



Wednesday, April 12, 2023 • USPS 387-780 • ourvalley.org • \$1.00

New River Valley receives FY2023 state housing funds

Governor Glenn Youngkin recently announced more than \$12 million in Virginia Housing Trust Fund Homeless Reduction Grants for 68 projects across the Commonwealth, including two in the New River Valley.

The funding will advance targeted efforts to reduce homelessness for 2,669 individuals and families through 25 permanent supportive housing, 34 rapid rehousing and nine underserved populations innovation projects.

Community Housing Partners in Christiansburg will receive \$1.7 million for the Stroubles Ridge Phase I project, and New River Community Action Housing Trust Fund will be given \$132,850 for a Rapid Rehousing project for FY2023. The Trust Fund includes the following areas: the city of Radford and the counties of Montgomery, Giles, Floyd and Pulaski, along with the towns of Blacksburg and Christiansburg.

"A critical element of our

pursuit of new businesses in the Commonwealth is the housing needed to support these economic development efforts," said Youngkin. "This funding will help us protect our most vulnerable populations, address Virginia's housing supply problem and ensure that homelessness in the Commonwealth is rare, brief and nonrecurring."

The Virginia Housing Trust Fund is provided by the General Assembly and the grants announced today represent 20 percent of this fiscal year's fund investment. The remaining funds support the production of new or rehabilitated housing units through the Affordable and Special Needs Housing Program.

"Housing is foundational for building vibrant communities and strong local economies across the Commonwealth," said Secretary of Commerce and Trade Caren Merrick. "With this round of funding, we are focusing on strategies that have proven successful in

reducing homelessness, such as rapid rehousing and permanent supportive housing, ensuring that no vulnerable Virginians are left behind."

The goal of the Virginia Housing Trust Fund Homeless Reduction Grant Program is to reduce homelessness throughout Virginia. The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) supports Balance of State (BoS) Continuum of Care (CoC) local planning group strategies and homeless service projects that are a part of an effective emergency crisis response system in communities. The Homeless Reduction Grant program must be coordinated with other community-based activities. These grantees use a local centralized or coordinated assessment/entry system, which is the best practice for a housing-focused approach for helping households experiencing homelessness quickly regain stability in permanent housing.

-News Messenger staff report



PHOTO COURTESY OF RADFORD UNIVERSITY

The 2021 regional juried show included artwork from many regional artists.

Fine arts show at Radford University invites local artists

RADFORD - This summer, Radford University Art Museum will host the Radford Fine Arts Show, a juried exhibition of artwork from around Southwest Virginia.

The show offers awards and cash prizes and is open to all regional artists over 18 working in any media.

The submission deadline is May 1 for the show, which will run from June 5 through August 5 in Radford University Art Museum's Tyler Gallery, at 214 Tyler Avenue. The exhibit, reception, and award announcements will be held in the Tyler Gallery on June 9, 2023, from 5-7 p.m.

Museum Registrar

Theresa Rykaczewski says the event has been widely successful in the past, thanks to support from the City of Radford as part of a collaborative partnership with Radford University.

"Events like this have the power to bring the everyone together," Rykaczewski said, "helping us share a sense of pride to be artists, residents, business owners, and students who make up the fabric of our community."

She added she would ideally like to see entries from each of the eligible counties, which range from Rockbridge in the north all the way down to Lee County in the far southwest of the state.

The juror is Travis Head,

Associate Professor of Drawing at Virginia Tech's School of Visual Art.

Head said artists can focus on the creative process to the point that it's easy to forget the importance of sharing their creations.

"It's important for artists to get their work out of the studio," said Head. "Shows like this give artists an opportunity to learn a little more about what they are up to if they remain open and receptive. It's nice to be surprised by your own work when you see it from someone else's perspective."

More information and a prospectus on the show can be found at the Radford University Art Museum's webpage.

Blue Ridge Fudge Lady finds a home in downtown Christiansburg

Lori Graham
Contributing writer

Robin Burdette, owner of The Blue Ridge Fudge Lady and a Shawsville native, had always dreamed of owning a business in downtown Christiansburg and now she has found a place she and her café can call home.

Her fudge and chocolate business first began its journey in Radford, selling at the downtown farmers market where her fudge and chocolates gained attention, along with her zest for life and happiness.

She then had a storefront in downtown Radford called the Doghouse Gifts and Chocolates. The idea was for people to buy chocolates and fudge to "get out of the doghouse," a funny spin on the phrase. Her friend joked with her that the name might attract a different kind of customer; dogs and their owners looking for dog treats. So, when the first customer came in with a dog, she thought it was hilarious.

Her next move brought her to the town of Pulaski, where she changed the name of the business and rebranded with a new logo, becoming The Blue Ridge Fudge Lady. While in this location, she found a positive response and continued to grow a community interest in her business. One of the business's hosted events drew quite a crowd with the signing of Ron Peterson's book, Under the Trestle. Unfortunately, as with many businesses, the arrival of the pandemic greatly

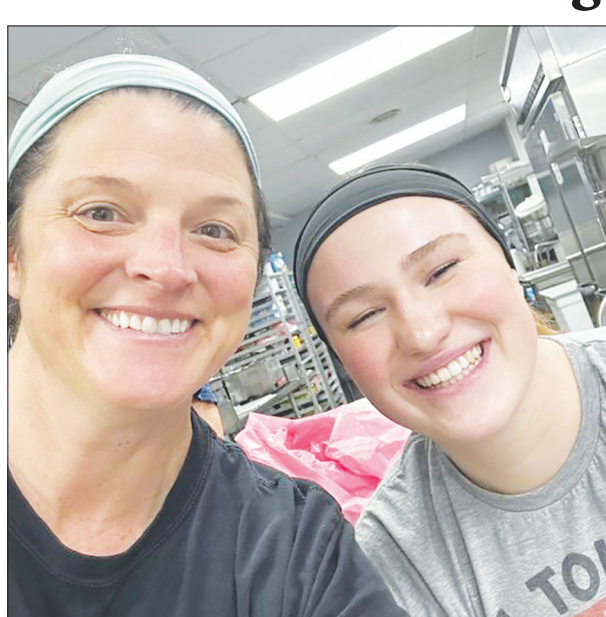


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE BLUE RIDGE FUDGE LADY
Blue Ridge Fudge Lady owner Robin Burdette (left) and employee Abigail Selty spend some time at the shop.

impacted her in-person sales.

"Online sales were really good but retail sales had decreased over the previous couple of years," Burdette expressed. "I didn't know where I would go and felt a little homeless."

The Blue Ridge Fudge Lady was not ready to be defeated though. She was hosted for a while by Draper Mercantile and also rented a space for a time in Fairlawn near Wal-Mart.

"I really wanted to move to Christiansburg and for a year I couldn't find anything" she said. "It is the best downtown area and just so cute."

That is when Donna Speaks called her. A business owner and close friend, Speaks was leaving her downtown Christiansburg space and even had equipment for sale.

"I had dreamt of being in this spot," Burdette beamed.

The Blue Ridge Fudge Lady Café is now open for breakfast and lunch, with their grand opening on April 10, 2023, and are located on 4 West Main Street #110 in Christiansburg. Customers will find the fudge varieties that Burdette has become known for but also lots of other food choices from sausage and egg biscuits, toast or burritos, to soup and sandwiches, additional snacks and a la carte items.

Burdette hopes that when people come to the café, they will be joyful and happy about being there.

"We try to have a fun environment. We have drive-by fudge handouts on Saturdays, sometimes we will even dress up in costume to enjoy a laugh," Burdette jokes.

Not only is Burdette a business woman, providing fudge and other delicacies to the New River Valley

See Fudge, page 4

Radford's women veterans honored in campus ceremony



PHOTO COURTESY OF RADFORD UNIVERSITY

(From left) Deanna Mabe, Amanda Bishop, Sofia Stallard, Sarah Schafer, Reyna Hernandez Osuna, Tina Cox, Antoinette Donkoh and Danielle Rock '18.

Camaraderie, not camouflage, was the order of the day as the Military Resource Center saluted the women veterans past and present among Radford University's students, faculty and staff with a pinning ceremony and reception on Thursday, March 23.

"It was great to publicly acknowledge the military service and sacrifices made by each of these women and their families, and we are truly thankful for their service," said Deanna Mabe, MRC director.

About 40 to 50 attendees honored Radford's women veterans

at the ceremony, which was hosted in Russell Hall by the MRC in partnership with the Virginia Department of Veterans Services. Presiding over the event were Student Veterans Organization co-presidents Shaun Landry, a senior management major and U.S. Marines veteran, and Troy Stallard, a senior biomedical science major and U.S. Air Force veteran.

Six women veterans received pins in honor of the sixth annual Virginia Women Veterans Week. The pinning was conducted by Danielle

Rock '18, a U.S. Army veteran and peer support and outreach counselor with the veterans services department.

"It is truly an honor for me to come back to campus and recognize these women veterans," Rock said. "Radford University helped me transition into the civilian workforce, connect with fellow veterans and shape who I am today."

The veterans honored at the ceremony were: Amanda Bishop, senior criminal justice major, U.S. Army veteran.

See Veterans, page 4

APRIL 20, 2023
Eastern Divide
Brewing Company
3175 Commerce Street,
Blacksburg

Benefiting
Blacksburg BATTLES CANCER
COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER
OF THE NEW RIVER VALLEY

FREE
ADMISSION

Food available for purchase at venue

\$1
per beverage will be donated to CHCNRV and BBC

Silent Auction

4:00-5:00 P.M. **DOORS OPEN THE HIGHLANDS JAZZ TRIO**

5:00-6:00 P.M. **JARED GIBBS TRIO**

6:00-7:00 P.M. **VINCE LEWIS TRIO**

7:00-8:00 P.M. **LENNY MARCUS GROUP**

8:00-9:00 P.M. **VIRGINIA TECH JAZZ ENSEMBLE**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, April 12:

Coping Techniques for Caregivers

Commonwealth Senior Living at Christiansburg will be hosting seminar titled "Coping Techniques for Caregivers." The seminar will discuss ways to care for a senior loved one while also caring for yourself.

