



Beta Sigma Phi supports Agape Center NRV with holiday donation

Heather Bell
hbell@ourvalley.org

The Agape Center New River Valley assists people in need throughout the NRV, including Montgomery County and the City of Radford. “We serve the amazing people of the New River Valley in their time of need,” the organization’s website states, including the counties of Giles, Floyd, Montgomery, Pulaski, and the City of Radford.

The Agape Center recently got a financial



PHOTO COURTESY OF CAROLYN SOWERS

(Left to right) Kim Brown, Executive Director, and Lucy Copeland, Co-Director, receive a monetary donation to The Agape Center NRV from Alpha Mu Master Chapter members of Beta Sigma Phi Sorority Sharon Legg and Phyllis Durham.

Students, faculty, and industry partner to enhance lifesaving backpacks

A handful of Hokies are helping others carry their worlds on their shoulders.

Six third-year industrial design students spent a recent Friday helping UTS Systems LLC manufacture 50 military-grade backpacks that will be given to people struggling with substance use disorder and housing insecurity in Roanoke.

“This is going to be a game-changer for people. I’m blown away,” said Lisa Via, manager of the Council of Community Services’ Drop-In Center North in Roanoke. “Their lives are in those backpacks, and the students have taken great strides to make sure that population is going to be served by this.”

A collaborative design between the students and the company, the waterproof bags include an attached waterproof tarp with grommets that allow it to be hung up to provide shelter. The bags also come with personal hygiene supplies, seasonal clothing, information about community resources, and medical kits designed by the students. The latter includes Narcan, a nasal spray version of the opioid overdose reversal drug, Naloxone, which is provided with required training.

“I always knew I wanted to use design to help people,” said Ashley Greene, an industrial design student. “And I was always interested in medical care, and I’ve always loved soft goods and fabrics, so this was just the perfect opportunity.”

A part of the Connection 2 Care project, the bags will be

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Industrial Design students traveled to Fairfield, Virginia, to produce 50 backpacks in collaboration with UTS Systems, a manufacturer of military-grade shelters.



PHOTOS BY LEE FRIESLAND FOR VIRGINIA TECH.

A student works to weld pieces of the military-grade fabric together as part of the creation process.

Virginia seafood industry boosts commonwealth’s economy by \$1.1 billion, study finds

The economic contributions of the Virginia seafood industry exceeded \$1.1 billion for the commonwealth in 2019, according to a new economic impact analysis conducted by the Virginia Seafood Agricultural Research and Extension Center of Virginia Tech.

Sponsored by the Virginia Marine Products Board, the study found that Virginia’s seafood industry supported 7,187 jobs and generated over \$26 million in tax revenue from local, state, and federal taxes. Of the total tax generated, 24 percent — or \$6.3 million — was local.

“Virginia’s seafood industry is one of the oldest industries in the United States and one of the commonwealth’s largest. This study provides a snapshot of the industry’s tremendous impact to Virginia’s economy,” Gov. Glenn Youngkin said. “The \$1.1 billion industry not only provides a boost to our economy, it also

provides valuable employment opportunities in eastern Virginia, and supports a range of other economic sectors.”

Jonathan van Senten, seafood economist at the Virginia Seafood

See Seafood, page 4



PHOTO COURTESY OF VIRGINIA TECH

The economic contributions of the Virginia seafood industry, including oysters, pictured here, exceeded \$1.1 billion for the commonwealth in 2019.

Gas prices in 2023 to fall nearly 50 cents per gallon

After a tumultuous year for gas prices, some relief may be on the way in 2023. The yearly national average price of gas in 2023 is forecast to drop nearly 50 cents per gallon from that of 2022 to \$3.49, according to GasBuddy’s 2023 Fuel Outlook released Monday.

Continuing improvement in refinery capacity will help alleviate gasoline and diesel prices, though high levels of uncertainty remain amidst Russia’s ongoing war on Ukraine and continuing economic concerns. A \$4 national average remains possible ahead of and during the summer driving season.

Highlights from GasBuddy’s 2023 Fuel Outlook: The national average price of gas could cool early in the year as demand remains seasonally weak, followed by a rise that starts in late winter, bringing prices to the \$4 per gallon range in time for summer. Barring unexpected challenges,

prices in 2023 should return to normal seasonal fluctuations, rising in the spring, and dropping after Labor Day into the fall.

• Though most major U.S. cities will see prices top around \$4 per gallon, areas of California like San Francisco and Los Angeles could again experience near \$7 gas prices again in the summer of 2023 if refineries struggle under mandates of unique formulations of gasoline.

• Americans will spend an estimated \$470.8 billion on gasoline in 2023, down \$55 billion from 2022. The estimated yearly household spend on gasoline will also fall \$277 to \$2,471.

“2023 is not going to be a cakewalk for motorists. It could be expensive,” said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy. “The national average could breach \$4 per gallon as

See Gas Prices, page 4

Radford University alumna joins Radio City Rockettes



PHOTO COURTESY OF MSG ENTERTAINMENT

Radford University alumna Caitlin Potosnak, Class of 2012, is a Radio City Rockette.

If you’ve seen the iconic, world-famous Radio City Rockettes this year on national television, then chances are you’ve seen a Radford University Highlander on the kickline.

Caitlin Potosnak, ’12 dazzles thousands of holiday-spirited people every day with high-stepping precision choreography and sequined costumes. This successful Highlander didn’t become a Rockette overnight, instead she poured years into crafting her style and refining her precision dance moves until this year she made the cut.

While an undergraduate student at Radford University, Potosnak knew the department of dance would set a firm foundation for her future and chose a program that

would help sharpen her skillset. The program is an accredited institutional member of the National Association of Schools of Dance and provides a dance education that encourages an environment committed to dance as an art form.

Potosnak started in Radford dancing through productions on campus, excelled her way to become a member of the West Virginia Dance Company and is now making her mark in the Big Apple entertaining families in one of the most well-known dance companies in the world.

During her busy practice and performance schedule, and after her appearance on the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade on NBC, she took time to answer a few questions

See Rockettes, page 4

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, Jan. 5:

American Legion meeting
The American Legion, Harvey-Howe-Carper Post 30 will meet at 7 p.m. at the VFW Post Home on 102 Watts St. in Radford. If Radford Public Schools are closed on Thursday or Friday of this week due to weather, the meeting is cancelled. For further information, please call 540-250-2283 or 540-239-9864.

Monday, Jan. 9:

Radford City Council meeting
The Radford City Council will hold its regularly scheduled meeting at 7 p.m. in council chambers at the Radford Municipal Building, 10 Robertson St., Radford. See the agenda at www.radfordva.gov.

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

lar meetings of the Board of Supervisors are rebroadcast on Montgomery County Comcast and Shentel Channels 190 daily.

Tuesday, Jan. 10:

NRV Cares Parent Education: Parenting Young Children
At the Radford Public Library; 5 – 7 p.m. A free eight-week parenting class presented by NRV Cares. FREE dinner is provided from 5-5:30 p.m., and free childcare will be included for the duration of the class. Please register by email at Keli@nrvcares.org or by text to Julie at (540) 494-0806.

Sons of Confederate Veterans meeting
The Sons of Confederate Veterans, Stuart Horse Artillery Camp 1784 will meet at 7 p.m. at Aly's Family Italian Restaurant at 3204 Riner Rd. Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) are also invited to attend. UDC member Cindy Akers will speak on the "Union Prison at Rock Island, Illinois." If Montgomery County Public Schools are closed on Tuesday or Wednesday of this week due to weather, the meeting is cancelled. For further information, please call 540-320-4315 or 540-239-9864.

