



Sinkland Farms Pumpkin Festival named in top 10 pumpkin patches in U.S.

Sinkland Farms has been named in the top 10 pumpkin patches in the United States by USA Today.

The Riner farm was ranked number three in the list and is the only Virginia pumpkin patch to make the list.

"It's an incredible honor, and we couldn't have done it without [the public's] support," said Susan Sink, owner of Sinkland Farms, when the farm was nominated to be in the running.

"At these 10 pumpkin patches — selected by an expert panel and voted as the best in the United States by our readers — you're sure to find the perfect pumpkin for carving or decorating your dining table," USA Today says of the list. "Some even offer pie pumpkins for baking. Plus, there's just something about visiting a pumpkin patch, many with hayrides and yummy treats, that puts you in the fall spirit."

Sinkland Farms' 33rd Annual Pumpkin Festival kicks off this weekend. The festival runs from Sept. 27 to Nov. 3, 2024, across six weekends, "promises a unique and unforgettable experience

for visitors of all ages," according to Sinkland Farms. "Start your journey by selecting the perfect pumpkin from a vast array of sizes and colors, ideal for fall decorations or carving your Halloween masterpiece. Then, hop on a hayride to the picturesque pumpkin patch, navigate the challenging five-acre corn maze, and indulge in a variety of fun-filled activities designed to delight the whole family.

Attractions include:

The Corn Maze: Test your sense of direction in the corn maze, featuring six-foot-wide paths that twist and turn across five acres. Armed with a maze map, challenge yourself to locate all the hidden points of interest and see how quickly you can find your way out.

Hayrides and more: After conquering the maze, take a relaxing hayride through the scenic farm, cheer on your favorite pig at the thrilling pig races, and much more.

Kids' Adventures: Little ones can enjoy pony rides, meet a Fairytale Princess, or get a friendly scare from the resident scarecrows. Plus, there's



PHOTO COURTESY OF SINKLAND FARMS

The Sinkland Farms Pumpkin Festival kicks off this weekend. Sinkland Farms was recently named as the number three pumpkin patch in the United States.

live music and a variety of entertainment to keep everyone smiling, all while parents relax with a beer or wine on the terrace.

Local artisans and sweet treats: Discover an array of hand-crafted goods from talented local artists and

crafters. Satisfy your sweet tooth with Sinkland's famous kettle corn or indulge in creamy, hand-dipped ice cream. Don't forget to visit The Cottage Shoppe, stocked full of seasonal treats

See Pumpkins, page 3

GRAPHIC COURTESY OF MONTGOMERY MUSEUM OF ART AND HISTORY

Montgomery Museum Aviation Art + History reception set for tomorrow

CHRISTIANSBURG - The Montgomery Museum of Art & History is proud to announce its upcoming history exhibit, "Above: A History of Montgomery County Aviation," sponsored by Wing Aviation.

This exhibit explores and

celebrates the county's rich legacy in aviation, featuring historic artifacts and stories highlighting the community's impact on the skies above us.

Montgomery County has long been at the forefront of aviation and aerospace innovation, from the

establishment of the aeronautics curriculum at Virginia Tech in 1929 to the role of the Radford Arsenal in rocket fuel development. The region's contributions to the field continue into the modern

See Aviation, page 3

Administrator addresses school board on potential Dual Language Immersion Academy

Angelica Ramos
Contributing writer

MONTGOMERY COUNTY- The Administrator of Gifted Programs for MCPS, Helen Fontinos, presented to the MCPS School Board a new potential language

learning opportunity for MCPS students.

Fontinos presented to the school board at its Sept. 17, 2024 meeting about a language learning opportunity that would be called the MCPS Dual Language Immersion

Academy. Fontinos explained in her presentation that DLI (Dual Language Immersion) is a program that would encourage and provide

See School Board, page 3

Little Hokies enjoy pregame festivities



PHOTO COURTESY OF VT ATHLETICS

Some young Virginia Tech Hokie fans have a little pregame fun before Saturday's football game at Lane Stadium. For game coverage, please see today's sports on page 7 and 8.

Woman killed in two-vehicle crash on Radford Road

A 22-year-old woman was killed in a car crash Monday morning on Route 11 just outside the City of Radford in Montgomery County.

According to the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office (MCSO), the crash occurred just after 7:30 a.m. on Monday, Sept. 23. The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, Montgomery County Fire and Rescue, Christiansburg Fire Department, Christiansburg Rescue, Radford City Police Department and Radford City Fire/EMS responded to the crash, which occurred near the 3800 block of Radford Road.

"There were two vehicles involved, the

driver of the vehicle traveling west lost control due to slick pavement caused by rain and crossed into the path of a vehicle traveling east," according to MCSO. "The driver of the vehicle traveling west was a 22-year-old Kelsey Patton of Max Meadows, who was pronounced deceased at the scene. The other vehicle was occupied by an adult male, adult female and a small child. All three of those occupants were transported to local hospitals with unknown injuries."

The scene is being investigated by the New River Valley Regional Crash Team.

Staff report

Man killed by Christiansburg police officer

A man was killed by a Christiansburg police officer after a 911 call led to a foot chase after the man displayed a knife.

According to the Town of Christiansburg, Christiansburg Police and the Montgomery County Sheriff's Department responded to a call about a suspicious person observed near Viewland Circle in the Mud Pike area of Montgomery County near the Christiansburg town limits on Friday, Sept. 20, 2024 at approximately 1:51p.m.

"Deputies with the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office responded and observed an individual who displayed a knife and then fled on foot, deputies followed," according to the information released by the Town of Christiansburg. "Deputies temporarily lost sight of the suspect and a foot search followed. Due to the proximity of the call, Christiansburg Police responded to assist with search operations."

"At approximately 2:15p.m. Christiansburg

Police observed the suspect. The suspect then fled into a wooded area. Christiansburg Police and Montgomery County Sheriff's deputies followed. As officers pursued, the suspect exited the tree line and pointed a weapon at a Christiansburg Police officer. Christiansburg Police then shot the suspect. Officers rendered aid to the suspect, until Christiansburg EMS arrived. The suspect was pronounced dead at the scene.

No law enforcement officers were injured in the incident.

The incident has been turned over to Virginia State Police for investigation. According to the VSP, the Virginia State Police, Bureau of Criminal Investigation, Salem Field Office, will be investigating the shooting.

"Upon the completion of the investigation, the findings will be turned over to the Montgomery County Commonwealth Attorney's Office for review and adjudication," the VSP stated.

Staff report

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, Sept. 25:

Blacksburg Farmers Market

At Market Square Park, 100 Draper Rd SW, Blacksburg; 2 – 6 p.m. The market is a local, family-friendly gathering place in downtown Blacksburg featuring farmers of locally grown produce and meats, alongside artisans of baked goods and handmade crafts. For more information, visit <http://blacksburgfarmersmarket.com>.

Market Square Jam

Blacksburg's Market Square Jam is an official Crooked Road affiliated venue that provides fun and entertainment on Wednesday evenings, June through September. The jam takes place at Market Square Park from 7-9 p.m. For more information and a list of hosts, please visit blacksburg.gov/marketsquarejam.

Free GED Prep Classes with NRCC

At the Radford Public Library, 9 a.m. – noon. Join NRCC in the community room for free GED prep classes! For more info call 540-674-3682.

Thursday, Sept. 26:

Christmas Store fundraiser at Eastern Divide

The Montgomery County Christmas Store will kick off its fundraising campaign at Eastern Divide from 3 to 9 p.m. For each pint, flight, or soda sold, Eastern Divide will donate \$1. Featured will be a silent auction with many great items (<https://auctria.com/auction/MCCSFallFundraiser>). Bring a package of children's socks or underwear and be entered to win a door prize. Come out to raise money for the Christmas Store to help neighbors in need.

Montgomery Museum Aviation Art + History reception

Above: A History of Montgomery County Aviation," sponsored by Wing Aviation. Exhibit explores and celebrates the county's rich legacy in aviation, featuring historic artifacts and stories highlighting the community's impact on the skies above us. Historic photographs, uniforms, and World War II aviator gloves provide tangible links to the important local contributions to the war effort during the 1940s. Two modern commercial delivery drones and other artifacts will showcase the culmination of the work, research, and innovation produced by the Virginia Tech Mid Atlantic Aviation Partnership. Complementing the historical exhibit is a special art showcase celebrating 'Flight,' featuring works by local artists. The exhibit opening and reception will take place Thursday, Sept. 26, from 5 – 7 p.m. at the Montgomery Museum of Art & History, located at 4 East Main St., Christiansburg. Guests will enjoy free hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar during the event.

