



Radford Community Fest to bring music, food and fun to downtown Radford

Heather Bell
Editor

RADFORD - The annual Radford Community Fest returns Aug. 23 in downtown Radford, with a slate of live musical performances, street performers, vendors and food trucks. The event, a collaboration between Radford University and the City of Radford, is a free community celebration held 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. on East Main Street. "East Main Street will be [filled] with over 100 local vendors, five food trucks, a main stage with live music all day, street performers, community engagement, and the downtown Radford merchants you love are hoping to see you as well," reads an announcement of the event. The Main Stage music schedule includes:

11a.m. - 12 p.m.: Sky Dolphin
12:30 - 2 p.m.: Phat Laces
2:30 - 4 p.m.: Domino Band
4:30 - 6 p.m.: Crawford & Power
First up is Sky Dolphin, which "effortlessly combines aspects of music from 1920 up to 2024," according to a description by Dogtown Roadhouse. "This group is a collaboration between some of Roanoke's finest and most versatile musicians. With a focus on improvisational inspiration. Powerhouse vocals from Charissa Joy will have you singing along, Brian McKee's impeccable percussion playing will have you grooving, and Seph Custer's instrumental versatility will leave you questioning where genres intersect one another." Second on the schedule is Phat Laces. "Inspired by



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF RADFORD COMMUNITY FEST

their mutual love for rap and funk, Phat Laces was created," according to the band's website. "The vision was to form an instrument driven group that could convey the true feel of

hip-hop. The band melds incredible musicianship with dope rhymes, stellar singing, and savory solos. The Laces take you on a

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University offers further details on new governor's school

RADFORD - The Virginia Board of Education recently approved the creation of the New River Valley Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities, marking the first new Governor's School approved in the commonwealth since 2009. The innovative academic-year, half-day program will serve gifted and advanced high school students across Southwest Virginia and will be housed on the campus of Radford University. The New River Valley Governor's School will provide students with access to high-level coursework, creative problem-solving and immersive, interdisciplinary experiences in the arts and humanities. The

regional initiative will serve students in Giles County, Montgomery County, Floyd County, Pulaski County and Radford City Public Schools, offering them the opportunity to engage with college-level resources while remaining enrolled in their home high schools. "This partnership reflects our shared vision of creating transformational educational opportunities for students in our region," said Radford University President Bret Danilowicz. "Radford University is proud to host this program and support the next generation of creative leaders and scholars in Southwest Virginia."

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Free program helps NRV adults achieve GED



PHOTO COURTESY OF LITERACY NRV

(From left back row) Literacy NRV GED students Tim Frank, Nicole Allen, Kisha Jones and (front) Jasmine Herrera earned their high school equivalency certificates.

If you or someone you know is interested in preparing for the GED, Literacy NRV has a free and flexible program to assist adults with learning the skills necessary to pass the high school equivalency exam. Literacy NRV's GED YOUR WAY program offers individualized in-person or online instruction. In-person instruction is provided at convenient locations throughout the New River Valley on days and times that are customized to fit the student's schedule. If an individual prefers online instruction and does not have access to a computer, Literacy NRV offers

a Chromebook loaner program. Program enrollment and testing is confidential and free. To register for Literacy NRV's GED YOUR WAY program, adults should complete a student application, available at www.lvnrv.org/programs and attend a new student orientation to take a reading test. GED YOUR WAY curriculum includes instruction in reading, writing, and math based on a student's strengths and weaknesses. The GED consists of four subject tests. More information about the GED exam is available at www.ged.com.

Literacy NRV, a non-profit organization serving the counties of Floyd, Giles, Montgomery, Pulaski and the city of Radford, is located at 195 West Main Street, Christiansburg and provides educational services at public locations throughout the New River Valley. For more information, please visit www.lvnrv.org or contact Linda Jilk at ljilk@lvnnv.org, call (540) 382-7262, or text (540) 324-9314.

Literacy NRV

Tech happy with Metallica concert results

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Officials at Virginia Tech say this Spring's Metallica concert was successful for everyone involved. Mark Owczarski, the Associate Vice President of Marketing and Communications, spoke on the issue this past week. After the field was replaced, the university made about just a bit over \$1 million. Owczarski said yes, overall, the event went well. "It was new territory for us and given all the 'firsts' involved and the fact we started with an event with many parts to it, we were pleased with

the outcome," he said. The replacement of the football stadium's turf was a big part of preparing for a concert that sat almost at the 50-yard line. "Because of the requirements of the stage, the field was replaced per the contract of the event," Owczarski said. The crowd was estimated at 75,000 people paying \$50 to \$200 for individual tickets. Metallica kept money from a percentage of the tickets and merchandise sold, while the school received funds from concessions, parking and percentage of ticket costs. A big part of the concert also included partnering with the band



PHOTO COURTESY OF VIRGINIA TECH

Metallica performs in Lane Stadium at Virginia Tech May 7, 2025.

on souvenirs and t-shirt sales. The university's licensing and trademarks team earned the 2025 Collegiate Licensing Company Best Product Partnership Award for its co-branded work with

Metallica, celebrating a creative collaboration that fused a Hokie tradition with heavy metal energy. The award recognized the impact of a unique lineup

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VDOT urges motorists to concentrate on driving around schools and school buses

Be patient and attentive to keep students safe as they return to school

School starts today, Wednesday, Aug. 13 for Radford City Public Schools students, and with more than one million Virginia students headed back to school this month, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) is calling on everyone to be cautious around school buses and in school zones to keep all road users safe and avoid costly fines and tickets. Students will be commuting to school on foot, by bicycle, by school bus, or by private vehicles. School buses are the safest way for students to get to and from school, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. However, when walking to and from the bus and while buses are loading and unloading students, they become vulnerable to injury. It is important for motorists to be patient and attentive around school buses and in school zones. Children are smaller and harder for motorists to see. In Virginia, it is illegal to pass a stopped school bus with flashing red lights and an extended stop sign. This means the bus is picking up or dropping off students. All motorists must stop, whether they are approaching from the front in an opposite lane or overtaking it from the rear. Motorists are not required to stop if a school bus is on the opposite side of a median or barrier, but drivers should be prepared for students exiting the school bus and crossing into their lanes. Additionally, some local governments are placing safety cameras to monitor speed in school zones. The cameras — not installed by VDOT — are intended to slow down drivers in school zones during certain hours of the day, and violators can be subject

to fines. Here are some tips for drivers: School buses make frequent stops, so be patient, slow down, and be prepared to stop. Yellow lights mean the bus is going to stop, so slow down. Remain stopped when lights are flashing red. Look for students at bus stops and those walking to and from bus stops. Stay alert for students arriving late for the bus as they may dart into the street without looking for traffic. Watch carefully for students in the morning and afternoon, especially when in the vicinity of school buildings. Don't drive distracted. Never use electronic devices while driving and be sure to actively focus on the road and your surroundings. It is also important for parents and guardians to encourage safety. Here are some tips to go over: Get to the bus stop early. Aim to get to the bus stop at least five minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive so you aren't rushing. While waiting for the bus, maintain a safe distance from the street. Take at least five giant steps back from the curb. Use sidewalks when possible. If there is no sidewalk, walk on the left side of the street facing traffic. Cross the street at intersections or marked crosswalks. Look left, right and left again before proceeding. Always obey crossing guards and pedestrian signals. Look for traffic when stepping off a bus to ensure no cars are coming. When walking, keep your eyes on the road and ears listening for traffic. Reduce looking at and volume of electronic devices.

VDOT

UPCOMING EVENTS

Now through Saturday, Aug. 16:

Blacksburg Community Center closed

The Blacksburg Community Center will be closed for annual maintenance work through Saturday, Aug. 16, and will reopen Sunday, Aug. 17. During this closure, the Fitness Center will be open and accessible from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. For more information, please call 540.443.1140.

Wednesday, Aug. 13:

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, at Market Square Park, 7- 9 p.m. This week's performers are The McKenzies, (Woody and Marcia) multi-instrumentalists who enjoy playing a wide variety of music, from traditional Appalachian to Celtic, Swing, and original songs. They have led old-time music jams and sing-alongs for many years, encouraging players of all levels to join in, and even suggest tunes. Joined by Rusty May (of No Strings Attached fame) on bass for an evening of old-time Appalachian music:

Thursday, Aug. 14:

Christiansburg Farmers Market

The Christiansburg Farmers Market is located at Christiansburg Huckleberry Park. The market features local farmers and vendors each Thursday. Seasonal produce, plants, fresh baked goods, crafts, fresh flowers, and handmade jewelry are some of the items available for purchase. Items for purchase vary week-to-week. Check the Facebook page for details about weekly themes, prizes, vendors, and live music. The Farmers Market will run May 15 – Oct. 30, 3-7 p.m.

Blacksburg subdivision ordinance amendments public meeting

The Town of Blacksburg is in the process of amending the subdivision ordinance to address feedback received from stakeholders and recent legislation passed by the Virginia General Assembly. A public meeting will be held tomorrow, Thursday, Aug. 14 at 5:30 p.m. at the Blacksburg Motor Company. Town staff will present an overview of the subdivision and zoning ordinance changes. Following the presentation, questions and comments from the public are welcome. Notes from the public input meeting will be provided to the planning commission and town council.

Thursday, Aug. 14 and Friday, Aug. 15:

Huckleberry Trail closure

Beginning Thursday, Aug. 14 at 8 a.m., a portion of the Huckleberry Trail will be closed between Hightop Road and just north of Warm Hearth Drive. A tree removal contractor will be working to clear overgrowth and encroaching trees from the trail easement. This work is in preparation for the upcoming trail widening

work. This clearing work, in advance of trail widening, is expected to take two days and will be complete by Friday, Aug. 15, by 5 p.m. The trail will be reopened nightly by 5 p.m. Once the clearing work is complete, the trail will be reopened for use until trail widening work begins Sept. 8.

Saturday Aug. 16:

New River Community Fellowship Day

At New River School Yard Park, Harry L. Brown Road- New River, Va., 1- 4 p.m. Games, fun, activities and free food and fellowship. Everyone is welcome. Sponsored by The Mariah Mitchell Home Mission and Education Circle, First Missionary Baptist Church, Rev. Montie E. Brown, Sr. – Pastor.

Blacksburg Farmers Market

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.

Thursday, Aug. 21:

Sons of Confederate Veterans meeting

The Sons of Confederate Veterans, Stuart Horse Artillery Camp 1784 will meet at 7 p.m. at the NRV Superbowl, 375 Arbor Drive, NE in Christiansburg. Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) are also invited to attend. For further information, please call 540-320-4315 or 540-239-9864. * The date of this event was incorrectly listed in the Aug. 6 edition. This is the correct date.

Radford Photo Club meeting

The Radford Photo Club will meet at 6 p.m. at the Radford Public Library. The agenda includes discussion of participation in a coming show.

Blacksburg Mayoral Candidate Forum

Sponsored by the NAACP Montgomery Co-Radford City-Floyd Co. Branch (NAACP MRF) and the League of Women Voters, featuring candidates Peter Macedo and Michael D. Sutphin at the Blacksburg Municipal Building starting at 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, Aug. 23:

Rotary Club of Blacksburg yard sale

The annual August Yard Sale will be held 7-11 a.m. at the Blacksburg YMCA parking lot on North Main St. Featured will be a wide range of items including furniture, bikes, toys, vinyl records, books, household items, kitchen appliances, tools, and so much more. Proceeds go to local projects as well as scholarships for high school seniors in Montgomery County. We look forward to seeing you there!

