

News Journal

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Independence Day celebrations set for the NRV

Heather Bell
Editor

NEW RIVER VALLEY – Several communities are planning Fourth of July festivities on Friday, July 4, 2025. Here is the breakdown of those in the coverage areas of the News Messenger and Radford News Journal.

Blacksburg
Blacksburg's July Fourth parade, organized by the Mount Tabor Ruritan Club, starts at 2 p.m. on Eheart Street, runs through downtown on Main Street, and ends on Alumni Mall.

This year's theme is "We the People". Entries will be floats, bicycles, wagons, marchers, walkers, antique/classic cars, Jeeps, trucks, fire engines, scouts, bands, sports teams, etc.

The Town of Blacksburg will have music and fireworks at the Municipal Park, near the Rec. Center: 6- 9:30 p.m. for live music and 9:30 p.m.: Fireworks (rain or shine).

Christiansburg
Head to downtown Christiansburg from 10 a.m. – 4



PHOTO BY HEATHER BELL

The City of Radford will have its fireworks display Thursday, July 3. Blacksburg, Christiansburg and Shawsville will hold their displays Friday, July 4.

p.m. for the annual Fourth of July Celebration. This family-friendly festival features live music, an array of food trucks, arts and crafts vendors, a kids' zone, touch-a-truck

and more.

Live music will be performed throughout the day by Fritz

See Celebrations, page 3

New River Resource Authority enters 10-year agreement with Wythe and Bland counties

The New River Resource Authority (NRRA) recently entered into a 10-year contract with the Public Service Authority of Wythe and Bland counties.

"This agreement is a significant economic benefit to the region, allowing both authorities to not only appropriately account for the service in their annual budgets but to ensure rate stabilization for the foreseeable future," said Joe Levine, Executive Director of NRRA.

Formed in 1986, the NRRA is a regional authority with a mission to collect and handle disposal of solid waste in the New River Valley. NRRA operates a solid waste management facility on approximately 937 acres on Cloyd's Mountain in Pulaski County, two closed landfills in Ingles Mountain area, and a 100-acre mitigation site in Floyd County. NRRA processes approximately 210,000 tons of waste from its service area every year. In addition, the NRRA captures methane gas from the solid waste at the facility, offering significant positive environmental and economic benefits in the community to include reducing methane gas emissions and providing up to 3.4 MWh of electricity to power nearby homes and businesses.

"Southwest Virginia is known for regional cooperation, and NRRA is a shining example of that," said Steve Fijalkowski, Chairman of

the NRRA Board. "This formalized agreement will allow for rate stabilization – meaning we can keep rates low. It also makes our service area competitive for business and economic development."

The Chairman of the Joint Public Service Authority for Wythe and Bland, Stacy Terry, said, "with this agreement, the citizens of Wythe and Bland can rely on a partner in NRRA that offers low rates for solid waste management at a state-of-the-art facility."

With the agreement between the two authorities, the service area of NRRA is now formally the largest in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The NRRA current service area consists of the member jurisdictions which include Town of Dublin, City of Radford, Pulaski County, Giles County, Montgomery Regional Solid Waste

Authority (comprised of Montgomery County, Town of Blacksburg, Town of Christiansburg and Virginia Tech), and non-member jurisdictions, which include Floyd County, Bland County and Wythe County.

The NRRA also has emergency agreements with Patrick County, Smyth County and Roanoke Valley Resource Authority, which is comprised of City of Roanoke, City of Salem, and Roanoke County. Learn more at newriver-resourceauthority.org.

New River Resource Authority

'Families, schools and economy first': Spanberger visits the NRV



PHOTO COURTESY OF TEAM SPANBERGER

Abigail Spanberger speaks in Blacksburg as a part of the Team Spanberger and Lily Franklin Office opening on June 23.

Abby Whitt
Contributing writer

Gubernatorial candidate Abigail Spanberger spoke in Blacksburg last week for her campaign's Span Virginia Bus Tour.

The bus tour lasted from June 21-28 with stops in Richmond, Petersburg, Brunswick, Wytheville, Roanoke, Lynchburg, Farmville, Charlottesville and more, and the Blacksburg stop also served as the opening of the

Team Spangenberger and Lily Franklin Blacksburg Office.

Following the Blacksburg event on June 23, Spanberger said she

See Spanberger, page 2

Glencoe Mansion to host Mary Draper Ingles exhibit opening, panel discussion



IMAGE COURTESY OF GLENCOE MANSION

RADFORD – Glencoe Mansion will unveil its new exhibit, "Mary Draper Ingles: Steps to Revolution," Thursday, July 10, with an opening reception beginning at 5 p.m., and a panel discussion at 6 p.m.

All parts of the event will take place at the Radford City Council Chambers located at 10 Robertson Street, Radford.

The story of Mary Draper Ingles is well-known in Southwest Virginia and has even gained national attention through the New York Times bestseller "Follow

the River," written by acclaimed author James Alexander Thom. This new exhibit takes this incredible story of human bravery and sets it against the equally fascinating historical times that transformed cultures, empires and helped build a new nation.

Mary Draper Ingles was taken captive by members of the Shawnee Tribe and led 400 miles away in 1755. She then escaped and made a treacherous trek back home during a period of over 40 days.

See Draper Ingles, page 6

Virginia Boys State supports Radford-Fairlawn Daily Bread



PHOTO COURTESY OF PEGGY TAYLOR

A Virginia Boys State participant (left) brings his donation for Radford-Fairlawn Daily Bread (RFDB) recently on the campus of Radford University. RFDB volunteers pictured (left to right) include Penny Taylor, Tommy Fisher, David Young, Bob Sheehy and Frank Matthews. Each year, the participants in the weeklong civics program bring donations to support RFDB, donating nearly 2,500 items of food and gift cards to support the RFDB mission. RFDB provides a warm homecooked lunchtime meal to anyone who wants it, Monday through Friday, in its dining room on the ground floor of Long Way Brewing, located at 501 Second St. RFDB also provides Meals on Wheels service to homebound seniors.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, July 2:

Blacksburg Farmers Market

At Market Square Park, 100 Draper Rd SW, Blacksburg; 2 - 6 p.m. (New hours for April). 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 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, 7-9 p.m. Catering to traditional Old-Time music, the Market Square Jam brings musicians together to pick a tune, enjoy fun times with friends and family, and take in all that downtown Blacksburg has to offer.

Thursday, July 3:

16 Squares Walking Tour

Meet at The Alexander Black House every other Thursday at noon to explore the historic streets within the original 16 Squares of Blacksburg and learn the rich history and stories behind many of the buildings and landmarks throughout town that may go unnoticed. You may also schedule this tour by appointment if Thursdays don't work for your group. As an add-on to this tour, you may also request a tour of historic St. Luke & Odd Fellows Hall. Free of Charge.

Tours limited to 15 people. Please register by email to info@blacksburghistory.org.

Christiansburg Farmers Market

The Christiansburg Farmers Market is located in the Recreation Center parking lot, 1600 N. Franklin St. The market features local farmers and vendors each Thursday. Seasonal produce, plants, fresh baked goods, crafts, fresh flowers, handmade jewelry and more. Items for purchase vary week-to-week. Check Facebook for details about weekly themes, prizes, vendors, and live music. The market will run now through Oct. 30, 3-7 p.m.

Friday July 4:

See article in today's paper for Independence Day events

Blacksburg closings:

Town administrative offices will be closed. There will be no Blacksburg Transit service and BT offices will be closed. The Blacksburg Community Center will be closed. The Blacksburg Aquatic Center will be closed. Trash Collection: Due to the July 4 holiday, the makeup collection day for the Southwest Quadrant has been scheduled for Saturday, July 5. Please have refuse and recycling out at the curb for pickup no later than 7 a.m. Pick-up in all other quadrants will continue as usual, on their regularly scheduled days.

Christiansburg closings:

Town of Christiansburg facilities, including the Aquatic and Recreation Centers, will be closed. Solid waste and recycling normally collected on Friday's will be collected on Monday, July 7, along with Monday's regular collection.

Saturday, July 5:

Blacksburg Farmers Market

Spanberger from page 1

talked about the serious challenges facing Virginians.

"With chaos in Washington and growing threats to Virginia's economy and Virginians' rights, I'm hearing from Virginians across the political spectrum that we need leaders in Richmond who put our Commonwealth's families, schools and economy first," she said. "As the next Governor of Virginia, I am focused on making Virginia more affordable, making Virginia's schools the best in the country, protecting the rights of every Virginian, and standing up for Virginia jobs and Virginia's economy."

Spanberger was raised in Virginia to have strong connections to the Commonwealth, her country and communities by her parents. Her father is a U.S. Army Veteran and served as a career law enforcement officer, and her mother worked as a nurse, taking on long shifts over nights and weekends.

She continued in their footsteps by becoming a federal law enforcement officer with the U.S. Postal Inspection Service and working with the CIA as a Case Officer.

Spanberger's campaign website states that while working at the CIA she also "worked undercover to understand the threats facing the United States, prevent terrorist attacks, counter the proliferation of nuclear weapons and track transnational criminal organizations."

Now, she's married to her husband, Adam, who also grew up in Henrico County; is the mother of three girls in Virginia Public Schools; and says she is an advocate for all things Virginia. She says she and Adam are blessed to be raising their family in the Commonwealth they hold so dear.

From 2019 until this year, she was elected in Virginia's 7th District (which includes counties such as Prince William (partial), Stafford, Spotsylvania, Culpeper, Orange, Caroline, King George and more) in the U.S. House of Representatives, where she supported "no-nonsense bipartisan legislation," according to the Washington Post.

"... I am focused on making Virginia more affordable, making Virginia's schools the best in the country, protecting the rights of every Virginian, and standing up for Virginia jobs and Virginia's economy," she said.

The bottom line is that Spanberger is running for Governor because of her love of the state and its people, she said.

At Market Square Park, 100 Draper Rd SW, Blacksburg; 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. (New hours for April). 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 blacksburgfarmersmarket.com.

Radford Farmers Market

At 600 Unruh Drive, next to Glencoe Mansion, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. More than 40 vendors, food trucks, and more.

Sunday, July 6:

Blacksburg Vintage Market

Shop at the Blacksburg Vintage Market on the second and fourth Sundays of every month April - November, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. for the best selection of vintage vinyl, clothing, jewelry, books, housewares, oddities, and who knows what else. Market is located in downtown Blacksburg at the corner of Roanoke Street and Draper Avenue, in Market Square park, under the Farmer's market structure.

Books & Brews: Count My Lies

At Long Way Brewing, 1 p.m. Come chat about "Count My Lies" by Radford High School Alum Sophie Stava. The Radford Public Library will lead a very laid-back conversation with our table-mates at Long Way Brewing. Next month (Aug. 3) we'll discuss "Pockets: an intimate history of how we keep things close" by Hannah Carlson. On Thursday, July 10, you can meet Sophie Stava on Zoom for a Q&A Session! To register, email elizabeth.sensabaugh@radfordva.gov

Tuesday, July 8:

Mush with Noggin, the Sled Dog

At the Radford Public Library at 6 p.m. Join musher Karen Land and her Alaskan husky, Noggin, as they visit to share stories and insights about the thrilling world of dog sledding. Karen Land is a writer, public speaker, and three-time participant in the 1,000-mile Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race. Since 2000, Land has traveled to nearly every U.S. state with her sled, mushing gear, Arctic clothing, and beloved dogs, delivering over a thousand educational presentations at schools and libraries.

Thursday, July 10:

Classical Concert

Melody Unending: The Music of Mozart and Poulenc at CID LLC, 185 Kent Street, 7-8 p.m. (part of Blacksburg Summer Arts Festival).

Saturday, July 12:

Fish Fry

Mount Tabor Ruritan Club will hold its July Fish Fry 5 to 7 p.m. at Slusser's Chapel Picnic Shelter, 1543 Mount Tabor Rd, Blacksburg. Serving fish, fries and slaw; homemade desserts; and beverages. Adults-\$12, children under 12-\$6, (under 3)-free, carry-outs-\$12. This month, the Panjammers Steel Drum Orchestra will be playing. Held rain or shine. Call or text 540-449-6178 for further information. On Facebook at MtTaborRuritan.

