

RADFORD

NEWS JOURNAL

Serving Radford Since 1884

Wednesday, January 28, 2026 • USPS 387-780 • radfordnewsjournal.com • \$1.50

Radford community mourns the loss of a true gentleman and generous citizen

Col. Lewis Ingles "Bud" Jeffries, descendant of Mary Draper Ingles, has died

Heather Bell
Editor

RADFORD - Lewis Ingles "Bud" Jeffries, Colonel, U.S. Army (Ret.) died Jan. 20, 2026, at the age of 83.

Jeffries, who owned and operated Ingles Farm, was a direct descendant of famous pioneer Mary Draper Ingles and was a decorated Army combat veteran who gave freely of his time and resources to the Radford community throughout his life. An avid historian, he was instrumental in the creation of Glencoe Museum and regularly opened his farm, along with a reconstruction of the cabin once lived in by Mary Draper Ingles, to the public.

Jeffries was a consummate gentleman who was always open

See Jeffries, page 5



FILE PHOTO

Col. Lewis Ingles "Bud" Jeffries is presented with the Key to the City of Radford and the VFW Post 776 Commander's Award at the VFW hall in 2016. Jeffries, 83, passed away last week.



PHOTO COURTESY OF RADFORD UNIVERSITY

President Bret Danilowicz shares details about the new plan during the event Friday morning.

Radford University officially launches six-year strategic plan

After months of planning, Radford University's new strategic plan is in place.

Now "it's time to get to work," said university President Bret Danilowicz on Friday, Jan. 23, to an audience of students, faculty, staff, community partners and alumni gathered for the ceremonial launch of the six-year initiative at the Davis Auditorium inside the Douglas and Beatrice Covington Center for Visual and Performing Arts.

The plan, Shaping Tomorrow - Together, spells out the university's vision for 2026-2031 with a new, refined mission statement and themes that represent the common ideas, goals and values of the Radford community.

Shaping Tomorrow - Together is not simply a tagline, said Sharon Roger Hepburn, "it captures how we got here."

Hepburn, a professor

and chair of the university's Department of History, co-chaired the planning committee with Angela Joyner, the vice president of Economic Development and Corporate Education. Their work began in September 2024 with a committee of students, faculty, staff, community members and administrators. The process kicked off with data gathering, listening and idea testing, which led to the development of a mission, vision, core values, goals and strategies.

Following nearly a year and a half of intensive work, the committee received final approval from the Radford University Board of Visitors in December 2025. Danilowicz shared details about the new plan during the event Friday morning.

"We began this process with a

See RU, page 12

Snow, wintery mix blanket the New River Valley



A mini snowplow clears the sidewalk of snow on Tyler Avenue over the weekend after a winter storm left snow, sleet and freezing rain in its wake.



An ambulance makes its way down Jefferson Street in Radford during the winter storm this past weekend.



A group of people walk down a snow-covered Fairfax Street in Radford on Sunday.

PHOTOS BY ALEXANDER TSO

A mixture of snow, sleet and freezing rain blanketed the New River Valley on Saturday and Sunday, cancelling everything from church services to schools and

university classes and closing many businesses.

The precipitation totals were lower than the forecast had predicted earlier in the week, but the winter

weather still had a big impact on the region, making travel on local roads, highways and Interstate 81 difficult.

Staff report

Montgomery County hires new school superintendent

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Montgomery County Public Schools has a new school superintendent.

He is Dr. Kelly Guempel, who currently serves as the Chief of Schools for Spotsylvania County Public Schools. The school board officially approved Guempel this past week.

"I am honored to join Montgomery County Public Schools and to work alongside our teachers, staff, families, and community partners," Guempel said. "MCPS students deserve schools where they feel safe, inspired, and prepared for whatever future they choose. I believe deeply in listening first, building trust, and working collaboratively to ensure every student has access to excellent instruction, meaningful opportunities, and strong support systems."

Guempel's career began as a classroom teacher, where he spent 11 years instructing Health & Physical Education in middle and

high school settings. In addition to his teaching responsibilities, he made significant contributions as a coach in various sports, including baseball, football, golf, wrestling, and strength training, instilling the values of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance in his students.

For the past 18 years, Guempel has held an array of leadership positions, each reinforcing his passion for school improvement and educational opportunities. His administrative journey has included roles as an administrative intern, assistant principal, principal, chief academic officer, chief of schools, deputy superintendent, and interim superintendent.

Notably, he served as the Interim Superintendent for Spotsylvania County Public Schools (SCPS) during two separate terms—first from July to November 2022, and again from January to July 2024.

A graduate of Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU), Guempel earned his Bachelor of Science in Health & Physical Education in 1995, followed by a Master's Degree in Administration



PHOTO COURTESY OF MCPS

Dr. Kelly Guempel

and Supervision in 2006. He further advanced his educational leadership credentials with an Education Specialist degree in Central Office Leadership from the American College of Education, and he

See Superintendent, page 6

Carilion NRV earns second Pathway to Excellence designation

CHRISTIANSBURG - The American Nursing Credentialing Center (ANCC) has awarded Carilion New River Valley Medical Center (CNRV) the Pathway to Excellence designation.

This is the hospital's second time achieving the award, "affirming its commitment to a positive practice environment for nurses" Carilion announced.

"We are honored to receive this distinction a second time," said Kristi Hall, D.N.P., senior director of nursing. "This recognition demonstrates our ongoing dedication to supporting nurse through autonomy, life balance, shared decision-making, professional development, and continuing education—all of which enable us to provide the best care for our patients."

CNRV is one of six in Virginia to earn the award, and only 281 hospitals nationwide have gotten the four-year designation.

The Pathway to Excellence designation

"is awarded based on 63 elements of nursing performance and six essential standards that foster a positive work environment for nursing staff," according to Carilion.

"The six major elements include: shared decision making, leadership, safety, quality, well-being, and professional development. Carilion met the highest scoring thresholds to earn this designation. These standards influence key outcomes such as turnover rates, job satisfaction, employee engagement, productivity, patient safety, and teamwork."

"We see it every day - Our culture of caring drives excellence in patient safety and clinical outcomes," said Bill Flattery, vice president for Carilion's Western Region. "We are fortunate to have such a talented, dedicated nursing team. They are essential to everything we accomplish."

Staff report



OUR
NO DOWN
PAYMENT
HOME
LOAN

+

=



- No PMI (Private Mortgage Insurance) Required
- Low Closing Costs
- Flexible Financing Options
- No Origination Fees or Points (Exception new construction)
- Industry Leading Turnaround Time
- For Well-Qualified Applicants



THE BANK OF MARION
NEW RIVER VALLEY

APPLY ONLINE at NRVBANK.COM
220 W. Main Street, Radford VA / 540.744.1005

Subject to credit approval. Some restrictions may apply. Taxes, insurance recordation charges excluded. Bank ML0#449265



UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, Jan. 30:

Laura Dean, Children's book author
Warm Hearth Village team member Laura Dean will share her award-winning children's picture book, Georgia Jipp: Blizzard Pilot, which tells the true story of a courageous young pilot who flew more than 150 life-saving missions for the American Red Cross during the historic South Dakota blizzards of 1949. A brief author talk at 1p.m. at Warm Hearth Village Center, 2387 Warm Hearth Dr., Blacksburg, will explore the inspiration behind the book, followed by Q&A and book signing. Books will be available for purchase.

Saturday, Jan. 31:

Blacksburg Farmers Market
At Market Square Park, 100 Draper Rd SW, Blacksburg; 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. The Blacksburg Farmers Market is a local, family-friendly gathering place in downtown Blacksburg featuring farmers of locally grown produce and meats, alongside artisans of baked goods and handmade crafts. For more information, visit blacksburgfarmersmarket.com.

Tuesday, Feb. 3:

Rescheduled Christiansburg Town Council meeting
Due to winter weather, the town council meeting scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 27, 2026 is rescheduled to Tuesday, Feb. 3, 2026 at 7 p.m. at Town Hall, 100 E. Main St., Christiansburg. This is a regular meeting of town 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.

Thursday, Feb. 5:

American Legion Meeting
The American Legion, Harvey Howe Carper Post 30 will meet at 6p.m. at the PFW Post Home on 102 Watts St. in

Radford. If Radford City Public Schools are closed on Thursday or Friday of this week due to weather, the meeting is cancelled. For further information, please call 540-250-2283 or 540-239-9864.

Friday, Feb. 6:

Friday Forum with VTWC
The Virginia Tech Women's Club (VTWC) will host Dr. Nancy Metz at the First Friday Forum. Her talk will be "Dickens in America, 1842: A Haunting." Metz is a Professor Emerita in the Department of English at Virginia Tech. In 1842, Charles Dickens visited America. He was confronted by justice issues everywhere and grew to question his youthful idealism. Metz has published extensively on how the American experience impacted Dickens. Friday Forums welcome the community to come to the Fellowship Hall at the Lutheran Memorial Church, 500 Prices Fork Rd., Blacksburg. Event begins at 10 a.m., but come a little earlier to enjoy coffee, treats, and conversation. The event is free.

Friday, Feb. 6 and Saturday, Feb. 7:

Book Sale
Book sale at the Radford Public Library, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Among the selection will be many teen and YA fantasy and science fiction books. Come and support the Radford Library and get many good deals.

Monday, Feb. 9:

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

on Montgomery County Comcast and Shentel Channels 190 daily.

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

Tuesday, Feb. 10:

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

Christiansburg Town Council meeting
At 7 p.m. at Town Hall, 100 E. Main St., Christiansburg. This is a regular meeting of town 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.

Wednesday, Feb. 11:

Birds of WoodsEdge and Warm Hearth
Exhibition Reception at Warm Hearth Village Center, 3 - 4 p.m. Sumi-e is a Japanese monochrome ink wash painting style, meaning "black ink painting," emphasizing simplicity, spontaneity, and capturing the essence of a subject through subtle brushstrokes and gradations of black ink on paper. Originating in China and introduced to Japan by Zen Buddhist monks, it focuses on expressing spirit and form with minimal strokes, often depicting nature, and is deeply connected to mindfulness and Zen philosophy, going beyond technique to a spiritual practice. WoodsEdge resident Lee Musgrave practices Sumi-e art and finds inspiration in the natural landscapes of the Village and its animal inhabitants. Collection

features the birds of WoodsEdge. Lee has graciously donated the works, and all are available for purchase with proceeds benefiting the Warm Hearth Foundation.

Thursday, Feb. 19:

Sons of Confederate Veterans
The Sons of Confederate Veterans, Stuart Horse Artillery Camp 1784 will meet at 7 p.m. at the NRV Super Bowl on 375 Arbor Dr. NE in Christiansburg. Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) are also invited to attend. April Martin will speak on "Love Letters from the War Between the States". If Montgomery and Floyd County Schools are closed on Thursday or Friday of this week due to weather, the meeting is cancelled. For further information, please call 540-320-4315 or 540-239-9864.

Friday, Feb. 20:

Winter Beach Blast
Do the recent cold temperatures have you dreaming of sunshine? If so, stop by the Christiansburg Recreation Center on Feb. 20 from 7-9 p.m. for an indoor escape that brings the warmth in the middle of winter! This family-friendly event will feature beach themed fun including: Live music by Shoobies, food catered by Bull and Bones, beach-inspired games and activities, including volleyball, spike ball, cup pong, and limbo. Alcohol will be available. Please bring your ID if you plan to purchase. Lawn chairs are encouraged.

Ongoing:

Blacksburg Police Citizens Academy
Join the Blacksburg Police Department for a Citizens Academy. The 2026 program dates are: Tuesday evenings, Mar. 31 - May 5, 6 - 7:30 p.m. Participants will learn about patrol techniques, criminal investigations, SWAT operations, and various other operations important to police work in town. This program has limited space. Register today by emailing Ofc. A. Jones at ajones@blacksburg.gov, or calling 540.443.1439.

19th Annual Supplies for Homebound Seniors a success



More than 50 people help fill bags of supplies for homebound seniors in the New River Valley.

Volunteer Montgomery and community members joined together to bag the 19th Annual Supplies for Homebound Seniors project. This program provides another support system for seniors to maintain dignity and independence while remaining in their home environment. Many of these seniors do not always have transportation to the store and during the winter months, many are housebound for even longer periods of time. They live on fixed incomes, struggling to pay increased medical, heating and utility costs, especially during the winter.

The project took place with the support of 50 helpers at the Christiansburg Recreation Center on Jan. 21 and the supplies will be delivered to everyone by the first week of February. As a result, 300 homebound seniors identified by the New River Valley Agency on Aging, Montgomery County Department of Social Services, and the Virginia Veteran and Family Support program will receive approximately \$60 worth of basic household supplies and personal care products.



The bags of supplies include about \$60 of household and personal care supplies.

appreciation to all of the volunteers who worked tirelessly moving supplies, sorting, and bagging. We would also like to thank Christiansburg Parks and Recreation and employees of Montgomery County General Services for their partnership and support of this project.

to the ones who helped to make this possible. We received sponsorships from Freedom First Commercial, Christiansburg Recreation Center, Tammy Nichols Investments LLC, Pizza Inn and NRV AARP Chapter.

Many thanks go out *Volunteer Montgomery*



Picture (left to right) Andy Jones, Dr. Jason Moore, William Lester, Dr. Jeffrey Garland and Dr. Abraham B. Hardee III.

Warm Hearth Village training site for new geriatric residency rotation

BLACKSBURG - Warm Hearth Village (WHV) has announced a new partnership with Lewis Gale Hospital Montgomery and its residency program to provide medical residents with hands-on geriatric clinical training at Kroontje Healthcare Center.

Medical Director, Dr. Jeffrey Garland, MD, has agreed to serve as the supervising physician for this formal rotation focused on the care of older adults, establishing WHV as the official site for the program. The rotation will offer residents valuable real-world experience working with interdisciplinary care teams and serving seniors in long-term care, rehabilitation, and community-based settings.

"We are excited to partner with Lewis Gale's residency program," said Warm Hearth President & CEO, William Lester. "Supporting physician education at Warm Hearth Village strengthens our mission of compassionate, resident-centered care, and I believe our residents will value the meaningful role they play in shaping and educating the next generation of physicians."

Dr. Abraham B. Hardee III, Program Director for the Lewis Gale Hospital Montgomery Family Medicine Residency Program, said, "The future of

rural healthcare in Southwest Virginia hinges on the engagement of young energetic future physicians. Here at Lewis Gale Hospital Montgomery, we have a community focused family medicine residency that prides itself on engaging with our community partners."

