



PHOTO COURTESY OF NRHD

New River Health District warns of rabies concerns

The New River Health District is warning the public about rabies concerns in the health district.

Two foxes testing positive for rabies have been found in the same general area of Christiansburg within the past 10 days, marking the fifth laboratory confirmed case of animal rabies in Montgomery County and the twelfth in the New River Health District this year. In May, the City of Radford notified residents a raccoon in Radford tested positive for the rabies virus.

“On Aug. 5, 2023, a fox testing positive for rabies was found in a neighborhood around Blake Drive in Christiansburg,” the NRHD stated. “This is the second confirmed case of animal rabies in Christiansburg within the past week. A few days prior, another fox testing positive for rabies was located in a neighborhood around Dunlap Drive in Christiansburg. In each incident a person was reportedly exposed to the animal.”

The New River Health District asks anyone who may have come into contact with either of the foxes in or around the area of Blake Drive or Dunlap Drive to call the Montgomery County Health Department at 540-585-3300.

Due to the relative proximity and timing of these cases within Christiansburg, the New River Health District wants to remind everyone, and especially pet owners, of the risks of rabies.

Rabies is a deadly disease caused by a virus that attacks the nervous system. It is almost always fatal, unless preventive treatment is administered before symptoms develop.

“It is important to keep your pets properly vaccinated and to seek medical attention promptly if you or your pet are exposed,” said Dr. Noelle Bissell, director for the New River Health District.

Virginia law requires that all dogs

See Rabies, page 2

Citizens address Blacksburg Town Council on Odd Fellows operation agreement

Lori Graham
Contributing writer

BLACKSBURG - Many citizens addressed the Blacksburg Town Council during their August 8 regular meeting with concerns for the restoration and continued support of Odd Fellows Hall in Blacksburg.

Jody Daniels, a long-time supporter and volunteer of Blacksburg culture and history and serving as a Chair of the Preservation Committee and a Montgomery County Community Review Council (MCCRC) member addressed the Blacksburg Town Council on the Odd Fellows Hall historical structure in disrepair. Daniels has previously addressed the Council on the need to repair and preserve the structure, both in a meeting on June 27 and in 2022.

“The five-year operation agreement between the Town and the museum is on the agenda for August 15 Town Council work session,” Daniels said.

“As this body sets upon this task, please take the time to read the 2005 deed; the Town Clerk should be able to provide you with a copy. This agreement could be a positive way for the Town to continue to honor an important aspect of the 2021 Comprehensive

Plan.” Gabriele Parker of Blacksburg also showed her support for African American culture sustainability as well as for the Odd Fellows restoration.

See Fellows, page 4



PHOTO COURTESY OF TOWN OF BLACKSBURG

St. Luke and Odd Fellows Hall in Blacksburg

Steppin' Out celebrated 42 years, but some may remember the event as Deadwood Days

Lori Graham
Contributing writer

Every summer, around the first week of August, the streets of Blacksburg are filled with festivalgoers to partake in the entertainment, vendors, crafts, food, and drink of Steppin' Out, but many people do not know that the event was once called the Deadwood Days Summer Festival.

Stop in and visit with John Kline of John's Cameras and Vinyl Records at 213 Draper Road NW in Blacksburg and he can tell the story of a time in the 70s when the event looked a lot different than today. How does he know? Kline has been a Blacksburg business owner since the beginning of the festival in 1976. He even has the posters to prove it.

“In the summer of '76 it was pretty slow, I mean like real slow,” Kline said. “Deadwood, South Dakota had a party a mile long, a parade, so we became the sister city to Deadwood, South Dakota.”

According to Kline, the Blacksburg Town Council met during that time and decided to bring in business with the creation of Deadwood Days, mirroring the

See Deadwood, page 4



PHOTO BY LORI GRAHAM

Deadwood Days Summer Festival began in 1976 as a way to increase business in downtown Blacksburg.

Christiansburg residents say no to proposed townhomes during public hearing

Lori Graham
Contributing writer

CHRISTIANSBURG - Residents spoke against a conditional use permit requested by DAJ Ventures LLC's to allow 21 townhouses in Christiansburg during Tuesday's town council meeting.

The townhomes would be built on approximately 2.149 acres located at the western end of Montgomery Street, NE, and between the south side of Church Street, NE and the north side of Lucas Street, NE. The property was previously

zoned B-3 General Business and is designated as residential on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan, according to the Christiansburg Town Council's meeting agenda.

Steve Simones with Balzer and Associates addressed Christiansburg Town council as the engineering firm that is representing the owners of DAJ Ventures. Citizens had previously spoken at the Planning Commission meeting recently about some work that has been happening near this proposed site, but Steve

says this is unrelated to their project. According to Simones, this work is part of the gas line improvement project.

“Our main entrance would be off of Church Street,” Simones said.

There is a proposed private entrance for the purpose of emergency use only, that would connect to Montgomery Street, at a point that is currently terminated at the property. The property also has its own designated storm water management facility.

Suggestions from

See Residents, page 2

Cambria Connector Project years from receiving VDOT funding

Lori Graham
Contributing writer

During the August 8 Christiansburg Town Council meeting, Justin St. Clair, Assistant Engineering Director, presented an update on funding programs and capital projects.

Council member Johana Hicks asked for further information on the Cambria Connector project and if public hearings had been conducted prior to applying for funding to pay for the project.

A petition presented in a previous council meeting with over 200 citizen signatures requested Council to not seek funding from VDOT for a road that would connect Route 460 and Peppers Ferry Road (Route 114).

“I'm not aware of anything that would be the impetus for that. I mean every time we apply for it, we have a public hearing, well, I don't want to say we have a public hearing, but there is a resolution of support the Council provides,” St. Clair said. “So, it is run through a Council process where it is noted publicly that we are trying to apply for that project, for those funds.”

Town Manager Randy Wingfield also responded to Council's questions concerning the Cambria Connector project. According to Wingfield, the Town was not included in funding for the over 30-million-dollar project and would reapply in two years. Even if approved, Wingfield said, the project would be placed at the end of VDOT's six-year plan for projects.

“That road is probably eight years out, kind of best-case scenario,” Wingfield said.

In the meeting agenda's presentations, Assistant Engineering Director Justin St. Clair shared information with Council on other funding programs as well. According to St. Clair, some of the funding resources utilized by the town include Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), and Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR).

VDOT works on a two-year funding cycle, with even years providing funding different from that money released to communities in odd years. The town is

See Cambria, page 4

Kiwanis Club of Christiansburg provides gift cards to Falling Branch

As part of its continuing program of providing support to local schools' need for clothing and supplies, the Kiwanis Club of Christiansburg delivered a Walmart gift card to Falling Branch Elementary.

The cards, in the amount of \$550 (\$500 from the Kiwanis Club and \$50 from Walmart) were delivered to schools that had a low balance on their cards and had requested additional

funds. This program was started several years ago for the seven schools in Christiansburg, and cards are replenished by the club as needed. Before this program was introduced, often teachers and staff members would personally pay for the needed items that the children could not afford.

The cards were delivered by Oliver Lewis, MCPS Tiered Intervention Specialist and a Kiwanis member, and Ernie Wade,

a Kiwanis member.

Kiwanis is a global organization of members, clubs, and partners who are dedicated to changing the world, one child at a time. The Kiwanis Club of Christiansburg has provided services to the local community since its charter was granted in 1949.

~ *Kiwanis Club of Christiansburg*



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE KIWANIS CLUB OF CHRISTIANSBURG

(Left to right): Oliver Lewis, Kiwanis Member; Ann Mitchell, Principal of Falling Branch Elementary School and Ernie Wade, Kiwanis member.

Residents

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the Planning Commission had included the townhome developers to add dumpsters from one to two and with an additional recycling bin. Balzer and Associates has made these adjustments to their waste facilities.