International Paddling Film Festival at The Lyric

Blacksburg Parks and Recreation will host the 19th annual Paddling Film Festival at the Lyric Theatre at 6:30 p.m. The Paddling Film Festival is an international adventure film tour presenting the world's best paddling films of the year – whitewater, sea kayaking, canoeing, SUP, action, and lifestyle – in more than 120 cities and towns across Canada, the United States, and around the world. With 29 inspiring paddling films shortlisted

for the World Tour, including the 11 festival category winners, audiences will see hairy whitewater action, sea kayakers exploring remote coastlines, northern river canoe expeditions, international river travel films, motivating environmental documentaries and grueling kayak fishing battles. The Paddling Film Festival World Tour is produced by Rapid Media. Doors open at 6 p.m. Tickets are on sale now: <https://www.thelyric.com/event/2024-paddling-film-festival/>.

Saturday, Sept. 28:

Pilot Community Center Celebration

The Pilot Community Center (former Pilot School) was recently added to the State and National Registers of Historic Places. Celebrate these designations and also honor former teachers and students of the Pilot School, 1 p.m. Pilot Community Center, 4449 Brush Creek Road, Pilot. Unveiling of historical designation plaques, live music, refreshments, prizes, and lots of good memories. This event is free to the public.

Annual Blues, Brews & BBQ

Blacksburg Museum and Cultural Foundation's 9th Annual Blues, Brews & BBQ, noon – 5 p.m., at St. Luke and Odd Fellows Hall. Admission is free, though a \$10 donation is suggested. Seating is limited. Attendees are encouraged to bring chairs. Performance schedule: 12:30-1:30 p.m. The JoJo Stockton Project, 2-3 p.m. McFadden and Friends. 3:30-4:30 p.m. Lady D and Mi\$\$ion. Beer and wine, barbeque, and sweet treats for purchase from Blue Ridge Beverage, Kirk's Famous BBQ, and Next Door Bake Shop. NAACP and The League of Women Voters will provide voter registration information. Free parking at the Gilbert Street Parking Garage. Proceeds go toward the continued preservation of St. Luke and Odd Fellows Hall, which will be open to guests during the event. For more information, visit: <https://blacksburgmuseum.org/>.

Blacksburg Farmers Market

At Market Square Park, 100 Draper Rd SW, Blacksburg; 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. The Blacksburg Farmers Market is a local, family-friendly gathering place in downtown Blacksburg featuring farmers of locally grown produce and meats, alongside artisans of baked goods and handmade crafts. For more information, visit <http://blacksburgfarmersmarket.com>.

Radford Farmer's Market

Every Saturday through October; 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. on the grounds of Glencoe Mansion, 600 Unruh Dr. Visit weekly for an ever-changing supply of homemade goodies, crafts, plants, meats, produce, and more.

Sunday, Sept. 29:

Vintage Market

At Market Square Park, 100 Draper Rd SW, Blacksburg; 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. The market is made up of a carefully chosen group of vendors selling a wide selection of quality vintage items, upcycled crafts, and occasional antiques. For more information, visit blacksburgfarmersmarket.com/vintage-market/.

Monday, Sept. 30:

Free GED Prep Classes with NRCC

At the Radford Public Library, 9 a.m. – noon. Join NRCC in the community room for free GED prep classes! For more info call 540-674-3682.

Monday, Oct. 14:

Radford City Council meeting

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

Montgomery County Board of Supervisors meeting

Public meetings are normally held the second and fourth Monday of each month at the Montgomery County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St. in Christiansburg. Closed sessions begin at 6 p.m. if needed. Open sessions begin at 7:15 p.m. Citizens are invited to attend and allowed to speak at each meeting. All regular meetings of the Board of Supervisors are rebroadcast on Montgomery County Comcast and Shentel Channels 190 daily.

Tuesday, Oct. 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 St.). 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.

Ongoing:

Menagerie, exhibit at Fine Arts Center for the NRV

Fine Arts Center for the New River Valley presents Menagerie, celebrating the diverse talents of artists residing in the NRV. At the Fine Arts Center in Pulaski at 21 West Main St., Pulaski, through Oct. 5, 2024. Some artwork contains mature content and may not be suitable for children.

Glencoe Mansion art exhibit by Sidra Kaluszka

Glencoe Mansion, Museum & Gallery will host "Do You Dream In Color," an art exhibition by artist Sidra Kaluszka for September and October at Glencoe Mansion, located at 600 Unruh Dr. in Radford. The exhibition will be on display from now until Oct. 27.

Cancer researcher wants to make treatment better, more accessible

In the ongoing search for better cancer treatments, immunotherapies are the cutting edge, harnessing the body's own immune system to attack tumors more effectively.

But only fraction of cancer patients benefit.

DaeYong Lee, a new assistant professor and cancer researcher at the Fralin Biomedical Research Institute at VTC, wants to use biomaterials to improve immunotherapies and expand their access to reduce disparities in cancer treatment outcomes.

"I'm an engineering person, so I want to reduce the cost of therapies and at the same time optimize their effects," said Lee, a member of the research institute's Cancer Research Center — Roanoke and assistant professor in Virginia Tech's Department of Biomedical Engineering and Mechanics. "We can increase the applicability of immunotherapies to both diverse patients and diverse types of tumors."

Lee's research focuses on development of synthetic proteins, or polypeptides, that can enhance the body's own immune responses.

"DaeYong represents what we really want to grow here, which is engineering approaches to solve cancer's big problems," said Jenny Munson, professor and director of the Cancer Research Center — Roanoke. "He does what we as biomedical engineers should do. He identifies a problem, which in his lab is new ways to use the immune system against cancer, and then he builds a solution."

"Dr. Lee is a great addition to our growing cancer research programs at the research institute and across Virginia Tech," said Michael Friedlander, executive director of the research institute and Virginia Tech's vice president for health sciences and technology. "He is one of the new faculty members whose position was made possible through the generous support of the Fralin Biomedical Research Institute by the Red Gates Foundation. His skills in chemical engineering and knowledge of immune system function in cancer, along with his outstanding training at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, place him in a strategic position to make major advances in research."

While pursuing his master's degree, Lee worked on a nanoparticle to aid in delivering insulin in diabetic patients, but he soon turned his attention to cancer.

During his doctoral studies and as a postdoctoral researcher, Lee developed polypeptides to make immunotherapies more effective.

Immunotherapies include CAR T cell therapy, in which cells from a patient's immune system are removed, engineered to include chimeric antigen receptors to find and fight cancer, and returned to the patient's blood; cytokines, or synthetic versions of proteins that increase immunity; checkpoint inhibitors, drugs which block proteins that keep the immune system from attacking cancer cells; and cancer vaccines.

According to Lee, the body's immune cells can become "exhausted," which reduces the potency of immunotherapy. He aims to develop biomaterials



PHOTO BY CLAYTON METZ FOR VIRGINIA TECH

Cancer scientist DaeYong Lee, who recently joined the Fralin Biomedical Research Institute at VTC, is an engineer who develops biomaterials for cancer treatment. His goal is to use biomaterials to improve immunotherapies, make them applicable to more patients, and lower their cost to reduce disparities in treatment outcomes.

that can "re-educate" immune cells to increase their effectiveness and reduce undesired toxicity.

One polypeptide he developed has been shown to have the ability to selectively target, penetrate, and kill cancer cells. Another protein Lee designed has been shown to disrupt cancer cell function, triggering cell death, and increase anti-tumor effects in the body's immune cells.

While immunotherapies are proving to be powerful cancer therapies, Lee notes that because they are developed as highly personalized treatments, relatively few patients benefit.

An overarching goal of Lee's work is improving access to immunotherapies by broadening their applicability. He wants to identify more universal biological markers in cancers and focus on those to make immunotherapies more available. Having therapies that reach more patients reduces disparities in treatment outcomes.

In addition, the more widely used a drug can be, the more cost effective its production, lowering the cost to consumers.

Lee's initial work will focus on breast cancer. He will also continue the lines of research that he began during his doctoral research while at the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology in Daejeon, South Korea, and from his postdoctoral work there and at the MD Anderson Cancer Center.

Lee, a native of Incheon, South Korea, was drawn to the Fralin Biomedical Research Institute because of its state-of-the-art facilities and high quality of research.

