

News Journal

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New River Community College announces new president



PHOTO COURTESY OF VCCS
Dr. Robert Brandon

RICHMOND – Dr. David Doré, Chancellor of the Virginia Community College System (VCCS), announced Thursday he has appointed Dr. Robert Brandon to become the seventh president of New River Community College (NRCC). Brandon's selection concludes a search that attracted 70 candidates nationwide. His service as president at New River will begin Jan. 1, 2025.

"I'm excited about Robert's appointment," said Doré. "I am confident he will build on New River's outstanding history of serving its communities and its diverse student populations and will lead NRCC into a new era as Virginia's Community Colleges embark on a system-wide transformation to serve more learners in new ways." "Our months-long search yielded exceptional candidates,

and we are grateful to all of the talented educators who expressed interest in the New River presidency," Doré added. Brandon currently serves as vice president of Academic and Student Services at Southwest Virginia Community College (SWCC) in Richlands, Virginia, a position he has held since 2018. Previously, Brandon served as dean of Humanities, Social Sciences, and Education

at Cleveland State Community College in Cleveland, TN. From 2005 to 2013, he served as an associate professor of English at Rockingham Community College in Wentworth, NC, where he would also chair both the English and Student Success Departments.

Brandon earned a bachelor's degree in English at Virginia

See **PRESIDENT**, Page 6

Virginia attorney general visits Radford University campus

Radford University welcomed Virginia Attorney General Jason Miyares to campus on Friday, Oct. 18, for a student roundtable, a TRIAD rechartering ceremony and a law enforcement roundtable. Assistant Secretary of Education Zach Jacobs joined Miyares on the visit.

Twelve Radford students representing six of the university's seven colleges and several student organizations and clubs participated in the roundtable with the elected officials and university leaders, including Provost Bethany Usher, who welcomed guests and introduced Miyares.

Donning a red and blue Highlanders

tie, Miyares brought a unique perspective to the student roundtable discussion as the first Hispanic American to be elected to a statewide office in Virginia and the first child of an immigrant to serve as attorney general.

Miyares talked about working in dining services throughout his undergraduate studies at James Madison University, including two jobs during the summer, and graduating with a small amount of debt. Though he did not come from a family of lawyers and says he did not even know anyone who was a lawyer, he went on to earn his law degree from the College of William & Mary.

See **RADFORD**, Page 6



PHOTO COURTESY OF RADFORD UNIVERSITY
(L to R): Lora Gordon, Radford City's Senior Center Coordinator; Attorney General Jason Miyares; Mark Armentrout, Radford City Sheriff and Jerry Holdaway, Radford City Police Chief.

Fall scene wins photo club contest

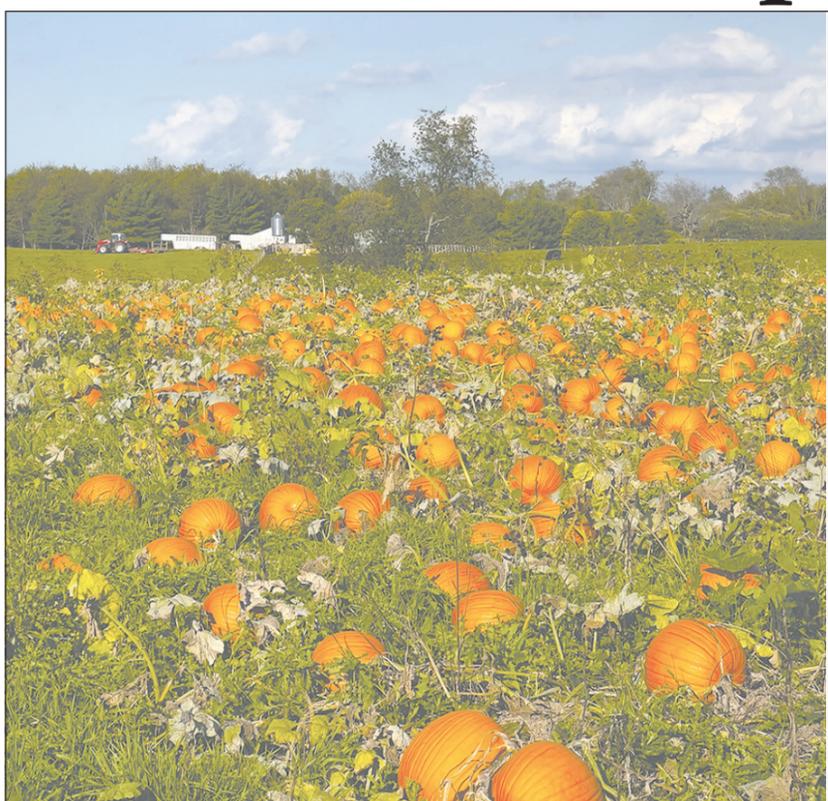


Photo of pumpkin patch by Joyce Crowder



Photo of St. Mary's Episcopal Church by Willard Kennedy

RADFORD - Joyce Crowder of Dublin won the Radford Photo Club landscape theme photo contest for October with a picture of a pumpkin patch.

"In the vibrant transition from summer to fall, my landscape photograph encapsulates the beauty and

bounty of harvest time," said Crowder. "This image features a stunning field of bright orange pumpkins, their rich color symbolizing a bountiful harvest. The tree line creates contrast and accentuates the classic barn and rustic tractor standing ready for the harvest to come. Halloween and Thanksgiving are just around the corner and, as cooler weather sets in, the landscape transforms into a tapestry of colors."

Willard Kennedy of Christiansburg won the Radford Photo Club's open category October contest with a photo of the window of the abandoned and collapsing St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Braddock, Pa., just outside of Pittsburgh.

"The church was built in 1901 and closed in 2007," said Kennedy. "One hundred years ago, the population of Braddock was 21,000 and it had 44 churches. With the collapse of the steel industry in the region the

population declined to about 1800 today, and the town has many abandoned and decaying buildings."

The Radford Photo Club's next meeting will be Thursday, Nov. 14, at 6 p.m. at the Radford Public Library. The speaker will be retired naval aviator, Captain Rich Davis, who was recently featured on Artistic Encounters "Meet the Artist" on PBS. Davis fell in love with the craft of photography and dabbled with infrared for about six years when a friend gave him an old converted camera. Infrared has now become his main focus (pun intended) of his photography. He will give a presentation on infrared and show examples of his work. To see examples of his work, visit photographybyrichdavis.com.

The November theme will be either a cyanotype

See **CONTEST**, Page 6

One more chance tonight to tour Ingles Castle



PHOTO BY ETHAN BELL

The public has one more chance to tour La Riviere, also known as Ingles Castle, for a spooky tour this evening. A group of volunteers is hosting self-guided tours of the historic home, located along the New River on the west side of Radford. The tours are set for today, Saturday, Oct. 26, from 6:30 - 10 p.m. Groups of 10 will be able to take the tour every 15 minutes throughout the night. Tickets are \$20 each and can be purchased at inglescastle.com or on-site during the tour times (cash only for on-site purchases).

Next installment of Glencoe Sessions Fall Music Series set for Nov. 1

RADFORD — FRIENDS of the Blue Ridge and Glencoe Mansion have partnered on a new musical collaboration with rising bluegrass star Addie Levy called, "The Glencoe Sessions."

The next installment of the series is set for Nov. 1 with a performance by Justin Golden. With roots in the Mississippi Delta, Chicago, and the Piedmont of Virginia, Richmond-based guitarist and songwriter Justin Golden's origins are deeply vested in the blues. In addition to his work as a recording and performing artist, Golden maintains a busy teaching schedule and works with the non-profit The Rhapsody Project to provide community enrichment through anti-racist cultural heritage programs.

The Glencoe Sessions series provides for an intimate



PHOTO COURTESY OF GLENCOE MANSION

The next installment of The Glencoe Sessions will be a performance by Justin Golden.

See **GLENCOE**, Page 6

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, Oct. 26:

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>.

Monday, Oct. 28:

Montgomery County Kicks Off 'Operation Green Light'

Montgomery County is illuminating the Montgomery County Government Center, Courthouse and Public Safety buildings with green light in advance of Veterans Day and as part of Operation Green Light initiated by the National Association of Counties (NACo). Veterans are invited to join the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors at a lighting ceremony held at the Montgomery County Government Center at 6:30 p.m. Operation Green Light is a national collaborative initiative of the National Association of Counties (NACo) to support military veterans with the purpose of raising awareness about the unique challenges faced by many veterans and the resources that are available at the county, state, and federal level to assist veterans and their families.

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.

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.