Council member Johana Hicks requested further information from Semones on the proximity of the proposed townhomes to the car wash.

"Is there anything that's going to be covering the backs of those townhomes?" Hicks said.

"There would be landscaping that would go across, we

don't have that specified yet," Semones said.

Hicks also asked about the neighboring Headstart preschool building, and how busy the street can be at times when the school is open.

"They are not supposed to be parking on this property, but we understand from some of the neighbors that they park... along the street to drop the kids off, but again, that is not part of this project," Semones said.

Norma-Jean Landis spoke on behalf of her mother who lives very close to the proposed DAJ townhome project. Both mother

and daughter are opposed to the construction of the townhomes based on the proximity, but also the size of project.

"The DAJ Ventures application to build 21, let that number sink in, 21 townhomes and 60 parking spaces...on a 2.149-acre lot has been adopted by the Planning Commission. I'm here to speak out against this build," Landis said.

Landis also asked if impact studies on neighboring residential areas surrounding the townhomes had been completed.

Another Montgomery Street resident, John Dunning, also

urged the Council to reject the permission to build 21 townhomes on the lot located near his residence.

"I would like to share why I bought a house in Christiansburg in 1999," Dunning said. "The lady selling the homes [said] this is a great place for a kid to ride a bicycle."

Dunning recommended building single-family small homes in the location versus a townhome complex.

"I highly encourage you to think of it as a citizen side, not just think of it as this is going to bring revenue to the town. It

will bring revenue to the town, but I don't think it's long-term revenue," Dunning said. "Build generational wealth."

Barbara Early also spoke against the project as a long-time resident of the neighborhood near the proposed townhome project.

"We bought our retirement home in the '80s that was built by Robert Gearheart that used to work in this town," Early said. "We pay our taxes and pay our taxes on time. We are natives of this area, and we are very much against this project because it affects our property."

Rabies

from page 1

and cats four months of age and older be vaccinated for rabies by a licensed veterinarian, and that vaccinations be kept current.

Additional steps to protect against rabies exposure:

Do not feed stray animals. Avoid wild animals, especially raccoons, bats, foxes and skunks. Feed your pets indoors and do not let them wander.

Make sure your pets are vaccinated against rabies and their shots are up to date. By law, all dogs, cats and ferrets must be vaccinated against rabies.

Teach children to avoid contact with wild animals and pets they are not familiar with.

Do not handle sick, injured or dead animals.

Keep wild animals out of homes by

capping chimneys with screens and blocking openings in attics, cellars and porches. Ensure trash cans have tight fitting lids.

Do not try to trap or handle stray and wild animals.

If you are bitten by a wild or stray animal, do not panic. Wash the wound(s) thoroughly with warm soapy water and contact animal control,

your doctor or the Montgomery County Health Department for further recommendations.

For additional information, visit www.vdh.virginia.gov/environmental-epidemiology/animal-contact-human-health/ or call the Montgomery County Health Department at 540-585-3300.

~ *New River Health District*

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Mark Arney
Branch Manager/Loan Officer
NMLS#105258



THE BANK OF MARION NEW RIVER VALLEY

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, August 12:

Fish Fry

Mount Tabor Ruritan Club will hold its August Fish Fry; 5 - 7 p.m. at Slusser's Chapel Picnic Shelter, 1543 Mount Tabor Rd, Blacksburg. Serving fish, fries and slaw; homemade desserts; and beverages. Adults-\$12, children under 12-\$6, (under 3)-free, carry-outs-\$12. This month we will be entertained by The Panjammers Steel Drum Orchestra. The fish fry is a fundraiser for the Ruritan Club's community service projects and scholarships. Held rain or shine. Call or text 540-449-6178 for further information. On Facebook at MtTaborRuritan.

Reptiles at the Library

At Meadowbrook Library; 11 a.m. – noon. Virginia Master Naturalist and State Park volunteer, Judith McCord will bring a ball python, a blue-tongued skink, a Russian tortoise and an Eastern box turtle for folks to learn about and interact with. Learn about reptiles commonly found in our state parks. All ages.

Page to Screen Movies: Maltese Falcon

At the Radford Public Library; noon- 2 p.m. Come see Humphrey Bogart in the 1941 adaptation of Dashiell Hammett's The Maltese Falcon. Gourmet popcorn from Lil'Bit Corny LLC will be available while supplies last. NR; 100 min.

Saturday, August 12 - Sunday, August 20:

Marching Virginian Band Camp

In preparation for the upcoming Hokie football season, the Marching Virginians will host their annual Band Camp; 9a.m. – 9 p.m. each day. After this camp period concludes, the Marching Virginians will move into regular fall rehearsals, occurring Monday – Friday, 5:30 p.m. – 7 p.m. Community members are welcome to attend a rehearsal, if desired. Questions and concerns may be directed to Dr. Polly Middleton at polly@vt.edu.

Monday, August 14:

IDA golf tournament

Intellectual Disabilities Agency of the New River Valley 26th Annual Golf Tournament at the Blacksburg Country Club golf course. Registration at www.idanrv.org/home/golf-details and payment can be made via check to IDA at PO Box 42, Christiansburg VA 24068 or online using PayPal. Fees for the day are \$100 per golfer and include golf cart, lunch, and multiple prizes. If you are not a golfer, you can also support IDA with Tee sponsorships. Email Denise@idanrv.org for details.

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

Tuesday, August 15:

Blacksburg Town Council meeting

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

Christiansburg Town Council meeting

Regular Town Council meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month beginning at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Town Hall (100 E. Main 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.

Have You Been Counted? Using Census Records in Genealogy Research

At the Radford Public Library; noon – 1 p.m.. This informative program will consist of information about each of the census years, what information is included, where to find the records, and strategies for using census records in your genealogy research.

Thursday, August 17:

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, 3204 Riner Rd. Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) are also invited to this meeting. For further information, please call 540-320-4315 or 540-239-9864.

Saturday, August 19:

BBQ and craft fair

Annual Raise the Roof BBQ; 4 – 7 p.m. at Slusser's Chapel, 1543 Mt. Tabor Rd., Blacksburg. All-you-can eat menu includes smoked pulled pork, chicken, hamburgers, and hot dogs, homemade sides: baked

beans, potato salad, cole slaw and desserts. Eat in or take out. Tickets at the door. Price: Adults \$10 and children 12 and under \$5. For more information call 540-951-1757 www.slussers-themount.org.

Tuesday, August 29:

Ice Cream Social and Bingo

Beat the heat and join Blacksburg Parks and Recreation for a fun afternoon of ice cream followed by a game of Bingo, 1- 2:30 p.m., at the Blacksburg Community Center. Ice Cream and drinks provided; you bring a topping to share. If you want to play bingo, bring \$1 in quarters for bingo prizes. Event is co-sponsored with Warm Hearth Village. The event cost \$3 for resident and \$6 for non-residents. To register, click the link listed above or call 540-443-1100.

On-going:

Market Square Jam

Held Wednesdays, June through September, in Blacksburg on the corner of Draper Road and Roanoke Street; 7 – 9 p.m. Catering to traditional Old-Time music, Blacksburg's Market Square Jam brings musicians together to pick a tune, enjoy fun times with friends and family, and take in all that downtown Blacksburg has to offer. Blacksburg's Market Square Jam is an official Crooked Road affiliated venue that provides fun and entertainment.

Blacksburg Farmers Market

Hours now through October: Wednesdays 2 – 6 p.m. and Saturdays 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. Located at Market Square Park, on the corner of Roanoke Street and Draper Road in downtown Blacksburg. Features growers of locally grown produce and meats, alongside artisans of baked goods, prepared foods, cheese, handmade crafts, and more.