"Warm Hearth has been a major pillar in our community for years, specifically as it relates to our seniors," he added. The two entities will combine resources to improve geriatric exposure for our resident physicians, gain greater appreciation of the needs within this population, and to a greater effect, show partnering with other healthcare agencies, instead of competing with them, can lead to overall improvements in communities."

"Serving Warm Hearth and it's patients as medical director is a true joy," said Dr. Garland, Program Director. "They continue to focus on not only quality but also individualized care to meet each resident's needs. The addition of the site rotations will continue to enhance this work and provide even more great care that our residents deserve."

Warm Hearth Village

OBITUARIES

Beebe, Edith Ellen Gravley

Edith Ellen Gravley Beebe, 87, of Radford, passed away Saturday, Jan. 17, 2026, in Roanoke Memorial Hospital. Born Aug. 27, 1938, she retired from Federal Mogul. Edith was preceded in death by her parents, Bernard and Virginia Gravley; husband, Leon F. Beebe; and sons, Tom and Jeff Beebe.

Survivors include her children, Steven Beebe, Catherine Songer and



William Beebe; six grandchildren; 14 great-

grandchildren; one great great grandchild; sisters, Frances Scott and Betty Bell; and many other relatives and friends.

The family received friends Thursday, Jan. 22, 2026, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. A celebration of her life followed with Pastor Zane Cox officiating.

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

Mills, Gerald W.

Gerald W. Mills, 74, of Christiansburg, passed away peacefully Jan. 17, 2026, surrounded by his loving family.

Gerald lived a life defined by devotion—to his faith, to his wife, to this family, and by the values he carried from childhood. He was a steadfast husband, a loyal son, a loving father, and a proud, playful papa whose quiet strength and gentle spirit shaped every life he touched.

Born as an only child in Altavista, Va., and raised in the Glenland community of Renan, Va., Gerald learned early the meaning of hard work and responsibility on his family's farm, tending tobacco and raising beef cattle. Those lessons stayed with him throughout his life, guiding his choices and grounding his character.

Gerald graduated from Gretna High School in 1970 alongside his high school sweetheart, Carolyn Tucker Mills. They met in the first grade at Renan Grade School. Their love story—rooted in friendship, strengthened by time, and blessed by 52 years of marriage—remained the center of his world. While Carolyn attended Radford University, they continued to build their life together, marrying in 1973. Gerald went on to graduate at the top of his accounting class from the Pamplin College of Business at Virginia Tech in 1974.

He had a long, successful career as a comptroller and financial controller, as well as plant manager, with a number of companies in Virginia. He worked for Cumulus Radio in Dublin; Mid-Continent Nail Corporation in Radford; Marshall Concrete in Christiansburg; Bova Distributing in Hollins; Radford Foundry in Radford; Lynchburg Foundry in Lynchburg; Piedmont Manufacturing in Altavista; and the Peaks of Otter Lodge on the Blue Ridge Parkway. His colleagues knew him as a man of integrity, diligence and unwavering reliability.

Gerald was a girl's dad in every way possible. He went above and beyond to make sure his daughters, Angela and Heather, felt his presence and support in all that they did. Attending their performances and games was a priority, each time with his video camera in hand. From bartering Cabbage Patch dolls when they were all the rage, to late night runs to get sodas



for their friends coming over, to donuts on Sunday mornings for a sleepover, he always made sure that his girls and their friends were taken care of and had everything they needed before they even knew to ask. He always made the effort to connect with them and to find ways to share time and interests together.

Faith was a constant thread in Gerald's life. He served in many roles within the churches he and his family attended, most often offering his gifts as a treasurer, deacon, and chaperone for youth trips. More recently, he found joy volunteering with the St. Paul United Methodist Church Community Children's Choir, tapping his foot to their songs and faithfully tending the candy and toy treasure box. His service was quiet but steadfast, always rooted in humility and a desire to help.

After retiring, Gerald embraced a new calling: caregiving.

With tenderness and patience, he provided childcare for his two grandchildren, Braxton and Zoey, from birth until they started school. He also provided full-time care for both his mother and mother-in-law, Estelle and Ann, as they went through medical challenges in their latter years.

Gerald delighted in simple pleasures—family trips, long conversations, good food, bowls of ice cream. He took special pride in their turn-of-the-century home in downtown Christiansburg. He lovingly cared for his flowers, the family pool, and lots of Christmas decorations, transforming the home into a place of beauty and joy. His family lovingly said he was the "Mills Concierge Service"—always providing for their needs.

He carried lifelong pride for his alma mater, Virginia Tech, and was an enthusiastic fan of the University of Tennessee Volunteers—hearing "Rocky Top" always brought a smile to his face. Music was a constant companion—whether bluegrass, country, easy listening, Motown or

60's rock, Gerald kept the beat and dreamed of one day being the drummer in the band. Listening to his wife play the piano brought joy to his heart.

In recent years, Gerald faced Alzheimer's, and specifically Lewy Body dementia, with courage and grace. His greatest concern was always how this impacted his family. Through every challenge, he was lovingly supported and cared for in their home by his devoted wife, Carolyn, with the additional support of his daughters and their families.

Gerald is survived by his beloved wife of 52 years, Carolyn Tucker Mills; his daughters, Angela Mills (Jamie Epperly) and Heather Mills (Brandon McClaugherty); and his treasured grandchildren, Braxton McClaugherty and Zoey McClaugherty, who will forever remember their papa's playful spirit, his ready smile, and the dollar bills he kept tucked in his shirt pocket just for them. He is also survived by two especially instrumental people in his life, his cousin—more like a sister—Brenda Good Barfield, who served as godmother to his children; and his lifelong friend and Virginia Tech roommate, Mike Felts.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Shirley C. Mills and Estelle Updike Mills, and by his in-laws, Henry A. Tucker and Virginia Ann Edwards Tucker.

Gerald's family extends their heartfelt gratitude to everyone in their lives who has shown compassion, support, and grace while traveling this most recent chapter of their journey. They greatly appreciate the care of Good Samaritan Hospice through their in-home care team and the on-site care team at the Sheila S. Strauss Hospice House in Roanoke. They brought comfort and peace during his last month and final days. And they are especially grateful for the kindness and service of Sonu, Adrian, Shannon and Leah.

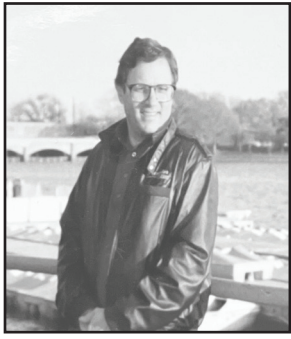
Visitation was held Monday, Jan. 26, 2026 and a funeral service was held Tuesday, Jan. 27, 2026. Both were held at McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in Gerald's memory to Good Samaritan Hospice, Attn: Development, 4751 Cove Road NW, Roanoke, VA.

Elliott, Kenton

Kenton Elliott passed away Thursday, Jan. 22, 2026, at the age of 80. He was surrounded by his loved ones, and left behind his wife Luz, their dog Fluffy, and his child Mars.

Kenton was born Oct. 30, 1945 in Indianapolis, Indiana, to Nina Naomi Need and Robert Heim Elliott. He was a star athlete who broke several track and field records at Radford High School, graduating in 1965. He earned degrees at Virginia Tech and Radford University in 1970 and



1976.

Kenton spent many years working in Northern Virginia and immensely enjoyed his time connecting to others

and being a successful car salesman.

He enjoyed being a father, going to services at the Radford Church of Christ and his morning walks with friends at the Radford Recreation Center.

He will be deeply missed by his friends and loved ones.

There will be no public memorial service at this time.

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

Jeffries, Colonel, U.S. Army (Ret.) Lewis Ingles "Bud"

Lewis Ingles "Bud" Jeffries, Colonel, U.S. Army (Ret.) died Jan. 20, 2026, at Ingleside, his ancestral home in Radford, surrounded by his family.

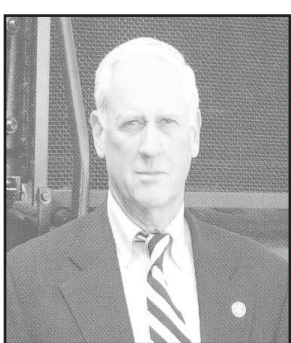
He was born Jan. 28, 1942 in Roanoke to Melville Lewis Jeffries and Mary Lewis Ingles Jeffries. He is survived by Mary Ann Veirs Jeffries, his loving wife of 56 years; children Mary Jennifer and John Travis (Brit Ritchey); and countless cherished family members and friends.

After graduating from Radford City Schools, Bud went to V.P.I. (Virginia Tech), earning a degree in Animal Science, Class of 1964. He distinguished himself in the Corps of Cadets, where he was Regimental Executive Officer and was recognized as the distinguished Military Graduate of V.P.I., Class of 1964. He was a member of the German Club, holding the position of Leader his senior year. Bud's father, Mel Jeffries, also a Virginia Tech Alumnus and German Club member, wrote the German Club Ritual in 1935. It is still used and revered to this day.

Bud Jeffries was commissioned in the United States Army, entering active duty on Jan. 3, 1965. Throughout his military career he exemplified the finest spirit of a U.S. Soldier. He had multiple tours of duty including Airborne School, Ranger School (Later, Instructor Ranger School, Fort Benning, Ga.), and Pathfinder School. He served in Vietnam, 1967-1968; Field Artillery Battalion First Cavalry Division. He was awarded the Silver Star for Gallantry in Action during the Tet Offensive, and the Bronze Star for Meritorious Service.

Only two days after returning from Vietnam in 1968, while attending the wedding of his cousin, Louise Zimmerman, he met the beautiful Mary Ann Veirs of Texas. They married in Dallas, in June 1969. Ann was his cherished partner as his career took him to: Fort Sill, Oklahoma; Schweinfurt, Germany; Lexington, Va. (VMI); Norfolk, Va.; Corlu, Turkey; Fort Hood, Texas; The Pentagon; Fort Carson, Colo.; and The U.S. Army War College in Carlisle, Pa. (While there he received a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Shippensburg University).

He then attended the Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Ks., where he was promoted to the rank of Colonel and took over as Director of



Academic Operations at the same Command and General Staff College.

Colonel Jeffries retired on Sept. 1, 1991, after almost 27 years of exemplary service. The Jeffries family returned home to Ingleside in Radford. His was the seventh generation of the family founded by William and Mary Draper Ingles, and the sixth generation to live at Ingleside.

The Mary Draper Ingles story has been well documented in several books and in the outdoor dramas, 'The Long Way Home and Walk to Freedom. Colonel Jeffries researched Mary's journey extensively and was an expert on her story and the Ingles family history. Recognizing the public's interest in Mary's story, he opened his farm annually to the public on what became known as Cabin Days. The centerpiece of the event was a visit to a replica of Mary's cabin, which he had meticulously researched and rebuilt, where Mary's story would be told once again.

Upon returning home, Colonel Jeffries renovated his beloved Ingleside and ancestral farm, placing it on a historic and conservation easement so that it was forever protected. He served on the New River Land Trust Board of Directors further helping others to protect their land & historic properties. Colonel Jeffries took an active role in historic preservation in his community and the preservation of agricultural properties and historic farms for future generations.

He would put that degree from Virginia Tech to good use as he realized his dream of raising beef cattle. After extensive research and preparation on the family farm, he operated a pasture-based beef operation, a legacy continuing under the leadership of his son, John, today.

Colonel Jeffries also served the city he loved. He was Executive Director of the Radford Main Street Program for over four years and was a founding member and first chairman of the Radford Heritage Foundation. He served on the board of The Virginia Tech

Corp of Cadets Alumni Association, The German Club Alumni Association, and was on the vestry of Grace Episcopal Church as Senior Warden and Trustee. Colonel Jeffries was also a member of the VFW (Post 776) in Radford.

As a little boy, Bud Jeffries spent hours sitting by the Norfolk and Western rails watching the trains thundering by. He was to write two books on the N&W. The first, N&W: Giant of Steam, was published in 1980. In 2005, Jeffries rewrote, revised, updated, and republished the book. It is the encyclopedia of Norfolk & Western Railway's steam locomotive design, engineering and tractive power.

Bud Jeffries was a former chairman of the N&W Historical Society, and in March 2015, The Virginia Museum of Transportation named Bud Jeffries "The official historian for the Norfolk and Western Class J 611 Steam Passenger Locomotive." He published numerous articles and gave countless lectures and presentations. He was also a guest speaker on several PBS documentaries.

Colonel Lewis Ingles (Bud) Jeffries dearly loved his wife, Ann, and their children Jennifer and John. He loved Ingleside, his beloved home and farm and the animals that lived there. He loved his friends and his community. He loved steam trains, bluegrass music and the long line of faithful dogs that were by his side. The epitome of a Christian soldier and an officer and a gentleman, he wore his love for his country and his lord in a quiet, dignified manner. He left a great legacy and he was a life well lived. His gentle smile, beloved presence, and twinkle in his eyes when amused will be greatly missed. He is loved beyond all words, beyond all measure...

A service will be held at Grace Episcopal Church in Radford on Feb. 7, 2026, at 2 p.m. The service will be officiated by Reverend William Yagel.

In lieu of flowers please consider donating to one of the following:

Grace Episcopal Church, Radford; Glencoe Museum, Radford; NRV Agency on Aging (For Home Delivered Meals for seniors confined to their homes); or Fidos Pantry (For pets of those seniors).

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

Bohland, James 'Jay' Jackson

James 'Jay' Jackson Bohland, 58, of Virginia Beach, passed away suddenly at his home Jan. 11, 2026 after a recent cancer diagnosis with his wife, mother, and father at his side. He was a beloved husband, son, brother, uncle, and friend who worked in the restaurant and wine industry for several decades before his final career as an insurance agent.

James was born in Norman, Oklahoma to Dr. James R. and Sally Bohland on Sept. 13, 1969. In the early 1980s, the Bohland family moved to Blacksburg, where James made many of his lifelong friends, played soccer, and graduated from Blacksburg High School in 1987. James attended James Madison University, where he earned a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science and met his future wife.

James developed a love for fine food on his many travels with his family and realized he had a natural affinity for cooking, becoming a highly skilled professional chef. He threw himself into the world of fine dining, cooking at the Inn at Glenn Echo in Glenn Echo, Maryland in 1991 and continued his love



of cooking professionally in Virginia Beach. After leaving the restaurant industry to work for wine and beer distribution companies, he continued to cook fine, multi-course meals for his friends and family at his and others' homes to celebrate special occasions and because he loved to share his gift and bring everyone together to celebrate life.

