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Saturday, July 2, 2022

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Waldvogel Commercial announces sale of Radford office building

Waldvogel Commercial Properties, Inc., has announced the sale of the 108,424 square foot building and 46-acre property at 6226 University Park Dr. in Radford.

The property sold for \$4,310,417. Krista H. Vannoy and Michael M. Waldvogel represented the Purchaser, Pyramid Healthcare, Inc., in the transaction.

"This property offers scenic views and historical presence in the community," said Waldvogel. "We are excited for the potential Pyramid Healthcare will bring and honored to be a part of the sales process. This is an exciting development for the Radford area."

Formerly St. Albans Psychiatric Hospital, the building was repurposed for office use when owned by The Radford



Waldvogel Commercial Properties has sold the building and property at 6226 University Park Dr. in Radford for \$4,310,417. Currently owned by the RU Foundation, the purchaser, Pyramid Healthcare, Inc., will transition the property back to use as a healthcare facility.

University Foundation. The purchaser will transition the use back to a healthcare facility.

Pyramid Healthcare, Inc. is a premier provider of behavioral healthcare operating over eighty facilities and six schools across the eastern United States, of-

fering a variety of treatment and recovery services for adults and teens. Founded in 1999, Pyramid Healthcare is now one of the largest providers of behavioral healthcare in Pennsylvania, Maryland, New Jersey, and Virginia.



MicroFridge units were delivered and installed in Virginia Tech's residence halls during a two-week period in early June.

MicroFridges have arrived at Virginia Tech's residence halls

Students moving into Virginia Tech's residence halls this fall will no longer need to purchase and move in a refrigerator or microwave. Instead, each residence hall room will be outfitted with a MicroFridge.

MicroFridge units, a product of the Melvin Corporation, are high-quality, commercial-grade refrigerators, freezers, and microwaves all rolled into one. Through planning efforts, the units were delivered and installed during a two-week period through cooperation between Melvin Corporation, local warehousing, Fire Logistics Inc., and university staff.

"We are so excited that the MicroFridge units have arrived for student use. Students will not need

to bring mini fridges and microwaves in overstuffed cars or carry those items to their rooms, and that is just the start of the benefits," said Ken Belcher, director for facilities and operations. "The units also have integrated smoke sensors to shut the unit off, which will be great for all residents of the building and lead to fewer fire alarms when budding chefs don't follow package directions as they are making ramen or popcorn."

The units have a large list of benefits, including:

Significant cost savings. Rather than purchasing a mini fridge and microwave, which can cost hundreds of dollars, the less expensive rental fee will be included in the price of room and board.

A better move-in experience. Move-in times will be shorter, and students and families won't have to spend as much time moving heavy items up and down stairs. This also reduces the risk of injury and damage to the residence halls.

Fewer fire alarms. The MicroFridge units feature a special smoke sensor inside the microwave that automatically shuts off operations and alerts the user of smoke before any damage is done. This means that there will be fewer building-wide fire alarms

that cause an inconvenience for all residents of the building.

A more sustainable choice. These units are designed to last for years, replacing the 5,180 individual units that families bring to campus each year and eliminating packaging waste that fills our landfill. The EnergyStar units have an annual energy consumption of 195 kilowatt hours, making them the most energy efficient product on the market and reducing Virginia Tech's carbon footprint.

Study: Christiansburg's citizens have gotten 3% more obese over the past decade

At the end of NBC's first 'The Biggest Loser' season, the winning contestant had lost 122 pound (37% of his body weight). A study of contestants' weight loss over a 6-year period after the show found that they had kept off 30% of their original body weight.

Unfortunately, when it comes to America's obesity crisis, life does not imitate reality TV. Warnings about America's obesity epidemic are nothing new.

Statistics show that a sharp increase in obesity rates began in the 1980s, yet public health campaigns since have, it seems, not resulted in reductions in people's waistlines. That is, according to a comprehensive study by BarBend.com, the world's leading strength training resource and news outlet, who identified obesity levels over the past 10 years in counties across Virginia

The analysis of data available by County Health Rankings compared each county's rate of obesity in 2012 to newly released figures in 2022. The study found that of Virginia's 133 counties, just two have trended towards decreased levels of obesity (and four have remained the same). The other 127 counties have in fact, got fatter. This includes Christiansburg (in Montgomery County), whose citizens have become 3% more obese over the past 10 years.

The top five Virginia counties that have fared best over the past 10 years are 1) Portsmouth City: 2% less obese. 2) Fairfax City: 1% less obese. 3) Culpeper: flat. 4) Fairfax: flat. And 5) Gloucester: flat.

The bottom five Virginia counties that have fared worst over the past 10 years are 129) Franklin City: 10% more obese. 130) Mecklenburg: 11% more obese. 131) Southampton: 11% more obese. 132) Danville City: 13% more obese. 133) Emporia City: 13% more obese.

Stamps Scholars partner with organizations to help build beds for children in need

Written by Stamps Scholar Rachael Wennermark

In their second annual bed build with Sleep In Heavenly Peace, a national organization dedicated to providing beds for children in need, Stamps Scholars in the Virginia Tech Honors College helped the New River Valley (NRV) achieve one of its biggest builds yet. Through partnering with 13 other organizations across the NRV, the Stamps Scholars helped to build 70 beds for local children.

Child bedlessness is a national problem, and as a national nonprofit with chapters spread across the country, Sleep In Heavenly Peace has the solution. In the NRV, over 20 children are on the waiting list to receive a bed, and some live fewer than five miles from the Virginia Tech campus. First-year Stamps

See **Stamps**, page 4



UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, July 4:

Spirit of America Celebration

City of Radford's Independence Day celebration at Bisset Park; 1- 10 p.m. Live music, food and craft vendors, children's games and fireworks.

Blacksburg Independence Day celebration

The Town of Blacksburg's Fourth of July parade will begin at 2 p.m. in Downtown Blacksburg. This year's parade theme is "Thanking Medical Personnel and First Responders." Main Street will be closed from Eheart Street to Alumni Mall from 2 p.m. until approximately 3 p.m. Municipal Park will present live music with the following schedule: 6 p.m.: The Blacksburg Community Band – Patriotic Music; 7 p.m.: Blue Ridge Vocal --Singing Group; 8 p.m.: Dirt Road Breakdown – Classic Rock. The day's celebration will conclude with fireworks at 9:30 p.m. rain or shine.

Tuesday, July 5:

Summer Backpack Program

At the Meadowbrook Public Library at 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 with 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.

Teen Goldfish Taste Test

At the Blacksburg Library; 2 p.m. Put your taste buds to the test! Can you name and identify different goldfish flavors while blindfolded? Prize awarded to winner. This program may not be suitable for those with food allergies. Registration required.

Brick Blast

At the Blacksburg Library; 4:30 p.m. Come build at the library! Put your engineering skills to the test!

Wednesday, July 6:

Ocean-Themed Sidewalk Art Contest

At the Meadowbrook Public Library; 9 a.m. Children ages 10-14 years are invited to participate in an ocean-themed sidewalk art contest. All supplies will be provided for you to create a masterpiece with sidewalk chalk. We will have tropical refreshments. All art contest participants may enter their name in a raffle. Limited space available, please register in advance.

