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Radford City Council member Hite announces resignation

Radford City Council Member Forrest Hite has announced his planned resignation from the council ending his four-year term early. Councilman Hite will have served two years of his four-year term at the time of his resignation with his formal letter of resignation to be submitted in early July. Hite stated in his announcement that he and his family plan to move to Huntsville, Ala. to be closer to family.

Hite said that during his tenure on the council he was most proud of

the council's emphasis and focus on economic development and making Radford an attractive, tenable location for businesses to come to and to stay. He cited the council's attempts to navigate the early days of the pandemic in an intentional, even-handed, and reasonable way.

Councilman Hite also served on the Board of Directors of New River Valley Community Service.

Radford Mayor Savid Horton said, "We are thankful for Mr. Hite's service and wish him, his wife, and their

growing family well on their new journey together. We appreciate his willingness to serve the Citizens of Radford over the past two years."

Hite said, "I still love Radford and her people and hope for nothing but the best for the River City's future. I am tremendously grateful for the 12 years that I've called Radford home, and Tatiana and I are both thankful for the kindness and support we've been shown especially in the last 3+ years from so many of you in Radford and throughout the 12th District."



Councilman Forrest Hite

SUBMITTED PHOTO

NRCC recognizes first nursing scholarship recipients

New River Community College recently recognized the recipients of the first class of NRCC Nursing Scholars, a new scholarship program that fosters opportunity and success for outstanding high school junior and senior students who show interest and ability in NRCC's Nursing Associate of Applied Science degree.

Audrey Bucy of Radford High School, Greta Dargel of Montgomery County (homeschool), Melanie Gallimore of Floyd County High School, Mary Graham of Radford High School, Paige Lilly of Pulaski County High School, and Elaina McCoy of Blacksburg High School were awarded scholarships at a ceremony held at NRCC on May 16. At the event, each student was presented with a new stethoscope.

Scholarship students and their families were greeted by NRCC's President Dr. Pat Huber, Vice President of Instruction and Student Services Dr. Peter Anderson, Dean of Arts and Sciences Sarah Tolbert-Hurysz, NRCC Educational Foundation Executive Director Angie Covey, Coordinator of Nursing Dr. Lorrie Coe-Mead, nursing faculty Debra Massaro and Jes-

sica Windle, and advisors Kassey Davidson and Fran Scartelli.

"This new nursing scholarship creates opportunities for students in the New River Valley to get a debt-free education in a rewarding and in-demand career pathway," said Huber. "The program will not only change the lives of our students, but it will also prepare them to serve their communities as health care heroes."

Nursing Scholars will receive support from advisors who are charged with helping scholars make the best possible transition from high school through completion of NRCC's Nursing AAS degree. The scholarship consists of level one and level two awards. High school (public, private and homeschool) juniors and seniors who reside in NRCC's service region (Floyd, Giles, Montgomery, and Pulaski Counties and Radford City) may apply for level one scholarships.

Nursing Scholars must demonstrate outstanding academic achievement, leadership, and citizenship. Applicants must have a 3.75 high school grade point average or better and demonstrate superior levels of leadership and citizenship in the application essays.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Blacksburg's Panjammers Steel Drum Orchestra will kick off the Summer Solstice Fest on the Freedom First stage.

Blacksburg's Summer Solstice Fest returns on June 18

The 14th annual Summer Solstice Fest returns to downtown Blacksburg, on Saturday, June 18, from 1:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

The festival will feature live music, food, arts, crafts, and performances.

Circus Stella, a traditional family circus which features performing rescued dogs and amazing human feats like trapeze, aerial silk, rope-walking, and acrobatics, will perform three shows. The children's area will feature a petting zoo, an obstacle course, and water games.

Blacksburg's own PanJammers Steel Drum Orchestra will kick off the music on the Freedom First stage leading a fun-filled lineup that will include Root Down, Flight One, Ripe Jive, Annabelle's Curse, and The Jared Stout Band.

The festival will also feature hula and silk fan performers and performances by The Mystic Witches of Floyd and the Irish Dance Academy of Southwest Virginia.

For more information, visit <https://downtown-blacksburg.com/summer-solstice-blacksburg.aspx>.

Grammy Award-winning Ranky Tanky brings a savory taste of low country soul to Moss Arts Canter

The Moss Arts Center presents an evening full of grooves, funk, and fun with Grammy Award-winning quintet Ranky Tanky. The band brings a savory taste of South Carolina low country soul to Blacksburg for Virginia Tech Reunion Weekend on Friday, June 10, at 7:30 p.m.

The performance will be held in the center's Anne and Ellen Fife Theatre, located within the Street

and Davis Performance Hall at 190 Alumni Mall.

Mixing African music, American gospel, and R&B, Ranky Tanky is five lifelong friends from Charleston, South Carolina. The group performs timeless music born from the Gullah culture of the southeastern Sea Islands and has established itself as a passionate global ambassador for its local culture and community, helping to faithfully pre-

serve the traditions originated by African Americans in the coastal South during slavery that are kept alive through the present day.

Ranky Tanky (a Gullah phrase for "get funky") is led by the extraordinary voice of singer Quiana Parler. The band's transporting music uplifts and inspires, bringing audiences to their feet with lively

See Ranky Tanky, page 4



SUBMITTED PHOTO

County's finance team receives award for 34th straight year

For the 34th straight year, the Montgomery County Finance Department has received the Government Finance Officers Association's (GFOA) Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting.

The award was given to Montgomery County again this year for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2020. The CAFR was judged by an objective panel of national governmental finance professionals.

Yet again, Montgomery County's CAFR was deemed as meeting the GFOA's high program standards, which includes demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate the locality's financial story and to motivate potential users and user groups to read the CAFR.



Charleston, South Carolina-based band Ranky Tanky.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PETER FRANK EDWARDS

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, June 4:

Blacksburg Museum annual gospel ding
The Blacksburg Museum and Cultural Foundation's annual gospel sing will be held from noon to 6 p.m. on the Alexander Black House lawn, 204 Draper Road SW. Admission is free, donations are encouraged. Area choirs, soloists, and praise dancers will sing current and old-time gospel favorites. Everyone is welcome to bring an instrument and join in the group sing.
The schedule for the music is as follows: Noon to 1 p.m.: Bob and Claudia Goldstein; 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.: the Glorylanders; 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.: Joann's This and That Singers; 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.: Simple Gifts; 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.: the Indian Run Gospel Trio; 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.: Alexis Johnson. The event is sSponsored by the Virginia Tech Foundation.

American Red Cross blood drive
At the Meadowbrook Public Library at 9 a.m. Schedule an appointment at www.redcrossblood.org. The blood drive will be held at the Waldron Wellness Center-Carilion Community Room. A patron of the Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library who has fines and donates blood will be forgiven up to \$10, redeemable only at Meadowbrook Public Library.

Caturday
At the Meadowbrook Public Library at noon. Sign up at the library for a 15-minute slot to read to a cat from the Montgomery County Animal Care and Adoption Center to practice reading and to socialize shelter cats. For all ages.

Father's Day gift program
At the Meadowbrook Public Library at 1 p.m. Participants will make a special Father's Day gift. Fill a mug with treats and then gift-wrap it. Supplies are limited.

Teen DND
At the Blacksburg Library at 2 p.m. Dungeons and Dragons for ages 11 to 17.

PanJammers Steel Drum Orchestra
At the Blacksburg Library at 5 p.m. PanJammers is an award-winning steel drum orchestra based in Blacksburg.

Woman's Club of Radford yard sale
The Woman's Club of Radford will hold a yard sale from 8 a.m. until noon at 207 10th St. in Radford. Proceeds will benefit children's literacy projects in the New River Valley. The Woman's Club's Babies into Books program gives a book to every baby born at the Carilion New River Valley Medical Center. The group's Reading Is Fundamental program serves three elementary schools: Riverlawn and Snowville in Pulaski County and McHarg in Radford. Each child gets the chance twice a year to select a book of his or her own.

Monday, June 6:

Blacksburg real estate taxes due
The Town of Blacksburg real estate tax invoices have been mailed and are due by Monday, June 6. Anyone who has not yet received a tax statement should call the Department of Financial Services at 540-961-1105. Payment may be mailed, made in person, placed in the drop box at 300 South Main St., Blacksburg, paid by phone with a credit card, or paid online at www.blacksburg.gov/payments. A 10% penalty will be charged if not paid by June 6, 2022. Interest will be charged at the rate of 10% per year beginning July 1, 2022.

Southwest Virginia Wildlife Center of Roanoke program
At the Christiansburg Library at 10 a.m. and at the Meadowbrook Public Library at 2 p.m. This one-hour program will feature non-releasable animal education ambassadors, fun stories, and history. Learn how to help local wild animals.