Christiansburg Farmers Market

Thursdays; 3 – 7 p.m. Located in the Recreation Center parking lot. Features local farmers and vendors. Seasonal produce, plants, fresh baked goods, crafts, fresh flowers, handmade jewelry and more. Items for purchase vary week-to-week. Check our Facebook page for details about weekly themes, prizes, vendors, and live music.

Radford Farmers Market

Held on the grounds of Glencoe Mansion, Museum and Galley, located just off West Main Street, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. each Saturday until October 14. Features produce, plants, baked goods, artisans, fresh squeezed lemonade, eggs, meats, cheeses and more.

Registration open for Potter in the Park race

Calling all wizards of Gryffindor, Hufflepuff, Ravenclaw, and Slytherin! Have you signed up for the TriWizard TriMile Potter in the Park Race yet? The annual family-fun event is on Saturday, Aug. 26 at 8:30 a.m. Register at www.lvnrv.org.

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<p>Lost & Found</p> <p>FOUND Lost cat</p> <p>Older grey and white cat with flea collar found on Third Street in Radford To Claim Call 540-320-6393</p>	<p>Legals - Montgomery County</p> <p>LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL</p> <p>The Town of Christiansburg Town Council will hold a Public Hearing on, Tuesday, August 22, 2023, at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments concerning: A. Conditional Use Permit request by NRV Marketplace LLC, Property Owner, and Balzer and Associates, Applicant, to allow a revision of the Comprehensive Sign Plan, approved September 24, 2019, and associated with addresses 2505 – 2785 Market St. NE. The current</p>	<p>Legals - Montgomery County</p> <p>NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION</p> <p>Pursuant to the provisions of Section 15.2-2204 & 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, the Montgomery County Planning Commission hereby gives notice of a public hearing to be held on August 16, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Christiansburg, Virginia, in order to hear citizen comments regarding the Planning Commission's intention to act on the following Ordinance:</p> <p>A request by Jeffrey Allan and Jennifer Lamm Frayser (Agent: Meredith Engineering) to rezone a total of 122.60 acres from Rural Residential (RR) conditional with proffers approved in 2008 to develop a proposed single-family subdivision, to Agricultural (A-1) to allow for a family subdivision consisting of three (3) single-family residential lots. The property is located on Bradshaw Road (State Rt. 629), approximately 0.05 miles west of the</p>	<p>Legals - Montgomery County</p> <p>intersection of Bradshaw Road and Dewberry Lane. The property is further identified as Tax Map 032-A 55 (Parcel ID: 001477) in the Mount Tabor Magisterial District. The property lies in an area designated as Rural in the 2025 Montgomery County Comprehensive Plan</p> <p>Copies of the proposed plans, applications, ordinances or amendments may be examined at the Department of Planning and GIS Services, County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Suite 2A, Christiansburg, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. or at http://www.montgomerycountyva.gov/pendingapplications.</p>	<p>Legals - Montgomery County</p> <p>guidelines established by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the New River Valley HOME Consortium and the Town of Blacksburg seek public comment on the proposed draft of the 2023 Annual Action Plan for the New River Valley's HOME Program and the Town of Blacksburg's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program.</p> <p>The Annual Action Plan provides a yearly accounting of HOME, CDBG, and other funds allocated towards the implementation of objectives outlined in the Consolidated Plan. The Consolidated Plan identifies community needs and proposed solutions in the areas of Housing, Special Needs, Economic Development and Non-Housing Community Development. HOME and CDBG activities benefit low and moderate-income persons by making improvements throughout the New River Valley, taking into consideration the public input received. Funding for the 2023 fiscal year will be \$554,576 for the CDBG program and \$634,440 for the HOME program.</p> <p>The proposed Housing and Community Development goals for 2023 are:</p>	<p>Legals - Montgomery County</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Support affordable housing 2) Prevent and end homelessness 3) Support non-homeless special needs <p>Proposed use of 2023 CDBG funds: Housing Resiliency Grant Program - \$50,000 New River Community Action - \$11,268 Women's Resource Center of the NRV - \$6,417 Live, Work, Eat, Grow – Blacksburg Community Gardens - \$14,421 Valley Interfaith Child Care Center - \$45,315 Affordable Housing Initiatives - \$316,240 Program Administration - \$110,915 CDBG TOTAL - \$634,440 Proposed use of 2023 HOME funds: HOME Administration - \$63,440 Community Housing Development Organization Operational Support - \$30,000 Community Housing Development Organization Projects - \$95,166 Affordable Homeownership Projects - \$184,352 Affordable Rental Projects - \$261,482 HOME Total - \$634,440</p> <p>The draft 2023 Annual Action Plan can be reviewed on the Town's website at https://www.blacksburg.gov/departments/departments-</p>	<p>Legals - Montgomery County</p> <p>a-k/housing-and-neighborhood-services/consolidated-plan . A public comment meeting will be held on Monday August 28 at 10 am at the Town of Blacksburg Housing and Community Connections office at 303 Wilson Ave, Blacksburg, VA. Comments may also be given via e-mail to: housing@blacksburg.gov, by phone at (540) 443-1613, or by mail to Housing and Neighborhood Services, P.O. Box 90003, Blacksburg, VA 24062. Copies of the Plan may be viewed at the office and are also available upon request. Comments must be received by 5:00 p.m. August 28, 2023. Accommodations for persons with disabilities and non-English speaking residents will be provided upon request. For additional information, please call (540) 443-1613.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p>MAKE AN "A" IN ADVERTISING!</p> <p>To place your ad, call 389-9355</p> </div>
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Send community news and photos to communitynews@ourvalley.org

Cambria

from page 1

currently in an odd year.

“So, right now we have revenue sharing and transportation alternatives and the highway safety improvement program funding process where we would apply for those projects, deliver different information to them. Some of those are competitive scoring. Some of those are just a pool of money that’s distributed kind of evenly across the Commonwealth,” St. Clair said.

St. Clair also stated that the even years are the bigger projects like the Smart Scale program, which is the program that would pay for the Cambria Connector project and are one hundred percent approved by the state.

One safety improvement that residences may notice is the replacement of stoplight signal backplates. They will be highly reflective, instead of the black backplate previously used, and will be a safety improvement for drivers, St.

Clair said.

The bridge local drivers use when turning on Depot Street from Roanoke Street has also received one hundred percent funding for replacement. This project that would have had a price tag of over five million dollars will not need any funding from the town of Christiansburg.

A full presentation of all proposed and on-going improvement projects can be viewed on the live streamed video provided by Christiansburg Town Council on their website at www.christiansburg.org.

In other Council business, Hicks made a movement to approve items on the consent agenda. This included an awarded contract to Boxley Materials Company in the amount of \$731,290.25 for construction of the primary extension paving of Roanoke Street and Peppers Ferry Road. The contract was approved unanimously by the Council.

Deadwood

from page 1

event in South Dakota.

“We had Associate Press, we gave Willard Scott on The Today Show a t-shirt, Deadwood Days. Everyone dressed up in cowboy outfits; it was a bit wilder, I mean a lot wilder,” Kline said.

Previously, Kline also owned a store across the street from his current location on Draper Road that was called DaVinci’s Attic that had a variety of surplus items.

“I took a big weather balloon, filled it full of helium. I put a Deadwood Days poster on it and let it go up, well we had it tethered, and it crossed over Main Street,” Kline said.

That night, Kline and friends took the same balloon and sent it up untethered with glow lights attached, appearing much like a UFO in the sky, causing quite a stir with the people viewing the night sky. The balloon was tracked all the way to West Virginia, Kline said.

“Steppin’ Out has been going for 42 years but they didn’t have it in ’80,” Kline said.

