

News Journal

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Boys State helps fill the pantry of Radford-Fairlawn Daily Bread

RADFORD – More than 400 rising senior high school boys arrived on the campus of Radford University Sunday to take part in the weeklong Virginia Boys State program, and most of them came loaded down with food to donate to Radford-Fairlawn Daily Bread.

The American Legion runs the Boys State program, which teaches attendees about the workings of American government and citizenship. For the past several years, the Virginia state program has been held at Radford

University and participants are asked to bring food donations for RFDB when they check in. This year, volunteers say their efforts were phenomenal.

“Today was huge for Radford-Fairlawn Daily Bread with over 400 guys coming to Boys State at Radford University and bringing 2550 food and paper donations for us,” said Board member and volunteer Peggy Taylor. “We are overwhelmed with their generosity and so thankful.”

“It was a hectic day for our volunteers collecting donations at RU and also for those

sorting them at RFDB,” Taylor continued. “Our pantries are full and we will also be sharing with the Women’s Resource Center, the Bobcats Backpack Program, and others.”

RFDB volunteer Regina Mayberry also commented about the day, and highlighted one family in particular.

“I just have to do a shout out to an amazing person,” Mayberry said on Facebook on Sunday. “Today a dad of one of the boys attending Boys State



PHOTO COURTESY OF RADFORD-FAIRLAWN DAILY BREAD

Volunteers from Radford-Fairlawn Daily Bread visit with participants of Boys State as they drop off food donations Sunday on Radford University’s campus.

See Boys State, page 2

Quiet focus of show at Fine Arts Center

Noise and business surround us – social media, family, jobs and the like.

“Works by the Textile Artists of Virginia, now on display at the Fine Arts Center for the New River Valley, can help us refocus on the quiet around us,” explains Savannah Penven, program manager and curator at the center.

The featured artists present quilting and textile art featuring topics ranging from a winter sunset to the flight of a feather.

Meet some of the artists and members of the center at a reception Thursday, June 20, 5 - 7 p.m., or visit the show at the center’s Edna B. Love Gallery until Aug. 3.

The Fine Arts Center is located at 21 West Main Street in Historic Downtown Pulaski. It is open Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, visit the center’s website at FACNRV.org, email at info@FACNRV.org, or call 540-980-7363.

Artists at the Quiet



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE FINE ARTS CENTER OF THE NRV

Martha Mabry, of Radford, created a quilt as a tribute to her great uncle, C. Cowan, who died in World War II.

show are Martha Mabry of Radford, Sue Davis and Gwen E. Goepel of Floyd, Anne Panella of Pembroke, Tina Freudenberger of Eggleston, Shirley Sellers of Newport,

Linda Carol Adrienne of Virginia Beach, Arlene L. Blackburn of Union Hall, Meryl Ann Butler of Norfolk, Barbara Zubler of Roanoke, and from Blacksburg: Elizabeth

Gail Billingsley, Paula C. Golden, Judy Madigan, Carol Monti, Kathy Sevebeck, Gloria Smith, and Karin Tauber.

Susan Trulove



PHOTO COURTESY OF RADFORD UNIVERSITY

Donna Weaver McCloskey, Ph.D.

Radford University selects new dean of Davis College of Business and Economics

RADFORD - Radford University has chosen Donna Weaver McCloskey, Ph.D., as the new dean of the Davis College of Business and Economics, effective July 10.

McCloskey brings a wealth of experience and a commitment to education, community engagement and student success to her new role.

McCloskey has demonstrated a deep understanding of academia and its practical applications with her distinguished career, including her most recent role as the associate dean of undergraduate programs at Widener University. As a professor of management, she has emphasized the importance of preparing students for the professional world while encouraging them to pursue academic excellence.

“There are so many things that attracted me to this opportunity at the Davis College of Business and Economics at Radford University including the dynamic leadership of President Danilowicz and Provost Usher, the strong commitment to experiential learning, innovative academic programs, student success, community engagement and building strong career outcomes,” McCloskey said. “I am looking forward to joining the warm, collaborative and collegial community. I’m also looking forward to connecting with our community partners, employers and alumni - near and far!”

Her vision for Davis College resonates with

Radford University’s core values. She is passionate about applied learning, focusing on career readiness and the holistic development of each student. Her dedication to diversity and community engagement aligns with the university’s mission to nurture active, engaged and ethical citizens.

“We are thrilled to extend a warm Radford University welcome to Dr. McCloskey and her family as she steps into the role of the next dean of our Davis College of Business and Economics,” Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Bethany Usher, said. “With her wealth of knowledge and breadth of leadership experience, we anticipate that she will provide invaluable guidance to our Davis College faculty as they nurture and shape students into adept business professionals ready to navigate and succeed in today’s dynamic global economy.”

McCloskey’s commitment to building strong, collaborative relationships will enrich the academic environment at Radford University. Her emphasis on experiential learning will enhance students’ academic journeys and significantly elevate their career outcomes.

McCloskey earned a Ph.D. in business administration from Drexel University, an MBA in finance from Widener University and a Bachelor of Science in finance from the University of Delaware.

Juneteenth celebrates those who helped build America, says expert



VIRGINIA TECH PHOTO

Dan Thorp, associate professor of history at Virginia Tech, is researching freedom suits in antebellum Virginia.

It has been three years since Juneteenth became a federal holiday.

Americans should see it as an occasion to celebrate the diverse fabric of the country – its people, says a Virginia Tech expert.

The June 19 holiday commemorates the day in 1865 when, two months after the Civil War, enslaved Black people in Galveston, Texas, learned that they were free.

Dan Thorp, an associate professor of history at Virginia Tech, says Americans should view

the day as an important time of coming together.

“Juneteenth serves as a reminder of the fact that the United States was built by a wide range of people, many of whom were largely ignored for many years,” Thorp says.

“Juneteenth, as a federal holiday, represents a long-overdue acknowledgement of the huge contribution — albeit involuntary — that enslaved Africans and their descendants made to establishment and growth of the country.”

Thorp is an associate professor of history at Virginia Tech,

whose research is focused on the history of African Americans in Southwest Virginia, the history of British colonies, and the European colonization and exploration of North America. He currently is researching freedom suits in antebellum Virginia, which were lawsuits initiated by enslaved people seeking freedom. Thorp has written books and authored journal articles about African Americans and the history of slavery in the commonwealth.

Virginia Tech

Radford University

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, June 19:

Blacksburg Farmers Market

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

Market Square Jam

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

Blacksburg Juneteenth Holiday

Town administrative offices will be closed. Blacksburg Transit operating on Reduced Service in Blacksburg. BT offices will be closed. Visit <https://ridebt.org> for more information. Blacksburg Community Center and Blacksburg Aquatic Center operating during regular hours.

Christiansburg Juneteenth Holiday

Town of Christiansburg facilities, including the Aquatic Center, will be closed. The Recreation Center will be open regular hours with administrative offices closed. Solid waste and recycling normally collected on Wednesdays will be collected on Thursday, June 20, along with Thursday's regular collection.