Monday, July 14:

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.

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. Also available for view on YouTube.

Monday, July 14- Wednesday, July 16:

First Missionary Baptist Church

First Missionary Baptist Church-New River invites the public to its annual revival. July 14 - 16, 2025. Prayer and praise will begin nightly at 7 p.m. Revival services will begin at 7:30 p.m. The revivalist will be Rev. Cedric Malone, Pastor - Greater Mount Zion Baptist Church - Roanoke. Located at 7318 Manns Drive, Fairlawn. All are welcome to attend.

Tuesday, July 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. The meeting will be live streamed to the Town's YouTube page at www.christiansburg.org/YouTube. Please copy and paste the URL into your browser and be sure to select Live videos to view. Agendas and minutes can be viewed at www.christiansburg.org/agendasandminutes.

Saturday, July 19:

Red Cross blood drive

St. Thomas Episcopal Church, 103 E. Main St., Christiansburg, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Appointments: <https://www.redcrossblood.org>

On-going:

Radford Fiddle and Banjo Jam at Bee & Butter

Bee & Butter restaurant, in the Highlander Hotel on Tyler Ave., is now open on Monday nights during the Radford Fiddle and Banjo Jam. The jam is held at the restaurant 6- 9 p.m. each Monday evening.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TEAM SPANBERGER

The crown listens as Governorial candidate Abigail Spanberger relays her top priorities for her campaign: families, schools and the economy.

She said she heard from constituents both locally and across the state who are "working harder and harder, yet finding it more difficult to get by," whether it be with their energy bills, medical costs or the housing market.

"As Governor, I will work with both parties — it doesn't matter if you have a "D" or an "R" behind your name — to make sure every Virginian can afford to call our Commonwealth their home. That's the leadership Virginia deserves from their next Governor," Spanberger said.

Throughout the remainder of her campaign, Spanberger said she looks forward to continuing to hear from Montgomery County residents and other

constituents because her vision for the future "will always be guided by the Virginians who live in our communities."

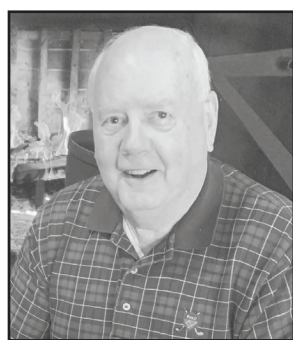
"And come January, I'm looking forward to hitting the ground running on day one and getting to work on behalf of all Virginians," Spanberger said.

Learn more about Spanberger's campaign events, current endorsements and policies at www.abigailspanberger.com.

Election day for the offices of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, House of Delegates and local offices is set for Nov. 4. Learn more about elections, early voting and voting methods at www.elections.virginia.gov.

OBITUARIES

Babb, David Lee



David Lee Babb, 75, passed away at his home in Christiansburg on Thursday, June 26, 2025. He attended Walton Pentecostal Holiness Church and Gethsemane Baptist Church. He was preceded in death by his parents, Abner Commodore and Lydia Blevins Babb; his loving wife, Eva Arleen Babb; brothers, Leroy, Harold, Charles and Jerry Babb; and sisters, Virginia Sheppard, Katherine Phelps and Dorothy Slaughter. David was faithful

to the Lord, reading his Bible every day.

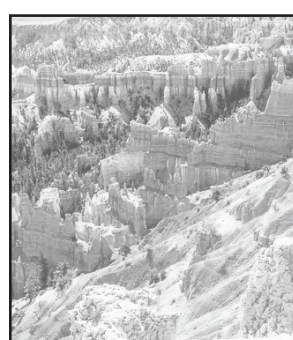
Survivors include his son, David Lee Wall (Joy); stepdaughters, Rhonda Patton and Lisa Davis;

grandchildren, Tyler and Parker Davis; great grandchild, Reid Davis; special friends, Mary Lou Salville, and Mike Anderson, sister Dess, and his family; brother, Jimmy Babb (Marie); sister-in-law, Linda Babb; special cat, Kitty; and many other relatives and friends.

Private memorial services will be held at a later date.

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

Campbell, Jr., Garland Henry



Garland Henry Campbell, Jr., 85, passed away on June 26, 2025. Born Oct. 10, 1939, he was preceded in death by his parents, Garland Henry, Sr. and Ruth Huffman Campbell; daughter, Sarah Campbell Benson; and stepdaughter, Cindy Austin Goad.

Survivors include his loving wife, Sarah

Campbell; stepdaughter, Sherrie Austin; sisters, Carolyn Blevins and Barbara Kelley; and many other relatives and special friends.

Per his request, no services will be held.

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

Leonard, Robert Gresham

I ran out of tomorrows today, after 88 years. I have rejoined my parents, Hubert and Frances, who were my role models; my little sister Bonnie, who died much too soon; and especially my extraordinary wife, Margaret, who loved me for 62 years.

I leave behind my sister, Jean (George) Hull, my niece Amy (Lora) Powell, my two sons, Robert (Lori) and John (Bobby)

Leonard, granddaughters Danielle (Ryan) Akers and Stephanie (Charles) Weber, and delightful great-grandchildren, Connor and Sutton Akers, and Landon and Charlee Weber.

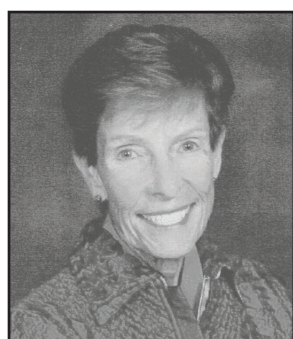
Of the various things I did in my life, the most rewarding was marrying Margaret and helping raise our family.

At my request, there will be no services, so you can say goodbye as you

choose. Please do not be sad. Grieve if you must, but remember our good times. I led a fulfilling life and have no regrets. I am happy now that I am again with my beloved Margaret. We will be ready to welcome you when you are ready to join us.

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

Graybeal, Jill Elizabeth Breinig Lobach



Jill Elizabeth Breinig Lobach Graybeal, 94, a music educator, passed away Sunday, June 22, 2025. She was born April 1, 1931, in Akron, Ohio, to the late Titus Breinig Lobach and Katherine S. Lobach.

After graduating from high school, Jill earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Piano from the University of Richmond in Virginia in 1952. On July 18, 1953, in Akron, Ohio, Jill married John Patrick "Pat" Graybeal. They had two daughters, Sally and Nancy. Sally predeceased her in 2007, and Pat in 2024. Jill began her career as an educator in 1956 and later earned a Master of Science degree in Music Education from Radford University in Radford, in 1968. She also completed various continuing education courses along the way. She taught special education and choral music for Henrico County School System in Virginia (1956-1959); physical education and music at Blacksburg High School (1959-1961); instructed grades 1-12 music for the Christiansburg school system (1968-1971); served as supervisor of music and coordinator of fine arts for Montgomery County Schools (1971-1983); and was director of personnel

for Montgomery County Schools until her retirement in 1983. Throughout her career, Jill held numerous professional memberships. During college, she was a member of Sigma Alpha Iota, the International Music Fraternity, Phi Delta Kappa, a professional education association; Phi Kappa Phi, a professional honor society; Music Educators National Conference; Virginia Music Education Association; and the Virginia Association of School Administrative Personnel. She served on various divisions, regional, and statewide commissions related to arts, curriculum development, teacher certification, student teachers, and personnel administration. Jill was also a guest lecturer at Radford University and Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. She was honored to present at the

Sixth Annual Conference on Educational Research for the Virginia State Department of Education. In addition to her professional achievements, Jill was very active in civic organizations. She founded and directed the Christiansburg Community Chorus, co-founded and was a member of the Montgomery County Council for the Arts, served as Director of Music for the Bicentennial Celebration, directed the Montgomery County Handbell Choir, and was a member and Director of St. Paul United Methodist Church. Her civic volunteer work included fundraising for the American Cancer Society and the Girl Scouts.

Jill is survived by her daughter, Nancy Graybeal, and her husband, William McNeil; son-in-law, Christopher K. Minnich (Julia); along with other extended family and friends. They will remember her for her dignity, faith, her love of teaching, and kindness. She was an incredible wife and mother who will be deeply missed. A memorial service will be held today, Wednesday, July 2, 2025, at 2 p.m. at Waltonwood, 750 SE Cary Parkway, Cary, N.C.

Lovern, Edna Darlene



Edna Darlene Lovern, 77, of Riner, passed away surrounded by her family Wednesday, June 25, 2025. Born May 8, 1948, she was preceded in death by her parents, William Garfield and Hattie Turpin Duncan. Survivors include her son and daughter-in-law, Larry Whiting (Dana); daughter and son-in-law, Donna Todd (Mike); grandchildren, Justin, Jacob, Wesley, Stephanie, Thomas, Christopher, Chelsea and Robby; 13 great-grandchildren; special nieces and nephews, Michael,

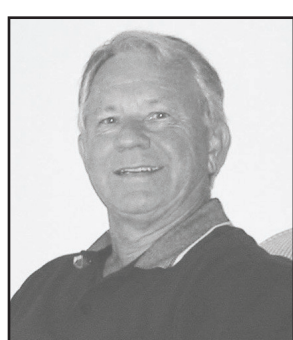
Junior; and many other relatives and friends.

Thank you to all the angels at ACG hospice, you were a God send to our family. Also, a very heartfelt thank you to Wanda Matherly for all the love and care she showed for Edna, there truly is no bond like sisterly love.

A celebration of Edna's life will be held 4 - 6:30 p.m. today, Wednesday, July 2, 2025, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford.

Edna's family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home in Radford.

Pugh, Charles Douglas



In loving memory of Charles Douglas Pugh Beloved husband, father, grandfather, inventor and visionary 1940 - 2025

Charles Douglas Pugh, a man of boundless curiosity, inventive genius, and unwavering devotion to his family, passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by loved ones. He leaves behind a legacy that will continue to inspire generations. He was the son of the late Charlie Pugh and Pearl Hunley Bolick. He was 85 years old.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 66 years, Priscilla Litten Pugh, whose steadfast love and partnership were the foundation of a life well-lived. Together, they raised three devoted children: Debbie Pugh Jefferson, Dr. Rodney Pugh and Dr. Christopher Pugh. His legacy lives on through his 14 grandchildren and 24 great-grandchildren, each of whom carries a spark of his brilliance and warmth. He is also survived by his loving sisters: Helen Reaves, Lois East, Dianne Rittenmeyer and the late Sandra Nicholson.

From an early age, Charles displayed an extraordinary mind. At just nine years old, he built a functioning steam engine tractor using lead from an old battery, nails, and a tin can. By 12, he had constructed a gas powered lawn mower powered by a washing machine motor—early signs of the ingenuity that would define his life. Determined to pursue a better education, Charles moved to Elon to attend Elon High School, living in his car until his family relocated to North Carolina. It was there that he met the love of his life, Priscilla.

A proud graduate of North Carolina State University in Electrical

Engineering, Charles earned his Professional Engineering designation in 1964. After graduating from NC State, Charles began his professional journey at Burlington Industries as the head of Research and Development, where he revolutionized the textile world by inventing and patenting the machine that creates textures in fabrics.

His inventive spirit extended into the world of music. Charles co-invented synthesized organ music, including drumbeats and electric styles such as Rock and Pop. His innovation gained national attention and led to a recorded segment for The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson. He later sold the patent to a music company in the early 1960s, marking another milestone in his remarkable career.

A man of many talents, Charles was not only an engineer and inventor with 28 patents to his name, but also a passionate teacher and adventurer. He delighted in sharing his knowledge with his children—teaching them to fly model airplanes, ride go-karts and mini bikes, and sail the open seas. An avid sailor and captain, he was deeply respected for his navigational expertise and spent months exploring the Bahamas by boat. He also taught the Coast Guard Captain licensure course.