Thursday, April 13:

River City Quilt Guild

The River City Quilt Guild meets the second Thursday of each month at 9:30 a.m. in Grove United Methodist Church, 1020 Tyler Ave., Radford. If you are willing to share your knowledge and learn from others, this guild is for you. We welcome all skill levels of quilters. For more information call Anna Handy, 540 320 7791.

New River Valley Chapter of Virginia Master Naturalists

At the Radford Public Library; 6-7:30 p.m. Learn about what it takes to become a Virginia Master Naturalist! This volunteer organization is sponsored by the Virginia Cooperative Extension and several other state agencies. Virginia Master Naturalists are volunteer educators, citizen scientists and environmental stewards helping Virginia conserve and manage natural resources and natural areas in their communities. While attending you might meet Henry the Python and/or Firefly, an Eastern Box Turtle. This informative session will provide you with details about upcoming classes and instruction in the basic training program that begins August 10. Formal class size is limited and an online application will be available on May 10 via the chapter website - <http://tinyurl.com/NRVnaturalists> All are welcome at this information session at RPL.

Lunch & Learn with Better Business Bureau: Employment Scams

At the Radford Public Library; noon – 1 p.m. Job search and employment scams are the second highest scams. Learn about safe job opportunities from the BBB including learning tips and advice for searching for in-person and remote work. Lunch is provided for those who register by emailing elizabeth.sensabaugh@radfordva.gov.

Saturday, April 15:

Ollie Aboard the Reading Train

At the Radford Public Library; 11 a.m. – noon. By reservation only! Register your child for a 10-minute reading session with Oliver, the Saint Francis Facility Dog. Children can practice reading aloud to a furry friend. Please email elizabeth.sensabaugh@radfordva.gov to reserve a reading session. Bring your book or pick one while you're at the library. Oliver will be happy to hear your story.

Free Tax Assistance with NRCA

At the Christiansburg Library; 1 – 4 p.m. Come in for free tax prep assistance through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program and NRCA. Income limits may apply. Walk-In Only! For more information visit <https://newrivercommunityaction.org/vita> or call 540-320-3217.

Monday, April 17:

Electric Vehicles Show and Tell

At the Blacksburg Library; 2 – 3:30 p.m. Join us for a community electric vehicle (EV) showing event! The Hokie Electric Vehicle Team (HEVT) will discuss the

environmental and economic advantages of EV's, as well as the importance of how we impact our community. Whether you're an EV enthusiast or just interested in learning more about sustainable transportation options, this event is not to be missed!

Wednesday, April 19:

Business Women's meeting

American Business Women's Association NRV Express Network April luncheon meeting; 11:30 a.m.-1p.m., Holiday Inn Christiansburg-Blacksburg, 99 Bradley Drive, Christiansburg. Join us for networking fun at our April meeting. We will engage in interactive ice breakers to get to know each other better. We have lots of new members in recent months and would love to become better acquainted with each and everyone. Paige Godwin is the Speaker Sponsor for this meeting. RSVP by April 17. Cost is \$16. Contact: Terri Welch at christiansburg@wineanddesign.com or Paige Godwin at godwinpaige@gmail.com.

Radford Army Ammunition Plant community meeting

The Radford Army Ammunition Plant (RFAAP) will hold the next Commander's Community Meeting at 6:30 p.m. at the Christiansburg Library, 125 Sheltman Street, Christiansburg. It also will be broadcast on Facebook Live (facebook.com/RadfordArmyAmmunitionPlant/). Meetings are open to the public.

Saturday, April 22:

Montgomery County/ Blacksburg Kiwanis Club Brunswick Stew fundraiser

At Prices Fork Elementary School (PFES), 4021 Prices Fork Rd., Blacksburg; noon – 2 p.m. Fundraiser benefits programming at PFES and local youth charities supported by Kiwanis. Pre-orders are encouraged by calling (540) 951-5834 or emailing pfesstew@gmail.com. Payment accepted by cash or check upon pickup. Kindly make checks payable to PFES. Drive-thru service will be available the day of pickup. Price is \$10/ quart or \$9 /quart for five quarts.

Monday, April 24:

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, April 25:

Blacksburg Town Council meeting

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

Christiansburg Town Council meeting

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

Saturday, April 29:

Library of Virginia on-the-go

At the Meadowbrook Library; 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. The Library of Virginia is bringing their state-of-the-art equipment and offering their expertise. Join us to explore research resources, discuss regional and family history, enjoy children's activities and much more. Door prizes, Genealogy 101 and help with your questions, tours of the Meadowbrook Museum and the MFRL Mobile Library, special guest Daniel Thorp, and Precious Valley Farms Petting Zoo. All events are free and open to the community.

Sunday, April 30:

Christiansburg Presbyterian Church Spring Concert

Christiansburg Presbyterian Church will offer its annual Spring Concert at 4 p.m. This year's guest artist will be classical guitarist Justin Craig. Justin is a graduate of Radford University with a Master of Music degree in classical guitar performance. He is a busy regional guitarist, jazz performer, recording artist, and teacher. He performs often as a soloist and leads a variety of groups including a modern jazz and Brazilian group. This concert is free and open to the public.

On-going:

Registration open for annual Scrabble tournament for literacy

Registration is now open for the Literacy Volunteers of the New River Valley 15th Annual LVNRV Scrabble Tournament, which will be held Thursday, April 27, 2023 at Sinkland Farms in Christiansburg. All proceeds from the fun evening support free tutoring for adults to provide them with the skills they need for personal independence and family self-sufficiency. Programs include one-on-one tutoring, Skill Up NRV and Family READS programs, GED and U.S. Citizenship preparation classes, and Bridge to Digital Learning initiative. Register at www.lvnrv.org or call 540-382-7262.

Cap and Gown Drive

The Town of Blacksburg Sustainability Office is partnering with Blacksburg High School and Sustainable Blacksburg to encourage re-use of previous years' graduate gear for the 2023 senior class. Gowns (blue only - from 2018 and later), caps, stoles, and cords are accepted. Donations can be made between 8:30 a.m. -2:30 p.m., Monday-Friday at the Main Entrance of Blacksburg High School. It is appreciated if materials are dry-cleaned, but not required. For more information, contact the Town of Blacksburg Sustainability Office at 540-443-1617 or sustainability@blacksburg.gov.

Free GED Classes

New River Community College is offering free GED at the Meadowbrook Library every Tuesday and Thursday evening from 5 – 8 p.m. The classes began on Tuesday, Jan. 17 and end on Thursday, May 11. For more information or to sign up please call the Meadowbrook Library at 540-268-1964.

School of Performing Arts' performance of 'Once Upon a Mattress' opens April 13

BLACKSBURG - A collaboration between the theatre and music programs will result in a concert-style production of the family-friendly musical comedy "Once Upon A Mattress" April 13-16 at the Moss Arts Center, presented by the School of Performing Arts.

The plot is based on the classic fairytale "The Princess and the Pea." As Concord Theatrical described it: "Many moons ago in a far-off place, Queen Aggravain decreed no couples could marry until her son, Prince Dauntless, found a bride. Princesses came from far and wide to win the hand of the prince, but none could pass the impossible tests given to them by the queen. That is, until the 'shy' swamp princess, Winnifred the Woebegone, showed up. Would she be able to pass the Sensitivity Test, marry her prince, and help Lady Larkin and Sir Harry to the altar? Carried on a wave of wonderful songs, by turns hilarious and raucous, romantic and melodic, this rollicking spin on the classic tale 'The Princess and the Pea' provides some side-splitting shenanigans. For after all, a princess is a delicate thing."

Performances will be at 7:30 p.m. April 13-15 and at 2 p.m. April 16 in the Anne and Ellen Fife Theatre, within Moss Arts Center's Street and Davis Performance Hall at 190 Alumni Mall in Blacksburg.

The production will be "truly a joint venture between theatre and music, supported by the School of Performing Arts," said Cara Rawlings, associate professor of theatre who is co-directing the show with Ariana Wyatt, associate professor of voice. Brian Thorsett, associate professor of voice, serves as the vocal director, and Mathias Elmer, director of orchestral activities and assistant professor of music, is music director. Elmer will conduct the 35-member Virginia Tech Philharmonic, which will play on stage alongside the actors.

This joint directing venture is collaborative, Rawlings said. "This is not the standard top-down approach to directing a show. Everyone — the musicians in the orchestra and maestro, the actors, technical and design staff, and stage management — has an active role in creating this show. Our fundamental goal is to respect the agency of each individual artist and their contributions to the production."

Of the philharmonic's role, Elmer said, "This is a very unique opportunity for us to be involved with the musical. I am very thankful that our students will get the experience of performing/accompanying in a setting that is nontraditional for us. This will definitely help push us onto a new level, musically and artistically."

The title role of Princess Winnifred was originated by the famous comedic actress Carol Burnett, who won the 1960 Tony Award for Best Performance by a Leading Actress in a Musical. Maya Jaffe, a double major in theatre in the School of Performing Arts in the College of Architecture, Arts, and Design and psychology in the College of Science, will take on the brashly lovable character in this production.

"Once Upon A Mattress" is "a story about being yourself and never shying away from a challenge," Jaffe said. She said she is looking forward to performing on the Anne and Ellen Fife stage at the Moss Arts Center, a unique opportunity for an undergraduate actor.

There are several challenges in presenting a show at the Moss Arts Center rather than at Squires Studio Theatre, where School of Performing Arts productions are usually held. "The shift from our rehearsal room to the Moss will be significant for the actors — they will be challenged with filling the space with their vocal and physical presence. Allen Sanders, instructor of sound design, and Gabrielle Henry, a graduate student studying lighting design, are ready to support that shift with both sound and lighting."

Another member of the production team who is not shying away from a challenge is stage manager and graduate student, Rachel Kilgore. "It's relatively new to me to run tech and dress rehearsals with a full orchestra, which is behind the cast on stage and not in the pit. That will add another layer of challenge on such a huge stage as the Anne and Ellen Fife stage at the Moss. I'm here to learn, and I'm down for the challenge," said Kilgore.