James was a loving and devoted husband to his wife, a lifelong Virginia Tech Hokies fan, an avid music lover and soccer fan, and a friend for life to those he loved and admired. When he was faced with a health diagnosis that required a below knee amputation, he endured the experience with strength and perseverance, becoming a member of an amputee support group and assisting those who were also faced with

going through a similar experience. After his surgery, James made a remarkable recovery and began walking 5Ks for various charities.

James was a kind and generous soul with a huge heart. We will miss his lively conversation and hospitality, sense of humor, his incredible breadth of knowledge and memory, and his passion and enthusiasm for life.

James was preceded in death by his niece, Isabella Bohland. He is survived by his devoted wife of 33 years Sharon Shall, his mother Sally Bohland, his father Dr. James R. Bohland, his brother and sister-in-law Dr. Jon Bohland and Dr. Leann Pace, his niece and nephew Clementine and Solomon Pace, his father and mother-in-law Edward Lee and Roberta Shall, his brother and sister-in-law Brian and Linde Proctor Shall and numerous cousins, aunts and uncles.

In lieu of flowers the family asks that you make a donation in James' name to the American Diabetes Association at diabetes.org or the Limbs for Life Foundation at www.limbsforlife.org.

A memorial celebration of life will be held at a future date to be announced.

OPINION

New legislation put forth does not increase affordability for Virginians

I have written in past columns about Virginia Democrats' stated focus on affordability throughout the last general election cycle. It was obviously a very successful tagline – everyone wants prices to decrease and to keep more money in their pockets. What really matters though is if actions back up the promises that were given, and as of now, legislation put forth by Virginia House Democrats focuses on anything other than affordability.



Delegate Jason Ballard

Virginia General Assembly

For example, HB 900 would create a new 4.3% tax on Uber Eats, Amazon and other popular delivery services that you use often. Virginia is currently running a budget surplus, yet this bill would put a new tax on nearly every delivery made to your home. HB 550 would create a new sales tax on admissions to a wide variety of businesses. This bill pushes the state sales tax

See **Ballard**, page 6

We need all of our local representatives to be part of the solution

Not very useful was an editorial in last week's newspaper focusing on partisan blaming of the opposition party for things that have yet to happen, while mischaracterizing some things that did happen. So much more progress could be made if our politicians chose to work together, rather than follow strict party ideology formulated in Washington and by wealthy donating groups and individuals.

Let's start first with the characterization of the

Gary Silverman

Columnist

recent past as a great period for Virginia, made great by Republican government. Whatever anyone thinks of the past years, there is no denying that we had a Republican governor and Democrat majority legislature in 2024 and 2025. So whatever happened, good or bad, needs to be attributed to both parties. More descriptive

See **Silverman**, page 6

Being old- it comes with its challenges

I have been old for quite some time, but it first hit me this year during the Christmas holidays. I jumped off a three-foot wall at the Washington Monument; next thing I knew my right knee was being operated on in Arlington, Virginia. For the next 20 days I was in a rehab hospital in Northern Virginia.

While I was in the rehab, I began to realize old people live in a whole new world, and it is not good. You look at some and you wonder how much time they have left in this world. It is a world that features wheelchairs, walkers, canes, and walking assistance. It is sad.

One thing I did determine was if a person was interested in getting involved in the stock market, equipment for old people might be a good start. They are everywhere, nursing homes, rehab hospitals and Walmart. For wheelchairs, Walmart is similar to Interstate 81. Wheelchairs take the place of trucks on the interstate. People walking in the store better watch



Steve Huppert

Columnist

Hupps440@aol.com

would this country be like without financial support for the elderly in the form of Social Security?

The sad part is the number of babies being born is decreasing each year. I would like to get involved in that again, but I guess it is not in the cards. Among other problems, I'm not ready to spend the night up, and I guess a lot of other people aren't either.

One thing about old people, we all need to be supportive of these people who have done much to create this country. Maybe today they are just playing bingo for a free candy bar, but in the past they have done much for all of us.

I guess I can include myself, but when I came back from the rehab hospital very few people went out of their way to say hello or lend me a hand; I think we all need to work on that. Most of us are going to face the situation in the near future.

It is just the right thing to do. Thanks.

out.

The situation is bad today, but 30 years from now it is going to be far worse. Knowing Walmart, they will have their own wheelchair store.

Believe it or not, right now 20 percent of the U.S. population is 65 or over. That is a lot of people, and the percentage continues to grow. Every one of us owes President Roosevelt for creating Social Security. What

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear editor,

Democrats and Affordability

Where is the "affordability" we heard from on the campaign trail from Governor Spanberger and the Democrats?

When I view the bills put forward in this session of the General Assembly, all I see is tax increases on everything from investments to delivery services, entertainment, etc.

I also see more regulations and infringements on law abiding citizens, especially in regards to our Second Amendment rights. We see demand and mandates on our electricity providers that will absolutely increase the rates we pay, all with the "promise of affordability!"

It's one thing to promise what you know you can never deliver to the citizens, but it's another entirely when you campaign on a platform

and then completely reverse course and move away from that promise to something else entirely. Is this what we want as Virginians? If so, you have what you voted for; if not, there's always the next election cycle to reverse course and return to common sense legislation and governance.

W.P. Turpin
Blacksburg

Dear Editor,

You published an interesting article by Virginia Tech Professor Ewing in the News Messenger (Jan. 7, 2026) on the history of the Luster's Gate Cheese Factory and U.S. Bicycle Route 76. The article brought back fond childhood memories and answered questions I had long wondered about.

My grandmother, R. N. Bennett, owned a 365-acre farm called Valley View near the cheese factory. Her son-in-law, Lee Price—my uncle—was trained in cheese making by Professor Saunders of Virginia Tech. Uncle Lee later worked with Saunders traveling across Virginia and other states teaching farmers the art of making cheese.

Uncle Lee was the first—and only—cheesemaker and manager the Luster's Gate Cheese Factory ever had. I lived with Lee and my aunt Grace during the polio epidemic when I was six or seven and "helped" him make cheese, mostly by getting in his way. He worked tirelessly: rising before dawn, milking cows by hand, collecting milk from cooperative members, making cheese, maintaining equipment, and tending his own farm. His only real rest came on Sunday afternoons.

During those years, many local families depended on the cheese cooperative for their livelihood. Neighbors supported one another, and without the factory many would have struggled.

As a teenager, I later managed

my grandmother's farm for several months, milking cows by hand morning and evening and hauling milk every other day to Route 76 for pickup to the cheese factory. It was a demanding but character-building experience.

Old-timers still speak fondly of the exceptional cheese made at Luster's Gate. The building that housed the factory remains, standing as a reminder of a time when hard work, cooperation and local enterprise sustained this community.

Thank you,

Ben Crawford
Blacksburg

RADFORD NEWS JOURNAL

Serving Radford since 1884

(540) 389-9355

P.O. Box 1125 • Salem, VA 24153

USPS 387-780 • ourvalley.org

Michael Showell, *Publisher*

Heather Bell, *Editor*.....hbell@mainstreetnewspapers.com

Aila Boyd, *Executive Editor*.....aboyn@ourvalley.org

Wendi Craig, *Advertising Consultant*.....advertise@ourvalley.org

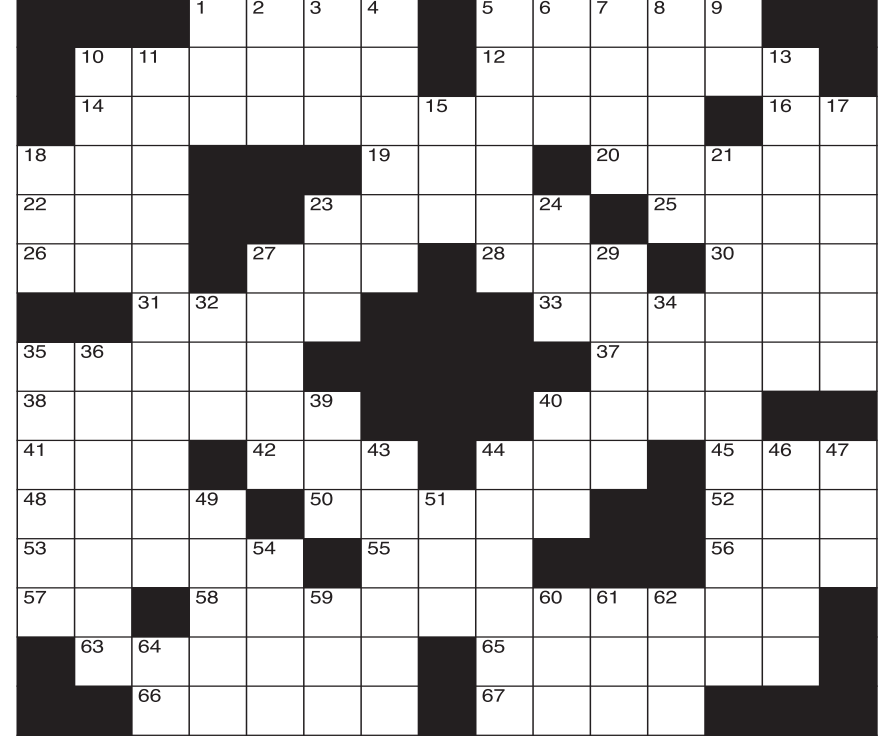
Give us your view: communitynews@ourvalley.org

To subscribe: (540) 389-9355

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.

Radford News Journal (USPS 387-780) is published weekly for \$49 a year in the City of Radford, \$58 elsewhere in Virginia, and \$62 out of state by Virginia Media Inc., P.O. Box 429, Lewisburg, WV 24901. Periodical postage paid at Christiansburg, VA. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to RADFORD NEWS JOURNAL 1633 W. Main St., Salem, VA 24153.

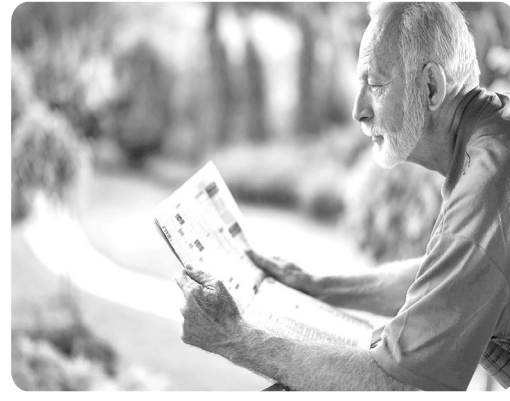
CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- CLUES ACROSS
- 1. Shed tears
 - 5. Luxury jewelry designer
 - 10. Goddess of wisdom
 - 12. Convert into a particular form
 - 14. Working-class people
 - 16. It borders Canada (abbr.)
 - 18. A princess can detect its presence
 - 19. Red-brown sea bream
 - 20. Defunct retail empire
 - 22. Vase
 - 23. Demeter's equivalent
 - 25. Monetary unit of the Maldives
 - 26. French and Belgian river
 - 27. Small amount
 - 28. High schoolers' test
 - 30. Animal's foot
 - 31. Some is red
 - 33. Per ___: each
 - 35. Swedish jazz pop duo
 - 37. Plate for Eucharist
 - 38. Train line
 - 40. Russian pop duo
 - 41. Stake
 - 42. Plant by scattering
 - 44. Female sibling
 - 45. City of Angels hoopsters (abbr.)
 - 48. Popular cookie brand
 - 50. Group of Niger-Congo languages
 - 52. A team's best pitcher
 - 53. Vomits
 - 55. 19th letter of Greek alphabet
 - 56. Men's fashion accessory
 - 57. Its capital is Pierre (abbr.)
 - 58. Expensive cut of steak
 - 63. Popular James Cameron film
 - 65. A ___ relating to knowledge gleaned from deduction
 - 66. Kids' snow toys
 - 67. Flip side to yin
- CLUES DOWN
- 1. Global public health agency
 - 2. Snake-like fish
 - 3. Midway between north-east and east
 - 4. Dabbed
 - 5. TV show
 - 6. Folk singer DiFranco
 - 7. Canadian flyers
 - 8. Of the dowry
 - 9. Commercial
 - 10. The act of imitating
 - 11. Equipment used to broadcast radio or TV signals
 - 13. Lands of an emir
 - 15. Swiss river
 - 17. Island
 - 18. Monetary unit of Afghanistan
 - 21. One who surrenders under agreed conditions
 - 23. Garfield is one
 - 24. A baglike structure in a plant or animal
 - 27. Small boats used in the Black Sea
 - 29. Small savory Spanish dishes
 - 32. Body part
 - 34. Touch lightly
 - 35. Popular grilled foods on a stick
 - 36. ___ Hess: oil company
 - 39. Antelope with a reddish coat
 - 40. Pharaoh of Lower Egypt
 - 43. Pink Floyd's Roger
 - 44. Short and thick
 - 46. Small, sac-like cavities
 - 47. Performer ___-Lo
 - 49. Entrails of animal used as food
 - 51. ___ King Cole, musician
 - 54. Where construction is done
 - 59. Chap
 - 60. Investment vehicle
 - 61. Often mixed with tonic
 - 62. Holiday beverage egg ___
 - 64. Against

Stay In Touch With a Subscription

Get print or digital access to the latest news, information, entertainment and offers to keep you in the loop and on your toes.



RADFORD NEWS JOURNAL Serving Radford Since 1884

NEWS JOURNAL

- DIGITAL ONLY**
One Year Digital Subscription \$41.00
- DIGITAL & PRINT**
Yearly Print & Digital Subscription \$75.00
- PRINT ONLY**
Yearly Print Only Subscription \$49.00 Radford \$58.00 Virginia \$62.00 Out of State

SUBSCRIPTION TO RADFORD NEWS JOURNAL

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Check Enclosed _____ or call (304) 647-5724 to pay by credit card

Mail to: Circulation Department, RADFORD NEWS JOURNAL, P.O. BOX 429, Lewisburg, WV 24901 or call us at (304) 647-5724.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PIXABAY VIA VIRGINIA TECH

Greenland's flag

Local European affairs expert explains Greenland's geopolitical appeal

All eyes are on Greenland, a self-governing Arctic island that is a gateway to North America, Europe, and Asia. President Donald Trump is pushing for the United States to take over the island for military security purposes, stating that the U.S. will raise tariffs on Greenland's allies if a deal is not reached.

Why Greenland? Yannis Stivachtis, a European affairs expert at Virginia Tech, explains the history of the island territory's appeal.