Sunday, Aug. 24:

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.

Monday, Aug. 25:

Montgomery County Board of Supervisors meeting

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

Tuesday, Aug. 26:

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.

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.

Thursday, Aug. 28:

Blacksburg Town Council Candidate Forum

Sponsored by the NAACP Montgomery Co-Radford City-Floyd Co. Branch (NAACP MRF) and the League of Women Voters, featuring candidates Susan G. Anderson, Darryl R. Campbell, Lauren M. Colliver, Joel L. Goodhart and James D. Harder vying for three open seats, at the Blacksburg Municipal Building starting at 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 6:

Fall Music Festival

The Pilot Community Center is hosting a fall music festival, 3 – 6 p.m. Musical guests include Russell and Tracy Brewster, The Kipps Family, Jean Keith and more. Food will be available, and tickets will be on sale for the annual gun raffle. The event will also include a plaque unveiling to celebrate the community center's addition to the State and National Registers of Historic Places. Come and join in the fun! The Pilot Community Center is located at 4449 Brush Creek Road Pilot Virginia. For more information, call 540-382-8741.

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.

Governor’s

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The Governor's School will offer a rigorous and immersive curriculum that allows students to earn up to 30 university credits, potentially achieving sophomore status upon entering Radford University or other Virginia colleges and universities. By integrating university coursework with specialized instruction in the arts and humanities, the program ensures students gain both practical and theoretical expertise in their fields of interest.

A distinctive element of the Governor's School is its partnership with local arts and humanities businesses and nonprofit organizations. These collaborations will provide students with hands-on learning experiences, mentorship opportunities and exposure to real-world applications of their studies, building pathways to meaningful careers in creative industries across the region.

The program will emphasize interdisciplinary collaboration, engaging students in projects that connect the arts, humanities, and other academic disciplines while maintaining a strong career focus. Students will also benefit from field experiences at museums, galleries, performance venues and historical sites that enhance classroom learning.

Radford University will play an active role in the school's success by offering faculty collaboration, access to facilities and ongoing programmatic support. This joint effort reflects a strong commitment to advancing gifted education and expanding academic opportunity in rural

Virginia.

"The approval of the application to establish the New River Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities is an incredible milestone for education in our region," said Superintendent of Pulaski County Public Schools Robert Graham, who served as the administrative contact for school divisions. "This is a tremendous opportunity for students across the New River Valley to pursue advanced studies in the arts and humanities, and we are thrilled that it will be housed on the beautiful campus of Radford University. The partnership with Radford brings access to outstanding resources, faculty and inspiration that will help shape the next generation of creative and critical thinkers. We couldn't be more excited about what this means for our students and our community."

The school is scheduled to open its doors as early as fall 2026, pending final implementation and funding steps. It is anticipated to begin with up to 110 students total in grades 10, 11 and 12, with room to grow over time.

The New River Valley Governor's School is the result of several years of collaborative planning among school division leaders, faculty experts and higher education partners. It reflects a shared commitment to access and excellence, ensuring that students from rural Southwest Virginia can benefit from advanced educational opportunities.

Radford University

Students, officials celebrate progress on high school make over

Abby Whitt

Contributing writer

CHRISTIANSBURG - The ribbon cutting for the new additions and completed renovations at Christiansburg High School was held last week, and the celebration was joined by school board members, town and county officials, students and more.

School Board Chair Linwood Hudson welcomed those gathered on Aug. 5, and he noted that while other renovations will continue into 2026 "this new addition will provide a beautiful, modern and safe space for our students to learn."

"We'd like to give a huge thank you to the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors for their continued investment in our schools and students," he said. "Huge thanks also go to Josh Bower and his team from Crabtree, Rohrbaugh and Associates, everyone at Branch Builds, and all the companies and individuals who've helped bring this dream to life."

Montgomery County Administrator Angela Hill said the CHS renovation project is "the direct result of our local leaders listening to the community and finding a way to address a need."

She said the "massive project speaks to some of the values both the Board of Supervisors and the School Board strive to



PHOTO BY KYMN DAVIDSON-HAMLEY

Local officials cut the ribbon in front of the newly renovated Christiansburg High School in a ceremony held Tuesday, Aug. 5.

demonstrate: collaboration, hard work, and purposeful strategic planning that results in a long-term benefit to our community. We're all looking forward to celebrating with CHS again when the final phase of this worthwhile project has been realized."

Christiansburg Mayor Mike Barber said he is looking forward to seeing the completed project next year.

"I am really impressed with the new design and look of the high school and am so proud of the partnership we have with the school. They are offering a new refreshing look for our students, faculty and staff," Barber said. "I commend the School Board and Board of Supervisors for a cost-effective project and for being able to keep the school in town. Our students are our future, and they have a wonderful environment to learn and grow."

School Board member Penny Franklin of District B, Board Chair April DeMotts of District G, CHS Principal Shane Guynn, student Avi Gandhi (who was also recently appointed to be a student representative to the MCPS School Board) and Josh Bower of Crabtree, Rohrbaugh and Associates also spoke during the official ribbon cutting ceremony.

The renovations were discussed at length during a joint meeting between the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors and School Board at the end of June.

Superintendent Bernard Bragen, whose last day working with MCPS is Aug. 30, showed board members renderings of the renovations and a fly-through video, which showcased the new entrance

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OBITUARIES

Boland, Kim

Kim was born May 24, 1969, and went to be with her Savior, Aug. 4, 2025.

She is survived by her husband, Craig Boland, her parents Richard and Phyllis Aliff, sister and brother-in-law Dawn and Shannon Hall, brother-in-law Lynn (Rita) Boland, nephews Hayden (Abbey) Hall, Mason (Audrey) Hall, great nephew Weldon Hall, and great niece Emory Hall. Along with her family, there are also many cousins, friends, and co-workers at



Gobble Stop who will miss her terribly but will rejoice that she is in her heavenly home. The family thanks

Good Samaritan for their care and support through the last few weeks. Kim loved God, her family, and work. Go rest high on that mountain, Kim, until we are reunited on the streets of Glory!

The family received friends and family Aug. 8, 2025 at McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg, Virginia. The funeral followed at McCoy Funeral Home and concluded at Highland Memory Gardens/ Cemetery in Dublin.

Graham, David Alan

David Alan Graham, 66, passed away Friday, Aug. 8, 2025, at his home in Radford. Born Dec. 10, 1958, he retired from Inland Motors. He was preceded in death by his parents, John and Virginia Graham; and his brother Darrell Graham.

Survivors include his uncles, James (Betty) Boothe and Joe (Mary) Boothe; special cousin, Diane Lynch; and



numerous cousins, other

relatives and friends.

The family will receive friends 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. Friday, Aug. 15, 2025, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. A graveside service will follow at 11 a.m. in Sunrise Burial Park in Radford.

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

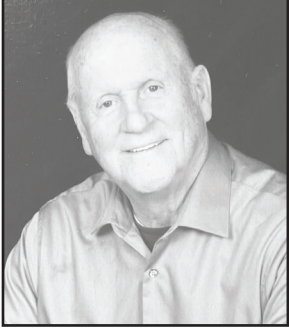
McCraw, William Terry

William Terry McCraw, 87, of Radford, passed away peacefully at home July 31, 2025.

A beloved father, grandfather and friend, Terry or “Turk” as he was known to many, lived a full and meaningful life marked by quiet strength, generosity, and deep devotion to his church, family and community.

Born in Radford July 27, 1938, “Turk” built a life grounded in hard work, integrity, and faith. He was a founding member of the Fairlawn Church of God where he sang with the gospel group the Soul Lifters, played the organ and taught Sunday school for many years.

After a stint in the Navy, he returned to the New River Valley and pursued a career as a real estate investor, broker, auctioneer and appraiser. Over the next 50-plus years he provided real estate and auction services to the New River Valley



via the company he founded, McCraw Real Estate. Turk was an active member of the NRV Real Estate Board serving in a variety of positions.

Those who knew him knew he had a penchant for adrenaline generating activities including having his private pilot’s license and being an avid motorcyclist.

Turk was known for his kind heart, sharp wit, steady guidance, love of nature and storytelling. He was happiest when fishing or hunting, sharing stories, lending a helping hand, or simply

enjoying the comfort of home surrounded by family and friends.

He is survived by his three sons, Ricky J. McCraw (Donna), Terry S. McCraw (Kristi) and Mark A. McCraw; grandchildren, Richard C. McCraw (Alexandra) and Braxton J. McCraw (Lacey); and one great grandchild, Riker T. McCraw, plus a plethora of cousins, nieces, and nephews who will miss him dearly and carry his memory forward with love and gratitude.

He was preceded in death by his wife Connie McCraw, parents (William T. and Mabel McCraw) and three siblings (James McCraw, Patsy McCraw Hamblin and Virginia McCraw Wilson Edmonds).

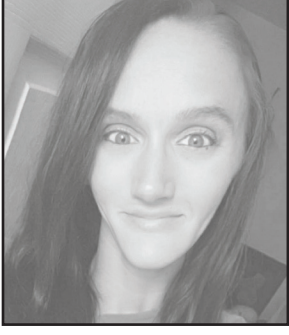
A memorial service will be held at a date and time in the near future.

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

Vaughn, Tiffani Robbyn

Tiffani Robbyn Vaughn, 31, of Radford, passed away unexpectedly Wednesday, July 30, 2025. Born March 8, 1994, she was preceded in death by her father, Donald R. Vaughn; and maternal grandparents, Carl and Arleen Thompson.

Survivors include her children, Caeden J. Finley and Isabella G. Finley; mother, Nancy E. Turner; sisters, Lindsey P. Vaughn and Samantha F. Turner; aunt, Donna (Darrell “Uncle Buck”) Early; uncle, Charlie Thompson;



cousins, Jesse and Angel Thompson; special friend, Austin Springer; great aunts, Barbara Duncan, Betty Ritter, Della (“Boo”) Carroll,

and Sharon Duncan; and many other relatives and friends.

The family will receive friends 4 - 6 p.m. Friday, August 15, 2025, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Interment will follow at a later date at White Rock Cemetery, Floyd, Va.

The family wishes to thank those for their friendship and help given to Tiffani over the years.

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

Stump, Charlie William

Charlie William Stump, 78, of Christiansburg, passed away Tuesday, Aug. 5, 2025. Born March 13, 1947, he was preceded in death by his parents, Riley Junior and Irene Craighead Stump; his sister, Barbara Elmore; and his brother, Joey Stump.

Survivors include his wife of 61 years, Patsy L. Stump; daughter, Lisa Fulcher; son and daughter-in-law, Chad Stump (Rebekah); grandchildren and their spouses, Brandi Fulcher, Levi Fulcher, Caleb



Stump (Sarah), Zachary Stump (Mariya), and Nathaniel Stump (Katie); 6 great grandchildren; brothers and sisters-in-law, Jerry Stump (Hope), Neal Stump, and Ronnie

Stump (Carolyn); sister-in-law, Alice Stump; and many other nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

The family received friends Monday, Aug. 11, 2025, at the New Hope Church of God in Christiansburg. Funeral services followed with Pastor T. Michael Bond and Todd Deboard officiating. Interment followed in Sunset Cemetery in Christiansburg.