The last time a musical was performed by the School of Performing Arts was in 2018, when the school presented "Fun Home." The musical "Pippin" was just beginning rehearsals in 2020 when the pandemic closed the production permanently. "If the pandemic taught us anything, it was to find joy in the moments we have together creating and telling



Theatre major Maya Jaffe plays Princess Winnifred in "Once Upon A Mattress."



PHOTOS BY LIZ GRAY FOR VIRGINIA TECH
Mathias Elmer conducts the Virginia Tech Philharmonic during a music rehearsal.

stories, working hard, and making each other laugh," Rawlings said.

Tickets are \$15 general and \$12 for seniors/students and may be purchased through the Moss Arts Center ticket office in person or may be purchased online. Tickets will also be available at the door beginning one hour prior to the performance.

-Liz Gray for Virginia Tech

POLICE REPORT

Radford City Police Department Report
 March 27 – April 2, 2023

Monday, March 27:

9:32 a.m. Obstruct/resist: w/o threats/force, profane swearing or intoxication in public, assault: on law enforcement/judge/doctor/fire/emergency person, Sixth St.
 2:22 p.m. Missing person, 1200 block of Grove Ave.
 4:18 p.m. Obtain money/etc: false pretense, larceny>=\$200, 2000 block of East Main St.
 4:19 p.m. Assault and battery - family member, Robertson St.
Tuesday, March 28:
 11 p.m. Holding phone, operate vehicle while, DUI/DUID: refusal of blood or breath test, second offense, speed: 10-14 mph over limit, driving motor vehicle, engine, etc., while intoxicated, etc. (DUI/DUID), 800 block of East Main St.
Wednesday, March 29:
 8:57 a.m. Threaten school employee, 700 block Twelfth

St.
 1:03 p.m. Strangulation: results in wounding/bodily injury, abduction: by force, intimidation or deception, physical assault, brandish weapon, assault & battery - family member, phone: damage line; prevent summoning law enforcement, 1000 block of Downey St.
 8:15 p.m. Petit Larceny: less than \$200 not from a person, 100 block of East Main St.
Thursday, March 30:
 5:11 a.m. Petit larceny, vehicle/aircraft/boat/etc., destroy/injure, 200 block of Madison St.
 5:11 a.m. Credit card larceny: take/obtain no., vehicle/aircraft/boat/etc: destroy/injure, petit larceny, 500 block of Clement St.
 1 p.m. Credit card fraud: use card, value greater than \$200, 1000 block of Lawrence St.
 1:23 p.m. Stalking: reasonable fear of death/assault/etc., 1100 block of East Main St.
 6:37 p.m. Labor/custody: endanger/cruelly treat child, 200 block of Jeffries Dr.
Friday, March 31:

10:19 a.m. Grand larceny, 300 block of Tyler Ave.
 3:05 p.m. Petit larceny: less than \$5 from a person (pick pocket), 100 block of Madison St.
 4:28 p.m. Shoplift: alter price tags/etc. less than \$200 (third offense), 200 block of Tyler Ave.
Saturday, April 1:
 12:43 a.m. Possession of Controlled Substance, no location given
 4:47 p.m. Mental subject, 100 block of Madison St.
 10:12 p.m. Possession of controlled substance, possession of controlled substance, 1300 block of Rock Rd. East
 11:40 p.m. Assault: (misdemeanor), 1200 block of Lawrence St.
 11:43 p.m. Possession of controlled substance, 100 block of West Main St.
Sunday, April 2:
 None
Alcohol round-up
 DUI- 1
 Drunk in Public- 1
 Underage Possession of Alcohol- 0

In radio interview, English professor delves into his theories on writing

The “With Good Reason” public radio program is re-airing its December 2020 interview with Radford University Professor of English Louis Gallo, Ph.D., in which he talked in detail about his theories and inspirations for writing. On the show titled “Writing Through,” Gallo and the show’s host, Sarah McConnell, “talked about everything from my theory that all writing is autobiographical,” the professor said, “to my use of wishbones as a recurrent image in my poetry.” Recalling the interview, the professor teased a can’t-miss story he shared on the show: it’s about his “childhood terror when a headless chicken chased me out of the old Indian Market on Bayou Road in

New Orleans.” Gallo and McConnell also discussed his wife – she’s his muse, he said – memory, nostalgia, time and “how we never get around to probing what our almost immediate ancestors have produced in terms of art – of whatever kind.” The show is available as a podcast at withgoodreason.org. “With Good Reason” is produced by Virginia Humanities for the Virginia Higher Education Broadcasting Consortium, which comprises all of Virginia’s public colleges and universities. *-Chad Osborne for Radford University*

Treasurer’s office to be closed April 13 and 14

RADFORD - The City of Radford Treasurer’s office and Radford DMV Select will be closed April 13 and 14, 2023 for software upgrades. The office reports there is a drop box in the side parking lot to make utility payments and offers “sincere apologies for any inconvenience this may cause.” The treasurer’s office plan to re-open Monday, April 17, 2023 for normal hours.

Be sure to ‘Like’ the News Journal on Facebook.

Researching ways to increase driver attention

Programmed technology pauses in vehicles could help drivers remain aware of their surroundings. Researchers from the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute (VTTI) in collaboration with Google’s Android Auto team have found that mechanisms that encourage drivers to take long glances back at the road during extended interaction with a touchscreen infotainment system may be a key aspect of mitigating driver distraction. The findings come after multiple years of investigating if adding temporary pauses on a vehicle’s infotainment screen, or dashboard display, would promote driver attention to the driving task. The research was published in the MDPI journal, Safety by VTTI researchers Jason Meyer and Eddy Llaneras with Greg Fitch of Android Auto.

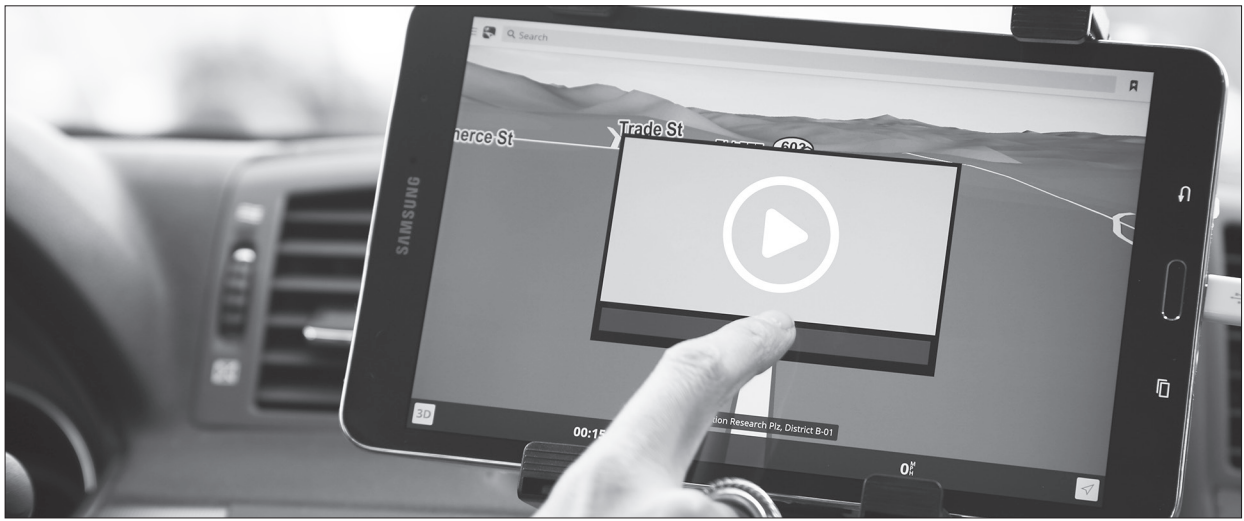


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY JACOB LEVIN FOR VIRGINIA TECH
Driver attention is critical to the safety of everyone in the vehicle.

“We wanted to see how situation awareness would change when a driver was forced to pause from interacting with an infotainment system,” said Meyer, research associate at VTTI. “The capabilities of the Virginia Smart Roads allowed for us to test a wide range of scenarios to see how the driver interacted with road hazards and the system.” To conduct this research, the highway portion of the Virginia Smart Roads was used to simulate highway driving conditions and provide a closed course for a surprise event. “We partnered with VTTI because of their domain expertise, ability to execute test track research on driver response maneuvers, and practical approach to research,” said Fitch, head of safety research for Android Auto at Google. The Virginia Smart Roads Highway, operated by VTTI in Blacksburg, is one of the institute’s four test beds that allow for state-of-the-art transportation research. The highway is a 2.2-mile-long closed testing facility that

meets the Virginia Department of Transportation roadway standards and provides a location for tests that would be otherwise dangerous on public roads or difficult to replicate in a simulated environment. During the experiment, volunteers were assigned tasks that included navigating through the infotainment system for a specific music playlist. One group of participants was prompted to look at the road for six seconds during the task, serving as a replacement for a pause built into the program. The other group was asked to conduct the same task without the six-second break. While participants performed the assigned tasks on

the vehicle’s infotainment system, a lead research vehicle activated its hazard lights and replicated a common real-world scenario that would require drivers to react. The research team found that drivers who paused their interactions were more aware of the lead research vehicle’s hazard lights, less surprised by the incident, and executed more controlled maneuvers. These findings suggest that drivers’ situational awareness is greater when task interactions are broken up with pauses, allowing for longer monitoring of the environment. *-Lindsey Haugh for Virginia Tech*

5TH ANNUAL

FREEDOM FEST

APRIL 22 & 23, 2023

featuring:
 “Missing Man”
 Formation Flyover by
 WWII T-6 Texans

New Freedom Farm
 Buchanan, VA

LIVE MUSIC BY: ERIC WAYNE BAND, TATE TUCK BAND, MARTIN KELLY, TERRY & RAYMOND

Silent Auction • 50/50 • Food • Vendors • Fun!

Tickets: \$8.00 includes raffle ticket for a \$500 Visa gift card.
 Rain, sleet, snow, or shine just like our troops serve.
 Children 17 and under free.