Talking About Books: Cloud Cuckoo Land

At the Christiansburg Library; 11 a.m. This month we will be discussing Cloud Cuckoo Land by Anthony Doerr, in-person and virtually.

Loops Group

At the Blacksburg Library; 2 p.m. Bring your project and join our Loops Group for community and conversation. All are welcome.

Thursday, July 7:

American Legion meeting

The American Legion, Harvey-Howe-Carper Post 30 will meet on Thursday, July 7, 7pm at the VFW Post Home on 102 Watts St. in Radford. For further information, please call 540-250-2283 or 540-239-9864.

Pokémon Swap

At the Blacksburg Library; 3 p.m. Calling all Pokémon trainers! Bring your console,

your Pokémon games, or your Pokémon cards to trade, battle, and play with others! Fill out your Pokedex, challenge others with your favorite team, and enter a raffle for rare shiny Pokémon. Contact Pokémon Trainer Sally at sstauffer@mfrl.org with any questions!

Friday, July 8:

Teen Goldfish Taste Test

At the Christiansburg Library; 2 p.m. Put your taste buds to the test! Can you name and identify different goldfish flavors while blindfolded? Prize awarded to winner. This program may not be suitable for those with food allergies. Registration required.

Saturday, July 9:

Mt. Tabor Ruritan fish fry

The Mount Tabor Ruritan Club will hold its July fish fry from 5 to 7 p.m. at Slusser's Chapel Picnic Shelter, 1543 Mount Tabor Rd, Blacksburg. The club will be serving up fish, fries and slaw; homemade desserts; and beverages. The cost is \$12 for adults, \$6 for children under 12; free for children under three. Carry-outs are \$12. This month, the Blacksburg Community Band will be playing. The fish fry will be held rain or shine. Call or text 540-449-6178 for further information. On Facebook at MtTaborRuritan.

New River Valley Garden Tour

9 a.m.- 5 p.m. Tickets can be purchased for \$15 in advance and are available at the library or online. Tickets will also be available at the gardens on the day of the tour.

Tuesday, July 12:

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 (UDC) are also invited to attend. The guest speaker will be Author Tom Peery. For further information, please call 540-320-4315 or 540-239-9864.

Summer Backpack Program

At the Meadowbrook Public Library at 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 with 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.

Thursday, July 14:

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.

On-going:

United Way Emergency Food Pantry in need

The United Way NRV Emergency Food Pantry supply is critically low. If you are able to donate any of these pantry items, please drop them off at our office at 111 West Main Street in Christiansburg.

Moss Arts Center concert presents the area's finest old-time, bluegrass, and heritage musicians and dancers

The Moss Arts Center presents the premiere performance of "The Crooked Road's Music and Dance Spectacular" on Friday, July 8, 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.

Steeped in the sounds of fiddles, banjos, and other stringed instruments, the Crooked Road illustrates the melting pot of immigration and the early settling of the Appalachian mountains. From haunting duets and ballad singing to the dynamic dancing tunes of string bands, this musical journey includes a tip of the hat to some of the most historic musicians of the Crooked Road, such as the Carter Family and the Stanley Brothers.

A showcase of heritage music bands, the performance features a tremendous lineup of traditional talents:

Junior Sisk Band

The Junior Sisk Band is a force of bluegrass, and its members are masters of instrumentation and songwriting while Junior Sisk is considered one of today's top bluegrass guitar players and vocalists. Sisk has won numerous awards from the International Bluegrass Music Association, including the Album of the Year and Song of the Year Awards in 2012 and the Male Vocalist of the Year Award in both 2013 and 2017, and his band earned the Bluegrass Band of the Year Award in 2014 from the Society for the Preservation of Bluegrass Music of America.

Whitetop Mountain Band

Bringing a legacy of old-time sounds to the stage, the Whitetop Mountain Band is an award-winning family en-

semble with long-time traditional roots in Whitetop, Virginia, an area rich in old-time music traditions. The band's members have been essential to the preservation of the Whitetop region's old-time fiddling and banjo picking. These legendary musicians serve as teachers of the style while entertaining audiences with fiddle/banjo instrumentals, powerful solos, and harmony vocals on blues, classic country, honky-tonk, traditional bluegrass numbers, old-timey ballads, originals, and four-part mountain gospel songs.

Dori Freeman, Scott Freeman, and Willard Gayheart

A progressive Appalachian singer and songwriter, Dori Freeman celebrates her roots with traditional ballads and new favorites with her father, Scott Freeman, and grandfather, Willard Gayheart. Their family's history highlights the importance of generational legacy and represents the Galax music scene. A multi-faceted, eclectic artist, Freeman defies and expands notions of what it means to be from Southwest Virginia. Gayheart and Scott Freeman are consummate musicians, storytellers, teachers, songwriters, and tunesmiths. Though grounded in old-time tradition, their music is adventurous and ready to roam the edges for new sounds and songs that fit within the tradition.

Justin Golden

Justin Golden unites the Virginia blues with heritage music of Southwest Virginia, bringing his songwriting and guitar talents to heart-and-soul issues. On his debut record, "Hard Times and a Woman," Golden showcases the full breadth of the genre and its downstream influences, everything from



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY THE MOSS ARTS CENTER

On July 8, a showcase at the Moss Arts Center of the cultural traditions of Southwest Virginia, "The Crooked Road's Music and Dance Spectacular," will feature a tremendous lineup of the area's finest old-time, bluegrass, and heritage music and dance masters.

country blues to Americana, soul, indie roots, and beyond. Golden was raised on the Virginia coast and is steeped in the distinctive, fingerpicked Piedmont blues of the central part of the state. He's studied country blues and can name any number of influences, from Blind Boy Fuller to Taj Mahal, but his key inspirations have always come from the indie guitar realm.

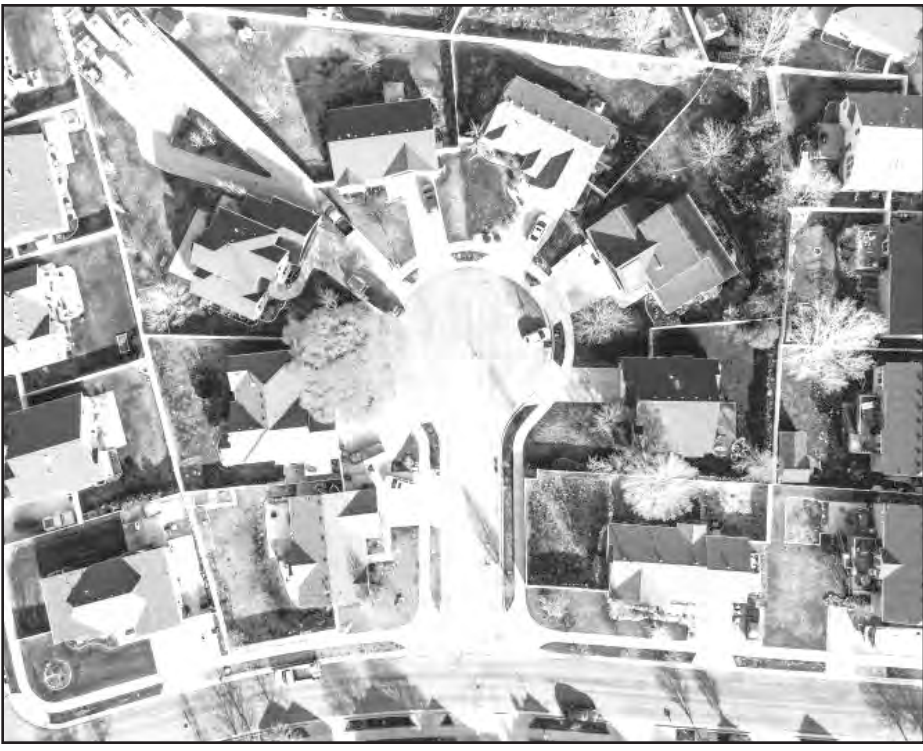
Becky Hill

Becky Hill is a percussive dancer, choreographer, and square dance caller. She was a 2021 Strathmore artist-in-residence, a 2018 OneBeat Fellow for the U.S. State Department, and is currently artist-in-residence at the John C. Campbell Folk School. She performs with the T-Mart Rounders and teaches dance throughout the country. As an avid organizer and teacher, Hill's

work lives in the intersections between music, dance, and community. She is dedicated to creating innovative choreography rooted in Appalachian music and dance.