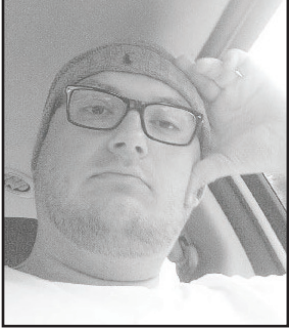
The Stump family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford.

Furrow, Jr., Robert “Tymothy”

Robert “Tymothy” Furrow, Jr., 32, of Radford, passed away unexpectedly Wednesday, July 30, 2025.

Born Aug. 20, 1992, he was employed with Adams Asphalt. Tymothy was preceded in death by his sister, Kristy D. Ratcliff.

Survivors include his mother, Patty Furrow; father, Timmy Furrow (Kacie); grandparents, Robert Furrow and



Peggy Bibb; nephews, Zachary and Zylzer Ratcliff; brother-in-law,

Michael Ratcliff; special friends, Tim, Joey, Dave, Wacky and Travis; and many other aunts, uncles, cousins relatives and friends.

A graveside service was held Friday, Aug. 8, 2025, in Highland Memory Gardens in Dublin with Charles Dowdy officiating.

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

Baker, Vicki

Vicki Baker, 62, of Christiansburg, died Friday, Aug. 1, 2025, at her home. She was preceded in death by her husband, Ron Baker, and her father, Jack Gray.

She was a member of Tree of Life Fellowship and Belmont II Ruritan Club. Vicki worked at the School of Education at Virginia Tech for over 17 years. She enjoyed reading, the beach, gardening in her flowers, music, and dancing. Vicki had a generous heart and smile for everyone she met, and she never let her smile fade no matter what she faced.



She is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Alyce Baker and Matthew Schweighart; mother, Sylvia Gray; brother and sister-in-law, Dean and Karey Gray; and nephew, Zachary Wayne Gray.

The family hosted a drop- in Celebration of Life on Sunday, Aug. 10. The celebration was held inside the South Tower of Lane Stadium in the South Club, with a tribute to Vicki followed by a time for sharing memories.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to the Tree of Life Fellowship, 350 Stafford Dr. Christiansburg, VA 24073; Belmont II Ruritan Club, 725 Atkinson Rd., Christiansburg, VA 24073; or provide snacks to the Blue Ridge Cancer Center for patients.

Johnson, Sally Bishop

Sally Bishop Johnson, 74, passed away Friday, Aug. 8, 2025, at her home in Dublin. Born Nov. 4, 1950, she was preceded in death by her parents, Robert Issac and Sally Tolbert Bishop, and her sister, Billie Sue Cox.

Survivors include her daughter and son-in-law, Tammy Moore (Wayne); grandsons, Logan Moore (Niki), Travis Moore (Justin), and Warren Moore; great-grandchildren, Cason, MaKyna, and Caygen Moore; sisters and brother-in-law, Bea Bishop, and Bobbie Anne Simpkins; beloved fur babies, Patches Anne and Buttercup; and many



other relatives and friends.

Sally was a dedicated member of the Women of the Moose for over 32 years; earning awards for academy of friendship, star recorder and college of regents. She loved spending time with her family, especially her

daughter and son-in-law, while watching her grandchildren and great grandchildren play.

Tammy and Wayne would like to thank Sally’s nurse, Amy Fletcher, Medi Hospice and especially her nurse aide, Adrianna Miller, for the dedicated love and care given to Sally.

A celebration of life will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 16, 2025, at the Bethel Community Church, 1060 Lovely Mt Dr, Radford, VA, 24141, with Rev. Teresa Tolbert officiating.

Sally’s family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford.

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.

Posty is a happy boy with a crooked grin! He is playful, friendly, and curious. He loves treats, too. This good boy would benefit from learning some basic commands to help him live his best life.



Say meow to Little Frances. This kitten is a little shy and can be unsure of being held but given some time, she may warm up. Little Frances can’t wait to find her furever home! Meet her at the Animal Care and Adoption Center.

Makeover

from page 2

to the school, new office space and classrooms, an auxiliary gym, and a cafeteria and library with plenty of natural lighting.

The completed renovations that will welcome students back for the school year include those and more, such as remodeled unisex restrooms with floor-to-ceiling stall doors, signage, hallway furniture and plenty of space to display school accomplishments in display cases for visitors to see.



PHOTO BY KYMN DAVIDSON-HAMLEY

A view of the front of the renovated Christiansburg High School.

View the fly-through of the high school project online at www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZpDfHGfnmT8&t=15s.

Learn more about and stay up-to-date on the progress of the project at www.mcps.org/o/mcps/page/chs-renovation.

Fest

from page 1

ride through the 50 years of hip-hop. Slaying the stylings of The Sugar Hill Gang, Outkast, Biggie, Mac Miller, and much more, they are Mos Def going to get your body movin’. Pop and lock your way down, and shake your groove thang with Phat Laces.”

Third up is Domino, a “high-energy horn band based in Roanoke specializing in classic R&B, soul and old-school funk, according to the band’s website.

“If you enjoy Al Green, Tower of Power, Earth Wind and Fire, Marvin Gaye, Kool and the Gang, and other R&B-influenced artists of the ‘60s, ‘70s, ‘80s, ‘90s and today, you’ll love The Domino Band.”

The music slate’s finale is Crawford & Power, “a dynamic duo hailing from Southwest Virginia, redefining the country music scene with their distinctive sound,” their website describes. “Rooted in southern authenticity, Jake Crawford’s commanding vocals seamlessly blend with Ethan Power’s modern Dobro approach, crafting their own brand of Appalachian Red Dirt Country.”

“Already leaving their mark, Crawford & Power have shared the stage with notable artists like The Marshall Tucker Band, Willie Nelson, Travis Tritt, and more,” it continues. “Their career gained momentum with the release of their debut EP, "Play a Hank Jr. Song," propelling them to over 6 million on-demand streams. Following up, with singles like “She Liked to Get High” & “Letting You Go,” the duo spent 2022/2023 in the studio with Producer Grady Saxman, unveiling their latest EP, "Bring it On Home," as well as multiple singles in 2023.”

Although food truck spaces for Radford Community Fest are now full, local and regional crafters, artisans, community organizations and businesses are invited to purchase a booth. Spaces are 10’X10’. Singles and doubles are available. Limited spaces allow power for an extra charge. Also, anyone interested in volunteering at Community Fest can register at: <https://www.radfordcommunityfest.com/>.

OPINION

Delegate supports keeping Virginia odd-year state and local election cycle intact

I recently traveled to Richmond to fulfill my duties as a member of the Joint Subcommittee to Study the Consolidation and Scheduling of General Elections in Virginia. I was appointed to this new subcommittee by the Speaker of the House, and it includes members of the Virginia House and Senate, the Commissioner of Elections, and citizen members representing local governments and election officials. This subcommittee was created by legislation (HJ 443) passed in the 2025 General Assembly Legislative Session to study whether or not Virginia should change its odd-year state and local election cycle to coincide with the federal even-



Delegate
Jason Ballard

Virginia General Assembly

year election cycle.
Over the course of several months, this subcommittee

will hear testimony from attorneys representing both political parties, election experts, and members of the public as to the pros and cons of what this change would mean for Virginia. From what I have heard so far, I am not convinced that moving the Commonwealth's elections to coincide with the federal election schedule would be a good idea.
Supporters of moving all local and state elections in Virginia to match the even-year federal elections have several motivations. First and foremost, they assert that

See **Ballard**, page 5

Local agencies need to respond to health care changes

The newly passed federal budget bill is expected to have major impacts, including to our health and wallets. For example, last week the Virginia State Corporation Commission (SCC) reported a projected increase of 20.5% in premiums for Affordable Care Act Marketplace coverage. I have seen other estimates of increases up to 75%. Wow. The SCC further projects that the increased cost will price out about 135,000 Virginians from this insurance. Without health insurance, minor ailments are more likely to be tolerated, even if the consequences impact both health

Gary Silverman

Columnist

and the economy (e.g. not having access to medication

to control blood pressure). Reducing prevention leads to a less healthy population, and to greater medical expenses for everyone. Hospitals will still be required to treat serious medical conditions (including those that could have easily been treated while minor!) The greater demand for unreimbursed care on hospitals simply means that some will either need to shut down (if they are no longer financially viable), or if they will

See **Silverman**, page 5

It all starts here: My column about life in the New River Valley

The editor of the News Messenger asked me to write a monthly column on people and activities in the New River Valley (NRV). I thought that might be interesting, as I am an old man (80), retired schoolteacher and widower, with few friends. Television has just so much appeal, particularly out of the football season (Go Hokies!). So, I think I will try and write a monthly column.
Hopefully, I will write something that readers are interested in, with a little humor, might be a little off the wall at times, but that is half the fun.
If you know someone who has a topic for a column that will create some interest, have them e-mail me. The beauty of email I can use if I want or discard it. That would include comments about me. Hopefully, on occasion something nice will come out. Good or bad, I might put it in my column. So,



Steve Huppert

Columnist

Hupps440@aol.com

you could get some press with just writing a couple sentences.
You might have seen some of my stuff in one of the papers. I was on the Christiansburg Town Council for 16 years, so this is not the first time I have had something to say. I have been writing letters to the editor for many of the fifty years I have lived in Christiansburg. I graduated from Virginia Tech (MSEd), so I am New River Valley through and through.
I don't know if anyone has read any of my comments in the past, but it makes me feel better putting something on paper.
The two big topics I have been writing about recently are gun control and direct or indirect comments concerning Mr. Trump.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

Regarding <https://montcova.com/2025/07/15/delegate-details-changes-to-medicaid-in-virginia/>
Medicare cuts by the Trump administration to pay for a trillion-dollar tax cut for millionaires will affect over 300,000 poor Virginians adversely but GOP candidates like Jason Ballard are praising the policy and falsely claiming that fewer people would lose healthcare coverage as a result of the cuts. Ballard is out of touch with public health needs and that is part of the reasons why I am running against him to give District 42 a compassionate leadership.
Ballard was among the 19 Republican Party Delegates who voted to give parental rights to convicted rapists against the physical

and psychological health of the rape survivor but 30 Republicans joined the 51 Democratic Party Delegates to pass the Bill and deny the out of touch opposition of Jason Ballard. That is why I am running against Ballard to help to protect women's rights as human rights in Virginia.
Delegate Jason Ballard (R), representing District 42 in the Virginia House of Delegates, was the only delegate present but not voting in the 97-0 vote to approve the Bill sponsored by the first African American Speaker of the House, Don Scott, to appoint lawyers on the committee for alcohol safety in Virginia. Ballard does not get the need for public safety.
Jason Ballard may have refused to vote for the public safety Bill because he has a conflict of interest. He was the sponsor of another

Bill that did not pass, proposing to exempt from licensure adults who produce up to 50 gallons of moonshine alcoholic spirits or 100 gallons if there are two adults in the household for their own personal use. He also advertises his law firm as specializing in 'fighting against Driving Under the Influence laws.' If Jason Ballard's special interests make him an opponent of public health and safety, he is not fit to represent District 42 in the General Assembly. That is why I am running against him to offer the voters a clear choice.