"I can find collaborators here, and I really want to use the technology here to improve my own research," he said. "I like the environment here, and the people here. It's the very best fit for me."

Leigh Anne Kelley for Virginia Tech

Virginia gas prices continue to fall

Average gasoline prices in Virginia have fallen 7.1 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$2.96/g today, according to GasBuddy's survey of 4,081 stations in Virginia. Prices in Virginia are 26.7 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 59.3 cents per gallon lower than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has declined 2.1 cents in the last week and stands at \$3.55 per gallon.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Virginia was priced at \$2.52/g yesterday while the most expensive was \$3.99/g, a difference of \$1.47/g. The lowest price in the state yesterday was \$2.52/g while the highest was \$3.99/g, a difference of \$1.47/g.

The national average price of gasoline has risen 1.2 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.16/g today. The national average is down 18.8 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 67.4 cents per gallon lower than a year ago, according to GasBuddy data compiled from more than 11 million weekly price reports covering over 150,000 gas stations across the country.

Historical gasoline prices in Virginia and the national average going back ten years:

September 23, 2023: \$3.55/g (U.S. Average: \$3.83/g)

September 23, 2022: \$3.35/g (U.S. Average: \$3.67/g)

September 23, 2021: \$2.99/g (U.S. Average: \$3.18/g)

September 23, 2020: \$2.10/g (U.S. Average: \$2.19/g)

September 23, 2019: \$2.41/g (U.S. Average: \$2.66/g)

September 23, 2018: \$2.62/g (U.S. Average: \$2.83/g)

September 23, 2017: \$2.47/g (U.S. Average: \$2.56/g)

September 23, 2016: \$2.10/g (U.S. Average: \$2.21/g)

September 23, 2015: \$2.02/g (U.S. Average: \$2.28/g)

September 23, 2014: \$3.13/g (U.S. Average: \$3.33/g)

Neighboring areas and their current gas prices:

Roanoke- \$2.87/g, down 5.4 cents per gallon from last week's \$2.93/g.

Richmond- \$2.98/g, down 8.7 cents per gallon from last week's \$3.07/g.

West Virginia- \$3.04/g, down 3.1 cents per gallon from last week's \$3.07/g.

"With oil prices jumping after the U.S. Federal Reserve cut interest rates by a larger-than-expected half percent, we've seen some states where gas prices have inched back up, while others have continued to decline. Most of these increases should be temporary with declines returning in the days and weeks ahead," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy. "In addition, for California and areas of Nevada and western Arizona, areas that had been left out of the recent drops, refinery issues are improving, and gas prices should start moving lower. While the future looks good for gas prices to continue trending lower for most in the weeks ahead, oil's jump may mute the downside potential just a bit — for now."

GasBuddy

AARP Virginia fraud alert: Peer-to-peer payment scams

Peer-to-peer (P2P) payment apps like Venmo, Zelle, and Cash App have made sending money between family and friends easier than ever before. But consumers beware: while these apps make exchanging money fast and convenient, they also make it quick and seamless for criminal scammers to steal your money.

You may hear from a loved one claiming to be in trouble - and they need your financial help fast via a P2P app. Another tactic used by criminals involves offering a "discount" for a product on an online marketplace, but only if payment is made through a P2P app.

Scammers can also spoof payments

to make it seem like they "accidentally" sent you money on a P2P service. They will innocently ask you to return it, but shortly after, their initial payment to you will bounce like a bad check, leaving you short any funds you sent them.

It's best to use P2P apps to send money to friends, family, and other people you know and trust. P2P apps do not have the same consumer protections that credit cards have. Transactions are like paying cash - instantaneous and usually irreversible. If you receive an unexpected payment, don't accept it and report it to the app provider.

AARP Virginia

School Board

literacy and instruction through being bilingual and being able to read and write in at least two languages, one of those languages being English. This would be, Fontinos explained, beneficial for all students.

"Students," Fontinos said, explaining the goals of this program, "will gain the ability to speak, read and write proficiently in two languages. Fluency in both reading and writing will be presented through academic performance that is above at or above grade level in both languages. Second, grade-level academic achievement: high levels of proficiency in the students' dominant, as well as second language, will be developed. And finally, intercultural competence: students' individual perspectives will be broadened, and they will achieve an understanding and appreciation for different cultural backgrounds."

Bilingual literacy is something common in many other countries across the globe and as Dr. Bragen points out in the discussion of this topic, the United States is one of few countries where many of its citizens practice monolingualism. Being bilingual, according to the Department of Education, is beneficial in order for people to be global citizens, gather more information and knowledge and communicate with a broader spectrum of other people. The MCPS Dual Language Academy would, according to Fontinos' presentation, provide an opportunity for students to acquire a secondary language that would not conflict with their learning or understanding of their primary

language. Right now, the proposed language to start with would be Spanish, if this is approved, and it would begin in kindergarten with students being spoken to and instructed in Spanish the majority of the time while also having time during the day to speak and learn in English. As they progress through the grades, more English will be incorporated into their everyday learning until the languages equal a 50/50 ratio in terms of usage and instruction.

The goal of Fontinos' presentation was to gain a consensus as to how beneficial for the district the school board thought a program like this would be. The teachers that would be a part of this program would have to be bilingual and have other particular certifications to participate. The school board did provide a positive consensus for the proposed idea.

"I think for me," Dr. Ed Gitre said, "I'm in general, very supportive. I think it would be wonderful to have something written up that has some of the details like what school you're thinking of starting in, scaling up, the cost- some of the nuts and bolts of it."

Student Representative Aija McHone from Eastern Montgomery High School said she supports the idea of introducing a program like this to MCPS.

"I think it's a wonderful idea," said McHone. "I wish that we, we're seniors now, but really I wish that I could speak more than one language, so I think it's a good idea and a great program to build up in our school system."

Aviation

era, with the first U.S. commercial drone delivery by Wing, a subsidiary of Google's parent company, Alphabet, taking place in Christiansburg in 2019.

Historic photographs, uniforms, and World War II aviator gloves provide tangible links to the important local contributions to the war effort during the 1940s. Two modern commercial delivery drones and other artifacts will showcase the culmination of the work, research, and innovation produced by the Virginia Tech Mid Atlantic Aviation Partnership, an FAA-designated UAS test site whose research propelled new, safe drone applications such as those used by Wing.

Complementing this historical exhibit is a special art showcase celebrating 'Flight,' featuring works by local artists including Susan Hansen,

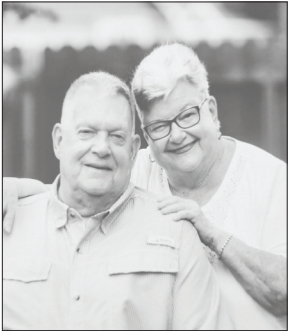
Sue Hossack, Susan Lockwood, Jim Marchman, Wayne McKinney, Judy Niehaus, Savannah Penven and Charlie Whitescarver. This art exhibit provides a variety of perspectives and inspiration on the topic of aviation including aerial photography and landscape art.

The exhibit opening and reception will take place Thursday, Sept. 26, from 5 - 7 p.m. at the Montgomery Museum of Art & History, located at 4 East Main St., Christiansburg. Guests will enjoy free hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar during the event. This unique celebration of aviation and flight as seen through art and history will serve as a testament to the region's talents, innovation, and technological advances.

Montgomery Museum of Art & History

OBITUARIES

Blaylock, Frank Wayne



Frank Wayne Blaylock, beloved husband, father, grandfather, and great grandfather passed away Sept. 18, 2024, in the comfort of his home in Radford.

Wayne was born April 9, 1943, in Durham, N.C., son of Franklin Raymond Blaylock and Matha Mae Robertson. Wayne and Betty were previous residents of Durham, N.C. then relocated to Radford. Wayne was a devoted husband of 56 years to his beloved wife, Betty, who preceded him in death on Feb. 20, 2024. Married June 3, 1967, they will now be celebrating everlasting love reunited by our heavenly father. Wayne was a remarkable, loving man treasured by his family and friends. His love for his son and grandchildren was

unmatched. He spent his life dedicated to his career, ensuring his family was provided for and was always there for anyone in need. His favorite hobbies were watching football, NASCAR, traveling, camping and spending time with his loving wife, family and friends.