Eugene Wolf

Actor Eugene Wolf is the narrator for the evening, weaving the collective narrative of song and experiences on the stage. A native of Greeneville, Tenn., Wolf was a member of the Road Company and has been a member of Barter Theater's Resident Acting Company for 25 years. In 2002, Wolf found home in the role of A.P. Carter in Barter Theater's "Keep on the Sunny Side" and on television's "Lost Highway" on BBC and "Will the Circle Be Unbroken" for PBS American Experience. He has been a member of the Brother Boys with Ed Snodderly for 35 years.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

VT expert offers advice for homebuyers during volatile housing market

Consumers should not expect mortgage rates to go down any time soon, says a Virginia Tech expert, despite rapid increases that have driven 30-year fixed rates higher than they have been since 2008.

“The Federal Reserve recently made clear their commitment to manage inflation and that future rate increases should be expected,” said Jonathan Everett, an assistant professor of practice for the university’s Blackwood Program in Real Estate. “Like many things in real estate, it ultimately comes down to supply and demand. Is there reasonable demand despite interest rate increases?”

“I would venture to guess interest rates will continue to rise in the short run, anything short of a market catastrophe, but I do suspect we are reaching a resistance level where affordability is becoming an issue at today’s sales prices – something will need to give. I will be curious to see if new mortgage products will be a byproduct of this predicament. For example, I can imagine a world where homeowners can stretch out their payments over 35 or even 40 years.”

Everett offers the following advice for homebuyers to consider given the current state of the real estate market.

How significant are recent mortgage rate changes?

Very significant. According to Mortgage Bankers Association, we have not seen the 30-year mortgage rate at this level since November 2008. Delving deeper, the average weekly rate for the 30-year mortgage thus far for 2022 is approximately 52 percent higher than the average weekly rate

for 2021. To put that in perspective, the next two highest comparable increases were in 1980 and 1981 when the average weekly rate for 1980 was nearly 23 percent higher than the average in 1979 and the average weekly rate for 1981 was approximately 21 percent higher than the average in 1980.

If 2022 interest rates continue their current trajectory, the relative pace at which rates are increasing could be one for the history books. Even though we are coming out of record low interest rates, and rates are still within the range of historical norms, I think what has been so eye catching is the sustained velocity in which interest rates have changed over the past several months.

Do you have advice for homebuyers navigating this market?

I would encourage homebuyers to keep a level head when determining how much to pay and exercise proper financial discipline, despite a hot real estate market. In terms of mortgage products, I personally prefer a 30-year mortgage as opposed to a 20- or 15-year mortgage. I would much rather be in a position to pay the mortgage off early then be in a cash flow pinch, need the money, and not have it. This is especially true in a high inflationary environment. I can have thousands of dollars in equity in my home, but the bank still expects my next payment to be made in full and on time. As the old saying goes, cash is king! The downside to a longer-term mortgage is paying more interest over the life of the loan, all else equal. Additionally, debt is a double-edged sword that needs to be handled in the context of personal and fi-

ancial circumstances.

When determining affordability, homebuyers need to anticipate an increase in their monthly mortgage payment to cover the inevitable increase in real estate taxes owed due to rising home values or potential changes in real estate tax rates.

If homebuyers are determining affordability based on current circumstances, I would argue they could find themselves in an uncomfortable or jeopardizing financial situation down the road when values are reassessed.

How are mortgage rates affecting sales prices and affordability?

In one sense, home values are holding strong and both the median sales price for existing and new homes have increased so far this year. As of May 2022, the median sales price of existing homes was \$407,600, a 15 percent price increase from January 2022. As of May 2022, the median sales price for new houses sold in the United States was \$449,000, representing over a 4 percent increase from January 2022 prices. However, when you look at the housing affordability index produced by the National Association of Realtors, in January, 2022, the index was 143.1 and has since declined to 109.2 as of April 2022. Ultimately, a lower index value is not a good thing and when the value drops below 100, then a family earning a median income will not qualify for a mortgage on a median-priced home. So arguably, affordability could be an issue in the not-so-distant future. One could argue this has the potential to slow sales or put downward pressure on sales prices going forward.

Food City, Richard Petty, and Paralyzed Vets kick off in-store donation campaign

Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA), the nation’s premier nonprofit for disabled veterans, their families, and caregivers, has once again kicked off its annual checkout campaign in conjunction with longtime supporters Food City and champion race car driver Richard Petty.

Centered around helping and empowering America’s paralyzed veterans, all donations made at Food City through July 26 will go directly towards life-altering PVA programs and experiences impacting today’s veterans, their families, and their caregivers.

“Food City and Mr. Petty have been PVA partners for more than a decade, and we are so grateful for their ongoing support,” said U.S. Marine Corps veteran and national president of Paralyzed Veterans of America Charles Brown. “Because of them, as well as Food City’s generous customers and hardworking staff, PVA is able to meet veterans at their bedside in VA spinal cord centers across America and help them get the specialized health care they require, the benefits they earned, the jobs they want, and the accessible homes, vehicles, and communities they need, and so much more.”

As part of the fundraising campaign, customers can select either \$1, \$3, or \$5 donations at any Food City checkout and their gift amount will be added to their order total. The initiative will span all Food City stores across the Southeast.

“I can’t say enough wonderful things about PVA, the important work they do and the amazing veterans they help,” said Petty. “Every year, I look forward to working alongside Food City in supporting this worthwhile Veterans Non-profit and encouraging others to do the same. It never gets old. If anything, it only grows more important as every dollar donated goes a long way towards ensuring our disabled veterans are able to live the quality of life they earned and deserve.”

“We are proud to have the opportunity to make a real difference in the lives of our nation’s paralyzed veterans and help PVA fulfill its mission of helping veterans thrive while searching for a cure for paralysis,” said Steven C. Smith, Food City president and chief executive officer. “We raised over \$510,000 last year, thanks to the tremendous generosity of our loyal customers and associates. Together, we hope to raise even more this year.”

AARP awards grants to two local organizations

The American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) Wednesday announced the awarding of a pair of grants to two local organizations: Literacy Volunteers of the New River Valley, which will use the money to develop a Mobile Literacy Lab to deliver technology resources and education to adult learners. and the Blacksburg Regional Art Association, which will use the money to create a “Live Together” mural celebrating the community along a busy pedestrian streetscape.