Radford Juneteenth Holiday

City offices will be closed. The Radford Public Library will be closed. Trash collection for Wednesday, June 19, will be collected on Thursday, June 20. The Drop Center will be closed.

Friday, June 21:

Blacksburg Friday night outdoor concert

Featuring: Redd Volkaert Trio with Adam Clark & Dylan Locke (country swing/jazz/rock). The summer of 2024 lineup of outdoor concerts offers six bands throughout June and July. Live music will take place Friday evenings on Henderson Lawn at the corner of Main Street and College Avenue, from 6 -7:30 p.m. In case of inclement weather, the event will be canceled.

Saturday, June 22:

Blacksburg Farmers Market

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

Radford Farmer's Market

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

Sea Monster Adventure: A Monstrous Museum

At Radford Public Library; 11 a.m. – noon. Join us at the library for a very special museum exhibit! Sea Monster Adventure captures the awe and magic of the ocean as we share the amazing creatures that lived there. Through real fossils, museum-quality models, and great books - the sea monsters will come to life at the library.

Ask An Author: Mystery Author Panel Discussion

At the Radford Public Library; 3:30 -4 p.m. Join mystery authors Katharine Schellman, Mindy Quigley, Krista Davis, Mollie Ann Cox, and Sarah Warburton for a panel discussion about mystery writing and publishing. The authors will discuss their books and writing trajectories with plenty of time for an audience Q&A. Bring your questions about writing, plotting, editing, querying, publishing and more! Books will be available for purchase.

Sunday, June 23:

Vintage Market

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

Monday, June 24:

Montgomery County Board of Supervisors meeting

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

Tuesday, June 25:

Blacksburg Town Council meeting

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

Christiansburg Town Council meeting

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

Thursday, June 27:

Radford Photo Club meeting

Joe Pack of Fairlawn will present a program at the Radford Photo Club meeting about famous photographer Carol Highsmith, then will present his own work taken in the Highsmith style. The meeting will be at the Radford Public Library at 6 p.m. The photo challenge for June is People. The Radford Photo Club is made up of professional and amateur photographers from throughout the New River Valley. Meetings, events, and outings are open to the public. If you have questions about the club, email Lucy Gilmore at lucyg.gilmore@gmail.com or Joyce Crowder at joycecrowder2@icloud.com.

Classic movies at the Lyric

Beat the summer heat with a free classic movie at the historic Lyric Theatre at 135 College Ave. All movies begin at 3 p.m. "Some Like It Hot," June 29.

On-going:

Participants sought for Blacksburg Fourth of July Parade

Participants are needed for Blacksburg's Fourth of July parade, organized by the Mount Tabor Ruritan Club. The "A Child's Fourth of July" parade starts at 2 p.m. on Eheart Street, runs through downtown on Main Street, and ends on Alumni Mall. Entries can be floats, bicycles, wagons, marchers, walkers, antique/classic cars, Jeeps, trucks, fire engines, scouts, bands, sports teams, etc. Information is available on the Mount Tabor Ruritan Club's Facebook page, by texting 540-449-6178, or at the Blacksburg Parks and Recreation office. The Town of Blacksburg will have music and fireworks at the Municipal Park, near the Rec. Center: Live music 6-9:30 p.m. and fireworks at 9:30 p.m. (even if raining).

Applications open for healthcare workshop for people with disabilities

Individuals with disabilities who live in Radford City and Floyd County can now apply for a program presented by the New River Valley Disability Resource Center. "Improving Health Literacy Through Technology" is a six-week program designed to empower people with disabilities to gain better access to healthcare. Participants will receive a free iPad after completing six weekly, one-hour workshops exploring how to use technology to take better control of their health and social support needs. Workshops will run Aug. 1 through Sept. 5. Applications available at www.nrvdc.org or by calling 540-266-1435 or email at outreach@nrvdc.org. Applications are also available at the Radford and Floyd libraries. The application deadline is Fri., July 12.

AARP Virginia fraud alert: Moving scams

Summer seems in hand, the "movers" to be the season for moving. Whether you're relocating for work, downsizing or sending a child off to college, who you hire to help with the move matters a lot. Cutting corners to save money on your move could lead you right to a criminal scammer. Moving scams are committed by rogue operators that exist primarily online. They solicit business by offering lowball estimates, often without so much as laying an eye on what's to be moved. They might demand a hefty deposit, or even full payment in advance.

in hand, the "movers" might simply not show up at the appointed time and place. Or they'll try to change the deal at the last minute by raising the price. Worst of all, some companies will pick up your belongings but then demand more money to deliver them. To avoid these scams, make sure to get multiple quotes and check the references of any company you hire. While we are all looking to save money, when it comes to moving your personal goods safely and securely, cheaper isn't always better.

AARP Virginia

With your deposit

Boys State

from page 1

bought every single item on the list that the Boys State staff sent with the packet in the mail to the boys attending. It was a list of suggested food for us at Daily Bread. He bought every single item on that list, close to \$200 worth. I know he will never likely see this post, but I just have to say thank you so much to that guy. You will never know how much this means or how much it so going to help. You are amazing. Thank you for your very helpful and thoughtful donation!"

RFDB provides a warm homecooked lunchtime meal to anyone who wants it, Monday through Friday, in its dining room on the ground floor of Long Way Brewing, located at 501 Second St. RFDB also provides Meals on Wheels service to homebound seniors.

Staff report

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF AN APPLICATION BY APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY, FOR APPROVAL OF A RATE ADJUSTMENT CLAUSE PURSUANT TO VA. CODE § 56-585.1 A 4 CASE NO. PUR-2024-00079

On June 3, 2024, Appalachian Power Company ("APCo" or "Company") filed an application ("Application") with the State Corporation Commission ("Commission") pursuant to § 56-585.1 A 4 of the Code of Virginia ("Code") for approval to implement factors to recover a decrease to its revenue requirement through its transmission rate adjustment clause ("T-RAC"). Pursuant to Code § 56-585.1 A 7, the Commission must issue a final order in this matter not more than three months after the date of filing.

In its Application, APCo requests permission to recover a proposed total revenue requirement of \$380.1 million through the T-RAC for the October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025 rate year ("Rate Year"). The Company states that its proposed revenue requirement consists of the following: (1) a forecasted Virginia jurisdictional current-period formula rate (current) revenue requirement of \$369.8 million for the Rate Year, based on Federal Energy Regulatory Commission-approved PJM rates for transmission service that went into effect on January 1, 2024; (2) a cumulative Virginia jurisdictional actual under-recovery formula rate balance, through March 2024 (true-up) of \$7.1 million; (3) a forecasted Virginia jurisdictional under-recovery amount of \$0.6 million for the period April 2024 – September 2024 (update); and (4) a forecasted Virginia jurisdictional revenue requirement of \$2.6 million associated with the Business Park Program.

APCo states that its proposed revenue requirement is a decrease of approximately \$33.1 million from the annual T-RAC revenue requirement approved by the Commission in 2023. The Company indicates that its proposed T-RAC rates would decrease the monthly bill for a residential customer using 1,000 kilowatt hours per month by \$2.12.