His professional journey took him around the world. After completing his experience as Vice President of Worldwide Sales at Motorola, he joined SBS Technologies as a co-owner and he and Priscilla relocated to Augsburg, Germany. He later sold SBS Technologies to General Electric and they then settled in Marco Island, Florida, where they continued their maritime adventures through the Florida Keys before retiring to their hometown of Burlington.

Charles was a man of great intellect, quick wit, humor, and heart. His magnetic personality and encyclopedic knowledge made him the go-to person for solving problems - technical or otherwise. He was admired not only for his accomplishments but for his generosity, wisdom, and the joy he brought to those around him.

He will be deeply missed by all who knew him. His family remembers him not only as a great man, husband, father, and grandfather, but as a guiding light whose legacy of innovation, love, and curiosity will live on.

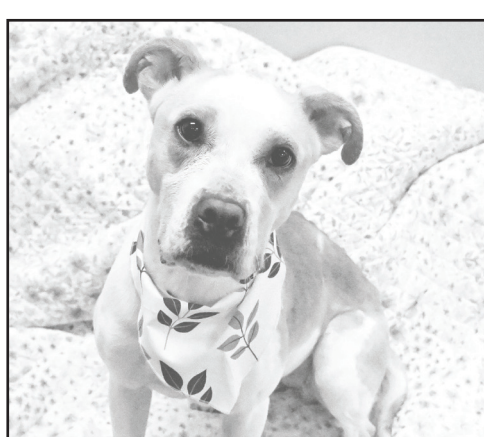
The viewing was at Rich and Thompson Funeral Home in Burlington, N.C. Sunday, June 29. The funeral was also held at Rich and Thompson funeral home Monday, June 30, 2025 followed by a grave site ceremony at Alamance Memorial Park Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family would like to have donations sent to Samaritan's Purse based in Boone, NC to further Charles' philanthropic interests. To make a donation to Samaritan's Purse you can visit their official donation page at: <https://www.samaritanpurse.org/our-ministry/donate-online/>

PETS OF THE WEEK

These pets and many others are available for adoption at the Montgomery County Animal Care and Adoption Center, 480 Cinnabar Rd., Christiansburg. Phone: (540) 382-5795.

Brioche could be your purrfect match! This sweet kitty's number one pastime is collecting hugs and head scratches from his favorite humans. He loves affection. Stop by to meet Brioche at the Animal Care and Adoption Center.



Honeybee is looking for patient humans who will give her time to adapt in a new home. She can be a little shy but with time she can be brought out of her shell, especially with tasty treats and reassuring pats.

Celebrations

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Schindler (10 a.m.), Lonesome Hearts (Noon) and Don & the Deltones Plus (2 p.m.). Attendees that are planning to watch the live music are encouraged to bring lawn chairs.

Fireworks will start around 9:15 p.m. and will be launched from Christiansburg Huckleberry Park. They can be viewed from the Uptown Mall or Walmart parking lots.

If rain is forecasted, fireworks will be rescheduled for July 5, and the Fourth of July Celebration downtown will be cancelled.

Radford

The City of Radford will hold its fireworks display on Thursday, July 3. The show is set for 9:30 p.m. and will be set off from Bisset Park. The park will be closed to the public, however. The fireworks show can be viewed from many areas along Main Street.

Shawsville

The Eastmont Community Foundation is hosting a slate of events for Independence Day, from a parade to fireworks, live music, cornhole, a car show and more.

The schedule of events includes: 8 a.m.: Waldron Independence Day 5k and Fun Run (begins and ends at Old Town Fields in Shawsville. A great road course for all ages and first-time racers). Registration link is: <https://runsignup.com/Race/VA/Shawsville/>

WaldronFitness5k.

Forms are also available at the Waldron Fitness Center front desk and registrations day-of.

4 p.m.: Shawsville Ruritan Parade along Old Town Road in Shawsville.

5:45 p.m. (approx. end of parade) gates open to Old Town Fields: concert, \$5 admission, 6 and under free (16 and under must be accompanied by an adult), concessions, cold water, sno cones, adult beverages and more. Come for the music and stay for the fireworks; come support local non-profits in fundraising EMHS Athletic Boosters.

6- 9 p.m.: Concert at Old Town Fields by Miller Holler, sponsored by Blue Ridge Monument Inc.

6 p.m.: The Shawsville Ruritan Club will host their second annual 4th of July Cornhole Tournament, sponsored by First Bank and Trust, on Old Town Fields.

6 p.m. Car Show on the Old Town Field track by E & E Automotive. Contact E&E for more information and how to enter at 540-268-1202.

6 p.m.: Dunk booth provided by Eastern Montgomery High School PTO- \$2 for one ball or \$5 for three balls. Stop by and see the people who have volunteered to be dunked!

9:20 p.m. (approx. time): Fireworks on the hill courtesy of Sisson & Ryan Quarry.

OPINION

Let's encourage our politicians to share their views – not attack the opposition

It is always helpful to hear from our politicians what they propose doing to make our lives better. Instead, all too common is reporting on the terrible ideas of the "other side." It seems as if they want to scare us into voting against bad ideas. Isn't it better to vote for good ideas rather than against bad ideas? Often, claims about the opposition are not accurate, with things exaggerated, taken out of context, or otherwise simply misleading or wrong. It's important to keep in mind that almost everyone wants the same things - good schools, low taxes, economic well-being, safe communities – nice places to live and work. Of course, there are different ideas on how best to get there.

Reading last week in this local newspaper an editorial about how horrible the state Democratic candidates are really served very little purpose. If our local politicians find a need to use a local newspaper to advocate for themselves or their political colleagues – okay. But it is frustrating to read distorted views of the competition. As this election season progresses, let's hope we get less of that. In this local newspaper, more information would be helpful about our community and how the legislative process is affecting us, rather than inaccurate versions of political records and positions.

For example, we read how we should be concerned because the Democrats would raise energy prices. Democrats do not want to spend more for energy! No

Gary Silverman

Columnist

one wants energy to be more expensive (except perhaps the energy companies and their stockholders). It's only common sense. It is reasonable to have different points-of-view on the best ways to control energy costs, but not to imply that one side or the other actually wants to raise rates. For example, look at the recent APCO Rate Reduction Act, being proudly promoted as effective in reducing energy costs. This Act will do just the opposite in the long-term. Its benefit is in helping control costs over the next couple of years, but then rates will have to increase. This Act allowed the utility to borrow money to defer paying all its expenses. This debt will need to be repaid in a few short years -with interest! Future costs will be higher in the long-term. Similarly, if the national government's "big beautiful bill" is passed, it also will raise costs long-term. Things to remember in a few years when those higher bills become due.

A different approach was taken with the earlier Virginia Clean Energy Act as it will reduce energy costs in the future, while potentially adding some costs now during a transition period. It is much the same thing as if you had an oil burner furnace in your home – modern technology 100 years ago. Fuel oil is now quite expensive, and it would likely cost you less to use for one more year than taking the furnace out and replacing it with a modern heat pump. Of course, that heat pump would save you a tremendous amount of money over its lifetime. In making this transition, rebates have been available to lower the cost of buying a heat pump – a useful example of how government actions can help reduce future costs.

Different politicians have different priorities about things that help their communities. Do we think a priority is to lower taxes rather than provide more school funding? Do we want to pass legislation to lower energy costs now, with higher costs in a few years? Would it be better to invest now in energy systems that will lower future costs? Reasonable people can have different views on these types of issues – often they boil down to how much do we want to live for today versus investing for tomorrow. Great would be to have candidates represent themselves on these types of issues, rather than demonizing the opposition. Everyone would benefit, and our choices would be much clearer.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear editor,

The Blacksburg July 4th Parade is only 48 hours away. It is a time individuals in the New River Valley (NRV) and members of "Indivisible" and "NRV Resistance" have been looking forward to for several weeks. They plan to walk in the parade and show their concern with what is going on in Washington.

On Fourth, voters will walk not as Democrats or Republicans, but as concerned citizens. Concerned about the direction the United States is drifting.

An example is the position the Trump administration has taken concerning "Global Warming." Trump and his staff feel it just talk; nothing to be concerned about by voters. The word from Washington is "Drill Baby Drill;" and dig a

little deeper.

At the same time "clean energy" methods of preserving the air we use are being discarded. This includes electricity generated by solar, and wind power. The opinion in the White House is the country has a great supply of coal and oil, let's use it.

Little mention is made that it was 85 in Alaska the last week in June. The White House and the majority of the East Coast suffered from three digit temperatures

the fourth week in June.

Politicians need to know attitudes of this nature are not acceptable. Join us for the Blacksburg Parade, at 2 p.m. on the Fourth to help officials realize we want our voices heard.

Don't forget your sunscreen.

Steve Huppert
Christiansburg

12TH Annual GIVELOCALNRV Giving Day raises \$796,053

BLACKSBURG - In another incredible demonstration of the power of community, 3,465 donors raised \$796,053 during the 12th annual GiveLocalNRV Giving Day. This event, hosted by the Community Foundation of the New River Valley (CFNRV), began at noon on Wednesday, June 25 and wrapped up at noon on Thursday, June 26. For 24 hours, dozens of community organizations raised funds and awareness for their missions.

In total, 114 causes received donations for their work, with many donors giving to multiple organizations, resulting in 4,690 gifts throughout the event. Participating organizations fundraised throughout the month of June during the early giving period, culminating in the 24-hour giving day sprint that kicked off at noon on Wednesday, June 25.

"We are so grateful to all of the organizations,

donors, and sponsors who take part in the giving day," said Jessica Wirgau, the CFNRV's CEO. "Each participating nonprofit provides critical services to our region, and seeing our community come together to support them is amazing."

Donors also showed up from around the United States and world, with hundreds of donations coming from outside Virginia. This incredible reach came from participating organizations tirelessly reaching out to their professional and personal networks.

Fueling the excitement of the day were \$25,000 in grants and prizes offered by the CFNRV and its sponsors, including our lead sponsors National Bank of Blacksburg and the Cranwell Family Foundation. The CFNRV team is still tallying the results of these awards and will post the winners on givelocalnrv.org in the coming days. Other



PHOTO BY THREE BIRD PHOTOGRAPHY

The Community Foundation of the New River Valley team partnered with the Blue Ridge PBS show Buzz4Good for a kickoff event celebrating the 12th Annual GiveLocalNRV Giving Day at the historic Lyric Theatre.

generous sponsors included Atlantic Union Bank, First Bank & Trust, Celco Community Credit Union, Carter Bank & Trust, Automation Creations, Inc., LewisGale Hospital Montgomery, Locus, Olio Financial Planning, and Brown Insurance.

Since its inception in 2014, this event has

raised more than \$5.1 million for organizations serving the New River Valley. This represents thousands of donors and dozens of organizations. To view how your favorite organizations serving the New River Valley did this year at givelocalnrv.org.