SATURDAY April 22
 11 AM - Gates Open
 12:22 PM - Opening Ceremonies
 - Missing Man Flyover
 - New Freedom Farm Color Guard Presentation of Colors
 - Mary Miller, Jordan Founder of IAM HERD with her own Mustangs Performing at Liberty.
 12:30 - 2 PM - Terry and Raymond
 2 - 5 PM - Martin and Kelly Band

SUNDAY April 23
 11 AM - Gates Open
 12:22 PM - Opening Ceremonies
 12:30 - 2 PM - Tate Tuck Band
 2 - 5 PM - Eric Wayne Band

WFXR FOX, TOO 212 MANY, THE MOUNTAIN STATE

For more information or to buy tickets, visit us online at:
www.NewFreedomFarm.org

PETS OF THE WEEK



Walter



Rosco

Regal Beagle Rosco wants to be the king of your heart! He’s a timid boy who would benefit from patient humans who can share new experiences with him that will help grow his confidence.

Walter came to the Animal Care and Adoption Center a very short time ago. He is a sweet, friendly boy who is in search of a cozy indoor home. Walter has previously lived with a dog but does not get along with his fellow felines. Stop by to meet this purrecious cat!

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.

game time AT THE SUPERBOWL

NRV SuperBowl Summer Leagues Beginning Soon

Register for the night or day Leagues

Night Leagues Monday, Tuesday Wednesday, Friday & Sunday	Daytime Leagues Tuesday morning Coffee League or Thursday Morning Senior Crazy 8’s
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Sign up now for a summer of fun and competition
 (Register in person or online at www.superbowl.net)

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

visit
www.ourvalley.org

Fudge

from page 1

for several years now, she also works for the Department of Defense 40-60 hours a week. Previously a cryptologist for the Navy, she found this work was a natural fit for her and continues to work in the field of cyber security as a contracted civilian.

Veterans Day is a big day for The Blue Ridge Fudge Lady as well. She has been giving away boxes of fudge for several years to veterans to thank them for their service. Last

year, she unfortunately had to miss out on this tradition because she was prepping the store for opening. This year the giveaway will be coming back big and strong. Burdette has employed the help of police officers previously, with areas from Galax to Botetourt participating. Police officers volunteer to deliver the goodies in their own communities resulting in over 400 boxes brought to the hands of veterans.

The Blue Ridge Fudge Lady is open Monday through Saturday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., along with online purchasing options available as well. The café in Christiansburg also offers a space for meetings, receptions, and other events. Their Blue Room meeting space is located upstairs in the shop comfortably catering up to 50 people. Check out The Blue Ridge Fudge Lady on Facebook or at their website at www.fudgelady.com.

Veterans

from page 1

Tina Cox, file and documents manager, Financial Aid Office, U.S. Army veteran.

Antoinette Donkoh, junior nursing major, U.S. Army veteran.

Reyna Hernandez Osuna, junior accounting major, U.S. Army veteran.

Sarah Schafer, senior criminal justice major, U.S. Air Force veteran.

Sofia Stallard, senior nursing major, U.S. Air Force veteran.

"I was personally touched by sitting and listening to the conversations and the stories of older and younger

veterans," Mabe said. "You could see them making connections and friendships ... it was heartwarming to see their support of each other."

Bishop, who was stationed in South Korea and deployed to Kuwait during her Army service, agreed.

"It was really cool to be able to meet and talk with other female veterans at Radford University and learn about their military service," she said.

Cox said she was pleased to discover so much common ground. She was "a bit intimidated by the student veterans on campus with their impressive military experience," she said, since her enlistment was

stateside and noncombatant. At the ceremony, though, she felt she'd found "a second campus family. These women are remarkable, and I'm grateful for the chance to get to know them a little better through events like this. I was thrilled to see such a great turnout - which also included male veterans."

Virginia Women Veterans Week was created in 2018 to recognize the service of more than 104,000 women veterans in the state. Virginia claims the greatest percentage of women veterans per capita of any state in the country.

-Pam McCallister for Radford University

Financial Focus: CDs can be part of your investment strategy

In the financial world, stocks and stock-based mutual funds often get a lot of attention. And deservedly so, because they often form the core of a portfolio. But to help achieve your goals, you may also want to consider a broader array of investments — one of which may be a certificate of deposit (CD).

As you may know, a CD earns interest on a lump sum for a designated period. You can purchase CDs whose maturities range from a few months to 10 or more years. Generally, the longer-term the CD, the higher the interest rate, although this isn't always the case.

In recent years, CD rates have been pretty low, reflecting the overall interest-rate environment. But now, as the Federal Reserve has repeatedly raised interest rates to combat inflation, CD rates are rising, too. In fact, one-year CDs can currently be found paying in the

5% range — a rate that hasn't been seen in more than 15 years. Later in 2023, though, if the Fed eases up on rate hikes, or perhaps even starts reversing them, CD rates could fall again.

You can purchase a CD from a bank or buy a "brokered" CD from a financial services provider. The income you receive from a CD may be its main attraction, especially if the rates remain elevated for a while. But there's another key advantage to owning CDs: They can help diversify a portfolio of stocks and stock mutual funds that are generally more susceptible to movements in the financial markets. A portfolio that contains CDs, as well as bonds and government securities, can help reduce the effects of market volatility. Keep in mind, though, that diversification can't guarantee profits or prevent losses in a declining market.

While adding individual CDs can be valuable, you might get a greater benefit from a more strategic approach known as laddering. You can build a CD ladder by buying a series of CDs that mature at different dates in the future — perhaps one month, three months, six months, nine months and 12 months out, or an even

longer-term ladder of one to five years. In either case, as one CD matures, you can use the money if you need it or reinvest it to another "rung" on your ladder. If interest rates are up, the reinvestment option might be appealing, but if the available CD rates are lower than your maturing CDs, you could find better uses for your money. And you'd still have your longer-term CDs, possibly paying higher rates, working for you. You must evaluate whether a CD ladder and the securities held within it are consistent with your investment objectives, risk tolerance and financial circumstances.

The amount of space occupied by CDs in your portfolio should depend somewhat on your stage of life. If you're a long way from retirement, you may want to own a larger percentage of growth-oriented investments. But once you're retired and getting more income from your portfolio becomes more important, you might find a greater need for CDs.

In any case, CDs may prove useful to your overall financial strategy — so give them some thought.

-This article was written by Edward, Member SIPC and submitted by local Edward Jones financial advisor Meghan Kuczarski (540)552-1241.

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Virginia gas prices on the rise

Average gasoline prices in Virginia have risen 4.0 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.44/g today, according to GasBuddy's survey of 4,081 stations in Virginia. Prices in Virginia are 20.6 cents per gallon higher than a month ago and stand 54.0 cents per gallon lower than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has fallen 1.6 cents in the last week and stands at \$4.15 per gallon.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Virginia was priced at \$2.93/g yesterday while the most expensive was \$3.99/g, a difference of \$1.06/g. The lowest price in the state yesterday was \$2.93/g while the highest was \$3.99/g, a difference of \$1.06/g.

The national average price of gasoline has risen 8.8 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.57/g today. The national average is up 13.0 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 52.6 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:

- April 10, 2022: \$3.98/g (U.S. Average: \$4.10/g)
- April 10, 2021: \$2.72/g (U.S. Average: \$2.85/g)
- April 10, 2020: \$1.77/g (U.S. Average: \$1.84/g)
- April 10, 2019: \$2.55/g (U.S. Average: \$2.79/g)
- April 10, 2018: \$2.48/g (U.S. Average: \$2.66/g)
- April 10, 2017: \$2.20/g (U.S. Average: \$2.39/g)

April 10, 2016: \$1.89/g (U.S. Average: \$2.04/g)
April 10, 2015: \$2.20/g (U.S. Average: \$2.40/g)
April 10, 2014: \$3.45/g (U.S. Average: \$3.61/g)
April 10, 2013: \$3.49/g (U.S. Average: \$3.57/g)
Neighboring areas and their current gas prices:
Roanoke- \$3.32/g, up 6.5 cents per gallon from last week's \$3.25/g.

Richmond- \$3.46/g, up 3.2 cents per gallon from last week's \$3.43/g.

West Virginia- \$3.57/g, up 15.9 cents per gallon from last week's \$3.41/g.

"The national average price of gasoline has continued its relatively slow climb, with 44 states seeing average gasoline prices climb over the last week. Prices are being pulled up not only due to continued increases in demand as temperatures warm, but also pressure from oil prices, which have risen over 20% in the last month, primarily driven by OPEC's surprise decision a week ago to cut oil production," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy. "Expect the upward trend to continue through much of the rest of spring, but once the transition to summer gasoline and refinery maintenance are behind us, April and May jumps could bring June slumps. However, for diesel, the news continues to be good, with the national average price of diesel continuing to drop, now at its narrowest difference to gasoline in over 13 months."

-Submitted by Gas Buddy

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												65

CLUES ACROSS

1. Atomic mass unit
4. Criticize mightily
7. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
10. Stand in for
11. Everyone has one
12. Brew
13. Rectify
15. Popular Dodge truck model
16. Beef or chicken intestine
19. Satisfy
21. Of a particular people or localized region
23. Movements in quick tempos
24. Able to pay one's debts
25. Fleshy bird beak covering
26. Dueling sword
27. Helps
30. Court is in it
34. Touch lightly

CLUES DOWN

1. Sharp mountain ridge
2. Thin, fibrous cartilages
3. Provides new details
4. Muscular weaknesses
5. Ottoman military title
6. Banes
7. Horse-riding seats
8. Arms of a shirt
9. Narrow path along a road edge
13. Viper
14. Disfigure
17. Variety of Chinese language
18. Portray in a show
20. Wrongful act
22. No (slang)
27. State of agitation
28. ___ Diego
29. One point east of due south
31. 007's creator
32. The NBA's Toppin
33. Midway between north and

CLUES ACROSS

35. Airborne (abbr.)
36. Of one
41. Baked good
45. Jai __ sport
46. About aviation
47. Low oval mound
50. Rugged mountain ranges
54. Compel to do something
55. A way to carve
56. Sao __ city in Brazil
57. Mustachioed actor
59. American Idol runner-up
60. A way to soak
61. Car mechanics group
62. Born of
63. Time zone
64. Sea eagle
65. Even's opposite

CLUES DOWN

37. Examples
38. ___ Gould, actor
39. The habitat of wild animals
40. Artful subtlety
41. Infielders
42. Keep under control
43. Herb
44. Distressed
47. A way to go down
48. Type of acid
49. Take by force
51. Collected fallen leaves
52. Shout of welcome or farewell
53. Monetary unit
58. Swiss river

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OBITUARIES

Gilbert, Danny Leroy

Danny Leroy Gilbert passed in Radford on April 2, 2023, after a short illness.