Survivors include his son, Christopher Scott Blaylock of Radford; grandchildren, Austin Blaylock of High Point,

N.C., Alayna Blaylock of High Point, N.C., Josie Blaylock of Radford, Drew Blaylock of Topeka, Kan., Dakota Blaylock of Valley Center, Kan., and Miles Blaylock of Hutchinson, Kan.; and great grandson, Braxton Wayne Blaylock of Topeka, Kan.

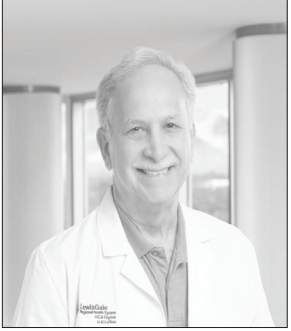
To honor Wayne's request, no formal funeral services will be held.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the American Cancer Society.

A private family gathering in celebration of Wayne's life will be held for family and friends Saturday, Sept. 21, 2024, 2 - 6 p.m. at the family residence.

Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford is honored to be caring for the Blaylock Family.

Weston, James Stuart



James Stuart Weston, born Nov. 28, 1952, in Long Branch, New Jersey, peacefully passed away surrounded by his loved ones on Sept. 21, 2024.

James was the second child of Robert and Cynthia Weston and grew up in West Long Branch, New Jersey, alongside his older brother, Steve, and three sisters, Beth, Bonnie, and Susan. James pursued his education with fervor, attending George Washington University for his undergraduate studies. He later went on to receive a master's degree in Genetics from the same institution before earning his medical degree at the prestigious University of Virginia.

James' passion for medicine led him to specialize in Obstetrics and Gynecology, completing his residency at Bayfront Medical

Center, located in St. Petersburg, Florida. It was during this time that he met the love of his life, Tamara Weston, and the two exchanged vows on July 7, 1984.

Together, James and Tamara were blessed with five wonderful children—Ryan (Lindsay), Jillian (Brad), Sean (Alison), Caitlin and Liam, and three grandchildren: Weston, Michael, and Virginia. Throughout his career as a respected OBGYN, James touched the lives of many through

his compassionate care and unwavering dedication to his patients. His legacy will live on not only through his family but also through the countless lives he positively impacted during his medical career. James will be remembered for his kindness, generosity, and love for his family and patients.

Friends are welcome to join James' family for a visitation between 10 a.m. and 12 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 28, 2024, at Mullins Funeral Home, 120 West Main Street, Radford, Virginia 24141. The family requests those who wish to express sympathy to consider donating to Southwest Virginia Wildlife Center of Roanoke in James' name.

Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford, Virginia is honored to be caring for the Weston Family.

Mattox, Janet Stewart



Janet Stewart Mattox, 81, of Riner, passed away Wednesday, Sept. 18, 2024. She was preceded in death by her parents, Thomas Edward Stewart and Pauline Thompson Stewart; her loving husband, William Ray Mattox; her daughter, Michelle "Shelly" Dickerson; and her grandson, Matthew Adam Semones.

Survivors include her daughters and sons-in-law, Denise Hackney (Earnie) and Gayle Semones (Rev. Terry); son-in-law, David Dickerson, Sr.; grandchildren, David Dickerson, Jr. (Ashley), Andrew Dickerson, Carrie Simpkins,

April Simpkins, Craig Simpkins (Sasha), and Teri Goodheart (Joel); 10 great-grandchildren; sisters and brother-in-law, Brenda Moore (Moe) and Joan Christian; and many other relatives and special friends.

The family will receive

friends 10 - 11 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 25, 2024, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services will begin at 11 a.m. with Pastor Ray McDaniel and Stewart Roberts officiating. Burial will follow in the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to St. Jude's Children's Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN, 38105.

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

Pumpkins

and unique gifts perfect for the upcoming holidays.

Special events during the festival include:

September 27 – Opening Day: Kick off the festivities with a day full of fun.

October 5/6 – Punkin' Chunkin': Witness the incredible skill of the World Champion Team Carbo as they launch pumpkins into the sky.

October 19 – Hokie Spirit Day: Celebrate with the

Highty-Tighties VT Regimental Band and the HokieBird.

October 26 – Dog Halloween Costume Show & Contest: Dress up your furry friend and join the fun.

October 26/27 – Halloween Costume Coantest: Show off

your best Halloween costume for a chance to win prizes.

The festival is open Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. For more information and to purchase tickets visit sinklandfarms.com/pumpkin-festival.

Staff report

JBR VINEYARDS & Winery
Hand tended vines. Hand Crafted Wines
PRESENTS
The 5th. Annual
PAW PAW FESTIVAL
Way Down Yonder In The Paw Patch.
Sat., Sept. 28, '24. Sun., Sept. 29, '24
Fisher Peak Timber Rattlers. Bobby Parker
Noon to Five O'clock
1360 Springdale Road, Pearisburg, Va. 24134
No Admission Fee. Child and dog friendly.
540-250-7291 - jbrvineyards@gmail.com
facebook.com/jbrwine - www.jbrvineyards.com

FISH DAY

It's Time to Stock Your Pond!
DELIVERY WILL BE:
Thursday, Oct. 10th
Christiansburg 10:45-11:30
@Southern States
Wytheville 12:30-1:15
@Farmers Milling & Supply

"LIKE" us on Facebook!

FISH WAGON

To Place an Order Call:
1-800-643-8439
www.fishwagon.com

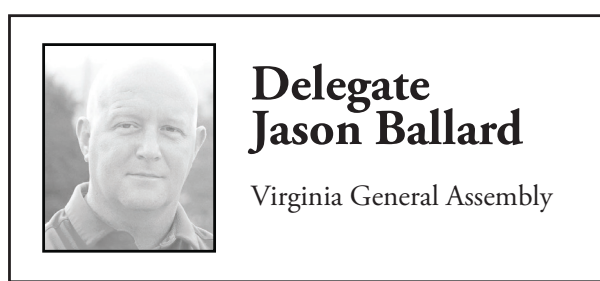
VIRGINIA IS FOR PAW PAW LOVERS

OPINION

I-81 improvements will benefit local area with needed infrastructure upgrades, delegate says

On Sept. 10, Governor Glenn Youngkin visited the VDOT Southwest Traffic Operations Center in Salem to receive a briefing on ongoing I-81 improvement projects. Due to massive investments from the Virginia General Assembly, great project management from VDOT, and safe and efficient construction from contractors, the ongoing improvement projects are proceeding at – and in some cases – ahead of schedule. This is great news for all who rely upon I-81 for business or personal travel.

As a refresher, the I-81 Improvement Program projects began in earnest six years ago. Projects identified in the plan were designed to improve the safety and efficiency of this major corridor with tangible benefits including reducing annual hours of traffic delay by more than 6 million, and reducing annual crashes in the corridor by 450 (an approximate 29% reduction in traffic accidents). This is to be achieved through several avenues, to include construction of acceleration/deceleration lanes, auxiliary lanes, truck climbing lanes, road widening, curve improvements, and operational improvements. Operational improvements include additional traffic cameras, VDOT Safety Service Patrols, the Towing and Recovery Incentive Program (TRIP), and



Delegate Jason Ballard

Virginia General Assembly

additional digital message signs. Due to fiscal year 2024 General Fund budget surpluses, I-81 should receive \$175 million in General Fund appropriations during the 2025 General Assembly Legislative Session. This means that the larger widening projects will be fully funded sooner than planned. Local projects of significance on the corridor include widening I-81 to three lanes from Exit 128 to Exit 137 (Ironto to Salem), with construction set to begin in 2026. Also slated to be three-laned is the northbound stretch of I-81 from Mile Marker 116 to Exit 128 (Christiansburg to Ironto), with construction starting in 2030. And acceleration lanes will be added at Exit 94 (Pulaski County) and Exit 105 (Radford), with a completion date of 2027. All

told, our region will be gaining some much-needed infrastructure improvements in the near future.

As a member of the House Committee on Transportation and the I-81 Advisory Committee, I'm proud that our hard work toward improving I-81 is beginning to pay off. We have a strong ally in Governor Youngkin, and VDOT has done a tremendous job of ensuring – through incentives and best practices – that projects are staying on-time and on-budget. Seeing these projects through will continue to be a top priority of mine in the General Assembly, as will other projects of regional significance (such as sorely needed widening on Route 100). Don't be disheartened by the traffic cones and ensuing road construction that will soon be more noticeable in our region – it's a sign of better traffic days ahead!