Monday, June 6, 13, 20, 27:

Nature Walk/Library Talk
Each Monday in June at 10 a.m. at the Meadowbrook Public Library Courtyard. Walk with babies or children in strollers, slings, or carriers. Participants will get together and walk, make new friends, talk about nutrition and feeding babies and toddlers, and learn more information about the library. Sponsored by the Family Nutrition Program of the Virginia Cooperative Extension of Montgomery County.

Monday, June 6-Friday, June 10:

Teen Connections
At the Blacksburg Library; 2:30 p.m. Become a Peer Health Educator. You will learn leadership skills, healthy relationships, consent, teen pregnancy and STI prevention, inclusivity, social justice, and health advocacy. A free lunch will be provided to all participants. Teens in grades 9 through 12 who finish the program will be eligible for \$100. To register, visit <https://linktr.ee/tcswwa>.

Tuesday, June 7:

Southwest Virginia Wildlife Center of Roanoke pro-

gram
At the Blacksburg Library at 10 a.m. This one-hour program will feature non-releasable animal education ambassadors, fun stories, and history. Learn how to help local wild animals.

Radford Chamber of Commerce business seminar
Email Marketing: Why or Why Not? At Long Way Brewing, 501 Second St., Radford, at 8:22 a.m. with a presentation by Charlie Whitescarver, local businessman and Certified Constant Contact Partner. Doughnuts and coffee will be served. Register at radfordchamber@gmail.com.

Brick Blast
At the Blacksburg Library; 4:30 p.m. Come build at the library and put engineering skills to the test.

Tuesday, June 7, 14, 21 and 28:

Summer Backpack Program
At the Meadowbrook Public Library; 3:30 p.m. The Summer Backpack Program is intended to help families with children and teens stretch their grocery budget. The bags are filled with nutritious food. One bag per child per week. This is a drop-in program with crafts for the kids each week in addition to the bags of food. The program is drive-thru only at the curb side of the library. Open to residents of Eastern Montgomery County only. For more information, call the Meadowbrook Library at 540-268-1964.

Wednesday, June 8:

Brown Bag Book Club
At the Radford Public Library on the second Wednesday of each month at noon. To be discussed this month is "84 Charing Cross Road" by Helene Hanff. Participants may bring a lunch or enjoy Aaron's latest delicious culinary creation (tea & scones). To be discussed next month is "Malibu Rising" by Taylor Jenkins Reid.

Thursday, June 9:

River City Quilt Guild
The River City Quilt Guild meets the second Thursday of each month at 9:30 a.m. in Grove United Methodist Church, 1020 Tyler Avenue, Radford. All skill levels of quilters are welcome. For more information call Anna Handy, 540-320-7791.

June 2022 Eggs & Issues: COVID after-action report
At Warm Hearth Village 2387 Warm Hearth Drive, Blacksburg from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce presents its Eggs & Issues breakfast and a COVID after-action report on how the community has adapted. Invited speakers are Dr. Nolle Bissell, Director of the New River Health District; Bill Flattery, Vice President of Carilion Clinic, Western Region; Devin Tobin, COO of LewisGale Hospital Montgomery and Kevin Byrd, Executive Director of the New River Valley Regional Commission. Admission is \$25 for chamber members and \$35 for non-members. Space is limited. Reservations are required by Tuesday, June 7 at noon. Register and pay online or contact programs@montgomerycc.org.

Meet the author event
At the Radford Public Library at 7 p.m. Award-winning garden writer Barbara Pleasant, author of "Homegrown Pantry," will share dozens of tips for enjoying a garden's bounty in every season. A copy of Pleasant's book will be given out during the event.

Thursday, June 9-Thursday, June 23:

Set sail to healthy eating and cooking for the family
At the Meadowbrook Public Library; Thursdays at 5:30 p.m. Participants will learn how to make affordable, healthy snacks and meals for the family. They will receive free cooking utensils at each class and a slow cooker upon completion of the four-week series. Activities will be provided for children ages 3 and older. The program is co-sponsored by the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service. For more information, call the Meadowbrook Library at 540-268-1964.

Friday, June 10:

Could You Survive?
At the Christiansburg Library; 2 p.m. Could you survive stranded on a deserted island? Learn how to make a water filter out of a water bottle, build a shelter, and more. Recommended for ages 10 and up.

Saturday, June 11:

Mt. Tabor Ruritan fish fry
The Mount Tabor Ruritan Club will hold its June Fish Fry from 5 to 7 p.m. at Slusser's Chapel Picnic Shelter, 1543 Mount Tabor Rd, Blacksburg. The club will serve up

helpings of fish, fries, and slaw with homemade desserts and beverages. The cost is \$12 for adults and \$6 for children under 12. Children under 3 will eat free. Carry-outs are also \$12. The fish fry will be held rain or shine. Call or text 540-449-6178 for further information. On Facebook at MtTaborRuritan

Second Annual Radford PRIDE March
Organized by the RADical Change Commission. The march begins with brief remarks at the Radford Public Library and then gets underway at 7 p.m. from the library to the City of Radford administration/ police building. Any questions can be directed to the RADical Change Commission on Facebook.

Tuesday, June 14:

Sons of Confederate Veterans meeting
The Sons of Confederate Veterans, Stuart Horse Artillery Camp 1784 will meet at 7 p.m. at Aly's Italian Family Restaurant at 3204 Riner Rd. Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy are invited to attend. For further information, call 540-320-4315 or 540-239-9864.

Tuesday, June 4, and Wednesday, June 5:

Dynamic Plein Air Painting with Arlene Daniel
Sponsored by the Blacksburg Regional Art Association. Oil painter Arlene Daniel will be in Christiansburg, June 4-5, at the Christiansburg Presbyterian Church, 107 W Main St. to demonstrate in oil but will take artists using any medium into the class. Class hours will divide between indoors and outdoors. To register, go to Blacksburgart.org. To learn more about Arlene Daniel, go to arleneedaniel.com. Cost is \$125/\$155 (member/non-member)

Saturday, June 18:

NAACP Juneteenth Commemoration
The local NAACP will celebrate Juneteenth, the traditional African American commemoration of freedom from slavery from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Rosa Peters Playground, 300 Depot St. NE, Christiansburg. Music will be played and food will be available to purchase. The NAACP Youth Council will sell hot dogs, hamburgers, drinks, and other snacks. An ice cream truck courtesy of Freedom First Credit Union will provide free ice cream. Proceeds from the event will benefit local youth educational activities and programs. The program will begin at noon and will be followed by swimming, children's games, a silent auction, and a raffle with door prizes. Various talents will be shared by youth and community members. Information booths from the NAACP and other community organizations will be on site. If an organization wants to have a booth, contact the NAACP at info@mrfnacp or call the branch at 540-382-6751. Entry is free.

Wednesday, June 22:

Red Cross blood drive
The New River Health District in partnership with Blue Ridge Church, 1655 Roanoke St. in Christiansburg, is hosting a blood drive with the American Red Cross on June 22 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Friday, June 24:

Blacksburg Museum Sunset Rhythms 2022
The Blacksburg Museum and Cultural Center kicks off its summer concert series on the lawn of the Alexander Black House from 7 to 8:30 p.m. with singer/songwriter Grace Campbell. Spoons' shaved ice truck will have treats for sale. Guests are welcome to bring a picnic or other snacks as well. Tickets are \$5 for adults. Children ages 13 and under are free. All proceeds support the work of the Blacksburg Museum and Cultural Center. Visit www.blacksburgmuseum.org for more information.

Throughout June and July:

"Turtle-y Awesome"- sidewalk obstacle course
Visit the Meadowbrook Library during the months of June and July and go through the tropical theme sidewalk obstacle course located in the courtyard. Those who complete the course can enter for a special prize drawing.

Ongoing:

Free GED classes with NRCC
At the Radford Public Library; 9 a.m. to noon. Free GED prep classes offered by New River Community College in the library's community room. Call (540) 674-3682 for additional information.

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Beta Sigma Phi Sorority names Sue Warden 2021 Woman of the Year

The Alpha Mu Master Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi Sorority has named Sue B. Warden its 2021 Woman of The Year.

“To be chosen as Woman of The Year is one of the greatest honors a chapter can pay to a member,” Carolyn Sowers, the sorority’s Publicity Chair, wrote in a chapter announcement, “and Warden exemplifies the characteristics that are known to Beta Sigma Phis the world over.

“Warden participated in all sorority activities and worked for the good of the organization and the community,” Sowers wrote. ‘She is always willing to lend a helping hand, works to accommodate all members, and she stepped forward to assist in numerous ways for the chapter’s success this year.’