Dan was born on November 7, 1948, in Winnsboro, Texas, to Leroy and Carrie Lee (Rhoades) Gilbert. During his younger years, his family moved around from Texas to Colorado to Kansas to Mississippi, as Dan's father worked in the growing aerospace industry. They finally settled in Picayune, Miss., where he graduated high school.

After high school, he attended and graduated from Pearl River Junior College and the University of Southern Mississippi. After school he worked in broadcasting in New Orleans and WRJW in Picayune, where he met and interviewed many different people, some famous, some infamous, and some ordinary, treating them all alike. After a successful career in broadcasting, he changed careers and attended law school at Tulane University, where he was a member of the Law Review and from where he received his Juris Doctorate degree. He practiced law in New Orleans and later worked for the Orleans Parish as Deputy Director of EMS.

Hestayed at his post in New Orleans during the worst of Hurricane Katrina. After the storm, he was influential in petitioning the federal government to provide funds to rebuild the Orleans Parish EMS building. While living in New Orleans, he was also active in the Alliance for



Good Government.

Although he lived with the aftereffects of polio, he didn't let it slow him down. He was active in school, Boy Scouts, band, his church, and numerous civic activities, including excelling in all his academic pursuits.

Dan worked in broadcasting, the legal profession, auctioneering, office management, emergency services, tax preparation, and teaching. Teaching was one of his passions and he last taught

at Radford University as well as substitute teaching in schools.

He enjoyed card and board games, model trains, war history, and lively discussions. He could argue with a fence post and convince it that it was a tree. In later years, while living in Picayune he was a member of First Baptist Church and taught the Seniors Sunday school class. One of his defining characteristics was his voice. Low, rumbling, and always articulate, you often knew he was present before you ever saw him.

We will miss hearing his rich voice telling his latest joke, political opinion, and giving a warm sincere greeting. We look forward to seeing him again.

Survivors include his brothers and sisters-in-law, Les Gilbert and Eleanor, and Larry Gilbert and Katrina; sisters and brother-in-law, Karen Hennes and Mark, and Sharon Gilbert; numerous nieces, nephews, great nieces and nephews, other relatives and friends.

The family received friends on Monday, April 10, 2023, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford.

The Gilbert family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home and Crematory in Radford.

Davis, Florence K.

Florence K. Davis (Kandy), 95, passed away on April 3, 2023 at Showalter, Warm Hearth Village. She was born June 24, 1927 in Newark, N.J. to Isabelle and Oscar Kreitler.

Kandy grew up in Millburn, N.J. and attended Bucknell University, where she met her husband of 66 years, Walter M. Davis.

Walter and Kandy lived in Stuyvesant Town, N.Y., Glen Cove, N.Y. and Blacksburg.

After raising her four children, Kandy worked as an accountant at Long Island Lutheran High School in Brookville, N.Y. When she retired from LuHi, she became a travel agent. During this time, she and Walter enjoyed traveling all over the world.

Kandy loved being with and meeting new people. She was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church,

when she lived in Glen Cove, and Blacksburg Christian Fellowship when in Blacksburg. Kandy was involved with various social groups through the



years and was part of the Blacksburg Newcomers, well after she was no longer a "newcomer".

A devoted wife and mother, Kandy is survived by her children, John (Jay) Davis, Bruce and Lee Davis, Wendy and Joe Kelley, and Nancy and Richard Palmer; her grandchildren, Travis

Carey, Rachel Carey, Marlow Davis, Matt Davis, Melissa and Jaymes Monson, Kristi and Nathan Hoch; and great-grandchild, Logan Carey.

Kandy will be missed by her family and many friends.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, April 29 at 2 p.m. at Blacksburg Christian Fellowship, 2300 North Main St. in Blacksburg.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in memory of Florence (Kandy) Davis to the Ministerial Scholarship Fund, BCF, P.O. Box 813, Blacksburg, VA 24063, to Long Island Lutheran High School, Isabel and Oscar Kreitler Scholarship Fund, 131 Brookville Road, Brookville, New York 11545 or to a charity of your choice.

Arrangements by McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg.

Tinley, Doris Farmer

Doris Farmer Tinley, 71, of Radford, died Friday, April 7, 2023.

She was born in Radford on January 25, 1952, to the late James and Gracie Farmer. She was preceded in death by her sister, Jean Ratcliff; brother, C. B. Farmer; brother-in-law, James Ahmann; and family dog, Rebma.

Survivors include her husband of 52 years, Robert L. Tinley; daughters, Crystal Ewell and Scottie, Brandy and David Grimm, and Amber and Cody Dowdy; grandchildren, Tanner Ewell, Gavin Grimm, and Alaya, Branson, Kaibryn and Shayligh Dowdy; sisters and brother-in-law, Maggie Ahmann, and Eva and Ray Rash; brother and sister-in-law, Manuel and Pat Farmer; brother-in-law, James Ratcliffe; and special friends, Helen Stump, Afnan Ziara, Jordyn Sader, and

Herman Noble.

Robert would not have made it without the kind hearts and loving souls of her hospice team, Donna, Brittey, Kim, Robbie,



and Julie, for being there with Robert when Doris finished her journey. Bless you all, many thanks.

Doris loved working outside, planting flowers, and watching and feeding her birds. She and Robert loved sitting in the swing.

Doris loved keeping the grandkids. She was a member of the Radford Worship Center and helped at the Clothing Bank. Doris went back to school and received her degree from American Academy of Professional Coders. She retired from the medical profession. Doris was a dedicated wife, mom, and nana with a smile all the time.

Funeral services will be held at the family home (1108 Stump St., Radford) today, Wednesday, April 12, 2023 at 5 p.m. with Pastor Robbie officiating. Family and friends are welcome. The family will spread Doris's ashes in the flower bed she loved.

Doris would say "There's no place like Home".

The Tinley family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home and Crematory in Radford.

Board, Rev. Layne

Rev. Layne Board, 95, of Christiansburg, died Saturday, April 8, 2023, surrounded by his family.

He was born in Floyd County on June 17, 1927, to the late Dewey and Vivian Boone Board. He was also preceded in death by his wife, Mildred Thompson Board; a son, Freddie Lee Board; daughter, Patricia Board Aker; brother, James Board; and twin brother, Wayne Board.

He was drafted into the US Navy and served on the USS Destroyer FECHLER. He married Mildred Thompson Board, his college sweetheart, in June 1949, and was married to her for 68 years until her death in November 2017. He was employed at Burlington Industries for 37 years. Layne evangelized in

ministry from 1958 to 1963. He became ordained in 1966. He pastored from 1963 to 1993 at Sunnyside Pentecostal Holiness Church and



was known as Preacher Board throughout the community. He also did chaplaincy work for over 41 years at the area nursing homes.

He is survived by his,

son, Rev. Stephen Board; son and daughter-in-law, Donnie and Cindy Board; daughter, Rebecca Board Underwood; daughter and son-in-law, Donna and Kevin McGrady; son-in-law, Randall Aker, 11 grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild.

Funeral Services will be conducted Thursday, April 13, 2023, at 7 p.m. in the Harbor of Hope Church, with the Rev. Craig Reed, Rev. Richard Kingrea, Rev. Wayne Poston, and Rev. Steve Board officiating. The family will receive friends from 3- 7 p.m. before the service. Graveside service will be held, Friday, April 14, 2023, at 11 a.m. with Rev. Preston Mathena and Rev. Larry Meadors at the Appalachian Conference Cemetery, Dublin.

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McKee, who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is unknown; John R. McKee, whose last known address is 2426 Sandy Hook Road, Goochland, Virginia 23063; Margaret Ellis Topping, who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is unknown; John Topping, Sr., who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is unknown; Doris Topping, who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is unknown; Munford Topping, whose last known address is 202 SE 11th Street, Washington, DC 20003; Munford Ellis Topping, who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is unknown; Nancy Topping, whose last known address is 590 S. 5th Street, Wytheville, Virginia 24382; Charles Topping, whose last known address is 120 Mims Drive, Calhoun, Georgia 30701; Kent Cloyd Martin, who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is unknown; Langhorne Martin Phillips, who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is unknown; Margaret Martin Norris, who is believed to be

Legals - Montgomery County

deceased and whose last known address is unknown; LTC Roger Millar, Sr., who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is unknown; Sara Millar, whose last known address is 2253 Glenbar Drive, Germantown, Tennessee 38139; Ralph Millar, whose last known address is 592 Pomfret Street Apt 56, Putnam, Connecticut 06260; Margaret Kent Stow, who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is unknown; Frederick Stow, whose last known address is 107 Fairway View Lane, Montgomery, Texas 77356; Cloyd Martin, who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is unknown; Nancy Martin Payne, who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is unknown; John Miller Payne, who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is unknown; Harwood Ellis Martin, who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is unknown; Dorothy Langhorne Martin, who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is unknown; Barry

Legals - Montgomery County

Martin, whose last known address is unknown; C.J. Martin, whose last known address is unknown; Roger Martin, who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is unknown; Col. Maurice L. Martin, Sr., who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is unknown; Maurice L. Martin, Jr., whose last known address is 1309 Renaissance St. Chattanooga, Tennessee 37419; Michele Hovey, whose last known address is 448 High Street, Denver, Colorado 80218; Joan White, whose last known address is unknown; Anne Sherman, whose last known address is unknown; Nancy Ross, whose last known address is unknown; David M. Cloyd, Jr., who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is unknown; Frances Wright Cloyd, who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is unknown; David M. Cloyd, III., who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is unknown; Eula Bartlett Cloyd, who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is unknown; Lelia