As the delegate representing the 42nd House District in the Virginia General Assembly, your concerns are my greatest priority. If ever I may be of assistance to you and your family, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at DelJBallard@House.Virginia.Gov. You can also follow me on Twitter @JasonBallardVA or like my Facebook page, Jason Ballard for Delegate, to keep up to date with what I am doing in Richmond and in our community on your behalf.

University-City partnership awarded ARC grant to support former foundry site redevelopment efforts

A grant recently awarded to Radford University will enable students to lead two interdisciplinary research projects this fall, investigating the redevelopment possibilities for the historic Radford Foundry site, a key industrial property acquired by the City of Radford in 2023.

The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) supplied the funding to participate in the Appalachian

Collegiate Research Initiative (ACRI). The \$8,000 grant award will support the projects, with \$2,000 specifically designated for use by the City of Radford.

Through two course-based projects, one within the Honors College and the other housed in Appalachian studies, students will work with the City of Radford's Department of Economic Development to assess potential future uses of the former foundry site. The

property, which once housed the Radford Iron and Coal Company, is now a priority for revitalization, with plans to transform the 80-acre site into the West Radford Commerce Park, a multiuse space combining business, recreation, and green spaces.

"The goal will be to develop an interdisciplinary

See Foundry, page 8

News Messenger

Established 1869

(540) 389-9355

P.O. Box 1125 • Salem, VA 24153

USPS 016-490 Online: www.ourvalley.org

Michael Showell, *Publisher*

Heather Bell, *Editor*

communitynews@ourvalley.org

Aila Boyd, *Executive Editor*

aboyd@ourvalley.org

Wendi Craig, *Advertising Consultant*

advertise@ourvalley.org

Give us your view:

editor@ourvalley.org

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

The News Messenger (USPS 016-490) is published twice a week for \$46 a year in Montgomery County, \$55 elsewhere in Virginia, and \$59 out of state by Virginia Media Inc., P.O. Box 429, Lewisburg, WV 24901. Periodical postage paid at Christiansburg, VA. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to NEWS MESSENGER 1633 W. Main St., Salem, VA 24153.



PHOTO COURTESY OF RADFORD UNIVERSITY

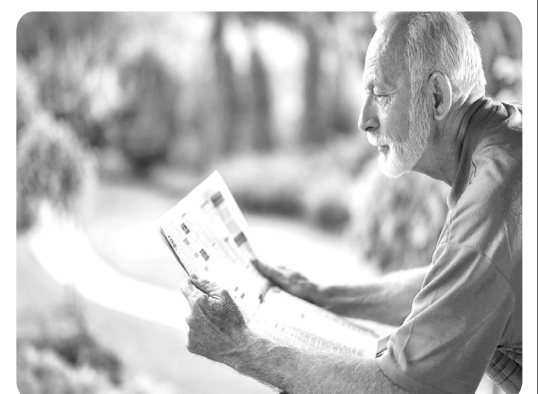
The grant team includes (left to right): Tim Thornton, adjunct faculty and leader of the Appalachian studies team; Kim Repass, Radford's director of economic development; Jason Davis, professor and leader of the Honors College team; and Charlie Jewell, director of economic development.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10			
11				12		13				14				
15						16				17				
	18				19		20			21				
					22	23				24				
25	26	27	28	29										
30							31							
32									33	34	35	36	37	
					38	39	40			41	42			
					43					44				
		45	46											
47	48					49				50	51	52	53	54
55						56				57				58
59						60				61				
62						63					64			

- CLUES ACROSS**
- Fall down
 - Gas usage measurement
 - Golf score
 - A superior grade of black tea
 - Wrath
 - Eating house
 - Delay leaving a place
 - People now inhabiting Myanmar
 - Canadian flyers
 - Walks back and forth
 - Frequently
 - Humans have two
 - Surrounds with armed forces
 - Made proper
 - Medical buildings
 - Patty Hearst's captors
 - Hits with a drop shot
 - Italy's PM 1919-20
 - Promotions
 - En __; incidentally
 - Queens baseball team
 - Commoner
 - Expenses in insurance world (abbr.)
 - Payroll firm
 - Broadway actress
 - Daisy
 - Skipper butterflies
 - Hint
 - Daniel __, French composer
 - English children's author Blyton
 - Midway between east and southeast
 - Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
 - Patriotic women's group
 - The woman
 - Tall, slender-leaved plant
- CLUES DOWN**
- Parts per thousand (abbr.)
 - Jump
 - Eaten as a vegetable
 - Residual paresis after anesthesia
 - Brunchtime staple
 - Makes money off of
 - Refined
 - Nocturnal S. American rodents
 - From a distance
 - Officials
 - It helps you see
 - Central Canadian indigenous person
 - Invests in little enterprises
 - They help in tough situations
 - Industrial port in Poland
 - Type of screen
 - Peyton's little brother
 - Alcoholic beverage
 - Newspapers need it
 - Herbal tea
 - Distinctive practice
 - Exercise system __-bo
 - Explosive
 - Belonging to a thing
 - Presidential candidates engage in them
 - Of the Swedes
 - Meadow-grass
 - "Rule, Britannia" compo
 - Hooray!
 - Greek city
 - One way to do it by example
 - Imitated
 - "Game of Thrones" actor Headey
 - Swiss river
 - Drought-resistant plant
 - A French abbot
 - One point east of north
 - Get free of

Stay In Touch With a Subscription



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

News Messenger

Serving Montgomery County Since 1869

DIGITAL ONLY One Year Digital Subscription \$29.00	DIGITAL & PRINT Yearly Print & Digital Subscription \$67.00	PRINT ONLY Yearly Print Only Subscription \$46.00 Montgomery County \$55.00 Virginia \$59.00 Out of State
--	---	---

SUBSCRIPTION TO NEWS MESSENGER

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

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

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

Legals - Town of Vinton

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 15.2-2204 of the 1950 Code of Virginia, as amended, the Town of Vinton, Virginia, hereby gives notice of a joint work session to be held by the Planning Commission and the Town Council in the Town Council Chambers, 311 S. Pollard Street, Vinton, on Tuesday, October 1, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

The purpose of the joint work session is to receive an update on the Vinton 2050 Comprehensive Plan Update presented by Mike Callahan, President, 3TP Ventures.

Further information concerning the work session may be obtained from the Planning and Zoning Department located at 311 South Pollard Street, Vinton, Virginia 24179, by phone: 540-983-0605. Interested persons may attend the work session.

Persons requiring special assistance to attend and participate in this public meeting should contact the Vinton Town Manager's Office at (540) 983-0607.

Anita J. McMillan
Planning and Zoning Director

STATEWIDE ADS

AUCTIONS

ATTN. AUCTIONEERS: Advertise your upcoming auctions statewide and in other states. Affordable Print and Digital Solutions reaching your target audiences. Call this paper or Landon Clark at Virginia Press Services 804-521-7576. landonc@vpa.net

HOME IMPROVEMENT

Vinyl Replacement Windows Installed! Starting at \$350 Call 804-739-8207 for More Details! Ronnie Jenkins II Windows, Siding, Roofing and Gutters! FREE Estimates! Call 804-739-8207 for More Details!

STATEWIDE ADS

American Made Products!

Prepare for power outages today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 7-Year warranty with qualifying purchase. Call 1-844-947-1479 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 20% Off Entire Purchase. Plus 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-877-614-6667

STATEWIDE ADS

Replace your roof with the best looking and longest lasting material - steel from Erie Metal Roofs! Three styles and multiple colors available. Guaranteed to last a lifetime! Limited Time Offer - up to 50% off installation + Additional 10% off install (for military, health workers & 1st responders.) Call Erie Metal Roofs: 1-844-902-4611

Safe Step, North America's #1 Walk-In Tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our FREE shower package and \$1600 Off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe Step 1-877-591-9950

STATEWIDE ADS

The bathroom of your dreams in as little as 1 day. Limited Time Offer - \$1000 off or No Payments and No Interest for 18 months for customers who qualify. BCI Bath & Shower. Many options available. Quality materials & professional installation. Senior & Military Discounts Available. Call Today! 1-844-945-1631

PETS

When veterinary care is unavailable or unaffordable, ask for Happy Jack® animal healthcare products for cats, dogs, & horses. At Tractor Supply® & Southern States®.

STATEWIDE ADS

SERVICES

DIVORCE-Uncontested. \$475-\$86 court cost. WILLS-\$295.00. No court appearance. Estimated completion time twenty-one days. Hilton Oliver, Attorney (Facebook), 757-490-0126. Se Habla Espanol. BBB Member. https://hiltonoliverattorneyva.com.