Tuesday, Oct. 29:

Eligibility applications at the Christmas Store

In-person applications for Eligibility to shop at the Montgomery County Christmas Store will be held on the following dates: Oct. 24, 4-7 p.m.; Oct. 29, 4-7 p.m.; Nov. 6, 4-7 p.m.; Nov. 13, 4-7 p.m. and Nov. 20, 4-7 p.m. Go on-line at <https://www.mcchristmasstore.org/eligibility> to see documents needed to bring to Eligibility session. Questions? Email them to mccseligibilty@gmail.com for answers.

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.

FamilyREADS with Literacy NRV

At the Radford Public Library, 5:30 – 7:45 p.m. If you are a parent with low to intermediate English language skills, sign up for Family Reads in partnership with LiteracyNRV. Registration required. LiteracyNRV will host seven weeks of learning each Tuesday from Oct. 1 – Nov. 19. We'll have fun activities for kids aged 3-8 so you can focus on your language studies (siblings are welcome, and homework help is available). A story time, educational activities, and games will be provided for all children. Families will receive free dinner! For more information, call (540) 382-7262, text (540) 585-1672, or email Anne Abbott at aabbott@lvnr.org.

Virginia HEAR program

Do you want to learn about how to stay safe from scams, and other forms of mistreatment? If yes, the Virginia HEAR program is for you. You will learn how to recognize, address and prevent elder abuse and financial exploitation. You will also learn how to access local support and resources that will help keep you safe in your home and community. Virginia HEAR is working to end elder mistreatment and ageism in Virginia, through a positive, community approach to elder justice. Tammy Caldwell, Supervisor of Senior & Special Populations, Christiansburg Parks and Recreation and Janet Brennend, Long-Term Care Ombudsman and Elder Abuse Prevention Specialist, are leading this program locally in partnership with the Elder Justice Learning and Research Hub at the Virginia Center on Aging & Department of Gerontology, at Virginia Commonwealth University. At the Christiansburg Recreation Center, 9- 11 a.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 30:

Radford Trick or Treat Trail

Downtown Radford, 4- 6 p.m. Trick or treating at downtown Radford businesses.

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>.

Free GED Prep Classes with NRCC

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Friday, Nov. 1:

Friday Forums with VTWC

The Virginia Tech Women's Club (VTWC) will host Bridget Brugger-McSorley, Executive Associate Athletics Director/Strategic Affairs at VT at the second Friday Forum of the Year. She will speak about "Title Nine in Athletics" and will discuss many new developments on the horizon. At Friday Forums, community members have the opportunity to engage with local leaders and scholars and learn from them. Everyone is invited to the free event at the Fellowship Hall at Luther Memorial Church on 600 Prices Fork in Blacksburg, 10 – 11 a.m. Each event begins with coffee and conversation at 10 a.m. but come a little early to socialize.

Saturday, Nov. 2:

Children's clothing consignment sale

The semi-annual Blacksburg United Methodist Church children's consignment sale will be held on 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Blacksburg United Methodist Church, 111 Church St. (parking at 202 Lee St.). Families can get great deals on seasonal kids' clothes and shoes, toys, books, baby gear, sports equipment, maternity clothing and more. Many items are like-new (some even brand-new). Some items will be half-price between 12:30 and 1:30 p.m. but you will want to shop early for the best selection. Cash or checks only; no card or electronic payments. Proceeds benefit local charities. There is space for new consignors. For more information, email [bumckidsale@aol.com](mailto:bunckidsale@aol.com).

Thursday, Nov. 7:

Radford Army Ammunition Plant community meeting

The Radford Army Ammunition Plant (RFAAP) will hold the next Commander's Community Meeting at 6:30 p.m. The event will take place at the Christiansburg Library at 125 Shelton St., Christiansburg. Additionally, the event will be broadcast on Facebook Live from the Radford Army Ammunition Plant Facebook page. These meetings are open to the public and are an opportunity to learn about RFAAP Modernization and Environmental Projects. Our commitment to responding to your questions extends beyond the Community Meeting. You can reach out to us for questions or to conduct research on your own through several resources, including Facebook: www.facebook.com/RadfordArmyAmmunitionPlant; Homepage: www.jmc.army.mil/Radford/RadfordDefault.aspx; and Email: usarmy.ria.jmc.mbx.amsjm-pa@army.mil.

American Legion meeting

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

Friday, Nov. 8 and Saturday, Nov. 9:

Book Sale

The Radford Public Library will have a book sale on Friday, Nov. 8 and Saturday, Nov. 9, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. There will be many children's books and many science fiction and fantasy books. It will also be a very big sale with lots of books in all categories. We save all year all the Christmas items, as well. Come and support the Radford library and do some Christmas shopping too.

Ongoing:

Sinkland Farms Pumpkin Festival

The festival runs until Nov. 3, 2024, Friday- Sunday. Start your journey by selecting the perfect pumpkin from a vast array of sizes and colors, ideal for fall decorations or carving your Halloween masterpiece. Then, hop on a hayride to the picturesque pumpkin patch, navigate the challenging five-acre corn maze, and indulge in a variety of fun-filled activities designed to delight the whole family. Live music, vendors and more. Open Fridays 4- 8 p.m. with limited offerings and Saturdays and Sundays 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. For more information, log on to sinklandfarms.com.

Now through Nov. 20:

Faculty Showcase Exhibition

The Radford University Faculty Showcase Exhibition is open in the Radford University Tyler Gallery, Tyler Avenue, Radford. Come see artwork from faculty across the campus through Nov. 20. The closing reception will be Wednesday, Nov. 13 at 5 p.m. and includes refreshments.

Halloween Happenings at Claytor Lake State Park

Celebrate Halloween with family and friends at Claytor Lake State Park for a day of spooky fun.

Enjoy hayrides, games, crafts, face painting, and a community-based Trunk-or-Treat. Costumes are encouraged.

Fall Foliage Hayrides - Come along on a hayride and take in the stunning autumn scenery throughout our park. Hayrides will begin and end in the Shelter 1 parking lot every half hour from noon until 4 p.m. Hayrides are held weather permitting.

Halloween Happenings - There will be Halloween themed games, crafts, and face painting for kids of all ages from 4 - 6 p.m. at Shelter 1.

Spooky Photo-Ops - Want a photo to get in the Halloween spirit? Visit our LOVE sign behind the Howe House or stop by Shelter 1 for some spook-tacular photo-ops.

Campground Trick-or-Treating - Campers wishing to trick-or-treat may do so may throughout the campgrounds by visiting participating campsites that have orange tape on their campsite posts from 6 - 7 p.m.

Trunk-or-Treating - Enjoy trick-or-treating from creatively decorated cars from 6 - 7 p.m. in the Shelter 1 parking lot. If you'd like to represent your business, organization, church, or your family by decorating your vehicle and giving out candy to trunk-or-treaters, please register here.

Trunk-or-Treat Decorating Contest - Think you have what it takes to have the creepiest car? Compete in our Trunk-or-Treat Decorating Contest and transform your car into a Halloween masterpiece. Show off



PHOTO COURTESY OF VDCC

your creativity for a chance to win 'fang-tastic' prizes. Judging will be at 7 p.m. with first, second, and third place prizes awarded at 7:30 p.m. Those wishing to

participate should register with a ranger upon arrival where you'll receive a participant tag.

Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation

Heavyweights, heritage, herding wow the crowd at Highlanders Festival

“Those are some big boys,” a passerby said as she walked past a group of athletes as one twisted, spun – so did his kilt – and chucked a 45-pound rock through the sunny Radford skies.

Each tossed rock landed with a heavy thud on Moffett Lawn, a sound followed by cheers from the crowd who stood or sat in bleachers and chairs around the fenced-in square containing the Scottish heavyweight games on Saturday, Oct. 12 at the annual Radford Highlanders Festival.

The games are a staple of the festival, now in its 28th year.

“That was a monster put,” games’ athletics director Chad Clark said as one of the rocks tumbled across the lawn, kicking up chunks of dirt behind it.

At the same time, a group of women athletes gripped pitchforks to sling a heavy sack high into the air in hopes of it sailing across a bar. Elsewhere in the square, athletes, most of whom donned colorful kilts and tight-fitting blue Highlanders Festival T-shirts, lifted and tossed outrageously heavy stones, carried tombstones – their toes looking on nervously from below – and tossed gigantic cabers.

Athletes from far and near competed in the games. Participants arrived from Ohio, Tennessee and North Carolina, Clark said during opening introductions. Many local athletes competed as well, including Jonathan Harding from nearby Austinville, Virginia, and Radford City Police Officer Travis Coffey.

The competition “is just a lot of fun,” said Justin Snead of Roanoke, Virginia, as his girlfriend, Christy Braziel ’18, D.P.T. ’22, wrapped black tape around his hands to prevent cuts from the heavy stones Snead was about to hoist.