The grants were part of the largest group of grantees to date with \$3.4 million awarded among 260 organizations nationwide. Grantees will implement quick-action projects that help communities become more livable in the long-term by improving public places; transportation; housing; diversity, equity and inclusion; digital access; and civic engagement with an emphasis on the needs of adults age 50 and over.

“AARP Virginia is committed to working with communities to improve residents’ qual-

ity of life through tangible changes,” said State Director Jim Dau. “We are proud to collaborate with this year’s grantees as they make immediate improvements in their communities to jumpstart long-term change, especially for Virginians 50 and over.”

The grant program is part of AARP’s nationwide Livable Communities initiative, which supports the efforts of cities, towns, neighborhoods, and rural areas to become great places to live for people of all ages.

Alpha Delta Kappa, Rho chapter, initiates two new members

Kenita Brugh and Barbara Valentine have been initiated into the Rho chapter of Alpha Delta Kappa, an international honorary organization that serves women educators in Montgomery County and Radford. Brugh and Valentine are educators in Christiansburg.

The mission of Alpha Delta Kappa is to empower women educators to advance inclusion, educational excellence, and world understanding. Headquartered in Kansas City, Missouri, the organization also focuses on altruistic community service projects.

This past year, Rho chapter has supported the Alzheimer’s Association, the ACCE program through New River Community College, Wonder Universe Children’s Museum, and Christiansburg Institute. The chapter also celebrated the MCPS Teachers-of-the-Year by distributing mobile Tea-Parties-in-a-Box.

Alpha Delta Kappa has existed for 75 years and has over 1,000 chapters in the US, Canada, Puerto Rico, Jamaica, and Australia. Rho chapter will celebrate its 60th Anniversary in June 2023.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Kenita Brugh (left) and Barbara Valentine (right) have been initiated into the Rho chapter of Alpha Delta Kappa, an international honorary society for women educators with the local chapter serving teachers in Montgomery County and Radford.

The Fincastle Herald
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The New Castle Herald
Salem Times-Register
News Messenger
Radford News Journal

Legals - City of Radford

RADFORD TRANSIT SERVICE CHANGE NOTICE:

As of July 15, 2022, the Medical Transport to Carilion New River Valley Hospital provided by Radford Transit will be discontinued.

If you have any questions or comments, you may contact Melissa Skelton at 540-267-3188.

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Send community news and photos to communitynews@ourvalley.org

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

Radford's Tim Cox earns PhD from Shenandoah

Tim Cox of Radford was among the 1,204 students who graduated from Shenandoah University during the 2021-22 academic year.

Cox earned a doctorate in Physical Therapy. Shenandoah had 236 August 2021 graduates, 332 December 2021 graduates, and 636 May 2022 graduates. Shenandoah's 2022 commencement ceremony took place on May 21 in the James R. Wilkins, Jr. Athletics and Events Center.

Riner's Jessica Musselman earns Freed-Hardeman President's List honors

Jessica Musselman of Riner was among the students named to the President's List at Freed-Hardeman University for the spring 2022 semester.

To be on the President's List, a student must be full-time and have a 4.0 grade point average. Musselman is earning a Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry.

The mission of Freed-Hardeman University is to help

students develop their God-given talents for His glory by empowering them with an education that integrates Christian faith, scholarship and service. With locations in Henderson, Memphis, and Dickson, FHU offers bachelor's, master's, specialist's, and doctoral degrees.

Four local students graduate from William & Mary

Aubrey and Sophia Albimino, both of Blacksburg, recently graduated from the College of William & Mary with bachelor of arts degrees.

Pearl Gates of Christiansburg has graduated from W&M with a Master of Arts in education. Christiansburg's Richard Mayo recently received his PhD in education from William & Mary.

Blacksburg's Sarah North named to Anderson's dean's list

Sarah North of Blacksburg was named to the Dean's List at Anderson University in Anderson, S.C., to achieve that honor, North had to maintain a 3.5 grade point average or higher for the semester.

Anderson University is an academically selective, comprehensive Christian university offering bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees on campus and online. Anderson University is among U.S. News and World Report's "Best Regional Universities South" and is on the publication's "Best Value," "Best Undergraduate Teaching," "Best First-Year Experience," and "Best Online Programs" lists.

Blacksburg's Courtney Wilson named to Hollins Spring 2022 dean's list

Courtney Wilson of Blacksburg has been named to the Hollins University Dean's List in Roanoke for the spring 2022 semester. To attain this distinction, Wilson earned at least a 3.5 average on a 4.0 grading scale.

Hollins is an independent liberal arts university offering undergraduate liberal arts education for women and selected graduate programs for women and men. The university features 29 undergraduate majors and 15 coed graduate and certificate programs.

Radford's Abigail Barnes achieves dean's list at Hofstra

Abigail Barnes of Radford earned dean's list honors at Hofstra University for the Spring 2022, achieving a GPA of at least 3.5. Hofstra University is a nationally ranked and recognized private university in Hempstead, N.Y., with 11,000 students that offers small classes and personal attention with the resources, technology and facilities of a large university. Students can choose from more than 165 undergraduate program options and 175 graduate program options.

Katie Forbes of Blacksburg earns dean's list honors at Shenandoah

Katie Forbes of Blacksburg has earned a spot on the dean's list at Shenandoah University for the Spring 2022 semester. To qualify for the Dean's List, students enrolled in baccalaureate degree programs must complete at least 12 semester hours and earn a semester GPA of 3.5 or higher. Shenandoah University was established in 1875, and is headquartered in Winchester, Va. With nearly 4,000 students in more than 200+ areas of study in seven different schools, Shenandoah promotes a close-knit community rich in creative energy and intellectual challenge.

Christiansburg's Dana Watson graduates from Alabama

Dana Watson of Christiansburg graduated from The University of Alabama with a Master of Science degree at the end of the spring semester 2022. Part of The University of Alabama System, the university is the state's flagship university. UA advances discovery, creative inquiry and knowledge through more than 30 research centers. As the state's largest higher education institution, UA drives economic growth in Alabama and beyond.

Three local students achieve JMU dean's list honors

The following students made the dean's list for the spring 2022 semester at James Madison University: Emily Clark of Fairlawn, whose major is dance; Kerrigan Quesenberry of Radford, whose major is health sciences; and Jonathan Woods of Radford, whose major is sport and recreation management.

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Stamps

from page 1

Scholar Rupabali Samata, who has lived in the NRV for over six years, described the experience as "eye-opening."

"I've learned that there's a significant population in the NRV community that doesn't have access to basic things, like a bed, which I didn't realize," Rupabali said.

Addison Glozer, another first-year student in the program, said being a Stamps Scholar means to "give back." Glozer and many of the scholars said this project was one of the best volunteering experiences they have ever had. The work is hands-on, rewarding, and makes a significant difference to the community.

The Stamps Scholars are a group of students supported by the Virginia Tech Honors College and the Strive Foundation with a four-year scholarship. Chris-

tina McIntyre, the director of professional development and national and international scholarships and head of the Stamps program at the Virginia Tech Honors College, said what the Honors College looks for in Stamps Scholars is "not only strong academics, but ... people who care about their community." McIntyre said service is central to the program. "I want there to be a sense of stewardship," she said.