Warden pledged Beta Sigma Phi in 1980, has 26 years perfect attendance at chapter meetings, has served numerous times in many offices, and has served on all committees, including serving as Chair of the Area Founder’s Day event. She has been recognized previously with Chapter Woman of The Year honors, has been named Chapter Valentine Queen, and has received the prestigious Beta Sigma Phi International Award of Distinction.

She is retired from the Virginia State Police Communications Center and lives in Christiansburg with her husband, Roger.

The presentation took place at the Beta Sigma Phi Area Founder’s



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Sue B. Warden (left) is awarded Beta Sigma Phi Woman of The Year by last year's recipient, Lillian VanLear, both of Christiansburg.

Day Banquet, hosted by Radford’s Xi Tau Chapter, at the Carter Street United Methodist Church in Radford. This event was the 90th observance of Beta Sigma Phi’s founding. Warden received an engraved trophy and a Woman of the Year charm to commemorate the honor.

Warm Hearth at Home recognizes new key staff members

BLACKSBURG – Kristi Payne and Suzette Gayder have joined the staff of Warm Hearth at Home.

Payne brings a background in therapy services with Functional Pathways of Tennessee LLC where she was the program director. She has an associate degree in business management from American National University in Roanoke.

As Administrator, Payne hopes to provide a warm and compas-

sionate environment for clinical staff, patients, and families through communication and collaboration. She lives with her husband in Salem, and in her spare time she likes to travel and spend time with their five children and eleven grandchildren.

Gayder comes from Good Samaritan Hospice where she was a case manager. She has a bachelor’s and an associate’s degree in nursing from Delaware Tech in Dover.

In her new role, she will be providing goal-driven care along with continuing education for all staff.

Gayder lives in Meadows of Dan, Va., with her husband and two boys. In her free time she enjoys outdoor activities with her family.

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



With a bachelor's degree in nursing, Suzette Gayder joins Warm Hearth at Home after serving as a case manager for Good Samaritan Hospice.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Kristi Payne is the new administrator for Warm Hearth at Home.

New River Valley Regional Commission accepting nominations for 2022 awards

The New River Valley Regional Commission is now accepting nominations for its 2022 awards for people who make an impact in the New River Valley.

The commission is accepting nominations for the regional awards until Aug. 15 for Champion of the Valley (elected or appointed official), Citizen of the Valley, and Friend of the Valley (outside the region).

Award recipients will be honored in the fall of 2022. Previous award winners for Champion of the Valley are 2014: Joseph Sheffey, Pulaski Co. Board of Supervisors, retired; 2015: Rick Boucher, U.S. House of Representatives 1983-2011; 2016: Delegate Joseph Yost, 12th House District of Virginia 2012-

2018; 2016: William Brown, Montgomery Co. Board of Supervisors, retired; 2017: Chris McKlarney, Giles County Administrator; 2018: Susan Kidd, Town of Narrows; 2019: Delegate Nick Rush, Seventh House District in Virginia; 2020: Chris Tuck, Montgomery Co. Board of Supervisors, retired; 2021: Craig Meadows, Montgomery Co. Administrator; 2021: and Lydeana Martin, Floyd County Economic Development Director.

Previous award winners for Citizen of the Valley are 2014: Dr. Charles Steger, Virginia Tech President; 2015 Ken Anderson, CEO of Anderson & Associates, Inc.; 2016 Penelope Kyle, Radford University

President; 2017 Woody Crenshaw, Floyd County Entrepreneur; 2018 David Hagan, Business Owner/Investor; 2018 P. Buckley Moss, Artist/Philanthropist; 2019 Raymond Smoot, Community Leader; 2020 Bill Ellenbogen, Community Advocate; 2021 Shelly Fortier, Habitat for Humanity of the NRV; 2021 John Dooley, Virginia Tech Foundation.

Previous award winners for Friend of the Valley are 2016: Mary Moody, Northern Foundation Mountain Lake Lodge; 2017 Bill Shelton, Director of the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development; 2019 John Smolak, III; Appalachian Power.

The science of sport

By Max Esterhuizen

Rachel Baxter uses many of the usual tools of athleticism when she gets ready for a pole vaulting competition: track shoes, spandex shorts, and a 14-foot fiberglass Essx pole that enables her to push an incredible amount of torque and tension through her joints and ligaments to hurl her body through the air.

But the graduate student is equipped with something a bit more unusual.

An ankle monitor captures her every move, collecting data on her speed and timing as she sprints to the target. This information not only helps her perfect the number of strides before the jump, but also helps her in the lab.

Baxter, a Virginia Tech pole vaulter, is working with Jay Williams, a professor of human nutrition, foods, and exercise, to study gait symmetry, impact forces, and speed differences among pole vaulters.

Baxter is one of a handful of Virginia Tech athletes who are both pursuing the science of sport in the lab and earning kudos on the field. This year, Baxter became the first pole vaulter to win a national title at Virginia Tech.

To conduct Baxter’s graduate research, a group of pole vaulters – eight women and five men – wear ankle monitors with special speed trap sensors. To test the data collection, Baxter uses the sensors on herself, but that data is not used in the research.

“I was curious about what the data would show from me in practice and meets. I’ve been able to see how I progress, what the data look like on good

jumps, and where I came up short,” said Baxter, of Orange County, California. “Dr. Williams wanted to expand his sports science research to track and field. He’s been fantastic to work with on this project so far.”

At the first meet of the season, Baxter’s marks were mostly the same — she hit the same run times with the same number of steps. With this data, she can make sure she optimizes her steps and her speed to get the highest possible clear.

“Our goal is to use the data on these variables and combine it with the athletes’ results to help pole vault athletes maximize their potential,” Baxter said. “I’m excited to see where this research goes as we get the project fully up and running.”

Elsewhere on the field is Becca Mammel, a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Human Nutrition, Foods, and Exercise who connects athletics with genetics to strengthen the human body. Mammel competes in the hammer throw and discus and recently chose Virginia Tech through the transfer portal.

When she first arrived in Blacksburg, Mammel worked with Williams by strapping sensors to her wrist, back, and feet to check her acceleration and foot placement on throws that pushed her joints to the limit.

Portions of her research helped Mammel make tiny adjustments to her throwing style, such as placing her foot down faster to maximize her potential. While she is still working with Williams on this research, Mammel had the realization that she is a lab scientist at heart. The Te-

cumseh, Michigan, native now works with Siobhan Craige, an assistant professor in the Department of Human Nutrition, Foods, and Exercise.

In the Craige Lab, they study how the skeletal muscle adapts to exercise as many of these adaptations to exercise are protective against diseases, furthering the science of sport.



PHOTO BY RAY MEESE FOR VIRGINIA TECH

Becca Mammel, who competes in the hammer and discus throws for VT.



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Legals - City of Radford

NOTICE OF JOINT PUBLIC HEARING

The Radford City Council and Planning Commission will hold a joint public hearing on Monday, June 13, 2022 at 7:00pm in the City of Radford Council Chambers, 10 Robertson Street, Radford, VA 24141. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments concerning: First Apostolic Church of Radford, on behalf of ConMat Group Inc (applicant/property owner) to rezone a portion of the 14-acre property located at 10 Forest Ave., Tax Map 18-(1)-1. The request

Legals - City of Radford

is to subdivide and rezone 9-acres from M-2 General Industrial/Commercial District to the B-1 Limited Business, for the develop of a church. Comments may be presented at the meeting and by phone or in writing prior to the meeting. Additional information on this request may be obtained in the Community Development Department, 10 Robertson Street, Radford VA 24141, 540.267.3188 or by email at Melissa.Skelton@radfordva.gov

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VDOT ROAD WATCH

The following is a list of forecasted highway projects that may impact traffic traveling in the 12-county Salem Transportation District this week. Work schedules and construction project timelines are always subject to change and weather dependent. The Salem District covers Bedford, Botetourt, Carroll, Craig, Floyd, Franklin, Giles, Henry, Montgomery, Patrick, Pulaski and Roanoke counties.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

I-81 NORTHBOUND AT EXIT 105 NEW RIVER BRIDGE REPLACEMENT IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY – Traffic on northbound I-81 has been switched onto the newly constructed bridge over the New River at the Montgomery/Pulaski County line. Lane and shoulder closures may be in place near exit 105. Lane closure may be in effect during the week from 8 p.m. to 7 a.m. Shoulder closures may be in effect at any time during the week. Slow rolls may be performed on I-81 in the north and southbound lanes from mile marker 98 to 109. Speed limit is reduced to 60 miles per hour in the work zone. Shoulder closures will remain in place though the duration of the project. Project completion is estimated by summer 2023.

LANE CLOSURES: Nighttime alternating lane closures will be in place on I-81 northbound between mile markers 104-106 from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning.

