

## Hurlburt Student Center Grand Reopening

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The new and improved Hurlburt Student Center had its grand reopening last week. Students and staff joined in front of the building to witness the ribbon cutting and join in for a celebration of everything “the Bonnie” has to offer. The building was littered with red white and blue balloons while representatives from Hissho Sushi and Chick Fil A (including the cow mascot) were offering merch and free



Photo Credit: Radford University Admissions on Facebook



Photo Credit: Morgan Wade

samples for Radford students. Students heading for the game room were met with a live DJ and an opportunity to test out the newly renovated bowling alley.

The building is of course named after Frances A. “Bonnie” Hurlburt, a 1958 Radford Graduate and former dean of students. She dedicated 39 years of her life to the university and the student center was renamed in her honor in 2005, three years after her retirement. Hurlburt passed away on October 19th of this year at the age of 88. Before the ribbon cutting, President Bret Danilowicz honored Hurlburt with a moment of silence and offered his condolences, “(she) really **gave her life as an administrator at this institution...she spent her life with us and her spirit continues to live on through all of you that engage with the center.**”

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## Hurricane Melissa Reaches Category Five, Expected to Hit Jamaica

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One of the worst hurricanes that hit Jamaica was Gilbert in 1988. Gilbert destroyed 100,000 homes, killed 45 people with an estimation of a billion dollars in damages and wiped out 50% of the water supply. However, **Hurricane Melissa is projected to be even worse than that and will be one of Jamaica's worst hurricanes yet. Melissa became a category 5 hurricane over the weekend with windspeed reaching 160MPH.** It has already killed three people in Haiti and one person in the Dominican Republic by its outer bands alone. Though we do not know whether Melissa will hit the US yet, it will end up hitting Cuba, and other island nations.

Hurricane Melissa formed from the warm temperatures in the Atlantic that seem to be linked to rapid climate change. Melissa began moving to the Caribbean where the wave slowed down and became more organized in the warm Caribbean waters. It rapidly intensified into a major hurricane, fueled by the warm and deep waters of the Caribbean, which provided a boost of energy.

Earlier this month La Niña was announced by the US Climate Prediction Center. La Niña is when the Pacific Ocean temperatures are below average. Generally this leads to colder and stormier winters in the northern U.S. and warmer, drier winters in the southern states. La Niña is a significant contributor to Hurricane Melissa, La Niña conditions reduce vertical wind shear in the Atlantic, high wind shear can tear storms apart, but its reduction allows hurricanes like Melissa to intensify rapidly.

It's been almost one year since Hurricane Helene hit southwest Virginia. Helene was not expected to hit some of the US states it did hit. It caused \$78 billion in damages with several communities unable to prepare for such a devastating natural disaster. It's important to be prepared if Melissa ends up hitting Virginia. Make sure to have the necessary things in case of an emergency: non-perishable food and water for at least three days, a first-aid kit with prescription medications, flashlights, matches in a waterproof container, and a whistle to signal for help.



# Journalists Turn Their Backs on The Pentagon

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Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth has placed restrictions on how much the press can interact with Pentagon personnel. On October 15th, Hegseth sent a memo to Pentagon officials announcing the new policy, mandating that any communications that they have with Congress or state-elected officials must first be approved by the Defense Department's legislative affairs office.



Pete Hegseth Photo Credit: Julia Demaree Nikhinson/AP

Several news outlets across the United States have pushed back against Pete Hegseth's new policy in the Pentagon. The policy requires journalists to acknowledge new rules regarding press access, including that they could be branded security risks and have their press badges revoked if they ask any department employees to disclose classified information. These major outlets stated the policy violated constitutionally protected rights that were granted to journalists' and harmed their right to free

speech and press. It also restricts the press' ability to cover important national security issues. This is a highly important issue, especially given our current climate in the world. They consider the policy a threat to their constitutional rights and a threat to journalism as a whole.

Nearly all of the major news outlets, except for far-right source One America News Network and other smaller sources, rejected Hegseth's Pentagon policy. The majority of major outlets from both sides of the political spectrum, such as The New York Times, The Washington Post, CNN, Fox News, The Associated Press, Reuters, and NPR, rejected the Department of Defense's new policy. The main complaint about this new policy is that it is overly restrictive, and harmed the



Pentagon press briefing room Photo Credit: wpsproav.com

# Electing a More Affordable City: A Profile of the Front-Runners for New York City's Next Mayor

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The New York City mayoral race is not only one of the most important in the history of the city, but has also caught the attention of many Americans outside the Big Apple as well. Front running candidates Zohran Mamdani (D), Andrew Cuomo (Ind.) held their final debate against each other on Wednesday, October 22nd. Currently, Mamdani is ahead in the polls by a significant number, seemingly having been the favorite candidate of New York City since he started his campaign. While Cuomo does have a significant number of supporters of his own, New Yorkers seem to value Mamdani's policies as well as his personality more.