Why is Greenland important geopolitically?

"Geographically speaking, Greenland, together with Iceland and Svalbard [a Norwegian cluster of islands], control navigation in the Atlantic Ocean and secure access to the Arctic region. That's why the U.S. military occupied Greenland during World War II."

"Also, Greenland serves as the basis for the U.S. nuclear early warning systems. Greenland will also add to the U.S. projection to the Arctic, but also to the country's Exclusive Economic Zone [a sea area] and continental shelf. In addition, important earth metals exist

on the island, but it will take significant financial resources and years to extract them. Moreover, there is a fear that China, rather than Russia, may wish to invest in Greenland and create military bases there, which would affect U.S. security."

How is Greenland governed?

"Greenland, together with the Faroe Islands, are the two autonomous regions of Denmark. Although Greenland is part of NATO's strategic plan, it is not part of the European Union. Denmark financially supports Greenland, although this support has declined over the years. This has created some backlash among the people in Greenland against the Danish government."

What could a U.S. takeover of Greenland mean for Europe? What would it mean for the United States?

"A takeover of Greenland will confirm that Europe can no longer trust the United States. They will also be concerned about future implications for international law. For the United States, it will be valuable for strategic and economic reasons."

Virginia Tech

YMCA at Virginia Tech partners with The Blood Connection for monthly blood drives

BLACKSBURG— The YMCA at Virginia Tech has a new partnership with The Blood Connection to host a series of monthly blood drives to strengthen the local blood supply and support lifesaving care across the region.

Beginning Jan. 27, blood drives will be held on the last Tuesday of each month through April, noon – 4 p.m., in the parking lot of the YMCA's Lancaster House headquarters at 403 Washington St. SW, Blacksburg.

All donors will receive a \$30 gift card of their choice, and The Blood Connection will donate an additional \$10 per donor to the YMCA at Virginia Tech, helping support community programs and services.

Why blood donation matters

Every two seconds, someone in the United States needs blood. Despite this constant need, only about three percent of the population donates—far too few to meet ongoing medical demand. A single blood donation can be separated into three components—platelets, plasma, and red blood cells—allowing one donor to potentially save three lives.

Additional key facts highlight the urgency:

One in seven hospital patients requires a blood transfusion.

Blood can be donated every 56 days.

Red blood cells have a 42-day shelf life, while platelets last only five days, creating a continual need for new donations.

Blood is considered a drug by the FDA, yet it is the only drug that cannot be manufactured, making community donors essential.

"We are excited to partner with The Blood Connection to make donating blood easier and more rewarding for our community," said Lauren Blakemore, Director of Community Engagement at the YMCA at Virginia Tech. "Every donation supports not only patients in hospitals but also the vital programs and services the YMCA provides to our region."

Blood drive dates

All drives take place noon – 4 p.m. at the Lancaster House parking lot, 403 Washington St. SW, Blacksburg on Tuesday, Jan. 27, Tuesday, Feb. 24, Tuesday, Mar. 31 and Tuesday, April 28. Additional drives will also be scheduled soon at the YMCA Thrift Shop location. Dates will be announced.

To learn more or schedule a donation appointment, visit: www.vtymca.org/y-blood-drives/.

YMCA at Virginia Tech

From closet to community: a new era of sustainable event wear at the YMCA

BLACKSBURG

The YMCA at Virginia Tech announced a new collaborative effort with the Sustainable Fashion Society and Virginia Tech sororities to reduce the environmental and financial impact of fast fashion consumption.

Each year, millions of event dresses are purchased, worn once, and discarded—contributing significantly to textile waste, pollution, and overspending among consumers. In response, the YMCA at Virginia Tech is launching a community-driven consignment program designed to extend the life cycle of high-quality garments while providing students and community members with an affordable alternative to fast fashion.

"This initiative empowers our community to make sustainable choices without sacrificing style or affordability. Every dress given a second life is one less garment ending up in a landfill," said Jami McQuain, Associate Director of Resource Development at the YMCA at Virginia Tech.

Consignors will receive 30% of the profit from each item sold—a rate significantly higher than what traditional consignment stores typically offer. The program accepts formal gowns, cocktail dresses, and semi-formal attire, ensuring that high-quality pieces remain in circulation rather than collecting dust or being thrown away.

All students, community members, and organizations are invited

CALL FOR ALL
CONSIGNERS

Consignors receive 30% of sales!



Regular
Consignment
Sales at:

The Y Center,
1000 N Main St.
Blacksburg

Party dresses,
shoes &
accessories

Details at:



www.vtymca.org/y-consignment-sales/

GRAPHIC COURTESY OF YMCA

to participate—both as consignors and shoppers.

"Students shouldn't have to choose between participating in campus life and protecting the environment," said Kera Do, a student intern supporting the Sustainable Fashion Society's work with the Y. "This program makes sustainable fashion easy, fun, and financially rewarding. I love seeing dresses get a second chance to shine."

Mark Your Calendars:

First sale day
Wednesday, Feb. 11
at noon at The Y Center,
1000 N. Main St.
Blacksburg

The YMCA at Virginia Tech is collaborating with Chi Delta Alpha, the inaugural sorority partner for this initiative. This first collection event will kick off a series of community-driven efforts to transform how students think about

event fashion—shifting from one-time use to intentional, sustainable practices.

Call for consignors

Have a formal gown, cocktail dress, accessories or semi-formal piece ready for a second life? We invite you to join this sustainability-focused movement by consigning your gently worn event attire. Your participation keeps quality garments out of landfills, supports your community, and helps redefine fashion culture at Virginia Tech.

For more information or to get involved visit www.vtymca.org/y-consignment-sales/ or contact: Kera Do, Student Fashion Marketing Intern at kera.do@vtymca.org.

YMCA at Virginia Tech

Jeffries from page 1

a talk about his ancestry, the history of the railroad and the New River Valley, or just a pleasant chat. He was often found volunteering his time to a myriad activities and causes in the city and beyond.

He was born Jan. 28, 1942 in Roanoke to Melville Lewis Jeffries and Mary Lewis Ingles Jeffries and is survived by his wife, Mary Ann Veirs Jeffries; children Mary Jennifer and John Travis (Brit Ritchey); and countless cherished family members and friends.

Jeffries graduated from Radford City Schools and earned a degree in Animal Science at Virginia Tech, Class of 1964. According to his obituary, "he distinguished himself in the Corps of Cadets, where he was Regimental Executive Officer and was recognized as the distinguished Military Graduate of V.P.I., Class of 1964." He also earned a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Shippensburg University while stationed at the U.S. Army War College in Carlisle, Pa. Among the many places Jeffries served during his Army career was the Pentagon. He retired from the Army on Sept. 1, 1991, and the Jeffries family returned home to Ingleside in Radford. His was the seventh generation of the family founded by William and Mary Draper Ingles, and the sixth generation to live at Ingleside.

"The Mary Draper Ingles story has been well documented in several books and in the outdoor dramas, 'The Long Way Home and Walk to Freedom,' Jeffries obituary reads. "Jeffries researched Mary's journey extensively and was an expert on her story and the Ingles family history. Recognizing the public's interest in Mary's story, he opened his farm annually to the public on what became known as Cabin Days. The centerpiece of the event was a visit to a replica of Mary's cabin, which he had meticulously researched and rebuilt, where Mary's story would be told once again."

Jeffries served on the New River Land Trust Board of Directors and was Executive Director of the Radford Main Street Program for over four years. He was a founding member and first chairman of the Radford Heritage Foundation. He served on the board

of The Virginia Tech Corp of Cadets Alumni Association, The German Club Alumni Association, was on the vestry of Grace Episcopal Church as Senior Warden and Trustee and was a member of the VFW (Post 776) in Radford.

Among the many accolades bestowed on Jeffries in Radford was a key to the City of Radford and the VFW Post 776's Commanders Award in 2016. At that ceremony, then-Commander of the VFW Post 776 Gary Harris called Jeffries "an outstanding citizen of exceptional leadership and devoted service," whose 26-year Army career, including a tour in Vietnam, produced a long list of medals and awards.

Jeffries was commissioned in the United States Army, entering active duty on Jan. 3, 1965. He was awarded an Army Service Ribbon, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal, Bronze Star Medal, Silver Star, Legion of Merit, Parachutist Badge, Pathfinder Badge and Rangers Tab.

In presenting Jeffries with the Key to the City, then-Radford Mayor Dr. Bruce Brown called Jeffries "a true hero who has made significant contributions through his military career and beyond his military service, Bud has continued to live the spirit of America through his contributions to our community by volunteering, serving on boards and commissions and opening his property to the public for Cabin Days and other events."

"It's an honor not only to recognize Bud for his military service but for his citizenship as well," Brown said at the time.

In a social media post, Glencoe Mansion acknowledged Jeffries contributions.

"The Radford community has lost a great historian and advocate this week with the passing of Col. Lewis "Bud" Ingles Jeffries," it reads. "He was instrumental with the founding of many Radford institutions including the Radford Heritage Foundation, which runs Glencoe Mansion and the Mary Draper Ingles Cultural Heritage Park."

Obituaries from page 3

Marchant, James (Jim)

James (Jim) Marchant, of Blacksburg, passed away Jan. 17, 2026 at the age of 73 after courageously battling AL-Amyloidosis for five years.

Jim embodied the ultimate "renaissance" man whose hobbies included hiking, biking, amateur radio, woodworking, stained glass and listening to a wide variety of music from Celtic to country. He and Mary, his wife of 49-plus years, traveled throughout their lifetime, including biking in Hawaii and Scotland, and connecting with family in California, Canada, Italy and Scotland. A California native, throughout high school, Jim regularly hiked in Yosemite and later served in the Army National



Guard in a Chinook helicopter unit.

Jim graduated from U.C. Davis with BS and MS degrees in Civil Engineering and worked respectively for the State of California and the Commonwealth of Kentucky as well as a consultant. Key projects included wetland restoration, inspection of dams, municipal infrastructure, and erosion control on

projects throughout the world.

Jim is survived by his loving and supportive wife, Mary Marchant; his sister Nancy (David) Dedin and their children Lisa (Greg) Basinal and Lori (David) Morse; and brothers-in-law Tom (Karen) Bonzi and Mark (Carol) Bonzi and their children Emily, Mark Jr. and Michael Bonzi and Madelyn Tyman. Jim was preceded in death by his parents, Virgil and Margaret Marchant.

A celebration of life will be held Feb. 7, at 11a.m. at McCoy Funeral Home. If you wish to make a donation, the family suggests Warm Hearth Hospice, ARRL-the National Association for Amateur Radio or the Mono Lake Committee.

Superintendent from page 1

completed his Doctorate in Educational Leadership from the American College of Education.

His career is marked by notable achievements and a profound impact on student achievement. As principal of Orange County High School, he led a transformation that elevated Standards of Learning (SOL) scores from below-average to the highest in the region.

"Throughout my career, my goal has been simple: to create schools where students are excited to walk through the doors each morning, where teachers are valued and validated for their expertise, and every child and the staff knows they matter," Guempel said.

He also spearheaded the development of four new Career & Technical Education programs and successfully halved the school's suspension rates.

His leadership has earned numerous accolades, including six District Coach of the Year awards for his tenure as Head Wrestling Coach at Hermitage High School, recognition as a Friend of DECA at the 2019 state conference, and being named the Virginia High School Principal of the Year in 2019 by the Virginia SCA.

"We are thrilled to have Dr. Kelly Guempel join us in Montgomery County," MCPS School Board Chair Laura Purcell said. "He brings a wealth of experience and immense enthusiasm to build on our strengths and address our challenges. We are so fortunate to have amazing public schools in Montgomery County, and I am excited about what the future holds for our students."

Guempel will begin his new position on Feb. 1, 2026.

Ballard from page 4

industries, meaning things like gym memberships and haircuts would now become taxable events. HB 378 would create a new 3.8% investment tax on top of state income taxes. Investment is what helps make Virginia's economy so strong, and putting more taxes on investment income may lead to a chilling effect on those who may decide to call Virginia home for their families and businesses in future years. Democrats continue to fight against popular lawncare equipment and are seeking to ban gas leaf blowers. But while they want to restrict your choice to use these commonly owned lawn care items, they also want to create a new property tax for electric lawn care equipment. HB 557 would ensure that once your lawncare business complies with any local ordinance banning gas equipment, your new electric mower, weed eater, and leaf blower would receive a new property tax. In simple terms: if you want less of something, tax it!

Other legislation filed by House Democrats do not touch the issue of affordability but instead seek to align Virginia with deep blue states. For example, HB 863 would eliminate mandatory minimum sentences for crimes committed in Virginia. This includes the most heinous of rapes, murders and crimes against children. Mandatory minimums prevent activist judges from turning Virginia into New

York or Minnesota, where violent felons can be released with little to no jail time. HB 493 would allow people to cast their votes electronically through the internet. Anyone who has ever had their password compromised knows what a bad idea this is – the internet is inherently insecure. Voting by internet is an open invitation to fraud. And HB 926 would prohibit outdoor shooting of a firearm on land less than five acres. This is designed to criminalize recreational shooting and would push anti-gun zealotry out of our cities and into rural areas.

As a member of the minority party in the House of Delegates, I feel that it is important for me to inform you of these bad ideas that House Democrats have submitted – and have the votes to advance. Republicans may not have the votes to stop these bills, but we certainly have the voice – and the obligation – to call them out to our constituents.

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 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.

Caldwell Family Farm joins membership of American Angus Association

The Caldwell Family Farm in Riner is a new member of the American Angus Association, reports Mark McCully, CEO of the national breed organization headquartered in Saint Joseph, Missouri.

The American Angus Association, with more than 21,000 active adult and junior members, is the largest beef breed association in the world. Its computerized records include detailed information on over 21 million registered Angus.

The Association records ancestral information and keeps production

records and genomic data on individual animals to develop industry-leading selection tools for its members. The programs and services of the Association and its entities — Angus Genetics Inc., Angus Media, Certified Angus Beef LLC and the Angus Foundation — help members advance the beef cattle business by selecting the best animals for their herds and marketing quality genetics for the beef cattle industry and quality beef for consumers.

American Angus Association

Silverman from page 4

of our past government may be that not much got done. For example, in 2024 our Republican governor vetoed more bills in that one year than any of the past seven Virginia governors had done during their entire four-year terms. Wow! Over his four-year term he vetoed over 400 bills. Clearly, this was not a productive time for Virginia's government.