SLOW ROLLS: Slow rolls may be utilized periodically on both the northbound and southbound lanes from mile marker 98-109 for structural steel deliveries and setting beams.

ROUTE 615 CULVERT REPLACEMENT – Route 615 (Pilot Road) is undergoing a culvert replacement located at the intersection of Pilot Road and Old Pike Road, across from the Pilot Post Office. Lane closures on Route 615 maintained by utilizing temporary traffic signals will be in place through August 2022. Flagging operations may be in place. Route 615 will be limited to one 10 foot lane. Expected completion is October 2022.

ROUTE 114 TURN LANE CONSTRUCTION - Starting June 6, road improvements on Route 114 (Peppers Ferry Road) will begin for the construction of a new entrance to Belview Elementary School. Motorists should expect daily lane closures controlled by flagging forces. Work is expected to last until August 2022.

PAVING OPERATIONS – Weather permitting, crews will pave, patch and repair pavement on various routes. Lane closures may be in place and flaggers may control traffic at times during daylight hours. Drivers should watch for signs and expect possible delays.

Route 765, both east and west lanes, will have a flagging operation in place for paving from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

INTERSTATE 81

INTERSTATE 81 LANE WIDENING CONSTRUCTION PROJECT EXIT 137 TO EXIT 141 – A \$179 million design-build project to widen both directions of I-81 between mile markers 136.6 and 141.8 from two to three lanes is set to begin. Continuing into the early summer, work will be performed on the inside and outside shoulders along a five mile section of both northbound and southbound Interstate 81 in Roanoke County and the city of Salem. The shoulders will be built up before a barrier wall can be installed for road crews to work behind. The barrier wall will be installed along the shoulders in the spring and summer. Two lanes of I-81 traffic in each direction will remain open during the project with periodic lane closures scheduled during nighttime hours or outside of peak travel times as needed. Drivers can expect the following lane closures and upcoming impacts on northbound and southbound I-81:

BARRIER WALLS: Barrier wall installation is in process. Nighttime lane closures will be in place and lane widths will be reduced to 11 feet.

Until mid-June, nighttime right lane and shoulder closures between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m., Sunday through Thursday

To mid-June, alternating left and right lane and shoulder closures during nighttime hours between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m., Sunday through Thursday

Nightly lane closures may be in place along the right lane with possible nightly ramp narrows as needed for guardrail and shoulder strengthening.

Northbound I-81 lane closures from mile marker 138 to 142

Northbound I-81 exit and entrance ramp narrows possible at Route 311.

The project also includes replacing six bridges,

widening two bridges, installing approximately 2.6 miles of sound barrier walls along northbound I-81, improving the southbound exit 137 off-ramp intersection at Wildwood Road and adding interchange lighting at exits 137, 140 and 141 are also included in the project. Expected completion in early 2026.

I-81 TROUTVILLE REST AREA CLOSURE - The Troutville Rest Area located on southbound Interstate 81 near mile marker 158 in Botetourt County will be closed until September 2, 2022. Signage indicating the closure has been posted in the rest area. During the closure, a temporary concrete barrier wall will be installed in front of the facility. The rest area facility, ramps and parking lot will be closed to the public. This project will extend the ramp into the rest area by 500 feet and the ramp out of the rest area by 2,100 feet. It will also include expanding the truck parking area at the facility by about 10-13 spaces. Work is expected to be completed in early fall 2022.

REST AREA OPTIONS: While the Troutville Rest Area is closed, southbound I-81 drivers can use the Fairfield Rest Area at mile marker 195 in Rockbridge County or the Radford Rest Area at mile marker 108 in Montgomery County. In addition, the Troutville Weigh Station, located on southbound I-81 at mile marker 149, will have portable toilets and parking will be temporarily available for commercial vehicles.

INTERSTATE 81 LANE WIDENING CONSTRUCTION EXIT 141 TO EXIT 143 – A project to widen the lanes on I-81 in Roanoke in both northbound and southbound directions between Exit 141 to Exit 143 has been underway. All lanes are now open and will remain open through winter with periodic lane closures at night as needed. The final surface paving and markings for northbound will resume this summer. Drivers can expect rough pavement. Estimated completion date of the project is summer 2022.

I-81 PAVING OPERATIONS – Weather permitting, crews will pave, patch and repair pavement on various routes. Lane closures may be in place during nighttime hours, 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning. Drivers should watch for signs and expect possible delays.

Paving operations on I-81 northbound and southbound in Botetourt County from mile marker 155 to 167. On and exit ramps at exit 168 may be narrowed at times.

I-81 BRIDGE DECK REPAIRS – Weather permitting, crews will repair bridge decks on Interstate 81. Between mile markers 138 to 152, right and left lane closures will be in place northbound and southbound during nighttime hours, 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning. Drivers should watch for signs and expect possible delays.

I-81 POTHOLE PATCHING OPERATIONS – Weather permitting, crews will patch potholes along southbound and northbound Interstate 81. Mobile right and left lane closures will be in place and moving along northbound and southbound lanes during nighttime hours, 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning. Drivers should watch for moving vehicles and equipment. Expect possible delays.

News Messenger

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

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Ranky Tanky

from page 1

and danceable beats. The program for the evening will include songs from the band's self-titled debut album and its Grammy-winning album, "Good Time." Reaching No. 1 on Billboard's Contemporary Jazz Chart, "Good Time" combines songs carried down through generations in the Sea Islands with the band's original compositions in the Gullah tradition.

In the liner notes for the group's first album, "Ranky Tanky," historian Herb Frazier writes, "Gullah people from the Sea Islands of

South Carolina are the descendants of Africans captured along Africa's rice coast [in West Africa]. In the so-called new world, the enslaved toiled under the hot Carolina sun along the Atlantic coast. From this bondage came Gullah, a mixture of African and English styles."

Ranky Tanky has been featured on NPR's "Fresh Air with Terry Gross," NBC's "Today" show, "PBS Newshour," and "The Late Show with Stephen Colbert." The band was also a featured artist for President Biden's inauguration

event, "We the People," and was named 2020 Artist of the Year by the Charleston City Paper.

Ticket information

Tickets for the performance are \$25 for general admission and \$10 for Virginia Tech students and youth 18 and under. Tickets can be purchased online; at the Moss Arts Center's box office, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday; or by calling 540-231-5300 during box office hours.

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13		14			15			
16					17		18			19		
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49					50				51		52	53
56						57			58			
59						60						
62					63							

- CLUES ACROSS
1. Plant anchor

5. 13th Hebrew letter

8. Microelectromechanical systems

12. Number system base 8

14. Doctors' group

15. Greenish blue

16. Sent by USPS

18. A Communist

19. Southern swear-word

20. Get free

21. North northeast

22. Uncommon

23. Commit anew

26. Lion, goat & serpent

30. Irregularly notched

31. Lessened

32. Constitution Hall ladies
33. Fidelity

34. Mother of pearl

39. Help

42. Arouse passion

44. Avoid

46. About roof of the mouth

47. In a very soft tone

49. Periodic publications (slang)

50. __kosh b'gosh

51. Rouse from sleep

56. El Dorado High School

57. Golf ball stand

58. Tranquil

59. Pear shaped instrument

60. Anger

61. Raja wives

62. Dashes
63. Cardboard box (abbr.)

64. Human frame (slang)

CLUES DOWN

1. Italian capital

2. Organization of C. American States (abbr.)

3. About organ of hearing

4. = to 100 sene

5. Champagne river

6. Improved by critical editing

7. Amber dessert wine

8. Indian plaid cloth

9. Equalize

10. Guillemot

11. Of sound mind

13. Irish elf

17. Makes tractors

24. Father

25. Bachelor's button

26. Vacuum tube
27. Of she

28. Wedding words

29. Em

35. Pie __ mode

36. Feline

37. Sandhurst

38. Snakelike fish

40. Crackbrained

41. Last course

42. Indicates near

43. Indian given name

44. Ordinal after 7th

45. Young women (Scot.)

47. "Taming of the Shrew" city

48. Luster

49. Conflate

52. Person of Arabia

53. Lotto

54. Children's author Blyton

55. "Untouchables" Elliot

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OBITUARIES

Helms, Lois “June”

Lois “June” Helms, 94, of Paul, cultivated beautiful flower and vegetable gardens throughout their lives together and loved canning fruit preserves to be enjoyed by family and friends year round. June often volunteered her time at local polling stations during election time.

She had a well-known sense of humor and would often sing silly songs and do a funny little dance for family during visits. She was faithful to God and enjoyed reading her Bible regularly. To our “granny,” we receive comfort in knowing you are now free, “dancing and making melody to Him” in Heaven now that the body is transformed. “Psalm 149:3; Phillipians 3:20-21.