According to a Roanoke Times article published on July 9, 1980, in Virginia Tech’s Special Collections and University Archives, Blacksburg Town Council voted 5-1 rejecting the festival’s request to hold the event that year.

The original Deadwood Days in South Dakota was held in remembrance of the shooting of Wild Bill Hickok, a famous gunfighter and outlaw on the western frontier. The Blacksburg Deadwood Days began to resemble the wild west when the event increasingly became a place of lawlessness and out of control partying resulting in numerous arrests, the



PHOTO BY LORI GRAHAM

John Kline, owner of John’s Cameras and Records, has witnessed the many changes of Steppin’ Out since the 1970s.

article said. When a local teenager was shot and killed after leaving the festival, the 1980 Deadwood Days Summer Festival was canceled.

In 1981, the family friendly Steppin’ Out festival began after local merchants got together to change the face of the event. This August, Steppin’ Out 2023 hosted thousands of visitors and over 200 vendors according to Downtown Blacksburg, Inc., the organizer, and host of the festival.

News Messenger

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Fellows

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Parker urged Council to let the history of the historical importance of African American culture in Blacksburg speak for itself without interpretation.

“Maybe if we let history speak for itself, we will question why we immortalize these slave-owners, these native killers,” Parker said. “It may...even reveal some conflicts of interest in the present. Like how the same bank started by Alexander Black shared the same president and director as the Blacksburg Museum and Cultural Foundation up until 2017,” Parker said.

Brandy Faulkner of Blacksburg represented the New River Valley chapter of Virginia Organizing, a non-profit organization.

According to the organization’s website at www.virginia-organizing.org, their mission is to “challenge injustice by empowering people in local communities to address issues that affect the quality of their lives.”

Faulkner stressed the need for Council to consider how not supporting the restoration and maintenance of a historical location would negatively impact the communities of Blacksburg. Additionally, she expressed concern for the previously mentioned harassment of board members based on gender and race.

Among other obligations the Council has to the historic location and its associated supporters, Faulkner said, “to take seriously the allegations of harassment and inequity and mistreatment from employees, current or past of an organization that you help to fund.”

In other business, Blacksburg Town Council has scheduled a public hearing for September 12, 2023, concerning Ordinance 2023. This ordinance, if approved, would authorize the lease space on the North Main Street water tank to New River Valley Unwired Ventures, LLC.

A public hearing for Conditional Use Permit Request (CUP 23—0003) for Hotel Use and additional height in the Downtown Commercial Zoning District at 501 South Main Street has been postponed.

The Blacksburg Town Council voted unanimously in approval of Ordinance 2025, vacating a waterline easement on land located at 615 Southgate Drive, situated on Virginia Tech property.

Town Attorney Larry Spencer introduced Ordinance 2025 during the public hearing segment of the council meeting on Ordinance 2025.

“They’re constructing a new hangar and they need to vacate part of this easement to facilitate construction of the new hangar. They can’t build the hangar on top of an easement,” Spencer said.

Citizens did not come forward to address the ordinance.

Spencer also introduced Ordinance 2016, which proposes to amend Westview Cemetery Rules and Regulations to establish green burials along with a fee structure.

Linda Plaut of Blacksburg responded in support of the ordinance that would permit green burials in Blacksburg. Plaut serves

as the Secretary of the Funeral Consumers Alliance of the Virginia Blue Ridge and shared a personal story with the Council about a recent green burial of a friend.

“It was an honor to be part of the interment ceremony. Just standing around with a small group of friends, talking about our loved one and tossing flowers on the grave before he was lowered in a very simple shroud” Plaut said. “It was a beautiful ceremony, but we had to drive an hour to get to the nearest place that we could do this and there was expense involved.”

Blacksburg Town Council voted 6-0 in approval of Ordinance 2016, with Mayor Leslie Hager-Smith absent from the meeting.

Ordinance 2029: An Ordinance to Amend Town Code Sections 7-100, 7-103, 7-104, 7-105, 7-108 and 7-109 Pertaining to the Town Cemetery, were approved 6-0 by Town Council.

“The Town Code has a chapter that addresses Westview Cemetery and is part of updating the Rules and Regulations which are separate” Spencer said.

The Town Attorney went on to say that although he has made some changes in adherence to the rules and regulations for green burial, this chapter has not been looked at for some time, meaning there are outdated provisions that should be corrected. However, Spencer said these are minor changes that need to happen.

CROSSWORD

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- CLUES ACROSS**
- Easy as 1-2-3
 - Goat and camel hair fabric
 - A woman’s undergarment
 - British bathrooms
 - Assemblages of parts into one entity
 - Semitic fertility god
 - Dull & uninteresting
 - Yemen capital
 - Stare impertinently
 - Banished persons
 - Heart failure & energy supplement
 - Reduction in force
 - Women’s ___ movement
 - Polynesian wrapped skirt
 - Double-reed instruments
- CLUES DOWN**
- Linen vestment worn by priests
 - The trunk of a tree
 - Transmission line cable
 - Freshwater duck genus
 - Bulk storage container
 - Oil obtained from flowers
 - Shopping containers
 - Abnormal breathing
 - Brew
 - Bake eggs in their shells
 - Serviceable
 - A person in the navy
 - A child’s slight injury
 - Fain
 - Supports trestletree
 - Parian Chronicle discovery site
 - Greek famous for fables
 - Farcical afterpiece
 - Dispatches by mail
 - Hall of Fame (abbr.)
 - Aah
 - Unnaturally pale
 - Before
 - Fixed in one’s purpose
 - Madames
 - Frosts
 - City drains
 - Baseball playoff
 - Cruise
 - Steeple
 - Precipitation
 - Cas ___ : winter melons
 - A unit of two
 - Viewed
 - Taxis
 - 4840 square yards
 - London radio station
 - Perform work regularly
 - Longest geological time

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OBITUARIES

Farmer, Bobby Fuqua

Bobby Fuqua Farmer, 87, gained his angel wings on Sunday, August 6, 2023, surrounded by his family. He was preceded in death by his parents, Claude and Ruth Farmer; and his brother, Jim Farmer. He lost the love of his life, Eula Farmer five years ago and had grieved her passing every day.



He is survived by his daughters and sons-in-law, Brenda Walker (Larry), and Barbara Repass (Eddie); granddaughters, Renee Walker and Kimberly Repass; great grandchildren, Dakota Young and Khloe Woodis; his sister, Dolly Sadler; and many nieces and nephews.

He was a member of Carter Street

Methodist Church since nine years of age. He was a member of the Radford Jaycees, the Lions Club, and served as a volunteer member of the Radford Fire Department. He retired as the Sheriff of Radford in 1999 after 23 years of dedicated service.

The family will receive friends 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. on Monday, August 14, 2023, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services will begin at 2 p.m. with Rev. Betsy King officiating. Interment will follow in West View Cemetery in Radford.

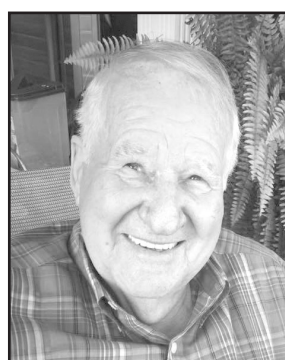
The Farmer family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford.

Vines, Jr., Frank Lee

Frank Lee Vines, Jr., 86, passed away Monday, August 7, 2023, at his home in Belspring surrounded by his family.

He retired from the U. S. Navy after serving 21 years and was also a retired deputy sheriff. He was preceded in death by his parents, Frank Sr. and Elsie Vines; and a son, Wayne Stilwell.

Survivors include his wife, Dallas Vines; son, Rocky Goad; daughters, Shalee Price, Patricia Kast (Tim), Karen Rear (Mickey), and Chrissy Cupp (Greg); adopted son, Tim Price; 12 grandchildren; 26 great grandchildren; brother and sister-in-law, Frederick and Doris Vines;



and many other family members and friends.