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

Christiansburg Town Council meeting
The Christiansburg regular town council meetings will be held on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month beginning at 7 p.m. in Council Chambers of Town Hall (100 E. Main Street). The public is welcome and encouraged to attend, with a citizen hearing time reserved at each meeting for residents to bring any matter they desire before the entire council.

Thursday, Jan. 12:

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 Ave., Radford. If you are willing to share your knowledge and learn

from others, this guild is for you. We welcome all skill levels of quilters. For more information call Anna Handy, 540 320 7791.

Ongoing:

Help the Veterans with your donations
The Meadowbrook Public Library is a collection point for items needed at the VA Medical Center in Salem. Bring your donations of the following items to the library during December: deodorant, denture adhesive, 3-in-1 body wash/shampoo/conditioner, body lotion, toothpaste, nail clippers, sweatpants, sweatshirts, t-shirts (size M, L, XL) and new baseball caps. Co-Sponsored by VFW Post 5311 and Montgomery-Floyd Regional libraries.

Free GED Classes
At the Meadowbrook Public Library, 5 – 8 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. New River Community College is offering free GED classes at the Meadowbrook Library every Tuesday and Thursday until Thursday, Dec. 15. For more information or to sign up please call the Meadowbrook Library at 540-268-1964.

POLICE REPORT

Monday, Dec. 5:

No offenses reported

Tuesday, Dec. 6:

11:02 a.m. Service call, 1700 Downey St.
2 p.m. Assault: (Misdemeanor), Dalton Dr.
3:17 p.m. Medical emergency, 400 Downey St.
8:04 p.m. Mental subject, Berkley Williams Dr.

Wednesday, Dec. 7:

No offenses reported

Thursday, Dec. 8:

4:09 p.m. Scam complaint, 600 New River Dr.
7:18 p.m., no offense listed, 100 Ridgewood Ln.
10:25 p.m. Driving motor vehicle, engine, etc., while intoxicated, etc. (DUI/DUID), 1100 West Main St.

Friday, Dec. 9:

2:32 p.m. Petit Larceny (less than \$200, not from a person), well-being check, 2000 West St.

Saturday, Dec. 10:

2:54 a.m., Profane swearing or intoxication in public, 600 Third Ave.
5:48 p.m., no offense listed, 400 Preston St.
8:54 p.m., Dispute, 500 Tyler Ave.

Sunday, Dec. 11:

5:30 a.m., Carjacking, Unauthorized use of an animal/vehicle/etc., Larceny greater than \$200, 800 East Main St.
12:45 p.m., animal complaint, 800 Tenth St.
3:14 p.m., Possession of controlled substance, Paraphernalia: unauthorized distribution of, High Meadows Pkwy.

Monday, Dec. 12:

1:57 a.m. Law enforcement command: disregard or elude, endanger, 600 Rock Road West
5 a.m. Petit Larceny: less than \$200 not from a person, 1600 East Main St.
8 a.m. Civil purchase/possession of nicotine under the age of 21, Dalton Dr.
12:37 p.m. Possession of controlled substance, Obstruction/resist: without threats/force, fleeing from law enforcement officer, assault and battery - family member (third-plus offense), 200 Jeffries Dr.
4 p.m. Petit Larceny: less than \$200, not from a person, vehicle/aircraft/boat/etc: destroy/injure, 100 Pulaski St.

Tuesday, Dec. 13:

2:10 p.m. Possession of Controlled Substance 2300 West Main St.
4:10 p.m. Service call, 600 Randolph St.

Wednesday, Dec. 14:

12 a.m. Trespass: after being forbidden to do so, destruction of property, 1200 West St.
4:03 p.m., animal complaint, 900 Jordan Ave.

Thursday, Dec. 15:

4 a.m. Monument: unlawful damage, no intent to steal, 1300 West Main St.
4:02 a.m., Medical issue, 600 Clement St.
1:43 p.m. Possession of controlled substance, No address listed
3:50 p.m. Assault: (misdemeanor), 1100 Fairfax St.
8:28 p.m. Possession of controlled substance, 300 Berkley St.

Friday, Dec. 16:

8:43 a.m. Arson: occupied building/etc., burglary: at night, to commit felony, 500 East Main St.

Saturday, Dec. 17:

12 p.m. Shoplift: Alter Price Tags/Etc. less than \$200 (third offense), 1700 Tyler Ave.

Sunday, Dec. 18:

2:19 a.m. Driving motor vehicle, engine, etc., while intoxicated, etc. (DUI/DUID), 1200 Grove Ave.
12:42 p.m. Assault and battery - family member, 200 Allen Ave.
4:06 p.m. Unauthorized use: animal/vehicle/etc., larceny greater than or equal to \$200, 200 Madison St.
7:20 p.m. Child pornography: reproduce/sell/transmit, 1200 West Main St.
11:44 p.m. Service call, 600 Seventeenth St.

Alcohol round-up

DUI- 2
Drunk in Public- 1
Underage Possession of Alcohol- 0

PETS OF THE WEEK



Happy "Mew" Year from Hawayva! She is a sweet gal who would love nothing more than to find a furever home. She is a younger, petite cat who would do well in a household with both adults and children. She is available for adoption at the Montgomery County Animal Care and Adoption Center.



Sue Ellen is a happy, energetic hound who enjoys receiving attention from people. She may be one of the less hound-like dogs staff at the Animal Care and Adoption Center have encountered—she prefers to sniff out treats to putting her nose to the ground! The adoption center is located at 480 Cinnabar Rd. in Christiansburg. Call (540) 382-5795 to adopt these and many other companion animals available.

Virginia announces additional Community Flood Preparedness Fund grant awards

22 projects received funding after supplemental review period

The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation today announced \$51,757,388 in supplemental awards from the Virginia Community Flood Preparedness Fund. These newly funded projects will expand flood prevention and protection projects including mitigation, capacity building, planning and studies throughout Virginia.

"These grants will support important flood protection and resilience efforts for inland and

coastal communities across the Commonwealth," said Acting Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources Travis Voyles. "The impacts of flooding are felt across Virginia and Governor Youngkin continues to make resiliency and flood mitigation efforts a priority for this administration, as is evidenced by the additional \$200 million proposed for the Resilient Virginia Revolving Fund in his recent budget amendments

to accelerate results for Virginians."

"Providing applicants with an opportunity to refine their applications during the supplemental review period, along with the release of additional funds, allows Virginia to support critical projects now. We are looking forward to working with communities across Virginia as we develop the next round of the CFPE, and the initial round of the new Resilient

Virginia Revolving Fund in 2023," said DCR Director Matthew Wells.

DCR administers the Virginia Community Flood Preparedness Fund and grant program in cooperation with the Virginia Resources Authority.

The agency anticipates the release of a draft manual for CFPE Round 4 and the newly created Resilient Virginia Revolving Fund in the first quarter of 2023. Consistent with

DCR's commitment to transparency in resilience funding, the draft manuals will be placed on the Virginia Townhall website for a public comment period.

Information is available at <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/dam-safety-and-flood-plains/dsfpm-cfpf>.

Submitted by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation

Radford Winter Commencement 2022 evoked a spirit of new beginnings

Radford High School's principal was a member of the first class of Doctorate of Education graduates

RADFORD - Diplomas arrive at the end of one phase of education, but the word "commencement" denotes the start of something, and indeed, numerous facets of Radford University's winter 2022 graduation evoked a spirit of new beginnings.

Chief among those elements was recently inaugurated President Bret Danilowicz, avidly presiding over conferral ceremonies for his initial class of departing Highlanders – between undergraduates and graduate students, there were 677 in all, 179 of whom are first generation.