Some of the main issues in this election include public safety, public education, the homelessness crisis in the city, etc. But, what New Yorkers seem to agree on is the prominent belief held by Mamdani, all these issues boil down to a bigger affordability crisis. New York City is often cited as the most expensive U.S city to live in. From groceries to rent to public transit fees, the city has become unaffordable for most average, working-class New Yorkers. This has led to many people fleeing the city, either to live somewhere else completely, or to live outside the city and commute in for work.

Each mayoral candidate agrees that the affordability crisis is infringing upon the community and livelihood of the city, but their opinions vary on how to mend the issue. Mamdani's plan involves raising taxes on high upper-class individuals in the city (those whose income is one million dollars or more annually). He plans to use this money to make the city more affordable on fronts such as housing, healthcare, childcare, etc. His most popular plan, though, is to make buses free and lower the cost of oth-



Photo Credit: Getty Images via nbcnews.com

er modes of public transit, while also bettering the public transit system overall. He also plans to create a "Department of Community Safety" to promote public safety through a community approach, in hopes to give police officers the opportunity to focus on more serious crime in the city. The plan is supposed to address and improve public safety regarding gun violence, public transit safety, the mental health crisis, homelessness, and hate crimes.

Public safety is also a high priority issue for Andrew Cuomo. Formerly a Democratic nominee, Cuomo ran as an Independent after losing to Mamdani in the democratic primary election. **His plan for public safety is to increase the size of NYPD and implement more data-driven research on crime hot-spots in the city. Cuomo plans to increase the number of police officers on subways, while also reducing the chances of unlawful subway entry through infrastructure.** His main policy, though, is improving public education in the city. Cuomo has been on thin ice with New Yorkers for the entire race, primarily due to his acceptance of money from various billionaire donors, and his reputation as former governor. Many New Yorkers feel Cuomo is out of touch with the issues that surround the New York City, especially on affordability.



# Radford Women's Soccer Secures Regular Season Conference Title

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The Radford Highlanders shut out Charleston Southern on Saturday 2-0 to secure their seventh Big South regular season title. It was a sunny Saturday afternoon and the perfect environment for senior day at Cupp Stadium. Before they hit the pitch, Ashley Loundermon, Amani Green, Lilly Short, Paige Olson and Jillian Silverstone were celebrated for their contributions to the program. In the 25th minute following a foul by the Buccaneers, Silverstone launched a perfect pass to the top of the box and Short was able to leap above the goalkeeper and knock in a powerful header for her eighth goal of the season. The defensive intensity from all 11 Highlanders was stout all day long, only allowing one shot in the first half and four in total. Following the halftime break it was Olson's turn to get in the scoring column. In minute 59 Olson was fouled dashing down the right wing. She rifled her penalty kick attempt to the bottom right side of the goal and it was deflected away but Olson stayed aggressive and scored off the ricochet while CSU's goalkeeper was still on the grass.

Head Coach Ben Sohrabi shared his thoughts on the game and his seniors postgame,



#4 Paige Olson prepares to pass Photo Credit: Brandon Whitaker



#23 Lilly Short celebrates following her goal against CSU Photo Credit: @rsimmonsphotographer on Instagram

"It's very difficult to win a regular season conference championship. It's a long haul, and I'm just so proud of what these girls have done this season, proud of what they did today, but also proud of what they did all season...I have a lot of respect for these seniors. I love them as players, they're great students, but they're great people, and they have given this program so much success and they've had so much dedication and commitment to everything that we do, I'm looking forward to what they do in the tournament."

The last time the Highlanders shut out Charleston Southern on senior day was in 2022 when the seniors on this current roster were freshmen. That team ultimately made its way to the NCAA women's soccer tournament. Senior Lilly Short was asked if she thinks history will repeat itself, "I would like it to. I think that we have a really good team this year and we have a lot of fight and will to win, just like we had in the previous year. I think that if we show up to play like we have been, we have a really good chance to make that happen."

The Highlanders have one more regular season road game facing Gardner Webb before they head to Matthews, North Carolina for the **Big South Conference Tournament, starting November 6th.**

# Gaming News: The Insanity of the CSGO Market Crash

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The market for CSGO skins lost two billion dollars in less than 24 hours. CSGO is a popular first person shooter game created by Valve. In CSGO players can get custom skins for their weapons and character models that look cool, they do not offer any advantages in game outside of being aesthetically pleasing. CSGO averages 900,000 players, so it's a very popular game that has tournaments where the best teams compete for championship and fills stadiums to the brim.

Now the way to acquire these skins is through buying lootboxes with either in-game currency that you earn slowly by playing the game, or converting real life dollars to the in-game currency AKA Gambling. There is a rarity list for the skins ranging from common to immortal with the immortal skins having the highest value. Generally to get an immortal skin players have to be either A) be really lucky or B) sink thousands of real dollars into the game just to get the good ones.

Once players have gathered immortal skins they typically start trading them with other players using third party platforms. The skins are bought and sold with real money with some going around a thousand dollars, and **the rarest skin ever being worth a million dollars**. Yes, someone paid a million dollars to own a skin. This market is very volatile and dangerous, but the overall CSGO market had higher growth than the S&P 500 from January to March of this year, so it provides a more appealing investment opportunity to



the average gamer. Governments around the world have been seeing the rise of gambling destroying the youth in recent years and even though Valve insist that it's not really their fault because players will go off their platform to sell these skins. President of Valve Gabe Newell stepped in before legal action took place and released an update patch. The update allows players to trade in a number of their common skins up to a random immortal skin. This means that there would be more rare skins out in the market causing their value to drop.