June is survived by her son, Evans Helms and his wife, Shirley; and grandsons Jon Hilton and his wife, Ashley, and Joe Hilton; great-grandsons Chase Hilton, Mason Hilton, and Sawyer Hilton; and her sister, Nell Catron.

June had a lifelong love for gardening and birds. She often displayed pictures of cardinals in her home as they were her favorite. She and her late husband,



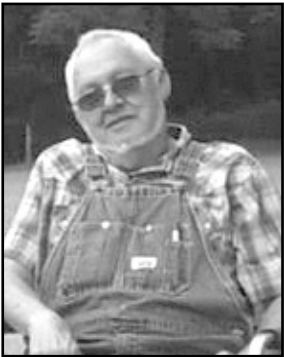
Poff, Roger Lee

On Sunday, May 29, Roger Poff, Casey Teubert (Zack), Leslie Lee Poff, 78, of Christiansburg, went home to be with our Lord.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Millard Oliver and Ruby Vest Poff; two sisters, Gwendolene Howard and Josephine Thomas; and one brother, Carl Poff.

He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Emma Price Poff; one daughter, Tina Jones (Michael); two sons, Jeffery Poff (Betty) and Rodney Poff; grandchildren Kristan Poff, Ashley Wright (Bradley), Logan Jones, Shayne Poff, Kimberly Smith (Michael); eight great-grandchildren; two brothers, Millard “Junior” Poff (Francis) and Hubert “Buddy” Poff (Shirley); and one sister, Francis Sowers (James).

The family received friends on Friday, June 3, 2022, at McCoy Funeral Home in Blacksburg, followed by services in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel and a graveside service at Sunset Cemetery in Christiansburg.



See Obituaries, page 6

www.montcova.com

ANGLICAN CATHOLIC
St. Peter the Apostle Anglican Church, 230 W. First St., Christiansburg, VA. Fr Peter Geromel OHI Th.M., Vicar, Fr. Alex Darby, “Associate”, 540-382-0432/540-270-9166. Sundays: 8:00 am & 10:00 am Holy Eucharist followed by Christian Education and refreshments. Holy Communion most Thursdays at 12Noon, other Holy Days as announced. Traditional services use the 1928 Book of Common Prayer and 1940 Hymnal. Handicapped accessible. All are welcome. Come worship with us! Website: www.stpeter-sacc.org. Follow us on Facebook
St. Philip’s Anglican Church, 306 Progress Street, NE, Blacksburg, Virginia 24060, (540) 552-1771, www.stphilipsblacksburg.org. Reverend Fr. Wade Miller, Priest. Eucharist Sundays at 11am and Wednesday’s at 12pm.
St. Thomas Anglican Church - located at 4910 Hubert Rd, NW Roanoke, Va. Traditional Liturgical Lenten Services, Sunday at 10:30 am. Call (540) 589-1299 or visit www.sttofc.org for midweek masses and events. (In Roanoke, go E on Hershberger, L on Hubert to 4910).

BAPTIST
First Baptist Church on 3rd Ave., 215 Third Ave at the corner with Downey St. We nurture meaningful connections to God and others through worship, spiritual growth, and community ministry. We celebrate the dignity and worth of all persons, created in the image of God. Sunday Bible Study Groups - 9:45, Sunday Worship - 11:00. Website: fbcradford.org 540-639-4419. Worship is in-person and live-streamed on Facebook and on our YouTube channel: First Baptist Church Radford.
Trinity Community Church, 1505 N. Franklin Street, C’burg. John Altizer, Lead Pastor, Brian Cockram, Associate Pastor, 382-8121. Worship at 10:45 a.m., Outreach Ministries - 6:00p.m. Wednesday, Growth Groups - 5:00p.m. Sunday, Youth and Children’s Ministry - 5:00p.m. Sunday, www.trinitycburg.org

CHURCH OF CHRIST
Blacksburg Church of Christ, 315 Eakin St., 552-1331. Sun. Bible Classes 9:30 a.m., Sun. Worship 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m., Wed. Bible classes, 7 p.m., Outreach Minister Curt Seright, Community Minister Tom Gilliam, Dean Meadows, Campus Minister.
Faith Christian Church of Christ, 305 3rd Street, Christiansburg, David Rhudy, Minister, 382-4628, Sunday School 10 am; Worship 11 am; Evening Worship 6:30 pm; Wednesday night Bible Study for Women and Men 6:30 pm. We welcome you to any and all of our services.

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.

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
Christiansburg Church of the Brethren, 310 South Franklin Street. Pastor: Hal Sonafrank, 1-336-583-4822. Sunday School 10 a.m.; Morning Worship 11 a.m.; Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays. Website: www.christiansburgcob.org. A loving family, fueled by the Holy Spirit, grounded in God’s Word, and delivering Jesus forgiveness and love to all people. Come as you are... you are welcomed!

(DOC - DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)
Snowville Christian Church, 5436 Lead Mine Rd., Hiwassee, VA 24347, Pastor: Jerry King, Website: www.SnowvilleChristianChurch.com (and Facebook), Office: 540-633-3761, Email: office@SnowvilleChristianChurch.com, Sunday Worship Service: 11:00 a.m., Sunday School: 10:00 a.m., Thursday Bible Study: 6:00 p.m., We are: “Inspiring hope, helping people grow their faith, and sharing God’s love with others!”

ECKANKAR
Eckankar, the Path of Spiritual Freedom, is located at 1420 3rd St. SW, Roanoke, VA 24016. However, due to COVID-19, the Light & Sound Services and other ECK programs are currently available online through Zoom. Visit www.eck-va.org for program listings, www.meetup.com/Roanoke-Spiritual-Experiences-Group, or call 540-353-5365 and leave a message. We will return your call. Also visit www.eckankar.org for more information about how the teachings of Eckankar lead you to spiritual freedom.

EPISCOPAL
Grace Episcopal Church, 210 4th Street, Radford, 639-3494. A friendly, mission-oriented spiritual community sharing the Word of God. ALL ARE WELCOME. In person and live-streamed services 10:30AM

Montgomery County

WORSHIP DIRECTORY

FINDING STRENGTH IN GOD

Read 1 Samuel 27:1 through 31:13

David was greatly distressed because the men were talking of stoning him; each one was bitter in spirit because of his sons and daughters. But David found strength in the Lord his God (1 Samuel 30:6).

David and his men, just arriving home from battle, discovered that the enemy had kidnapped their families. His men were distraught, and they wanted someone to blame. David, their leader, was the obvious scapegoat, and they discussed taking revenge on him.

David, grieved at his own family’s disappearance, now faced betrayals and accusations from his friends. Here, at an extremely low point, David did what always works. He turned to God and found strength in Him.

Exactly how David found strength in God is displayed throughout his psalms. David remembered God’s promises, and more so, he reminded himself of who God is: his Rock of refuge; his compassionate, gentle Father; his faithful Provider; his all-wise Teacher, and so much more. As David turned to God, he gained the strength to rally his men on a rescue mission.

Prayer for Today: Father, please help me turn to You for strength in all things.

Quicklook: 1 Samuel 30: 3–8,18–19

If your church is not listed and if you are interested, call Randy Thompson at 540-389-9355 or email at advertise@ourvalley.org

Sundays. Holy Eucharist twice a month. Morning Prayer twice a month. Fellowship and refreshments follow services. Find us on Facebook: Grace Episcopal Church and www.graceradford.org.

LUTHERAN
Luther Memorial Lutheran Church ELCA, 600 Prices Fork Rd, Blacksburg. Weekly Online Worship at www.lmlc.org. We are a Reconciling in Christ congregation that welcomes and affirms all people just as they are. For information on Bible studies and Wednesday Vespers, email luthermemorialblacksburg@gmail.com, or contact the church office, (540) 951-1000. Rev. Monica Weber, pastor.
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 people gather for worship, learning and service. Visitors and new members are always WELCOME! Google comments: “Wonderful, welcoming congregation... A place where all are truly welcome... Nice, friendly, competent staff.” You will like our minister, The Rev. Michelle L. Stramiello. Her previous service was as Family Faith Formation Director at Cross and Crown Lutheran Church, Indianapolis, IN, Pastor of St Matthew Lutheran Church, Paducah, KY, and Hospice Chaplain in Largo, Fl. St. Michael started and administers Micah’s Backpack which has great community impact, Micah’s Soup for Seniors, Micah’s Garden, Closet, and Mini Pantry. Also, partnering with Rainbow Riders and Total Action for Progress, we opened open the first Early Childhood Head Start

in our community (6 weeks to age 3), and have numerous other programs including a Justice & Mercy Fund providing assistance for those needing emergency assistance with critical bills. Further St. Michael sponsors an awesome Scouting program of Boy & Girl Scout Troops, Venture Scouts for older youth, and a new Cub Pack for girls & boys kindergarten - 5th grade. Directions: From Price’s Fork Road, turn onto Merrimac Road and St. Michael is 3/10ths of a mile down on the left. For more information about any of our activities: Phone 540 951-8951. Email hope@stmhc.us or visit our Website www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org

MULTI-CULTURAL NON-DENOMINATIONAL
Christian Growth Center, 1850 Electric Way, Christiansburg, VA 24073 (beside Hubbell Lighting). Sunday Worship: 9:30am Prayer, 10:00am Service *Nursery Available. Lead Pastor: Todd Hallinan. Founding Pastor: Rob Sowell. Mission: Sow, Grow, & Go Sow Faith! Grow in Righteousness! Go into all the world in the authority of the believer! 540-382-2908.