*Yours truly,
Dr. Biko Agozino, Professor of Sociology and the Democratic Party Nominee for the Virginia House of Delegates, District 42
Christiansburg*

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

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Midway between east and southeast
4. Sun up in New York
7. Japanese honorific
8. Czech name for Prague
10. Ochocinco's first name
12. Steep cliffs (Hawaiian)
13. Scots word for "home"
14. Upper class young woman (abbr.)
16. Monetary unit of Albania
17. Raise
19. Drain of resources
20. Uncultured, clumsy persons
21. Hikers use them
25. Retrospective analysis (military)
26. Tibetan form of chanting
27. Influential European statesman

29. Soluble ribonucleic acid
30. Monetary unit of Romania
31. Round green vegetable
32. Well acquainted with
39. Ribosomal ribonucleic acid
41. Basics
42. "The Godfather" actress Keaton
43. Snake-like fish
44. Tall deciduous tree
45. Russian river
46. Long Balkans river
48. Ancient Greek coin
49. Senegal's capital
50. Unwell
51. Snout
52. Low bank or reef of coral

CLUES DOWN

1. Abstain from
2. Vast desert in North Africa
3. Cover the crown of a tooth
4. A major division of geological time
5. Urban center
6. Crook
8. Parts per billion (abbr.)
9. Questions
11. A pack of 52 playing cards
14. Recording of sound
15. Pithy saying
18. Atomic #22
19. Soviet Socialist Republic
20. Plant with ridged seedpods

22. Innate
23. Investigative body for Congress (abbr.)
24. Soda receptacle
27. Spanish stew: __ podrida
28. Viet Cong offensive
29. Large body of water
31. Beginning military rank
32. Dissimilar
33. Counteroffensive system (abbr.)
34. Shows who you are
35. Chinese dynasty
36. Type of verse
37. African nation
38. Quite
39. Former Bucks star Michael
40. Showed again
44. Body part
47. Steal

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Touch-a-Truck NRV 10th Anniversary this weekend



the Touch-a-Trade zone will have hands-on activities introducing kids to careers in construction, including building their own bird feeder.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF NRVHBA

The 10th annual Touch-a-Truck will have many construction vehicles, fire trucks, squad cars, bucket trucks and more.

CHRISTIANSBURG - It's time to honk the horns, blare the sirens, and enjoy a day of family fun.

The New River Valley Home Builders Association (NRVHBA) is hosting the 10th Annual Touch-A-Truck NRV Saturday, Aug. 16, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Uptown Christiansburg (782 New River Rd., back parking lot).

Designed to provide a safe, hands-on learning experience, this unique event lets kids explore construction vehicles, fire trucks, squad cars, bucket trucks and more! For families with children who prefer a quieter environment, a horn-and-siren-free zone will be in place from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Kids will stay entertained with plenty of activities hosted by local businesses and nonprofit organizations. Visit the Touch-a-Trade zone to participate in hands-on activities introducing kids to careers in construction, including building their

own bird feeder. Stop by the Dunks for Dollars dunk tank, where familiar faces will be ready to make a splash raising funds for the NRVHBA Grant Program. Local food trucks will also be on site with snacks and cool treats.

Tickets purchased the day of the event are just \$3 per person or \$8 per family (up to four people). Children ages two and under are free. Proceeds from the event benefit the NRVHBA and the Microgrant Fund, which provides resources for elementary and secondary classroom projects that align with careers in the home building and construction trades

Early Bird Tickets are available now. Purchase in advance and save: Get yours for \$2 per person or \$6 per family.

Learn more and get your tickets at: www.touchatrucknrv.com.

NRVHBA

Ballard

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consolidating elections will lead to higher turnout in all races since a greater number of people tend to vote for President, U.S. Senate, and Congressional candidates than those in state and local races. Supporters of this idea have also claimed that since Virginia is one of only a few states that hold elections every year, voters may experience so-called “election fatigue.” As one of the few states that holds odd-year elections, it also means that some races attract more out-of-state campaign donations as well.

I tend to believe that Virginia’s odd-year elections are a good thing, and to this point, I have not seen enough evidence to suggest that they should be changed. First and foremost, nothing is inherently more difficult about voting in odd-year elections that would otherwise prevent someone from voting. Presidential and other federal races may often gain more popular attention and invoke raw emotion, but if anything, that is a bad reason to combine state and local races with elections for those offices. Issues at the state and local level are often much more impactful to a citizen’s daily life, such as policies relating to criminal law, transportation infrastructure, zoning issues, and too many more to count. If Virginia’s odd-year elections were changed to coincide with the federal election schedule, these types of issues could very well fall by the wayside for the nationalized campaign themes we

see today. While everyone should have an opinion on those as well, it could make it more difficult for state and local districts to maintain an identity and have a unique voice in the types of policies they want to see in their communities. I also do not believe that Virginia’s outsized importance as a bellwether due to our election schedule is a bad thing. It hones candidate messaging and gives Virginians a reason to vote every year – to consistently play an active part in America’s democratic process that we cherish.

As mentioned earlier, the joint subcommittee will be hearing more testimony in the weeks and months ahead, and we are mandated to produce a recommendation to the General Assembly no later than the first day of the 2027 Regular Session. I would love to hear your thoughts on this topic, and you may do so by sending me an email at DelJBallard@House.Virginia.Gov.

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



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Student Achievements

Radford resident recipient of Lawrence University's Brackenridge Prize in Physics

APPLETON, Wisc. - David Smith, a physics major from Radford, is the recipient of Lawrence University's J. Bruce Brackenridge Prize in Physics, which recognizes an outstanding junior or senior physics major with a strong academic record and significant potential for future work in physics. Smith is senior with a near perfect record in physics and mathematics courses and has taken (and plans to take) every available course the department offers. He has complemented his class work with off-campus research, and he has demonstrated an excellence that will serve him well as a professional physicist.

Blacksburg student named to Rhodes College's Spring 2025 Honor Roll

MEMPHIS, Tenn. - Quinn Thompson of Blacksburg was named to Rhodes College's Spring 2025 Honor Roll. To qualify for the Honor Roll, a student must be enrolled in at least 16 credits of academic work and achieve a semester grade point average of 3.85 or better.

Blacksburg student named to Dean's List at Saint Michael's College

COLCHESTER, Vt. - Kallan E. Malabad of Blacksburg was named to the Dean's List at Saint Michael's College for the Spring 2025 semester. Students who complete at least 12 credits of classes and achieve a grade point average of at least 3.5 in a particular semester are cited on the Dean's List for that semester.

Local students graduate from William & Mary

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. - The following local students recently graduated from the College of William & Mary: Julie Anderson, Bachelor of Science; Annika Griggs, Bachelor of Science; Samuel Grove, Bachelor of Arts; Maegen Herring, Bachelor of Arts; Helena Huber, Bachelor of Science; Rachel McCarley, Bachelor of Science; and Sophie McGehee, Bachelor of Arts, all of Blacksburg; and Michael Wojdak, Bachelor of Science, of Radford. Founded by royal charter in 1693, William & Mary is the second oldest educational institution in the nation.

Local students named to William & Mary Dean's List

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. - The following residents were recently named to the Dean's List at the College of William & Mary for the spring 2025 semester:

From Blacksburg: Laya Garza, Annika Griggs, Sam Grove, Maegen Herring, Helena Huber, Kyle Klemba, Nora Kuhlman, Megan McCarley, Rachel McCarley, Allie McDonald, Luke Mertes, Annelise Rosmaita, Ella Semtner, Samantha Skinner and Harrison Whitfield. From Radford: AJ Bucy, Lee Cox, Hunter French and Michael Wojdak. In order to achieve Dean's List status, a full-time degree seeking undergraduate student must take at least 12 credit hours and earn a 3.6 Quality Point Average during the semester.

Carson-Newman University recognizes local Dean's List honorees, graduates

JEFFERSON CITY, Tenn. - The following Carson-Newman University student(s) made Dean's List for the Spring 2025 semester: Katey Mathena of Blacksburg and Addie Saunders of Radford. The University awards Dean's List honors to students earning a grade point average of 3.5 to 3.9 while taking 12 or more credit hours. Also, Lori Mitchell, of Blacksburg, graduated as an Educational Specialist.

Shenandoah University announces graduates for 2024-25 academic year

WINCHESTER, Va. - Shenandoah University is pleased to announce that 1,369 graduates earned degrees and/

or certificates during the 2024-25 academic year. This total includes 239 August 2024 graduates, 366 December 2024 graduates, and 764 May 2025 graduates, including Matthew Neal, of Christiansburg, who earned a Bachelor of Music in Music Production and Recording Technology and Alexander Nemer, of Blacksburg, who earned a Master of Science in Athletic Training.

Eastern Mennonite University announces Spring 2025 Dean's List

HARRISONBURG, Va. - Eastern Mennonite University congratulates the Spring 2025 Dean's List honorees. The Dean's List, compiled at the end of each semester, includes degree-seeking students who achieve a semester GPA of at least 3.75 with no W, I, or F grade for 12 semester hours of standard grades. Local students include Luke Buckwalter, a Digital Media, Photography, and Design major, of Christiansburg; Noah Buckwalter, an Environmental Science, Biology major, of Christiansburg; Laney Cline, a Business Administration major, of Radford; and Nate Lehman, an Environmental Science major, of Blacksburg.

Kentucky Wesleyan College announces graduates

OWENSBORO, Ky. - Kentucky Wesleyan College awarded bachelor's degrees and associate of science degrees at the 157th Commencement on May 3, 2025, including to Bailey Lind, of Radford, Cum Laude, Graphic Design.

Blacksburg student named to the dean's list at Tufts University

MEDFORD, Mass. - Jack Nussbaum, Class of 2027 of Blacksburg, was named to the dean's list at Tufts University for the spring 2025 semester. Dean's list honors at Tufts University require a semester grade point average of 3.4 or greater.

Christiansburg student graduates from UA Little Rock

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. - Slyn McCminn, of Christiansburg, has graduated from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock during the Spring 2025 semester. McCminn graduated with a MS in Information Science, Graduate Certificate in National Cybersecurity Teaching Academy and Graduate Certificate in Data Science.

Local Shenandoah University student-athletes earn ODAC All-Academic honors

WINCHESTER, Va. - Shenandoah University set another school record during the 2024-25 academic year with 358 student-athletes garnering Old Dominion Athletic Conference All-Academic Team honors. This year marked the second straight that Shenandoah has had over 300 honorees, and this year's total is 29 more than SU had in 2023-24. Honorees include Madison Bruce, of Elliston, and Xavier Ramsey, of Christiansburg. The Hornets trailed only Washington and Lee (539) in total ODAC All-Academic honorees and was one of three schools to eclipse 300 (Lynchburg had 341). In all, the ODAC had 3,364 honorees and topped 3,000 for the second straight year. Eligibility for the ODAC All-Academic Team is open to any student-athlete who competes in a conference-sponsored sport, regardless of academic class. Prospective honorees must achieve at least a 3.25 grade point average for the academic year to be considered for ODAC All-Academic Team recognition.

Georgia Tech Spring 2025 graduates announced

ATLANTA - The Georgia Institute of Technology presented degrees to 6,660 undergraduate and graduate students during the Institute's 268th Commencement exercises May 1 - 3, 2025, at McCamish Pavilion (Ph.D. and bachelor's) and Bobby Dodd Stadium (master's), including Daniel Cox and Jing Huang of Blacksburg.