"Being a Stamps Scholar means that I have a really strong support system to pursue any of my goals for college and beyond," said Ashley Barlow, a senior in the program. "College students take a lot from this area, and it's important to give back in any way that we can because there's a lot more to Blacksburg than just Virginia Tech."

This Sleep In Heavenly Peace bed

build had the most organizations come together to complete a build in the NRV.

Build participants included the Virginia Tech Stamps Scholars, the Virginia Tech Army ROTC Rangers, the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Lima Company and Cadets for a Cause, the Virginia Tech Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine, the Virginia Tech Kappa Delta Rho Fraternity, the Virginia Tech G.E.R.M.A.N Club, the Radford University Army ROTC, the Radford University Catholic Community, Colley Architects, the NRV Church, Blacksburg Ablaze Church, Auburn Middle School, and Fresh and Clean LLC.

"I'm just continually amazed by the willingness of our community and the Virginia Tech students to help with our mission," said Paul Mele, NRV chapter president of Sleep In Heavenly Peace.

CROSSWORD

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	70							71			72		

CLUES ACROSS

1. Applies paint lightly	47. Press against lightly	3. South American weapon	42. Defensive nuclear weapon
5. House mice genus	48. Elderdown filled	4. Set out	43. Clan division
8. Bible's Chronicles (abbr.)	50. In the year of Our Lord	5. Volcano aka Wawa Putina	44. Adult male deer
11. Old World buffalo	52. Obstruct or block	6. Soviet Union	45. Patterned table linen fabric
12. Expression of contempt	53. A companion animal	7. A single piece of paper	48. Subtract
13. Levi jeans competitor	54. Political action committee	8. A bird's foot	49. An imaginary ideal place
15. A small-wooded hollow	56. Big man on campus	9. Of this	51. Chuck Hagel is the new head
16. Donkeys	58. "Frankly my dear, ___"	10. Restores	53. Round flat Middle Eastern bread
18. River in Florence	63. American Indian group	12. Paper adhesives	55. Chickpea plant
19. L. Rukeysser's TV show	64. Lots of	14. Lordship's jurisdiction	56. Make obscure
22. The abominable snowman	65. Life stories	17. River in Paris	57. Pole (Scottish)
23. Deerfield, IL, Trojans school	67. Sour taste	20. Headed up	59. Cavities where spores develop
24. Be obliged to repay	68. The Phantom's first name	21. Sir in Malay	60. Vintage Auto Racing Assoc.
25. Woman (French)	69. Leading European space Co.	25. Soft-shell clam genus	61. Hmong language ___; Yao
28. Delaware	70. Native of Thailand	26. Mega-electron volt	62. Small head gestures
29. Fools around (Br. slang)	71. Drive into hard	27. Indicates near	66. Point midway between S and SE
31. Affirmative (slang)	72. NY state flower	30. The central bank of the US	
32. With three uneven sides		33. Central processing unit	
36. Tel ___, Israel city		34. Direct toward a target	
38. "As American as apple ___"		35. Side sheltered from the wind	
39. ABA ___ Honeymoon		37. 6th letter of Hebrew alphabet	
43. Fictive		40. Form a sum	
		41. The cry made by sheep	

CLUES DOWN

1. Male parent	2. Afresh
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OBITUARIES

Coffey, Sr., Jimmy Dale

Jimmy Dale Coffey, Sr., 56, Dublin; brothers Bobby Coffey of Dublin passed away Mon., June 27, 2022.

He was preceded in death by his father, Jesse Ray Coffey.

Survivors include his son and daughter-in-law, Jimmy D., Jr., and Patricia Coffey of Dublin; daughter and son-in-law, Heather and Justin McGuire of Dublin; grandchildren Makenzie and



Easton Coffey, and Jaden, Noah, Emma, and Christian McGuire; mother Bonnie Louise Coffey of

Pulaski, Travis Coffey of Dublin, and Jesse Coffey of Pulaski; and many other relatives and friends.

Memorial services were held on Thursday, June 30, 2022, at the Fairlawn Baptist Church with the Rev. Greg Harrell officiating.

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

Smith, the Rev. David H.

The Rev. David H. Smith, a retired pastor of the United Methodist Church, died June 27 at Brandermill Woods Retirement Center in Midlothian, Va.

His ministry spanned 42 years. David was born in Cambria (now Christiansburg) and attended Randolph-Macon College and Vanderbilt University.

He is survived by his wife, Julia Gattis Smith; a daughter,

Sally Smith Scott (Steve); a son, David Neel Smith (Candace); four granddaughters, Laura Scott (Ben Goodsell), Lisa Scott, Sarah-Neel Smith (John Cardellino), and Annecca Smith (Patrick Scully), and a sister, Frances Smith Olson (Ed).

He was predeceased by his brother, C. Richard Smith.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to a charity of your choice in David's honor.

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.stpetersacc.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 540-533-5365 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 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

Montgomery County

WORSHIP DIRECTORY

Avoid the Mistakes

Read Judges 7:1 through 8:35

Does the following scenario point to any common details in people's lives?

Do people often pray hard and study Scripture in order to seek God's provision when struggling financially? Do these same people attend church weekly and ask other believers to pray for their needs. As their accounts increase to a comfortable amount, do they begin getting an early start on their workdays to put in more hours at the office. Do they cut back on prayer and Bible study.

Gideon made the gold into an ephod, which he placed in Ophrah, his town. All Israel prostituted themselves by worshipping it there, and it became a snare to Gideon and his family (Judges 8:27).

Gideon, as a young and inexperienced warrior, was called by God to engage a vast invading army. Gideon's life had been tough, and his circumstances forced him to draw close to God. But, with the enemy's defeat and the rich spoils of the battle, Gideon misused his blessing.

Prayer Suggestion: When you enjoy a season of success, pray even harder that God will keep you in a deep relationship with himself.

Quicklook: Judges 8:22-27

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

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.

Our Saviour Lutheran Church ELCA, 1845 Cambria St NE, Christiansburg. Worship each Sunday at 10 am, in person and online at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMsB-gbyjmV5ce9mr43dbCw. Please visit our website at www.oslcburg.org and our Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/oslchristiansburg to learn more about us. Little Free Pantry and Little Free Library located in our parking lot. Pastor Joshua L. Copeland; church office 540-382-2223.

St. Michael Lutheran Church, 2308 Merrimac Road, Blacksburg, VA 24060. Worship service each Sunday at 10 AM, Sunday School 9 AM. We are a community of God's people where 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@stmcl.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.centralmethodist-church.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

Send community news and photos to communitynews@ourvalley.org

Obituaries

from page 5

Irwin, Earl G.

Earl G. Irwin, 89, of Radford, died Wednesday, March 16, 2022.

Graveside services with full military honors will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, July 8, 2022, in the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin.

A celebration of his life will immediately follow at Randolph Park in Dublin. Friends, family, neighbors, church members, and former co-workers are cordially invited to attend.



In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, 355 Rio Road West, Suite 102, Charlottesville, VA 22901 or at https://act.alz.org/site/Donation2?df_id=32112&32112.donation=form1&cs_affid=181.

The Irwin family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford. www.mullinsfuneralhome.com.

Roope, Mark Edward

Mark Edward Roope, 52, of Dublin, passed away unexpectedly on Sunday, June 19, 2022.