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

TAKE NOTICE that the Commission may apportion revenues among customer classes and/or design rates in a manner differing from that shown in the Application and supporting documents and thus may adopt rates that differ from those appearing in the Company's Application and supporting documents.

The Commission entered an Order for Notice and Hearing that, among other things, scheduled public hearings on APCo's Application. On July 17, 2024, at 10 a.m., a Hearing Examiner appointed by the Commission will hold a telephonic hearing for the purpose of receiving the testimony of public witnesses. On or before July 10, 2024, 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 filling 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.

Beginning at 10 a.m. on July 17, 2024, the Hearing Examiner will telephone sequentially each person who has signed up to testify as provided above.

On July 17, 2024, at 10 a.m., or the conclusion of the public witness portion of the hearing, whichever is later, in the Commission's second floor courtroom located in the Tyler Building, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, a Hearing Examiner appointed by the Commission will convene a hearing to receive testimony and evidence offered by the Company, respondents, and the Staff on the Application.

To promote administrative efficiency and timely service of filings upon participants, the Commission has directed the electronic filing of testimony and pleadings, unless they contain confidential information, and require electronic service on parties to this proceeding.

An electronic copy of the Company's Application may be obtained by submitting a written request to counsel for the Company, James G. Ritter, Esquire, American Electric Power Service Corporation, 1051 East Cary Street, Suite 1100, Richmond, Virginia 23219, or jritter@aep.com. Interested persons also may download unofficial copies of the Application and other documents filed in this case from the Commission's website: scc.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information.

On or before July 12, 2024, any interested person may submit comments on the Application by following the instructions 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-2024-00079.

On or before July 3, 2024, any person or entity wishing to participate as a respondent in this proceeding may do so by filing a notice of participation with the Clerk of the Commission 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 to the Clerk of the Commission at the address above. Such notice of participation shall include the email addresses of such parties or their counsel. The respondent shall send a copy of the notice of participation to counsel for the Company. Pursuant to 5 VAC 5-20-80 B, *Participation as a respondent*, of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure ("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 5 VAC 5-20-30, *Counsel*, of the Rules of Practice. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2024-00079.

On or before July 3, 2024, 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 to 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 sent to the Staff, the Company, and all other respondents. In all filings, respondents shall comply with the Commission's Rules of Practice, as modified by the Commission's Order for Notice and Hearing, 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-2024-00079.

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 Company's Application and other documents filed in this case, 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

OBITUARIES

Grapsas, Basil George

Basil George Grapsas, 94, of Radford, passed away Friday, June 14, 2024.

He was born in Athens, Greece on June 17, 1929, and completed his education in America attending Massachusetts State University and graduating with a degree in engineering. He retired in 1994 from Hercules, Inc.

A loving and devoted husband and father, grandfather, and great grandfather, he is survived by his wife of 66 years, Dolores; son and daughter-in-law, Nicholas and Mary; grandchildren, Christopher, Nicholas, David, Jodi, Alexandria, and Alexander; and great grandchildren, Emilia, Aria, Theodore, and Penelope.



He was preceded in death by his son, John. He had many passions, which included opera, sports cars, and learning. He was an active member of the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Roanoke where he also served on the Parish Council and as its past president. He was a devoted follower of the arts and was a past member of the Board of

Trustees of Opera Roanoke.

The family will receive friends 5-7 p.m., Thursday, June 20, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford.

Formal funeral services will be conducted at the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Roanoke Friday, June 21, 2024, at 11 a.m. with Father Theodore Lyketsos officiating. Interment will follow in Sunrise Burial Park in Radford.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, 30 Huntington Blvd., Roanoke, VA or to Opera Roanoke, 20 Church Avenue, S.E., 3rd Floor, Roanoke VA 24011.

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

Loughlin, Del Allen

Del Allen Loughlin, 52, passed away Thursday, June 6, 2024, at his home in Hiwassee.

He was a member of Auburn Baptist Church and a U. S. Army veteran having served during Desert Storm. Del was preceded in death by his stepfather, William Niedermann.

Survivors include his wife, Bobbi Loughlin; son, Keith Loughlin; daughter, Elizabeth Loughlin; father, Delbert Allen Loughlin; mother, Jo Ann Carlock Niedermann;



sisters, Charlene Stewart and Debbie Garver (Tony); and many other relatives and friends.

The family will receive friends 4 - 6 p.m. Thursday, June 27, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Memorial services will be held at 10 a.m. Friday, June 28, at Auburn Baptist Church in Riner with Rev. Shake Smith and Rev. David Hanks officiating. Interment will be private.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to the Wounded Warrior Project.

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

Memitt, Ralph Albert

Ralph Albert Memitt left this sweet and sorrowful world with his family by his side to enter the gates of heaven on June 14, 2024.

Ralph was preceded in death by his father, William Insley Memitt, his mother, Mildred Louise Lester Memitt, and by his brother, William "Bill" Memitt.

Ralph is survived by his loving wife of 32 years, Victoria "Vicki" Memitt and children Matthew Memitt, Colby Memitt (Karly), Skyler Quesinberry (Mark) and Maegen Caldwell (Brandon). He is also survived by his grandchildren Sheila Memitt, Kinsley Memitt, Willow and Aria Quesinberry, Mason and Eli Caldwell; brother Ted Memitt (Pam); and numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews.

Ralph was a faithful member of Snowville Baptist Church where he served as a Sunday school teacher. He loved the Lord and frequently talked to others he encountered about the Lord. Ralph was an example to his children, and he could be found sitting quietly reading his Bible and instilled in them the desire to attend Church and know the Lord by his



faithfulness.

Ralph loved being with his family and loved his grandchildren. He enjoyed fishing but his passion was spring gobbler season. He appreciated the serenity of walking in the woods in the early morning hours and watching the sunrise.

Ralph could do almost anything and it was important to him to do things right. In his early years he worked for Pepsi-Cola as a route salesman and was frequently one of the top salesman. Upon leaving Pepsi, he was self-employed as a HVAC installer and was one of the best in the business. In addition to his many talents, Ralph could build a house from the ground up.

Through his journey with FTD (frontotemporal lobe dementia), we encountered some wonderful people who

provided care with love, compassion and grace to Ralph and our family.

We want to thank the nurses, CNAs and so many other folks on the 2nd floor memory care unit at Blue Ridge Therapy Connections for their love, compassion and spoiling of Ralph. Thank you for the kindness and support to our family in the past two weeks.

We would like to say thank you to all the wonderful nurses, CNAs, social worker, and many other people who Ralph encountered during his stay at NRVMC Medical Surgery unit while he was there where he was spoiled and frequently could be found smiling.

The family will receive friends 4 - 6 p.m. Wednesday, June 19, 2024, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Thursday, June 20, at Auburn Baptist Church in Riner with Pastor Neil Wood and Pastor Tony Hart officiating. Interment will follow in Duncan Cemetery on Broad Shoals Road in Riner.