DENTAL INSURANCE from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Coverage for 350 plus procedures. Real dental insurance - NOT just a discount plan. Do not wait! Call now! Get your FREE Dental Information Kit with all the details! 1-888-550-3083 www.dental50plus.com/virginia #6258

Portable Oxygen Concentrator May Be Covered by Medicare! Reclaim independence and mobility with the compact design and long-lasting battery of Inogen One. Free information kit! Call 888-608-4974

Switch and save up to \$250/year on your talk, text and data. No contract and no hidden fees. Unlimited talk and text with flexible data plans. Premium nationwide coverage. 100% U.S. based customer service. For more information, call 1-855-262-5564

STATEWIDE ADS

Make the smart and ONLY CHOICE when tackling your roof!

LIMITED TIME OFFER! SAVE!


UP TO 50% OFF INSTALLATION

FREE ESTIMATE 1.844.902.4611

Expires 10/31/2024 MADE IN THE U.S.A.

New orders only. Does not include material costs. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Minimum purchase required. Other restrictions may apply. This is an advertisement placed on behalf of Erie Construction Mid-West, Inc. (Erie). Other terms and conditions may apply and the offer may not be available in your area. If you call the number provided, you consent to being contacted by telephone, SMS text message, email, pre-recorded messages by Erie or its affiliates and service providers using automated technologies notwithstanding if you are on a DO NOT CALL list or register. Please review our privacy policy and terms of use on homesevices.com/compliance.com. All rights reserved. License numbers available at eriehome.com/fair-practices

Be prepared before the next power outage.



It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

Receive a free 5-year warranty with qualifying purchase* - valued at \$535.

Call 844-947-1479 to schedule your free quote!

GENERAC

*Terms and Conditions apply.

LET THE PROS HANDLE IT!

LeafFilter GUTTER PROTECTION

Say "NO" to Cleaning Out Your Gutters.

Protect Your Home With LeafFilter.

20% OFF + 10% OFF

Your Entire Purchase* Seniors + Military

++ We offer financing that fits your budget!

CALL TODAY FOR A FREE INSPECTION!

1-877-614-6667

*See Representative for full warranty details. *One coupon per household. No obligation estimate valid for 1 year. Subject to credit approval. Call for details. AR 36603003, AZ 34827 CA 10279, CT 407520, FL 603667, GA 112720, HI 412310, IL 45924, IA 59244, IN 17647, MD 261112, MA 2620017, MI 2620018, MN 2620019, MO 2620020, NC 2620021, ND 2620022, NY 2620023, OH 2620024, OK 2620025, PA 2620026, RI 2620027, SC 2620028, TN 2620029, TX 2620030, VA 2620031, WA 2620032, WI 2620033, WY 2620034

Call today and receive a FREE SHOWER PACKAGE PLUS \$1600 OFF

SAFE STEP WALK-IN TUB

1-877-591-9950

With purchase of a new Safe Step Walk-In Tub. Not applicable with any previous walk-in tub purchase. Offer available while supplies last. No cash value. Must present offer at time of purchase. CSLB 1082165 NSCB 0082999 0083445

BUSINESS SERVICES DIRECTORY

MHC Monroe Health Center

Craig County Health Center
226 Market Street - New Castle, VA
Phone: (540) 864-6390 Fax: (540) 864-6356

- *Physical Exams * X-ray Services
- * Laboratory Services * Acute Care
- *Mental Health Services * Well Baby Checks

ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS

CARPET RE-STRETCHING!

STEVEN W. DURRANCE FLOORS

Repairs • New Sales • Expert

540-776-9591
Cell: 540-353-7908

Licensed & Insured
carpetroanoke.com

Lisa Martin, REALTOR®

Serving the industry for 30+ years
Roanoke Valley & Blue Ridge Mountains

Premier, REALTORS
(540) 597-0480
Lisa@Lisa2buy.com • www.Lisa2buy.com
1638 Roanoke Road, Suite 101
Daleville, VA 24083

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HomeServices

A member of the franchise system of BHH Affiliates, LLC

Southern Trace Building

Residential and Commercial Construction

540-966-0688
PO Box 630
Daleville, VA 24083

www.southerntracellc.com

FOX RADIO 910
Roanoke and 104.3 FM

CBS SPORTS RADIO

ATLANTA BRAVES

ROANOKE'S #2 NEWS TALK AND SPORTS RADIO STATION
(Nielsen Fall 2022 book)
www.foxradioroanoke.com
(540) 343-7109

Sunflooring Inc.

STEVE SMITH

With over 40 years of experience

Specializing in Hardwood Floors, Hardwood Refinishing, Laminate Flooring, Engineered Floors, Ceramic Tile, Carpet and Luxury Vinyl Plank

540-556-3100

HART MOTOR COMPANY
Salem

GMC KIA

Robbie Caldwell
540-444-4444

WE BUY COIN COLLECTIONS

Top money paid
FREE estimates



DR FAME ALLERGY ASTHMA

540 404-9598
1002 APPERSON DR • SALEM, VIRGINIA 24153
WWW.DRTOMFAME.COM

PRO-GROW INC.

Ben & Matthew Marshall, Owners/Operators
129 Black Magic Farm Rd.,
Buchanan, VA 24066
(540) 520-1229 • (540) 520-6760
Specializing in Hydro-Seeding and Fine Grading

Contact us at
540-988-2420

Colonial Title and Settlement

Serving the Greater Botetourt & Roanoke Valley communities with all your real estate needs for residential, commercial, construction with MLA services, Assist with 1031 Real Estate Exchanges, Purchases, Refinances and More!!!!

Call Loretta, Debbie or Kristi for your next move!

540-966-1260
1215 Roanoke Road, Daleville

Rory "Tater" Benson, REALTOR®

540.353.7173 cell
540.989.4555 office
tbenson@mkbrealtors.com

MKB REALTORS

Leading REAL ESTATE COMPANIES IN THE WORLD
MEMBER ERC EMPLOYEE RELOCATION COUNCIL

SENIOR FOR SENIORS PAINTING & RESIDENTIAL MAINTENANCE

Cell: **540-293-4271**

I buy Indian artifacts

Cash paid

Contact at **540-988-2420**

ADVERTISE With us

Place your ad here, call **540-389-9355**

HARDWOOD FLOORS

- Cleaning
- Waxing
- Beautification

Save 10% NOW!

540-776-9591
Cell: 540-353-7908

EADES & LOWER INSURANCE
5007 Carriage Dr., Suite 100
P.O. Box 21483
Roanoke, VA 24018

SHERRI STINETTE HOLT
INSURANCE AGENT

Cell (540)819-9179 • Office (540)981-1124
Fax (540) 981-1266
sherri@eadesandlower.com
www.eadesandlower.com

AUTO | HOME BUSINESS | LIFE

MONTGOMERY SPORTS

Gridiron report: Christiansburg, Blacksburg, Radford win

Marty Gordon

NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Three area teams picked up wins (Radford, Blacksburg and Christiansburg) in week four of the high school football schedule.

The Virginia High School League (VHSL) is one week out of releasing its first points standings. Radford should be number two in the points, while Christiansburg hangs around the number seven spot.

Former Gretna and Brookville head coach and Radford alum Kevin Saunders was part of history this past week in Georgia. Kevin Saunders is the defensive coordinator at Duluth High School, who won 90-0.

Player of the week back in our area:

Running back Jaxon Keys rushed for 266 yards and four touchdowns in Blacksburg's 44-20 win over Rockbridge. He also caught a pass for another score.

Games this week:

Cave Spring (1-3) at Blacksburg (2-2)

Cave Spring was held under 50 yards of total offense through three quarters in a loss against Christiansburg. So far this season, Cave has been outscored 115 to 44.

Blacksburg is looking for its third win for the first time in four years. As a team this past week, Blacksburg tallied 335 yards on the ground.

Pulaski (0-4) at Christiansburg (2-2)

Pulaski was shutout 62-0 this past week by Princeton (W.Va.) Trevor Gallimore picked up 44 yards on 16 carries.

Christiansburg's Xavier Joplin and Izaiah combined for six scores and over 300 yards in a win over Cave Spring.