"This graduation will mark one of the most memorable moments of your lives," Danilowicz told undergraduates Saturday, Dec. 10, at the Dedmon Center, as they sat beneath mortarboards

both bedazzled and basic black. "It is your day to celebrate what you have accomplished."

Winter Commencement also saw Radford's first cohort to earn Doctorate of Education degrees – a group that includes Radford High School principal Tara Grant – and Radford University Carilion marked the first student to receive its Master of Health Sciences degree, with a concentration in clinical research administration.

And while about 365 Highlanders have earned Bachelor of Science degrees in geology over the past 40 years, on Saturday one scholar became the first to attain a Bachelor of Arts in the field.

To be sure, every graduate concluded their weekend at an advanced stage of education, and those

transformations were addressed in graduate and undergraduate commencement addresses on Friday and Saturday by Nicole Robinson '02, president of Ursa Space Systems.

"When you leave here today, see this as the first step into your life unimagined. Be open to the potential, the adventure, the unanticipated opportunities ahead," Robinson advised. "Life is truly about what you can't imagine. In fact, it isn't even about what happens to you but more about how you respond."

Robinson, in her speech, challenged graduates to reject the oft-repeated saying that business isn't personal ("Business is personal, as is your work and your worth," she noted), and she urged them to embrace being a mentor to others



RADFORD UNIVERSITY PHOTO

Radford University's winter commencement, held at the Dedmon Center, included 667 graduates.

and to take an active role in their own existence.

"Engage in whatever life presents you," she said. "The wins, the losses, successes, the failures, re-

lationships, experiences. Lean in for all of it.

"Put your hand up, be counted and take on that new challenge. Others will be watching and follow-

ing your lead, and I will be among them, and I'm filled with excitement to see what you do."

*Neil Harvey
Radford University*

Western Virginia Public Education Consortium to hold 2023 teacher recruitment job fair

The Western Virginia Public Education Consortium is hosting a teacher's recruitment event on Saturday, Jan. 28 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Salem Civic Center.

The job fair will be to fill 2023-24 vacancies in the school divisions of: Alleghany Highlands, Bath County, Botetourt County, Carroll County, Craig County, Culpeper County, Danville City, Floyd County, Franklin County, Galax City, Giles County, Henry County, Martinsville City, Montgomery County, Pulaski County, Rad-

ford City, Roanoke City, Roanoke County, Salem City, and Wythe County.

All school divisions have an online job application. Most school divisions request a resume. To register go to www.wvpec.org and click on "Job Fair."

According to WVPEC, going to the job fair can be valuable.

"By speaking with the school representatives, you can create a lasting impression that will resonate as the 2023-2024 positions become available,"

the job fair information states. "Recruiters remember meeting Job Fair attendees when they consider the applicant pool, and some job offers have been extended the day of the Job Fair."

"Some districts will offer early contracts for the 2023-2024 school year," it continues. "You gain valuable interview experience as you continue your journey to teach. A representative from the VDOE's Licensure Division will be on-site to answer any questions you have concerning licensure."

Participants should:

Take the time during the holidays to pull information together to be ready to interview.

Update your resume:

Glance at the division websites to ascertain what other documentation they require to apply for a position.

The Uniform Job Application on the WVPEC website is a useful template to use as a reference to complete the online application on Division websites.

Bring multiple copies of

resume and supporting documents.

Arrive in time to ensure the opportunity to meet the divisions the applicant is interested in seeing. Door prizes will be given out on the hour starting at 10 a.m. but you must attend to be eligible to win. (You do not have to be present for the drawing.)

Registration is open- register at wvpec.org. Registration information will be shared with school divisions.

*Radford News Journal
staff report*

Beta Sigma Phi from page 1

boost from the ladies of the Alpha Mu Master Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi Sorority.

"Our Beta Sigma Phi members chose to forgo gifts to one another at Christmas and instead donate the money as a group to The Agape Center NRV, so we can help those who need help at this holiday season," said Carolyn Sowers, a member of the Alpha Mu Master Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi Sorority.

According to the organization's website, The Agape Center NRV is

part of a larger network of Agape Centers in Virginia. The first Agape Center was formed in Moneta, VA in 2002. They have grown from a simple food pantry and clothing closet to a large multifaceted ministry that serves upwards of 3,000 individuals each month.

"The Agape Center is a God-directed outreach ministry with the goal of attending to the felt needs of man while addressing man's spiritual need in a manner that gives God the glory,"

the mission states. "By God's grace, for the past two and a half years, the Agape Center NRV has faithfully served thousands of individuals by providing hundreds of thousands of dollars in food, diapers, clothing, and other essentials, as well as mentoring to neighbors in our local community."

"We are a multi-church, mentorship-based outreach center focused on serving people in the New River Valley when they need a hand up," the site reads. "We

are a God-directed ministry with the goal of attending to the felt needs of individuals and families, while also addressing their spiritual needs in a manner that gives God the glory."

The center is run completely with volunteer labor.

"Every single person who works for the Agape Center NRV volunteers their time," the site reads. "We have zero paid staff members. Even our Executive Director works on a volunteer basis. Volunteer-

ing at The Agape Center NRV is an incredible joy. You help to change lives on a daily basis. We are currently in need of a wide range of volunteers. We provide all the training needed. Contact us today to find your seat at the Agape table!"

"From sorting food, working in the clothing bank, to data entry, to praying with clients, we have a need for you to fill and a place for you to serve."

Agape Center NRV does not require proof of income or an ap-

pointment for first time visitors. Anyone who plans to come during the hours of operation, is just asked to bring a valid ID.

"Our volunteers are trained and ready to offer a helping hand up to anyone in need."

The center is open on Fridays; first Friday - third Friday of each month, noon - 4 p.m. and fourth Friday - noon - 5 p.m. It is located at 1175 Cambria St., Christiansburg. The center's phone number is 540-358-0329.

Lifesaving Backpacks from page 1

distributed by the Drop-In Center North and the Virginia Harm Reduction Coalition later this month. In January, the students, alongside supervising faculty, will return to ask recipients for feedback on how they worked.

"This was one of the first projects that we ever did where we really had to think about a whole new group of users with experiences unlike anything most of us had," said student Dayani Harapanahalli. "You just have a whole new set of criteria and a whole new set of problems to think about, so research is a big part of the process."

Connection 2 Care is a collaborative project between the Institute for Policy and Governance (IPG) in the School of Public and International Affairs (SPIA) and the Roanoke Valley Collective Response to the Opioid Crisis. It's funded by the Office of National Drug Control Policy's Combating Opioid Overdose through Community-level Intervention grant program.

Mary Beth Dunkenberger, associate director of the In-

stitute for Policy and Governance, said the original idea for the backpacks came from a desire to provide people with practical tools and information as well as a message of care during critical moments.

"There are certain touch points when a person is in crisis that they may be more interested in entering treatment or engaging in harm reduction services," Dunkenberger said. "They wanted to give them something that would say, 'We care about you, and want you to do better,' and would be symbolic of Connection 2 Care."

This will be the third version of the backpack students from the College of Architecture, Arts, and Design's industrial design program have helped bring to life. Since December 2019, more than 1,400 backpacks, modified based on individual and community input, have been distributed to address the needs of the target population.

Martha Sullivan, chair of the industrial design program, said the project has become a legacy in the program, in part because it allows stu-

dents to see a product move from design to shelf-ready.

"That's the impact of involving community partners in the classroom," said Sullivan, who oversees the third-year course. "You broaden the opportunity for the students, and you also make an impact, which is really important to the School of Design. We're interested in health and wellness, and this is just one component of being a regional leader in community services, which is really important at Virginia Tech."