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

Improving workforce training in central Appalachia

Radford University is among a small group of regional public colleges and universities across six states receiving funding from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) to help plan for improved healthcare worker training opportunities in the central Appalachian region.

ARC is awarding the \$250,000 planning grant through its Appalachian Regional Initiatives for Stronger Economies (ARISE), which works to strengthen and grow Appalachian businesses.

Radford is the only university in Virginia to participate. The other universities involved include East Tennessee State University (ETSU), which will serve as the lead institution on the project; Appalachian State University; Eastern Kentucky University; Marshall University; Ohio University; and Shawnee State University.

Empowered by the ARISE award, the consortium will explore a variety of strategies for working together and impacting health and economic outcomes in central Appalachia. Those strategies include articulation agreements, local pipeline development, cross-institution internships, in-state tuition arrangements, elective options, streamlined applications and preferred admissions.

Radford and the consortium members will implement five major activities as part of the multi-state effort: formalize relationships between university partners, perform a needs and gap analysis of healthcare workforce training, conduct a research review, develop an implementation plan and develop a landing page for the Regional Public Colleges and Universities' Central

Appalachia Health Consortium.

According to Jeanne Mekolichick, associate provost for research, faculty success and strategic initiatives, Radford University is partnering with Marshall University, located in Huntington, West Virginia, on healthcare workforce training and needs gap analysis.

Mekolichick and Professor of Health and Human Performance Pam Frasier will lead Radford's work in the collaboration.

"The ultimate goal is to develop a consortium to drive enrollment in healthcare programs at partner institutions and support economic development in the associated service regions by filling healthcare talent needs in these areas," Mekolichick said. "As stewards of place, the goals of this project are mission-central to Radford University, and we are thrilled to have the support of ARC to advance this initiative."

This project encompasses 235 counties in Virginia, Ohio, West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee and North Carolina. Only six of those counties are not in an area designated a primary care health professional shortage area, and just four are not in a dental care health professional shortage area.

"Central Appalachia faces persistent challenges in healthcare recruitment, and this collaborative effort seeks to address these issues to increase economic vitality in this region," said Michael Meit, director of the Center for Rural Health Research in the College of Public Health at ETSU. "Together, the institutions involved in this project will play a pivotal role in preparing a healthcare workforce tailored to address the specific needs of local communities."

Chad Osborne for Radford University

Virginia gas prices higher than last week

Average gasoline prices in Virginia have risen 1.8 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.35/g today, according to GasBuddy's survey of 4,081 stations in Virginia. Prices in Virginia are 4.4 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 1.2 cents per gallon higher than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has fallen 1.6 cents in the last week and stands at \$3.73 per gallon.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Virginia was priced at \$2.89/g yesterday while the most expensive was \$3.99/g, a difference of \$1.10/g. The lowest price in the state yesterday was \$2.89/g while the highest was \$3.99/g, a difference of \$1.10/g.

The national average price of gasoline has risen 1 cent per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.41/g today. The national average is down 18.0 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 13.8 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:

- June 17, 2023: \$3.34/g (U.S. Average: \$3.55/g)
- June 17, 2022: \$4.86/g (U.S. Average: \$4.99/g)
- June 17, 2021: \$2.93/g (U.S. Average: \$3.07/g)
- June 17, 2020: \$1.91/g (U.S. Average: \$2.11/g)
- June 17, 2019: \$2.45/g (U.S. Average: \$2.67/g)
- June 17, 2018: \$2.66/g (U.S. Average: \$2.89/g)

June 17, 2017: \$2.09/g (U.S. Average: \$2.29/g)

June 17, 2016: \$2.17/g (U.S. Average: \$2.35/g)

June 17, 2015: \$2.59/g (U.S. Average: \$2.80/g)

June 17, 2014: \$3.46/g (U.S. Average: \$3.67/g)

Neighboring areas and their current gas prices:

Roanoke- \$3.27/g, up 2.3 cents per gallon from last week's \$3.24/g.

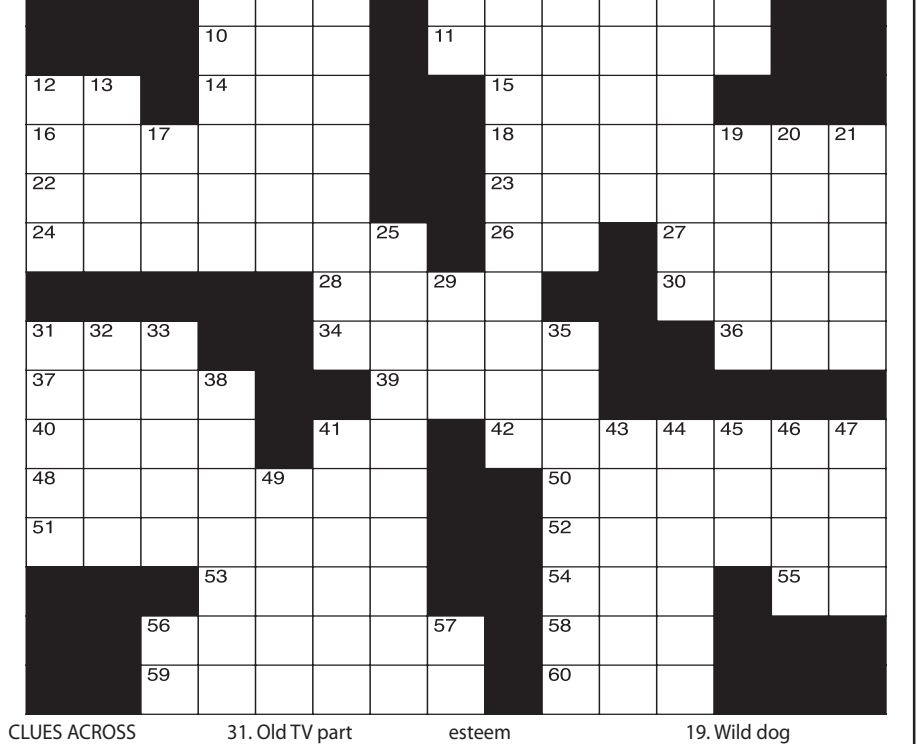
Richmond- \$3.40/g, up 5.8 cents per gallon from last week's \$3.35/g.

West Virginia- \$3.32/g, down 5.1 cents per gallon from last week's \$3.37/g.

"Since the national average price of gasoline fell to its lowest June level since 2021 last week, we've seen the drop in prices take a break, with some states seeing a small rise over the last week. Thankfully, I expect this to be more like a short timeout, with an eventual return to falling gasoline prices in most states," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy. "The decline in diesel prices continues, with the national average price of diesel now at its lowest level since January 2022. Both gasoline and diesel prices remain below their year-ago level, which is music to the ears of the Federal Reserve, as fuel prices are a significant component of the Consumer Price Index. Also factoring in gasoline demand that has been running a bit weaker than expected, market fundamentals look pretty good right now if you're a motorist."