Radford (3-1) at Alleghany (4-0)

Alleghany rolled 42-7 in a win against another West Virginia opponent. Des Jordan threw three touchdowns and rushed for another. Jordan finished the game nine of 13 for 124 yards. The school merged with Covington last year and is undefeated for first time since 2010.

Jordan three TD passes to Hunter Knighton, Sarge Persinger and Xavier Hayslett.

Carter Nicely added 79 yards on 11 carries.

Radford moved to 3-1 on the season with a 34-0 win over last year's Class 1 state champ Galax. Luke Gaither threw for 261 yards and two touchdowns,

finishing the night 20 of 31. Louis Webster kicked two field goals and Sincere Taylor had seven catches for 94 yards in the receiving side of the game.

Ft. Chiswell (0-4) at Eastern Montgomery (0-3)

This will be a game of winless teams with both finding trouble on the offensive side of the ball. The Fort, who has been outscored 190-26, fell 51-7 this past week to Tazewell.

Eastern Montgomery was idle this past week after losing a game when Auburn cancelled its 2024 season.

Predictions:

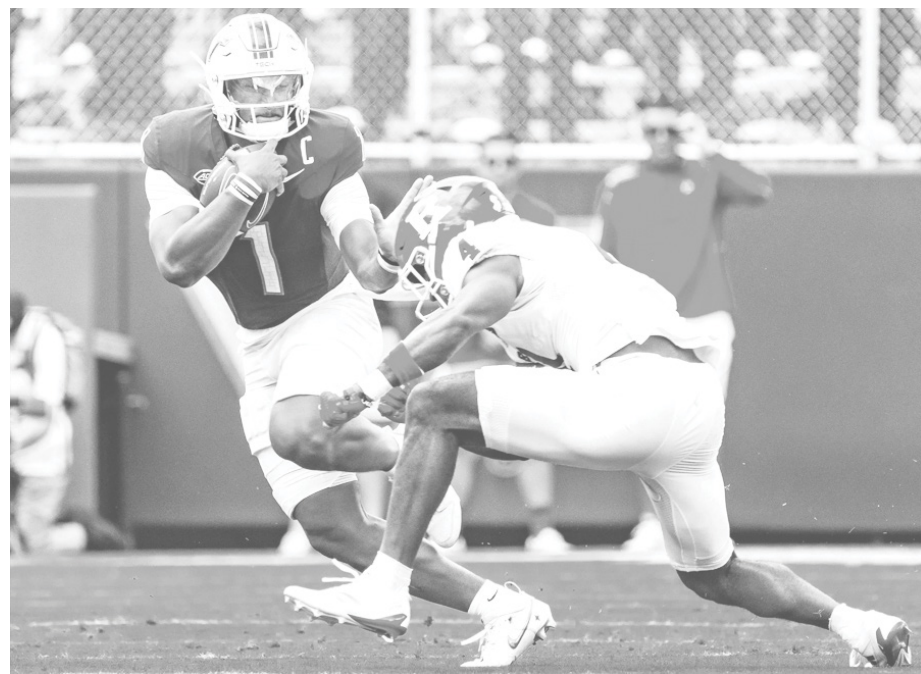
Christiansburg 30, Pulaski 28

Blacksburg 40, Cave Spring 38

Radford 42, Alleghany 30

Ft. Chiswell 32, Eastern Montgomery 12

Hokies fall short in comeback against Rutgers



QB Kryron Drones was 13-21-1 with 131 yards on Saturday with no touchdowns. He also rushed for 65 yards.



The Virginia Tech defense was all over the Rutgers quarterback on Saturday but couldn't keep them out of endzone late in the game in a 26-23 loss.



Redshirt senior Sam Brumfield celebrates a stop on Saturday by the Virginia Tech defense.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF VT ATHLETICS

Stephen Gosnell caught a two-point conversion pass late in Saturday's game to pull the Hokies within two scores. His brother, Benji, also scored on another two-point conversion.

Coming up short in a potential fourth-quarter comeback, Virginia Tech football lost 26-23 to Rutgers at home Saturday but finished the game with some noteworthy stats.

Even though it was the "White Effect" game, Tech wore white helmets, maroon jerseys and white pants. The Hokies are now 12-3 since 1987 in that uniform combination.

In the game on Saturday, Tech's special teams had two successful two-point conversions. The first was a pass to Benji Gosnell, the second was a pass to Stephen Gosnell. This was the first time the Hokies had two successful two-point conversions in the same game since Nov. 11, 1989 when Rodd Wooten connected with Brian McCall and Phil Bryant against Virginia in Scott Stadium.

Virginia Tech is now 5-5 all-time on what has become known as "Earth,

Wind & Fire Day." The first football game the Hokies played on Sept. 21 was a 7-0 win in 1935 against Roanoke College. The other wins on Sept. 21 were against Carawba in 1940, Rutgers in 1996, Texas A&M in 2002 and a triple overtime win against Marshall in 2013.

Since 1987 the Hokies have fought back to tie or take the lead when down 16 or more points in a game ten times. The 16-point deficit to Rutgers in the third quarter was the latest in a game a Tech team was down 16+ and came back to tie or take the lead. Below is a chart of the 10 times the Hokies have battled back.

Saturday's game marked the 374th consecutive game during which Virginia Tech has scored. The Hokies are in fourth place in both the all-time and active streak lists.

The ground game has been friendly to the Hokies, as all three scores in the

contest came from running the ball. Running back Bhayshul Tuten found plenty of success carrying the ball, amassing 122 rushing yards on 15 attempts.

Tuten's vision and patience as a ball carrier were on full display as the senior tailback scored on runs of 23, 14 and two yards. The three rushing touchdowns ties his career high set against Boston College last season. The Paulsboro, New Jersey, native has scored in all four games this season and has a nose for the endzone with eight scores on the year. Tuten also has multiple rushing touchdowns in back-to-back contests.

Donning the honorary No. 25 jersey, linebacker Caleb Woodson could be found making plays all over the field on Saturday afternoon. The sophomore finished the contest with double-digit tackles (10), six of which were

solo. More impressively, Woodson was disruptive in the Scarlet Knights' backfield, registering 1.5 tackles for loss, one quarterback hit and a quarterback hurry. The Haymarket, Virginia product recorded a 73.3 pressure grade, according to Pro Football Focus (PFF).

Transfers along the interior defensive line are continuing to make a name for themselves. Graduate student Aeneas Peebles from Duke has been a strong presence for the Hokies' defensive front. Boasting a PFF pressure grade of 82.7, Peebles recorded his first sack in the maroon and orange. The big play from the fifth-year defensive tackle came late in the second quarter, which was the first of back-to-back sacks in the drive. Peebles finished the outing with five tackles, including an additional three-yard tackle for loss.

- VT Athletics and staff report

Tech to honor retired track coach

Virginia Tech has announced the school's Rector Fieldhouse, home to indoor track, will be renamed in honor of its former Director of Track & Field and Cross Country, Dave Cianelli.

His legacy as one of the sport's most influential coaches is marked by his 74 NCAA Champions, 490 All-America honors, 373 individual conference champions, 32 World Championship qualifiers, and 22 Olympic qualifiers. At Tech alone, Cianelli has overseen the success of 20 NCAA individual champions, 13 top-10 team finishes at the NCAA Championships, 242 ACC individual champions, and 21 ACC team titles. The 19-time ACC Coach of the Year and 18-time USTFCCCA Southeast Region Coach of the Year enters his 23rd season directing the

Hokies.

In August of 2024, it was announced that the 20-time ACC Coach of the Year and 19-time USTFCCCA Southeast Region Coach of the Year, Cianelli, would be inducted into the USFTCCCA Hall of Fame, joining 223 esteemed track and field and cross-country coaches.

In 2007, Cianelli claimed the program's first-ever ACC indoor championship title. Nearly two months later, the Hokies' captured their first outdoor title proving Tech was a force to be reckoned with in track and field. The men's team won their first ACC title at the 2011 indoor championships

See **Coach**, page 8

Sports notes: Hokies induct new HOF

Marty Gordon

NRVsports@ourvalley.org

The eight-member class of Jeff Artis-Gray, Larsen Bowker, Duane Brown, Dave Cianelli, Brittany Pryor, Heather Savage, Logan Shinholser and Tyrod Taylor were officially inducted into the Virginia Tech Sports Hall of Fame Friday evening at The Inn at Virginia Tech.

New throws assistant

Director of Track and Field and Cross Country, Ben Thomas, has announced the addition of Cleopatra Borel to the 2024-2025 coaching staff. Borel will assume the position of assistant coach for throws.