PENTECOSTAL HOLINESS
Merrimac Pentecostal Holiness Church, Rev. Richard Hall (540) 552-7194. pastorhall29@gmail.com. Sunday School at 10 a.m. and morning worship is 11 a.m. Evening service at 6 p.m. and Wednesday at 7 p.m.
Compassion Church, 1820 Second Street, Radford, 639-6287, Our music is passionate, our worship is real, and Pastor Chandler Jones brings relevant messages for everyone at any place on their journey, Sunday Worship Experience at

9:30 AM & 11:00 AM, Wednesday Family Night at 7 PM, Children Ministry provided for all services. Our vision is to see all Saved. Freed. Restored. Fulfilled. Find us on facebook and Instagram
Walton Pentecostal Holiness Church, 4003 Morning Glory Rd., off Walton Rd. on Rt. 114. 731-1755. Lee Sarver, pastor. Sun. School 9:30 a.m., Worship 10:30 a.m. & 6: p.m., Wed., 7 p.m.
UNITED METHODIST
Asbury United Methodist Church, 500 Stuart Street, Christiansburg. 540-382-0743. Rev. Dr. Patricia Jones. Sunday School, 9:45 a.m., Sunday Worship, 11:00 a.m. All are welcome.
Central United Methodist Church, 803 Wadsworth Street, Radford. 639-3529. 8:30 a.m. Sunday Services: 8:30am (interpreter provided); 9:45am Sunday School (interpreter provided); and 11:00a.m. Wednesday Bible Study: 6:30p.m. Child care is provided. www.centralmethodistchurch.com.
St. Paul United Methodist Church, 220 W. Main St., C’burg. Rev. Mike Derflinger (540) 382-2410. Sunday Worship 10 a.m., Sunday School 9 a.m. Live streaming Sunday Service - www.twitch.tv/stpaulumc
Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church, 350 Stafford Drive, Christiansburg, VA 24073, Sunday School 10am, Sunday Worship Service 11am.
WESLEYAN
Christ Wesleyan Church, 525 Harkrader Street, Christiansburg. Public Worship service at 11:00 AM. Sunday School for adults - 10:00 AM. Pastor: Gale Janofski 540-510-0952. the building is totally handicapped accessible. Website: christ-wesleyanchurch.org

Obituaries

from page 5

Robeson, Jean Gordon

Jean Gordon Robeson (née White) of Blacksburg gently departed this life on February 10, 2022.

A devoted wife, loving mother, beloved grandmother and great-grandmother, Jean was born on February 3, 1925, to Floyd Henshaw White and Florence Willis White of Culpeper, Va., who predeceased her.

Jean earned a Bachelor of Science in Biology degree from Westhampton College (now the University of Richmond). She married Andrew Robeson on June 19, 1948, and settled in Blacksburg in 1957.

Along with raising four children, she was a founder and active member of Northside Presbyterian Church. She spent many hours volunteering in the community with emphasis on enriching the lives of those with special needs.

She was a proud member of the Willis, Gordon, Garnett and Allied Families Association. From tending an extensive garden to traveling the world, from enthusiastic games of bridge with dear friends to countless parties, family gatherings and impromptu celebrations, Jean truly lived life to its fullest.

Left behind to celebrate her life are her husband Andrew Robeson; children Martha Rodgers (John) of Clemson, S.C., Catherine Cunningham (Michael) of Waynesboro, Andrew Gordon Robeson (Elaine) of Dallas, Texas and James Robeson of Pearisburg, as well as six grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

The family wishes to thank the caregivers who worked tirelessly to give Jean a comfortable, happy life over the last few years and Carilion Hospice for its gentle support at the end.

The family gathered for a graveside service on Sunday, February 13, led by the Rev. Dr. Linda Dickerson. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, June 11, 2022, at Northside Presbyterian Church, Blacksburg.

Special music will begin at 9:30 a.m., with the worship service beginning at 10 a.m. The family will receive guests and share memories at a reception immediately following the service. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to Northside Presbyterian Church, 1017 Progress Street, Blacksburg, VA 24060, or The ARC of New River Valley, PO Box 11204, Blacksburg, VA 24062.

Semones, Dorothy (Dot) Virginia

Dorothy (Dot) Virginia Semones, Kelley; and many other relatives and friends.



In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Nieve A. Semones, and three brothers, James A. Kidd, George Kidd, and Pierce Elwood Kidd.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Bethel United Methodist Church or the American Heart Association.

The family will receive friends on Tuesday, June 7, 2022, from noon until 1 p.m. at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services will begin at 1 p.m. with Pastor Mark Miller and Sarah Morris officiating. Interment will follow in Sunset Cemetery in Christiansburg.

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

Snider, Carl Alfred, Jr.

Carl Alfred Snider, Jr., 62, of Shawsville, died Saturday, May 28, 2022, at LewisGale Medical Center.

He was born in Montgomery County on March 10, 1962, to the late Carl Alfred Snider, Sr., and Antlene Rose Snider. He was preceded in death by a granddaughter, Linda Marie, a son-in-law, Jody Dickerson and a mother-in-law, Mary Cumbee.

He is survived by his wife of 44 years, Louise Snider; daughters and sons-in-law Linda and Robert Sinclair Sr., Tina Snider, Crystal and Robert Hall, and Susie and

Chris Deweese; grandchildren Robert, Rebecca, Maddison, Christopher, Kadden, Zephaniah, Hannah, Arianna, Natalia, Dakota, and Adaline; a great-grandchild, Ila; a brother-in-law, Johnny Cumbee; one sister, and two brothers and their spouses.

Funeral services were conducted Thursday, June 2, 2022, in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel with Pastor Robert Hall officiating. Interment followed in Roselawn Memorial Gardens.

Wildfire season heats up; expert offers advice for community preparedness

Wildfires in recent years have increased in size and severity putting many communities across the country at risk.

Adam Coates, a wildland fire ecology expert at Virginia Tech, says that community preparedness is essential through adequate education about the risk of wildfires and management of potentially hazardous scenarios.

“Many of the geographic locations most at risk exist in the western U.S. as these areas contain either fuel systems composed of vegetation that rapidly grows and rapidly dries out (shrub and grass systems) or locations contain dense, mature forests that may be prone to ignition during dry summer months,” Coates said.

Coates explains that many of these locations are part of the expansive wildland-urban interface. “In these locations, homes and communities are literally situated within a primed fuel complex without any barriers

to prevent wildfire spread throughout the community.

“Exceptions to the western U.S. predominance are found in the eastern U.S. In some of these locations, changes in volatile species have occurred and have led to increased risk,” said Coates. “Forests are also dense in many locations and the structure and condition of these fuels may lead to really large wildfires when conditions are dry.”

Coates said that we’ve seen this play out in autumn months within some southern states, for example, probably most drastically noted in the 2016 autumn wildfires that took place in Gatlinburg and Pigeon Forge.

As homeowners and communities prepare to limit and manage the harmful effects of wildfires this season, Coates offers the following advice for community planners.

Housing areas should be constructed to promote adequate boundaries of potentially hazardous vegetation surrounding

the housing community.

Entrances and exits to housing communities should be built to prevent one-way entrances and exits and fire hydrants should be located throughout those communities.

Building materials and vegetation should be selected to minimize potential ignitions that may compromise houses within residential communities.

Individuals can support organizations and entities that are working to conduct active forest management around their neighborhoods and communities.

About Coates

Adam Coates is an assistant professor in the department of forest resources and environmental conservation, in Virginia Tech’s College of Natural Resources and Environment. Coates maintains an active research program focused primarily on fire ecology. This includes elements of fire behavior, fuels, fire effects, silviculture, and restoration ecology.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

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Ends Friday June 17th @ 3 PM

Home for Sale in Floyd County VA!