The family would like to extend a very special thank you to Carilion Hospice for the amazing care and support they provided during this journey.

The family received friends Thursday, August 10, 2023, at the Mullins Funeral Home

in Radford. Funeral services followed with Pastor Jerry Mitchell and Rev. Gordon McClary officiating. Graveside services with full military honors were held Friday, August 11, 2023, in the Sunrise Burial Park in Radford.

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

See Obituaries, page 6

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 12 Noon, 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 Sonafank, 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 a simple teaching that focuses on the Light and Sound of God to help people find more love in their life. The Roanoke Eckankar Center is located at 1420 3rd St. SW, Roanoke, VA 24016. A spiritual event is held on the 2nd Sunday of each month at 10:30 a.m. Since contracting COVID-19 may still be possible, please take the health steps that are best for you. It is appreciated that by attending you are taking responsibility for your own health. Visit www.eck-va.org, www.meetup.com/Roanoke-Spiritual-Experiences * Group* or call 540-353-5365 for other Eckankar programs and for more information about how the teachings of Eckankar can lead you to spiritual freedom.

EPISCOPAL

Grace Episcopal Church, 210 Fourth Street Radford. Welcoming and accepting, we have been a part of the Radford community for more than 130 years. ALL ARE WELCOME. Grace offers an 8:00am Contemplative Eu-

Montgomery County

WORSHIP DIRECTORY

Stolen Hearts

Read 2 Samuel 14:1 through 15:37

Absalom, King David's son, did not have an easy life. He fled from home after killing his half brother for raping his sister. Eventually he was allowed to return home, but his relationship with his father was strained. Absalom undermined his father's authority by promising that he would be a more compassionate ruler than David.

Absalom behaved in this way toward all the Israelites who came to the king asking for justice, and so he stole the hearts of the people of Israel (2 Samuel 15:6).

Just as Absalom worked to steal the hearts of the people from David, so the devil works to steal the hearts of people from God. The devil tries to get people, even Christians, to doubt God's justice or care and make them think they would be better off without God. God never promised that hard times wouldn't come, but He has promised to be with believers and help them make it through trials. Knowing He will never leave or forsake believers can help us dispel doubts and keep our hearts true to God.

Prayer for Today: Lord, help me guard my heart so I will never doubt Your love and care for me.

Quicklook: 2 Samuel 15:1-6

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

charist and a 10:30am Eucharist with organ music and a choir, with refreshments served afterwards. The 10:30am service is also available on YouTube for those unable to leave their house. Find us on Facebook and www.graceradford.org.

LUTHERAN

Luther Memorial Lutheran Church ELCA, 600 Prices Fork Rd, Blacksburg. Weekly Online Worship at www.lmlc.org. We are a Reconciling in Christ congregation that welcomes and affirms all people just as they are. For information on Bible studies and Wednesday Vespers, email luthermemorialblacksburg@gmail.com, or contact the church office, (540) 951-1000. Rev. Monica Weber, pastor.

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-gbyjmV5ce9mr43db-Cw. Please visit our website at www.oslc-cburg.org and our Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/oslcchristiansburg 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 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

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

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.

Piedmont Pentecostal Holiness Church, 5007 Jewell Dr., Shawsville Va. Sunday morning service 11am. Pastor Tim Clyburn. 8 miles from Shawsville Rt 460, on Alleghany Spring Rd.

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. G. Lance Presley. Sunday School, 9:45 a.m., Sunday Worship, 11:00 a.m. All are welcome.

Central Church, 803 Wadsworth Street, Radford. 639-3529. 8:30 a.m. Sunday Services: 8:30am; 9:45am Sunday School; and 11:00a.m. Child care is provided. www.centralmethodistchurch.com.

St. Paul United Methodist Church, 220 W. Main St., C'Burg. Rev. Mike Derflinger (540) 382-2410. Sunday Worship 10 a.m., Sunday School 9 a.m. Live streaming Sunday Service - www.twitch.tv/stpaulumc

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



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MOUNT TABOR RURITAN CLUB

The PanJammers Steel Drum Orchestra will be entertaining the crowd at the Mount Tabor Ruritan Club's August Fish Fry.

PanJammers to perform at Fish Fry this evening

The PanJammers Steel Drum Orchestra will be entertaining the crowd at the Mount Tabor Ruritan Club's August Fish Fry today, Saturday, Aug. 12, 5 - 7 p.m. at Slusser's Chapel Picnic Shelter, 1543 Mount Tabor Rd, Blacksburg.

The club is serving fish, fries and slaw; homemade desserts; and beverages. Adult meals are \$12, children under 12 are \$6,

children under three eat free, and carry-outs cost \$12. The fish fry is a fundraiser for the Ruritan Club's community service projects and scholarships and is held rain or shine. Call or text 540-449-6178 for further information. On Facebook at MtTaborRuritan.

- Mount Tabor Ruritan Club

NRCC offers engineering design technology program

New River Community College's engineering design technology associate degree program is now enrolling students for the fall 2023 semester. The program is designed to prepare graduates for full-time employment as qualified engineering design technicians and computer-aided design (CAD) technicians to work with engineers, as well as industries and businesses.

Graduates of the program will be capable of complex reverse engineering techniques, advanced parametric solid modeling, additive manufacturing 3D printing, producing engineering design

drawings, and advanced conceptual 3D modeling.

Approximately two-thirds of the program includes courses in engineering design technology, reverse engineering, and additive manufacturing (3D printing) with the remaining courses in related areas, general education, and electives. Instruction includes both theoretical concepts and practical applications with a focus on "real world" project completion that is needed for future success.

Graduates of the program are prepared for careers as engineering design technicians, engineer design specialists, additive

manufacturing/3D printing technicians, CAD technicians, and more.

Engineering design technology is one of NRCC's many G3-eligible programs. G3 is a tuition assistance program for any Virginia resident who qualifies for in-state tuition and whose family income falls below an identified threshold. For more information about G3 tuition assistance, visit www.nr.edu/g3.

Classes begin August 23. For more information, visit www.nr.edu/edt or email Jeff Levy, instructor of drafting, at jlevy@nr.edu.

- NRCC

Expert offers tips for combating the invasive spotted lanternfly



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE INSECT ID LAB IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ENTOMOLOGY

Virginia's most infamous hitchhiker is on the move again: the spotted lanternfly.

These insects colonize quickly, disrupt native ecosystems, and potentially cause problems to human health and agriculture.

The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and the Department of Entomology at Virginia Tech and the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services have partnered to empower the citizens of the commonwealth to take action themselves on these most unwelcome visitors.

"We need to prevent spotted lanternfly from going somewhere else and becoming a problem. Make sure it does not move on vehicles or plants

and remove and squish any you find," said Eric Day, manager of the Insect ID Lab in the Department of Entomology.

If seen, join the effort by stomping, treating, and checking for this destructive, invasive insect. Virginia Cooperative Extension has resources for controlling the spotted lanternfly.

Before you move items stored outside, check for spotted lanternflies on:

- RVs, ATVs, boats, hunting stands, trailers, and portable buildings
- Building materials and stones
- Propane tanks
- Outdoor machinery
- Pallets
- Containers
- Garden

Equipment

- Outdoor furniture
- Play sets or toys
- Other exposed surfaces

• Before you leave your home or work site, check for spotted lanternflies on your vehicle:

- Doors and sides
- Grill
- Bumpers
- Wheel wells
- Roof
- Cargo area

In addition to the actions that everyone can take, Virginia Cooperative Extension has an abundant library of digital and online publications and resources, including additional resources on the spotted lanternfly, geared toward providing our communities with specialized information tailored to local environments and challenges.