Borel has a highly decorated athletic career, highlighted by her competing

for the Trinidad and Tobago Olympic teams in 2004, 2008, 2012 and 2016. She was a finalist in the shot put in the Rio 2016 Summer Olympics. She was also named the Trinidad and Tobago Olympic Committee Sports Woman of the Year five times. Her personal-best shot put of 19.48m/63-11 still stands as the Trinidad and Tobago national record.

In her most recent role at Texas State, Borel designed and implemented a throw program for multi-event athletes and women's shot put. In her year with the Bobcats, Borel coached Melanie Duron to a 2024 Sun Belt Conference indoor shotput title and helped the team

See **HOF**, page 8

Foundry from page 4

approach to evaluating the property's best uses, focusing on both its unique qualities and similar redevelopment projects," said Jason Davis, professor and leader of the Honors College team. "Students will present general recommendations to the City of Radford, giving the community insights on how the foundry can be reimaged."

Students will explore a variety of facets of the redevelopment process, including historical research, community interviews, and comparative studies of similar post-industrial projects across Appalachia. The aim is to develop proposals for sustainable, community-focused development that reflects the city's needs and cultural heritage.

"Working on this project provides students an opportunity to gain real-world experience in addressing community challenges," said Tim Thornton, adjunct faculty and leader of the Appalachian studies team. "Not only will they apply their classroom knowledge to a live project, but they'll also be contributing to the city's long-term growth."

As part of the ARC grant, students will present their findings both locally and nationally. In addition to delivering a report to the City of Radford this fall, students will travel to Washington, D.C. to present their research at the ACRI Capstone Symposium in December. They will showcase their proposals to ARC leadership, community representatives from across Appalachia, and other student teams involved in the program.

Kim Repass, Radford's Director of Economic Development, expressed enthusiasm for the collaboration.

"The transformation of the Radford Foundry site is critical for our city's future, and this partnership with Radford University will provide students with real-world work-based learning experiences," she said. "We're thrilled to have students engaged in this important work."

The partnership with the City of Radford was



PHOTO COURTESY OF RADFORD UNIVERSITY

An overhead view of the Radford Foundry site

facilitated through the Radford University Division of Economic Development and Corporate Education. Charlie Jewell, director of economic development, worked closely with the faculty members and city staff to help forge this impactful, community-based project.

The Appalachian Regional Commission's ACRI program, coordinated by East Tennessee State University, has been connecting students to

community-based economic development initiatives since 2001. The program aligns with ARC's broader goals of addressing community challenges, including downtown revitalization, sustainable development, and improved access to healthcare and education.

For more information on the ACRI and this year's research projects, visit www.arc.gov/ACRI.

Justin Ward for Radford University

HOF from page 7

to 19 points with two athletes reaching NCAA First Round qualifying marks. Her coaching also led to personal bests by the men's heptathlon throwers and women's pentathlon throwers in the conference championship meet.

Clash sold out

The Commonwealth Clash, presented by Smithfield, returns to Lane Stadium in front of a full-capacity crowd for the first time since 2018, as Virginia Tech Athletics announced Tuesday that the Virginia Tech football game against Virginia on Nov. 30 is now sold out. Now, just one home game remains with available seats – the Thursday night showdown against Boston College on Oct. 17 at 7:30 p.m. ET. With limited inventory left, fans are urged to act quickly to secure their spot in Lane Stadium for this exciting matchup. Fans still seeking single-game ticket options for the sold-out games are encouraged to visit SeatGeek, the official fan-to-fan ticket marketplace of Virginia Tech Athletics.

P-R national award

Virginia Tech defensive lineman Antwaun Powell-Ryland has been named the Bednarik Award Player of the Week by the Maxwell Football Club, and the Walter Camp National FBS Player of the Week, following his standout performance in Saturday's 37-17 win over Old Dominion. Powell-Ryland (6-3, 252) registered four sacks against the Monarchs, matching his own school record-tying effort of four during the 2023 game against Wake Forest.

APR is one of only four Tech players to ever record four sacks in a game, including J.C. Price, Morgan Roane, and Bruce Smith. The Portsmouth, Virginia product joins Smith, the Virginia Tech Hall of Famer, as the only two players to have at least four sacks in multiple games.

The redshirt senior wreaked havoc, totaling seven tackles while also forcing two Old Dominion fumbles, recovering one.

PETS OF THE WEEK

These pets and many others are available for adoption at the Montgomery County Animal Care and Adoption Center, 480 Cinnabar Rd., Christiansburg. Phone: (540) 382-5795.

Lieutenant Dan is a friendly canine who enjoys being with people. This handsome boy likes being pet and receiving attention. As is typical for Huskies, Lt. Dan can be chatty when he has an idea to share.



Chunk is a big, playful dog with lots of love to give. He is friendly and exuberant. Hand him a plush toy and watch his happiness level spike. Toss him a tennis ball and he's off running! Stop by the Animal Care and Adoption Center to meet this very good boy.

Coach from page 7



PHOTO COURTESY OF VT ATHLETICS

The Rector Field House will be renamed to the Dave and Ellen Cianelli Track.

becoming the first host school since 1979 to win the conference title.

The Hokies backed their indoor success with an outdoor conference title in 2012. Flash forward to a few months later, and the Virginia Tech cross country team brought home their first-ever ACC title in a 55-49 defeat of

second-place Virginia at Tech's Buford Meredith Cross Country Course in Blacksburg.

The Rector Field House will be renamed to the Dave and Ellen Cianelli Track.

"Celebrating Dave and Ellen Cianelli with the renaming of the track at Rector Field House is a fitting tribute to their extraordinary contributions and enduring legacy," Virginia Tech director of athletics Whit Babcocksaid. "Their passion, commitment and excellence have set a standard of greatness, and this honor ensures their remarkable influence will continue to inspire future athletes and supporters alike. Congratulations,

Dave and Ellen, on this well-deserved recognition!"

Rector Field House was initially dedicated in 1971 and named after alumnus Charles W. Rector, class of 1958. In 2018, Rector underwent an \$18 million renovation to become one of the most notable and respected fieldhouses in the country for indoor track and field.

His retirement in July of 2024 followed a storied career. For 23 seasons, Cianelli led the Virginia Tech programs to repeated and continuous success, departing as one of the most successful coaches in the university's history.

Virginia Tech Athletics

AFFORDABLE DENTURES & IMPLANTS®

DON'T WAIT ANOTHER DAY
to get your smile back!

FREE X-RAY & CONSULT FOR NEW DENTURE PATIENTS**
Ask about our Best Price Guarantee*

FINANCING AVAILABLE

Scan the QR Code or call **(833) 612-7335** to schedule a new smile consultation

SCAN HERE

AFFORDABLE DENTURES & IMPLANTS - CHRISTIANSBURG
ROGER D. CAMPBELL, DMD | VICTOR O. FALAIYE, DMD
GENERAL DENTISTS

175 CONSTON AVE,
CHRISTIANSBURG, VA 24073

AFFORDABLEDENTURES.COM

02345-1

*Bring in a treatment plan from any competitor and we will beat the total treatment plan for comparable services. Treatment plan must come from a licensed dentist within the past six months for comparable services and is subject to verification. Some plans are excluded. Full details of the Best Price Guarantee are available from our web site or at this practice. [Valid until December 31, 2024] **Free X-ray & consult offer has a minimum value of \$75 and covers a traditional 2-D X-Ray & consult at initial visit. Free X-ray & consult offer may not be combined with any other coupons, discounts, insurance program, or prior order. Offer may change or end without notice.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

P	L	O	P	M	P	G	P	A	R						
P	E	K	O	E	I	R	E	C	A	F	E				
T	A	R	R	Y	W	O	N	R	C	A	F				
P	A	C	E	S	O	F	T	E	A	R	S				
					B	E	S	I	E	G	E	S			
L	E	G	I	T	I	M	A	T	E	D					
C	L	I	N	I	C	S	S	L	A						
D	I	N	K	S			N	I	T	T	I				
					A	D	S	P	A	S	S	A	N	T	
					N	E	W	Y	O	R	K	M	E	T	S
					P	L	E	B	E	I	A	N			
A	L	A	E	A	D	P	E	A	G	A	N				
P	E	B	A	T	I	P	A	U	B	E	R				
E	N	I	D	E	S	E	R	A	B	B	I				
D	A	R		S	H	E		R	E	E	D				