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You have the opportunity to purchase a great home near Riner VA! This property features a nice split foyer home built in 1979 with 2,170 sq. ft. The upper level has 1,120 sq. ft. with 2 bedrooms and 1 bath. The lower level has 1,050 sq. ft. with 2 bedrooms and 1 bath. Both levels have carpet and vinyl floors along with wood and vinyl panel walls. The home has electric base-board heating, shingle roof, exterior vinyl siding with brick to grade, private well and septic, gravel driveway, an uncovered deck, an uncovered porch below the deck, and storage under deck staircase. Don’t miss out on the opportunity to purchase this great home near Riner VA! It would be a great first time home, fixer upper, or investment property! The property consists of five tax map parcels combining for a total of 5.57 acre +/- sold all together. AEP Power line and easement run through bottom corner of property. See Bidder Pack for Maps.

Preview Date - Friday June 10th @ 3 PM

Terms - 10% Buyer’s Premium will be added to final high bid to arrive at contract price. Earnest Money Deposit of \$5,000 required day of sale. Close in 45 days. Subject to seller confirmation. Property sold as is, where is with any and all faults. Buyer is expected to complete their own due diligence. Download Bidder Pack at VAAuctionPro.com

Contact Broker/Auctioneer Matt Gallimore at 540-239-2585 or email gallimore.matt@gmail.com; Or Booie Dehart, Realtor at 276-952-5061 or email booied@yahoo.com

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Blue Ridge Land
& Auction Co., Inc

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news and photos to

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MONTGOMERY SPORTS

East Mont girls win region soccer title; Auburn boys head to state



Eastern Montgomery's Madison Bruce scores to get the Mustangs on the board against Auburn in the Region 1C championship match under the lights at Blacksburg High School.



Eastern Montgomery head coach Whitney Shaver presents her team with the 2022 Region 1C championship trophy after a 5-1 win over Auburn on Wednesday.



Auburn's Chris Neal advances the ball against Galax defender Cesar Perez during the boys' Region 1C championship. Galax would take the 1-0 win. Both teams advance to the state quarter finals.



Auburn keeper Andrew Tickle makes a diving save against Galax during Wednesday's Region 1C championship match played at Blacksburg High School.

PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING

Two Bruin soccer players to move on to next level

Marty Gordon
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Two Blacksburg High soccer players who helped the team put together an undefeated season have committed to play at the next level.

Kylene Monaghan is headed to Sewanee College while Julia Howland will play at Greensboro College.

Monaghan said Sewanee had the right balance of high-quality academics and athletics that she was looking for.

"When I went on a recruiting visit, I really loved the campus, and meeting the team and the coach, I knew this was a place that would fit me very well," Monaghan said. "I received some academic scholarships as well, which really helped solidify the decision for my family in making the school a possibility and fulfilling my goal of playing soccer in college."

Howland said Greensboro was just home for her.

Monaghan was tied for the scoring lead last year for Blacksburg with 16 goals and 10 assists. This season, she has put together 18 goals and 11 assists and was named to the River Ridge All-District first-team.

Over four years at Blacksburg, Howland has scored 14 goals and has been a part of a squad that has scored over 100 goals in the regular season while only allowing only three goals by their opponents.

Greensboro College is a private college in Greensboro, N.C., with about 1,000 students.

The school competes in the National Collegiate Athletic Association's Division III and the USA-South Conference. The women's soccer team finished 5-13-3 this past season.

In Sewanee, Tenn., Sewanee is known as the University of the South with an enrollment of 1,689

students. The athletic program is a member of the Southern Athletic Association in the Division III ranks.

Howland hopes to major in business administration with a concentration in management and

eventually to continue her culinary career and study abroad.

Monaghan plans to major in physics and will be pursuing the pre-engineering program that Sewanee has in partnership with Washington University in St Louis and Columbia University.

FROM THE SIDELINES

Lady Hokies softball poured out their souls this season; Mike Young inducted into Fork Union Hall of Fame

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The Virginia Tech softball team has no reason to hide their faces after falling in the Super Regionals to Florida this past week. The Hokies delivered on a great season and ignited the softball fever among lots of young girls throughout Southwest Virginia.

Standing-room-only crowds packed the Blacksburg softball field, but it was the team's behavior after many of those games that singled them out. They took time to sign autographs and take photographs

with their fans.

Thank you for all the memories you created.

For the second straight season, pitcher Keely Roachard was named a First-Team All-American, the National Fastpitch Coaches Association announced Wednesday evening. Emma Ritter earned a spot as a Third Team All-American, the first time in school history the Hokies have had two All-Americans in one season.

Roachard ended her senior season with a 26-4 record and a 1.89 ERA. She pitched 204 innings, striking out 328 batters, which currently ranks her third in all of Division I. Her six saves also rank her first in the ACC and fifth nationally. The right-hander finished the season with a .174 batting average against.

At the conclusion of her five-year career, Roachard is

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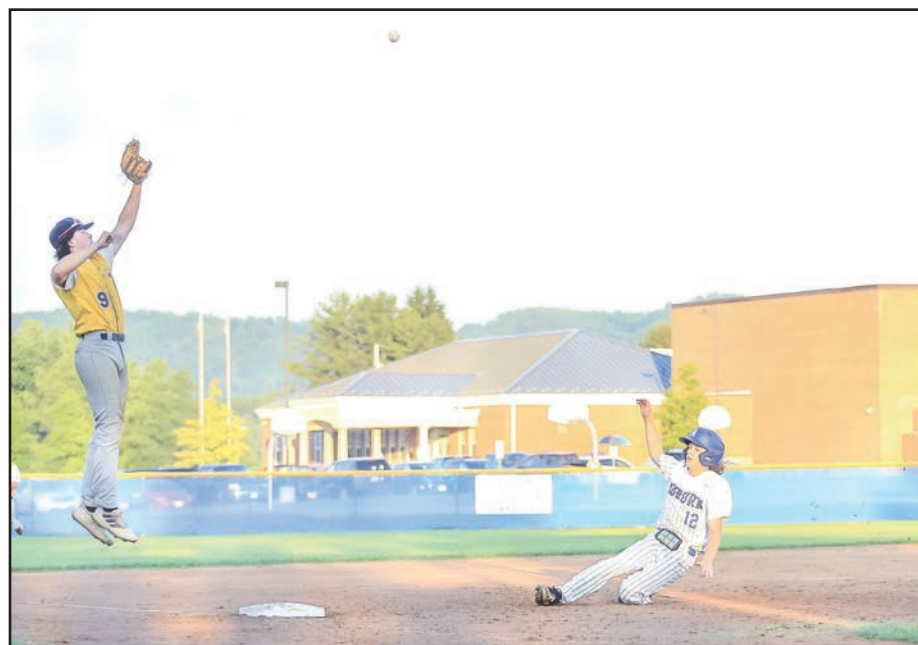
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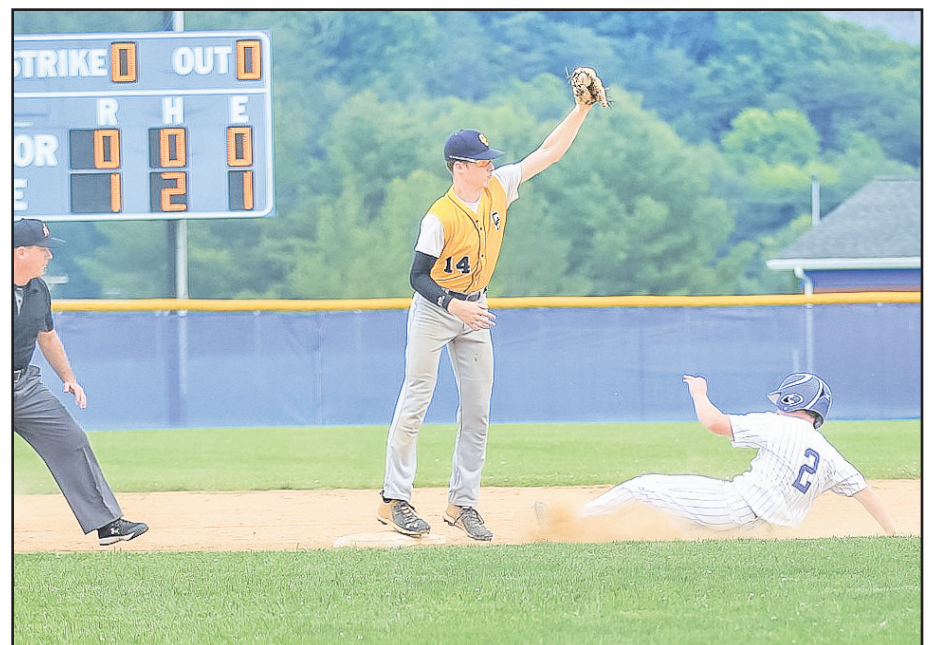
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Grayson defeats Auburn 3-2 in baseball regional final



Auburn's Brady Hale beats the throw to third in the Region C championship game held in Riner against Grayson County.