The average CSGO player loves this because it has become more accessible to get the skins they want. However, the players who invested in skins to make money are upset at Valve because their portfolio has drastically dropped in value. Also, Valve wants the economics of skin trading to shift toward their platform because before the update, they weren't seeing any of the profits from third party marketplaces. By doing all this Valve has lessened gambling on their platform and also created a new cash flow where skins are cheaper to buy on their platform instead of others.



# Israel and Hamas Both Report Violations One Week After Ceasefire Agreement

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The most recent ceasefire agreement between Israel and Hamas made sweeping headlines three weeks ago stipulating that both sides cease attacks and swap hostages. It seemed like the conflict was finally coming to a close however since the agreement was made official on October 10th, both sides have reported violations already.

Multiple publications have claimed that **Hamas has already reported 47 violations by Israel culminating in the deaths of around 40 Palestinians and wounding nearly 130+.** According to an article from **Al Jazeera, the death toll could be closer to 100 with over 230 wounded.** Hamas released a statement saying, “These violations have included crimes of direct gunfire against civilians,



Smoke erupts from a building that held Palestinian refugees following an Israeli strike Photo Credit: Eyad Baba/AFP via Getty Images

deliberate shelling and targeting, and the arrest of a number of civilians, **reflecting the occupation's continued policy of aggression despite the declared end of the war.**”

Multiple outlets have reported that Israeli soldiers were fired on in Rafah after the agreement and although there were no casualties, this



Hamas searching for the bodies of Israeli hostages Photo Credit: Abdel Kareem Hana/AP

event is seemingly what prompted Israel to continue attacks. The delayed return of hostages held by Hamas is also being considered a breach of the ceasefire. Representatives of Hamas have stated that the delay is due to the

bodies being buried under “mountains of rubble.” President Donald Trump posted his thoughts on the matter to his Truth Social account stating, “We have a very strong PEACE in the Middle East, and I believe it has a good chance of being EVERLASTING. Hamas is going to have to start returning the bodies of the deceased hostages, including two Americans, quickly, or the other Countries involved in this GREAT PEACE will take action. Some of the

bodies are hard to reach, but others they can return now and, for some reason, they are not. Perhaps it has to do with their disarming, but when I said, “Both sides would be treated fairly,” that only applies if they comply with their obligations. Let’s see what they do over the next 48 hours. I am watching this very closely.”



# Highlander Highlights: Updates on Three More Teams Preparing for Big South Conference Tournaments

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## Cross Country

The Highlanders will be heading back to Farmville Virginia for their Big South Championships on October 31st. Recently they participated in the Panorama Farms Invitational hosted by the University of Virginia, to face some ACC talent. Senior **Charlie Dance** had the best individual time for Radford, finishing 78/169 with a time of 25:31.4. Radford as a team in the 8k finished 12th, surpassing Elon College Loyola and VMI. On the women's side

**Sophie Magson** finished 44th out of 154. **Her time of 21:36.7 is now the 5th highest finish in the women's 6k in program history.** Freshman **Cora Gentzel** had the second fastest time for the High's (22:31.1).

## Volleyball

A recent three game skid has dropped the Highlanders down to 5th in the Big South Conference standings with five games remaining in the regular season. This week you can catch the final home series for the High's starting with UNC Asheville on Oct 31st at



Sierra Moore #26 celebrates with her team in a previous game vs. NC Central Photo Credit: Jack Buckner



Photo Credit: Radford Athletics

6 p.m. and on Saturday they'll host USC Upstate for Senior Day. The Highlanders were swept when they went on the road to face Asheville earlier in the season, but won a highly contested 5 set match when they faced Upstate on the road.

## Men's Soccer

The men's soccer program needs a few things to happen in order to earn a spot in the conference tournament. They need to secure a spot in the top six and they are currently tied with Winthrop (both 1-4-1) for the sixth seed. If both teams win their final game Winthrop would earn the 6th spot as they bested the Highlanders 3-1 In early October so the Highlanders need to win and hope the Eagles lose to High Point. The final game for the High's will be at home on November 1st taking on USC Upstate. The team will no doubt be looking for a big performance from junior forward **Kenshin Akimoto**. He currently leads the team and is top ten in the Big South in shots on goal (12) goals scored (6) and points (14). The game on Saturday will be at Cupp Stadium at 3 p.m.

Upcoming Radford Athletics Home Games: **Women's Basketball** vs Lynchburg Oct 28th @7:00 PM | **Men's Basketball** vs Bridgewater Oct. 29th @7:00 PM | **Volleyball** vs UNC Asheville Oct. 31 @6:00 PM, vs USC Upstate Nov. 1st @2:00 PM | **Men's Soccer** vs USC Upstate Nov. 1st @3:00 PM