Snead got into the games about a year and a half ago after delving into his heritage. “I was already a weightlifter, so I decided to give the games a try,” he said. “I met some guys, and it snowballed from there because everybody’s so great and welcoming.”

What is not welcoming are the occasional injuries. But Braziel, a physical therapist, is always there to help.

“He competes and hurts himself, and I try to help fix him,” Braziel said with a laugh. She helps other athletes, too. “I’ll tape their calluses, so they don’t bleed everywhere,” she explained before adding that the rough-and-tumble athletes are “really just a bunch of teddy bears.”

Despite the bumps, bruises and scrapes – “I’ll probably feel like I got hit by a bus ... twice in the morning,” confessed Radford student Jack Woodward, who’ll tell you when it’s over, the high of the competition and camaraderie was worth the pain.

“It’s great and a lot of fun,” he said.

In addition to the games, Woodward, a sophomore history major from Radford, Virginia, loves the festival as a whole. “There’s a great sense of community, and everybody here is super cool,” he said. “There is something here for everybody.”

The Radford Highlanders Festival has grown into one of the most popular tourist destinations in the region. The festival began in the mid-1990s with an



PHOTO COURTESY OF RADFORD UNIVERSITY

The Scottish heavyweight games at the annual Radford Highlanders Festival are a crowd favorite.

approximate crowd of 3,000. Over the past 28 years, the festival has more than tripled in size.

If you love music – and who doesn’t? – bands on the Highlanders Festival stage always provide the perfect soundtrack for the day’s festivities. The Fighting Jamesons and Geoff White entertained festivalgoers from the main stage, while Panjammers, an award-winning steel drum orchestra based in Blacksburg, Virginia, Kinnfolk, Hollace Oakes and Friends and dancer Claire Pollitt delighted gatherings at the campus Red Clocks.

A fan favorite each year is the sheepherding demonstration, in which border collies obey their herder’s whistle commands, keeping sheep and a few ducks in their place between Peters Hall and Moffett Lawn.

“I didn’t expect to get caught in the action,” uttered a man walking past, accidentally getting caught between a dog and a couple of sheep.

A few feet away, Brian Horton of Hillsville, Virginia, walked with his wife, Christina, and their three-year-old grandson, Aiden. The trio had already made “one trip around” the festival grounds, Brian Horton said, building an appetite for some shepherd’s pie.

Festivalgoers were treated to a multitude of food trucks, some of which served authentic Scottish fare – ummmm, haggis! – while others offered tasty classic festival food and American classics, such as pizzas, burgers and delicious funnel cakes. Vendors populated half of the lawn, selling crafts, jewelry, kilts, T-shirts and a lot more.

As happens with every Highlanders Festival, members of Scottish clans set up booths, and at noon, they were introduced while marching onto the lawn as part of a mass band performance. The concept of clans dates back to the 12th century, when extended networks of families swore loyalties to a particular chief.

“I love to share our heritage, the Scots heritage, and you don’t have to be our clan to just connect,” said Carol Mackay Mertz of Fort Valley, Virginia. “I’ve seen grown men cry when they’ve made that connection to their heritage. Because maybe their grandparent, when they came to the U.S., didn’t want to be Scottish or Irish because it was so hard. They were outsiders.”

Mackay Mertz was visiting the festival and Radford University for the first time, she said, as she sat with Dougal, her six-year-old goldendoodle. The campus made an impression on Mackay Mertz and her 17-year-old granddaughter, who lives in Florida.

“She was like, ‘Wow, I haven’t been on a tour at any place like this,’” Mackay Mertz said, recalling her granddaughter’s excitement. “It’s really cool!”

Aaron Sylvester of Roanoke, Virginia, one of those “big boys” the passerby was referring to, felt the same about campus and the festival, he said, as he prepared to set a few heavy stones soaring through the air during the early stages of the heavyweight games.

“This is such a great festival,” he said. “It’s easy to see why people love it here.”

Chad Osborne for Radford University



Marketplace

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

The Town of Christiansburg Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, November 4, 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, David L. Dove and Hattie P. Dove, Property Owners, and The Town of Christiansburg, Applicant, to rezone property located at 255 Simmons Road NE identified as all of Tax Parcel 500-(A)-1A, (Parcel ID 019656), and consisting of approximately 14.100 acres, and an approximate 0.460 acre parcel identified as Tax Parcel 499-(14)-A, B, (Parcel ID 019655), from Agricultural District (A) to General Industrial District (I-2). The property is designated as Multi-Family Residential on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.

B. Conditional Use Permit request by David L. Dove and Hattie P. Dove, Property Owners, and The Town of Christiansburg, Applicant, to allow a Public Works Facility and operations including a “commercial garage” and sanitation vehicle storage in the General Industrial District (I-2) on the property located at 255 Simmons Road NE identified as all of Tax Parcel 500-(A)-1A, (Parcel ID 019656), and consisting of approximately 14.100 acres, and an approximate 0.460 acre parcel identified as Tax Parcel 499-(14)-A, B,

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(Parcel ID 019655). The property is designated as Multi-Family 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.

Notice of Public Hearing Town of Blacksburg Planning Commission Tuesday, November 5, 2024

Notice is hereby given that the Planning Commission of the Town of Blacksburg will conduct the following public hearing on Tuesday, November 5, 2024 during its meeting beginning at 6:30 PM in the Roger E. Hedgepeth Council Chamber, 300 South Main St, Blacksburg, VA on the following item:

801 North Main Street Planned Residential Development with associated Conditional Use Permit request (CUP-24-3) and Right-of-Way vacation request (ROW-24-2) at 801 North Main Street with additional locations on Kabrich Street, Winston Avenue and Progress Street for LV Hokie GP, LLC (contract purchaser). This project consists of three (3) requests, which include (i) RZN-24-2 to rezone the subject properties from GC General Commercial and R-5

Legals - Montgomery County

Transitional Residential to PR Planned Residential to permit the construction of an 8-story multifamily building with commercial on the ground floor and three (3) townhome-style multifamily buildings with a total of up to 759 bedrooms (270 bedrooms/acre; (ii) ROW-24-2 companion request to vacate a town-owned alley right-of-way of approximately 2,000 square feet extending southeast from Winston Avenue; and (iii) CUP-24-3 to use an alley extending northeast from Winston Avenue for access to twenty-two (22) townhome-style multifamily units.

Persons affected by or interested in the rezoning, conditional use permit and right-of-way requests may appear and present their views. After hearing, the Planning Commission may take action. Copies of the applications, staff report and all related items may be found online at www.blacksburg.gov/publichearings or reviewed in person at the Blacksburg Planning and Building Department, 400 South Main Street, Blacksburg, Virginia. You may also call the office at (540) 443-1300 for more information. Individuals with disabilities who require special assistance to attend and participate in the public hearing on the above should contact the Planning & Building Department at (540) 443-1300, or (540)-443-1000-TDD.

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL

The Town of Christiansburg Town Council will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, November 12, 2024, at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive

Legals - Montgomery County

public comments concerning:

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Legals - Montgomery County

rjackson@christiansburg.org, with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations.

Legals - City of Radford

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE’S SALE 109 Sullivan Street, Radford, VA 24141

Tax Map: 6-(3)-Sec 2-12-13D

In execution of a Deed of Trust in the original amount of \$27,500.00, dated March 28, 2016, from Peggy Jean Caldwell, f/k/a Peggy Jean Caldwell Austin., recorded as Instrument Number 201600294 in the land records of the City of Radford, Virginia, default having been made in the payments of the indebtedness thereby secured, the undersigned will on November 5, 2024 @ 12:00 NOON

at the front entrance of the Radford City Circuit Courthouse, 619 Second Street, West, Radford, VA 24141, offer for sale at public auction the property and improvements thereon, described as follows:

All of that certain lot or parcel of land, together with any improvements thereon, situate, lying and being in the east ward of the City of Radford, Virginia, and being more particularly described as follows, to-wit:

Beginning at a point in the easterly line if Sullivan Street, N. 27° 15' E. 100 Feet from the intersection of the northerly line of Baldwin Street; thence N. 27° 15' E. 50 feet to the southerly line of a 15-foot alley; thence following said alley line, S. 63° E. 85 feet to a point; thence S. 27° 15' W. 50 feet to a point; thence N. 63° W. 85 feet to the point of beginning.

TERMS OF SALE: CASH
This sale is subject to all matters of record in the

Legals - City of Radford

chain of title to the above property, and also subject to mechanics’ and materialmen’s liens of record and not of record, if any such liens exist.