Legals - Montgomery County

Cloyd Iseman, who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is unknown; Kathie Curtis, whose last known address is unknown; Karen Walsey, whose last known address is 74 Spyglass Way, Palm Beach Gardens, Florida 33418; Joanie Merrow, whose last known address is 4052 Statewood Road NE, Atlanta, Georgia 30342; Joseph W. Iseman, Jr., whose last known address is 3028 Creek Drive, Duluth, Georgia 30096; James Guthrie Cloyd, who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is unknown; Mary Cloyd Stevens, who is believed to be deceased and whose last address is unknown; Margaret Kent Stevens, who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is unknown; Frances Stevens Byrne, who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is unknown; William Byrne, Jr., who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is unknown; Jane Byrne Sheppard, whose last known address is unknown; Mary Langhorne Kucera, who is believed to be deceased and whose last

Legals - Montgomery County

known address is unknown; Mary Langhorne Kucera, who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is unknown; Mary Stevens Phillips, who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is unknown; Elizabeth A. Stevens, who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is unknown; Robert G. Stevens, Jr., who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is unknown; Rebecca Stevens Shea, whose last known address is 130 River Street, Southport, Connecticut 06890; David C. Stevens, who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is unknown; Bettie Stevens, who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is unknown; Sandra Stevens Johnson, whose last known address is 4550 Blue Heron Drive, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073; Jean Stevens Daigre, whose last known address is 60 Thunderbird Lane, Pinehurst, North Carolina 28374; John Archer Cloyd, who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is unknown; Allen

Legals - Montgomery County

Earnest Cloyd, Sr., who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is unknown; Allen E. Cloyd, Jr., who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is unknown; Francis Cloyd, who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is unknown; Betsy Cloyd Sykes, who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is unknown; Robert Sykes Jr., whose last known address is 1485 highway 176 BYP, Pacolet, South Carolina 29372; Margaret Pederson, whose last known address is 1011 Creekwood Place, Greensboro, Georgia 30642; Johnnie L. Cloyd, who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is unknown; Twyla Cloyd, whose last known address is 6418 W. Pershing Avenue, Glendale, Arizona 85304; Samuel Cloyd, who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is unknown; and that any officers, heirs, devisees, and successors in title of the Respondent named herein are made parties Responder to this action individually and/or by the general description of

Legals - Montgomery County

Parties Unknown, it is hereby **ORDERED** that the parties herein and all Parties Unknown and/or whose location cannot be ascertained appear on or before May 15, 2023 in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Montgomery County, Virginia, and do what may be necessary to protect their interest in this cause. Entered on the 5th day of April, 2023 K. Mike Fleenor, Jr., Judge I ask for this: John A Rife, Esq. (VSB No. 45805) Jeffrey A. Scharf Esq. (VSB No. 30591) Mark K. Ames, Esq. (VSB No. 27409) Andrew M. Neville, Esq. (VSB No. 86372) Paul L. LaBarr, Esq. (VSB No. 91609) Gregory L. Haynes, Esq. (VSB No. 37158) Seth R. Konopasek, Esq. (VSB No. 97065) Taxing Authority Consulting Services, PC P.O. Box 31800, Henrico Virginia 23294-1800 Phone: (804) 545-2500 Facsimile: (804) 545-2378 TACS No.: 496189



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RADFORD SPORTS

Familiar face to head to the Big South

The Big South Conference has named Sherika A. Montgomery as its new Commissioner following a national search.

Montgomery, a former women's basketball student-athlete and Big South staff member from 2010-17, becomes just the fourth commissioner in the history of the Big South, and will officially begin her duties on May 15. She replaces Kyle Kallander, currently the second-longest tenured NCAA Division I multisport conference commissioner, who is retiring at the conclusion of the 2022-23 season after 27 years leading the conference. He will be inducted into the Big South Conference Hall of Fame on June 1.

Montgomery comes to the Big South from the Missouri Valley Conference (MVC), where she was appointed Deputy Commissioner this past year. She joined the MVC staff in the summer of 2021 as Associate Commissioner and Senior Woman Administrator. During her time at the Valley, Montgomery has been responsible for the organizational leadership of Conference operations, including administrative oversight of the Conference's governance structure, facilitation of constituency communication, execution of future strategic initiatives and the primary sport administrator for basketball.

In her current role, she serves as liaison to the Conference's Chief Executive Officers and Directors of Athletics, with additional areas of leadership responsibilities within NCAA national matters, student-athlete experience enhancements, and Conference diversity, equity and inclusion efforts.

"Announcing the Big South's next commissioner is something that hasn't happened in nearly 30 years, yet here we are," said Dondi Costin, Big South Conference President and President of Charleston Southern University. "Kyle Kallander has captained the ship with a remarkably steady hand during the most turbulent waters in the history of college athletics. No one could have led this conference better than Kyle, so finding his successor was always going to seem like mission impossible. But we found the perfect candidate in Sherika Montgomery, whose meteoric rise from Big South student-athlete to Big South Commissioner offers the clearest possible evidence that the Big South Conference is in fact 'Where Winners Are Made.'"

"I would like to extend my immense gratitude to the Big South

Conference Chief Executive Officers and Search Committee for entrusting me with this tremendous opportunity," said Montgomery. "I am absolutely honored and humbled to have been chosen to lead the next generation of Big South leaders. As a former Big South student-athlete, I was fortunate to be led by consummate administrators, championed by supreme coaches - on and off the court - and surrounded by fellow fervent student-athletes committed to excellence. In reacquainting myself with the mission of the Conference, I am yet again reminded of the immense opportunity to serve and ensure the Big South continues to be 'Where Winners Are Made' for years to come. I am especially grateful for Commissioner Kallander, his visionary leadership and invaluable mentorship. I look forward to returning to the Big South and joining industry leaders in creating meaningful intercollegiate athletics opportunities focused on optimal student-athlete experiences personally, academically and athletically."

Montgomery brings extensive experience that spans a dozen years. Prior to arriving at the Missouri Valley Conference, Montgomery served as Assistant Director of Enforcement (Investigations and Processing) at the NCAA. In her role at the national office, she was responsible for thoroughly and timely investigating and processing potential violations of NCAA legislation involving all three NCAA divisions and all sports. This included compiling and evaluating evidence of infractions, drafting necessary submissions, and presenting information and evidence to the NCAA Committee on Infractions. In addition to her enforcement responsibilities, Montgomery served as liaison to the inaugural NCAA Women's Basketball Student-Athlete Engagement Group, which provided an amplifying voice for the sport of women's basketball on key initiatives, legislation and various issues. Montgomery also served as chair of the NCAA People of Color Employee Engagement Group and was a member of the Women's Employee Engagement Group's Leadership Council.

"Sherika Montgomery is an outstanding choice to be the next leader of the Big South Conference," added Missouri Valley Commissioner Jeff Jackson. "Her professionalism, knowledge and experiences as an administrator and student-athlete in the Big South will only lead to a bright future for the membership of this storied conference."

"What a great day for the Big South!," commented Kallander. "Sherika Montgomery is an amazing talent and will be outstanding in leading the Conference into the future. She has tremendous people skills, wonderful insight and integrity, and has the intangibles that are often overlooked in great leaders. She just gets it. Plus, to have an alum of the Big South return to take the reins is truly special. On a personal note, I am so proud of Sherika. We could tell when we initially hired her to join the Conference staff that she was a shooting star and would rapidly rise to the top. It is no surprise to me that she is now the fourth Commissioner of the Big South Conference!"

Montgomery was at the Summit League from 2018-19, serving as Associate Commissioner for Governance and Compliance. She also served as Associate Athletic Director for Student Success at Big South member institution Winthrop University from 2017-18. Prior to her stint at Winthrop, Montgomery spent seven years as a member of the Big South Conference staff. She started in 2010 as a compliance and administrative assistant before being promoted to Assistant Director of Compliance in 2011.

Montgomery was elevated to Director of Compliance & Administration in 2013 and spent her final three years as Assistant Commissioner for Compliance and Senior Woman Administrator.

While at the Big South, Montgomery served as a two-time chair (2016-2018) of the NCAA Committee on Women's Athletics during her service from 2014-2018 and was also a member of the inaugural NCAA Board of Governors Ad Hoc Committee to Promote Cultural Diversity and Equity. She was named to the Top 25 Women in Higher Education and Beyond list by *Diverse Education* in 2016.

Montgomery is currently a cohort member of the 2022-23 NCAA Pathway Program, a yearlong initiative designed to prepare senior-level athletics administrators for the next career step as directors of athletics or conference commissioners.

A former women's basketball student-athlete at Big South member Gardner-Webb University, Montgomery earned her master's degree in Sports Science and Pedagogy in May of 2011, and her Bachelor of Science degree in Sports Management from the institution in 2009.

-Submitted by the Big South Conference

Worley, UK headed to nationals

No. 9 Kentucky gymnastics punched its ticket to the 2023 NCAA National Championships, advancing out of the Norman, Okla. Regional on Saturday evening.

The 197.850 scored by the Cats did the trick to send the program to its second ever nationals appearance after first seeing the big stage in 2018. Kentucky finished sixth overall that year.

Kentucky's overall meet score Saturday was the second highest in program history and highest ever in regional competition. In addition to the overall meet score, the Cats set a new record on the balance beam with 49.575. UK found top-10 marks in every apparatus except the floor exercise.

Beginning the Road to Nationals on the balance beam, the Wildcats stayed calm and collected. The program record break was no easy feat as the fight began. Senior Raena Worley held the top score for UK on the event with a 9.950. Her near-perfect tally tied her for second for the meet overall. Juniors Bailey Bunn and Isabella Magnelli placed in the top-five overall scoring 9.925 each. Bunn's 9.925 tied her personal career and season bests while sophomore Jillian Procasky did the same with her score of 9.900. Rounding out the rotation, Arianna Patterson earned a 9.875 with leadoff Shealyn Luksik scoring a 9.825.