Another claim was that the economy was strong in Virginia at the end of 2025, but now would be badly damaged by the Democrats. Not very helpful are claims such as these – placing blame for things yet to come! It would be much better if all of our legislators worked hard to see that our economy remained robust, rather than one side just pointing a finger at the other.

Was the local economy really that great at the end of 2025? Certainly, there were people doing well, but many faced large financial challenges. Virginia had been rated as one of the top three states for business between 2019 and 2024 – and first in 2024. In 2025 its ranking slipped all the way to fourth – surely not a sign of a healthy economy. This slippage came about while the U.S. government's economy was noted as the "Envy of the World" in the October 2024 issue of the Economist, which described our national economy as leaving "other rich countries in the dust." Of course, things changed a lot in 2025.

Now Virginia is facing a massive loss of revenue from the federal government, so the days of large budget surpluses are long gone. If we try to even support current programs, more money is going to be needed. It is simply inaccurate to blame this loss of federal funding on the Democrats – as it happened as part of the Republican driven national budget. Our local economy going forward into 2026 faces enormous challenges.

We can like or dislike the national budget, or like or dislike the state budget, but it is unfair to attribute problems resulting from a political party's policies to the other party. Our Virginia leaders now have to deal with decreased revenue (because of the federal budget) without a decrease in need. So, what should they do? Should services be decreased? Do we want people to go hungry, schools to lack funding, or people to suffer from treatable health problems? Do we want to individually pay much more for health insurance? Perhaps we want to tax the rich more, as a relatively small percentage of their wealth is currently taxed (usually a much lower percentage of their income than the tax of middle-income people)? Wonderful would be to hear from our elected officials what we should actually do rather than just complain about the other side.

BAPTIST

First Baptist Church, 555 West Rock Road, Radford, 639-3873. Worship with us: 9:45 a.m.; Sunday School: 10:45 a.m.; Praise and Worship: 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship Service; Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord. 1 Corinthians 15:58.

First Baptist Church on 3rd Ave., 215 Third Ave at the corner with Downey St. We nurture meaningful connections to God and others through worship, spiritual growth, and community ministry. We celebrate the dignity and worth of all persons, created in the image of God. Sunday Bible Study Groups - 9:45, Sunday Worship - 11:00. Website: fbradford.org 540-639-4419. Worship is in-person and live-streamed on Facebook and on our YouTube channel: First Baptist Church Radford.

CHURCH OF GOD

New Hope Church of God, 1404 Mud Pike Rd., C'Burg. Rev. T. Michael Bond, pastor, 731-3178. Sun. School 10 a.m., Worship 10:50 a.m., 6 p.m. Thurs., 7:00 p.m.

West Radford Church of God, 1824 West Main Street, Radford, VA 24141, Sunday School – 10:00A.M. Morning Worship – 11:00A.M., Children's Church 11:00A.M. Sunday Evening – 6:00P.M., Wednesday Night – 7:00P.M., Pastor Danny Newman, Church Office – 540-639-6562 or 804-921-0828

(DOC - DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

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

Unity Christian Church, 400 Tyler Ave., Radford, VA, 540-639-3696, Email: office@unitychristianchurchradford.org, Facebook: [unitychristianchurch](https://www.facebook.com/unitychristianchurch), YouTube: [unitychristianchurchradfordVA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1m1m1m1m1m1m1m1m1m1m1m), Instagram: [@unity_christian2012](https://www.instagram.com/unity_christian2012), Worship at 11:00 am, Children's Worship 11:00 am. Sunday School 9:45 for Adult Bible Discussions seasonally. We are a church that reaches up to worship God, reaches in to grow in discipleship, and reaches out to serve our community. ALL are welcome to participate in our ministries together.

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 10 AM, Sunday School 9 AM. We are a community of God's people where we gather for worship, learning and service. Visitors

Radford

WORSHIP DIRECTORY

LOVE YOUR ENEMIES

Read 1 Samuel 21:1 through 24:22

He [David] said to his men, "The Lord forbid that I should do such a thing to my master, the Lord's anointed, or lay my hand on him; for he is the anointed of the Lord" (1 Samuel 24:6).

King Saul mercilessly pursued David intending to murder him, although David had done nothing against the king. Yet David would not retaliate despite the insistence of his men. Even when God permitted him to catch Saul at a vulnerable time, David refused to take the life of the Lord's anointed.

Why would he do that? Because David revered God.

Instead of slaying the man who was out to murder him, David put his trust in the Lord, seeking God's protection and justice.

While the worldly pummel each other with everything from words to bombs, an honorable faith like David's is the hallmark of those who walk in step with Christ. Jesus said to "love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:44-45).

Challenge for Today: Trust God to handle your enemies while you choose love over revenge.

Quicklook: 1 Samuel 24:1-12

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

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 the Seniors, Garden, Closet, and Mini Pantry, with tremendous community impact. Partnering with Rainbow Riders and Total Action for Progress, we opened the first Early Childhood Head Start in our community (6 weeks to age 3). We sponsor an awesome Scouting program of Scouts Boy & Girl Troop, Venture Scouts for older youth, and a Cub Pack for girls & boys kindergarten - 5th grade, amongst many other programs. Directions:

From Price's Fork Road, turn onto Merrimac Road. St. Michael is ~quarter mile on the left. For more information: Phone 540.951.8951; Email hope@stmcl.us; Website www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org

PRESBYTERIAN

Join us at **The Presbyterian Church of Radford (PC-USA)**, 201 4th Street, at the corner of 4th and Randolph Streets - Phone 540-639-2585. Sunday School at 10 am and Worship at 11 am. Find us on Facebook: The Presbyterian Church of Radford and our Website: www.pcradford.org. The mission of our church is to exhibit our belief in God's love to all of our brothers and sisters. Rev. Doctor Morgan Whitfield, Jr., Pastor.



Legals - Botetourt County

Trustee's Sale 187 SPRING HOLLOW RD, TROUTVILLE, VA 24175 (Parcel ID: 11123)

Default having been made in the terms of a certain Deed of Trust dated 1/5/2024, in the original principal amount of \$264,926.00 and recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of the Botetourt County, Virginia on 1/8/2024, as Instrument No. 240000041, the undersigned Substitute Trustees will sell at public auction on 3/4/2026 at 2:00 PM, Front of building of the Circuit Court Building For Botetourt County, 1 West Main Street, Fincastle, Virginia 24090, the property designated as 187 SPRING HOLLOW RD, TROUTVILLE, VA 24175.

Located in the County of Botetourt, Commonwealth of Virginia: Lot 15, Block 2, according to Map No. 2 Subdivision, Portion of Property of S. E. Wilkinson and G. W. Wills, made by C. B. Malcolm & Son, S.C.E., dated November 21, 1951, recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Botetourt County, Virginia, in Plat Book 3, page 184, and being further described as follows: BEGINNING at the intersection of Lot 14 and Lot 15 at an iron pipe in the edge of Spring Hollow Road; thence along the property line of Lots 14 and 15, N. 30° 22' W. 203.14 feet to an iron stake in the property line of Lots 2 and 3; thence N. 58° 44' E. 100.01 feet to an iron stake in the property line of Lots 15 and 16; thence S. 30° 22' E. 204.71 feet along the property line of Lots 15 and 16 to an iron stake in Spring Hollow Road; thence S. 59° 38' W. 100 feet along Spring Hollow Road to the point of Beginning; and BEING the same property conveyed to the Grantor herein by Deed dated January 4, 2024, recorded contemporaneously with this Deed of Trust.

TERMS: CASH. A deposit of \$26,492.60 or 10% of the sale price, whichever is lower, will be required of the successful bidder at time of sale. Prior to the sale, interested bidders will be required to register with and must present a bid deposit which may be held during the sale by the trustee. The bid deposit must be certified funds and/or cash, but no more than \$9,900.00 of cash will be accepted. The successful bidder's deposit will be retained at the sale and applied to the sale price. If held by the trustee, all other bid deposits will be returned to the unsuccessful bidders. Settlement is to be made within 15 days. The successful bidder will be responsible for obtaining possession of the property, and for all costs and fees related to recording the Trustee's Deed, including the grantors tax. The successful bidder will be required to execute a Memorandum of Trustee's Sale, available for review upon request before the sale, outlining additional terms of sale and settlement. A Trustee's Deed will be prepared by Trustee's attorney at high bidder's expense. This is a communication from a debt collector. Vylla Solutions - Virginia, LLC, 283 Constitution Drive, Suite 102, Office B, Virginia Beach, VA 23462, File No. 25-37622, Tel: 888-313-1969

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 3774 Springwood Road, Fincastle, VA 24090

In execution of a Deed of Trust in the original principal amount of \$212,000.00 dated February 13, 2023 recorded among the land records of the Circuit Court for Botetourt County on February 13, 2023 as Instrument Number: 230000384, the undersigned appointed Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction, at the Main entrance of the courthouse for the Circuit Court of Botetourt County, 1 W Main St, Fincastle, VA 24090 on March 5, 2026 at 12:30 PM the property described in said deed of trust, located at the above address and briefly described as: Beginning at a point and corner in the center of State Secondary Route No. 630 and corner to the property of K.N. King; thence with the center of said road N. 69° 14' 13" E. 238.59 feet to a point and corner in center of said road; thence leaving said

Legals - Botetourt County

road and two new lines through the now or formerly Thompson property as follows: S. 21° 18" E. passing an iron Pin at 19.17 ft., 233.50 feet to a point and corner; thence S. 68° 32' 52" W. 238.58 feet to a point and corner on the property now or formerly of K.N. King; thence with King N. 21° 18' W. 235 ft., passing an iron pin at 211.70 feet to the place of beginning, containing 1.283 acres, more or less, all as shown on a map of survey, a copy of which is of record in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Botetourt County, Virginia, in Deed Book 190, Page 405. Tax ID: 21685. TERMS OF SALE: A bidder's deposit of \$11,000.00 or 10% of the sale price, whichever is lower, will be required in the form of a certified or cashier's check. Cash will not be accepted as a deposit. Settlement within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise trustee may forfeit deposit. Additional terms to be announced at sale. This is a communication from a debt collector. This notice is an attempt to collect on a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. (Trustee # 25-001275) Substitute Trustee: ALG TRUSTEES, LLC C/O Orlans Law Group PLLC PO Box 2548, Leesburg, VA 20177 (703) 777-7101 website: www.Orlans.com

TRUSTEE SALE OF 1131 2nd Street, Blue Ridge, VA 24064

In execution of the Deed of Trust dated November 30, 2017, in the original principal amount of \$148,265.00, recorded as Inst. 170004619, assigned as Inst. 200000435, in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court for the County of Botetourt, Virginia, default having occurred in the payment of the indebtedness thereby secured and at the request of the holder of the note, the undersigned, as Substitute Trustees, either of whom may act, will sell at public auction at the front entrance of the Circuit Court for the County of Botetourt on February 24, 2026, at 1:00 p.m., the property located at the above address and described as Lot 5, Block 7, Section 5, Blue Ridge Heights, County of Botetourt. TERMS: CASH. PROPERTY SOLD AS IS WITH SPECIAL WARRANTY OF TITLE. A deposit of \$10,000.00 or 10% of the successful bid amount (whichever is lower) will be required immediately of the successful bidder, in cashier's check or certified funds only payable to or signed over to "DOLANREID PLLC, TRUSTEE", no person checks accepted. Balance due within 15 days from date of sale VIA BANKWIRE ONLY. Sale is subject to post sale confirmation and audit of the status of the loan including, but not limited to, determination of whether the borrower filed for and obtained bankruptcy protection, entered into any repayment agreement, reinstated or paid off the loan prior to the sale. In any such event, or if trustee is unable to complete the sale, or if it is set aside or not fully completed for any reason except purchaser's default, the sale shall be null and void, and the purchaser's sole remedy, in law or equity, shall be the return of the deposit without interest. Upon purchaser's default, the deposit shall be forfeited and the property resold at the risk and costs of the defaulting purchaser. Sale is subject to all prior liens, easements, restrictions, covenants, reservations and conditions, if any, of record, as well as inchoate liens and any other matters which would be disclosed by an accurate survey or inspection of the premises. Real estate taxes will be adjusted to the date of sale. All costs of conveyance, deed, examination of title, recording charges, grantor's tax and possession will be at the expense of the purchaser. All risks of casualty immediately pass to the successful bidder. Time is of the essence. Winning bidder must sign a memorandum of sale immediately upon completion of sale. Additional terms may be announced at the time of sale. Trustee's affidavit and a copy of the notice of sale available at the foreclosure sale. The opening bid is not announced until the sale. Current sale status available at dolanreid.com/foreclosure-sales. THIS IS A

Legals - Botetourt County

COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. For Information Contact: DolanReid PLLC and G. Benny Moore, Substitute Trustee(s) 12610 Patrick Henry Dr., Ste. D, Newport News, VA 23602; (757) 320-0255, ext. 220 or ext. 260

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 1449 LAKERIDGE CIRCLE, TROUTVILLE, VA 24175.

In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated January 4, 2006, in the original principal amount of \$175,000.00 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Botetourt County, Virginia as Instrument No. 060000421. The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for Botetourt County, Main Street, Fincastle, VA 24090, or any such temporary alternative Circuit Court location designated by the Judges of the Circuit Court, on March 19, 2026, at 10:30 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, WITH ALL THE APPURTENANCES THEREUNTO BELONGING LYING AND BEING THE COUNTY OF BOTETOURT, STATE OF VIRGINIA, AND MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS, TO WIT: BEING LOT 17, BLOCK 5, ACCORDING TO THE MAP OF RAINBOW FOREST, PROPERTY OF, BOTETOURT DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, BOTETOURT COUNTY, VIRGINIA, MADE BY C.B. MALCOLM AND SON, S.C.E.'S, DATED AUGUST 15, 1960 OF RECORD IN TILE CLERK'S OFFICE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BOTETOURT COUNTY, VIRGINIA, IN PLAT BOOK 4, PAGE 102. 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 Mortgagee, 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.bwvsales.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. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Virginia Pre-Sale Department of counsel for Equity Trustees, LLC at 301-961-6555, website: www.bwvsales.com. VA-372477-1.

Legals - Montgomery County

ABC NOTICE TANGLED WISDOM LLC, trading as TANGLED WISDOM, 4287 & 4289 North Fork Road, Elliston, Montgomery Co. VA 24087.