A bidder’s deposit of 10% of bid amount, in cash, certified or cashier’s check, is required at the time of sale, with the balance due at settlement, to be held within 30 days from the sale date at the office of the Trustee. The property and improvements thereon shall be sold in “as is” condition. All costs of conveyance, by special warranty deed, will be at the cost of the purchaser. Real estate taxes shall be prorated to date of sale. Additional terms of sale shall be announced at the time of sale and contained in a memorandum of sale which the successful bidder shall be required to sign.

JEFFREY A. WARD
SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE
For more information please contact:
Jeffrey A. Ward, Esquire
Franklin, Denney, Ward, & Strosnider PLC
129 N. Wayne Ave.,
Waynesboro, Virginia 22980
540-946-4408 email:
jward@fdwslaw.com



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Cars for Homes campaign aims to raise \$90,000 to build a home in the NRV

NEW RIVER VALLEY – Habitat for Humanity of the New River Valley (NRV) is launching a communitywide initiative through the Cars for Homes program to raise \$90,000—enough to

fund the construction of a new home for a family in the NRV. The campaign encourages citizens, businesses, and local officials to participate by donating unwanted vehicles, including cars,

trucks, RVs, and boats.

“How many cars will it take to raise \$90,000? We don’t know—but let’s find out together!” said Jim Drader, Executive Director at Habitat for Humanity NRV. “This is an exciting opportunity for the community to come together and make a lasting impact by turning old vehicles into new hope.”

How the Cars for Homes program works

Cars for Homes offers a simple, hassle-free donation process. Habitat handles towing, paperwork, and recycling or reselling the vehicle at no cost to donors. In addition, participants will receive a taxdeductible receipt for the value of their donation. All funds generated from this campaign will be used to build a home for a family in need within the NRV area.

Who can participate?

- Citizens: Individuals with old, unused vehicles are encouraged to donate and be part of this community effort.
- Auto Dealers & Parts Retailers:

Local businesses can motivate customers to donate trade-ins or parts vehicles that otherwise go unused.

• Code Enforcement Officers: Officers can support the campaign by encouraging the removal of abandoned vehicles through the program, benefiting both neighborhoods and the community.

Get Involved – Every Car Counts

To participate, citizens and businesses can call 1-877-277-4344 or visit <https://www.habitat.org/support/donate-your-car> to schedule a free pickup. Each donation helps push us closer to our goal of \$90,000 to build a home—and every car makes a difference.

“By donating vehicles, the community isn’t just clearing space or solving a problem; they are creating an opportunity for a local family to thrive,” said Drader.

Join the Movement

Together, we can meet our \$90,000 goal, one vehicle at a time. Let’s see how many cars it will take to build a brighter future for an NRV family.

Habitat for Humanity

Afghan FTP member joins Christiansburg Intelligence Agency

Intelligence Advanced Analytics (IAA), the Christiansburg based intelligence agency and think tank has tapped former Afghan Police Officer and Female Tactical Platoon (FTP) member Azizgul Ahmadi to be its new Legal Analyst.

Ahmadi worked alongside U.S. Special Forces in Afghanistan and completed international police training at the Turkish National Police Training Center. IAA says Ahmadi will primarily be working with the think tank but will also assist in select security operations. Ahmadi will help rolling out a new Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (PCVE) program utilizing American football for the Balkan states and Ukraine on the new unspports.org peacebuilding platform. IAA holds a strategic partnership with the United Nations Office of Counter Terrorism (UNOCT) Global Sports Program.

“I am grateful to serve and protect again,” said Ahmadi. “Humanitarian work is very rewarding and this opportunity lets me promote gender equality with the UN. I have been studying English very hard at New River Community College and now I get to work with the U.S. intelligence community again. My goal is to empower all women and girls in Afghanistan.”

IAA Founder and Director Cameron D. Dickerson serves as Liaison officer from CIA to UNOCT. He’s also the former Chairman of the Progressive

National Committee and the Libertarian Congressional Candidate for VA-09. He’s urging Congress to take a nonpartisan approach in passing the Afghan Adjustment Act, which is currently being stalled by Republicans. The legislation, S.2327/H.R.4627, would expedite the ability to give permanent residence status to Afghan evacuees like Ahmadi and her FTP comrades who aided the United States in the occupation of Afghanistan.

Dickerson issued a statement on his new teammate.

“IAA builds relationships to promote unity and sportsmanship because the joy of sport is the ultimate peacebuilding solution. Azizgul Ahmadi brings a new perspective of objectivity that allows myself and IAA to operate with greater efficiency under 50 U.S.C. 3515, 22 U.S.C. 2348, and 10 U.S.C. 431. I hope Azizgul’s tenacity, resilience, and dedication will inspire all people. She’s giving Afghan women a voice to be heard in Afghanistan and across the globe, countering the Taliban’s latest oppressive efforts. It’s going to be a delight having her on the team.”

Dickerson says diversity and equality are critical to ensuring the success of IAA and UNOCT missions. He is committed to providing greater transparency with sports and PCVE program, along with open sourcing intelligence when acceptable.

Intelligence Advanced Analytics

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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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As Halloween creeps closer, NFPA urges public to keep fire safety in mind

As Halloween creeps closer, fire safety hazards lurk among many of the holiday’s festivities and celebrations. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), between 2018 and 2022, an annual average of 835 home structure fires began with decorations, resulting in three deaths, 30 injuries, and \$14 million in direct property damage. Nearly half (47 percent) of these fires occurred because the decorations were too close to a heat source; approximately one-third (32 percent) started with candles.

With these and associated safety risks in mind, NFPA is encouraging everyone to take simple precautions that can help ensure a fire-safe holiday.

“Decorating with jack-o-lanterns and other seasonal items, costume parties, and trick-or-treating all present potential fire hazards,” said Lorraine Carli, vice president of Outreach and Advocacy at NFPA. “But that’s no reason to let Halloween spook people. With a little added awareness and caution, the vast majority of these risks can be prevented.”

NFPA offers these tips and guidelines for enjoying a festive Halloween:

Decorations: Many common decorations like cornstalks, crepe paper, and dried flowers are very flammable. Keep these and similar decorations far away from any open flames or heat sources, like candles, heaters, and light bulbs.

Candles: Using candles as decoration can be risky if not done correctly. Keep them in a well-attended area out of the path of potential trick-or-treaters.

Remind children of the dangers of open flames, and make sure they are always supervised when candles are lit. Always extinguish candles before leaving an area.

Jack-o-lanterns: Glow sticks or electric candles are the safest choice when it comes to lighting up your jack-o-lantern, but if you choose to use a real candle, do so with extreme caution. Light a candle inside a jack-o-lantern using long fireplace matches or a utility lighter and keep it away from other decorations.

Costumes: Avoid fabric that billows or trails behind you, as these can easily ignite. If you are making your own costume, avoid loosely woven fabrics like linen and cotton, which can be very flammable.

Visibility: Give children flashlights or glowsticks for lighting, these can even be incorporated into the costume. If your child has a mask, ensure the eye holes are large enough for them to see clearly.

Smoke Alarms: This is a great time to make sure your smoke alarms are in working order.

Exits: Exits are NOT an appropriate place for decorations. When decorating, ensure that nothing is blocking escape routes, including doors and windows.

Visit the NFPA Halloween safety page for more resources for how to stay safe. Get NFPA’s Halloween Fire Safety Bundle featuring Sparky the Fire Dog for frightfully fun activities for kids and families. Visit sparky.org for kid friendly fun.

National Fire Protection Association

CROSSWORD

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 - Myriagram
 - Yellow-fever mosquito
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 - Anklebone
 - Adobe house
 - Direct to a source
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 - Moral excellences
 - Describes distinct concepts
 - Rubberized raincoat
 - Inhabitants of the Earth
 - Distress signal
 - Destroyed by secret means
 - Skin abrasions
 - Caesar or tossed
 - Supplied with a chapeaux
 - Fictional elephant
 - Forced open
 - Pole (Scottish)
 - Browning of the skin
 - Boy Scout merit emblem
 - British thermal unit
 - Decomposes naturally
 - Freshet
 - Lawn game
 - Former CIA
 - Didymium
 - Gram
 - Audio membranes
 - 8th Jewish month
 - Touchdown
 - Madames
 - Metric ton
 - Fabric colorants
 - Capital of Bashkortostan
 - Extra dry wine
 - An Indian dress
 - Expenditure
 - Ribbed or corded fabric
 - Can top
 - So. African Music Awards
 - Weather directionals
 - A scrap of cloth
 - Gin & vermouth cocktails
 - A way to lessen
 - Contended with difficulties
 - Egyptian beetle
 - CNN’s Turner
 - A quick light pat
 - Shipment, abbr.
 - Resin-like insect secretion
 - Goat and camel hair fabric
 - Superficially play at
 - Network of veins or nerves
 - Atomic #44
 - Wager
 - The time something has existed
 - Physician’s moniker
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OBITUARIES

Norton, June Elizabeth McClure

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of June Elizabeth McClure Norton, 79, of Christiansburg, June passed peacefully Oct. 21, 2024, after a short but courageous battle with pancreatic cancer.