The floor exercise, the second rotation of the night, was Kentucky's weakest event. However, it was still enough to continue the momentum for the Cats as they neared the halfway point of the meet. In a seven-way tie for first place overall, Worley found herself among the top performers with a 9.950. Just shy of her career and season best, the senior delivered as anchor on the event where she has scored a 9.900 or better in every meet this season. Junior Hailey Davis rocked her routine with an electric 9.925 for the fifth time this season.

To close out the meet, the Wildcats had one more rotation to battle through to determine its fate. Tying its 10th best program score on the uneven bars, the Cats rallied to a 49.450. Procasky and senior Kaitlin DeGuzman led the team earning 9.925 each from the judges. Both gymnasts performed huge routines executing their dismounts with sticky feet. The two



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY ATHLETICS

Senior Raena Worley of Christiansburg is leading her University of Kentucky gymnastics team to the top of the mountain.

Wildcats scored within the top five for the meet overall on the apparatus. Bunn and Worley each were awarded 9.900 to continue the push to nationals for UK. Preceding Worley, the anchor, were Davis (9.800) and Luksik (9.600).

In the all-around, Worley was tied second overall with Oklahoma's Audrey David as the pair held a combined total of 39.650. The Christiansburg native has tallied a 39.600 or

higher six times this season.

Kentucky competed against host No. 1 Oklahoma, Southeastern Conference opponent No. 8 Alabama and Ohio State in Saturday's regional final. The Sooners and Wildcats were the top two teams of the meet, advancing the programs to the national championships. The punched tickets secured a spot in the next round of competition which will be held at Dickies Arena in Fort Worth, Texas, April 13-1

Worley and junior Isabella Magnelli have been named 2023 Women's Collegiate Gymnastics Association (WCGA) All-Americans, the association announced on Thursday. Worley received a first team honor for the floor exercise and second team nod for all-around while Magnelli received second team honors for the balance beam.

Student-athletes with the top eight National Qualifying Scores (NQS) for the regular season (with ties), for each event plus the all-around earned All-America honors. Second team All-America honors are earned by student-athletes ranked Nos. 9-16 (with ties) in the NQS.

Worley was named to the First Team Floor and Second Team All-Around.

With her two 2023 All-America nods, Worley is now a five-time WCGA All-American. Receiving first team recognition for her performance on the floor exercise, the senior holds a 9.95 NQS on the apparatus. This season alone, Worley has scored a 9.900 or higher in every meet including the SEC Championships. Her highest mark so far in 2023 on the event was a 9.975 which she earned at Illinois tying her career best. She has tallied the near-perfect mark four times in her career placing first individually on the apparatus 15 times. Five of those top finishes have been accomplished this season.

The Christiansburg native was also recognized as a second team all-around honoree. Throughout her collegiate gymnastics career, the senior has recorded 19 all-around wins with six individual victories this season. Her career-high all-around tally was earned at Illinois where Worley recorded a combined 39.775. Worley's individual all-around NQS for the season sits at a 39.625.

-University of Kentucky Athletics

Sports notes: Tech vs. South Carolina, RU vs WVU in basketball

Marty Gordon

NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Jon Rothstein of CBS Sports has reported the Virginia Tech men basketball will play South Carolina in Charlotte, N.C. in the 2023-24 season.

As part of a doubleheader with Virginia and Florida, the Hokies and Gamecocks will meet on Friday, Nov. 10, 2023 in the Spectrum Center. The Veterans Day matchup will be the 32nd all-time between VT and USC, the first since Dec. 5, 1997 in the Pepsi/Harris Teeter Challenge in Charlotte. USC won that game by one, 74-73.

WVU men's hoops will reportedly host Radford University and Toledo for holiday showdowns at the WVU Coliseum on Dec. 20 and Dec. 23.

Radford will enter the WVU Coliseum on Wednesday, Dec. 20. Former WVU guard and current head coach of the Highlanders, Darris Nichols, will face the Mountaineers for the second time since 2021. WVU took the first meeting back in 2021 by a final score of 67-51.

Virginia Tech has announced details on themed football weeks.

Virginia Tech Athletics announced on Tuesday that the Virginia Tech-Pitt matchup on Saturday, Sept. 30 at Lane Stadium will be a White Effect game, marking Tech's first conference outing of the season.

As Virginia Tech football prepares to welcome the first Big Ten opponent to Lane Stadium since 2015, Virginia Tech Athletics announced on Monday that the Virginia Tech-Purdue matchup on Saturday, Sept. 9 at Lane Stadium will be an Orange Effect game.

As part of homecoming week, Virginia Tech Athletics

announced on Wednesday that the Virginia Tech-Wake Forest matchup on Saturday, Oct. 14 at Lane Stadium will be a Maroon Effect game.

Hokie Effect is a program through the Undergraduate Student Senate (USS) that designs and sells spirit shirts for football and basketball games at Virginia Tech. The Hokie Effect games encourage fans to wear a certain color in order to show school spirit and create a blanketed color effect through the venue.

Rules could be changing again for this year's college football season.

College football executives are reviewing four options that would cut into the length of games, according to Sports Illustrated's Ross Dellenger.

The measures are "meant to reduce plays for both safety and game length reasons," according to the report.

College Football Rule Change Proposals

1. Outlawing consecutive timeouts. This rule would prevent one timeout from being called right after another, which often happens as teams try to ice kickers.

2. Not extending quarters. This rule could make it so that a first or third quarter would not be extended for an un-timed down if the quarter ends on a defensive penalty. In that case, the down would be clocked in the next quarter.3. Running clock. According to this rule, the clock will continue to run after an offense gains a first down except inside two minutes in a half.

4. Another running clock rule. This measure, considered the most controversial, will have the clock continue to run after an incomplete pass once the ball has been spotted for play.

The three proposed rule-changes:

The game clock will not stop after a first down

Teams can't call consecutive timeouts

Penalties at the end of the first and third quarters would transfer to the opening of the next quarter.

These rules changes are "intended to continue the effort to control the flow of the game and encourage more consistent game management," the NCAA wrote in a news release on March 3.

Now, according to a piece by on3.com's Ivan Maisel, NCAA Rules Committee Secretary Steve Shaw argues that the changes will be so small that fans "may not even notice" them.

The four rule changes include two minor changes and two major changes to the current way college football's game clock is operated. The changes are expected to trim at least seven plays off of each game for the sake of "player safety."

The first proposed change would eliminate back-to-back timeouts. This would not change much about the game except limit kicker icing. Shaw would be correct that fans likely wouldn't notice much if this rule were adopted.

The second proposal would change the rule surrounding defensive penalties at the end of quarters. Currently, any defensive penalty at the end of a quarter results in an untimed down for the offense if the penalty is accepted. The rule change proposal seeks to eliminate this untimed down at the end of the 1st and 3rd quarters and award the untimed down only at the end of halves. Again, Shaw's assertion is fine with this rule. Most fans would never notice this one.

The third rule change is significantly bigger. The NFL and NCAA have had different rules over the years regarding the clock after first downs. The rule has changed over the years, but this new rule proposal would make it so that the clock would keep running after first downs. The clock would only stop after a first down during the last two minutes of the half.

Radford boys win Battle of the Bridge



PHOTOS BY VICKIE GOFF

Evan Rupe scored four goals for Radford in this past week's 7-0 win over Pulaski. Other goals were scored by: Eli Goff, Enzo Pugliese, and TJ Aursby.

Thomas Grant recorded four big stops in goals for the Bobcats. Charlie Davis also had two saves in the win over Pulaski.

Outdoor report: Spring turkey timing explained

So often we get the call: "Why can't I hunt turkeys in March? My friend in such-and-such state starts hunting them in March, so why do we have to wait until April?" It is a good question to address. To boil it down to the simplest explanation, our spring turkey season timing is a compromise between biology and hunter desires.

To understand the season structure, we need to start with a basic turkey reproduction biology lesson. In early spring, gobblers will begin to display (strut) and gobble to assert their dominance within the social structure of the turkey population/flock. There will be a lot of shuffling around and fighting amongst all the gobblers until a specific social hierarchy is determined. This will go on for weeks before the hens are ready to breed with the toms. Much of the gobbling and strutting hunters report seeing during the early spring is related to this behavior. At this stage, the hens are not ready to breed yet, but the males are getting primed and ready to go.

Hens will respond to changes in day length (photoperiod) in early April and start to become receptive to being bred. This receptivity usually closely coincides with the peak of gobbling activity. Hens are very selective in this process, usually only allowing the most dominant birds to breed with her. If a dominant bird isn't available, she will hold off breeding until he becomes available, often forgoing breeding for a few days. Hens have a fairly long window in which they are biologically able to breed, so by delaying breeding she can give her eggs the opportunity for the best genetics within that given population. If the dominant gobbler in the area is removed, she will often delay breeding

until a new social hierarchy has been determined.

Once the hen has been bred, she will begin laying eggs. This next phase of turkey reproduction is known as the nest initiation phase. In the early stages of egg production, she may lay an egg every two to three days, but by peak egg laying she will be laying an egg per day over 10 to 14 days. During this time, she will continue to breed to make sure she has the best genetics from the dominant gobblers going to egg production. After she has laid her clutch of eggs, she will begin incubating the eggs, entering the third phase of reproduction—the incubation phase. This phase will last about 28 days until the eggs begin to hatch. She will remain sitting on the eggs day and night through this entire period, only taking short recesses to feed through the day.

Setting Seasons

With these phases of reproduction in mind, there are three main strategies that biologists can use to set season structure for spring turkey seasons, each with advantages and disadvantages. The first option would be to set season timing to encompass all breeding behaviors, typically starting at some point in March. Several states, mostly in the Southeast, use this strategy, and it can work well in areas with robust populations or light hunting pressure. This season structure is often favored by many hunters as the turkeys are actively gobbling and can be susceptible to calling during this period. However, the disadvantage to this system is that you are often removing the most dominant birds from the system prior to breeding, which can result in delaying breeding behaviors. Especially in heavily

hunted areas, this early harvest can reduce the number of males to the point that reproduction may be limited or impaired. As you can imagine, over time this would lead to decreases in populations by having fewer females breeding, often laying clutches of unfertilized eggs, and spreading out the nesting over a longer period, allowing predators to have a greater impact on nest survival.