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Farm Winery license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Sean Burrows, Managing Member

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

The Town of Christiansburg Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, February 17, 2026, at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073, pursuant to Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia, as amended. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments concerning: A. Rezoning request by LZM-BAM, LLC, Applicant and Property Owner, for an amendment to proffers on property located at 2886 Roanoke Street, identified as Tax Parcel 501 - ((1)) - 24A (Parcel ID 011123), consisting of approximately 0.968 acres. The property is zoned General Business District (B-3) with proffers, and the request is to amend the proffers accepted with the 2001 rezoning action. The property is designated as Business/Commercial on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.

Legals - City of Salem

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given to all interested persons that the Council of the City of Salem, at its regular meeting on Monday, February 9, 2026, at 6:30 p.m., in Council Chambers, City Hall, 114 N. Broad Street, in the City of Salem, Virginia, will hold a public hearing, pursuant to Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2285, as amended, to

Legals - City of Salem

consider the following requests relative to the CODE OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA:

1. Consider the request of McDonald's Corporation, property owner, to rezone the property located at 101 Electric Road (Tax Map # 80 - 4 - 1) from HBD Highway Business District with condition to HBD Highway Business District.

Copies of the proposed plans, ordinances or amendments may be examined in the Office of Community Development, 21 South Bruffey Street, Salem, Virginia. At said hearing, parties in interest and citizens shall have an opportunity to be heard relative to the said requests. THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA BY: H. Robert Light Clerk of Council

Order of Publication

Commonwealth of Virginia VA Code §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316,-317,20-104 Case No. CL25000427-00 CITY OF SALEM 2 EAST CALHOUN ST SALEM VA 24153 MICHAEL EUGENE MORAN v. AMBER NICHOLE MORAN,

The object of this suit is to: OBTAIN A DIVORCE It is ORDERED that AMBER NICHOLE MORAN appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before April 15,2026 Entered January 9,2026 Stacy L. Owen Deputy Clerk

Legals - Montgomery County

ABC NOTICE TANGLED WISDOM LLC, trading as TANGLED WISDOM, 4287 & 4289 North Fork Road, Elliston, Montgomery Co. VA 24087.

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Farm Winery license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Sean Burrows, Managing Member

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

The Town of Christiansburg Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, February 17, 2026, at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073, pursuant to Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia, as amended. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments concerning: A. Rezoning request by LZM-BAM, LLC, Applicant and Property Owner, for an amendment to proffers on property located at 2886 Roanoke Street, identified as Tax Parcel 501 - ((1)) - 24A (Parcel ID 011123), consisting of approximately 0.968 acres. The property is zoned General Business District (B-3) with proffers, and the request is to amend the proffers accepted with the 2001 rezoning action. The property is designated as Business/Commercial on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.

Legals - Montgomery County

ABC NOTICE

VYY WOODMUJI, INC., trading as FUJIYA RAMEN 103 3RD AVENUE, RADFORD, VA 24141-4703.

Legals - Montgomery County

Town Hall will be open and available to receive public comment in-person at the time of this Public Hearing. A copy of the application, 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 the Planning Department, by phone at (540) 382-6128, Ext. 1902 or by email at planning@christiansburg.org, with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations.

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

The Town of Christiansburg Town Council will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, February 10, 2026, at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments concerning: Rezoning request by Roger Woody, Registered Agent for RWJW Properties, LLC, Applicant and Property Owner, to rezone property located at 300 Kimball Lane SW, identified as Tax Parcel 557-((A))-20; (Parcel ID 016002), and consisting of approximately of 37.987 acres, from Agricultural District (A) to Single-Family Residential District (R-1). The applicant has proffered new conditions after the initial public hearing for this request. Current proffered conditions are related to density, construction of a public road connection, warranted road improvements, preservation of an existing vegetated area, and phasing. The property is designated as Residential on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan. A copy of the applications, the Town's Zoning Map, Zoning Ordinance, and Future Land Use Map may be viewed in the Planning Department Office, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073 during normal office hours of 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contact the Planning Department, at (540) 382-6128, ext. 1902 or by email at planning@christiansburg.org, with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations.

Legals - City of Radford

ABC NOTICE

VYY WOODMUJI, INC., trading as FUJIYA RAMEN 103 3RD AVENUE, RADFORD, VA 24141-4703.

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



The best place to find it, sell it, buy it, and announce it. 389-9355

Legals - City of Radford

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 2507 THIRD STREET, RADFORD, VA 24141.

In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated May 1, 2003, in the original principal amount of \$56,840.00 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Radford City, Virginia, in Book 236 at Page 710 as Instrument No. 0300609. The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for the City of Radford, 619 Second St., W., Radford, VA, or any such temporary alternative Circuit Court location designated by the Judges of the Circuit Court, on February 18, 2026, 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 WITH ALL THE EASEMENTS AND APPURTENANCES THEREUNTO BELONGING OR IN ANYWISE APPERTAINING THERETO, SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN THE WEST WARD OF THE CITY OF RADFORD, VIRGINIA, AND AS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: ALL OF LOTS NUMBER TWO (2), FOUR (4), FIVE (5), AND SIX (6), SECTION EIGHTEEN (18), PLAN A, MAP OF THE RADFORD WEST END LAND COMPANY, WHICH ORIGINAL MAP IS OF RECORD IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY, VIRGINIA IN DEED BOOK 32, PAGE 460 AND OF RECORD IN THE CIRCUIT COURT CLERK'S OFFICE OF THE CITY OF RADFORD, VIRGINIA, IN

Legals - City of Radford

DEED BOOK 42, PAGE 18. 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 Mortgagee, 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.bwvsales.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. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Virginia Pre-Sale Department of counsel for Equity Trustees, LLC at 301-961-6555, website: www.bwvsales.com. VA-380049-1.



This extraordinary estate property located at 934 Commander Drive, Roanoke, VA 24012, situated in the desirable Hollins area of Roanoke County. Built in 1940 and set on 12.58± acres across two tracts, this grand Colonial-Revival home offers nearly 10,000 square feet of elegant living space with expansive rooms, classic architectural character, and sweeping lawn and woodland views. Property Address: 934 Commander Drive, Roanoke, VA 24012

David Boush (VA #3941) 540.871.5810 Scan Me
Jim Woltz (VA #825) 540.353.4582 EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY
800.551.3588 • WOLTZ.COM

THE CLASSIFIEDS- Where the Deals Are!

- AUTOMOBILES FOR SALE**
- BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES**
- APARTMENTS FOR RENT**
- GARAGE SALES**
- SITUATIONS WANTED**

The best place to find it, sell it, buy it, & announce it. To place your ad, call 389-9355

RADFORD SPORTS

Intl. Hot Rod Association to lease Motorsports Park

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

The International Hot Rod Association (IHRA) has entered into a lease agreement for the Pulaski County Motorsports Park, the landmark venue long known to racers and fans as the Motor Mile Speedway, marking a major step in IHRA's mission to revive grassroots motorsports and reinvest in legendary community tracks.

"This track is part of the racing fabric of Virginia — and the kind of place where generations of families have made memories," said Darryl Cuttell, Owner of IHRA. "Leasing Pulaski County Motorsports Park allows us to put racing back where it belongs: in the community, accessible to local teams, and exciting for fans."

The new announcement comes just a month after IHRA announced the launch of

the IHRA Stock Car Series, a bold new division built to restore the true essence of

grassroots stock car racing. The series emphasizes driver talent, balanced competition, and fair, cost-controlled rules—while delivering a national platform

The IHRA Stock Car Series marks a major expansion in the IHRA's rapidly growing motorsports portfolio. With an unwavering commitment to accessible racing, the series will offer a simplified rules package, affordable participation, and transparent competition standards that put the focus back where it belongs: on skill, determination, and the spirit of American short-track racing.

The series will include two initial stops in our area at Pulaski Motorsports Park, formerly known as Motor Mile Speedway near Radford, on March 21 and July 25. With the lease, it is not known how much more expansion will take place.

Unlike many modern series, the IHRA Stock Car Series is intentionally engineered to avoid the "arms race" of high-cost builds and spending wars. Instead, it prioritizes: cost-effective structure, encouraging racers to out-think rather than out-spend their competition; fair rules that keep the

field level; a welcoming entry point for new racers; a sustainable pathway for teams and tracks; and a robust, live broadcasting platform to help racers secure sponsorships.

The new Stock Car Series comes at a pivotal moment for IHRA, following major

expansions into powerboat/offshore racing, truck and tractor pulling, and additional motorsports disciplines. The Stock Car Series further strengthens IHRA's commitment to family-first racing, grassroots competitors, and building a unified national motorsports ecosystem.

"This is just the beginning," said Tim Horton, IHRA Stock Car Series Director. "We're creating a modern motorsports organization with the heart of grassroots racing—and the Stock Car Series is a perfect reflection of what the new IHRA stands for. From the top down, we're racers — not MBA grads. We understand the challenges today's racers face, and every decision we make puts racers and fans ahead of profits."

The county announced a name change to the facility, becoming known as the Pulaski County Motorsports Park. Names the facility had formerly been known as included Pulaski County Speedway, New River Valley Speedway, then Motor Mile Speedway.

In 1952, a dirt track originally opened on the former farm site between Radford and Dublin. In the 80's, a paved 0.416-mile oval was built on the site. The track announced that it had cut all sanctions with NASCAR and discontinued its oval track racing in late 2017 but reopened under NASCAR sanctioning in 2019. It was purchased by Shelor Automotive Group in 2004 and was subsequently renamed Motor Mile Speedway. The track is most famous for hosting four NASCAR Busch Series events between 1989 and 1992, which included future NASCAR champions like Jeff Gordon.

Both the racetrack and dragway did not see regular action over the past two years and was recently part of a donation by the Shelor Motor Group to Pulaski County, who will now be leasee.

Hagan selected to NHRA Greatest Drivers List

Doug Kalitta, Matt Hagan, Jason Line, Eddie Krawiec and Sean Bellemeur are the newest additions to the National Hot Rod Association's Top 75 Drivers list, which is part of NHRA's 75th Anniversary season.

The five drivers join Tony Schumacher, Antron Brown, Ron Capps, Robert Hight, Greg Anderson, Erica Enders, Andrew Hines, Matt Smith, Dan Fletcher and Peter Biondo, who were previously announced.

Ten more drivers will be announced in the coming weeks to complete the list, which is comprised of the original Top 50 Drivers from NHRA's 50th Anniversary season in 2001 and 25 drivers from the modern era.

Hagan is a four-time NHRA Funny Car world champion and a perennial championship threat. He joined Don Schumacher Racing's Funny Car team in 2009 and earned his first race win in 2011, the same year he made the sport's first three-second Funny Car run. Now part of Tony Stewart Racing, his 55 victories rank fourth all-time in class wins.

"This is just awesome," Hagan said. "Man, it gives me chill bumps. It really does. I'm just blown away. I'm honored to even have my name in the same category as the other drivers on the list. I've been paying attention to the list, and it's really cool and super special for me to be on it. I'm very, very honored. I never set out to drive one of these things for a living; it was just right place, right time, and I had the right people around me. It's wild how things evolve, and you get so focused on something, and you try to be good at it, and when you have good people around you, it happens."

After early success in midgets and sprint cars, Kalitta came to NHRA to race in Top Fuel for his uncle, NHRA legend Connie Kalitta, in 1998 and won the Road to the Future award as a top rookie. He has captured world championships in 2023 and 2025, and his 59 wins rank fourth in Top Fuel wins.

"It's a privilege and an honor



PHOTO COURTESY OF NHRA

Matt Hagan

for sure," said Kalitta. "I've obviously been following the list announcements and was kind of hoping that at some point I would end up getting a call like this. I've been watching this sport for a lot of years and was around to see my uncle Connie and Shirley Muldowney race. I'm just really proud of the history of the sport, and it's definitely very cool to be part of that history and the Top 75 Drivers list. When I started drag racing, I absolutely wouldn't have thought I would accomplish all that I have, but thanks to Connie's support in giving me the opportunity to drive for him, and the help of my teammates over the years, I've had a great career."

The original Top 50 Drivers remain a foundational part of the new Top 75 Drivers list, with historical figures such as Don Garlits, John Force, Don Prudhomme, and Shirley Muldowney celebrated alongside current stars. The full list showcases NHRA's best across all eras.

The 25 new additions were selected for their excellence over the last 25 years and include the best from NHRA's Professional and Sportsman classes.

When the list is completely revealed, fans can purchase a commemorative book saluting the Top 75 Drivers, a keepsake packed with photos and profiles of each of the 75 drivers.

NHRA

Radford boys take down Floyd



Colten Garner-Rollins scores a triple in the Bobcat's win. He finished with 10 points in the 51-50 win over Floyd.



Radford's Demariah Brown battles in the paint against Floyd County. With the win, Radford moves to 11-2 on the season. Floyd fell to 11-3 overall.



Senior Jaden Hendricks scores on an easy layup against the visiting Buffaloes. He finished with seven points in the win.

PHOTOS BY BRYANT ALTIZER

Tech alum takes a leap into the unknown

Standing on a platform 65 to 70 feet above a dark body of water and peering at the surface below is cause for muscles to become gripped with paralysis, a heart to start jackhammering against a ribcage, and a mind to become devoured by fear.

And yet Kaylea Arnett '16 simply does a little dance, lines herself up, and casually jumps, contorting her body into an array of flips and twists before landing feet first in the water.

"I'm just up there cool as cucumber," she said.

Arnett dove headfirst into this latest adventure, as the former Virginia Tech All-American diver and recent Virginia Tech Sports Hall of Fame inductee now competes on the Red Bull Cliff Diving World Series tour, a series of cliff diving events held around the globe in which competitors vie for the overall title.

That Arnett, a four-time Atlantic Coast Conference Most Valuable Women's Diver, catapults herself these days from 70 feet above water comes as no surprise. The 32-year-old used to compete in the rodeo and taught herself to ride a unicycle as a kid while growing up rural Texas before her family move to southern Oklahoma to live in the Chickasaw Nation to be closer to her late

mother's native Indigenous family.

Arnett herself admits being a bit of a free spirit with an eclectic array of interests. Her career plan wasn't necessarily to become a cliff diver. Truthfully, she didn't have a plan.

"I'm not much of a planner," Arnett admitted.

After her decorated career at Virginia Tech and graduating with a degree in philosophy in College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences and a minor in Japanese — a unique combination — Arnett wasn't sure what she wanted to do. She only knew that she wanted to continue diving.

Then an opportunity arose — in China. "There was this big show in Macau, China called The House of Dancing Water," Arnett said. "I put together a little demo reel of all my dives and sent it out, and they picked me up immediately. Actually, I walked the stage [at graduation] and then flew to China the next day, so it was a rapid transition for me."