Virginia Tech

CROSSWORD ANSWERS														
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Radford alum joins CHCNRV as Family Nurse Practitioner

The Community Health Center of the New River Valley (CHCNRV) welcomes Megan Riggs as a Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) in the Christiansburg office.

Riggs recently completed her FNP degree at Radford University Carilion but has been a Registered Nurse in the New River Valley since 2013, working in primary care, occupational health, home health, and medical-surgical nursing.

She received her MSN from Radford University Carilion and her Bachelor of Science from Radford University. Before joining CHCNRV, she worked with leading organizations such as Carillion Home Health, Anthem, and Lewis-Gale. Riggs is from Pulaski County.

"We are excited for Megan to join our medical staff," said Michelle Brauns, MS, APR, CEO of The Community Health



Megan Riggs

PHOTO COURTESY OF CHCNRV

Center of the New River Valley. "She brings a diverse experience to our practice and a proven commitment to bringing quality care to our patients with the added benefit of being from the community."

The Community Health Center of the New River Valley provides affordable and high-quality family medical, dental, behavioral, and

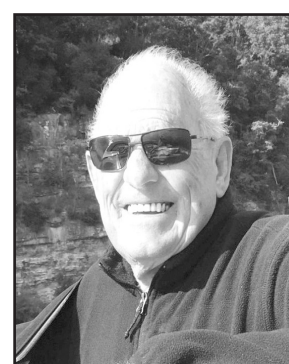
preventive health care services to people of all ages, regardless of ability to pay. For more information about the Community Health Center's services and programs in Dublin, Christiansburg, and Pearisburg, visit our website at www.chcnrv.org or call 540-381-0820.

- CHCNRV

Obituaries from page 5

Johnson, John Page

John Page Johnson "JJ", 78, of Radford, passed away on August 6, 2023, from a severe stroke. He fought a brave battle but complications made it impossible for him to recover. The Johnson family would like to thank the staff at Roanoke Carilion Hospital, Radford Health & Rehab, Intrepid Hospice, and Dr. Charles Judy for their professional and compassionate care for John.



the outpouring of love, support, and prayers since John's stroke on June 3rd. John enjoyed each and every heartfelt card and message read to him, and the family enjoyed the stories he shared about the friends who sent them!

In lieu of a public service, please consider making a charitable

donation in John's memory. FOCL (Friends of Claytor Lake) and Unity Christian Church in Radford are the two beneficiaries of his choice. John and his family have been lifetime members of Unity (formerly First Christian Church), and he has been a passionate board member and volunteer for FOCL since its inception in 1992. FOCL's mission is to care for Claytor Lake by cleaning up debris, maintaining water quality, protecting shoreline, and even promoting fish habitats and native vegetation growth. John grew up boating on Claytor Lake, and raised his own family with lots of time and summer vacations spent on the lake. Eventually his and Betty's dream of living on Claytor Lake came true, with lots of Family Lake Days!

For FOCL donations, please visit www.focl.org to give online, or checks can be mailed to:

Friends of Claytor Lake (FOCL), 6580 Valley Center Drive, Room 318, Fairlawn, VA 24141

For Unity Christian Church donations, please visit www.unitychristianchurchradford.org to give online, or checks can be mailed to:

Unity Christian Church, 400 Tyler Avenue, Radford, VA 24141.

The Johnson family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home in Radford.

Born in Roanoke, John grew up in Galax, and was a graduate of Eastern Kentucky University. He was a manufacturer's representative in the furniture industry for over 50 years where he made so many lifelong friends. John had a wonderful gift for connecting with people, a true "people person," and worked his way into the hearts of many. We know he was grateful for, and loved, his family and friends very much! Over the years, John's passions included snow skiing, traveling, racquetball, movies, yard work, pickleball, and most of all, spending time with his family boating, jet skiing, and enjoying beautiful Claytor Lake.

John was preceded in death by his parents, John "Red" and Roberta Johnson; a brother, Bob Johnson; and sister-in-law, Ann Johnson, all of Galax. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Betty Lou Morris Johnson; son, Tom P. Johnson and his wife Beth of Radford; daughter, Hillary J. Thompson and her husband, Wes, of Salem; and grandsons Tristan P. Johnson, Avery P. Thompson, and Aspen C. Thompson.

Per John's wishes, his life will be celebrated with a private family memorial at the lake. The family would like to thank everyone for

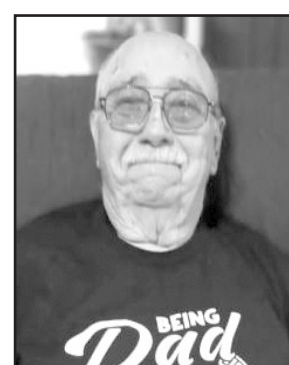
Tallant, Sr., William Malcolm

William Malcolm Tallant, Sr., 82, of Radford, passed away Monday, August 7, 2023, in Lewis-Gale Medical Center in Salem.

He was a retired U. S. Army veteran having served during the Vietnam War. After his military career he retired from VA Tech

after 20 years as a communication technician. He was preceded in death by his parents, Charles William and Mary Katherine Tallant; his wife, Mary Ellen Tallant; and brothers, Johnny "J.C." Tallant and Eugene Tallant.

Survivors include his son, William Malcolm Tallant, Jr.; daughters, Velma Katherine "Kathy" Price and Eugenia Rosemary Akers; grandchildren,



Leslie, Christina, Ryan, Crystal, Courtney, Tiffany, Mandy and Andrew; 20 great grandchildren; brother, Charles William Tallant, Jr. of Pulaski; sisters, Louise Robbins of Radford, and Barbara Akers of Dublin; and many other relatives and friends.

The family received friends Thursday, August 10, 2023, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services followed with Pastor Cameron Mitchell officiating. Interment with full military honors followed at 1 p.m. in the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin.

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

game time
AT THE SUPERBOWL

Fall Leagues Schedule 2023
Many Leagues Begin Middle of August

LEAGUE SCHEDULE

Monday Moose (Meeting August 14th)
Tuesday Open (Begins August 15th)

Call 540-382-5525 for information about all leagues

575 Arbor Drive, Christiansburg
540-382-5525 • www.nrvsuperbowl.biz

MONTGOMERY SPORTS

Auburn's Kirsten Fleet named All-American

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@mainstreetnewspapers.com

Kirsten Fleet led Auburn High School to another state softball title this past spring, earning all-state player of the year honors.

This week, she was named to the Max Preps All-American team.

The list includes 60 players with selections based on a combination of factors, such as statistics provided to MaxPreps, local honors, coach nominations, team success and other relevant factors.

The James Madison University commit dominated in all phases of the game for the Eagles this spring. In the circle, she fanned 389, finished with a 0.48 ERA and held opponents to a 0.87 batting average. At the plate, she hit .456 with 11 home runs.

The right-handed Fleet started and completed 27 games this season with a 26-1 record pitching 175 innings, striking out 389 batters with an ERA of 0.48, allowing 17 runs (12 earned runs), 20 shoutouts, nine no-hitters, and five perfect games. Additionally, she limited opposing batters to 51 hits and 18 walks.



Kirsten Fleet

FILE PHOTO

RU basketball tickets now on sale

Season tickets for the 2023-24 Radford Men's and Women's Basketball season are now on sale at radfordtickets.com or by calling 540-831-7889.

Now entering Head Coach Darris Nichols' third season at Radford, the men's basketball program is poised for another great year. Coming off a 21-win season that included a pair of victories in the CBI, the Highlanders bring back starters Bryan Antoine, DaQuan Smith and Justin Archer while adding reinforcements such as Chandler Turner (Bowling Green), Josiah Harris (St. Francis Brooklyn) and TJ NeSmith (Lenoir Rhyne).