Born on July 17, 1945, in Gastonia, N.C., June was the beloved daughter of the late Marshall and Madeline McClure. She is preceded in death by her wonderful parents and now rests in their loving embrace.

June is survived by her loving children, Terri June Welch (Doug Huff) of Christiansburg, VA; Della Elaine Norton of Ocean View, DE; and Michael Gray Norton (Gina Norton) of Sanford, ME. She was a cherished grandmother to Tiffany, Steven, Chelsea, Clayton, Genaya, Haley, and Stevie, and a proud great-grandmother to Marshall, Madeline, Juliet, Briar Grace, Jordan, Izabell, Blake, and Beau. June is also survived by her special Aunt, Lois Parker, of Marble, NC, along with many cousins and dear friends.

June grew up in Gastonia, NC, and embraced the adventures of life as a



military spouse, traveling the world with her family. She had a love for ceramics, knitting, crocheting, and cheek-pinching—both on the face and the backside! She spent many happy years as a hairdresser in Grafton, VA, before retiring to the beach in Norfolk, VA. In her final years, she lived at Spring Oak Assisted Living in Christiansburg, where she continued to spread joy and mischief with her quick wit, sassy comebacks, and infectious laughter. Even in her waning days, June never lost her sense of humor, delighting in keeping the staff at Spring Oak on their toes with her playful antics.

June will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved her. Her warmth, humor, and spirit will live on in the hearts of her family and friends.

A casual Celebration of Life will be held at McCoy Funeral Home on Friday, October 25, at noon.

Please wear bright colors in honor of June.

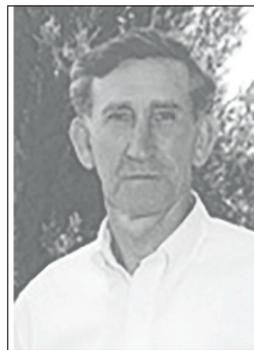
In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Teri Welch or Roselawn Memorial Gardens for June's memorial plaque, no matter the amount.

Cumbee, Charles Richard

Charles Richard Cumbee went to be with the Lord, Tuesday, Oct. 22, 2024, at the age of 83. Richard was born on July 5, 1941, to the late Charlie May Cumbee and Lida Bell Cumbee.

He is survived by his daughter, Cindy Davis (John); son, Richie Cumbee (Melinda); two granddaughters, Courtney Wooddell (Trenton) and Kelley Davis; one great grandson, Boone Wooddell. Also surviving are many nieces and nephews.

He is preceded in death by his parents as well as sisters Maybell, Marie, Beulah and



brothers, Calvin, Alfred, Roy, Thomas and David.

Richard was an avid hunter and fisherman who had many friends. Special friends include Eddie Akers, Steve Walters, Wes Burton, Bob Justice, Coletta Mabry and Conrad Dalton. He was a member of the Oak Grove Church and loved his church family.

A funeral service was conducted Friday, Oct. 25, 2024 in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel with Pastor David Neil officiating. Interment followed in the Westview cemetery. The family received friends before the service.

Bowman, Garry Allen

Garry Allen Bowman, 78, of Christiansburg, passed away Saturday, Oct. 19, 2024. He was preceded in death by his parents, Roy and Freda Shrader Bowman; three sisters; and three brothers.

Survivors include his loving wife, Sherryl Adaskin Bowman; sister, Janet Kennedy; nephews, Hugh Bowman

(Kim) and Heath Kennedy; nieces, Valorie Carroll (Mike), Judith Kennedy and Kim Kennedy; and many other relatives and special friends.

Per his request, no services will be held at this time.

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

ANGLICAN CATHOLIC

St. Philip's Anglican Church, 306 Progress Street, NE, Blacksburg, Virginia 24060, (540) 552-1771, www.stphilipsblacksburg.org. Reverend Fr. Wade Miller, Priest. Eucharist Sunday's at 11am and Wednesday's at 12pm.

St. Thomas Anglican Church- located at 4910 Hubert Rd, NW Roanoke, Va. Traditional Liturgical Lenten Services, Sunday at 10:30 am. Call (540) 589-1299 or visit www.sttofc.org for mid-week masses and events. (In Roanoke, go E on Hershberger, L on Hubert to 4910).

BAPTIST

First Baptist Church, 555 West Rock Road, Radford, 639-3873. 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 Road, Hiwassee, VA. 24347, Website: http://www.SnowvilleChristianChurch.com & Facebook. Email: Office@Snowvillechristianchurch.com, Sunday School: 9:30, Worship Service: 11:00, Bible Study: Thursdays @ 6:00pm. We are: "Inspiring hope, helping people grow their faith and sharing God's love with others."

EPISCOPAL

Grace Episcopal Church, 210 Fourth Street Radford. Welcoming and accepting, we have been a part of the Radford community for more than 130 years. ALL ARE WELCOME. Grace offers an 8:00am Contemplative Eucharist and a 10:30am Eucharist with organ music and a choir, with refreshments served afterwards. The 10:30am service is also available on YouTube for those unable to leave their house. Find us on Facebook and www.graceradford.org.

LUTHERAN

Christ Lutheran Church, 201 Harvey St. Sunday worship with communion at 10am; fellowship & snacks at 11am. All are welcome. Upcoming events and fellowship opportunities (Senior Brunch, Faith & Film, Rough Draught, etc.) de-

Radford

WORSHIP DIRECTORY

The God With Heart

Read Luke 7:1 through 8:56

Visit any Sunday School, Bible study, or small group and during their prayer time you're likely to hear of heartbreaking situations—financial difficulties, people dealing with cancer and other illnesses, teens getting killed in car accidents or gang-related violence, parents lamenting prodigal children, and so on.

When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her and he said, "Don't cry" (Luke 7:13).

Troubles are nothing new in this world. The people in Jesus' day had lives overflowing with trauma too. But Jesus didn't ever say, "Oh, stop whining and get

on with life." Instead, the Bible tells us "his heart went out to her" in compassion.

That feeling of compassion hasn't changed. When we face minor troubles or major tragedies, God still lingers nearby, and His heart still goes out to us with compassion and mercy and love. He does not scold us for not trusting Him or tell us to get over it. He understands our feelings, pains, and frustrations. We do not serve a sterile God, but a God with a heart.

Thought for Today: When we cry, so many times God cries with us.

Quicklook: Luke 7:11-17

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

tailed 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@stmlc.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. Sunday School for adults and children will be at 10 am and Worship will be at 11 am through Memorial Day. 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.

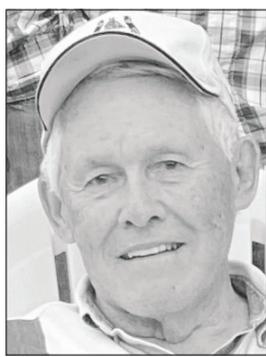
St. Paul United Methodist Church, 220 West Main Street, Christiansburg. Rev. Mike Derflinger (540) 382-2410. Sunday Worship at 10a.m. with Children's Church at the same time, Sunday School at 9 a.m. Worship is in-person and Live-streamed on our YouTube Channel: StPaulUMCChristiansburgVA. All are welcome.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

OBITUARIES

Buckland, Jr., Robert Howard

Robert Howard Buckland, Jr., "Bob" passed away Sunday, Oct. 20, 2024 at the age of 88 in Hanover, Va. He is deeply loved by his family and friends. He is survived by his daughter, Cris Kelly Buckland (grandchildren- Kara Lee and Pat, great-grandchildren- Slater) and sons, Aaron Buckland (daughter-in-law CeCe, grandchildren- Georgia and Parker), and Paul Buckland (daughter-in-law Kasey, grandchildren- Katey Grace, Ashton and Addy); and his beloved friends, Patsy Buckland and Laura Palmer. He is preceded in death by his parents, Robert and Geneva Buckland, sister, Dottie Charuhas, and his son, Robert Howard Buckland III.

Bob proudly grew up in Radford and attended Virginia Military Institute. He



later served in the Coast Guard. He was a star athlete for Radford High School and VMI. He lived most of his life in Tidewater and southwest Virginia. Bob's gregarious personality lent well to sales as a profession where he was very successful in multiple industries throughout his career. He was a funny, outgoing, charming and loving man. He will be deeply missed by

all that loved him.

A private service will be held on Saturday, Jan. 18 on his 89th birthday. Please reach out to the family for more information. In lieu of flowers please make a donation to a local shelter in his dog, "Miss Milly's," honor. The family is extremely grateful for the love and care they've received.