Community Foundation of the New River Valley

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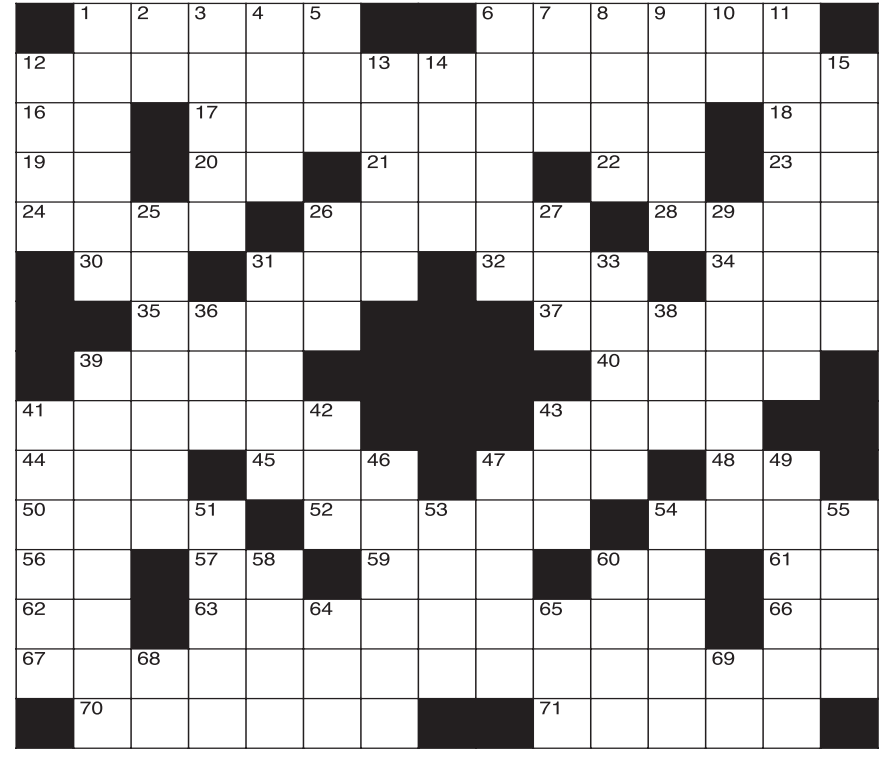
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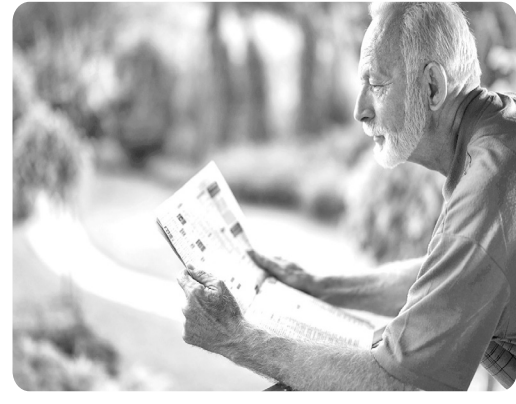
CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- CLUES ACROSS**
- Notes
 - Long-haired dog breed
 - ESPN's nickname
 - Spanish verb
 - Disadvantage
 - Of!
 - Actor Pacino
 - On your way: ___ route
 - Fifth note of a major scale
 - Companies need it
 - News agency
 - Faces of an organization
 - Ponds
 - Samoa's capital
 - Partner to 'Pa'
 - Adult male
 - Cool!
 - Used of a number or amount not specified
 - No No No
 - Hosts film festival
 - British place to house
 - convicts
 - Made of fermented honey and water
 - Chief
 - College army
 - Thyroid-stimulating hormone
 - Consume
 - One point north of due east
 - For instance
 - Brews
 - Alaskan river
 - Not soft
 - Atomic #22
 - 'The Golden State'
 - The world's most famous arena'
 - Larry and Curly's pal
 - One billion gigabytes
 - Conducts insubtly
 - Malaria mosquitoes
 - Unit to measure width
 - Features
 - Affairs
 - Letter of Semitic abjads
 - CLUES DOWN
 - Follower of Islam
 - Trauma center
 - French young women
 - Norse god
 - U.S. commercial flyer (abbr.)
 - Merchant
 - Pepton's younger brother
 - Jungle planet in 'Star Wars' galaxy
 - Tree-dwelling animal of C. and S. America
 - 'Pollack' actor Harris
 - Stuck around
 - Put on
 - Influential Norwegian playwright
 - Christian ___ designer
 - Fulfills a debt
 - Style
 - More (Spanish)
 - A baglike structure in a plant or animal
 - Remedy
 - Disturbance
 - 'The Martian' actor Matt
 - Express delight
 - Brooklyn hoopster
 - 1900 lamp
 - Motionless
 - One's mother (Brit.)
 - Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
 - Compels to act
 - Gardening tool
 - Ancient country
 - Frightening
 - Wimbledon champion Arthur
 - Popular plant
 - Database management system
 - Gasteyer and de Armas are two
 - Where soldiers eat
 - Tenth month (abbr.)
 - Illuminated
 - Atomic #18
 - Adults need one to travel

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Melissa Anderson named Vice President for Finance & Administrative Services

Melissa Anderson was recently named vice president for finance and administrative services at New River Community College, following her service as interim vice president since August 2023. With nearly 25 years of experience in higher education administration, finance and human resources at NRCC, Anderson brings a strong record of leadership, fiscal management and service to the college.

In this role, Anderson will continue to provide strategic leadership and oversight for critical operational areas including budgeting, human resources, payroll, student financial services, purchasing, inventory and risk management. She will also remain a key member of the president's administrative team, ensuring that NRCC's financial and administrative operations align with the institution's mission and long-term goals.

Anderson has served at NRCC since 2001 in a



PHOTO COURTESY OF NRCC

Melissa Anderson

variety of roles including director of human resources and business operations, procurement officer and cashier/administrative specialist. Throughout her career, she has overseen major initiatives including the implementation of the state payroll system, Cardinal, and improvements to procurement and budgeting systems. She

is also a certified Virginia Contracting Officer.

A native of Dublin, Virginia, Anderson holds a master's degree in management from Liberty University, a bachelor's degree in business administration from Old Dominion University and two associate degrees from NRCC.

New River Community College

Survey finds cost of a 4th of July cookout reflects high food prices

WASHINGTON—Families preparing for a Fourth of July cookout will continue to find high prices at the grocery store, based on the 2025 American Farm Bureau Federation annual Marketbasket Survey.

An Independence Day cookout for 10 will cost an average of \$70.92, down just 30 cents from last year's record-high total of \$71.22. The average cost for the cookout ingredients in the South was \$68.93, almost \$2 less than the national average but slightly higher than last year's average of \$68.33.

At \$7.09 per person, 2025 will be the second-highest cost since AFBF began the survey in 2013. Cookout ingredients include cheeseburgers, chicken breasts, pork chops, homemade potato salad, strawberries and ice cream and other products. While the survey does not include an exhaustive list of Fourth of July options, it serves as a snapshot of prices families are facing this summer.

"Inflation and lower availability of some food items continue to keep prices stubbornly high for America's families," said AFBF associate economist Samantha Ayoub. "High prices don't mean more money for farmers, however. Their share of the food retail dollar is just 15%. The cost of running their farms is up, from labor and transportation to taxes."

The Marketbasket Survey shows an increase in the cost of beef, potato salad and canned pork and beans, while there are drops in the cost of pork chops, chips and hamburger buns.

The retail price for two pounds of ground beef increased 4.4% to \$13.33. Pork and beans will cost \$2.69, up 20 cents from 2024. Potato salad is up 6.6% to \$3.54.

Several factors are influencing these increases. Fewer cattle are available for

processing, which is affecting supplies. Steel and aluminum tariffs have affected the cost of the cans for pork and beans. The cost of eggs for making potato salad is still elevated, although costs are much lower than record highs earlier this year as egg-laying chicken populations recover from avian influenza.

The federal government's broader Consumer Price Index report for food at home shows an overall increase of 2.2% compared to a year ago.

"While the survey suggests a slight increase for the Independence Day meal cost this year here in the South, the increase is significantly less than the current CPI for food purchased for home consumption," noted Tony Banks, senior assistant director of agriculture, development and innovation for Virginia Farm Bureau.

The AFBF survey found a reduction in cost for six cookout staples. Among them is a 3-pound package of pork chops, which is down 8.8% from last year, at \$14.13. Chips average \$4.80 a bag, a dime less than 2024. Hamburger buns are 2.6% less expensive, at \$2.35. The amount of pork available is up, which is pushing prices down. The demand for potatoes has eased, helping bring down the cost of chips. Wheat prices are still much lower than record highs of three years ago, contributing to the slight decrease in the cost of buns.

Farm Bureau's informal Marketbasket Survey examines only those foods commonly associated with summer cookouts. Volunteer shoppers across the country, including Farm Bureau members and others, collected data from stores in every state and Puerto Rico.

American Farm Bureau Federation



PHOTO COURTESY OF WARM HEARTH VILLAGE

Dr. James C. Baker checks his crops at the community garden now bearing his name.

Warm Hearth Village names community garden in honor of long-time resident

BLACKSBURG – Warm Hearth Village (WHV) was privileged to dedicate a space that reflects the heart of our community and the legacy of an extraordinary man: The James C. Baker Community Garden. Jim Baker, admired Professor Emeritus in Crop and Soil Environmental Sciences at Virginia Tech, is known not just for his academic contributions, but for his quiet wisdom, thoughtful presence, and deep care for others. His lifelong appreciation for the land—and the lessons it teaches about patience, growth, and intention—makes naming this garden for him a deeply fitting tribute.

Much like the communities he's helped cultivate, gardens require steady hands, rich soil, and a commitment to nurture through every season. Jim has exemplified this not only in his career, but in his years of meaningful support and presence at Warm Hearth Village.

"It is our privilege to give back to Warm Hearth; it has truly become home for our whole family and grandchildren. Warm Hearth is a very special place. To

be part of that for years to come leaves us filled with pride," Baker said.

William Lester, President & CEO said Jim never seeks the spotlight, but his impact is quietly powerful—felt in the relationships he builds, the respect he shows, and the belief he holds in the strength of community.

"This vibrant garden will serve as a living reflection of his spirit for generations to come. On behalf of the Village, thank you to the Baker family for your generous gift and for naming this special garden in Jim's honor," Lester said.

The family also chose to honor the memory of Jeannie Baker, Jim's beloved wife, with a butterfly on the Kaleidoscope Wall at Kroontje Health Care Center. Though she is no longer with us, her vibrant spirit lives on in this beautiful tribute and in the lives she touched here at Warm Hearth Village. Her memory, like this garden, will continue to inspire all who pass by.

Warm Hearth Village

A surprising ally in the fight against the spotted lanternfly: Ants

Virginia may have a new ally in the fight against one of the most invasive insects threatening trees, crops, and other commodities.

Virginia Tech researchers, led by Assistant Professor Scotty Yang, in the Department of Entomology in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, have found a new way to use ants and determine if spotted lanternflies have invaded a new area.

The findings were published in two journal articles in Pest Management Science and Neobiota.

Spotted lanternflies, originally from Asia, have been spreading across parts of the United States since their introduction to the country in 2014, damaging vineyards, ornamental trees, and even backyard gardens. The spotted lanternfly uses its straw-like mouthparts to feed on sap and then leaves behind a sugary substance called honeydew, which not only makes a sticky mess but also contains the insect's DNA.

Here's where it gets interesting: Ants love honeydew. They search for it, eat it, bring it back to their nests, and share it with other ants. This connection planted an idea in Yang's mind: Could these honeydew-collecting ants serve as an early warning system for spotted lanternflies?

Turns out, they can.

Yang, an affiliate with the Virginia Tech Global Change Center's Invasive Species Collaborative, found that ants that foraged in areas with spotted lanternflies carried traces of the bugs' DNA in their bodies — specifically, in the honeydew they'd eaten. By analyzing the ants in a lab, scientists could reliably detect whether spotted lanternflies were present in an area, even if the bugs themselves weren't spotted directly.

"Ants are nature's sugar seekers," Yang said. "If there's even a tiny drop of honeydew left behind by a spotted lanternfly, ants are likely to find it. They're constantly on the move, searching for food, and their ability to cover a lot of ground makes them surprisingly effective at picking up traces of the spotted lanternfly."

To check the ants for lanternfly DNA, the team used a method called environmental DNA testing. Just like people leave behind skin cells or hair, spotted lanternflies leave behind tiny bits of DNA in the honeydew they excrete as waste.

When the researchers collect the ants, they can analyze them for spotted lanternfly DNA using polymerase chain reaction, or PCR, testing that can identify even tiny traces of DNA specific to the lanternfly.

The newly introduced method, called antDNA by Yang and his lab, proved to be both accurate and powerful. Ants that ate just one meal of honeydew from spotted lanternfly still carried the pest's DNA up to five days later, and because ants roam



PHOTO BY SCOTTY YANG FOR VIRGINIA TECH

An ant on a leaf covered with spotted lanternfly honeydew.

widely, they detected lanternfly presence up to 100 meters, or 328 feet, away from known infestation spots.