GasBuddy

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. Letter of the Greek alphabet
 - 4. Cause to become entangled
 - 10. Swiss river
 - 11. Conversation
 - 12. 'Magnum' was one
 - 14. Small integer
 - 15. Christmas
 - 16. Of a specific mountain region
 - 18. Burrowing bugs
 - 22. Of a symbol worthy of veneration
 - 23. A type of syndrome
 - 24. Cephalopod mollusks
 - 26. Metric ton
 - 27. Ornamental box
 - 28. As quickly as can be done
 - 30. 'Hoop Dreams' subject Arthur
 - 31. Old TV part
 - 34. Extinct flightless birds
 - 36. Former CIA
 - 37. Successor
 - 39. Archaic form of you
 - 40. Within
 - 41. Danny Hurley's alma mater
 - 42. Not sacred or biblical
 - 48. Written law
 - 50. Popular hairstyle
 - 51. Congressman
 - 52. Type of font
 - 53. A predetermined period in office
 - 54. Pouch
 - 55. Hormone that stimulates ovulation (abbr.)
 - 56. One from a particular Asian region
 - 58. One's sense of self-esteem
 - 59. Headgear used to control a horse
 - 60. The habitat of wild animals
- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. A right conferred through legal means
 - 2. American island state
 - 3. Inflexibly entrenched
 - 4. 'Pollock' actor Harris
 - 5. Foolish person
 - 6. Follows a particular
 - 7. Choose
 - 8. Sunrooms
 - 9. One hundred grams (abbr.)
 - 12. A symptom of some physical hurt or disorder
 - 13. South American hummingbird
 - 17. 'Girl Chopping Onions' painter
 - 19. Wild dog
 - 20. Units of land
 - 21. Footwear
 - 25. Possessing a constant temperature
 - 29. Hormone that promotes water retention (abbr.)
 - 31. Popular game
 - 32. Pension (German)
 - 33. Giant of industry
 - 35. Inferred
 - 38. One who revolves
 - 41. Kept possession of
 - 43. Loss of electricity
 - 44. Stopped bottle
 - 45. Everything
 - 46. First to walk on the moon
 - 47. Engrave
 - 49. Female organs
 - 56. Equal to 1,024 bytes (abbr.)
 - 57. Northeast



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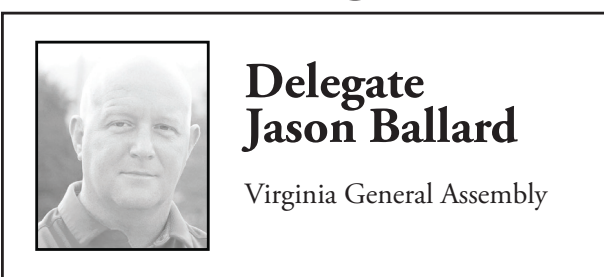
OPINION

Solar panels on federal buildings should be American made

Although this week's column focuses on a matter that may seem more federal in nature, it highlights the vigilance our Commonwealth must maintain for our state's – and nation's – security.

The federal Department of Energy's "Assisting Federal Facilities with Energy Conservation Technologies" (AFFECT) program recently announced \$104 million in public funds would be devoted to clean energy projects, including installing solar arrays on the Pentagon and other secure military facilities. The announcement did not guarantee the U.S. would use solar panels manufactured in America, utilize American technology, or even use trusted supply chains for the critical minerals necessary to produce the panels. On June 10, Governor Youngkin sent a letter to U.S. Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin, urging him to ensure that American manufacturers and technology are utilized as the department begins installing solar arrays on these sensitive assets.

Today, the dominant solar companies in the U.S. are Chinese firms with concerning ties to the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). Companies highly influenced or controlled by the CCP dominate the global solar supply chain, accounting for over 80% of global manufacturing capacity. This is underscored by the fact that China controls over 90% of the supply of some critical minerals necessary for solar panel production. The Department of Defense has been cognizant of



Delegate Jason Ballard

Virginia General Assembly

the national security risk posed by battery companies linked to or controlled by the CCP. In fact, the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) prohibits the department from purchasing batteries from certain Chinese companies and acknowledges the risk posed by energy-producing assets associated with the CCP.

Chinese solar companies are notorious for practicing anti-competitive trade behaviors and preventing American firms from competing on a level playing field. Purchasing goods from CCP-linked firms using public dollars is merely a reward for anticompetitive behavior. Chinese solar companies are also closely linked to human rights abuses of ethnic and religious minorities in China, and they emit more carbon than American-made panels due to their supply chain being fueled by coal-fired generation.

Given that Chinese-made solar panel companies have concerning connections to the CCP, combined with the fact that several American solar companies actively

produce these panels on American soil, Governor Youngkin has urged Secretary Austin to purchase U.S. produced panels and avoid creating a direct link between U.S. military installations and companies controlled by the CCP. In addition to the letter to Secretary Austin, Governor Youngkin has taken prompt actions to protect Virginia's economy and security from threats posed by certain CCP-backed companies. In 2023, Governor Youngkin championed legislation – which I supported – to prohibit the sale of Virginia's agricultural land to foreign entities of concern, including CCP-owned companies. Governor Youngkin also made the tough decision to halt an economic development deal that would have given taxpayer dollars to CATL, a CCP backed battery company. Following the Governor's action, CATL was banned from Department of Defense procurement and Ford halted its partnership with the company. This underscores the Commonwealth's role in helping to safeguard national security.

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

Is travel on your agenda in retirement?

One of the great benefits of retirement is having the freedom to pursue new interests and hobbies at your leisure. For many, travel is at the top of their retirement bucket list. The key question is how to make sure your retirement savings can keep up with your travel ambitions. The following considerations can help you determine your answer:

Make travel a part of your retirement budget. Without the funds to pursue travel, you likely won't get too far. As you plan for your living expenses, include travel as a line item in your retirement budget. Identify a portion of your monthly income to cover travel expenses before you hit the road.

Consider travel timing. Most retirees plan their biggest travel excursions in the early years of retirement, when health challenges may be lesser and they have more stamina. Therefore, your travel budget



Josh Smith, CRPC

Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC

may represent a larger portion of your overall expenses in the first years of retirement. If this aligns with your travel vision, factor it into your retirement budgeting strategy.

Determine your travel style. To come up with a reasonable cost estimate, identify the types of traveling you plan to do. Are you more interested in short trips to nearby locations, mostly traveling by car? Do you plan to explore the country in an RV? Are you looking to visit foreign destinations on a regular basis? Your travel goals will tell you a lot about how much you are likely to spend, which should be reflected in your retirement plan.

Find ways to cut costs. It's easy to face "sticker shock" when you travel. Expenses like food (usually eating out), lodging and transportation can add up quickly. If you plan to stay in one place for an extended

period, look into renting a home or apartment rather than "hotel-ing" it. Try to eat like the locals by buying food at grocery stores and markets. Take the time to look for flight deals or make your automobile travel routes as efficient as possible. One of the perks of being retired is that you may have more flexibility than working people to lock in deals by traveling off season or at other unpopular times.