Hunter, Sharon Orren

Sharon Orren Hunter, 70, of Radford, passed away Tuesday, Oct. 22, 2024. She was preceded in death by her parents, Ralph and Audrey Orren; and brother, Randy Orren.

Survivors include nephews, Bradley Orren (Catherine) and Ryan

Orren (Sarah); brother, Bob Orren (Bonnie); and many other relatives and friends.

Services will be private. The Hunter family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford.



Eller, Arthur Laxton "Ike"

On Oct. 21, 2024, just a few weeks shy of his 91st birthday, Arthur Laxton "Ike" Eller passed peacefully into the arms of his Savior and Lord Jesus Christ.

Ike was born Nov. 5, 1933, in Chilhowie, Va. to the late Arthur Laxton Eller Sr. and Evelyn Britton Eller. He was middle brother to June James and Edward Eller. Both the Eller and Britton families were large families, and Ike, June, and Ed had 42 first cousins.

Ike graduated from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in 1955 with a B.S. in Animal Husbandry. He went on to work as Assistant County Agent in Tazewell County and the next year as County Agent in Russell County. Ike met Carolyn while working there, and in the fall of 1957, he joined a Bristol Reserve Unit and spent 6 months active duty. In 1960, Ike received a master's degree in Animal Breeding and Genetics from VPI, and in 1972 was awarded a PhD in Animal Breeding and Genetics from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

Dr. Ike Eller provided exceptional leadership for the livestock industry for 45 years. He served Virginia Tech as Extension Animal Scientist and Project Leader. He led the development of beef cattle performance programs in Virginia and nationally. His international cattle work took him to Europe, South America, and Africa. Among many recognitions are the American Society of Animal Science National Extension Award and the Progressive Farmer's Man of the Year in Service to Virginia Agriculture Award.

He is survived by his wife Carolyn and children Amy Eller Saunders (Jim), Evelyn Eller Haycocks (Gavin), John Leonard Eller, and Karen Eller Buddington



(Rich). Grandchildren include James (Megan), Andrew (Leighanne), Phillip, Jacob, and Nathan Saunders, Casey Schurtz (Andy), Anna, and Cullen Haycocks, Connor (Kayla) Eller, and Spencer and Eller Buddington. Great grandchildren Tripp and Tatum Saunders, Eller Saunders, and Lainey Eller have been a blessing to Ike and Carolyn. He is also survived by his sister, June Jane and brother, Edward B. Eller (Helen).

Ike was a member of the Church on Main, formerly Blacksburg Baptist Church, and served as deacon and Sunday School Director and teacher, an avid Hokies sports fan, and an active Rotarian. He loved people, the camaraderie of many good friends from all walks of life, telling a good joke or recounting a story, reading, a competitive bridge or golf game, and driving through the countryside with Carolyn.

A celebration of life will be held Sunday, Oct. 27, at 2 p.m. at the Inn at Virginia Tech, 901 Prices Fork Rd, Blacksburg, 24061. There will be a reception to follow.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks to consider a donation to the Dr. Arthur L. Eller, Jr., Scholarship, which supports students majoring in Animal Science at Virginia Tech. Please make checks payable to the Virginia Tech Foundation and include Eller Scholarship - 884244 on the memo line. Gifts may be mailed to: Virginia Tech Foundation, Inc., Gift Accounting 0336, 902 Prices Fork Road, Blacksburg, VA 24061.

At Ike's request his body has been donated to medical research. Therefore, there will be no viewing of the body. Arrangements are with McCoy Funeral Home in Blacksburg.

Akers, Arnold Allen

Arnold Allen Akers, 73, of Meadow Bluff, W.Va., and Dublin, Va., passed away Oct. 22, 2024.

He was preceded in death by his father, Walter R. Akers; mother, Elverta Ward Akers; grandparents, Walter and Emma Russell Akers, James Garfield and Nora Clinton Ward; and brother, Bill Leon Akers.

Mr. Akers is survived by his loving wife, Karen H. Akers; four daughters, Sarah Beth Davis (John Oliver III), Mary Katherine Johnson (Augustus Johnson IV), Bobbi Metz, and Megan Price (Ken Price); and three grandchildren, Blair Hodges (Jacob Hodges), Bradley Metz, and Jackson Davis. He is also survived by his brother, James Akers; sister, Sharon McGuire (Michael McGuire); and three great-grandchildren, Addison, Parker and Maisy Hodges.

Mr. Akers served for over 40 years with the U.S. Postal Service. A devout Baptist, he served the Lord at Dublin Baptist Church as choir director until moving to the family farm in West Virginia. He was involved in various church committees, particularly enjoying his time with the



kitchen committee, where he helped prepare many Wednesday night meals. Upon moving to the farm, the Akers family transferred their membership to First Baptist Church in Rainelle, where Mr. Akers continued to serve as choir director until his cancer diagnosis.

Mr. Akers had a passion for cooking and making wedding cakes for friends and family. As an avid

outdoorsman, he enjoyed hunting, fishing, gardening and farming, where he raised chickens, turkeys, and ducks on his family farm. He also loved cheering for Virginia Tech football.

The family will receive friends 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 26, 2024, at the Dublin Baptist Church. Funeral services will begin at 1 p.m. with Pastor Terry Golden and Matt Brown officiating. Interment will follow in the Old Dublin Cemetery in Dublin.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to the American Cancer Society.

Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford, Virginia is honored to be caring for the Akers family.

Glencoe

from page 1

listening experience with a diverse array of musical talent from the Blue Ridge region and is held in the historic Glencoe Mansion. The concerts run from 6 - 7:30 p.m.

FRIENDS of the Blue Ridge, established in 1988, is a nonprofit organization dedicated to fostering vibrant communities in the Blue Ridge that celebrate the area's unique culture, natural beauty and quality of life. They do so by empowering volunteer groups, organizations and municipalities to coordinate special projects and events.

"Our mission is to celebrate the environmental beauty and cultural uniqueness of our beloved Blue Ridge," said FRIENDS of the Blue Ridge executive director Julie Whalen. "The Glencoe Sessions allows us to showcase our region's incredibly rich and diverse musical heritage. We look forward to sharing these artists' talents with those in attendance, and to Blue Ridge PBS audiences later this year."

Glencoe Mansion is the historic 1875 residence of Gen. Gabriel C. and Nannie Radford Wharton and is home to a dynamic community museum that preserves the history and culture of the region. Opened in 1998, the site provides a three-in-one museum experience with the Period Residence, History Exhibits and an Art Gallery. "The Glencoe Sessions" will be held in

the beautifully restored period rooms where the audience can appreciate the history and beauty of the house while also enjoying music inspired by the history of the region.

This intimate concert series is a unique new take on the musical experience here in the Blue Ridge. These smaller venues allow both the performers and audience to have a deeper experience with the music.

"We're happy that Addie Levy brought the idea for this exciting concept to the museum, and we know it will be a wonderful and moving experience for participants," Museum Director Scott Gardner said.

After the Nov. 1 show, the last installment of the concerts for the series will be held Dec. 6 with a performance by Domino. In the heart of Nashville, the trio of Cole Ritter, Luca Chiappara and Addie Levy weaves a stellar blend of bluegrass, jazz, and swing. Their music, polished through years of exploration, brings a magic to the stage. All three members are nationally touring musicians, working for multiple artists and touring under their own names.

Tickets are \$15 per person per session. For more information or to purchase tickets please visit blueridgejamboree.com or blueridgefriends.org. There will be beverages available for purchase.

Glencoe Mansion

Contest

from page 1

print or photograph of something blue.

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 Tracylb3870@gmail.com.

Radford Photo Club

President

from page 1

Intermont College in Bristol, VA, a master's degree in English at East Tennessee State University in Johnson City, TN, and a doctorate in English at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro in Greensboro, NC.

Bill Cunningham, Chair of NRCC's College Board, expressed confidence in Dr. Brandon's leadership. "I would like to congratulate Dr. Brandon on being named the seventh president of New River Community College. I would also like to thank Chancellor Doré and the search committee as well as our local board for their involvement and commitment shown to the presidential selection process. We look forward to working with Dr. Brandon in continuing to build on the strength of New River Community College's core values and the solid foundation we have built over the years. We are pleased to welcome him to our college family and our community."

For his part, Brandon is eager to take the reins, emphasizing that his leadership style will be one that's grounded in collaboration and empathy. "I believe it is the responsibility of everyone in a leadership role to build the kind of professional relationships that allow people to be put in the position to reach their maximum potential," said Brandon.

Brandon added that he takes pride in his commitment to student success and looks forward to building on the college's reputation for unrivaled service. "New River Community College is the jewel of the valley; its track record of changing lives for the better is unparalleled. I'm extremely excited for the college's future and for the students who look to us to for help in realizing their potential."