Reigning Big South Freshman of the Year Ashlyn Traylor-Walker returns to lead a women's basketball program that will have a new-look roster under Head Coach Mike McGuire. Standout freshmen Olivia Wagner, Maci Rhoades and Emma Fox also return for an encore with 10 newcomers for fans to familiarize themselves with, including Traylor-Walker sisters Pa'Shence and Adelyn.

Friday, September 22 is the renewal deadline for season ticket holders. Renewal information has been sent to the 2022-23 basketball season ticket holders, but fans can renew online at any time, reserve by phone, or visit the ticket office in the Dedmon Center during normal business hours. Following the renewal deadline, preferred seating locations will be released to the general public on a first-come, first-serve basis and cannot be guaranteed.

Season tickets for both men's and women's basketball are discounted to all current Radford University faculty and staff. Call the Radford Ticket Office for more information on pricing. Radford faculty and staff can also take advantage and sign up for payroll deductions and split the total cost into equal payments and pay over time. This option is offered for a limited time only.

Men's basketball season tickets start as low as \$75 for general admission, less than \$6 per game. For fans looking for the same seat each game, we offer reserved chairback tickets for only \$130. Discounted season tickets are available to young alumni who have graduated within the last

five years.

Bringing out the whole family has never been easier with our General Admission Family Plan for only \$150, including four general admission tickets to every home men's game.

Youth season tickets for men's basketball start as low as \$30 for general admission and \$75 for a reserved chairback ticket.

Women's basketball season tickets start as low as \$50.00 for reserved chairback tickets. Fans 18 years or younger are admitted into all regular-season home women's basketball games for free in our general admission sections.

For Highlander fans who are interested in purchasing both men's and women's basketball tickets, Radford offers an affordable way to do both with combination season tickets. Combo season tickets start as low as \$100.00 which equals out to be less than \$4 per game between both men's and women's basketball. Reserved chairback option for combo season tickets are only \$160 for both sports.

Radford Athletics has implemented a clear bag policy at the Dedmon Center starting for the 2023-24 basketball season. The policy is designed to put Radford in line with the majority of college and professional venues in terms of fan safety measures.

Radford Athletics encourages fans to leave all bags at home, but the following items will be allowed into the Dedmon Center:

Any clear plastic or vinyl bag no larger than 12" x 12" x 6". A single gallon size freezer bag is acceptable.

Small clutch purses no larger than 4.5" x 6.5"

Necessary medical items following inspection at entry gates

Small diaper bag for families with infants and/or toddlers present

Seat cushion with no pockets that is no larger than 16"

Prohibited items include but are not limited to the following: purses larger than a clutch bag, coolers, briefcases, backpacks, computer bags, and camera bags.

Radford fans never have to miss any of the action this season thanks to new technology coming to the Dedmon Center. With the launch of mobile concession

ordering, fans can order food and drinks on their phone and skip the line, not the game.

Mobile concession users have the ability to skip the line with an express pickup location once your food is ready. All standard game day concessions will be available including hot dogs, popcorn, sodas, water and more. This cashless and contactless option is available by simply scanning a QR code provided at each seat, digitally taking fans to the mobile ordering platform.

Mobile ordering will be available at all men's and women's basketball games starting this season.

Premium hospitality is returning to the Dedmon Center again this year with the National Bank Courtside Lounge. Located in the south end zone, the courtside lounge gives members access to premium hospitality in the heart of the action. Access will include complimentary hors d'oeuvres, soft drinks and waters, plus a cash bar will be available to purchase beer, wine and hard seltzers.

Membership is very limited, and you must be a season ticket holder in the reserved chairback (sections 1-5) section or have courtside seats in order to sign up. In addition, membership requires an annual \$500 gift per person to the Highlander Club General Fund. Gifts earmarked for a sport specific account will not be counted.

To secure your membership visit thehighlanderclub.com/ give and designate your gift to the Highlander Club Annual Fund. For questions related to the National Bank Courtside Lounge, call 540-831-7667 or email us at highlanderclub@radford.edu.

Join the Highlander Club for additional benefits such as priority seating, hospitality access, parking privileges, invitations to special events and much more! Your support is tax-deductible and your gift will truly make an impact on our student-athletes and programs. For more information on giving levels and benefits, please contact the Highlander Club at highlanderclub@radford.edu or by phone at 540-831-7667.

Radford University Athletics

Hokies, Boise State to play in ESPN events

The bracket for the 2023 ESPN Events Invitational was revealed Tuesday, with Virginia Tech drawing Boise State in its opener on Thursday, Nov. 23 at 8 p.m.

The eight-team tournament will be held Thanksgiving weekend – Thursday, Nov. 23, Friday, Nov. 24 and Sunday, Nov. 26 – at State Farm Field House at ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex near Orlando, Fla.

Six of the eight participating teams played in the 2023 NCAA Tournament: Florida Atlantic (Final Four), Penn State (second round) as well as Boise State, Iowa State, Texas A&M and VCU. Three schools in the field – Butler (2010 and 2011), Florida Atlantic (2023) and VCU (2011) – have made Final Four appearances since 2010.

Matchup Highlights

Florida Atlantic, the first ESPN Events Invitational team coming off a Final Four appearance since Villanova in 2018, and currently ranked No. 9 in ESPN.com's Way-Too-Early Top 25, will open their first invitational against the Big East's Butler.

Texas A&M, ranked No. 19 in ESPN.com's Way-Too-Early Top 25, will play Penn State from the Big Ten.

VCU, also a newcomer to the ESPN Events Invitational, tips off against the Big 12's Iowa State.

Boise State, an NCAA Tournament team

last season, will play its first ever ESPN Events Invitational game against Virginia Tech, a 2023 NIT participant. It will be the first-ever matchup between the Hokies and the Broncos.

The 2023 ESPN Events Invitational, a bracket-format tournament, will feature 12 games over the three days. Each team will compete in one game per day, advancing through a bracket-tournament format. The two teams that remain undefeated throughout will face off in a championship match Sunday, Nov. 26.

This is the 17th year Walt Disney World has hosted the tournament at ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex. All the games will once again be played at State Farm Field House a venue that has been the site of world-class basketball competitions including NBA games and elite youth tournaments.

Tickets are on sale now through Ticketmaster.

All-Tournament tickets are available at a \$15 discount through Friday, August 11 using the promo code "MAGIC." Single-Session tickets are available now for the Lower Center Court tier. Single-session tickets for all other tiers will go on sale Oct. 2.

Virginia Tech Athletics



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Five named to Radford University HOF

Radford University Athletics has announced five new members that will be inducted into the Radford Athletics Hall of Fame in October.

The Class of 2023 will include Eddie Butler (Baseball), Mickey Dean (Softball), Martin Sayer (Men's Tennis), Kristen Shifflett (Softball) and Anthony Walker (Men's Basketball).

The five-member class will be the 20th to be inducted into the Radford Athletics Hall of Fame. This year's induction ceremony will once again help kick off Homecoming Weekend festivities and will be held inside Kyle Hall on October 20. For more information on the Radford Athletics Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, click here.

EDDIE BUTLER
Baseball | 2010-12

There is no disputing that Butler was one of the most talented players to ever don the Radford Baseball uniform. The righty was a two-time All-Big South selection and was voted as the Big South and VaSID Pitcher of the

Year in 2012 after the school's single-season ERA record. He ranks second in program history for career wins (22), third for career shutouts (3), fourth for career strikeouts (232), seventh for career starts (43) and eighth for career ERA (3.84). Butler went on to become the first player in Big South history to be drafted in the first round of the Major League Baseball First Year Player Draft, going 46th overall to the Colorado Rockies.