Silverman

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from somewhere else (e.g. increase their rates.) We also should expect more cases of flu, greater potential for our children getting measles (and adults too!), and other transmittable diseases (including Covid) hurting our population and our economy. Prevention – which typically depends on health insurance – is simply much cheaper than treating illness. Yet, our new health insurance policies will be working in the wrong direction.

For many on Medicaid, the situation appears dire. Best estimates are that about 630,000 Virginians will lose coverage, with the removal of coverage scheduled to begin in October 2026 (no real reason has been given for the delay of more than one year, although regularly discussed is that it is being done to minimize the negative response to this loss of Medicaid on the 2026 elections.) Many people are expected to lose coverage simply because the paperwork and reporting requirements will be increasing substantially. It's somewhat ironic that even as Virginia adopts the use of AI to streamline government, the new Medicaid requirements will add so much paperwork that eligible people will not be able to negotiate through the bureaucracy.

Local services can help respond to

these changes, although, of course, they would require resources to add services to their ongoing responsibilities. For example, help should be vital in enabling people still eligible for Medicaid to navigate through the paperwork process. Locally, such help could come from government social service agencies or health departments, or community organizations such as churches, schools or a variety of citizen groups. More difficult may be responding to a decrease in health in our communities. Will more sick kids be in our schools – or will more sick kids be home alone as their parents need to work? These are real issues, and preventing these situations has been an important contribution of Medicaid. Our community needs to move forward aggressively to counter these losses to the medical system – which of course requires both time and money. Will local and state governments rise to successfully meet this new challenge? We have time before these changes to our health system take effect. Let's hope this time is used effectively in generating responses that keep our communities healthy. It would be great to hear from our local politicians and candidates about their ideas for helping our community meet these new challenges.

Montgomery Museum to host street festival celebrating heritage and community

Experience living history during the 2025 Heritage Day Festival

Celebrate the region’s history and culture by taking a journey back in time at the Heritage Day Festival, hosted by the Montgomery Museum of Art & History Aug. 23, 2025, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., in downtown Christiansburg.

The event will be located along Main and Pepper streets and includes live traditional music, dozens of local vendors, historical demonstrators, a variety of food trucks and fun children’s activities. Visitors can enjoy local musicians playing at the Main Street stage or at the 300 S. Pepper St. gazebo. Music performers include Willard Gayheart and Ricky Cox, Virginia Hollow, Ash Devine, American Roots, MJAM, Kathie and John Hollandsworth, Mac Traynham and Mike Mitchell.

Presentations by local luthiers will include Mike Mears, a craftsman of guitars, violins, ukuleles, and banjos at 11 a.m. and Kathie and John Hollandsworth who will be presenting the process of creating autoharps at 1 p.m. Concurrent with Heritage Day, the Montgomery Museum will feature a new exhibit beginning in August honoring the contributions of Appalachian luthiers and their music.

The work of these master craftspeople will be displayed in the museum.

While enjoying the exhibit and presentations, visitors can also participate in the silent auction, held in the museum lobby. As a special Heritage Day offer, the Montgomery Museum is also holding a raffle for a chance to win four tickets to the Virginia Tech vs. Louisville home game on Nov. 1. Raffle tickets will be for sale all month online as well as on site during Heritage Day. The drawing for this raffle will be Monday, Sept. 1.

Along with all the festival activities, visitors can also explore the Montgomery Museum Garden at 300 S. Pepper St. and learn about gardening with native plants.

This event is sponsored by Atlantic Union Bank, Floored, Carter Bank & Trust, Burke and Herbert Bank, VT Center for the Arts, Blacksburg Moog, Rice Realty, Pizza Inn, Brown Insurance, Electrical Supply, Inc. and Corning. The music performances, exhibit and instrument presentations are made possible by a grant from Virginia Humanities.

Montgomery Museum of Art & History

Metallica

from page 1

of co-branded products. The collaboration reflects Virginia Tech’s commitment to brand storytelling.

“These awards mark the second consecutive year Virginia Tech has been nationally recognized for its brand licensing work,” said Heather Ducote, senior director of marketing and brand management.” Our team finds unique, innovative ways to tell the university’s brand story through product partnerships.”

The overall concert is something that

Owczarski might consider again in the future.

“We would certainly entertain the request as there are many, many factors that go into a decision like that. Date, act, size of stage / event, coordination with area partners are among the many considerations that would need to be weighed.”

For now, the 2025 date will go down in history as Metallica finally played “Enter Sandman” in person.

Radford University nursing program rated top 10 in Virginia

RADFORD - Nurse.org recently ranked the 10 best nursing schools in the state of Virginia, and slotted Radford University’s program into the ninth spot.

The website’s overview touted the school’s smaller class sizes and in-state tuition as “two huge pluses for students interested in a BSN (Bachelor of Science in Nursing).

“Radford’s nursing program is best for students who want to begin a nursing career right after earning



PHOTO COURTESY OF RADFORD UNIVERSITY

Undergrad Radford University nursing students.

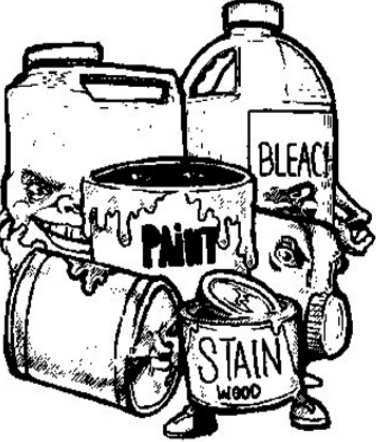
their degree. The high NCLEX (National Council Licensure Examination) pass rate.”

Radford University

NRV Regional Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day

Residents served by the Regional Solid Waste Management

Area residents are invited to participate in the Region’s HHW Event on **Saturday, August 23, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** at the New River Resource Authority, 7100 Cloyd’s Mtn. Road. Dublin, VA 24084



Residents interested in this event should call NRRA at (540) 674-1677 to schedule an appointment.

NO COMMERCIAL WASTE or COMMERCIAL VEHICLES will be accepted

This program is sponsored by
The New River Solid Waste Authority

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: fbcradford.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

I Do Not Understand

Read Leviticus 11:1 through 13:59

God’s Law seems obscure. Reading kosher requirements or cleanliness rules is difficult. Following them must have been even more so.

“I am the Lord who brought you up out of Egypt to be your God; therefore be holy, because I am holy” (Leviticus 11:45).

In the middle of God’s requirements stands this abrupt justification. What God demanded may not appear reasonable. Purification requirements seem tedious. Differences in provisions are not explained. We seek answers and might find solace in some explanations, but questions remain. Why

must relationship with God demand obedience to things not understood?

God knew about health concerns when humans still had no clue. Much of the Law was for the benefit of the body, emotions, and society even when the foundations of infectious disease were not known. But it is not understanding that assures compliance. God deserves obedience. God provided deliverance as an example that God’s holy nature looked to their benefit. It still does!

Challenge for Today: Demonstrate fidelity to God even if you do not understand why.

Quicklook: Leviticus 11:44–47

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

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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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Legals - Montgomery County

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN,

By the Board of Supervisors of the County of Montgomery, Virginia that the Board of Supervisors hereby schedules a public hearing for Monday, August 25, 2025 at 7:15 pm or as soon thereafter, at the Montgomery County Government Center, 755 Roanoke Street, Christiansburg, Virginia to hear citizen comments on the Boards' intent to consider an Ordinance establishing Voter Satellite Offices in the following locations to be used in Montgomery County, Virginia for absentee voting in person for the November 4, 2025 General Election only:
Blacksburg Community Center
Multi-Purpose Room
725 Patrick Henry Drive
Blacksburg, Virginia 24060

Shawsville Middle School Cafeteria
4179 Oldtown Road
Shawsville, Virginia

Auburn High School Cafeteria
1650 Auburn Drive
Riner, Virginia
BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Angela M. Hill
County Administrator

Legals - Montgomery County

Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.

A copy of the applications, the Town's Zoning Map, Zoning Ordinance, and Future Land Use Map may be viewed in the Planning Department Office, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073 during normal office hours of 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contact Retta Jackson, Planning Director, at (540) 382-6128, ext. 1120 or by email at rjackson@christiansburg.org, with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations.

Legals - Montgomery County

2004003613. Tax Map No: 127-12 9 Parcel ID: 100042 Address: 3815 Divine Drive, Christiansburg, VA 24073

SALE WILL BE MADE SUBJECT TO ALL EXISTING EASEMENTS AND RESTRICTIVE COVENANTS AS THE SAME MAY LAWFULLY AFFECT THE REAL ESTATE.
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Legals - Montgomery County

entitled to a \$50 cancellation fee from the Substitute Trustee, but shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. A form copy of the Trustee's memorandum of foreclosure sale and contract to purchase real property is available for viewing at www.bwwsales.com.
Additional terms, if any, to be announced at the sale and the Purchaser may be given the option to execute the contract of sale electronically. This is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. The sale is subject to seller confirmation.
Substitute Trustee: Equity Trustees, LLC, 8100 Three Chopt Road, Suite 240, Richmond, VA 23229.
For more information contact: BWW Law Group, LLC, attorneys for Equity Trustees, LLC, 6003 Executive Blvd, Suite 101, Rockville, MD 20852, 301-961-6555, website: www.bwwsales.com, VA-371165-1.

Legals - City of Radford

electronically. This is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. The sale is subject to seller confirmation.
Substitute Trustee: Equity Trustees, LLC, 8100 Three Chopt Road, Suite 240, Richmond, VA 23229. For more information contact: BWW Law Group, LLC, attorneys for Equity Trustees, LLC, 6003 Executive Blvd, Suite 101, Rockville, MD 20852, 301-961-6555, website: www.bwwsales.com, VA-378295-1.

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Know The Facts

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- Reporting is mandatory with penalties for non-compliance.
- All businesses, legal entities, non-profits, & corporations must report.
- Reporting is an annual requirement, not a one-time task.
- Unclaimed property includes account balances, uncashed checks, deposits, refunds, etc.

May 1st - deadline for insurance companies to file.
Nov. 1st - deadline for most businesses, corporations, etc.

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Legals - Montgomery County

ABC NOTICE

BVM1 LLC., trading as CIRCLE K, 2500 Tyler Road, Montgomery County, Christiansburg, VA 24073.

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

JAY PATEL, OWNER

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

ABC NOTICE

HERO INCORPORATED, trading as BISTRO, 109 N MAIN STREET, BLACKSBURG, VA 24060.

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Retail Restaurant Application - Wine, Beer, Mixed Beverages, Consumed On and Off Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

AMIN MORCOS, OWNER

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



NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE OF IMPROVED REAL ESTATE LOCATED AT: 3815 Divine Drive, Christiansburg, VA 24073

COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY Tax Map# 125-A-29 1 Parcel ID: 004043

IN EXECUTION OF A DEED OF TRUST IN THE ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF \$100,000.00, DATED THE 2nd DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2023, RECORDED IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VIRGINIA, AS INSTRUMENT NO. 2023001099. DEFAULT HAVING OCCURRED IN THE PAYMENT OF THE NOTE SECURED THEREBY, AND AT THE REQUEST OF THE HOLDER OF THE NOTE, THE UNDERSIGNED SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE, WILL OFFER FOR SALE AT PUBLIC AUCTION AT THE ENTRANCE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY, LOCATED AT: 55 EAST MAIN STREET, CHRISTIANSBURG, VA 24073, ON 5th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2025 AT 10:00 A.M., THE REAL ESTATE WITH IMPROVEMENTS THEREON, LYING AND BEING SITUATE IN THE RINER MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT OF THE COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY, STATE OF VIRGINIA AND MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

Parcel 1: BEING all of Lot No. 9 of The Meadows of Fairview Subdivision, as shown on a plat of survey entitled, 'Plat of Subdivision of the Meadows of Fairview, Riner Magisterial District, Montgomery County, Virginia', which said plat is dated April 29, 1992, made by Ralph O. Clements, Land Surveyor of Gay and Keesee, Incorporated, Christiansburg, Virginia, which said plat is recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Montgomery County, Virginia, in Plat Book 23, Page 418; AND BEING the same property conveyed to Thomas J. Rutledge, Jr., et ux, by deed from Hash Investments, L.L.C., a Virginia Limited Liability Company, dated August 21, 2003, recorded in the aforesaid Clerk's Office as Instrument No. 2003015536.