Brandon succeeds Dr. Pat Huber who announced her retirement earlier this year after more than three decades of service at NRCC.

Virginia Community College System

Radford

from page 1

Students and administrators participate in a roundtable discussion with the Attorney General.

"College affordability has always been a big issue for me," he said. "My peers never had to deal with that, but I did. I had anxiety over the tuition increase announcements. Massive amounts of college debt can be crippling for a young student."

Participants addressed a range of topics during the roundtable, from college affordability to work-based learning opportunities.

Miyares also emphasized the importance of making connections in college. "One of the big challenges we have, and a big push - I wish we had when I was in college - is paid internships," he said. "That would have been a game-changer for me. It's not always what you know; it's who you know. It's those connections and relationships that you build, and you build them in internships. I interned with the attorney general's office [while attending William & Mary], and we have a robust program now to give students those opportunities."

Forging university-business partnerships that provide work-based learning opportunities for students, such as internships, is one of Radford's strategic priorities.

Students came away from the roundtable feeling grateful for the chance to voice their opinions to elected officials in the commonwealth.

"The roundtable discussion was a great opportunity not only to meet the attorney general, but also to discuss what Radford can work on to continue to excel as a university," said Carrie Brown, a Madison, Virginia, native studying foods and nutrition. "I was proud to be able to represent the College of Education and Human Development and gather with other students to represent Radford University. We engaged in insightful conversation that I'm hoping will lead to meaningful improvements and collaboration moving forward."

Brown is secretary of health and wellness for the Student Government Association, a public network officer

for the Student Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and a member of Radford Women's Club Soccer.

Dominika Butler of Ashburn, Virginia, also appreciated the chance to advocate for her fellow students.

"As an emerging social studies teacher, I stress the importance of speaking and talking to your elected representative officials," she said. "I respected how Attorney General Miyares spoke about his story, background and family."

Butler is studying middle school education-social studies with a minor in special education. She is a Highlander tour guide, Floyd Hall resident assistant, Honors College liaison, citizen leader ambassador for the College of Education and Human Development, and vice president of programming for College Mentors for Kids.

"When I spoke about affordability, especially from a first-generation perspective, I felt heard by Attorney General Miyares," she said. "Although it was a bit nerve-racking, it was a great experience to interact with an elected official and speak about topics that he also cares about."

Following the student roundtable event, a rechartering ceremony was held for TRIAD, a partnership among local law enforcement, senior citizens and senior service providers working together to reduce crime against the elderly. City of Radford Sheriff Mark Armentrout welcomed attendees, and Miyares gave remarks before TRIAD leaders signed the official charter document. The attorney general's visit to campus wrapped up with a closed-session roundtable with New River Valley law enforcement officials.

The trip to Radford was one stop on Miyares' Annual Southwest Virginia RV Tour. This year, in addition to visiting communities throughout the region to learn more about people's thoughts on important issues, Miyares loaded a recreational vehicle with supplies for residents throughout the region in need of assistance in the wake of Hurricane Helene.

David Perryman for Radford University

RADFORD SPORTS

Major upgrades coming to Radford's Dedmon Center



PHOTO COURTESY OF RU ATHLETICS

Radford University's Dedmon Center was opened in 1981 and serves as the home of the school's men's and women's basketball teams.

Marty Gordon

NRVsports@ourvalley.org

The home of Radford University basketball is about to undergo some major upgrades and improvements.

The university announced Wednesday the Dedmon Center is undergoing extensive improvements in preparation for the 2024-25 season spearheaded by a lead gift from Faye Marcum '71.

The projected completion date for these enhancements is Nov. 1. The updates include new, larger video boards, scoreboards, shot clocks, a state-of-the-art sound system, LED color-changing lights, an upgraded competition court, and a revamped volleyball practice floor.

The upcoming season will feature new, larger video boards at each end. These state-of-the-art videoboards are provided by Fair-Play, a renowned company with a strong track record of installing videoboards for numerous teams across the country, including NBA teams, 50 Division I schools, and several minor league baseball parks. Additionally, two new scoreboards will

be installed at each endzone of the Dedmon Center arena, providing fans with clear views of time, score, and player statistics.

"The Dedmon Center has been the versatile hub for Radford athletics for over 40 years and is the home of many pivotal moments and highlights for the basketball and volleyball teams," said women's basketball head coach Mike McGuire. "It's also time for the Dedmon Center to receive important upgrades to enhance the home game experience for our student athletes and fans. I'm truly excited for our student-athletes and fans to experience these improvements. This should continue to help the Dedmon Center be a huge home court advantage and one that Highlander Nation is proud to call home."

Thanks to a new sound system and LED color changing lights, the Radford fan experience will be further enhanced. Dedmon's updated lighting system is provided by NGU Lighting, a company known for their work with prestigious programs such as N.C. State, East Carolina, Florida State, Duke (Cameron Indoor), and professional teams like the Philadelphia Eagles.

On the court, the Highlanders will debut a brand-new competition floor for the 2024-25 season. The Quicklock™ Classic floor is the world's most trusted portable hardwood flooring system that has earned an impressive tenure as the official court of NCAA March Madness® & Final Four®, the Summer Olympic Games, the FIBA World Cup, 14 NCAA Conference Championships, preferred competition floor of the NBA and WNBA, and hundreds of NCAA DI teams nationwide.

"I'm excited for the new renovations to the Dedmon Center," added men's basketball head coach Darris Nichols. "It will improve our game day experience and help the Dedmon Center continue to be one of the hardest places to play in the Big South."

Initially opened in 1981, the facility recently underwent a multi-million-dollar facelift in 2020 and included Carilion Clinic and Radford Athletics entering a five-year partnership. Those previous improvements including replacing the facilities' famous air-supported fabric roof with a more modernized fabric structure, supported by nine steel trusses.

Local runners participate in Metro XC championships



PHOTO BY KYMN DAVIDSON-HAMLEY

Christiansburg's Max Craig took second place in this week's events in Blacksburg. Overall, Christiansburg finished in fourth place in the team competition. The host team Blacksburg took the boys with 39 points.



PHOTO BY KYMN DAVIDSON-HAMLEY

Mariah Reed of Christiansburg finished second in the girls' 5K race as her team took the overall victory with 39 points. Blacksburg placed second with 42 points. Eastern Montgomery was tenth.



PHOTO BY KYMN DAVIDSON-HAMLEY

Spencer Sisson of Eastern Montgomery finished the 5K race in third place as his school would take second place behind Blacksburg with 92 points.



PHOTO BY KYMN DAVIDSON-HAMLEY

Blacksburg's Ruthie Delapp took seventh in the 5K race at the Metro Cross Country Championships on Wednesday. Her teammates, Kaitlyn Larimer and Eliza Conway, finished in front of her in sixth and seventh.

Temple transfer dismissed at Tech, questions on his past gambling connection



PHOTO COURTESY OF VT ATHLETICS

Hysier Miller

Marty Gordon

NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Just weeks away from Virginia Tech's men's basketball opener, a transfer guard has been dismissed from the team. On Wednesday, Virginia Tech said Hysier Miller had been permanently released from the program due to circumstances prior to his enrollment at Virginia Tech. The statement said there will be no further comment by the university on this matter.

According to reports, the senior guard was Temple's leading scorer last season when the Owls were caught in an investigation over unusual wagering activity on their games.

Media reports show his previous school have been under investigation by law enforcement and the NCAA.

A gambling watchdog company, U.S. Integrity was hired by Temple University and caught an "unusual fluctuation" in a point spread hours before a March 7 game.

The report said the line from the game against UAB jumped from a 1.5 point spread to 8.0 points. Temple did not meet the spread. This was the second loss of a game where Temple did not meet the spread.

During the regular season, Miller was averaging under 18 points per game as the team finished 12-19. Temple then won four straight games in the conference tournament before falling in the championship to UAB. Miller averaged 27.8 points during the

tournament.

At Tech, the coaching staff had expected Miller to play a major role from the guard position.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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RADFORD SPORTS

Playoff brackets with two weeks to go

Marty Gordon

NRVsports@ourvalley.org

If the high school postseason started today, Radford High School would be hosting Patrick County in the opening round of Region 2C.

Radford is currently at number three in the latest Virginia High School League points rankings.

Glenvar leads 2C with 21 points and would host the eighth seed in Martinsville. Floyd is the number two seed with 20.714 points and would be facing Appomattox. Number 4 Gretna would host Nelson County. The final two could flip places according to the

last few weeks of the regular season.

Radford could also move into the second spot if they could beat Floyd in the final week's matchup.