The other main problem is the potential for illegal hen harvest. As hens are out moving around and searching for nesting habitat, they are more susceptible to illegal harvest. Even with our more conservative season, we have observed illegal hen harvest of up to 9% here in Virginia; moving the season earlier may increase that illegal harvest.

The second option would be to set hunting season to coincide with the peak of incubation. From a strict population biology standpoint, this is the most preferred season. By this point, most hens would be bred, so we would see limited impact of removing males from the population at this time. The hens would be fully engaged in nesting behaviors, so there would be a significantly reduced risk of illegal hen harvest. The negative to this system is that it places the hunting season opening even later. Here in Virginia, our peak of incubation is around May 5.

If we set the season at this point, our season would come in three weeks later than our current structure, and the season would probably have to be shortened by a week or two. We might produce more turkeys, but the hunting conditions would be more difficult and would occur well past the peak of gobbling activity. According to our survey data, our hunters very much value hearing and calling in turkeys. If our season was this late, much of the gobbling would be over and hunter dissatisfaction would likely increase.

The third option is a compromise of these two systems, and the way that Virginia has managed turkey hunting for decades. Our season is timed to coincide around the peak of nest initiation. This provides for higher hunter satisfaction because we are closer to the peak of gobbling activity. By this point, a good portion of the hens have already bred, so removing the males has less effect than removing them prior to peak of breeding. There is some risk to this system, as we will remove some males during this breeding period, but we typically still see high amounts of reproductive success. In general, this season structure has some of the positives and some of the negatives with either the early or late options. Overall, this tends to be the Goldilocks season timing for most Virginia hunters and managers. We have good hunting and are still conservative enough to maintain robust populations.

As you start hearing those first gobbles of the year and start yearning to chase the longbeards, just remember that by waiting just a bit you are helping to build a stronger population. The old adage that good things come to those who wait may very well be true for Virginia's turkey hunters.

-Mike Dye is the upland gamebird biologist – turkey and grouse for the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources



PHOTO BY MIKE ROBERTS

DWR biologists try to balance hunter experience with the turkey breeding seasons and when hens are nesting when setting spring turkey season dates.

Legal Notice

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF A PETITION BY APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF MIDDLE-MILE BROADBAND CAPACITY PROJECTS PURSUANT TO § 56-585.1:9 OF THE CODE OF VIRGINIA CASE NO. PUR-2023-00028

•Appalachian Power Company has applied for approval of two (2) new projects to provide broadband capacity to Internet Service Providers in areas of Virginia that are unserved by broadband.

•The Hearing Examiner appointed to this case will hold a telephonic hearing on June 27, 2023, to receive public witness testimony on this Petition.

•The Hearing Examiner will hold an evidentiary hearing in this case on June 28, 2023.

•Further information about this case is available on the SCC website at: scc.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information.

On March 2, 2023, Appalachian Power Company ("APCo" or "Company") filed a petition ("Petition") with the State Corporation Commission ("Commission"), pursuant to § 56-585.1:9 of the Code of Virginia ("Code"), seeking approval of two new projects to provide broadband capacity to Internet Service Providers ("ISPs") in areas of Virginia that are unserved by broadband. Specifically, APCo requests approval of: (1) a project to provide middle-mile broadband Internet capacity in unserved areas of Patrick, Henry, and Franklin Counties, Virginia (the "PHF Project"); and (2) a project to provide middle-mile broadband Internet capacity in unserved areas of Giles County, Virginia (the "GC Project") (collectively, the "Projects"). Pursuant to Code § 56-585.1:9, the Commission must issue a final order on the Petition within six months of the date of filing.

According to the Petition, with the proposed Projects, APCo seeks to expand middle-mile broadband capacity in the unserved areas of Patrick, Henry, Franklin and Giles Counties. The Company states that the areas targeted by the Projects are "unserved by broadband" pursuant to Code § 56-585.1:9 D. The Company states that, for the PHF Project, the Virginia Telecommunication Initiative of the Department of Housing and Community Development ("DHCD") has issued a grant or loan to construct a broadband service project within the last 18 months, and the grant or loan recipient is the ISP to which the utility proposes to lease capacity. The Company further states that, for the GC Project, the DHCD has certified within the last 18 months that the designated area is unserved.

The Company states that the PHF Project entails the installation of approximately 380 miles of 288-strand fiber optic cable on the Company's distribution system, and the GC Project entails the installation of approximately 100 miles of 144-strand fiber optic cable. The Company states that these installations will also provide a communications platform for APCo's own distribution grid network backhaul requirements.

The Company states that it will lease a portion of the middle-mile broadband infrastructure to RiverStreet Networks of Virginia, the ISP selected by the counties to provide service to unserved areas in Patrick, Henry, and Franklin Counties, and a separate lease to GigaBeam Networks, LLC, as the ISP selected to provide service to unserved areas in Giles County. APCo states that the estimated capital investment for the PHF Project is approximately \$56.9 million, and the estimated investment for the GC Project is approximately \$12 million. APCo is not requesting cost recovery through a rate adjustment clause at this time, but expects to do so in a future filing.

Interested persons are encouraged to review the Petition and supporting documents for the details of these and other proposals.

The Commission entered an Order for Notice and Hearing in this proceeding that, among other things, scheduled public hearings on APCo's Petition. On June 27, 2023, at 10 a.m., the Hearing Examiner assigned to this case will hold a telephonic hearing, with no witness present in the Commission's courtroom, for the purpose of receiving the testimony of public witnesses. On or before June 22, 2023 any person desiring to offer testimony as a public witness shall provide to the Commission (a) your name, and (b) the telephone number that you wish the Commission to call during the hearing to receive your testimony. This information may be provided to the Commission in three ways: (i) by filing out a form on the Commission's website at scc.virginia.gov/pages/Webcasting; (ii) by completing and emailing the PDF version of this form to SCCInfo@scc.virginia.gov; or (iii) by calling (804) 371-9141. This public witness hearing will be webcast at scc.virginia.gov/pages/Webcasting.

On June 28, 2023, at 10 a.m., in the Commission's second floor courtroom located in the Tyler Building, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, the Hearing Examiner will convene a hearing to receive testimony and evidence related to the Petition from the Company, any respondents, and the Commission's Staff ("Staff").

To promote administrative efficiency and timely service of filings upon participants, all pleadings, briefs, or other documents required to be served in this matter shall be submitted electronically to the extent authorized by 5 VAC 5-20-150, *Copies and format*, of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure ("Rules of Practice"). Confidential and Extraordinarily Sensitive information shall not be submitted electronically and should comply with 5 VAC 5-20-170, *Confidential information*, of the Rules of Practice. Any person seeking to hand deliver and physically file or submit any pleading or other document shall contact the Clerk's Office Document Control Center at (804) 371-9838 to arrange the delivery.

Pursuant to 5 VAC 5-20-140, *Filing and service*, of the Commission's Rules of Practice, the Commission has directed that service on parties and the Commission's Staff in this matter shall be accomplished by electronic means. Please refer to the Commission's Order for Notice and Hearing for further instructions concerning Confidential or Extraordinarily Sensitive Information.

An electronic copy of the Company's Petition may be obtained by submitting a written request to counsel for the Company: James R. Bacha, Esquire, American Electric Power Service Corporation, 1 Riverside Plaza, Columbus, OH 43215, jrbacha@aep.com; or James G. Ritter, Esquire, Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP, Riverside Plaza, East Tower, 951 East Byrd Street, Richmond, VA 23219, ritterj@hunktonak.com.

On or before June 21, 2023, any interested person may file comments on the Petition by following the instructions found on the Commission's website: scc.virginia.gov/casecomments/Submit-Public-Comments. Those unable, as a practical matter, to submit comments electronically may file such comments with the Clerk of the State Corporation Commission, c/o Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2118. All comments shall refer to Case No. PUR-2023-00028.

On or before April 28, 2023, any person or entity wishing to participate as a respondent in this proceeding may do so by filing a notice of participation at scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling. Those unable, as a practical matter, to file a notice of participation electronically may file such notice by U.S. mail with the Clerk of the Commission at the address listed above. Such notice of participation shall include the email addresses of such parties or their counsel. The respondent simultaneously shall serve a copy of the notice of participation on counsel to the Company. Pursuant to 5 VAC 5-20-80 B, *Participation as a respondent*, of the Commission's Rules of Practice, any notice of participation shall set forth: (i) a precise statement of the interest of the respondent; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent then known; and (iii) the factual and legal basis for the action. Any organization, corporation, or government body participating as a respondent must be represented by counsel as required by Rule 5 VAC 5-20-30, *Counsel*, of the Rules of Practice. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2023-00028.

On or before May 11, 2023, each respondent may file with the Clerk of the Commission, at scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling, any testimony and exhibits by which the respondent expects to establish its case. Any respondent unable, as a practical matter, to file testimony and exhibits electronically may file such by U.S. mail with the Clerk of the Commission at the address listed above. Each witness's testimony shall include a summary not to exceed one page. All testimony and exhibits shall be served on the Staff, the Company, and all other respondents simultaneously with its filing. In all filings, respondents shall comply with the Commission's Rules of Practice, including 5 VAC 5-20-140, *Filing and service*; and 5 VAC 5-20-240, *Prepared testimony and exhibits*. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2023-00028.

Any documents filed in paper form with the Office of the Clerk of the Commission in this docket may use both sides of the paper. In all other respects, except as modified by the Commission's Order for Notice and Hearing, all filings shall comply fully with the requirements of 5 VAC 5-20-150, *Copies and format*, of the Commission's Rules of Practice.

The public version of the Company's Petition, the Commission's Rules of Practice and the Commission's Order for Notice and Hearing may be viewed on the Commission's website at: scc.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information.

APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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