Previous backpacks had been slightly modified version of ones purchased from retailers, but partnering with UTS Systems allowed for this version to be custom made to specific specs. With a manufacturing plant in Fairfield, Virginia, UTS Systems specializes in rapidly deployable, military tents and outdoor shelters.

"Our principal customer is DOD [Department of Defense], and we're trying to support them in the grittiest conditions with the best equipment available," said Andy Tubbs, quality assurance

manager with UTS. "So what we've done is, we've taken our military mindset into this program as well. It definitely fits in line with what we're trying to do as a company in supporting the community as much as possible."

Partnering with UTS also enabled the students to take part in the manufacturing process, which included some learning curves.

"I didn't even really know you could weld plastic," said student Cade Young, who helped run one of the welding machines attaching the plastic fabric together.

Young will also be among the students who participate in Human Rights Protection Program training in order to gain the experience of interviewing the recipients of the bags, next month.

"I'm really excited to see the reactions to an actual product," Young said. "These aren't just prototypes. We're sending out 50 real bags. Up until this year [in the program], the projects we've done have been designing for ourselves, but this year we're designing for other people

and it just feels way more gratifying."

Sullivan said being able to get in-person feedback from such an important, yet potentially hard to access, population added a layer of user focus to the project.

"It's practically like an intern experience for them to get to work with harm-reduction folks in an interview setting," Sullivan said. "Considering human factors as a key element in the course is what distinguishes our design work from other types of engineering, building sciences, and natural sciences."

And opportunities to gain such real-world experiences were a key factor in what brought many of the students to Virginia Tech in the first place.

"That's what I love about Virginia Tech, they offer a lot of opportunities to work with companies like this and have a lot of great connections for internships," said Greene. "It's something I've been taking great advantage of."

*Jesse Tuel
Virginia Tech*

Be sure to 'Like' the News Messenger on Facebook.

Seafood from page 1

Agricultural Research and Extension Center and lead researcher for the study, said the project is a direct response to requests from industry stakeholders to better understand the reach and economic impact of the Virginia seafood industry within the commonwealth.

“We worked directly with watermen, aquaculture farmers, seafood processors, and distributors to collect data to build a custom economic model. In addition to the direct effects of industry activities, the custom model allowed us to more accurately capture the ripple effects that stem from business-to-business purchases and workers spending their wages. And our results are conservative,” said van Senten. “The assessment covers the production, processing, and distribution sectors of the Virginia seafood industry, but it did not include retail and restaurant services or the spillover benefits to economies outside Virginia.”

Virginia’s seafood industry provides valu-

able employment opportunities, and it supports other economic sectors operating within and beyond the commonwealth that amplify the economic contribution.

“Along with being No. 1 on the East Coast for oyster production, Virginia is fourth in the nation and first on the U.S. Atlantic coast in seafood landings. In 2020, total landings in the commonwealth were valued at more than \$200 million,” said Virginia Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry Matthew Lohr. “The seafood industry continues to be a major contributor to the state’s overall agricultural portfolio.”

By capturing the economic benefits of the seafood supply chain to the overall state economy, the study demonstrates the magnitude and reach of the Virginia seafood industry and can be used as a tool to increase visibility for the industry.

Submitted by Virginia Tech



PHOTO BY MIKE BERGMANN

Rockettes from page 1

about her journey to New York and the behind-the-scenes life of a Rockette.

How did you become a Rockette?

I started doing precision dance when they offered the Rockette summer intensive about ten years ago. I kept going back almost every year since. Then I was lucky to meet former and cur-

rent Rockettes who offer classes, workshops, and private lessons. I started working more intensely on the style and dancing in heels along with my kicks. I continued to audition each year, and this year I made it all the way through in the April audition. I was invited to their conservatory program and they invited me for an-

other audition in August. Now here I am.

It was a long journey of taking many dance classes, Pilates, private lessons, and working on my mental strength with confidence and perseverance.

What does it feel like to be part of this world-famous, long-lasting ensemble?

It’s so amazing and such a dream come true. I still can’t believe that I get to wear their iconic costumes and kick on the radio city music hall stage. I’m just so grateful for this opportunity and honored in every way to be on this line.

What type of training is required for such a big role?

The training consists of having a good foundation in ballet and even pointe work. Taking jazz and theater classes in Laducas heels and tap classes in Laduca taps. Learning how to dance in a heel and be very aware of details and counts in choreography. Also, taking Pilates, yoga, barre, and continuing to become stronger outside of dance classes. As well as having the mental and emotional strength.

What does a day-in-

the-life of Caitlin look like during this busy season?

This is my rookie season so I’m still getting used to the performance schedule. However, right now I get as much sleep as I can. Once I get up, I have coffee and eat either a peanut butter and jelly sandwich, oatmeal or a bagel. I roll my body out on a foam roller while I think about the show choreography and the notes that I need to work on in the show. I’ll do a little Pilates routine to get my body a little energized. I’ll also go over some choreography just to make sure I have it in my body. Then I put on some comfy clothes to head to Radio City. I usually leave two hours ahead of the show time. I’ll take the subway which is about a 30–40-minute ride.

Then, once I’m at Radio City I put my makeup on and hair in a French twist while sitting on a heating pad to warm up my legs. Once that’s done, I’ll have about 20 minutes to do some strengthening and stretching exercises to help my body get ready for the show. We get notes before the show so then I’ll review some things before

it’s show time. We either have 2, 3, or 4 shows in a day. I’m the evening cast so I get home late. Once I get home, I grab a bag of ice and some food from the grocery store across the street. Take an ice bath, shower, stretch and head to bed.

How did your experience at Radford University help get you where you are today?

Radford University’s dance program helped me continue my ballet and pointe training as well as exposing me to contemporary and jazz. Our schedule of technique classes and rehearsals on the weekends prepared me for my professional career. Our professors at Radford encouraged us to do intensives in the summer and brought in other artists during the year. We were constantly exposed to new choreographers and styles of dance. This helped me adapt when I joined companies like West Virginia dance company who brought in many choreographers as well. Especially helped with getting my job at Radio City.

What classes/professors/internships/experi-

ences, etc. inspired you to dream big?

This is a big question as I have a lot of people that have inspired me, but I always knew I wanted to go to NYC and dance. Just being in the New York dance scene and taking classes is inspiring. There are so many talented dancers and I wanted to do exactly what they were doing. I continued to follow certain teachers and they are all so supportive and helped me keep at it. I’m just so grateful for my fiancé, family, mentors, teachers, and friends who continue to be so supportive.

What does the future look like for you?

I’m getting married this July so I’m very excited about that. I plan to finish the 16 credits that I have left in my master’s degree of clinical mental health counseling. I would like to eventually help dancers with their mental health. I also plan on continuing to dance, take workshops, audition for other shows during the year, and re-audition for another Rockette season.

Justin Ward
Radford University

News Messenger

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Michael Showell, *Publisher*

Ed McMinn, *Editor*

editor@ourvalley.org

Heather Bell, *Community News Editor*

communitynews@ourvalley.org

Lynn Hurst, *General Manager*

lhurst@ourvalley.org

Randy Thompson, *Advertising Consultant*

advertise@ourvalley.org

Give us your view:

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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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Gas Prices from page 1

early as May – and that’s something that could last through much of the summer driving season. Basically, curveballs are coming from every direction. Extreme amounts of volatility remain possible but should become slightly more muted in the year ahead. I don’t think we’ve ever seen such an amount of volatility as we saw this year, and that will be a trend that likely continues to lead to wider un-

certainty over fuel prices going into 2023.”

