and a triple overtime win against Marshall in 2013.

Since 1987 the Hokies have fought back to tie or take the lead when down 16 or more points in a game ten times. The 16-point deficit to Rutgers in the third quarter was the latest in a game a Tech team was down 16+ and came back to tie or take the lead. Below is a chart of the 10 times the Hokies have battled back.

Saturday's game marked the 374th consecutive game during which Virginia Tech has scored. The Hokies are in fourth place in both the all-time and active streak lists.

The ground game has been friendly to the Hokies, as all three scores in the

contest came from running the ball. Running back Bhayshul Tuten found plenty of success carrying the ball, amassing 122 rushing yards on 15 attempts.

Tuten's vision and patience as a ball carrier were on full display as the senior tailback scored on runs of 23, 14 and two yards. The three rushing touchdowns ties his career high set against Boston College last season. The Paulsboro, New Jersey, native has scored in all four games this season and has a nose for the endzone with eight scores on the year. Tuten also has multiple rushing touchdowns in back-to-back contests.

Donning the honorary No. 25 jersey, linebacker Caleb Woodson could be found making plays all over the field on Saturday afternoon. The sophomore finished the contest with double-digit tackles (10), six of which were

solo. More impressively, Woodson was disruptive in the Scarlet Knights' backfield, registering 1.5 tackles for loss, one quarterback hit and a quarterback hurry. The Haymarket, Virginia product recorded a 73.3 pressure grade, according to Pro Football Focus (PFF).

Transfers along the interior defensive line are continuing to make a name for themselves. Graduate student Aeneas Peebles from Duke has been a strong presence for the Hokies' defensive front. Boasting a PFF pressure grade of 82.7, Peebles recorded his first sack in the maroon and orange. The big play from the fifth-year defensive tackle came late in the second quarter, which was the first of back-to-back sacks in the drive. Peebles finished the outing with five tackles, including an additional three-yard tackle for loss.

- VT Athletics and staff report

## Tech to honor retired track coach

Virginia Tech has announced the school's Rector Fieldhouse, home to indoor track, will be renamed in honor of its former Director of Track & Field and Cross Country, Dave Cianelli.

His legacy as one of the sport's most influential coaches is marked by his 74 NCAA Champions, 490 All-America honors, 373 individual conference champions, 32 World Championship qualifiers, and 22 Olympic qualifiers. At Tech alone, Cianelli has overseen the success of 20 NCAA individual champions, 13 top-10 team finishes at the NCAA Championships, 242 ACC individual champions, and 21 ACC team titles. The 19-time ACC Coach of the Year and 18-time USTFCCCA Southeast Region Coach of the Year enters his 23rd season directing the

Hokies.

In August of 2024, it was announced that the 20-time ACC Coach of the Year and 19-time USTFCCCA Southeast Region Coach of the Year, Cianelli, would be inducted into the USFTCCCA Hall of Fame, joining 223 esteemed track and field and cross-country coaches.

In 2007, Cianelli claimed the program's first-ever ACC indoor championship title. Nearly two months later, the Hokies' captured their first outdoor title proving Tech was a force to be reckoned with in track and field. The men's team won their first ACC title at the 2011 indoor

See **Coach**, page 8

## Sports notes: Hokies induct new HOF

**Marty Gordon**

*NRVsports@ourvalley.org*

The eight-member class of Jeff Artis-Gray, Larsen Bowker, Duane Brown, Dave Cianelli, Brittany Pryor, Heather Savage, Logan Shinholser and Tyrod Taylor were officially inducted into the Virginia Tech Sports Hall of Fame Friday evening at The Inn at Virginia Tech.

**New throws assistant**

Director of Track and Field and Cross Country, Ben Thomas, has announced the addition of Cleopatra Borel to the 2024-2025 coaching staff. Borel will assume the position of assistant coach for throws.

Borel has a highly decorated athletic career, highlighted by her competing

for the Trinidad and Tobago Olympic teams in 2004, 2008, 2012 and 2016. She was a finalist in the shot put in the Rio 2016 Summer Olympics. She was also named the Trinidad and Tobago Olympic Committee Sports Woman of the Year five times. Her personal-best shot put of 19.48m/63-11 still stands as the Trinidad and Tobago national record.

In her most recent role at Texas State, Borel designed and implemented a throw program for multi-event athletes and women's shot put. In her year with the Bobcats, Borel coached Melanie Duron to a 2024 Sun Belt Conference indoor shotput title and helped the team

See **HOF**, page 8

# AARP Virginia fraud alert: Peer-to-peer payment scams

Peer-to-peer (P2P) payment apps like Venmo, Zelle, and Cash App have made sending money between family and friends easier than ever before. But consumers beware: while these apps make exchanging money fast and convenient, they also make it quick and seamless for criminal scammers to steal your money.

You may hear from a loved one claiming to be in trouble - and they need your financial help fast via a P2P app. Another tactic used by criminals involves offering a "discount" for a product on an online marketplace, but only if payment is made through a P2P app.

Scammers can also spoof payments

to make it seem like they "accidentally" sent you money on a P2P service. They will innocently ask you to return it, but shortly after, their initial payment to you will bounce like a bad check, leaving you short any funds you sent them.

It's best to use P2P apps to send money to friends, family, and other people you know and trust. P2P apps do not have the same consumer protections that credit cards have. Transactions are like paying cash - instantaneous and usually irreversible. If you receive an unexpected payment, don't accept it and report it to the app provider.

AARP Virginia

## HOF from page 7

to 19 points with two athletes reaching NCAA First Round qualifying marks. Her coaching also led to personal bests by the men's heptathlon throwers and women's pentathlon throwers in the conference championship meet.