Parcel 2: BEING that certain 0.355 acre parcel from the original Lot 10, all that certain 0.373 acre parcel from the original Lot 11, and all that certain 0.022 acre parcel from the original Lot 12 of The Meadows of Fairview, said parcels being added to the original Lot 9, to become the Revised Lot 9 as shown on the 'Plat of Resubdivision of Lots 9, 10, 11 & 12, The Meadows of Fairview, Riner Magisterial District, Montgomery County, Virginia', which said Plat is dated February 17, 2004, made by Ralph O. Clements, Land Surveyor, of Gay and Keesee, Incorporated, Christiansburg, Virginia, designated Job No. 1 150.4, a copy of which is recorded in the aforesaid Clerk's Office in Plat Book 24, page 220, Instrument No. 2004003383. AND BEING the same property conveyed to Thomas J. Rutledge, Jr., et ux, by deed from Hash Investments, L.L.C., a Virginia Limited Liability Company, dated March 24, 2004, recorded in the aforesaid Clerk's Office as Instrument No.

Order of Publication Commonwealth of Virginia

VA Code §§ 8.01-316, Case No. J0004782-10-00 Radford City J&DR- Juvenile Division

Commonwealth of Virginia, *in re:* MALDONADO, KERON J.

The object of this suit is to: TERMINATE THE RESIDUAL PARENTAL RIGHTS REGARDING THE ABOVE-NAMED CHILD. It is ORDERED that the defendant ANTARIO MADDOX and/or the UNKNOWN FATHER of the above-named child appear at the above-named court located at 619 Second Street, Radford, Virginia 24141, and protect his interests on or before AUG. 26, 2025 AT 9:30 A.M. July 16, 2025

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 1035 CHESTNUT DRIVE, CHRISTIANSBURG, VA 24073.

In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated February 5, 2020, in the original principal amount of \$163,000.00 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Montgomery County, Virginia as Instrument No. 2020000865. The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for Montgomery County, 55 East Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia, or any such temporary alternative Circuit Court location designated by the Judges of the Circuit Court, on September 16, 2025, at 11:00 AM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: ALL THAT CERTAIN LOT OR PARCEL OF LAND, LYING AND BEING SITUATED IN THE SHAWSVILLE MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VIRGINIA, AND FURTHER DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEING ALL OF LOT FOURTEEN (14) ON A MAP OF CRAIG MOUNTAIN, SECTION ONE, PREPARED BY CLEMENTS AND DRAPER, CLS, DATED JANUARY 6, 1971, WHICH SAID MAP, ALONG WITH CERTIFICATE OF CRAIG MOUNTAIN, SECTION ONE SUBDIVISION, APPEARS OF RECORD IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VIRGINIA, IN PLAT BOOK 6, PAGE 77 AND DEED BOOK 311, PAGE 217. TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit of ten percent (10%) of the sale price or ten percent (10%) of the original principal balance of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, in the form of cash or certified funds payable to the Substitute Trustee must be present at the time of the sale. The balance of the purchase price will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Purchaser's deposit may be forfeited to Trustee. Time is of the essence. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser may, if provided by the terms of the Trustee's Memorandum of Foreclosure Sale, be entitled to a \$50 cancellation fee from the Substitute Trustee, but shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. A form copy of the Trustee's memorandum of foreclosure sale and contract to purchase real property is available for viewing at www.bwwsales.com. Additional terms, if any, to be announced at the sale and the Purchaser may be given the option to execute the contract of sale

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RADFORD SPORTS

Eastern Montgomery’s Bruce all-county/all-city player of year, Blacksburg’s Bishop 2025 girls honoree

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Talan Bruce led Eastern Montgomery to this spring’s Class 1 state soccer championship and has been named the all-county/all-city co-player of the year.

Bruce was also named the Class 1 player of the year.

Bruce, a senior forward, capped off a stellar senior season with 40 goals and 16 assists in 21 games while leading the Mustangs to an 18-3-1 record and their first-ever state finals. His dynamic playmaking and leadership earned him First Team All-District, All-Region, and All-State honors, as well as the prestigious Player of the Year award at all three levels—district, region and state.

His 144 career goals are second for the most goals on the VHSL all-time list, and his 65 career assists place him fifth all-time. A first-team all-state selection the past two seasons, Bruce earned second-team honors as a sophomore.

The girls’ soccer player of the year is Blacksburg’s Erin Bishop, who was named Scholar All-American by United Soccer Coaches. She was one of only two players from Virginia.

Bishop finished this past year with 23 goals and 19 assists, being named the River Ridge District Player of the Year, first Team All-Region for 4A Region D and first team All-State for Virginia Group 4A/

Two local coaches are deserving of all-county/all-city honors. Travis Bishop is the all-county/all-city girls’ soccer coach of the year, and Auburn’s Kristopher Teaford is the boys’ soccer coach of the year. Both coaches took their respective teams to the state playoffs this past season.



Talan Bruce (left)



Erin Bishop

FILE PHOTOS

Auburn golf second at Metro Tourney



PHOTO COURTESY OF AUBURN HIGH SCHOOL

Auburn High School finished second in its first golf match of the season at Roanoke Valley Country Club’s Metro Tournament. Auburn finished with a 305 score, eight back of Floyd, but three ahead of Blacksburg. Pictured (left to right) Liam Smith, Cannon Elswick, Matthew Altizer, Cody Fleet, Gaston Wimmer and Coach Jeff Gandee. Smith shot a 73 and Wimmer a 76 over the course.

Pry optimistic as workouts begin

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Virginia Tech’s head football coach is pleased with the effort and the attitude he has seen from his team this offseason.

Now, Brent Pry says he has to build off that. This past week, he met with the media.

"That’s what we’re working on right now, to have the type of preseason camp that we need to have. But the competition level is at an all-time high. I think offense, defense, receivers, DBs, running backs, linebackers, defensive coaches. There’s a ton of energy at practice," he said during this past week’s media day.

"I think some of it is from our new coaches and what they brought to the table, some of these new players and the energy that they bring, but we’re always grounded in fundamentals around here. We’re never gonna lose sight of that, but we’ve embraced some structural changes,

we’re leaning into the new offense, some new things on defense, and I’m excited about we’re at."

"We break this thing down into a series of mini-camps and we’re only completing mini-camp number two today and there’s six of them. So, we’ve got a bunch of work left to do to have a chance to be the team that we can be," he said.

The team is coming off a 6-7 season, that in most cases fell short of the preseason positive vibes. Pry also starts this season with two coordinators, Phillip Montgomery (offense) and Sam Siefkes (defense).

"I’m very pleased with Phil and Sam. And also with [strength and conditioning coach Jarrett Ferguson], those guys have done a tremendous job. It’s not easy to come in new. Both of those guys [Montgomery and Siefkes] came in with some fresh ideas, some structure changes, with a staff that was pretty much already in place. And so, you got to coach the coaches before you even dive into the

players," Pry said.

"They’ve done a tremendous job of that. With the support from Whit, we’ve been able to bring some additional assistance on board on each side of the ball to help us move things forward and to help those guys reinforce some new techniques, some new schemes. So I think it’s going very well. My relationships with those guys, I would hope they’d say it’s really good. It’s a little bit different with Phil and he’s been a head coach before. And so, the conversations can sometimes go [in] a different direction, but then Sam and I both being defensive guys, he’s very accepting of some evaluations and observations that I have."

One of the biggest change going into the fall is amount of transfers on the roster, especially when it comes to the running back room.

"Yeah, I feel really good about the depth and the quality in that room. I think it’s [running backs coach Elijah Brooks] and [offensive coordinator Philip

Montgomery] harnessing that, whether it’s [Marcellous] Hawkins right now, has had a great camp. P.J. Prioleau is back healthy and has already shown us some good things. [Braydon] Bennett has had moments, then obviously, Jeremiah Coney has done some good things. I think, Tyler Mason [too]. It’s as I mentioned last week to somebody, it’s one of the more competitive rooms right now," Pry said.

Montgomery agrees and thinks there are some guys that bring some different aspects and skillsets to the table whether that’s the guy that can do a lot of shake to what he’s got in his weapons.

"We’ve got guys with power, we’ve got guys that are slashers, we have some combo guys in there. All of them have done a good job being able to do things out of the backfield, understanding protections and how they fit within it," he said.

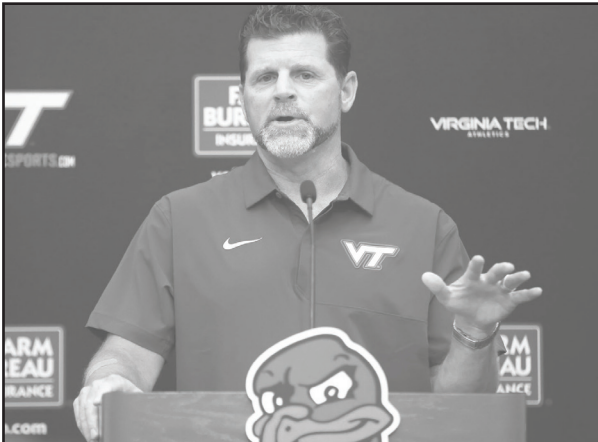
Preseason camp continues into the next week as the countdown is on for that Sept. 1 against South Carolina.



Christiansburg's Carter Stallard takes a break during an early preseason practice with the Hokies.



Former Radford Bobcat P.J. Prioleau blasts through contact during a pass catching drill with the Hokies. Prioleau has been cleared for full participation in practices this fall after sustaining a leg injury last season in Tech's game against Stanford.



PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING

Head coach Brent Pry talks with reporters during Virginia Tech's Media Day.

Local baseball players honored at Salem Red Sox game



The 2025 Auburn High School Class 1 state baseball champions were honored at the Salem Red Sox game on Thursday, August 7. The team sat together with family members and was recognized between innings when the Sox hosted the Kannapolis Cannon Ballers at Salem Memorial Stadium.



Auburn's Jared Lavergne, pictured with Hall of Fame Board Member Art Price, was presented the Kelvin Bowles Scholarship for Love of the Game. Salem's Carter Black received the Posey Oyler Scholarship.



PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

The Salem-Roanoke Baseball Hall of Fame announced the winner of the annual Ray Bellamy Award, which is presented to the high school Player of the Year in the area served by the Hall of Fame. Pictured, left to right, are Red Sox General Manager Allen Lawrence and finalists Brice Abbott of Blacksburg, Zac McGlothlin of Auburn, Lawson Pasley of Franklin County and Tristan Lange of North Cross, who was announced as the winner of the award.