The highest gasoline prices are forecast to be seen in June, with an estimated peak of up to \$4.19 per gallon on average. Diesel prices are forecast to average \$4.12 in 2023, beginning the year at their highest level and then rebounding as high as \$4.30 per gallon in June.

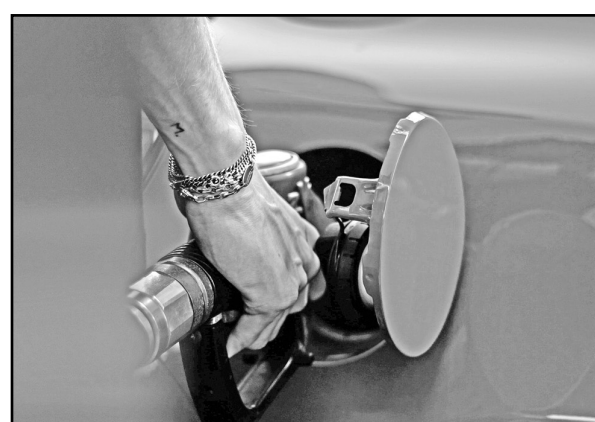
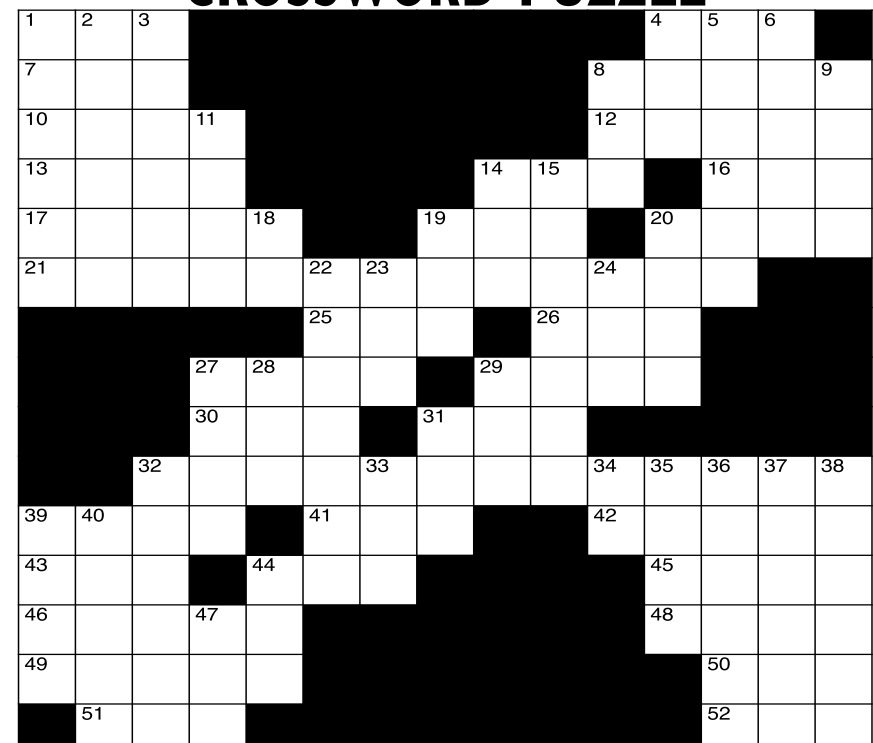


PHOTO BY WASSIM CHOUAK

Submitted by GasBuddy

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



CLUES ACROSS
1. Basics
4. Swiss river
7. Constrictor snake
8. Building occupied by monks
10. Discount
12. Deal a blow to
13. Relating to the ear
14. Thyrotropin
16. Loud, unpleasant noise
17. Large intestines
19. Move with a curving trajectory
20. Witnesses
21. You need both to live
25. Dash
26. Network
27. Dig
29. C. European river

30. Supplement with difficulty
31. Corporate executive
32. Carroll O’Connor’s onscreen wife
39. No variation
41. Airborne (abbr.)
42. “Heidi” author
43. Affirmative
44. Pie ___ mode
45. W. Asian country
46. Grotesque or bizarre
48. Delicacy (archaic)
49. Textile
50. Denial
51. Electronic data processing
52. Attempt

CLUES DOWN
1. Engulf
2. Waterside hotel
3. Printed cotton fabric
4. Defensive nuclear weapon
5. One who follows the rules
6. Lace up once more
8. Fire byproduct
9. Hankerings
11. Outer
14. One-time aerospace firm
15. Seafood
18. Commercial
19. Epoxy hardener (abbr.)
20. Samoan monetary unit
22. Type of gland
23. Arrest
24. Check
27. Past participle of be

28. Alias
29. A major division of geological time
31. Kids programming channel (abbr.)
32. Joked
33. Helps little firms
34. Roman numeral 50
35. Impressive in size or scope
36. Domineering leader
37. A person who delivers a speech
38. One after 89
39. Young hawk
40. The scene of any event or action
44. A team’s best pitcher
47. Integrated data processing

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Legals - Botetourt County

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 12790 LEE HIGHWAY, BUCHANAN, VA 24066

In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated March 13, 2012, in the original principal amount of \$137,162.00 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Botetourt County, Virginia as Instrument No. 120001170. The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for Botetourt County, Main Street, Fincastle, VA 24090 on January 30, 2023, at 12:00 PM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: BEGINNING AT (1) POINT ADJACENT U.S. ROUTE 11 AND THE OLD RIGHT-OF-WAY OF ROUTE 33; THENCE WITH A CURVE TO THE LEFT WITH AN ARC OF 73.83 FT. AND A CHORD BEARING N. 48 DEG. 06' 18" E. A CHORD DISTANCE OF 73.83 FT. TO (2); THENCE N. 37 DEG. 10' 22" E. 103.11 FT. TO (3); THENCE WITH A CURVE TO THE LEFT WITH AN ARC OF 292.64 FT. TO (4); THENCE S. 41 DEG. 01' 46" E. 282.83 FT. TO (5); THENCE WITH A CURVE TO THE RIGHT WITH AN ARC OF 82.01 FT. AND A CHORD BEARING S. 58 DEG. 53' 19" W. A CHORD DISTANCE OF 81.89 FT. TO (6); THENCE WITH A CURVE TO THE RIGHT WITH AN ARC OF 164.03 FT. AND A CHORD BEARING S. 71 DEG. 45' 20" W. A CHORD DISTANCE OF 163.54 FT. TO (7); THENCE S. 79 DEG. 25' 12" W. 268.97 FT. TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING AND CONTAINING 1.6484 ACRES MORE OR LESS, ALL AS SHOWN ON PLAT OF SURVEY BY CHARLES R. MCMURRY, C.L.S., DATED OCTOBER 9, 1987 RECORDED IN DEED BOOK 339, PAGE 448. TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit of ten percent (10%) of the sale price or ten percent (10%) of the original principal balance of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, in the form of cash or certified funds payable to the Substitute Trustee must be present at the time of the sale. The balance of the purchase price will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Purchaser's deposit may be forfeited to Trustee. Time is of the essence. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser may, if provided by the terms of the Trustee's Memorandum of Foreclosure Sale, be entitled to a \$50 cancellation fee from the Substitute Trustee, but shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. A form copy of the Trustee's memorandum of foreclosure sale and contract to purchase real property is available for viewing at www.bwwsales.com. Additional terms, if any, to be announced at the sale and the Purchaser may be given the option to execute the contract of sale electronically. This is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. The sale is subject to seller confirmation. Substitute Trustee: Equity Trustees, LLC, 8100 Three Chopt

Legals - Botetourt County

Road, Suite 240, Richmond, VA 23229. For more information contact: BWW Law Group, LLC, attorneys for Equity Trustees, LLC, 6003 Executive Blvd, Suite 101, Rockville, MD 20852, 301-961-6555, website: www.bwwsales.com. VA-359565-1.