Why early detection matters

The spotted lanternfly is a serious threat to economically important crops and can even be a nuisance in your backyard. It feeds on many types of plants, including grapevine, hops, and hardwood trees. As it feeds, it weakens plants and covers them in honeydew, which can lead to sooty mold growth and further weakening of the plant.

Lanternflies are a complex pest species, and once they invade an area, it may require several methods to get rid of them. Catching them early is preferred. The sooner they're detected, the easier it is to stop them from spreading.

That's what makes the antDNA method so exciting, Yang said. Current detection efforts often rely on people physically spotting the insects or their egg masses, which can be challenging until they appear in large numbers, but by then, lanternflies are much harder to combat. With this new approach, teams could simply collect the ants and run a the antDNA test, saving time, money, and the health of the spotted lanternfly host plants.

"One of the biggest advantages of using ants is that they live almost everywhere, such as forests, farms, cities — you name it," Yang said. "Their constant search for food makes them ideal frontline samplers for spotted lanternfly DNA. This approach isn't limited by habitat type, and thanks to well-established ant collection methods, we can easily scale it up."

The implications of Yang's findings go far beyond just the spotted lanternfly. Any insect that produces honeydew and leaves behind its DNA in doing so could potentially be tracked using this method. That means an earlier, smarter way to protect vulnerable crops, forests, and natural ecosystems.

Yang and his lab are now developing a field-ready antDNA kit that allows the molecular analysis to be done on site, giving results faster, sometimes even within the same day, making it easier to track and respond to new spotted lanternfly invasions in real time.

Virginia Tech

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NEWS JOURNAL

Visit from Malawi university leaders sparks new ideas for global collaboration

When top leaders from Malawi's youngest public university arrived in Blacksburg this spring, they weren't just touring labs — they were reconnecting with longtime collaborators and charting a path forward with one of their most trusted international partners.

For nearly a decade, the Malawi University of Science and Technology (MUST) and Virginia Tech have worked together on projects spanning engineering, medicine, public health, and design. In May, MUST's vice chancellor and board members met with Virginia Tech faculty and administrators to explore how their growing partnership could deliver even greater impact — for students, researchers, and communities in both countries.

"Virginia Tech is one of our best models and one of our best partners," Vice Chancellor Address Malata said during her second visit to Blacksburg in two years. "As we work to set clear targets for our next 10 years, we're trying to learn from institutions like Virginia Tech — from the work you've done to push your institution to a place of distinction."

Virginia Tech faculty and students have worked alongside their counterparts in the East Africa nation almost since MUST's founding 13 years ago. Through Virginia Tech's TEAM Malawi — short for Technology, Education, Advocacy, and Medicine — the two institutions have tackled shared challenges through community-driven, interdisciplinary projects.

One major focus has been women's health. Faculty and students have partnered to develop low-cost, noninvasive technologies for detecting and treating breast and cervical cancer, including early research on focused ultrasound therapy. Their work goes beyond technology development to include public health outreach — such as co-designed surveys assessing cancer awareness and access to care, and culturally tailored education programs promoting prevention and screening.

Other initiatives have included designing low-cost diagnostic tools, improving medical devices for rural clinics, and exploring how architecture and public art can support community wellness. Faculty and students from engineering,



PHOTO BY AMANDA BROOME FOR VIRGINIA TECH

Members of the delegation from the Malawi University of Science and Technology, including Vice Chancellor Address Malata (second from left) and Boyd Luwe (third from left), meet with Virginia Tech faculty and staff on the Blacksburg campus.

design, and public health have traveled to Malawi to work side by side with peers at MUST and at local hospitals. These visits have sparked senior design projects, faculty-led research, and student-driven curricula that reflect a shared commitment to service and sustainability.

This year, TEAM Malawi joined the Center for International Research, Education, and Development (CIRED), a universitywide center in Outreach and International Affairs. The center strengthens Virginia Tech's global mission by identifying partnerships and funding opportunities that align the university's expertise with global challenges. With its support, TEAM Malawi is better positioned to expand its reach, secure new resources, and deepen faculty and student engagement in collaborative research and development.

"Combining the expertise and energy of TEAM Malawi in the area of global health and CIRED's long history of grant management and partnership facilitation, creates a brilliant symmetry," said Tom Archibald, the center's executive

director. "Together, we convene conversations, build partnerships, and facilitate action. We are conduits through which Hokies unite their Ut Prosim spirit and their research."

The MUST delegation's visit sparked a host of new ideas — including student and faculty exchanges, shared research centers, and expanded projects in medical technology, design, and infectious disease prevention.

The delegation met with leaders from the College of Engineering; the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine; the College of Architecture, Arts, and Design; the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences; and Outreach and International Affairs — underscoring the wide-reaching potential of the partnership.

"Every stop we made, we made a meaningful connection," said Andy Muelenaer, co-founder of TEAM Malawi and a professor of practice in the Department of Biomedical Engineering and Mechanics. "The conversations we had were filled with fresh ideas and a real excitement to build on this strong foundation."

Muelenaer and his colleagues are

already moving forward on several of those ideas — including supporting efforts to bring simulation-based medical training to Malawi and strengthening partnerships already underway.

For both institutions, the collaboration is about more than research — it's about making a measurable difference.

"We want to make a difference in people's lives," Malata said. "So, teaching students and even seeing them graduate is not enough. We are looking to impact initiatives that change Malawi."

For Virginia Tech, the partnership is a living example of its global land-grant mission — building sustained relationships that foster innovation, advance learning, and help solve real-world problems.

"Our students and faculty grow tremendously from these relationships," Muelenaer said. "And together, we're creating solutions that have real impact — not just in the lab or classroom, but in communities."

Virginia Tech

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF AN APPLICATION BY ATMOS ENERGY CORPORATION FOR APPROVAL OF A 2025 SAVE RIDER PROJECTED FACTOR AND TRUE-UP FACTOR CASE NO. PUR-2025-00084

On May 30, 2025, Atmos Energy Corporation ("Atmos" or "Company") completed the filing of an application ("Application") pursuant to § 56-603 *et seq.* of the Code of Virginia ("Code"), known as the Steps to Advance Virginia's Energy ("SAVE") Plan Act, for approval of its annual update of its SAVE Rider ("2025 SAVE Rider"). The proposed 2025 SAVE Rider consists of a revised Infrastructure Replacement Current Rate ("Projected Factor") and an Infrastructure Replacement Reconciliation Rate ("True-Up Factor") under the Company's previously approved SAVE Plan. Pursuant to Code § 56-604 E, the Commission shall approve or deny, within 90 days, a natural gas utility's proposed SAVE rider adjustment.

In support of its Application, Atmos states that, pursuant to the Commission's prior orders regarding its SAVE Plan, the Company is filing this Application for approval to implement updated SAVE Rider rates, effective with the first billing cycle in October 2025. Atmos has requested a Projected Factor revenue requirement of \$3,044,607 for the upcoming SAVE Plan year as well as a True-Up Factor revenue requirement of \$18,266 related to the Company's fourth year of investment under its SAVE Plan, for a combined 2025 SAVE Rider revenue requirement of \$3,062,874. As proposed, the 2025 SAVE Rider rate for residential customers would be \$3.51 per month, an increase of \$0.52 over the current rate of \$2.99 per month for such customers.

Additional details are set forth in the Company's Application. Interested persons are encouraged to review the Company's Application and supporting exhibits.

TAKE NOTICE that the Commission may adopt rates that differ from those appearing in the Company's Application and supporting documents and may apportion revenues among customer classes and/or design rates in a manner differing from that shown in the Application and supporting documents.

The Commission entered an Order for Notice and Comment that, among other things, directed the Company to provide notice to the public and provided interested persons an opportunity to comment on the Company's Application.

To promote administrative efficiency and timely service of filings upon participants, the Commission has directed the electronic filing of testimony and pleadings, unless they contain confidential information, and required electronic service on parties to this proceeding.

An electronic copy of the Application may be obtained, at no charge, by submitting a written request to counsel for the Company: Timothy E. Biller, Esquire, and Andrea D. Gardner, Esquire, Hunton Andrews Kurth, LLP, Riverfront Plaza, East Tower, 951 E. Byrd Street, Richmond, Virginia, 23219, tbiller@hunton.com, agardner@hunton.com. Interested persons may also download unofficial copies of the Application and other documents from the Commission's website: scc.virginia.gov/case-information.

On or before July 28, 2025, any interested person may file comments on the Application by following the instructions on the Commission's website: scc.virginia.gov/case-information/submit-public-comments. Those unable, as a practical matter, to file comments electronically may file such comments by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the State Corporation Commission, c/o Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2118. All such comments shall refer to Case No. PUR-2025-00084.

On or before July 28, 2025, any person or entity wishing to participate as a respondent in this proceeding may do so by filing a notice of participation with the Clerk of the Commission at: scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling. Those unable, as a practical matter, to file a notice of participation electronically may file such notice by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the Commission at the address listed above. Such notice of participation shall include the email addresses of such parties or their counsel, if available. Pursuant to 5 VAC 5-20-80 B, *Participation as a respondent*, of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, 5 VAC 5-20-10 *et seq.* ("Rules of Practice"), any notice of participation shall set forth: (i) a precise statement of the interest of the respondent; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent then known; and (iii) the factual and legal basis for the action. Any organization, corporation, or government body participating as a respondent must be represented by counsel as required by 5 VAC 5-20-30, *Counsel*, of the Rules of Practice. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2025-00084. For additional information about participation as a respondent, any person or entity should obtain a copy of the Commission's Order for Notice and Comment.

On or before July 28, 2025, any interested person may request that the Commission convene a hearing in this matter by filing a request for hearing electronically via scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling. Those unable, as a practical matter, to file electronically may file a request for hearing by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the Commission at the address listed above. Requests for a hearing shall include: (i) a precise statement of the filing party's interest in the proceeding; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent then known; (iii) a statement of the legal basis for such action; and (iv) a precise statement why a hearing should be conducted in this matter. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2025-00084.

A copy of any notices of participation and requests for hearing shall be served electronically on counsel for the Company, Commission Staff, and any respondents.

The Company's Application, the Commission's Rules of Practice and the Commission's Order for Notice and Comment may be viewed at: scc.virginia.gov/case-information.

ATMOS ENERGY CORPORATION

Montgomery Chamber announces Foster Care Closet Drive

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce's Leadership New River Valley class is launching a foster care closet drive July 14- 18 to support children entering the foster care system in emergency situations.

"These children often arrive in care with little to no personal belongings, and this drive aims to provide them with essential clothing items that offer comfort, dignity, and a sense of stability during a difficult transition," MCCC announced. "In partnership with the Montgomery County Department of Social Services, this initiative reflects a deep commitment to community support and child welfare. Together we can make this drive a success and ensure that every child stepping into foster care feels seen, valued, and cared for from the very beginning."

Major needs include:
diapers/pullups
plain/neutral clothing (all ages)
underclothes
sippy cups
menstruation products
snacks
shaving products
older kid toiletries
wipes hair products
deodorant
toys/puzzles/ activities

Drop off locations include:

Bolden Therapy & Wellness, LLC 100 Ardmore Street, Suite #401 Blacksburg
Enligh10 Realty 102 Marlinton, Blacksburg
Sheriff's Office 1 E. Main St., Christiansburg
Edward Jones - Meghan Kuczmarski, 810 University City Blvd, Suite F, Blacksburg
First Community Bank 1900 S. Main St Blacksburg
Slate Creek Builders 110 Country Club Dr SW, Blacksburg
Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce office, 210 Laurel Street NE Suite B, Christiansburg
Coldwell Banker Townside, 220 Professional Park Dr., Blacksburg
First Community Bank 109 Roanoke St., Christiansburg
First Community Bank 1400 Tyler Ave Radford
Freedom First Credit Union 1204 South Main Street Blacksburg
Inmotion 3157 State Street Blacksburg
Foresight Design Services 1260 Radford Street Christiansburg
Price Real Estate 1108 N Main Street Blacksburg

Staff report

Draper Ingles

from page 1

captivity was no random event but part of a complex period in which the British, French and American Indians fought for control over vast stretches of territory in North America. The events formed part of the French and Indian War. This conflict saw Great Britain become the largest empire on earth in 1763 only for it to face a rebellion by 13 colonies that led to the formation of the United States.