He was a farmer and a U. S. Navy veteran.

Survivors include his daughters, Rosetta Roope, Ashley Roope, and Tyler Roope; parents Gary Roope and Rosa Cressell; brothers Lee Roope and Chris Roope; half-brother Eddie Roope; half-sister Kelly Grissom; and many other relatives and friends.



The family will receive friends from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. on Tuesday, July 5, 2022, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Graveside services with full military honors will follow at 2 p.m. at the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin.

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

Shorter, Doretta Alice Akers

Doretta Alice Akers Shorter, 86, of Radford, passed away Tuesday, June 28, 2022.

She was a member of Grove United Methodist Church and was a retired banking loan officer.

She preceded in death by her parents, Guy Howard and Edna Reed Akers; and her husband, Ira Dwight Shorter.

Survivors include her sons and daughters-in-law, Dwight Jay and Judy Shorter of Radford and John Scott and Paula Shorter of Kansas City, Mo.; grandchildren Chris and Alysha Shorter, Devin Shorter, Ellie Shorter, Izzie Shorter, John Shorter,



Ken and Lori Keister, and Matt Keister; and great-grandchildren Knox and Nash Shorter, and Grant and Jacqueline Keister; sister Ann Vaughan of Christiansburg; and many other relatives and friends.

A memorial gathering was held on Friday, July 1, 2022, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford.

In lieu of flowers, please make contributions to Good Samaritan Hospice.

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

ONLINE AUCTION

Ends Thursday July 14th @ 4 PM
Kennel and Boarding Business for Sale!
426 Mt Elbert Rd, Riner VA 24149

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You have the opportunity to purchase a lucrative business in Floyd County VA! This property features a turn key dog boarding business on 2 acres for sale in Riner VA. The building was constructed in 2017 and has over 1,300 sq. ft. of space with an office, dog bathing space, handicap accessible bathroom and 10 8x8 boarding rooms. Each room has air vents and ceiling fans for comfort. The building is metal sided with metal interior walls, roof and is well insulated. It has a private well and septic. There is a large, fenced lot out back for dogs to run and play for exercise during their stay. This is a great opportunity to pick up and continue a highly successful dog boarding business in a great location. Business stays steady and has the potential to remain booked throughout the year. It could serve as a great source of income. Don't miss out on the opportunity to scoop up this great business for sale in Riner VA! Contact agent for P&L statement and other financial documents.

Preview- Thursday June 30th at 5 PM
and Saturday July 9th at 11 AM

Terms - 10% Buyer's Premium will be added to final high bid to arrive at contract price. Earnest Money Deposit of \$10,000 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

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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.

FOURTH OF JULY HOLIDAY:

To ease travel for the Fourth of July holiday weekend, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) will suspend many highway work zones and lift most lane closures on interstates and other major roads in Virginia until noon Tuesday, July 5. While lane closures will be lifted in most locations, motorists may encounter semi-permanent work zones that remain in place during this time.

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.

SHAWSVILLE 5K RACE – The 41st Annual Shawsville 5K will be held at 8 a.m. on July 4. The course will start near the Shawsville Middle School and proceed west along Oldtown Road. At the intersection with Route 460, the runners will swing left and run along the shoulder of Route 460 until they reach the Dollar General where they will again turn left onto Stewart Lane. At the top of the hill, the runners will return to Oldtown Road and finish the race just past the school. Drivers should expect closures and delays.

SHAWSVILLE JULY 4th PARADE – The 4th of July Parade will be held at 4 p.m. on July 4 through the Village of Shawsville beginning at the Sisson & Ryan office, proceeding a short distance on Route 460 and then remain on Route 753 to athletic field at Shawsville Middle School.

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 641 CULVERT REPLACEMENT – Route 641 (Wayside Drive) is closed for a culvert replacement over Spring Branch. Drivers should watch for signage. The road will reopen on July 22 at 5 p.m., weather permitting.

ROUTE 114 TURN LANE CONSTRUCTION – Road improvements on Route 114 (Peppers Ferry Road) for the construction of a new entrance to Belview Elementary School are underway. 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 has begun and will con-

tinue 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 of 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.

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 is currently 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 traffic will resume this summer. Drivers can expect rough pavement. Estimated completion date of the project is summer 2022.

PAVING OPERATIONS: During nighttime hours 8 p.m. to 6 a.m., drivers may see paving operations in place for the next three to four weeks. Weather permitting, this paving operation will finish the project with final paving that will smooth out the rough surface.

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.

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 POT HOLE 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.

Send community

news and photos to

communitynews@ourvalley.org

MONTGOMERY SPORTS

Former Highlander named RU head coach



PHOTO COURTESY OF RU ATHLETICS

Radford University has announced that former Highlander assistant coach and player Alex Guerra has been hired as the school's new baseball head coach.

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Radford University has officially named former Highlander assistant coach and player Alex Guerra as its new head baseball coach.

As a player, Guerra batted .311, hit 11 home runs, and drove in 94 runs while playing second base, shortstop, and third base across his junior and senior seasons.

RU Athletic Director Robert Lineburg said he was delighted Guerra was returning home as the seventh head coach in program history.

"Alex was an outstanding baseball player, a great leader, and a wonderful teammate during his time here at Radford," Lineburg said. "He also spent time here as an assistant coach where his work ethic and passion helped Radford baseball achieve some of the best seasons in school history. He will bring that same energy and work ethic as the head coach, and we look forward to his leading the

Highlanders to great success."

Guerra had spent the past seven seasons as an assistant coach and recruiting coordinator at James Madison University.

"I want to thank President Danilowicz, Robert Lineburg, and the rest of the Radford University administration for allowing me the opportunity to become the head baseball coach at Radford University," Guerra said. "It is a dream come true to be the head coach at Radford, a place where I created so many great memories as a student-athlete and assistant coach.

"Radford University is a special place, and our staff will work tirelessly to create a student-athlete experience that our players will cherish for a lifetime. I am overwhelmed by the amount of support from former players, alumni, and coaches across the state and region. I cannot wait to get started. Go Highlanders!"

Guerra emerged from an extremely competitive pool of head coaching candidates, separating himself as someone with an undeniably strong track record of suc-

cess at all levels of the game and an unrelenting passion for Radford University and its community.

In his seven years on Marlin Ikenberry's staff at JMU, Guerra guided the Dukes through a complete rebuild which saw them produce strong results on the diamond and a long list of standout players. Most recently, Guerra helped the 2022 JMU squad to a 27-26 overall record with 12 wins in the Colonial Athletic Association, their most conference wins since 2016. Seven Dukes earned all-conference honors, and the team posted a .971 fielding percentage that stands as the second-highest in program history.

Notable players coached by Guerra include Chase DeLauter, who is expected to be drafted in the first round of the 2022 MLB Draft, and Kevin Kelly and Fox Semones, a pair of collegiate baseball freshmen all-Americans.

While he was at RU, Guerra served as the Highlanders' hitting coach and recruiting coordinator while working

closely with the catchers on a day-to-day basis.

The Wantagh, N.Y. native oversaw the development of six all-conference position players, including a pair of selections in the Major League Baseball First-Year Player Draft and Radford's first-ever nominee for the Johnny Bench Award, given annually to the top catcher in Division I.