Don't overlook insurance needs. Travel insurance may be appropriate if you get sick or lose luggage on a trip. Keep in mind that Medicare is not accepted outside the U.S., and even within the U.S., you want to be sure your health insurance has you covered in states outside your own.

Look for discounts and rewards. Seniors have a unique advantage in that costs for some activities are reduced. Even though the discounts may be modest, every dollar helps stretch your travel budget. Check to see what discounted options are available through clubs like AAA or AARP. Also pursue smart credit card strategies that help you earn rewards like free travel or cash back on your purchases.

If travel is in your plans when you leave the workforce, it's key to go beyond dreaming and do some significant preparation in advance. Use the time you have now to set specific goals and build saving that will help make your dreams a reality.

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Friends of Claytor Lake host Veterans Fishing Day



PHOTO COURTESY OF FOCL

Participants in the recent Wayne Fenton Veterans Fishing Day, held Sunday, June 2 at Claytor Lake State Park, brought together 20 fishing participants and over 40 people who came out to support.

Marketplace ourvalley.org

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Legals - Town of Vinton

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 15.2-2204 of the 1950 Code of Virginia, as amended, the Planning Commission of the Town of Vinton, Virginia, hereby gives notice of a public hearing to be held on Monday, July 1, 2024, at 6:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, in the Council Chambers of the Vinton Municipal Building, 311 South Pollard Street, Vinton, Virginia. The Planning Commission will also hold a work session on July 1, 2024, at 6:00 p.m., prior to the public hearing.

The purpose of the public hearing is to receive comments concerning:

- Petition of the Advancement Foundation, for a Special Use Permit (SUP) for a proposed flea market use, located at 301

Legals - Town of Vinton

South Pollard Street, Suite A, Vinton, Virginia, tax map number 060.15-07-41.00-0000, zoned CB Central Business District.

- Proposed amendments to the Vinton Zoning Ordinance. The proposed amendments would: require for an alternative financial institution use to obtain a special use permit in the GB General Business District, and allow for a personal service business use to be permitted by-right in the R-4 Residential-Business District in Article IV (District Regulations); amend the standards for vehicle storage or impound lots in Article V (Supplemental Regulations); amend the yard and screening requirements for swimming pools, tennis, or pickleball courts, amend the standards and permitted modifications of the landscaping ordinance section, and remove the maximum motor vehicle parking requirements in Article VI (Development Standards); and amend the definition of flea market in Article XI (Definitions).

Legals - Town of Vinton

Further information concerning this public hearing may be obtained in the Planning and Zoning Department located at 311 South Pollard Street, Vinton, VA 24179, during business hours, or via phone: (540) 983-0605. Interested persons may be heard at the above public hearing.

Given under my hand this 31st day of May, 2024.

Anita J. McMillan
Planning and Zoning Director
Secretary, Vinton Planning Commission

Legals - Town of Blacksburg

Notice of Public Hearing

Town of Blacksburg Planning Commission

Tuesday, July 2, 2024

Notice is hereby given that the Planning Commission of the Town of Blacksburg will

Legals - Town of Blacksburg

conduct the following public hearings on Tuesday, July 2, 2024 during its meeting beginning at 6:30 PM in the Roger E. Hedgepeth Council Chamber, 300 South Main St, Blacksburg, VA on the following item:

Zoning Ordinance Amendment (ZOA) #61-An amendment to the Town of Blacksburg Zoning Ordinance to create a new Small Lot Development Option in the R-4 Low Density Residential Zoning District to allow smaller lot sizes.

Legals - Town of Blacksburg

This is proposed text amendment would create the Small Lot Development Option within the R4 Low Density Residential Zoning District. It will allow for development of homes (single-family, detached; two-family dwelling; and townhouse) on relatively small lots to increase housing choice, affordability and sustainability. Small lot development in the R-4 District is intended to accommodate residential development on lots between 3,000 and 7,499 square feet. The Option will

Legals - Town of Blacksburg

have its own site development standards, occupancy regulations and design standards to ensure compatibility with the existing R-4 District.

Persons affected by or interested in the zoning ordinance amendment may appear and present their views.

After hearing, the Planning Commission may take action. Copies of the requests and all related items may be found online at <https://letstalkblacksburg.org> or reviewed in person at the

Legals - Town of Blacksburg

Blacksburg Planning and Building Department, 400 South Main Street, Blacksburg, Virginia. You may also call the office at (540) 443-1300 for more information. Individuals with disabilities who require special assistance to attend and participate in the public hearing on the above should contact the Planning & Building Department at (540) 443-1300, or (540)-443-1000-TDD.

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RADFORD SPORTS

Christiansburg looking for wrestling coach

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Just six years ago, the Christiansburg High School wrestling program was at the peak of the mountain. The team had clicked off 17 straight state championships. But since then, Christiansburg has not been able to scratch the top five.

The Blue Demons have had several state champions including back-to-back wins by Brady Hand, but the depth in wins simply has not been there.

During this span, Christiansburg has seen four new coaches after now-Iowa State and former Virginia Tech Coach Kevin Dresser stepped away. The coach's office has been a revolving door.

Two years ago, former Grundy wrestler David Wimmer seemed ready to grab the golden ring and run with it, but he has since been named wrestling coach at Jefferson Forest.

A short time later, Cody Hughes took the lead at Christiansburg. He has since left the program.

The school started advertising this week for a new coach.

Southwest Virginia Swim League holds competition



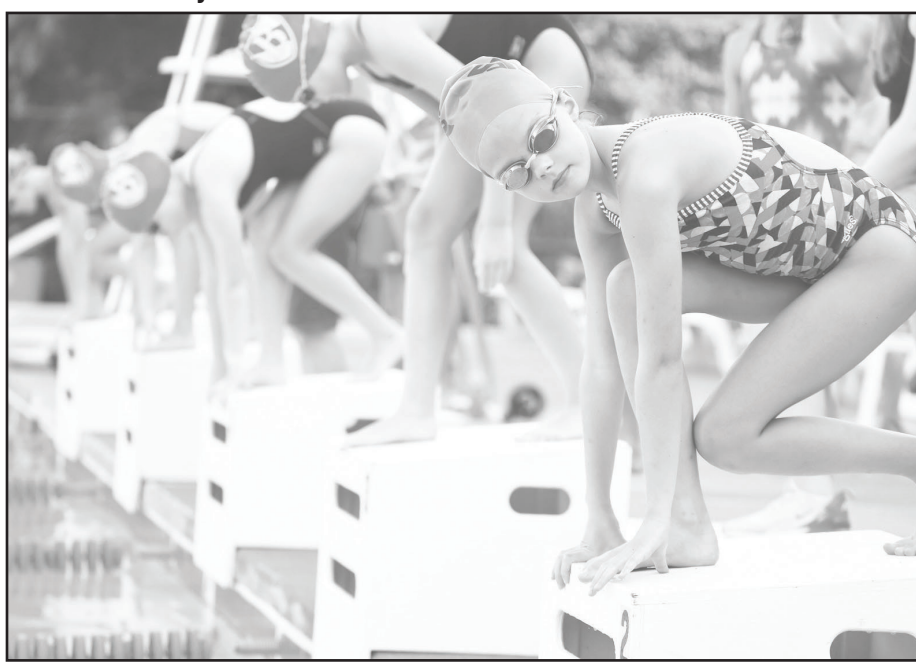
Blacksburg Country Club's Addison White gets started in the girls 11-12 50-meter backstroke. White won the event in a close race against Shawnee Swim Club's Ella Bea Kuhn. The Southwest Virginia Swim League features eight teams from across the NRV swimming a six-week meet schedule this summer. The competition culminates in mid-July with a championship meet hosted by the Christiansburg Aquatic Center.