NOTICE OF SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE SALE

478 Dagger Spring Road, Eagle Rock, VA 24085 By virtue of the power and authority contained in a Deed of Trust dated March 18, 2017 and recorded at Instrument Number 170001207 in the Clerk's Office for the Botetourt County Virginia Circuit Court, Virginia, securing a loan which was originally \$190,000.00. The appointed SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE, Commonwealth Trustees, LLC will offer for sale at public auction at the Botetourt County courthouse steps located at 1 W Main Street, Fincastle, VA 24090-0219. February 02, 2023 at 11:00 AM improved real property, with an abbreviated legal description of the following described property, to wit: Real property in the City of Eagle Rock, County of Botetourt, State of Virginia, described as follows: That tract located in the Fincastle Magisterial District of the County of Botetourt, Virginia designated Tract 1, containing 3.00 acres on that plat of a field survey showing a portion of the parcel 1-53.091 acres source creating Tract 1 of the Tommy Garten property by J. Brad Smith, Land Surveyor, dated May 1994, a copy of which is Recorded in Plat Book 15, page 151. AND as more fully described in the aforesaid Deed of Trust. TERMS OF SALE: The property will be sold "AS IS," WITHOUT REPRESENTATION OR WARRANTY OF ANY KIND AND SUBJECT TO conditions, restrictions, reservations, easements, rights of way, and all other matters of record taking priority over the Deed of Trust to be announced at the time of sale. A deposit of \$20,000 or 10% of the sale price, whichever is lower, will be required at the time of sale, in the form of certified check, cashier's check or money order by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price, with interest at the rate contained in the Deed of Trust Note from the date of sale to the date said funds are received in the office of the SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE, will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale. In the event of default by the successful bidder, the entire deposit shall be forfeited and applied to the costs and expenses of sale and Substitute Trustee's fee. All other public charges or assessments, including water/sewer charges, whether incurred prior to or after the sale, and all other costs incident to settlement to be paid by the purchaser. In the event taxes, any other public charges have been advanced, a credit will be due to the seller, to be adjusted from the date of sale at the time of settlement. Purchaser agrees to pay the seller's attorneys at settlement, a fee of \$470.00 for review of the settlement documents. Additional terms will be announced at the time of sale and the successful bidder will be required to execute and deliver to the Substitute Trustee a memorandum or contract of the sale at the conclusion of bidding. FOR INFORMATION CONTACT Rosenberg & Associates, LLC (Attorney for the Secured Party) 4340 East West Highway, Suite 600 Bethesda, MD 20814 301-907-8000 www.rosenberg-assoc.com

Legals - City of Radford

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 508 17TH ST, RADFORD, VA 24141

In execution of a Deed of Trust in the original principal amount of \$103,561.00, with an annual interest rate of 6.980000% dated February 9, 2005, recorded among the land records of the Circuit Court for the City of Radford as Deed Instrument Number 0500160, the undersigned appointed Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction all that property located in the City of Radford, at the front of the Circuit Court building for the City of Radford located at 619 2nd Street, Radford, Virginia on February 3, 2023 at 2:00 PM, the property with improvements to wit: LOT 1A ROSEMONT SUBDIVISION Tax Map No. 12-111-5 THIS COMMUNICATION IS FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR. TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit of 10% of the sale price, will be required in cash, certified or cashier's check. Settlement within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Trustees may forfeit deposit. Additional terms to be announced at sale. Loan type: Conventional. Reference Number 22-289964. PROFESSIONAL FORECLOSURE CORPORATION OF VIRGINIA, Substitute Trustees, C/O LOGS LEGAL GROUP LLP, 10021 Balls Ford Road, Suite 200, Manassas, Virginia 20109 (703) 449-5800.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CITY OF RADFORD, VIRGINIA

Notice is hereby given, the Radford City Council will hold a public hearing on January 9, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers located at 10 Robertson Street, Radford, Virginia. Pursuant to Code of Virginia, Title 15.2, Article 2 Section 15.2-2006 et seq., the purpose of the public hearing is to receive comments regarding a request from K&J Properties to vacate a portion of an unimproved public right of way area identified as a portion of Custis an Second Street located between West Main/Second Street and Custis/Ingles Street. The request contains a total of approximately 3,810sf (0.087 acre). Copies of the application, together with the plat of the property to be vacated, are available for review in the City Manager's Office located at 10 Robertson Street.

Legals - City of Salem

Order of Publication

Commonwealth of Virginia VA Code §§ 8.01-316,-317 Roanoke City Circuit Court **Case No. CL22-2363** Lynn Edward Craig V. Patricia Catherine Powers Craig The object of this suit is to: No-fault Divorce Complaint. It is ORDERED that Patricia Catherine Powers Craig appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before February 7th, 2023 Entered on 12/16/2022 By: Brenda S. Hamilton, Clerk

Notice

is hereby given to all interested persons that the City of Salem Planning Commission, at its regular meeting on January 11, 2023, at 7:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 114 N. Broad Street, in the City of Salem, Virginia, will hold a public hearing, pursuant to Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia, as amended, to consider approval of the following requests relative to the CODE OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA: 1. Consider the request of the City of Salem, property owner, for rezoning the property of 1900 block of Mill Lane (Tax Map # 179 - 2 - 1.1) from AG Agriculture District to LM Light Manufacturing District. 2. Consider the request of Charles N. Dorsey, property owner, for rezoning the property of 1900 Mill Lane (Tax Map # 179 - 2 -

Legals - City of Salem

1) from AG Agriculture District and RSF Residential Single-Family District to RSF Residential Single-Family District.

Copies of the proposed plans, ordinances or amendments may be examined in the Office of Community Development, 21 South Bruffey Street, Salem, Virginia. At said hearing, parties in interest and citizens shall have an opportunity to be heard relative to the said requests.

THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA BY: James E. Taliaferro, II Executive Secretary

Legals - Town of Vinton

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: Pursuant to the provisions of Section 15.2-2204 of the 1950 Code of Virginia, as amended, the Board of Zoning Appeals of the Town of Vinton, Virginia hereby gives notice of a public hearing to be held on Thursday, January 12, 2023, at 6:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers of the Vinton Municipal Building, 311 South Pollard Street, Vinton, Virginia. The Board of Zoning Appeals will also hold a dinner work session prior to the public hearing in the Council Chambers on January 12, 2023, beginning at 5:45 p.m. A request by Christopher Coles, for a variance of Article IV, Division 1, Sec. 4-3, Dimensional Regulations for Residential Districts, of the Vinton Zoning Ordinance. The purpose of the request is to ask for a one thousand, one hundred and fifty-four (1,154) square feet variance from the six thousand (6,000) square feet lot size requirement, and a six (6) foot variance from the fifty (50) foot lot width requirement to allow for the resubdivision of the existing lot. The property is located at 424 E. Lee Avenue, Tax Map Number 60.16-05-23.00-0000, zoned R-2 Residential District. Further information concerning this public hearing may be obtained in the Planning and Zoning Department located at 311 South Pollard Street, Vinton, VA 24179, (540) 983-0605, between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Interested persons may be heard at the above public hearings. Given under my hand this 12th day of December, 2022. Nathaniel McClung Assistant Planning Director Secretary, Board of Zoning Appeals NOTICE OF INTENT TO COMPLY WITH DISABILITIES ACT. Reasonable efforts will be made to provide assistance or special arrangements to qualified individuals with disabilities in order to participate in or attend the meeting. Please call (540) 983 0605 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting so that proper arrangements can be made.