This exhibit seeks to explain these complexities and to provide greater insight into the social and cultural forces at play. The exhibit focuses special attention on the perspectives of the American Indians, whose voices have often been misrepresented or left out of the traditional narrative. It will also explain the motives that drove all the forces and cultures. The exhibit and panel discussion are made possible in part through a grant from the Virginia 250 Commission in partnership with Virginia Humanities.

The panel discussion will bring

together five voices from the region to help illustrate this fascinating historical period. Panelists will include Dr. Stirling Barfield, Associate Professor of Psychology; Dr. Anthony Guidone, Assistant Professor of History; and Dr. Matt Oyos, Professor of History—all from Radford University. The discussion will also include Dr. Dan Thorp, Associate Professor of History at Virginia Tech and Dr. Melinda Wagner, Professor Emerita of Anthropology from Radford University.

The opening reception and panel discussion are open to the public, and there is no admission charge. The exhibit will be on view in the Radford City Council Chambers only on July 10. It will be on permanent display at the Glencoe Mansion, Museum & Gallery, which is open Wednesday through Saturday, 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. and Sunday, 1 - 4 p.m.

Glencoe Mansion, Museum & Gallery



COURTESY PHOTO

(Left to right) The National Bank's Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Brad Denardo and President Lara Ramsey; William Lester, WHV President & CEO, and Tamra Dixon, Vice-President of Philanthropy & Strategic Growth.

Warm Hearth Village names community room in honor of National Bank of Blacksburg

BLACKSBURG –Warm Hearth Village (WHV) is proud to announce its community room, in the Village Center, will now be called, The National Bank's Tall Oaks Hall, to honor the National Bank, a long-time supporter and valued partner of the Village. For over 20 years, National Bank has played a pivotal role in supporting the mission of Warm Hearth Village, helping to foster a thriving, inclusive environment for seniors. This meaningful gift will support our mission of compassionate, lifelong care for our residents and community. Their partnership helps us continue to grow, gather, and celebrate in a space that reflects the heart of who we are.

Brad Denardo, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the bank, said they have been in business for 134 years and have always strived to be an exceptional community bank. "Warm Hearth's mission is to live and work in community and supporting them is the epitome of what we are all

about," he said.

"The bank's unwavering belief in our mission to serve older adults with dignity, compassion and through innovation has helped us grow, thrive and dream bigger," said William Lester, President & CEO of WHV. He went on to explain the room is a vital space where residents gather for social events, educational programs, and special celebrations. "By bearing the name of The National Bank, the hall will continue to reflect the spirit of partnership and philanthropy that strengthens our Village. We are grateful beyond words for their enduring support and we are proud to honor that legacy in a space that will continue to bring people together for generations to come," he added

Warm Hearth Village is a nonprofit senior living community in Blacksburg that provides a full continuum of living options on our campus and in the home.

Warm Hearth Village

Shawsville's Hale's restaurant closes their doors

Marty Gordon
NRV@sports@ourvalley.org

One of the New River Valley's longest running restaurants is shutting down.

Hale's Restaurant on US460 in Eastern Montgomery made the announcement this past week on social media.

Hale's was opened in 1967 by Jim and Margie Hale and had managed to remain in business with many major chains taking over the market.

The social media post said "After nearly six decades of serving this community, the time has finally come. Hale's Restaurant has quietly closed its doors for the last time."

This was not a decision made lightly, according to owners, and it is not the goodbye they had hoped for.

"Truthfully, we wish we could have offered a goodbye in person, a chance to pour one more cup of coffee, serve one more plate of biscuits and gravy, share one more conversation

across the counter. But the time has come."

After Margie's death in 2001, her daughter Sandra, along with Gary and Cindy Hale, kept the restaurant running until the time came in 2013 when when the family had to make a choice between selling or keeping the restaurant. Sandra decided to move forward as the sole owner of Hale's and has run the business singlehandedly ever since.

The social media post continued to say: "To our beloved customers: thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Thank you for your loyalty, your kindness, your stories, your patience, and all of the laughter. This community has been the backbone of Hale's through everything we've survived over the years, including a fire, vandalism, a recession, theft, and even a global pandemic. Your unwavering support, encouragement, and generosity is what

allowed us to fight through the hard times to get back to doing what we loved most: sharing meals with our neighbors. We have always prided ourselves on the community within a community we've built. So many of you got your first job here. So many of you raised your kids on our pancakes. So many of you made this place this little mom and pop restaurant, feel like home, like family."

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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.

CHURCH OF GOD

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

(DOC - DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

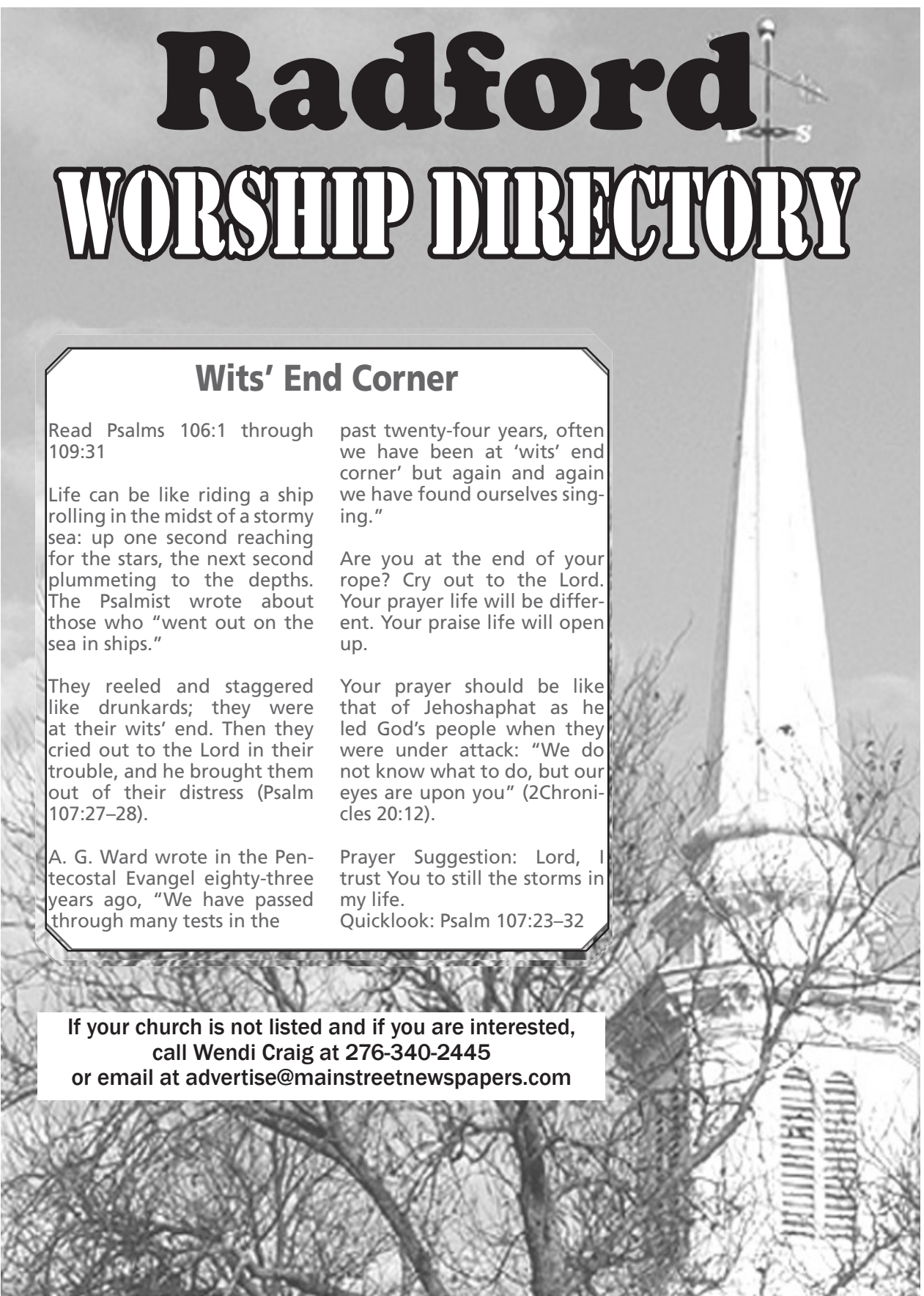
Snowville Christian Church, 5436 Lead Mine Road, Hiwassee, VA. 24347, Website: http://www.SnowvilleChristianChurch.com & Facebook. Email: Office@Snowvillechristianchurch.com, Sunday School: 9:30, Worship Service: 11:00, Bible Study: Thursdays @ 6:00pm. We are: "Inspiring hope, helping people grow their 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

St. Michael Lutheran Church, 2308 Merrimac Road, Blacksburg, VA 24060. Worship service each Sunday at 10AM, 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, Pastor James Henricks, who is a guiding light for our lives. 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.



Radford

WORSHIP DIRECTORY

Wits' End Corner

Read Psalms 106:1 through 109:31

Life can be like riding a ship rolling in the midst of a stormy sea: up one second reaching for the stars, the next second plummeting to the depths. The Psalmist wrote about those who "went out on the sea in ships."

They reeled and staggered like drunkards; they were at their wits' end. Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble, and he brought them out of their distress (Psalm 107:27-28).

A. G. Ward wrote in the Pentecostal Evangel eighty-three years ago, "We have passed through many tests in the

past twenty-four years, often we have been at 'wits' end corner' but again and again we have found ourselves singing."

Are you at the end of your rope? Cry out to the Lord. Your prayer life will be different. Your praise life will open up.

Your prayer should be like that of Jehoshaphat as he led God's people when they were under attack: "We do not know what to do, but our eyes are upon you" (2Chronicles 20:12).

Prayer Suggestion: Lord, I trust You to still the storms in my life. Quicklook: Psalm 107:23-32

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

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

PRESBYTERIAN

Join us at **The Presbyterian Church of Radford**, 201 4th Street, at the corner of 4th and Randolph.

Rev. Dr. Morgan Whitfield, Jr., will lead worship at 10 am through Labor Day. Phone 540-639-2585. Email: pcofradford@gmail.com. Website: www.pcradford.org. We are called to share the love of Christ to all 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.

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RADFORD SPORTS

Montgomery County athletes named all-state

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Eastern Montgomery's boys' soccer team finished as this year's Class 1 state and region runner ups.

This past week, Senior Talen Bruce was named the state's player of the year. He was joined by teammates, Osman Amya, Cyrus Underwood and Goalkeeper Chase Bierman.

Auburn placed four on the first-team, including Jared Bradley, Cole Jones, Ethan Rosenbaum and Jude Mear.

Spencer Sisson and Spencer Sisson of Eastern Montgomery were named to the second-team, along with Auburn's Ethan Board.

Auburn claimed another state baseball title in Class 1, and for its success, the school had both the player of the year and coach of the year. Zac McGlothlin was the player of the year, and his coach, Eric Altizer was named the coach of the year.

McGlothlin was joined on the first-team by Matthew Altizer, Josh Givens,

Jared Lavergne and Brody Hensel. Auburn's Mitchell Hale was named to the second-team.

Blacksburg first-baseman Brice Abbott was named to the Class 4 second-team for baseball.

Auburn completed another run in the Class 1 softball playoffs after winning a Region C trophy. For that effort, three players were named to the state's all-state first-team, including pitcher McKenzie Booth and her catcher Hope Wilson. Ariels Mullins was also named to the first-team.