MICKEY DEAN
Head Softball Coach | 2007-12

In his six years at the helm of the Radford Softball program, Dean cemented himself as one of the greatest coaches ever to represent the Highlanders. His teams achieved an overall record of 241-116 (.675), including an 84-21 (.800) in the Big South Conference, making Radford the winningest program in the state of Virginia from 2006-09. He led Radford to four Big South regular season championships and a pair of Big South Tournament titles, claiming the

program's first three NCAA Tournament victories as well. Dean earned four consecutive Big South Coach of the Year honors as a result. He is currently the Head Softball Coach at Auburn University in the Southeastern Conference (SEC).

MARTIN SAYER
Men's Tennis | 2005-09

Following his tragic passing, Martin Sayer will be inducted posthumously. The king of the court for four straight years, Sayer emerged as the most dominant player Radford has ever seen. With the most singles wins in program history (114) and the fourth-most doubles

(65), Sayer was a four-time Big South Player of the Year, four-time All-Big South player in both singles and doubles, and a four-time NCAA Tournament participant. He is one of just two Big South athletes to ever win at the NCAA Individual Tournament, cementing his place on the 2000's Big South All-Decade Team as well.

K R I S T E N SHIFFLETT
Softball | 2008-11

A catalyst for Radford Softball's most successful era, Shifflett sits at the top of nearly every category in the program's record books. She is first in program history for career runs scored (179) and

led for first for doubles (53), as well as second in program history for career hits (246), home runs (41), slugging percentage (.563), total bases (436) and assists (497). A three-time First Team All-Big South selection and two-time Big South Tournament MVP, Shifflett's premier campaign came in 2010 when she was named Big South and VaSID Player of the Year and Big South Female Student-Athlete of the Year.

ANTHONY WALKER
Men's Basketball | 1993-97

Walker was named Big South Freshman of the Year in his debut season as a Highlander and never

looked back. A two-time All-Big South selection, he is one of just six players in program history to score 1,600 points and is sixth all-time with 14.7 points per game. He dished it out as well as he could score it, ranking second in program history with 510 career assists. Beyond that, Walker remains in the top-10 in Radford Men's Basketball history for career field goals made, 3-point FG made, 3-point FG percentage, free throws made, free throw percentage, steals, and games started.

Radford University Athletics



PHOTO COURTESY OF RU ATHLETICS

Radford, Marshall universities to face off at Greenbriar

The Radford University men's basketball program will face off against the Marshall Thundering Herd in a standalone neutral site game at The Greenbrier on Friday, Nov. 10 to launch a new long-term partnership

between the resort and Intersport. Now entering Head Coach Darris Nichols' third season at Radford, the men's basketball program is poised for another great year. Coming off a 21-win season

that included a pair of victories in the CBI, the Highlanders bring back starters Bryan Antoine, DaQuan Smith and Justin Archer while adding reinforcements such as Chandler Turner (Bowling Green), Josiah Harris (St. Francis Brooklyn) and TJ NeSmith (Lenoir Rhyne).

Marshall will look to follow up a strong 2022-23 season in which it went 24-8 overall and 13-5 in the Sun Belt. The Thundering Herd ranked eighth in the nation in scoring offense, averaging 81.8 points per game, a figure that can be attributed in large part to incredible ball movement that ranked fifth in the country with 17.5 assists per contest. Leading scorers Taevion Kinsey (22.1 ppg) and Andrew Taylor (20.2 ppg) have both graduated however, leaving Head Coach Dan D'Antoni with some work to do heading into 2023-24.

The resort, situated in the Allegheny Mountains in White Sulphur Springs, W. Va., has become synonymous with world-class, authentic, southern hospitality.

Founded in 1778, The Greenbrier is the premium vacation destination fit for any personality, from luxury shopping and dining experiences to championship-level golf and other outdoor adventures. In total, the resort features more than 55 indoor and outdoor activities, more than 35 retail shops, five golf courses and 20 dining and lounge venues on more than 11,000 acres of land in the picturesque West Virginia mountains.

Colonial Hall inside the resort, at more than 16,000 square feet, will serve as the playing venue for the Radford-Marshall contest. Tickets for the Radford-Marshall game will be available in the coming weeks, but fans can register to receive email notifications regarding ticket details and other event news by visiting www.greenbrier.com/holidays-events/basketball.

The Radford University Alumni Relations office will be securing a special rate for the event. Please contact Executive Director for Alumni Relations Laura Turk (lturk@radford.edu) if you would like to be added to the list for access.

Over the years, The Greenbrier has routinely staged must-see sporting events that has made the resort a popular destination for sports fans. The resort was a regular stop on the PGA Tour from 2010 through 2019, hosted the 1979 Ryder Cup, the first that matched the United States against Europe, and the 1994 Solheim Cup. In tennis, stars like Serena and Venus Williams, John McEnroe, Pete Sampras, Andre Agassi and Martina Hingis have all participated in showcase events at The Greenbrier, while Colonial Hall has even played host to elite boxing events featuring Evander Holyfield. Most recently, The Greenbrier hosted the Cleveland Browns for portions of their 2023 training camp and LIV Golf held an event at the resort this past weekend.

—RU Athletics

ONLINE AUCTION

Ends Wednesday, August 23rd at 4 PM
Multi-Use Barn for Sale at Auction in Pulaski County!
4241 Lee Highway, Dublin, VA 24301

Bid Now at VAAuctionPro.com



We present a remarkable opportunity for investors, entrepreneurs, and nature enthusiasts alike! This multi-use barn style structure sits on 10 acres of pristine land in Pulaski County.

This extraordinary property, built in 1960 and in good condition, offers endless possibilities and holds immense potential for various purposes. The barn would be perfect for conversion into an auditorium, event center, barndominium residence, or even a mini farm. The main structure has 7,824 square feet with gathering areas and an office. The exterior is brick and metal roof. Property has public water and private septic. Mini-split units for heating and cooling. The interior is wood and concrete. There is also a machine shed and a brick building with a kitchen and restroom.

The barn, with its rustic charm and sturdy construction, invites creative minds to explore the vast potential within. With ample space and a versatile layout, you can customize this structure to suit your specific needs. Transform it into an auditorium or event center, hosting memorable gatherings and celebrations. Alternatively, convert it into a cozy barndominium residence, embracing the unique blend of rural aesthetics and modern comfort. For those seeking a slice of country living, this property is ideal for establishing a mini-farm or a family retreat, surrounded by nature's beauty.

Sprawling across 10 acres of picturesque landscape, while being situated in a highly desirable area. This property offers great potential for commercial use, benefiting from a strategic and accessible location. Whether you're envisioning a commercial establishment or a tranquil family retreat, this property is suitable for a range of ventures. The property is currently under agriculture zoning. Bidders are expected to research and verify what uses are permitted by Pulaski County.

Investors will appreciate the commercial prospects that this property holds, thanks to its prime location. With high visibility and easy access, you can tap into the growing demand for commercial spaces in Pulaski County, making it an excellent opportunity for various business ventures.

Terms - 10% Buyer's Premium will be added to final high bid to arrive at contract price. Earnest Money Deposit of \$10,000 required on day of sale. Close on or before October 9th, 2023. Subject to seller confirmation. Property sold as is, where is with any and all faults. Buyer is expected to complete their own due diligence. Please note that during the last two minutes of bidding, if a new bid is placed, the clock is automatically extended an additional two minutes. Be sure to register to bid early to ensure you receive notifications regarding any changes to the Auction, Bidder Packet and/or Pre-Auction offers received. Download Bidder Information Pack for complete terms and conditions, purchase contract and maps.

CONTACT – Broker & Auctioneer Matt Gallimore at 540-239-2585 or email gallimore.matt@gmail.com. You can also contact Realtor Jason Underwood at 540-230-9516 or underwoodlandman@gmail.com

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