Prior to Radford, Guerra served as director of baseball operations at Central Florida before moving into a volunteer assistant coach position the next season. While in Orlando, he played a vital role in recruiting, budgets, and travel while also coaching the outfielders and assisting with the infielders, the catchers and the scouting reports.

Before going into coaching, Guerra played two seasons at Division III Greensboro College before transferring to Radford for his final two collegiate seasons.

VHSL names all-state teams for spring sports

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

The Virginia High School League has released its all-state teams in all sports from this past spring, and Radford High School freshman Enzo Pugliese led the way on the Class 2 boys first-team all-state soccer team. Pugliese scored five goals this past season. He was joined on the first-team by teammate Evan Rupe, who had 12 goals.

Radford also placed three boys on the all-state Class 2 second team in Parker Prieleau, Jack Davis and Owen Saunders.

The Radford girls' team had two players named to

the Class 2 all-state team in Anna Turk and Hollibrook Cline. Kendall Britt of Christiansburg was named to the Class 3 first-team soccer squad.

Blacksburg added Edric Zhang to the Class 4 boys all-state first team. Blacksburg's Caleb Byun was named to the second team.

Blacksburg sisters Morgan and McKenzie Cheynet were placed on the Class 4 all-state first team. Two teammates, Kylene Monaghan and Julie Howland, were named to the second team.

Auburn's Tyler Sparrer is on the Class 1 boys all-state baseball team while

Jared Lavergne and Kenny Wade are second-teams.

Christiansburg had a run into the state baseball playoffs in Class 3, and Dawson Gragg and Mason Self were named to the first-team all-state list. Three Blue Demons, Nate Hall, Marshall Basham and Tanner Evans, were selected for second-team honors.

Kadyn Camper (first-team) and Baylee Reasor (second-team) added to Christiansburg's haul on the all-state softball side of the page.

Also, Blacksburg's Emily Dickerson was named to the Class 4 all-state second team.

Mike Ashley headed to Radford University Athletic Hall of Fame



FILE PHOTO

Mike Ashley (center) and the late Roy Stanley conduct an interview with a Radford University baseball player for Channel 7 sports.

Brian Hoffman
with Special Guest Mike Ashley

Salem native Mike Ashley will be inducted into the Radford University Athletic Hall of Fame on Sept. 30.

He will join Jim Abbott (baseball), Helen Negrey (women's soccer), Art Parakhouski (men's basketball), and Patrinda Toney (women's basketball) in the Highlander class of 2022. The five-member class is the 19th to be inducted into the Radford Athletics Hall of Fame following a hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This year's induction ceremony will once again help kick off Homecoming Weekend festivities and will be held inside Kyle Hall.

The bio sent out by Radford University upon the announcement of Ashley's induction says, "The walking embodiment of Radford Highlanders knowledge and pride, Mike Ashley is a true connection between the past and the present.

"He came to Radford University as a student in 1980 and immediately began writing for The Tartan, eventually becoming its sports editor. A column he wrote launched the first RU baseball club in 1982, for which he served as the initial president. Two years later, the club became a varsity team.

"Ashley graduated in 1983 and returned to his alma mater as the Sports Information Director across multiple stints that spanned more than a decade. He was a member of the staff that ushered the Highlanders into the Division I era. He helped mount a national campaign that helped the women's basket-

ball program earn a spot in the 1989 Women's NIT, and he was a founding member of the Radford University Sports Hall of Fame Committee in 1995."

Ashley grew up near the old Lakeside Amusement Park and went to elementary school at Conehurst in the building that now houses National College. He played some hoops at the "Conedome" basketball court behind the school as a good player and a solid shooter.

He also worked as a summer supervisor at Conehurst for the city summer recreation program, and he boasted that he was special enough to have been entrusted with a key to the water spigot.

"This is more of a Salem story, too, than most people realize," Ashley said. "The reason I went to Radford had a lot to do with Joe Davis, whom I met that first year at Salem High School (1977-78) when he came back from Ferrum to coach the Spartans my senior year. I was editor of 'The Oracle,' the SHS newspaper, and I also made myself sports editor so I could write about my passion.

"We all thought the team would be great. It didn't work out that way, but Coach Davis liked how I covered the team. I ended up at Virginia Western, unsure of what I wanted to do, and Coach kind of recruited me — packets and everything. RU was, at the time, the second largest journalism program in the state. Coach D opened some doors for me on campus and, well, here we are.

"It still seems unbalanced how much that place has given me over the years

See Ashley, page 8

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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Blacksburg's Sharp, Highfield win junior golf tour age groups

Fincastle in Bluefield served as the host of the Blue Ridge Junior Golf Tour Monday.

Here is a summary of the age group results:

17-18 Age Group 6579 Yards Par 70

Ryne Bond of Floyd won the age group with a score of 73. Bond finished with consecutive birdies to post the low round of the day.

"My short game allowed me to post a good score," said the rising Floyd County High School senior. Tyler Sayers of Marion finished second with a score of 77. Jacob Lasley of Castlewood was third with a score of 83.

15-16 Age Group 6168 Yards Par 70

Cameron Sharp of Blacksburg made a birdie on the second hole of a play-off to capture the Medalist honor in the age group. Sharp hit his approach to within one foot from 60 yards away on the par 4 hole. The ensuing putt assured Sharp of the age group win over Grayson Sheets from Marion. Both Sharp and Sheets had posted 18-hole scores of 75 to tie for first place. Andrew White of Gloucester shot a 77 and finished third.

13-14 Age Group 5365 Yards Par 70

Ryan Highfield of Blacksburg shot a 74 to win the age group. Highfield played steady throughout the round, making 13 pars including the last

8 holes. Hunter Crist of Radford and Rocky Frye of Bramwell, WV tied for second with scores of 79.

10-12 Age Group 2421 Yards Par 35

Campbell Sayers of Marion shot a 38 to win the age group. Anderson Lilly of Oak Hill, WV and Blaine Morgan of Bluefield, WV posted scores of 42 to tie for second.

9 and Under Age Group 1997 Yards Par 35

Colton Caudill of Wytheville shot a 38 and won the age group. Adrian Wallace of Floyd and Marco Beato of Blacksburg tied for second with scores of 45.

ACC locks down three of Tech's opponents

The ACC on Tuesday announced a new football scheduling model that will go into effect beginning with the 2023 season.

The Hokies will face Pitt, Virginia, and Wake Forest as permanent opponents in a new 3-5-5 format going forward and will play the other 10 league teams twice during the four-year cycle, once at home and once on the road.

The new schedule will eliminate the Atlantic and Coastal divisions with all 14 schools competing in one division beginning in 2023. The top two teams based on conference winning percentage will compete in the Subway ACC Football Championship Game on the first Saturday in December at Bank of America Stadium in Charlotte.

Tuesday's news means Virginia Tech will welcome league foes Pitt, Wake Forest, NC State, and Syracuse to Lane Sta-

dium in 2023, along with non-conference matchups against Purdue and Old Dominion.

Games against Clemson, Virginia, Louisville, and Rutgers highlight Tech's 2024 schedule while Florida State and Vanderbilt visit Blacksburg in 2025. The four-year schedule rounds out with Virginia, Miami (Fla.), North Carolina, and BYU.

In May, the NCAA Division I Council approved the deregulation of the current rule that had limited an individual conference's autonomy to determine their football championship game participants.