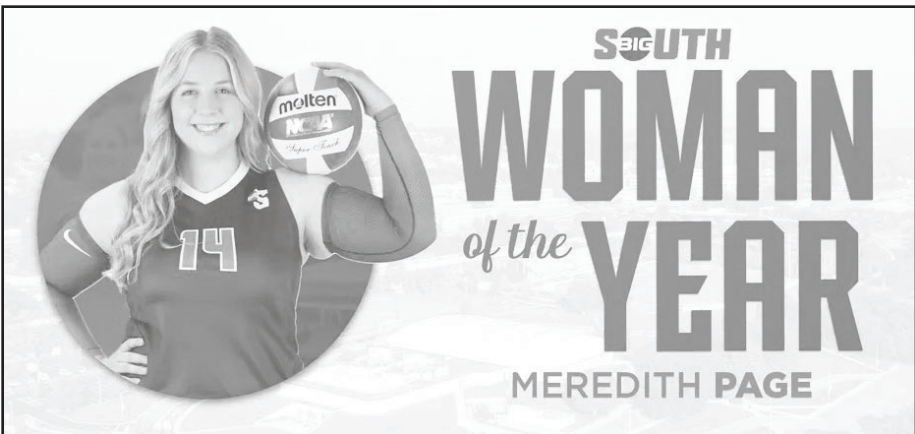


PHOTO COURTESY OF RU ATHLETICS

Former RU volleyball player Meredith Page has been named a co-woman of the year by the Big South Conference.

RU's Page honored by Big South

The Big South Conference has announced recent graduate and volleyball student-athlete Meredith Page has been named co-honoree for the Big South Woman of the Year award. Page, who graduated with a 3.96 GPA in Business Administration and a minor in Leadership was the Chair of the Big South SAAC as well as the league's National representative. While at Radford, she was a Beta Gamma Sigma Honor Society member as well as the National Society of Leadership and Success, served on numerous NCAA Division I Committees, and was a panelist/public speaker for the Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics, Sports Business Journal Forum, NCAA Student Athlete Leadership Forum and NACDA Convention. Throughout her four-year career as a Highlander, Page has used her voice to lead and uplift others. Balancing rigorous academics with national leadership, Page helped build a more focused, transparent and student-centered future in college athletics. The Murfreesboro, Tenn., native was first elected to serve as Radford Student Athlete Advisory Committee's (SAAC's) president in 2022 and held that position all the way through 2025. While at Radford, Page served on the NCAA Division I Council, the Council Coordination Committee, the NCAA Decision-Making Working Group, and was appointed to the NCAA Decision-Making Working Group Transition Committee. In 2024, Page also testified before Congress as a Highlander on behalf of student-athletes across the country. This past January, Page testified before members of the U.S. House of Representatives in Washington, D.C., during the "NIL Playbook: Proposal to Protect Student Athletes' Dealmaking Rights" hearing of the House Innovation, Data and Commerce Subcommittee.

Amid a growing push to professionalize college sports, Page used her time before Congress to send a message – the opportunities afforded to athletes who participate at the mid-major level, and in Olympic or women's sports, must be protected.

"Becoming a student-athlete in 2021

truly changed my life," Page said in her testimony. "I have seen myself grow from an unsure girl to a confident woman with the empowerment of college athletics."

Page becomes the seventh Highlander to earn the Big South's Woman of the Year nod. She is the first Radford Volleyball student-athlete to earn the award and joins fellow distinguished Radford alumnae Saleena Lynch (Women's Soccer, 2023), Sydney Fisher (Softball, 2021), Jessica Wollmann (Women's Soccer, 2019), Chelsea Kelley (Softball, 2011), Hope Creasy (Softball, 2010) and Stephanie Walker (2006). The Big South's Woman of the Year Selection Committee voted Page as a co-honoree with High Point's Esprit Cha. The Committee used criteria of Service and Leadership (including community services, campus activities and leadership positions), Academic Achievement, Athletes Excellence and a Personal Statement from each candidate. As the conference's Woman of the Year, Page will serve as one of the conference's official nominees for the national NCAA Woman of the Year award. Established in 1991, the NCAA Woman of the Year program has recognized graduating female student-athletes for excellence in academics, athletics, community service, and leadership throughout their college careers. The NCAA Woman of the Year Selection Committee, made up of representatives from the NCAA membership, will choose the Top 30 honorees -- 10 from each division -- from the conference-level nominees. The Top 30 honorees will be announced in the fall. The selection committee will then determine the top three honorees in each division from the Top 30, and the nine finalists will be announced in November. From those nine finalists, the NCAA Committee on Women's Athletics will choose the 2025 NCAA Woman of the Year. The honorees will be celebrated at the Woman of the Year Award Ceremony at the NCAA Convention in Nashville in January. The Big South had its first national finalist in 2005 when Big South Hall of Famer Janiva Willis of Winthrop was named one of the 10 finalists.

Radford University Athletics

Sports notes: Blacksburg Girls Soccer honored with sportsmanship award

Marty Gordon

NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Blacksburg High School announces its varsity girls soccer team has been named a recipient of the 2024-25 United Soccer Coaches High School Team Ethics & Sportsmanship Award – Spring Season, recognizing outstanding fair play, sportsmanship, and adherence to the laws of the game throughout the season.

The award is part of United Soccer Coaches' national honors for spring soccer programs across the U.S. and honors seven teams this year who demonstrated exemplary conduct on the field. The prestigious recognition reflects the team's unwavering commitment to ethical behavior and respect—not only toward opponents and officials, but across the entire experience of competition and team culture.

"We're extremely proud of our players and coaches for earning this honor," said head coach Travis Bishop. "Their focus on respect, discipline, and integrity—on and off the field—has been a constant throughout the season."

The United Soccer Coaches Team Ethics & Sportsmanship Award is granted each spring to high school teams demonstrating fair play and minimal disciplinary infractions. Awards are tiered—Platinum (no cards), Gold (1–10%), Silver (11–30%), and Bronze (31–50%)—based on the percentage of court-issued yellow and red cards relative to games played.

Big Dawg back as podcast

Rick Watson and his long-running sports talk show is back as of this week and will now turn to a podcast form.

Tune in to Big Dawg Sports Talk with Rick Watson weekdays from 6-8:30 a.m. live on YouTube and podcasting on Spotify and Apple.

Greene added to RU staff

The Radford University softball program and Head Coach Kevin Fagan announced Thursday morning Addy Greene has joined the program as an assistant coach for the upcoming 2026 season.

The Suffolk, Va. native joins the Highlanders after spending four seasons as a standout student-athlete with Virginia Tech's softball program. Graduating with her degree in human nutrition, foods and exercise in 2024, Greene was an All-American outfielder with the Hokies earning honors such as NFCA First-Team All-American, All-ACC First-Team, All-ACC Tournament Team and VaSID All-State First-Team. Greene was also a standout in the classroom, earning AD honor roll honors in every semester while also being named to the ACC's all-academic squad in 2023 and 2024.

On the stat sheet, Greene finished her career with multiple program top-10 career records. Her .341 batting average, .631 slugging percentage, 33 home runs and 131 runs scored all stand in the program record book. By the end of her collegiate career, Greene accumulated a wealth of postseason experience making appearances in 15 NCAA Regional games and 6 NCAA Super Regional games with the Hokies.

RU golf national award

The 2024-25 Platform Golf Team Academic awards for NCAA Division I were announced recently with the Highlanders' men's golf program among the programs honored with the award. Not just earning the team academic award, the Highlanders also achieved President's Special Recognition for achieving a team GPA over 3.50. A GCAA-record 292 schools across six divisions earned a Platform Golf Team Academic Award. 129 schools received Presidents Special Recognition for having an average team GPA of 3.5 or above.

Allstate NACDA Good Works Team Allstate and the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics (NACDA) announced Tuesday morning 129 student-athlete nominees for the Allstate NACDA Good Works Team which included Radford volleyball student-athlete Sara Johnson. The award nomination, which celebrates a student-athlete's leadership beyond sports, is the second for a Highlander in a program that was expanded to honor both male and female student-athletes from all sports and divisions for their commitment to community service, academic excellence and athletics achievement. During the 2024-25 season, Johnson showcased her leadership in the community by helping organize a blanket drive with Project Linus where the blankets were then distributed to children in need. She currently works with a professor within her department to organize a food pantry (Food for Thought) which will be run by the volleyball program on rotating shifts to make sure that students on campus have a place to grab free food in case there are any going without. Johnson also volunteered in the BACoN (Behavior and Cognivite Neuroscience Lab) and has been there for three semesters working towards her capstone. Working towards her double major in Biology and Psychology, Johnson recently presented in front of the faculty senate at Radford to help propose the addition of a new Clinical Psychology Master's program with licensure. She has been a Dean's list recipient

RU women picked third in Big South

The Big South Conference has announced the preseason players of the year, poll and player watchlist for the upcoming 2025 season which included four Highlanders. Highlighting the preseason honors for Radford University was senior Lilly Short who was named the Preseason Midfielder of the Year. Short, coming off a career-season in 2024, will help lead the Highlanders offense this season. Through three seasons at Radford, Short has appeared in 58 matches and started in 49 scoring 16 goals and 10 assists. 10 of her 16 goals came last season with game-winners against William & Mary and High Point, leading the squad with a career-high 23 points. Short was also named to the preseason player watchlist by the conference office, joined by Paige Olson (forward), Jillian Silverstone (defender) and Lexi Radvanyi (goalkeeper). The Big South's preseason poll, voted on by the conference's coaches, placed the

Highlanders third with 60 total points, 12 ahead of fourth-place Longwood. Reigning tournament champions USC Upstate were voted preseason favorites with five first-place votes, with High Point also collecting four first-place votes. The Highlanders are currently preparing to debut the 2025 season with their next exhibition scheduled for Aug. 10th at home against VMI with a 7 p.m. kickoff. After that, the season begins on the road for Radford when the program visits Charlotte on Aug. 17 with a 7 p.m. start.

2025 Big South preseason women's soccer honors
Preseason Forward of the Year: Dara Russo, USC Upstate
Preseason Midfielder of the Year: Lilly Short, Radford
Preseason Defender of the Year: Catarina Dantas, USC Upstate
Preseason Goalkeeper of the Year: Aubrey McKessy, High Point

Big South

Matt Hagan signs multi-year extension with Tony Stewart Racing



PHOTO COURTESY OF TONY STEWART RACING

BROWNSBURG, Ind. – Tony Stewart Racing (TSR) has announced that Matt Hagan has signed a multi-year extension to continue driving the Dodge//SRT Hellcat Funny Car in the NHRA Mission Foods Drag Racing Series.

A native of Christiansburg, Hagan is a four-time NHRA Funny Car champion (2011, 2014, 2020 and 2023). The cattle rancher has recorded 53 NHRA national event wins in his legendary career and is currently second in the Funny Car championship standings. Hagan first competed in Funny Car back in 2008, running in four events and qualifying No. 1 at the prestigious U.S. Nationals in Indianapolis. Shining in his limited schedule, Hagan earned a fulltime ride in 2009. With his rookie season behind him, Hagan broke out in 2010, winning the NHRA Spring Nationals in Houston to collect the first of his 53 career Funny Car victories. Hagan's Funny Car prowess was a continuation of his straight-line racing form. He was the 2006 rookie of the year in the NHRA AMS Pro Mod Challenge, and as a driver/owner he continued that success in the IHRA's Funny Car division, winning a class-best three races in 2008.