"I went straight into the circus there, and that's where I learned how to do high diving because traditionally, diving is only 10 meters, but in Macau, I was doing 25 meters. ... Going twice as high

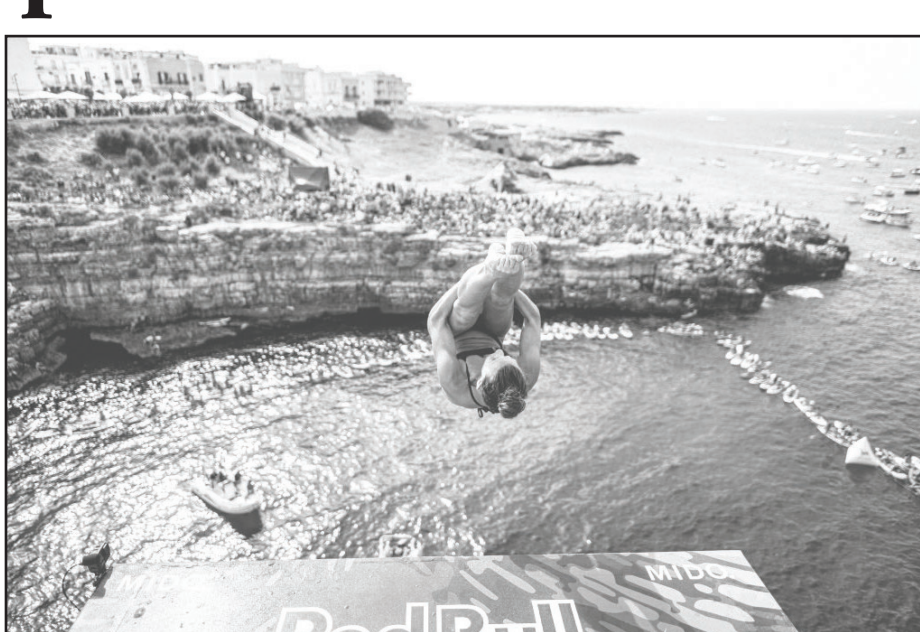


PHOTO COURTESY OF DEAN TREML, RED BULL CONTENT POOL.

Former Virginia Tech All-American diver Kaylea Arnett '16 is competing internationally as a high diver, plunging into various bodies of water from platforms as high as 70 feet in the air — and loving it.

as I'm used to was scary the first time, but once you do it, it's really addicting."

Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic shut down the production and the entertainment industry. Married

at this point, Arnett and her husband moved to Cancun, Mexico, where they started a coffee shop.

See Diving, page 12

Radford girls take the win over Blacksburg



Radford's Brianna Perry shoots over Blacksburg defender Grace Haynes during a Thursday night home game. Perry scored 14 points in a Bobcat non-conference win. In girls basketball, Radford defeated visiting Blacksburg, 60-30.



After collecting an offensive rebound, Radford's Angel Thompson scores against Blacksburg's Ella Day.



Radford's Shannon Wade guards Blacksburg's Madelyn Belton during a recent home game. With continuous defensive pressure, Radford doubled up Blacksburg 60-30.



Radford's Kierson Carter drives down the lane against Blacksburg. Carter had 23 points in a 60-30 win for the Bobcats.

PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING

Local family has strong bond with Hokie women

Long before Virginia Tech women's basketball saw sold-out crowds or gained national recognition, dedicated fans like Jeffrey and Sandy Birch were turning the program into family.

As inaugural season ticket holders, the former Virginia Tech staff members began consistently attending games in the 1990s, driven by their love for women's sports and the community.

"When I was about [the players'] age, there wasn't much in the way of women's sports," Sandy, a retiree from Tech's computer science department, explained. "So, I can kind of live through these young ladies – we love seeing the athleticism, we love the camaraderie around the team, and we love seeing our friends at the games."

Camaraderie extended beyond just the basketball court. Jeffrey, who spent 40 years as a professor of statistics in the College of Science at Virginia Tech, played in a faculty pickup league they jokingly called the "Noontime Basketball Association" (NBA), where many of the same people who now sit with them on the front row once played hoops and softball together. Over nearly 25 years, that lunchtime game grew into a network of friendships and traditions that now live on in Cassell Coliseum, where they still greet those familiar faces by name along the bench.

"When we sit down, we can say, 'Hello, Damian! Hello, Heather! and Hello, Allan!,' Jeffrey said. "These are all people sitting near the front row with us that we've known for decades. We love getting to see our friends down there on that bench – our basketball community."

For the family, that continuity of seeing their old "teammates" in the same seats, season after season, is a big part of what makes Virginia Tech women's basketball feel like home.

Community – an integral and uniquely Hokie part of the program – means that whether you're a new family in Blacksburg, a student or a long-time supporter, you love women's basketball. And as the program grew in the 1990s, the excitement and community did too.

Sandy especially loved the fan energy about the "Bonnie Ball" era, a fast-paced, team-first style of play implemented by then-head coach Bonnie Henrickson, who led the Hokies to a Sweet 16 run in 1999.

"Around that time, when they got really good, we'd stand in line till the doors open, then run to get into a good seat, because we like to sit in the front row," Sandy laughed. "Sometimes we would even have our students stand in line for us and let them run in to save the seats for us, since it wouldn't look appropriate for faculty to jump over seats."

Beyond the games themselves, the Birches also loved participating in "socials" with other supporters of the women's basketball program. After home matchups, they'd join their friends, coaches and even some players in the dining hall for an exciting chance to build relationships with other fans

and the team. A fan would always supply the food – and the coaches would share insight on the game they had just played as well as upcoming games.

During these gatherings, one moment in particular stood out to the Birches – the day that their then-11-year-old granddaughter Abbey was "recruited" to join the team.

Jeffrey and Sandy had won a women's basketball auction package that let her experience a mock recruiting visit with Virginia Tech. A lifelong Hokie fan and basketball player who had been attending games since she was a baby, Abbey arrived already in love with the program – but the day still exceeded her expectations. Then-head coach Kenny Brooks and the staff were warm and genuine, making the visit feel less like a staged promotion and more like a real recruiting experience.

And the sense of being truly seen by the program didn't start or end with that recruiting visit. It echoed an earlier ritual with Coach Brooks' predecessor Dennis Wolff, who made a habit of finding young Abbey in the front row for a hug before every game.

Now a sophomore mechanical engineering major at Virginia Tech, Abbey still attends the women's basketball games with her grandparents, but just sometimes from the student section.

"Being in the student section now is a different vibe, but it's still the same community I grew up in," Abbey said. "The girls on the court aren't just celebrities anymore – they're my age, people I might pass on campus or sit next to in class, and that makes it feel even more real and special."

Abbey now also shares a gameday ritual with her parents: even though they live five hours away in southern Maryland, they watch Virginia Tech women's games on TV and look for her in the crowd, often spotting her in their front-row seats when the camera pans the court. They text back and forth in real time, turning each broadcast into a shared experience that keeps them closely connected to one another and to the program, no matter where they're watching from.

"It really is a strong community of folks who have supported the women for a long time," Sandy reflects, speaking to the family-like culture of the women's basketball fanbase. "And I love to see a lot of little girls in the stands. I think that it is very inspirational when they're watching the Hokie players play."

With the 2025-26 season now underway, the family is eager to see how much the team can grow under head coach Megan Duffy's second year, and excited to keep adding new memories to a story that's already spanned generations in Cassell Coliseum.

The 2025-26 season of Virginia Tech women's basketball marks the 50th season in which the program has electrified Cassell Coliseum.

Virginia Tech Athletics

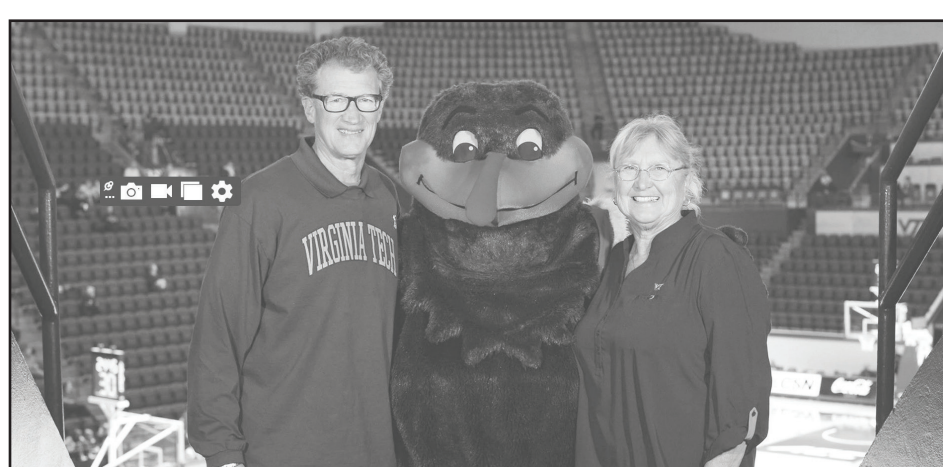


PHOTO COURTESY OF VT ATHLETICS

For three decades, Sandy and Jeff Birch have anchored front row family seating, all bound together by Virginia Tech women's hoops.

Sports notes: Hokie sets collegiate top 2,000

Marty Gordon

NRVsports@ourvalley.org

George Couttie set a collegiate best in the 2,000 meters to highlight opening-day competition at the Hokie Invitational on Friday, while Virginia Tech's men's sprint squad posted an all-time performance at the Stan Scott Invitational.

Couttie competed in the 2,000 meters, where he finished as the top collegiate finisher and set a new collegiate all-time best with a time of 4:57.81, becoming the first collegian to break five minutes in the event and establishing a Virginia Tech program record.

The performance came one week after Couttie represented Great Britain at the World Cross Country Championships in Tallahassee, Fla., where his squad finished seventh (23:11) in the mixed relay. In December, he opened his collegiate indoor season by running a career-best 7:36.74 in the 3,000 meters at the Boston University Sharon Colyear-Danville Season Opener, ranking No. 9 all-time in NCAA history and setting a Virginia Tech program record.

Virginia Tech Director of Cross Country and Track & Field Ben Thomas also had Olympian and world champion Cole Hocker competing in the 2,000 meters. Hocker, who continues to train under Thomas, ran 4:52.92 to break the American record and set a facility record at Rector Field House.

Hokie All-American

Virginia Tech senior Lauren Render has been named as a USA Lacrosse preseason All-American honorable mention selection.

Render has been a steady force since her freshman season with the Hokies. Her junior year was particularly impressive, scoring 55 goals, including seven in Tech's upset of then-No. 11 Syracuse, which earned her ACC Offensive Player of the Week honors.

Last season, she led the Tech squad in both goals (55) and total points (62). The attacker was named Second Team All-ACC and IWLCA Second Team All-

Region in 2025.

Big South honors Highlanders

The Big South Conference has announced Radford University's Del Jones has been named the Co-Player of the Week and Frederik Erichsen has been named the Freshman of the Week for their efforts in the Highlanders' 2-0 week against Big South foes.

Jones played a large role in guiding Radford to a flawless week in conference play scoring 52 total points in wins at Gardner-Webb and against Longwood. In Radford's thrilling win over the Lancers, Jones had the shot of the day beating the clock with a layup at the last second that sealed the deal in Radford's 85-83 win. He scored 25 points in the victory, and earlier in the week tied his career high for points with 27 on the road against Gardner-Webb.

After a relatively quiet night off the bench helping Radford earn a win at Gardner-Webb, Erichsen had a handful of key buckets in Radford's thrilling win over Longwood to close out the week. Erichsen provided eight points and a block in the game against the Lancers. Against the Runnin' Bulldogs, he pulled down five rebounds with another block.

RU player to UAB

UAB Head Football Coach Alex Mortensen has named Corbin Grantham to a Quality Control Assistant Coach position. Grantham spent the 2025 season on staff at Oklahoma State as a Defensive Assistant.

Prior to his time in Stillwater, Grantham played college baseball most recently at Radford from 2024-25. Grantham carried a .993 fielding percentage through his two seasons with the Highlanders and tallied 49 hits, 40 runs scored, and 26 stolen bases.

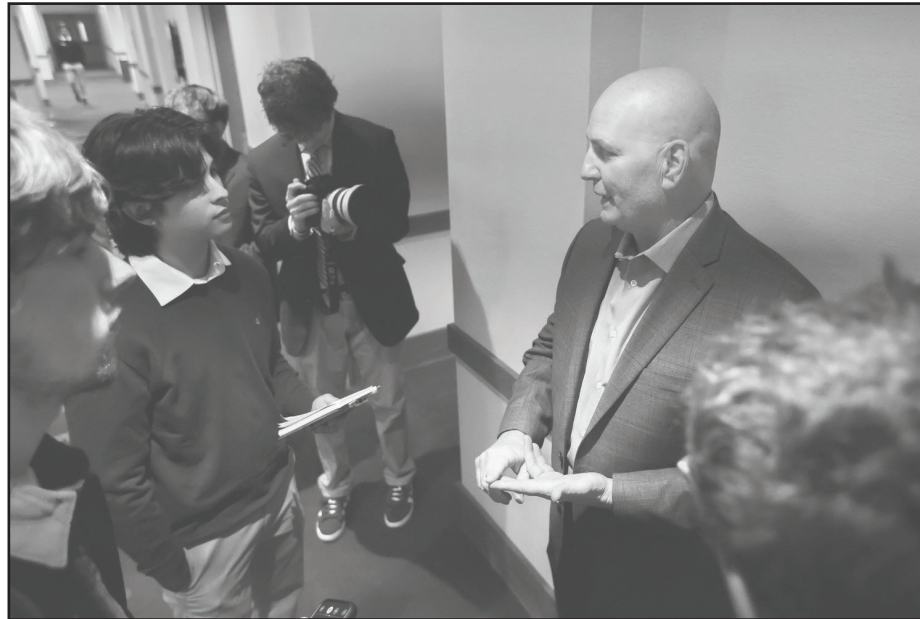
Grantham also spent two seasons at Shelton State Community College from 2022-23 where he was a career .288 hitter with the Bucs and was also part of the 2023 ACCC State Championship team.

Grantham is a native of Gainesville, Fla. and is the son of UAB defensive coordinator Todd Grantham.