Auburn's Mitchell Hale slides into second safely in Wednesday's Region 2C finals. Grayson County slipped by Auburn 3-2 for the win.

PHOTOS BY JAMES PERKINS

Radford University women sign two players

Radford Women's Basketball head coach Mike McGuire has announced another pair of additions to the roster for the 2022-23 season.

Ashley Panem, a 5'10 guard from Broomfield County will join the Highlanders as a junior transferring from Western Nebraska. Tatiana Beaumont, a 6'0 guard from Emu Heights, Australia, is also joining the Highlanders as a sophomore transfer from Eastern Florida State.

ASHLEY PANEM

Guard | 5-10 | Broomfield, Co. | Fairview High School

- Averaged nine points and 3.1 rebounds per game last season with Western Nebraska while shooting 36.3% from the field and 31.3% from three.
- Started her collegiate career at Florida Gulf Coast University before transferring to Western Nebraska.
- Before playing at the collegiate level, she averaged double-digit point totals her sophomore, junior, and senior years at Fairview High School.
- Her junior year in high school she was named BocoPreps Player of the Year.

ON WHY SHE CHOSE RADFORD: "I chose Radford because I was given a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to continue my basketball career at the next level. I wanted somewhere that felt like home, and after talking with Coach McGuire, I immediately had that feeling. I wanted to go back to the Division I level and compete, and Radford gave me that opportunity."

COACH MCGUIRE ON PANEM: "Ashley is a high-level two-way player. She is a talented, versatile offensive player but will also have the ability to impact the game on the defensive end of the floor. She is a complete player in our eyes. She is excited to come here and make a difference for our program. I am really looking forward to working with her over the next two years."

TATIANA BEAUMONT

Guard | 6-0 | Emu Heights, Australia | Eastern Florida State

- Averaged 7.3 points and 3.7 rebounds while shooting 36.5% from the field and 31.8% from three last season at Eastern Florida State.
- Was a member of the 2014-15 under-15 state championship squad, the opens state champions in 2016-18 and the 2018 state and all schools national champions.
- In 2018 she was named CHS MVP while a part of that undefeated state championship squad.
- Her single-game high in points came earlier this year against Santa Fe Collegewhen she Beaumont dropped 20 points with another season-high of five three-pointers.

BEAUMONT ON WHY SHE CHOSE RADFORD: "I chose Radford because I was drawn to how welcoming the coaching staff was, and I believed the style of play suited me. After my visit, it was evident to me that Radford was where I wanted to continue my college career. The campus was beautiful and reminded me a lot of home."

COACH MCGUIRE ON BEAUMONT: "I am excited to welcome Tatiana to our program from Eastern Florida State College. She will bring a wealth of playing experience to our program. She is a versatile, intelligent basketball player who can play multiple positions. She has a winning mind set and helped lead her Eastern Florida State team to the national junior college tournament this season. Her combination of experience, mind set, and work ethic will help elevate our program immediately."

The Radford women's basketball program also announced Thursday morning that Amber Easter has joined the team as an assistant coach for the upcoming 2022-23 season.

Easter is returning to the commonwealth after spending the last two seasons as an assistant coach with St. Bonaventure in the Atlantic 10 conference. Easter

had plenty of experience working in the A-10 as she spent her playing days with George Mason. After that, she was a graduate assistant at Virginia Commonwealth University before returning to her alma mater as a director of operations at George Mason where she was part of a staff that earned hosting rights in the Atlantic 10 Tournament for two years, including the no.-4 seed in the conference and a school-record 24 wins in 2018.

She helped manage all facets of George Mason's women's basketball program under head coach Nyla Milleon, working with the coaching staff on video operations, overseeing the team schedule and coordinating team travel and practices.

While with Virginia Commonwealth University, Easter worked in all aspects of the program under head coach Beth O'Boyle, including player development, recruiting, alumni relations, and scouting reports. In her two years on staff, the Rams finished 39-25 and earned a spot in the 2016 WNIT.

Before joining the college coaching ranks, Easter worked at Bethel (Va.) High School as an assistant girls' basketball coach and the head junior varsity coach for two years. In 2014-15, Bethel finished 21-1 and was the 6A South State runners-up.

Easter was a star player while competing as a student-athlete at George Mason. She was a 1,000-point scorer, finishing her career in 2013 ranking 11th on the Patriots' all-time scoring charts with 1,277 points. She also ranked ninth in career rebounds (753), ninth in blocks (65), 17th in assists (192) and 20th in steals (135) while averaging 10.6 points and 6.3 rebounds in 120 career games.

She also collected multiple conference awards, being named to the Second-Team All-Colonial Athletic Association as a senior, She was named to the Colonial Athletic Association All-Rookie Team with George Mason prior to their move to the A-10. She earned an undergraduate degree in psychology at George Mason and an MBA from VCU.

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first in school history with a .802 winning percentage. She accumulated 1,120 strikeouts, ranking her second in school history as just the second Hokie ever to reach the 1,000-strikeout milestone. She recorded 97 wins during her time in a

Hokie uniform with a .170 batting average against.

Ritter was one of the Hokies' top hitters all season. She ended her season with a .400 average over 165 at bats with a .661 slugging percentage and a .474 on-base percentage.

She tied for the team lead with four triples and added 11 doubles and eight home runs with 40 RBI.

Striking out only six times all season, Ritter was ranked first in the ACC and 12th nationally as the toughest to strike out. She also accounted for 23 of Tech's stolen bases, which ranked her third in the ACC. Her .400 batting average was good for second in the ACC. In the outfield, Ritter had a perfect 1.000 fielding percentage with 45 putouts.

Congratulations to Hokie men's basketball coach Mike Young, who was hired at VT on April 7, 2019, and has compiled a record at Tech of 54-36.

The Fork Union Military Academy Sports Hall of Fame has announced four honorees in the Class of 2022 to be celebrated June

3-4 during this year's Sports Hall of Fame Weekend in Zions Crossroads, Virginia. Making up this year's class is 1991 graduate Braxton Davenport, 1990 graduate Tyronne Drakeford, 1967 graduate Micky Sullivan, and 1982 graduate Mike Young.

Young has established himself as one of the top men's basketball coaches at the collegiate level. He arrived in Fork Union in 1981 to play for legendary coach Fletcher Arritt, who is one of Young's mentors to this day.

After graduating from FUMA, Young played for coach Bob Johnson at Emory & Henry College. He was a four-year letterman and a team captain his junior and senior seasons. He credits Johnson with having a major influence on his playing and coaching career. He graduated from Emory & Henry in 1986.

After short stints as an assistant coach at Emory & Henry, Radford University, and Wofford University, Young was named head coach of the Wofford Terriers in 2002. In 17 seasons at Wofford, Young compiled a 299-244 (.551) record and

earned Southern Conference Coach of the Year honors four times (2010, 2014, 2015, and 2019).

Under his guidance, the Terriers registered an impressive list of non-conference wins, including Auburn, Cincinnati, Clemson, Georgia, Georgia Tech, NC State, Purdue, Seton Hall, South Carolina, Virginia Tech, Xavier, and Wake Forest. Arguably the most compelling non-conference victory of his tenure at Wofford came on Dec. 20, 2017, when the Terriers faced then-No. 5 North Carolina at the Dean Smith Center in Chapel Hill and registered a 79-75 victory over head coach Roy Williams and the Tar Heels.

The 2019 Sporting News Coach of the Year, Young built the Terriers into one of the Southern Conference's preeminent programs and a perennial NCAA Tournament participant. He guided Wofford to five NCAA Tournament berths over 10 seasons and five Southern Conference championships. In addition to the on-court success of his teams, 100 percent of Young's student-athletes

at Wofford who completed their eligibility graduated.

In 2018-19, Young's final season at Wofford, the Terriers posted a 30-5 overall record that included a perfect 18-0 mark in Southern Conference play. The team registered a convincing 84-68 win over Seton Hall in the first round of the 2019 NCAA Tournament.

Following his outstanding Wofford career, Young came home to Tech to take the reins of the men's basketball team. He has made the NCAA Tournament seven of the last 12 seasons and was the fastest Virginia Tech coach to make the Big Dance. In his second season with the Hokies, Young led Tech to a 15-7 record, including 9-4 in the ACC to finish third overall and was named ACC Coach of the Year. A year later, Young led the Hokies to their first-ever ACC Tournament Championship as a No.-7 seed, beating top-seeded Duke, 82-67, in his third season in 2022.

In the summer of 2015, Young was inducted into the Emory & Henry College Sports Hall of Fame and the Radford High School Hall of Fame.

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