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MONTGOMERY SPORTS

CHS graduate signs pro football contract

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

A 2014 graduate of Christiansburg High School has signed a professional football contract. Makayla Brown is joining the Utah Falcons as part of the Women's National Football Conference, Pacific Division.

Brown thought playing women's tackle football would be a new adventure, something to challenge her mentally and physically.

Brown moved to Utah with her fiancé, Nate Rogers, and she is currently a Computer Science Middle School teacher.

This past spring season, the Utah Falcons won the Pacific Conference championship with a final record of 5-4.

This upcoming 2023 Spring Season they will play San Diego Rebellion, Oregon Ravens, Denver Lady Bandits, Texas Elite Spartans, Las Vegas Silver Stars and Seattle Majestics. Brown is listed as an offensive lineman on the team's overall roster.

An estimated 4,000 women in the United States play tackle football in organized leagues, which include the 8-team United States Women's Football League (USWFL) and the 20-team Women's National Football Conference (WNFC),

founded in 2018 in partnership with Adidas' 'she breaks barriers' campaign.

"This is my first year playing but my experience so far has been remarkable," said Brown. "Tackle football is mentally and physically a tough sport but so rewarding. I have never been a part of such a closeknit team that values hard work, dedication and teamwork as much as the Utah Falcons. It is truly an honor to be able to play with such an amazing team."

Growing up in Christiansburg, she never had the chance to play tackle football. During her junior and senior year of high school she practiced and played during the Powderpuff game hosted by Christiansburg High School. Her brother, Brody Hensel, currently plays for the Auburn Eagles.

"Growing up I always loved watching football and going to football games. I always looked forward to Saturdays because that meant watching college football with my family. When I got the chance to play in the powderpuff game, I was hooked," she said.

Right now, she said, the sky is the limit. "I plan to continue playing with the Utah Falcons. With the WNFC continually expanding it's really exciting to think about what the future holds," Brown concluded.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Christiansburg native Makayla Brown is headed to the football field this spring as a member of the Utah Falcons.

McDowell pens with One Knoxville SC

Virginia Tech's Kyle McDowell has signed with USL League One side One Knoxville SC, as announced by the team on Friday.

In three seasons with the Hokies, McDowell recorded 14 assists in 47 appearances. All 47 of McDowell's appearances for Tech came from starting in the left-back or left wing-back position.

"I'm excited for Kyle to take this next step in his soccer career," head coach Mike Brizendine said about the West Sussex, England native. "He's been a tremendous player for us and we wish him nothing but the best!"

McDowell scored twice for Virginia Tech – both goals coming in the 2021 postseason. His first goal came against No. 6 Pitt in the ACC Championship quarterfinal followed by the opening goal in Tech's NCAA Tournament first round matchup with Campbell.

The 2021 campaign was McDowell's best for Tech, as he earned first team All-State honors from VaSID. He was tied for third in the ACC in assists with eight throughout the season.

One Knoxville SC will begin competing in USL League One in 2023 after competing in the USL League Two for one season.



PHOTO COURTESY OF VT ATHLETICS

Virginia Tech defender Kyle McDowell is set to be part of club's inaugural USL League One season.

NIL's need to be tightened up quickly

Just 10 years ago, the University of Louisville was reprimanded in the midst of allegations a national sneaker company helped funnel players to the school.

Now, those same efforts would really be legal under the NCAA's new "Name, Image and Likeness" Policy.

The Louisville matter said Adidas schemed to funnel recruits to its partner schools, and "was a representative" of the university.

The investigation found employees of Adidas, representing the university's athletics interest, made an impermissible recruiting offer of \$100,000 and arranged for a \$25,000 extra

benefit to the father of basketball prospect Brian Bowen. Additionally, former Louisville assistant coach Jordan Fair was knowingly involved in an impermissible recruiting inducement of \$11,800 to \$13,500 to Brad Augustine, a non-scholastic boys basketball coach associated with prospects.

If the year was 2023, all of this would have been legal with a fine line as a new policy is drawing recruits to schools that can help provide major payouts.

It has been 18 months since the NCAA implemented its policy allowing college athletes to make money off their name, image, and likeness (NIL).

High school quarterback



From the Sidelines

Marty Gordon

and Miami Hurricanes commit Jaden Rashada is said to have signed the biggest NIL deal yet, with a \$9.5 million payout.

Players are being offered millions of dollars to sign with specific colleges.

The report that North Carolina's QB is being offered staggering amounts to transfer from the school is another bad apple in this process.

The schools with the monies

and right connections will stack the rosters of their sports teams.

The NCAA needs to reel in the process before it goes any further. The NIL is a great idea and does offer college athletes a way to make money, but the lines are being blurred as the former Louisville allegation is now legal.

Yes, student-athletes have benefited by the NIL policy, but it has also caused chaos as schools are using the NIL as "bidding wars" to grab the top talent. Add into the fact of the so-called "transfer portal" and there is a feeling of "free agency."

For a college student, money speaks, and you have to wonder why so many of the top QB's in

the country have traded schools in the past six months.

Is it legal? Yes. Is it right? No!

The concern has been and will continue to be in college football. This will dictate how lofty the deals could be in the near future.

This hurts the mid-majors and smaller schools, and also affects recruiting of high school athletes. No longer will the outstanding players be spreading themselves out across the collegiate landscape. Instead, they will go to the 10 schools who will have all the money to give them.

The future of college athletics has a black eye as we head into the new year.

Radford student-athletes excel in the classroom during fall 2022 semester

It was another terrific showing for Radford Athletics student-athletes during the Fall 2022 semester as 78% earned a 3.0 grade point average or better.

An impressive 252 out of 325 student-athletes reached the 3.0 mark, helping 15 out of the 16 Highlanders' varsity athletics programs report a team GPA of 3.0 or better as well.

"I am so proud of our student-athletes' performance in the classroom this fall!" said Associate Athletics Director for Student-Athlete Support Services Allison McCoy. "It's wonderful to see their hard work come to fruition and all of us at Radford are thrilled to see so much success in the classroom once again."

Beyond that, 194 Highlanders

earned a 3.40 GPA or higher, placing them on the Radford University Dean's List, and 66 of those student-athletes achieved a perfect 4.0.

The women's tennis team, led by first-year head coach Grace Reed, topped all squads with a 3.84 GPA. The softball program was close behind with a 3.65 GPA and the men's cross-country team led all men's pro-

grams with a 3.61 GPA.

With that being said, GPA is only one measurement of success away from athletic competition. Radford's student-athletes also represented the department extraordinarily well in faculty-led research opportunities, internships, community service/volunteer outreach, and more.

Radford University Athletics

Send community news and photos to communitynews@ourvalley.org

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RU remembers two athletic coaches

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

As we look back on 2022, Radford University took a moment to remember former athletic director Chuck Taylor and women's basketball coach Charlene Curtis after their sudden passing.

Both the men's and women's basketball teams honored the two with a patch with their individual initials on home and away uniforms.

Charles David "Chuck" Taylor passed away in September and was the first-ever men's basketball head coach and athletics director in school history.

Taylor served as athletics director from 1974-1996, leading Radford on a remarkable journey from a six-sport unaffiliated small college program to Division I. Today, the Highlanders sponsor 16 varsity sports and have proudly played at the Division I level since 1984.

During his tenure, Radford Athletics was nationally recognized as a leader in opportunities for women and minorities, as well as in graduation rates for student-athletes. In competition, seven different programs achieved national rankings in his time guiding the Highlanders.