Blacksburg Country Club's Rhys Cannon leaps in at the start of the boys 6 and under 25-meter butterfly.



Rachel Roy swims in the 50-meter butterfly for the Shawnee Sharks during a week two SVSL meet hosted by the Shawnee Swim Club.



Shawnee Swim Club's Logan Powell gets set to swim in the girls 9-10 25-meter butterfly during an SVSL swim meet.

PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING

Hokies make Phil Steele preseason listing

College football analyst Phil Steele has released his preseason All-ACC and All-American lists entering the 2024 college football season, recognizing several Hokies.

Bhayshul Tuten earned a first team All-ACC nod as a kick returner and third team All-American. Quarterback Kyron Drones was named to the All-ACC second team along with Aeneas Peebles at defensive tackle and Antwaun Powell-Ryland at defensive end. APR was named to the fourth team All-American squad. Special teamers Peter Moore and Tucker Holloway also earned second team honors at punter and returner respectively. Cornerback Dorian Strong was named to the third team along with kicker John Love. Linebacker Keli Lawson, receiver Da'Quan Felton and center Kaden Moore earned fourth team honors.

Tuten rushed for 863 yards on 173 attempts, and 10 touchdowns in 2023, while averaging 5.0 yards per carry. He also caught 27 passes for 239 yards and two touchdowns. The New Jersey product made a huge impact in the return game, returning 19 kicks for 550 yards and two touchdowns and was one of five FBS players to record two-plus kick return TDs.

Drones started 11 games last season, throwing for 2,085 yards and 17 TDs to just three interceptions. He led the team in rushing with 818 yards (5 TDs). The redshirt junior threw 160 passes at one point without an interception.

Powell-Ryland is coming off a season in which he registered 40 tackles (23 solo) and tallied 9.5 sacks, ranking second in the ACC and tied for 14th in the country. The Portsmouth, Virginia native recorded 14.5 TFLs, ranking 24th in the country, fifth in the ACC. APR became the fourth Virginia Tech defensive player to finish a game with 4.0 or more sacks (4.0, 29 yards) against Wake Forest (Oct. 14), joining JC Price, Bruce Smith and Morgan Roane.

Peebles arrives in Blacksburg from Duke where he co-led the Blue Devils in TFLs (8.5) and ranked second on the team in sacks (4.0) in 2023. He registered 40 tackles (11 solo), four quarterback hurries, two pass breakups, one forced fumble and one fumble recovery last



Eleven Hokies have been honored by Phil Steele on preseason teams.

season.

Moore punted 60 times in 2023 for 2,588 yards, averaging 43.1 yards per punt. Nineteen punts went for 50+ yards while 17 were downed inside the 20-yard line.

Holloway returned 20 punts for a total of 258 yards last season. His average punt return yardage of 12.9 ranked 7th in the country.

Strong is just the second FBS cornerback since 2014 with 300+ coverage snaps to give up less than 10 receptions and less than 100 yards receiving in a season. He tallied 25 tackles (18 solo) while registering eight pass breakups in 11 games defended with three interceptions.

Love had a breakout season in 2023 converting 22 of his 24 field goal attempts. His 91.7 percentage ranked sixth in the country. The redshirt sophomore was a perfect 47 of 47 on extra points.

Felton tallied 38 receptions for a team-leading 667 yards and eight touchdowns last season.

Moore made the move to center in 2023, playing 857 snaps, allowing just one sack.

Lawson led the team with 80 tackles (39 solo) in 2023. He tallied 7 TFLs, including 2.5 sacks and also registered one interception, six pass breakups, four QB hurries and a forced fumble.

Virginia Tech Athletics

Hagan to sponsor bracket racing

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Matt Hagan has made his mark on the National Hot Rod Association (NHRA) with four world championships and 49 career wins. But when the new Bracket racing makes its stops at the Virginia Motorsports Park this weekend, Hagan, or should we say the Hagan Cattle Company, will be a presenting sponsor.

In the recent announcement, the bracket racing Bonanza's creator Elon Werner said it was a perfect opportunity to promote Hagan Cattle Company to our DRBB fans.

"Hagan Cattle Company is an ideal marketing partner for our players across the country and around the world. The quality of their beef is amazing, and we are excited to share their Burger Bonanza Jr. package with our event winners."

Hagan started the cattle company shortly after his first world championship and has as many as five different farms in Montgomery County. The new sponsorship will have Hagan Cattle

branded across all Drag Race Bracket Bonanza social media platforms and DragRaceBracketBonanza.com. They will also be featured on the Densy's Deets tip sheet, delivered by DRBB Friday before the race weekend.

DRBB winners in the NHRA Virginia Nationals, in addition to the exclusive driver autographed plaques awarded, will also receive the Hagan Cattle Company Burger Bonanza Jr. package, which includes ten packs of Hagan Cattle Company Ground Beef. Additionally, all DRBB players will receive a unique discount code with a 10% discount through June 30.

"We are excited to support Drag Race Bracket Bonanza and introduce Hagan Cattle Company to more drag racing fans and Matt Hagan supporters," said Jon Hundley, General Manager, Hagan Cattle Company. "The NHRA has a passionate fan base, and we have seen the excitement surrounding Drag Race Bracket Bonanza and wanted to get involved."

Hodge Memorial event set for July 27 in Radford

The Radford Parks and Recreation Department has designated July 27, 2024 the Joe and Betty Jo Hodge Memorial Fund Day.

The special day will include free clinics for both boys and girls conducted by Rance Mulliniks, a 15-year veteran in the major league and a current member of Toronto Blue Jays Hall of Fame.

The day will conclude with a barbeque banquet at the Recreation Center with auction items and a presentation from Rance. Joe and Betty Jo Hodge left lasting memories on hundreds of men and women who knew them and participated in Radford sports.

Both of them dedicated their entire life to all sports activities and demonstrated total self-giving to their community. Along with honoring the

legacy of Joe and Betty Jo, we hope to raise funds to be used for equipment purchases for those less fortunate but have a desire to participate as well as continue with the upkeep, maintenance, and repairs as needed to the Joe Hodge Little League Field.