In Class 3 boys' soccer, Christiansburg's Sami Selfe and Luca Pickeral were named first-team, while teammates Nick Litos and Hayden Yopp were second-team.

Blacksburg had two representatives on the Class 4 first-team for boys' soccer. Paul Distler joined Craig Huxtable.

In Class 4 girls, Blacksburg's Erin Bishop was named to the first-team all-state. In Class 3, Christiansburg's Ava Rose was named to the second-team.

In Class 4 girls' lacrosse, Blacksburg's Karly Gresham and Charis Kroucas were named to the second-team all-state.

East Mont athletic director retires

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Eastern Montgomery is in the need of a new athletic director after Kirk Litton announced his retirement at the end of this past school year.

Litton joined Eastern Montgomery in 2017 and has spent 20 years in athletics for the Montgomery County school system.

He had served as the athletic director at BMS for the past five years and was at

CHS from 2005 to 2012. In 2012, Litton was named the "state athletic director of the year" in Group AA.

Previously, he had been at Christiansburg High School for 27 years serving as a coach for football, baseball and softball.

The Bluefield State graduate and Bluefield native said his long-term goal had always been to become an athletic director. He came to Christiansburg in 1985 to teach math.

Area teams excel in Cal Ripken, Babe Ruth tournaments



The Auburn 10U Cal Ripken baseball team fell to Christiansburg in this past week's championship game, held at Randolph Park in Pulaski. Both teams now prepare for state tournament action.



The Christiansburg 10U baseball team is this year's District 10 champion and will head to this week's state tourney.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF PULASKI RECREATION DEPARTMENT

The Eastern Montgomery 10U softball team finished as runners-up at district tournament and will also advance to the state tourney to be held this week.

Radford has state tennis champ and runners-up



During the VHSLS State Championships at Liberty University, Lydia Pratt (middle) won the 2A Singles Championship (7-5, 7-6) over Marion's Parker White. Pratt's win avenged her two previous losses to White in the singles championship in 2023 and 2024. Also pictured (from left) are: Assistant Coach Will Greene, Pratt, Head Coach John Ferguson and Assistant Coach Michelle Hall.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF RHS

Radford High School's doubles team of (from left) Lydia Pratt and Kiera Sartin were the 2A Doubles Runners-Up, falling to Marion's White and Austin 1-6, 2-6.

Sports notes: Richardson places at Adidas nationals

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Former Christiansburg High's Donovan Richardson proved this past week that he is one of the top triple jumpers in the country as he placed fourth at the Adidas Outdoor Track National meet. Richardson set a 47-6 and ¼ mark.

Camper to North Florida

Former CHS and Purdue pitcher Kayden Camper is on the move. She has announced a commitment to North Florida.

Camper spent her freshman season in a limited role for Purdue and will now head to the Sunshine State.

North Florida was one win away in making this year's Super Regionals before a loss in the playoffs to South Carolina.

New pitching coach at Tech

Adding a reputable name among pitching coaches to the Virginia Tech baseball staff, head coach John Szeft formally welcomed Doug Willey into the role of assistant coach, pitching on Friday.

Willey – who joins the Hokies following his three-year tenure as pitching coach at Xavier – possesses vast pitching development and technology experience at both the collegiate and professional ranks, including three seasons coaching within the Chicago Cubs organization.

Willey contributed to three consecutive 30-win seasons at Xavier

from 2023 to 2025, leading the Musketeers' pitching staff to the 2023 BIG EAST postseason crown and the 2023 NCAA Nashville Regional final. Among its high statistical marks during 2023, Willey's staff placed among the top two BIG EAST squads and the top 50 NCAA Division I programs in ERA (4.55), hits allowed per nine innings (8.17), strikeout-to-walk ratio (2.33), walks allowed per nine innings (3.38) and WHIP (1.28).

Assistant Lady Hokies coach

Virginia Tech women's basketball head coach Megan Duffy tabbed Darren Guensch as an assistant coach Wednesday morning. With the Hokies, Guensch will play a key role in recruiting, player development, scouting and game planning. "We couldn't be more excited to welcome Darren and his family back to the New River Valley! He has been a winner in each of his coaching stops," Duffy said of Guensch. "His experience in recruiting, player development and game planning will impact our coaching staff and student-athletes immediately. Darren understands what it takes to build winning programs, and we look forward to him joining Hokie Nation." A 20-year veteran on the sidelines of D1 women's basketball programs, Guensch brings decades of experience and ties to the Commonwealth. Raised in Leesburg, Guensch owns degrees from two different institutions in the

Outdoor report: Ignoring Safety Zone leads to OUI arrest

On the evening of June 14, during the fireworks display at the Claytor Lake Festival in Pulaski County, Virginia Conservation Police Officers were maintaining a safety buffer around the barge that was lighting the fireworks.

During this time, Officer First Class Ron Wood, Officer Tyler Wilson, and Lieutenant Linkous of the Pulaski County Sheriff's Office observed a vessel underway and heading into the safety zone. CPO Wood intercepted the vessel and instructed stop their forward motion and to leave the safety zone.

The vessel did not immediately stop or otherwise change course. CPO Wood repeated the command, and the operator yelled that he had stopped, even though the vessel was still moving forward under power. After engaging with the operator again, CPO Wood finally observed that the vessel throttle was in neutral.

CPO Wood pulled alongside and immediately became concerned that the operator was under the influence of alcohol. CPO Wood administered field sobriety tests, which indicated that the subject was under the influence.

The subject refused a preliminary breath test and was arrested under the suspicion of operating under the influence. The subject submitted to a breath test at New River Valley Regional Jail and was found to have a BAC of .10.

Appropriate charges were placed.

Now is the time to be on the water! Virginia has some incredible fisheries and waterways worth exploring or relaxing on. However, it's important to remember that boating safety should always come first. We recently spoke with Sgt. Tyler Bumgarner, a 16-year veteran of Virginia's Conservation Police force, to learn about some of the most common boating violations and what can be done to avoid them.

Safety device violations

"This is something that we've been seeing a lot more of, especially with paddlecraft. You have to have a Personal Flotation Device (PFD), or lifejacket, readily available," said Bumgarner.

According to the Virginia DWR required equipment list, there must be one wearable U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jacket for each person on the boat. This includes paddlecraft (canoes, kayaks, and stand-up paddleboards). Boats 16 feet and greater also require throwable flotation devices aboard.

"We would really prefer that people wear their life jacket at all times, but it's not required," Bumgarner explained. "It is mandatory to have a serviceable life jacket for every person aboard. This is especially important with children, and you need to make sure their safety device fits and is in serviceable condition."

Visual distress signals

Another common violation is a lack of visual distress signals. According to the boating regulations, all power boats 16 feet or greater in length shall be equipped with visual distress signaling devices at all times when operating on coastal waters. This regulation applies to all coastal waters and those rivers two miles or more wide at the mouth and up to the first point the river narrows to less than two miles.

The types and amounts of signals you may be required to carry will vary depending on your vessel. You can always get the exact information you need in DWR's Fishing and Boating regulations and on the DWR website.

"We see a lot of people that have visual distress signals that are no longer in serviceable condition," said Bumgarner. "Maybe you left them in your boat and they got wet, or they're just very old. We recommend that people inspect them at the start of every season to make sure they are in good condition."

Navigation lights

Another very common violation is a lack of navigation lights, according to Bumgarner. With summer fishing heating up, this becomes especially important for those early morning trips or when you are planning to stay out past dark.

According to DWR's Boating regulations, recreational boats, while underway, are required to display navigation lights between sunset and sunrise and during periods of restricted visibility.

The boating regulations also explain proper positioning and when and how the lights should be used in greater detail.

"A lot of times when people don't have navigation lights it's because they didn't check them before going out," said Bumgarner. "In some cases, the lights may not be functional and weren't tested before going out. Or, if people are using detachable lights, they forgot to pack them before their trip."

Advice from a CPO

Bumgarner went on to explain that practicing common sense and conducting a safety inspection of your vessel before the season are great ways to help avoid these boating violations. "Make sure that what you have is in good, serviceable condition," he said.

The last piece of advice Bumgarner offered was this: "Always have a float plan. Keep an eye on the weather and do your best to be prepared. If you're unsure, contact your regional CPO. We're here to help."

Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources

High school students fall through utility grate on Virginia Tech campus

BLACKSBURG — On the morning of June 26, high school students with the Washington County Public Schools were touring Virginia Tech's Blacksburg campus.

As the group was looking at Pamplin Hall, 10 students who were standing on a utility grate near the atrium windows fell through the grate.

The students were able to get themselves out. Emergency services arrived on scene and evaluated the students for injuries. Three were transported to a nearby hospital for further assessment as a

precaution. Seven were treated on scene. Additional students on the tour were relocated to nearby Derring Hall and offered services. The group later resumed its tour.

The condition of three students is currently unavailable.

The area where the grate collapsed has been barricaded for further evaluation. Similar locations around the Blacksburg campus are also being evaluated.

Virginia Tech

New members appointed to Virginia Tech Board of Visitors

Gov. Glenn Youngkin recently named three new members to the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors. They are Rosa Atkins of Moseley, Virginia; Ted Hanson of Richmond, Virginia; and Robert Moser Jr., of McLean, Virginia.

In addition, Margaret Ann Smith of Lexington, Virginia, joins as an ex officio member of the board for a one-year term in her role as president of the board of directors for the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumers Services.

Atkins, a graduate of the Virginia Tech School of Education's doctoral program in Educational Leadership, is serving as interim superintendent of schools in Northampton County, North Carolina. She retired as superintendent of Charlottesville City Schools in May 2021. Atkins also worked for the Virginia Department of Education in several roles. She has been an active member of many organizations, including the Virginia Association of Schools Superintendents, Women Education Leaders in Virginia, and the State Council for Higher Education in Virginia.

Hanson, chief executive officer of ASGN Inc., earned his bachelor's degree in accounting from Virginia Tech's Pamplin College of Business and his MBA from Virginia Commonwealth University. He actively supports Virginia Tech, including serving on the board for the Pamplin Advisory Council. He is also a founder of the Apex Center for Entrepreneurs. He was inducted into the Greater Richmond Business Hall of Fame in 2023.

Moser, chief executive officer of Clark Construction, earned his bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Virginia Tech. He has been an active alumnus, serving as a member

of the Virginia Tech Alumni Board, the Virginia Tech Foundation Board, Hokies for Higher Education, the German Club Foundation, the Student Affairs Alumni Advisory Board, and in other capacities. As a student, Moser served as the undergraduate student representative to the Board of Visitors.

The newly appointed board members replace Anna James and Letitia A. Long, who concluded their terms on June 30, and David Calhoun, who resigned from the board earlier this month.

Smith, owner of Southlex Cattle Co., earned dual bachelor's degrees from Kansas State University in agricultural economics and animal sciences and industry with academic emphasis in finance, accounting, and business administration. In addition to her commercial cattle work, she is actively involved in her family's sixth-generation farming operation, Smith Farms of Rockbridge, a beef cattle, hay, and grain operation. She replaces Donald Horsley, the outgoing president of Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumers Services and a Virginia Tech alum who is a member of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Hall of Fame.

"We are proud to welcome these accomplished alumni and a distinguished representative of our agricultural community to the Board as we continue to advance Virginia Tech's network of innovation and impact," said Virginia Tech President Tim Sands. "We appreciate their commitment to our university and the commonwealth and look forward to working with them to support our students, faculty, and research community."

Virginia Tech

Governor announces appointments to the Radford University Board of Visitors

RADFORD - Gov. Glenn Youngkin announced the appointment of two new members and the reappointment of one member to the Radford University Board of Visitors, who will each serve a four-year term beginning on July 1, 2025.

Radford University's newest board members are Mary Anne Holbrook '02, M.S. '04, of Bristol, Virginia and Anthony Moore of Richmond. Gov. Youngkin reappointed Tyler W. Lester '15 of Abingdon.