### Clash sold out

The Commonwealth Clash, presented by Smithfield, returns to Lane Stadium in front of a full-capacity crowd for the first time since 2018, as Virginia Tech Athletics announced Tuesday that the Virginia Tech football game against Virginia on Nov. 30 is now sold out.

Now, just one home game remains with available seats - the Thursday night showdown against Boston College on Oct. 17 at 7:30 p.m. ET. With limited inventory left, fans are urged to act quickly to secure their spot in Lane Stadium for this exciting matchup. Fans still seeking single-game ticket options for the sold-out games are encouraged to visit SeatGeek, the official fan-to-fan ticket marketplace of Virginia Tech Athletics.

### P-R national award

Virginia Tech defensive lineman Antwaun Powell-Ryland has been named the Bednarik Award Player of the Week by the Maxwell Football Club, and the Walter Camp National FBS Player of the Week, following his standout performance in Saturday's 37-17 win over Old Dominion. Powell-Ryland (6-3, 252) registered four sacks against the Monarchs, matching his own school record-tying effort of four during the 2023 game against Wake Forest.

APR is one of only four Tech players to ever record four sacks in a game, including J.C. Price, Morgan Roane, and Bruce Smith. The Portsmouth, Virginia product joins Smith, the Virginia Tech Hall of Famer, as the only two players to have at least four sacks in multiple games.

The redshirt senior wreaked havoc, totaling seven tackles while also forcing two Old Dominion fumbles, recovering one.

# TikTok ban could set precedent for social media free speech and privacy, experts say

The clock is ticking for TikTok, and questions of freedom of speech and national security are on the line.

This week, representatives for the popular video-sharing app are arguing in a federal appeals court for its ability to operate in the United States. A federal law, which goes into effect in January, would ban the app for U.S. users in the name of national security concerns. Chinese company, ByteDance, owns TikTok.

Virginia Tech communications experts Megan Duncan, Jimmy Ivory, and Cayce Myers explain what this case means for social media's role in public perception and political opinion.

"While we might think of TikTok as mostly fun dance videos and people sharing their beauty routines, this federal law and subsequent court hearings demonstrate that social media is political," Duncan said. "Because it is a place where public opinion can be influenced and because it is a company that controls substantial money and power, social media is political."

"Platforms, such as TikTok and others, have been shown to influence public opinion relating to what topics users think are important and worth paying attention to," Duncan said. "They can also influence a user's perception of the balance of public opinion on an issue."

The case has wide implications in the United States, given TikTok's expansive following, Myers said.

"Interestingly, while the case involves discussion about national security and the potential for espionage, U.S. use of

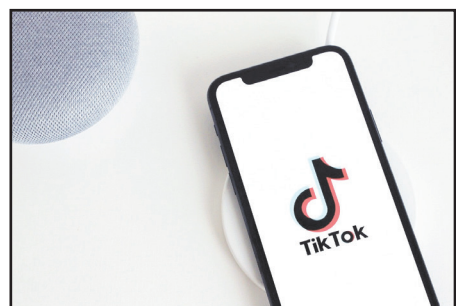


IMAGE COURTESY OF PIXABAY VIA VIRGINIA TECH

TikTok has proliferated with the platform having more than 170 million users that includes individuals, businesses, and even major U.S. politicians," he said.

The case spotlights the role that social media plays in free speech and what regulation means.

"The ban of TikTok is significant because of the First Amendment implications for both TikTok and its users," Myers said. "TikTok argues that the forced divestment creates a double standard under the First Amendment for their platform, which ultimately violates free speech."

Ivory said it could be a while until there is a resolution in the case.

"The case will set a precedent about the extent to which regulating software applications' ownership is a First Amendment issue for their users," Ivory said. "I would not expect resolution any time soon. We are likely to see this case appealed to the Supreme Court of the United States regardless of how this appeal goes."

Jenny Kincaid Boone for Virginia Tech

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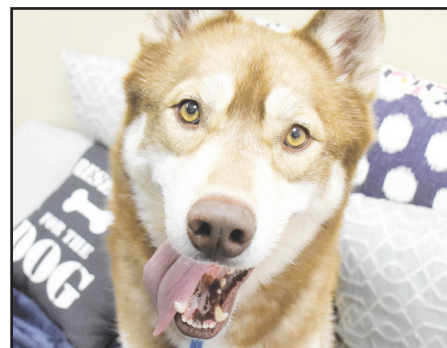
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## Coach from page 7



PHOTO COURTESY OF VT ATHLETICS

### The Rector Field House will be renamed to the Dave and Ellen Cianelli Track.

championships becoming the first host school since 1979 to win the conference title.

The Hokies backed their indoor success with an outdoor conference title in 2012. Flash forward to a few months later, and the Virginia Tech cross country team brought home their first-ever ACC

title in a 55-49 defeat of second-place Virginia at Tech's Buford Meredith Cross Country Course in Blacksburg.

The Rector Field House will be renamed to the Dave and Ellen Cianelli Track.

"Celebrating Dave and Ellen Cianelli with the renaming of the track at Rector Field House is a fitting tribute to their extraordinary contributions and enduring legacy," Virginia Tech director of athletics Whit Babcock said. "Their passion, commitment and excellence have set a standard of greatness, and this honor ensures their remarkable influence will continue to inspire future athletes and supporters

alike. Congratulations, Dave and Ellen, on this well-deserved recognition!"

Rector Field House was initially dedicated in 1971 and named after alumnus Charles W. Rector, class of 1958. In 2018, Rector underwent an \$18 million renovation to become one of the most notable and respected fieldhouses in the country for indoor track and field.

His retirement in July of 2024 followed a storied career. For 23 seasons, Cianelli led the Virginia Tech programs to repeated and continuous success, departing as one of the most successful coaches in the university's history.

Virginia Tech Athletics

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