Also serving as men's basketball coach from 1974-78, Taylor compiled a 56-43 record, never suffering a losing season and setting the stage for the program's future success.

The Radford Athletics

Hall of Fame inducted Taylor in its third-ever class, enshrining him alongside Nan Millner (women's basketball), Steve Robinson (men's basketball) and Dante Washington (men's soccer) in 1997. He was also inducted into the Big South Conference Hall of Fame in 2006.

Curtis passed away in August and was a true trailblazer at both Radford University and in the broader collegiate athletics landscape, she was a two-time member of the Radford University Board of Visitors.

"Charlene Curtis is one of Radford University's most accomplished alumni," said Director of Athletics Robert Lineburg. "She was an outstanding student, a tremendous basketball player, an excellent musician, and a great coach and administrator. She has had and will continue to have a profound impact on our university. Charlene was the coach that made a difference in her players lives by teaching them so many foundational values that impacted them in so many positive ways. In addition, Charlene loved Radford University and remained involved throughout her life by devoting her time, service, and money to helping so many young people. Today is a difficult day for the Highlander family, but we know her incredible legacy will live on at Radford University. I speak for myself and countless others in saying that it was a



true honor and privilege to know Charlene Curtis."

Curtis was the first African-American to play on the Radford women's basketball team in 1972 and the first 1,000-point scorer — male or female — in Radford basketball history. After her playing career ended, she secured her first job as a teacher and band director in Bedford County, Va., where she served as the first African American teacher and coach ever at her school.

Her coaching career took her back to the collegiate ranks where she earned a graduate degree and worked on the staff of legendary head coach Debbie Ryan at the University of Virginia.

Curtis would eventually return to Radford as the women's basketball program's head coach from

1984-90, posting a 121-53 (.695) record overall and an incredible 46-2 (.958) mark in Big South Conference play.

She was a two-time Big South Coach of the Year, leading the Highlanders to four Big South regular season championships, three Big South Tournament championships, and an appearance in the 1989 WNIT.

"On behalf of our current team, staff and alumni, we are saddened to hear about the passing of Charlene Curtis," said Head Women's Basketball Coach Mike McGuire. "Radford has lost an amazing pioneer, leader, teacher, and coach. Quite simply, Charlene is a legend for our women's basketball program. Charlene had incredible careers at Radford, both as a student



PHOTOS COURTESY OF RU ATHLETICS

athlete and a coach. Each season, we could feel the impact that Charlene has had on the women's basketball program here. She helped to raise the bar and expectations for women's basketball success at Radford. Charlene loved Radford and was committed to making a difference for the young women in our program. She is the epitome of what a dedicated and invested alumna is all about. But, even with all of the success that she had, Charlene will be remembered for the type of person she was. The way she cared about other people and encouraged them to pursue excellence will never be forgotten by anyone who ever met her. She lived a life that impacted others and must be celebrated!"

From there, she would

go on to become the first African-American women's basketball head coach in the history of the Atlantic Coast Conference at Wake Forest University. Curtis also made stops at Temple University as their first-ever African-American head women's basketball coach and at the University of Connecticut as an assistant under Geno Auriemma.

Down the road, she was named the head of officiating for women's basketball in the ACC and contributed to ES-PNU and Fox Sports South as a women's basketball analyst.

Her accomplishments, both on the sidelines and in the community, led to the dedication of the Radford women's basketball coach's suite in her name on Feb. 5, 2022.

ONLINE AUCTION

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OFFERING #1 - 46.46 Acres of wooded land with a 2 bedroom, 1.5 bath home. Home features over 2,200 square feet with hardwood floors throughout main level, heat pump, gas fireplace in living room and plumbing in basement for additional bath. Has a front porch, large back deck and stone patio to enjoy the views. Also has a woodshop and separate outbuilding. Property features driveway coming off Little Irish Rd and also has road frontage on Julia Simpkins Rd.

OFFERING #2 - This offering consists of 55.1 acres of wooded land featuring a stream. Sloping land with abundant wildlife and trails throughout. Property has road frontage on Little Irish Rd.

OFFERING #3 - This offering consists of 10.44 acres of wooded land. Features ATV trails throughout and an abundance of wildlife. Has road frontage on Little Irish Rd.

Preview - Thursday January 5th & Friday January 13th @ 4 PM

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RU unveils 2023 softball schedule

The Radford softball program announced its complete 2023 schedule on Thursday afternoon, setting up an exciting season which will feature four early-season tournaments, two midweek non-conference doubleheaders at home, nine Big South contests at home and the return of the Big South Tournament to Radford.

The season is set to begin on February 17 when the Highlanders begin their first regular season tournament down in Statesboro, Ga. in the Bash in the Boro. The regular season opener will feature back-to-back games that Friday against Bryant at 10 a.m. and Long Island at 12:30 p.m. The next day on February 18, Radford will face off against the hosts Georgia Southern and then Long Island once again. The tournament comes to a close on February 19 where the Highlanders face-off with Georgia Southern once again.

Radford's home opener comes early on as the Highlanders are set to host ETSU for a doubleheader on Tuesday, February 21. First pitch is set for 2 p.m. that day. One week later, the Highlanders head to Greenville, N.C. to compete in a tournament hosted by East Carolina. Action begins on February 24 where Radford plays St. Francis (PA) and Bucknell. Radford plays those same two programs again on February 25 and will then finish off the weekend with a single game against East Carolina on February 26.

To split up the early season tournaments, Radford will have its first midweek match-up of the year when they travel to play ACC foe Virginia in a doubleheader on February 28. After that, it's another trip within the Commonwealth as Radford competes in the loaded Liberty Invitational.

On March 4, Radford will face Iona and Liberty and then on March 5th the team will face-off with UConn and Iona once again.

The Highlanders final regular season tournament comes the next weekend in Harrisonburg, Va. at the James Madison Tournament. The Highlanders open up play that Friday, March 10, against Saint Joseph's. The following day features back-to-back matches against Fairleigh Dick-

inson and Saint Joseph's. To close out the weekend Radford faces Coppin State and James Madison on March 12.

On Wednesday, March 15, the Highlanders are finally back home. Radford will play host to a doubleheader against a Division I newcomer Queens (NC) with first pitch set for 4 p.m.

A week later Radford is back on the road again for six-straight road games. The road trip begins in Raleigh, N.C. as Radford faces another ACC opponent in N.C. State on March 22. After that, the team opens Big South competition with a visit to Winthrop for a three-game series on March 25-26. Capping off the road trip will be another midweek doubleheader, this time against Western Carolina on March 29.

As the calendar flips to April, Radford returns home to host Charleston Southern for a three-game series with a single game on March 31 and a doubleheader on April 1st. After a midweek doubleheader at ETSU on April 5, Radford faces Big South competition again with a weekend series at Presbyterian starting April 7.

Radford then hosts five straight games when the team plays UNC Greensboro for a doubleheader on April 12 and then hosts Big South foe USC Upstate the following weekend for three games. On April 18, a New River Showdown is set as Virginia Tech and Radford will meet for the first time since 2021.

To end the regular season, Radford will have three Big South series in the final crunch before the Big South tournament. On April 22 and 23 Radford plays at Campbell before returning home for their final home regular season series against Longwood on April 28th and 29th. The regular season comes to a close on the road when Radford plays at Gardner-Webb on May 5-6.

The 2023 Big South Tournament is set to be hosted in Radford as the top-four teams in the conference will come together to decide who earns the automatic bid to the 2023 NCAA Tournament. Action begins on May 11 at the Radford softball stadium with opponents, game times and tickets all to be determined.

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