Holbrook is vice president of development for EO, a Virginia-based non-profit with a mission to research, pilot and scale big ideas into solutions that increase the quality of life. Prior to joining EO, Holbrook spent eight years with the United Way of Southwest Virginia. She is a member of the Workforce Development Board of the Virginia Career Works New River/Mount Rogers Region and a member of the Board of Contractors in Virginia's Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation. Holbrook received her bachelor's and master's degrees in English from Radford University.

Moore is retired as president of Amoor Environmental Services in Richmond, which develops efficient and effective environmental solutions to meet corporate environmental goals. Moore previously held positions within the Virginia Department of Natural Resources, serving as deputy secretary of natural resources, Chesapeake Bay Restoration, and as assistant secretary of natural resources. He also served as a senior policy advisor with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Moore received a bachelor's degree in chemistry from Virginia Military Institute and previously served on the Radford University Board of Visitors from 2001 to 2005.

Lester serves as the legislative director for Virginia Sen. Todd Pillion and served as his legislative aide while a member of the House of Delegates from 2016 to 2020. Previously, he served as a field representative for U.S. Rep. Morgan Griffith. Lester was appointed by Gov. Youngkin in 2022 to fill an unexpired term. In 2024-25, Lester served as vice rector and in 2023-24, as chair of the Business Affairs and Audit Committee. Lester received his bachelor's degree in political science from Radford University.

"I look forward to welcoming Mary Anne and Anthony to our Board of Visitors, as well as having Tyler return to serve," said President Bret Danilowicz. "Their collective knowledge, experience and expertise will help advance the university's priorities as we embark on a new strategic plan in 2026."

The new Board of Visitors members were appointed to fill the expiring terms of Rector Marquett Smith '85 of Ashburn, Virginia, and Lisa W. Pompa '86 of Virginia Beach, Virginia.

"Radford University's students, faculty and staff have benefited greatly from Marquett's and Lisa's strong leadership on the board," said Danilowicz. "Their devotion to serving their alma mater and commitment to transforming the lives of our students have made an indelible impact on our university and will continue to do so for years to come."

Radford University

Notes from page 10

state (Radford and George Mason) and has also spent time coaching at Mason, VCU and Richmond.

Guensch most recently served as the associate head coach at Missouri State for three seasons, where he helped the Lady Bears compile a 69-31 record and capture the 2025 Missouri Valley regular-season title. In each of his three seasons in Springfield, the Lady Bears reached the postseason, including two WBIT appearances and a trip to the WNIT in 2023. While training the point guards, Guensch guided three athletes to All-MVC selections and a Defensive Player of the Year accolade.

Babcock appointed to NACDA board

The National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics (NACDA) and new NACDA President, Sean Frazier, have appointed Virginia Tech Director of Athletics, Whit Babcock, to an Officer's role where he will serve as Second Vice President

for the 2025-26 academic year. Babcock will work alongside Northern Illinois University's Frazier, First Vice President Pennie Parker of Rollins College, Third Vice President Reagan Rossi of College of Idaho, and Secretary Christina Hundley of Paradise Valley CC. Babcock has served on the NACDA Executive Committee since 2020. He was recognized as NACDA Athletics Director of the Year (ADOY) in 2017-18 and served as NAADD President in 2011-12.

Now in its 61st year, NACDA is the professional and educational Association for more than 24,000 college athletics administrators at more than 2,300 institutions throughout the United States, Canada and Mexico. NACDA manages 19 professional associations and four foundations. In addition to virtual programming, NACDA hosts and/or has a presence at seven major professional development events in-person annually.

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NEWS JOURNAL

FAYETTEVILLE WOODPECKERS VS SALEM RED SOX

JULY 18th 6:35 PM
Faith and Family Night

JULY 19th 6:35 PM
Mutts Gone Nuts

JULY 20th 1:05 PM

CHARLESTON RIVERDOGS VS SALEM RED SOX

JULY 22nd 12:05 PM
Super Splash Day

JULY 23rd 6:35 PM
Wing Wednesday

Radford welcomes Boys State 'citizens' to campus

Every year in June, hundreds of young men from around Virginia gather on the Radford University campus for Virginia Boys State, a program that offers hands-on experiences to cultivate leadership skills and teach participants how the commonwealth's government functions.

During the week of June 15-21, boys participating in the program lived in residence halls on the Radford University campus for the weeklong leadership program offered to rising high school seniors sponsored by various American Legion posts in the commonwealth. The boys are selected for the program based on their academic achievements, leadership ability, civic engagement and citizenship.

This was the 12th year Radford University hosted Boys State. The longstanding partnership between Radford and Boys State acquaints participants with the university's modern facilities, services and amenities, in-demand academic programs and engaging faculty, staff and students.

Throughout the week of Boys State's 81st session, the citizens, as the young men are referred to, had the opportunity to hear from state and local government leaders in the commonwealth. When the boys arrived on campus on Sunday, they were greeted by Radford University President Bret Danilowicz and City of Radford Mayor David Horton. On Tuesday, Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin spoke in a recorded message to the boys gathered in the university's Bondurant Auditorium. Before the video played, the citizens saluted the governor with a rousing ovation. Gov. Youngkin said he wished he could be "back at Radford University to greet all of you in person."

The Boys State program, the governor noted, "is such a credit to the character, work ethic and potential of every one of you," he said, noting the responsibilities and experiences each citizen will encounter throughout the week. "You are better young men because of it."

Speaking to boys, many of whom may be the commonwealth's future leaders, Gov. Youngkin said, "I take great confidence in knowing that each of you will be leading the way, and I can't wait to see the future of Virginia and America that you will help build for all of us."

Following the governor's message, Virginia Attorney General Jason Miyares walked to the stage as the citizens cheered and sang while the Boys State band played.

After being presented with a Boys State medallion, Miyares said he came to Radford to speak to the citizens because they are future leaders.

"You may not think of yourself as a future leader," he said, "but the fact that you're here, on a beautiful summer day, learning about government, learning civics; that separates you from so many of your classmates. So, I'm honored to be speaking to the future leaders of the commonwealth."



PHOTO COURTESY OF RADFORD UNIVERSITY

Participants in the Virginia Boys State program spent a week on the Radford University campus.

Miyares shared his pillars for success – faith, family, friends and "an enormous sense of gratitude," he said – and spoke of his mother fleeing communist Cuba. It was a moving talk, according to citizen Anthony Xu, who in the program's daily newspaper, The Boys State Chronicle, wrote, "I am not afraid to say that I cried during the speech. It struck a chord within me – each point a music note."

In addition to Virginia's governor and attorney general, Boys State participants were treated to a number of speakers and participated in instructional sessions and a variety of topics, including the Virginia General Assembly, political parties in the commonwealth, structure of the Virginia legal system, training of mayors and party chairmen and how to write a bill.

One of the major program highlights of Boys State is teaching the young men, step-by-step, the political process. Throughout the week, they organized into cities and participated in mock legislative sessions, held elections and court proceedings inside the university's moot courtroom in Hemphill Hall.

They also participated in other hands-on activities based on their respective interests, such as journalism, athletics, chorus and band.

The citizens began each day with a 7 a.m. breakfast in Dalton Hall. Some had band and chorus rehearsals before the daily flag-raising at 8:45 a.m. at the Heth lawn flagpoles. The boys attended religious services at 9 a.m. and then scurried about campus for various instructional and legislative sessions at 9:30 a.m. Lunch was at noon and dinner at 5 in Dalton.

The citizens participated in more informational sessions and activities in the afternoons and evenings. Cities held their meetings at 8:45 p.m., and lights were switched off at 11:30 p.m.

Some citizens campaigned throughout the week to run in mock elections for the positions of governor, lieutenant governor and attorney general.

"Over the course of this week, we have learn and grown as a result of the hard work from our counselors, teachers and speakers," citizen David Foster wrote in The Boys State Chronicle. "We have enjoyed the long sleepless nights, extremely tiring days and amazing meals provided by the cafeteria. Thank you all for providing a fun and safe learning experience for everyone."

Chad Osborne for Radford University

Keeping the air conditioning on in extreme heat: Virginia Tech expert shares tips

As sizzling temperatures hit much of the United States, most Americans keep their cool by blasting the air conditioning or sitting in front of electric fans. But with thousands of customers without power from extreme heat-related outages, can the electric grid keep up with the demand?

"Lighting and air conditioning consume more than 50 percent of electrical energy in commercial and residential buildings — but a much higher percentage in the summer months," said Virginia Tech expert Saifur Rahman. He offered ideas for keeping the electricity on during a heat wave.

Reset the thermostat. "Raising the temperature

setting on thermostats — without causing discomfort — can drop the air conditioning load by 10 to 15 percent. During extreme heat events, setting the thermostat to 80 degrees when no one is home can relieve stress on the power grid."

Cut the A/C after dark. "In many parts of Virginia, the nighttime temperature usually drops below 70 degrees even when the daytime highs are in the high 80s. It is much better to open the windows at night than to keep the air conditioner running. One can sleep better in cool, fresh air and save electricity."

Dim the lights. "In commercial buildings, dimming lights in low-usage areas or after hours can reduce

electricity demand by 30 percent."

Choose natural light. "In residential buildings, natural light from windows and skylights provides a much better quality light and saves electricity."

Listen to the power company. "A couple of years ago there was a crisis situation in northern California when the electricity demand was growing very fast on a hot summer weekday afternoon. The local power company asked consumers to cut down on their air conditioner usage, which they did. This avoided a system-wide major power outage."

Virginia Tech

Food City nominees named Top Women in Grocery

Progressive Grocer's Top Women in Grocery initiative recognizes the important role that women play in the food and grocery industry.

Two Food City nominees were named among this year's top winners – Hannah Smith, Director of Front-End Operations and Shannon Finch, Director of Procurement.

"I would like to congratulate Hannah and Shannon on this well-deserved honor which is indicative of all their hard work and achievements. We are extremely proud of our women grocers and the key role they play within

our company, the industry, and the communities we serve," said Steven C. Smith, Food City president and chief executive officer.

Progressive Grocer receives hundreds of nominations from women grocers in all sectors of the industry across the nation. This year's winners were showcased in their June issue and will be recognized in November at their annual awards gala in Orlando, Fla.

Smith oversees front-end operations for the company's 160 retail locations as well as daily operations of their 127 fuel centers and collaborates on hiring and associate

engagement initiatives within each store location. She is passionate about guiding the front-end supervision team, fostering collaboration among departments, and continually exploring ways to enhance customer service efficiency and effectiveness.

Smith recently led an initiative to re-evaluate maintenance contracts for front-end equipment, which resulted in significant annual savings for the company.

In 2024, her team achieved a 10% reduction in cash overages & shortages, along with consumer research results of 99.61% for front-end

checkout and 99.76% for front-end bagging. Mystery Shopper scores of 94.2% for cashier service and 96.3% for bagger/carryout service, with an overall front-end score of 94.1%. She is a member of Food City's Empower Professional Women's Group and recently completed the Cornell NGA Executive Leadership Development Program. Smith sets a great example of how to effectively lead a team in today's diverse and inclusive work environment.

Finch is responsible for procurement strategies and operations for the company's dry grocery, frozen foods, dairy, and food service departments. She also manages recall procedures to ensure product safety and compliance, collaborates with vendor partners, and oversees special orders for non-profit organizations.

In 2024, Finch demonstrated extraordinary leadership and dedication during the aftermath of Hurricane Helene. The hurricane caused significant disruptions to the supply chain, severely affecting many service areas. Despite these challenges, Finch's team worked tirelessly to secure essential



Hannah Smith



Shannon Finch

products, including water, nonperishable foods, personal hygiene items, and cleaning supplies. Their relentless efforts ensured that critical needs were met during this time of crisis, showcasing her exceptional resourcefulness and commitment to delivering superior customer service.

Finch has also been instrumental in drastically improving the company's supply ranking, efficiency, cost reduction, and delivery time scores, as well as their forecasting accuracy and most improved scores, reflecting major improvements in inventory management and demand prediction,

Food City

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