“Being able to extend my contract with Tony Stewart Racing is huge,” said Matt Hagan. “It’s one of the best teams to drive for in the NHRA. Tony (Stewart) is a great boss. I think it’s important to find a good group and lock it down and be able to build upon that. Tony makes sure we have all the parts and pieces to be able to do all we need to. It’s exciting to sign a multi-year contract so we can continue to build on what we have with Dodge. I’ve been with them for close to 20 years and it shows what a great relationship we have with them. We’ve been able to grow their brand and grow my career. I’m excited and humbled about it and looking forward to seeing what the future brings.”

Hagan is currently in his 18th year driving a Dodge//SRT car, with the Dodge brand having a long history of competing in and supporting motorsports. A large portion of their focus has been helping to deliver products like the Dodge Demon, 1320 and Super Stock. In addition, Direct Connection serves as the source for high-performance parts and technical expertise straight from the factory.

“Four-time NHRA World Champion Matt Hagan is the ultimate Dodge Badassador,” said Matt McAlear, Dodge CEO. “Matt has captured all four of his championships and all of his 53 NHRA career victories behind the wheel of a Dodge Funny Car and has helped grow the Dodge and Mopar drag racing program for nearly two decades. With the announcement of his contract extension with our amazing partners at Tony Stewart Racing, we look forward to cheering on Matt in his TSR Direct Connection Dodge//SRT Hellcat Funny Car for many more years to come.”

Johnson’s Horsepowered Garage (JHG) and American Rebel Light Beer will continue to partner with TSR. The Tennessee-based JHG highlights

its world-class car collection on the Dodge//SRT Hellcat Funny Car of four-time champion Matt Hagan. JHG was formed in 2021 and brings a passion and flare to the automotive realm. They aim to inspire, drive and celebrate progress. JHG spans across Jason Johnson's car collection featuring more than 200 sought after vehicles from classics to hot rods and supercars.

“I’m happy to continue partnering with TSR and Matt Hagan,” said Jason Johnson, Owner and President, Johnson’s Horsepowered Garage. “Together, we’ve achieved success on and off the track. The Tony Stewart Racing team has produced excitement in the drag racing world we all love and I’m glad JHG can be a part of it.”

“We came into drag racing with Matt two years ago and have been thrilled with the return on investment; we can’t wait to see what the future holds in 2026 and beyond,” said Andy Ross, CEO, American Rebel Holdings, Inc. “We’re really excited about the direction of our American Rebel Light Beer and the partnership with Matt, Tony and TSR has further validated our brand and opened doors to multiple new markets.”

Hagan will remain with current crew chiefs Mike Knudsen and Phil Shuler. The 2025 season marks the first year as crew chief for Knudsen. He was previously Hagan’s co-crew chief and has been with Hagan since 2013, having made the move to TSR from Don Schumacher Racing (DSR) in 2022. Shuler joined TSR in 2025 and has a notable background in the NHRA, having worked for Maynard Family Racing, for Don Prudhomme, DSR, and Spencer Massey.

“Mike and Phil are amazing,” added Hagan. “They have worked together for a long time and have great chemistry. There’s not a lot of second-guessing each other and they feed off each other. It’s been neat watching them work together. They’ve been putting a great race car underneath us this season. It was awesome to get our first win of the 2025 season in Seattle together.”

Tony Stewart Racing has earned 19 wins since the team’s inception in 2022. Hagan brought home 14 of those victories, as well as TSR’s first Funny Car championship in 2023, which marked the fourth of his career.

“I’m really excited and I think the world of Matt and his team,” said team owner Tony Stewart. “I’m glad to have someone driving for us that feels like a family member at this point, not just a teammate and friend. Signing this extension is great for our program. The relationship that Matt and Leah (Pruett) have with Dodge is very deep. Dodge intended for us to have a long relationship together when we started this team, so we really appreciate their partnership.”

The next event on the 2025 NHRA Mission Foods Drag Racing Series schedule is the Lucas Oil NHRA Nationals, August 14-17 at Brainerd International Raceway in Brainerd, Minnesota.

Tony Stewart Racing (NHRA)

Lady Hokies to face RU this season

Virginia Tech women’s basketball head coach Megan Duffy announced the Hokies’ 2025-2026 nonconference slate Thursday morning. The 12-game schedule includes nine contests on Carilion Clinic Court at Cassell Coliseum, a trip to nearby James Madison and two contests in the U.S. Virgin Islands against Power Four opposition.

The Hokies will begin their season playing host to the first game against Towson since 1990 on Tuesday, Nov. 4, followed by another game in Cassell against Loyola on Sunday, Nov. 9. Three additional contests at home versus Gardner-Webb (Nov. 13), Coastal Carolina (Nov. 15) and Niagara (Nov. 20) will follow, with the games against the Chanticleers and Purple Eagles serving as the first in program history with those clubs. Tech will then travel to nearby James Madison on Nov. 23 for an in-state matchup against the Dukes, who they have not played since a 2019 meeting in the WNIT. It will be the Hokies’ first time playing at Atlantic Union Bank Center in Harrisonburg. The Hokies will close November with a

trip Thanksgiving week to the Paradise Jam in the U.S. Virgin Islands to face Brigham Young on the 27th and will have a second game in the competition on the 29th against either Oregon State or Vanderbilt. In December, Virginia Tech will play Florida at home in the third annual ACC/SEC Challenge on the 4th. In the only other meeting at Cassell in 2013, Tech earned a 71-59 victory over the Gators. Last season, the Hokies defeated Georgia in The Challenge, the only ACC squad to go on the road and win. To conclude the nonconference slate at the end of the fall semester, Virginia Tech will play host to Presbyterian Dec. 10 who they have not played since 2016. The Hokies will then take on ETSU on Dec. 14 on Carilion Clinic Court. In their final matchup of 2025, Tech will battle against their New River Valley neighbor Radford on Dec. 21. The Hokies’ 18-game conference schedule along with television networks and game times will be announced at a later date.

Virginia Tech Athletics

American Jet Sport Association returns to Claytor Lake

The American Jet Sport Association prepares to rumble the New River Valley with the familiar sound of jet skis for the third consecutive year on Aug. 16 and 17.

“We are thrilled to return to Pulaski County,” said Brad Adams, a partner with AJSA. “Claytor Lake State Park offers a great venue for the race. The location draws racers from northern states, which adds to the competition.”

Claytor Lake State Park, the northernmost venue of the Southern Summer Series, offers a convenient location along Interstate 81—a perfect midpoint for AJSA veterans from the South to compete against racers from northern states and Canada.

“Claytor Lake offers a fantastic on-water experience for our racers,” Adams said. “The area in front of the state park offers great track and water access. One of the best things about the site is the visibility for spectators to view the whole track.”

AJSA encourages spectators to be involved, giving visitors a chance to get up close and personal with all the action.

“Spectators can experience a personal pit walkthrough where they can see jet skis and talk to racers,” Adams added. “The racing action will not disappoint. We have multi-time world champions that will race and lay it all on the line.”

This year’s event will feature a three-discipline format to showcase sprint, traditional closed course, and slalom racing. Sprint racing allows jet skiers to focus on their speed, while traditional and slalom racing gives racers a chance to show their finesse with a mix of tight turns and straightaways.

“Racers will have to prove their ability over three disciplines, so I’m excited to see the level of competition,” Adams said.

The high-energy event brings a lot more than adrenaline to the region.

“Over the past two years, attendance has grown,” said Laura Walters,

chair of the Pulaski County Board of Supervisors. “These racers talk to other jet skiers about racing here. They bring teams and families that camp and utilize restaurants and facilities here in the county.”

Economic impact and a family-friendly environment are two of many reasons county officials enjoy hosting the event year after year.

“Claytor Lake is one of the favorite venues in the region for AJSA races,” Walters said. “We foresee this event growing and continuing for years to come.”

Racers hit the water at 9 a.m. and finish around 4 p.m. on both Aug. 16 and 17. AJSA expects a high number of competitors at the event, which will feature a double elimination format.

Spectators are permitted to bring their own chairs and refreshments, and will have access to several food trucks at the venue. Visitors will only need to pay the standard \$7 state park entrance fee to catch all the action.

Alongside the professional event, local businesses have an opportunity to participate in the AJSA event and support Pulaski County students. Beginning on Friday, Aug. 15 at 8 a.m., registered local businesses and organizations can hit the water as a team to compete for bragging rights.

Competing in teams of three, four or five, participating organizations will compete in a time trial race for a good cause. All team-registration proceeds will go toward the Pulaski County Access to Community College Education Program. The program covers tuition for graduating Pulaski County High School seniors that attend New River Community College for two years. Registration costs \$200 per competitor.

Racing will conclude around 2 p.m. with an awards ceremony and cookout.

American Jet Sport Association

RU women’s schedule littered with ACC foes

Radford Women's Basketball Head Coach Mike McGuire has unveiled the program's upcoming 2025-26 nonconference schedule, which features eight home games inside the Dedmon Center, four meetings with ACC foes and matchups with four other mid-major programs on the road. Fans can get their first look at the Highlanders' 2025-26 squad with a preseason exhibition against Lynchburg on Oct. 28. The regular season begins with a pair of exciting ACC foes on the road as Radford visits Wake Forest on Nov. 3rd before heading further south to take on Georgia Tech on Nov. 6th.

The Highlanders return to the Dedmon Center for their home opener set against Emory & Henry on Nov. 8. Sticking to the home court, Radford hosts Loyola (MD) on Nov. 11 in a return trip from last year's exciting overtime final on the road. Radford's third ACC opponent comes with Virginia on Nov. 16 in another rematch from the 2024-25 schedule. Back at home for back-to-back contests once again, Radford hosts Furman on Nov. 19 marking the third meeting between the two programs since 2021. Niagara then comes to the Dedmon Center for the first time in program history on Nov. 22 as the two squads

meet up after last playing each other in Niagara Falls, N.Y. in 2023. Back to the road, the Highlanders will compete in a Thanksgiving week tournament in Cleveland, Ohio hosted by Cleveland State. The tournament includes Radford, Cleveland State, St. Bonaventure and Valparaiso across Nov. 26-29. Flipping the calendar to December, the Highlanders return to the Dedmon Center for three straight games. Radford will host Navy on Dec. 4 in another rematch from 2024-25 that saw both squads go into overtime competing in the first-ever collegiate women's basketball game at The Greenbrier. Radford and Ohio are set to meet on Dec. 13 in the first meeting between the two squads since 2001. Closing out their home portion of the nonconference schedule, the Highlanders will host Concord on Dec. 15. Two more nonconference battles await the Highlanders on the road with both coming within the Commonwealth. A trip to Hampton awaits the Highlanders on Dec. 18th before returning to face New River Valley foe Virginia Tech on Dec. 21 for the third straight season.

Radford University Athletics



CAROLINA MUDCATS VS SALEM RED SOX

AUGUST 19th 6:35 PM

2-For-1 Tuesday

AUGUST 20th 6:35 PM

Wing Wednesday

AUGUST 21st 6:35 PM

Hockey Night

AUGUST 22nd 6:35 PM

Harry Potter Night

AUGUST 23rd 6:35 PM

Military Appreciation Night

AUGUST 24th 1:05 PM

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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