"The future ACC football scheduling model provides significant enhancements for our schools and conference with the most important being our student-athletes having the opportunity to play every school both home and away over a four-year period," said ACC Commis-

sioner Jim Phillips. "We appreciate the thoughtful discussions within our membership, including the head football coaches and athletic directors. In the end, it was clear this model is in the best interest of our student-athletes, programs and fans, at this time."

Upcoming Tech schedules:

2023: Home – NC State, Pitt, Syracuse, Wake Forest; Away – Boston College, Florida State, Louisville, Virginia

2024: Home – Clemson, Georgia Tech, Louisville, Virginia; Away – Duke, North Carolina, Pitt, Wake Forest

2025: Home – Boston College, Florida State, Pitt, Wake Forest; Away – Miami, NC State, Syracuse, Virginia

2026: Home – Duke, Miami, North Carolina, Virginia; Away – Clemson, Georgia Tech, Pitt, Wake Forest

Commonwealth NIL signs four VT student-athletes

BLACKSBURG, VA – Commonwealth NIL (CNIL) Wednesday signed Virginia Tech student-athletes Darius Maddox, Sean Pedulla, Hunter Cattoor, and Justyn Mutts. With Mutts returning for his final season, CNIL is launching its #RunItBackVT campaign, empowering Virginia Tech's men's basketball team to win its second-ever ACC Championship.

"We are proud to welcome Sean, Darius, Hunter, and Justyn to the Commonwealth NIL family," said CNIL co-founders Nick and Forrest Rush. "As U.S. Army veterans and public service advocates, we meticulously selected these student-athletes for their exceptional leadership on and off the field of play, their embodiment of our values, and their desire to grow professionally."

"It is an honor to join the Commonwealth NIL family," said Mutts, Cattoor, Maddox, and Pedulla. "We look forward to working with businesses, charities, and fans in the Virginia Tech community and developing lifelong brands."

As part of its #RunItBackVT campaign, CNIL has created a limited-edition commemorative coin for each of the four athletes. Each student-athlete's coin celebrates historical moments from the 2022 season: Justyn Mutts' 2022 ACC Scholar-Athlete of the Year Award, Darius Maddox's championship-saving three-pointer in the ACC Tournament,

Sean Pedulla's heroic postseason performances, and Hunter Cattoor's 2022 ACC Tournament MVP award.

CNIL also created #RunItBackVT T-shirts and sweats with several design varieties, including personally designed merchandise for each of the athletes.

"Our goal as passionate members of the Virginia Tech community is to empower our student-athletes with resources for long-term financial and professional success," said the CNIL co-founders. "That is why we heavily invest in each student-athlete, providing them with cutting-edge brand-building resources, community involvement, mentorship, and professional development opportunities."

Hokie fans can invest in Virginia Tech student-athletes with CNIL's memberships: Walk-on (\$10/month), All-American (\$50/month), and Campus Legend (\$100/month). CNIL's memberships provide fans exclusive access to their favorite Virginia Tech student-athletes, such as personalized social media shoutouts, CNIL swag, and a Tech Sideline subscription.

Commonwealth NIL specializes in comprehensive, diverse, and innovative name, image, and likeness (NIL) solutions that will reach every fan and turn Virginia Tech's athletes into stars and stars into Virginia Tech's athletes.

Virginia farmers, ag experts gather at meat processing listening session

Farmers and agricultural experts gathered at a listening session recently to discuss opportunities and challenges related to Virginia's meat processing industry.

The forum was one in a series of sessions designed to give the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services an opportunity to receive feedback from producers and processors. The results will be used to develop a 5-year strategic plan to increase meat processing in the commonwealth.

"Everybody has done a tremendous job promoting our products, and the consumer is demanding it, but we're having a hard time getting it to them because of this bot-

tleneck," said Brandon Schmitt, a cattle farmer who attended the session. "Having more meat processing facilities in the state would greatly enhance our ability to market directly to consumers."

During the session, farmers said more local small- and mid-size facilities would be ideal, but cost is a barrier. Establishing a business that complies with U.S. Department of Agriculture food safety regulations to sell directly to consumers requires significant capital investment and time.

"For smaller plants like what I'm trying to do, to be able to come up with the tools and equipment to facilitate that is really challenging,"

said Sekou Abdus-Sabur, a Prince Edward County sheep producer who attended the session and who is working to open a meat processing facility.

Abdus-Sabur said that while grants are available to help with funding, the application process can be "a weedy, quarrelsome mess." He and other producers voiced a disconnect between available financial assistance and their ability to access it.

Stephen Versen, manager of the VDACS Office of Agriculture and Forestry Development, said programs through VDACS and the Virginia Foundation for Agriculture, Innovation and Rural Sustainability

can help those interested in starting a meat processing business navigate the process.

"It's our job to help producers and agribusinesses take advantage of different programs that are out there," Versen said.

Participants in the forum also discussed potential opportunities to establish more local cold storage facilities to store processed meat, as well as possibly creating new incentives for current processors to expand their operations.

The listening sessions are sponsored by Virginia Farm Bureau Federation, the Virginia Cattlemen's Association, and the Virginia Agribusiness Council.

Ashley from page 7

and now this," Ashley said. "I met my wife there. I got that 'broad-based liberal arts education' Dr. (Donald) Dedmon championed for all of us and won some national writing awards as a student. A 1982 feature on Salemite Chris Nelson won second in the nation sports features from the Society of Collegiate Journalists, I met people who mean so much to me, and I had a great ride from an NAIA program through NCAA Division II to Division I, really learning how college athletics work.

"I get a lot of credit for starting baseball [at Radford University] but that was really just a channeling of so many local kids that were at RU thinking they would have a baseball team," he said. "It just took my column in the student newspaper, and we were off as a club. Two years later RU joined the Big South contingent with baseball as a varsity sport."

The first year of the program, Radford loss to Campbell 38-0

in what was an NCAA record for margin of defeat at the time.

"For years I checked the record book every season to see if we still had that record," he said. "Then one year Methodist lost a game 41-0, and it was a real relief not to have that record anymore."

Radford finished 4-26 that first year, including dropping a doubleheader to Liberty by scores of 21-0 and 28-0, while playing all their games on the road. However, as the years passed, the program flourished.

"When I left in '97 to get married and move to Northern Virginia, it was tough adjusting after living in Salem and Radford my whole life," Ashley said. "Back home, the Beltway inner loop is East Main Street and the outer loop is Fourth Street. I missed being a part of something I believed in, what Radford is and can provide to Southwest Virginia, and I missed the interaction with the students, watching them grow and develop like

I once did.

Ashley still occasionally gets back to Salem on occasion to enjoy hooking up with his old buddies and swapping stories.

"Sports is like a big club, and I was never good enough as an athlete to join the club that way. I assure you it was not through lack of effort, so this became my ticket," he said. "The idea of covering sports, getting into games free and being around something I loved seemed ideal. I wouldn't trade the memories, the friendships and the passion I experienced for anything, and it's so meaningful to me that those at Radford see that in me."

"I don't say this out of false humility but when they asked me to jot down some things for my bio, I really had a hard time justifying this honor," Ashley said. "Again, I think a lot of it was just how much I enjoyed my job there and sharing that with so many people across my 17 years of living in Radford."



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