Fans enjoy Baseball Night in Blacksburg



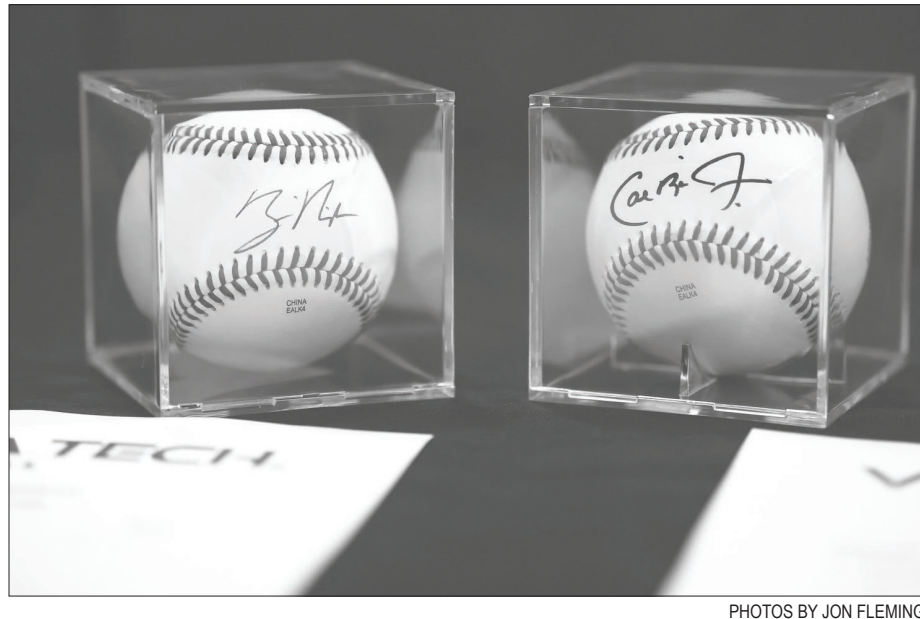
Virginia Tech head baseball coach John Szeftc gives reporters insight on the Hokies upcoming season, which starts in Feb. 13 with a three-game series at English Field against William and Mary.



Former major league player Billy Ripken is interviewed prior to Virginia Tech's Baseball Night in Blacksburg event, held Friday, Jan. 23. Brothers Cal Jr. and Billy Ripken were the featured guests at the event.



Baseball Hall of Famer Cal Ripken Jr, pictured with wife Laura Kiessling, was a featured guest along with his brother Billy at Virginia Tech's Baseball Night in Blacksburg. The event was highly attended.



PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING

Baseballs autographed by brothers Billy and Cal Ripken Jr were some of the many personalized items auctioned off during Virginia Tech's Baseball Night in Blacksburg on Friday night.



PHOTO COURTESY OF RADFORD UNIVERSITY

Josh Poslusny

Radford sophomore is a flourishing sportswriter at VT On Sports Illustrated

More than almost anything, Josh Poslusny wants to be a sportswriter.

Someday, he hopes to fly around the country, from one ballpark to another throughout the spring and summer months, working as a beat writer covering Major League Baseball's Kansas City Royals, chronicling the team's every move on and off the diamond. The Royals are his favorite team, and baseball is his favorite sporting pastime.

"Baseball is a calm sport and covering it is definitely what I'm good at; it's my niche," said the Radford University communication major from Ocean Springs, Mississippi.

Though only a sophomore at Radford, Poslusny — everyone calls him Poz, or Little Poz if they know his dad — has already gained substantial experience covering collegiate baseball, football, basketball and wrestling for a variety of media outlets.

One of those, however, has a familiar ring to it: Sports Illustrated.

Poslusny spends hours writing about Virginia Tech athletics for VT On SI, a locally focused online subsidiary of the longtime gold standard in sports journalism.

In the fall of 2025, a friend who is a lead editor for On SI offered Poslusny a writing position with the website. Poz has been a prolific writer for other media outlets since arriving in Radford, so his editor friend knew Poslusny could more than keep up with the rigorous pace of writing game recaps, columns and the ever-changing college student-athlete transfer portal.

In November, the prolific Poslusny carved enough time from his demanding academic schedule to write about 35 articles from his residence hall, a press box or wherever he "could just sit down and get work done," he explained. In

December, Poslusny was even more productive, submitting about 40 articles. And because the transfer portal is in a constant state of motion, Poslusny consistently faced uber-tight deadlines.

"It's a lot of work," he said, "but I'm doing what I love."

Poslusny is sharpening his journalism skills not only through real-world, hands-on experience, but also through the knowledge he is gaining from Radford faculty, particularly those in the university's School of Communication. Among those he credits is Associate Professor of Media Studies Hyeri Jung, who teaches Communications 104 — Basic News Writing, a course Poslusny said had "a big impact" on him.

"Poz is a skilled sports news writer," Jung said. "Not many first-year students are as good as Poz in covering a specific news topic. I look forward to seeing him flourish as a sports news reporter."

Soon after taking another course that Poslusny said helped him tremendously with his writing and interviewing skills, he secured an additional writing job as a college baseball beat writer.

Those journalism and communications courses are doing more for Poslusny than preparing him for a future gig as a sportswriter. They are helping him find his place as a Highlander.

"I've built a lot of great relationships here at Radford and throughout Southwest Virginia," he said. "I feel like Radford has helped me find my place, especially coming here from Mississippi, and it has helped me make a footprint on the community with my sports writing and those relationships I've built."

Chad Osborne for Radford University

The hidden dangers of nanoplastics



PHOTO BY FELICIA SPENCER FOR VIRGINIA TECH

Plastic materials are not biodegradable. They break down in the environment and eventually become miniscule nanoplastics.

Human health risks from direct consumption of toxic nanoplastics are already scary, but researchers have confirmed that nanoplastics in water give rise to an additional threat: They strengthen bacteria.

In a recent study published in *Water Research*, Virginia Tech's Jingqiu Liao and a group of international researchers found that nanoplastics' interactions with environmental microbes may pose indirect dangers to people, specifically by way of water systems.

"It is very important to better understand the adverse effects of the nanoplastics on human health, and not just in humans but also in the environment, which indirectly influences human health," said Liao, assistant professor of civil and environmental engineering. "The nanoplastics can make the antimicrobial-resistant pathogens better survive, which could be harmful to the environment and would have public health implications."

In the study, the authors note this resistance to disinfectants has the potential to create great challenges for water treatment and distribution systems.

"When the nanoplastics interact with the biofilm and the bacteria inside them, they can strengthen the biofilm and make it more resistant to any kind of measures that are going to keep the water clean," said Liao, who is also an affiliate with Fralin Life Sciences Institute's Global Change Center.

Nanoplastics are a subset of microplastics and include particles ranging in size from roughly one to 1,000 nanometers, all of which are too small to be seen by the naked eye. The researchers looked at the effects nanoplastics have on the biofilm formation in drinking water systems.

Biofilms are communities of different bacteria that attach to surfaces, such as water pipes, and form a protective matrix that shields them from environmental stress. In some locations, biofilms can be beneficial, removing potentially harmful elements, but in drinking water distribution systems, they can be hazardous to humans.

According to Liao, this is rooted in the pathogenic nature of certain bacteria within biofilms as well as the fact that bacteria are also hosts to bacteriophages, which are viruses. How these potentially

problematic microorganisms interact with nanoplastics was largely unknown prior to the study.

"The primary process that we were particularly interested in is how the bacteria and the bacteriophages interact with each other during the process when the nanoplastics influence the biofilm as a whole," said Liao, also an affiliate with the Fralin Life Sciences Institute's Center for Emerging, Zoonotic, and Arthropod-borne Pathogens.

Liao said researchers discovered that when the biofilm composed of *E. coli* and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* is exposed to nanoplastics, several responses from the bacteria are triggered:

Different bacteria "talk" with each other and secrete substances that make the biofilm thicker, heavier, and more protective.

Prophages — phages that integrate their own genomes (DNA) into their bacterial hosts' genomes — are activated, destroying the bacterial cells they live in and creating many new virus particles.

Bacteria fight the prophages using clustered regularly interspaced short palindromic repeats (CRISPR) of DNA or RNA cells to target them as an antiviral defense system.

In the study, the authors conclude that "the increased mechanical strength of the biofilm and its resistance to the disinfectants highlight a potential challenge for water treatment and distribution systems, as nanoplastics may increase the formation of difficult-to-eradicate biofilms on the surface of some water treatment and distribution systems."

Liao believes more research is needed to better understand the molecular mechanisms underlying the ecological responses of complex multispecies biofilms to nanoplastics. She also suggests that the size of the plastics matters. She points out that microplastics, which are larger than the nanoplastics, may have different effects on the bacteria-phage interactions within the biofilm.

"Overall, our findings provide novel insights into the interplay between nanoplastics and bacterium-phage dynamics, highlighting increased microbial risks associated with waterborne nanoplastics," Liao said.

Virginia Tech

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.

Teddy has a gentle personality and loves to snuggle with his person. He's a smart boy, too, knowing commands, like sit and down, just by seeing hand signals that a volunteer at the Animal Care and Adoption Center taught him! Teddy's adoption is sponsored by Montgomery County Friends of Animal Care and Control.



Vernon is the sweetest boy. He can be a little shy at times but toss a plush squeaky toy his way and you could win him over for life! When Vernon finds his people, he's going to want to cuddle and get belly rubs.

RU

from page 1

doing the work thoughtfully and inclusively," Hepburn said. "Today we celebrate and begin implementation."

Joyner and Hepburn singled out numerous individuals who have been active in building the strategic plan. Radford Chief of Staff Ryan Bowyer will manage the plan's implementation.

"This plan only matters if we bring it to life together," Hepburn said, encouraging those in the audience to engage with the plan's website, which features updates and participation opportunities. "Your continued engagement is vital to achieving our goals."

Over the past two years, the Radford community has worked together on a strategic plan "that challenged us, focused us and ultimately strengthened us," said Danilowicz, who noted the plan is centered on

four ambitious goals: Defining Radford's distinctive nature; driving regional economic development; stabilizing enrollment; and streamlining resources to increase efficiency and effectiveness.

Accomplishments over those two years, the president noted, include sharpening the university's identity as a "deeply connected place and purpose" and improving ways Radford operates to better serve its students and each other.

In that time frame, the university stabilized enrollment at a time of national uncertainty, an accomplishment that prompted the president to raise his right fist in the air and shout "Woohoo!" to the delight of the audience.

"Those accomplishments are not just milestones — they are the foundation for everything we are about to launch today," the president continued. "You built that foundation. You made this moment possible. And I want to begin by saying thank you."

Addressing the gathering in the auditorium and those watching online, Danilowicz provided detailed insight into the plan's six themes, one of which is culture of care.

"We want every Highlander to feel valued, supported and empowered to thrive," he said.

To accomplish that goal for students, Radford will "leverage innovative technologies and support tools to proactively connect them with the services and resources they need to thrive," Danilowicz

said. "For employees, we will develop more robust onboarding programs, mentorship opportunities and other knowledge-sharing approaches so that all faculty and staff feel supported and are able to flourish."

Additional strategic plan themes include academic achievement and intellectual discovery, student success and experiential learning, strategic partnerships and community engagement, organizational excellence and continuous improvement and communication and collaboration.

Culture of care holds each of these themes together, the president noted, and "is the single most important thread woven throughout the plan."

The success of Shaping Tomorrow — Together will depend on each individual in the Highlander community, the president expressed.

"Each of us has unique talents, perspectives and experiences that will help bring this plan to life. This is a moment to roll up our sleeves. A moment to dream big. A moment to lean into the future with confidence and excitement."

In closing his remarks, Danilowicz reminded the gathering that Radford "has always been a place where people care deeply — about their work, about their community and about each other."

"That is our strength. That is our identity," he said. "And that is what will carry us forward."

Chad Osborne for Radford University

Kick off the new year on your terms.

4.00% APY*

9-MONTH CERTIFICATE

\$5,000 minimum deposit required

15-MONTH CERTIFICATE

\$5,000 minimum deposit required

Start the new year with a great rate. Whether you're planning short-term or a little longer, choose a 9- or 15-month certificate and let your savings work smarter. The entire balance must be funded with money not already on deposit at Truliant. Open yours today!

Truliant.org/SpecialRates



Federally insured by NCUA. Limited-time offers. Not available on Business accounts. Please visit Truliant.org/SpecialRates for details. *APY = Annual Percentage Yield. Penalty for early withdrawal. Specials require a minimum deposit of \$5,000 and entire balance must come from funds not currently on deposit at Truliant.

Diving

from page 9

While there, Arnett practiced high diving in the cenotes outside of Cancun. She shared her training "facility" with snakes, spiders and parrots.

Coming out of the pandemic, she received an invitation to compete at a Red Bull Cliff Diving World Series event, but two weeks beforehand, an official from Cirque du Soleil contacted her, asking her to be a part of "O," a water show held at the Bellagio in Las Vegas.

Arnett agreed to a contract and headed to Vegas.

"I thought I would be more stable doing a show rather than competing because there is always a lot of pressure to compete," she said. "In a competition, you're diving for scores, whereas in a show, you're diving for applause. It doesn't matter if you make a big splash, or anything like that, the crowd is going to go wild no matter what. ... I decided to go with the more laidback lifestyle of performing."

Most in the diving world consider being a part of "O" as the pinnacle for a diver, and Arnett was a part of "O" for three years.

But the desire to compete again started to grow, and Arnett found herself trying to sort through those urges.

"I always had these moments like, 'What if I regret not doing competitions? What if I regret not trying to do Red Bull?'" she said. "It's always been knocking on the door, and I've just never opened

that door yet. I thought, 'If I want to do this, I will have checked every bucket list that any diver would have for all of these diving careers.' And I decided to just go for it."

In 2024, she received another invitation from the Red Bull Cliff Diving World Series to compete as a wild card and decided to take the plunge. Each series event consists of two days of competition at one location, with divers performing easier dives on the first day and harder ones on the second.

Arnett's first event was in Boston, where divers jumped off a platform into the Boston Harbor. She finished second and has been a regular ever since, competing in places such as the Philippines, Italy, and Bosnia and Herzegovina, where divers dove off the famed Mostar Bridge into the Neretva River.

"She's definitely out of the ordinary," former Virginia Tech diving coach Ron Piemonte said. "I don't see Kaylea ever sitting at a cubicle. She's one of those people who needs to be doing something that is a little out there."

"I'm also not surprised at how good she is. She's such a competitor. She loves to get out there in front of people and do what she's capable of doing."

Arnett finished third in the overall standings on the Red Bull Cliff Diving World Series tour this summer. She also started competing in high diving events on the World Aquatics World Cup and was second in the overall standings. She finished fourth at the World Aquatics Championships held in Singapore in late July.

Jimmy Robertson for Virginia Tech