In 1C, Bath County sets atop of the region and would face Galax. Giles is the seventh seed and would travel to second seed George Wythe. Third-seeded Parry McCluer would face Craig County. The fourth and fifth seeds are Narrows and Grayson County.

In 3D, Christiansburg is currently the fifth seed and would have to travel to last year's matchup with Magna Vista. Lord Botetourt moved into the top spot and would host Basset. Second seeded Abingdon would face Northside. Sixth seeded Carroll County would face

former top seed William Byrd. Less than a full point separates No. 1 Lord Botetourt and No. 2 Abingdon.

Botetourt will square off with William Byrd, thus forcing a change in the seedings.

If Christiansburg picks up a win over Patrick Henry or Salem, then they could flip spots with Magna Vista and thus host the opening round.

In 4D, George Washington is the top seed with 27.714 points and would be hosting eighth seeded E.C. Glass. Jefferson Forest is the second seed and would host Amherst. Salem is the current sixth seed and would face Sharando. Mechlenburg and Handley would fill out the fourth and fifth spots.

Hammond named RU volleyball coach

Following her successful time as a player for the Radford volleyball team from 2012-2016, Savanna Hammond has returned to Radford as the 13th head coach of the volleyball program, as announced Wednesday by Director of Athletics Robert Lineburg.

"We are thrilled to announce Savanna Hammond as our new head volleyball coach," said Lineburg. "A proud alumna, Savanna has a deep connection to our program and impressive track record in both playing and coaching. We are confident that her passion and expertise will inspire our student-

athletes and lead our program to new heights."

"I am thrilled to return to my alma mater," said Hammond. "This opportunity is truly special to me as it allows me to continue the journey I started as a student-athlete at Radford and contribute to the community that helped shape me. I'm eager to build on this team's strong start in the Big South this season and continue to lead them to new heights. I am looking forward to getting started and fostering a culture of excellence they can be proud of, both on and off the court."

Hammond joins the Highlanders after

spending the last four seasons with Division II Bluefield State where the Big Blue earned a 53-57 record including Bluefield State's first-ever national championship title in 2022 at the USCAA National Tournament. In 2023, Bluefield State joined the CIAA where Hammond guided the Big Blue to a CIAA tournament berth in their first season competing at the Division II level.

Hammond turned women's volleyball at Bluefield State into a sought-after program during her tenure. When Hammond took over as head coach, Bluefield State had not won a set

or a match in over three years. In year one and in just her second match as head coach, the Big Blue swept St. Augustine's 3-0 to set a new tone and would go on to earn 12 wins towards a USCAA Championship runner-up finish. In 2023, Bluefield State faced a tougher schedule now at the Division II level and managed 16 wins.

Prior to her time at Bluefield State, Hammond was a student-athlete with the Radford volleyball program. In 2012, Hammond was a walk-on to the team and worked her way towards a full-ride scholarship for the final three years of her career earning the Big South's all-academic award in her 2015 senior campaign.

In 2013, she was a member of the Big South Regular Season and Tournament Championship team

competing in 39 sets primarily in conference play. In 2014 as a junior, she saw action in all 32 matches as a part of the Big South Regular Season Championship squad. In the 2014 tournament semifinals and championship,

Hammond earned double-digit kills in both matches. Hammond would finish her career in 2015 with 753 digs and 1,152 attack attempts which both ranked top 10 in program history at the time.

Radford University Athletics

Outdoor Report:

Researchers receive USDA funding to combat devilishly invasive tree-of-heaven

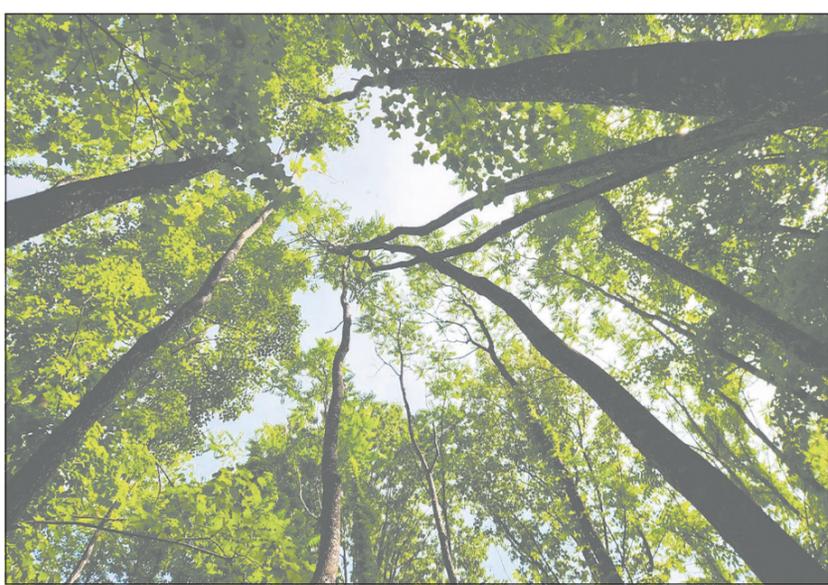


PHOTO BY HARRISON MILES FOR VIRGINIA TECH

By reducing the food source of the spotted lanternfly, this project could also help reduce the insect's population as well.

The tree-of-heaven is not so heavenly. The devilishly invasive plant from Asia grows quickly in natural areas and backyards, taking over habitats intended for native species. Its ecosystem impacts go far beyond that of just plants.

The tree-of-heaven is the native host to the invasive and destructive spotted lanternfly, a visually striking insect that colonizes quickly and destroys just as fast.

Researchers in the College of Natural Resources and Environment and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Virginia Tech are examining if a natural fungus that kills the tree-of-heaven could be spread to other trees-of-heaven by the spotted lanternfly.

Forest pathologist Carrie Fearer, assistant professor in the College of Natural Resources and Environment, is leading the nearly \$900,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service Areawide Pest Management Program, which is a collaboration with Penn State, Rutgers University, the University of Georgia, and the University of Minnesota.

The goal of the grant is to develop a native fungus as a biocontrol for the tree-

of-heaven. Researchers are investigating whether the spotted lanternfly could help transmit the fungus from tree to tree, reducing the need for human intervention. The team also is testing other pathogens and pests that could control the tree-of-heaven and prevent the spotted lanternfly from spreading into vineyards.

"The ideal scenario is that humans inoculate a tree with the fungus, and the spotted lanternfly, through its cluster feeding, picks up the fungus," Fearer said. "Then the fungus could be transmitted to another healthy tree-of-heaven through the spotted lanternfly's feeding or by spores on the insect's body."

By reducing the food source of the spotted lanternfly, this project could also help reduce the insect's population as well.

Research on the project from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences are Scott Salom, Thomas Kuhar, Doug Pfeiffer, Stefan Jaronski, and Ben Aigner. Drew Harner of the Alson H. Smith Jr. Agricultural Research and Extension Center, is also part of the project.

Max Esterhuizen for Virginia Tech

REAL ESTATE AUCTION
Fri, Nov.1, 12:30pm at the Highlander Hotel

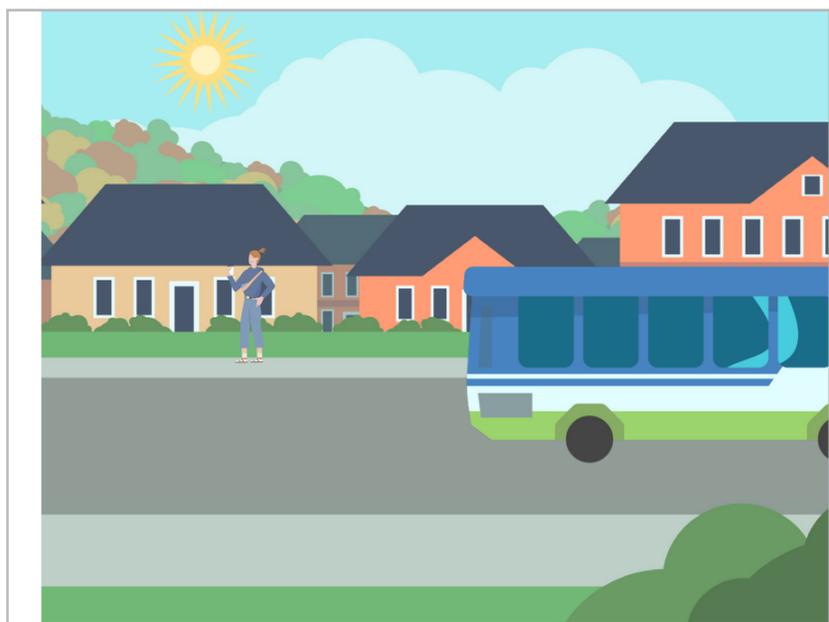
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