The day will begin with a free baseball/softball clinic on Saturday, July 27, 2024. The clinics will be offered for both boys and girls, ages 8-10 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon and ages 11-13 from 1-3 p.m. Both clinics will be held at Joe Hodge Little League Field in Radford. The field is located at 1014 Pendleton Street in Radford.

The day will conclude the evening with a fundraising event being held at the Radford Recreation Center at 6:30 p.m. This event is to help raise money

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Sports notes: Former Hokie impresses during tournament

Former Virginia Tech women's soccer athlete Victoria "Dori" Haugen showcased her skills as an NC Courage trialist in the 7v7 The Soccer Tournament in Cary, N.C.

"I am forever grateful and blessed to have had this opportunity," said Haugen. "I am so honored to have played with Jessica McDonald, represent NC Courage, and make history in this inaugural tournament for the women. I cannot thank NC Courage enough for this amazing opportunity."

Haugen started in all five matches of the tournament recording 12 shots and one goal. Her tournament appearance was highlighted by a goal in the 55th minute of the match against Soccerhead FC (5-3) in the third round of group play, advancing her team to the semifinals. Haugen logged a tournament high of six shots and one goal in the match with Soccerhead.

"Scoring my goal was and will be unforgettable moment for me," said Haugen. "I told myself I had no choice but to score so I can help my team advance to the semifinals."

Sportsmanship award

Ryan Fishback has been named the 2024 Rafael Osuna

Sportsmanship Award winner, as announced by the ITA on Thursday morning.

As the ITA's longest-running award, the Rafael Osuna Sportsmanship Award honors the life and legacy of the person many would call the greatest collegiate tennis player of all time. This award, which honors one Division I men's student-athlete each year, honors the player who demonstrates many of the key tenets of Osuna's game including, but not limited to, sportsmanship, character, academic achievements and outstanding tennis accomplishments.

Fishback, a Geneva, N.Y. native, wrapped up his illustrious career with the Hokies in the spring. His senior campaign concluded with third-team All-ACC acknowledgement, posting an 8-12 record on Court 1 and sitting in the ITA singles rankings for the entirety of the year. The honor was his third all-conference nod in three seasons.

Having graduated in May with a degree in Biochemistry, Fishback intends to test his luck on the professional circuit before attending medical school.

Staff report

Hodge

from page 7

for the Joe and Betty Jo Hodge Memorial Fund. A barbecue dinner is planned with the cost being \$20 per person. Pre-registration is required by July 17 for anyone wishing to attend the evening event.

Pre-register by calling the Radford Recreation Department at 540-731-3633.

During this dinner event there will also be a silent auction featuring a lot of sports paraphernalia. Joe and Betty Jo were employees of Radford Parks and Recreation for over 28 years. Joe supervised youth sports for the boys (baseball, football, and basketball). He also coached many of these teams during his long career.

Many people that lived in Radford remember the Shark Club Baseball Team that he coached during the summers from the mid '50's until 1978. Joe was a very kind, loving man that always wanted to help the youth in Radford.

During his career his kindness would always consist of spending time

with and talking to kids that needed a friendly ear; he was always available to talk with them or just lend an ear when they needed someone to listen to them.

Radford Rec Director Greg Holbrook said on many occasions Joe helped kids get something to eat before or after their games. Joe was also known for helping the youth with rides to and from their games.

Joe served his country in the United States Army and was a Veteran of the Korean War. Anybody that knew Joe loved and respected him for his service to his country and his devotion to the youth of Radford.

These individuals have many great stories, acts of kindness, and special memories of him to this day.

Betty Jo ran the girls' youth sports program, women's programs, and the summer youth playgrounds at all our parks. She was made out of the same cloth as Joe. She was kind and loving to the girls and always wanted to help them any way she could.

Holbrook said Joe was also over all the maintenance of Radford's parks and ball fields as well as the supervisor of the high school summer park aides.

He, along with Public Works and many friends and volunteers built the Joe Hodge Little League Field in the early '70's. To this day teams from all

over the New River Valley enjoy coming to Radford and playing on our "Field of Dreams."

The clinic will be conducted by former major league baseball player of the California Angels and the Toronto Blue Jays, Rance Mulliniks.

Rance played in the major leagues from 1977-1992. He is a Hall of Fame member of the Toronto Blue Jays. He was the Rookie of the Year for the California Angels in 1977. He had a team high batting average for the Blue Jays in 1984 and 1988 (.324 and .300).

During the clinic Rance and coaches will conduct sessions on hitting, infield, and outfield. The last part of the clinic is a Q&A session.

For those that cannot attend the evening event but would like to make a donation, you may do so by either mailing or dropping off your donation to the Radford Recreation Department, 200 George Street, Radford, VA 24141.

Please make all checks payable to Radford Recreation Department, earmarked "Memory of Joe and Betty Jo Hodge".

For more information on any of the events planned for the day, please contact Greg Holbrook at 540-731-3633 or email greg.holbrook@radfordva.gov.

Radford Parks and Recreation Department



PHOTO BY ANGELICA RAMOS

Community members enjoy the 16th annual Summer Solstice Festival, which took place in downtown Blacksburg.

Blacksburg's Summer Solstice Fest brings fun in the sun

Angelica Ramos
Contributing writer

BLACKSBURG - The Town of Blacksburg celebrated the longest day of the year with their annual Summer Solstice Festival in Downtown Blacksburg.

Hundreds of residents were out in the sun on Saturday, June 15, 2024 for the 16th annual festival, enjoying the many activities.

Downtown Blacksburg had many options to help residents beat the heat at the Solstice Festival from beer and wine to non-alcoholic drinks, like lemonade, to shaved ice and ice cream. For those who worked up an appetite walking through the many vendor booths, there was food from Cabo Fish Taco, The Cotton Candy Lab, Community Pizza Truck and much more. Downtown Blacksburg Incorporated and their partners ensured there was something for everyone at the Solstice Festival with the Family Fun Zone which housed a water slide, basketball, sun catcher crafts, face painting and multiple inflatables for the young ones to jump around in.

The Main Stage was buzzing with acts and organizations all the way until just after 9 p.m. with music from Solacoustix, Panjammers and other musical groups. The vendors had something for everyone with booths that held: wonderful local

art, handmade soaps, homemade snacks and spices, jewelry, clothes, and toys for the children.

At 2 p.m. on the main stage, YES! Science Camp presented their posters of research to the crowd and discussed what their program does for local children. YES! Science Camp stands for Youth Exploring Science and is a program through Virginia Tech where youths can enjoy doing experiments, bonding with people who enjoy science as well, expand their knowledge by working with Virginia Tech professors and students and even tour research laboratories. The young people in front of the main stage at the Summer Solstice Festival were excited to show their work to the community.

The Summer Solstice Festival brought out not just New River Valley residents, but the four-legged residents as well. Many community members enjoyed the festival with their families and pets. With all the Summer Solstice Festival had to offer, residents were enjoying walking through the streets, shopping, mingling and celebrating the longest day of the year.

The actual summer solstice will occur on Thursday, June 20, 2024 where businesses in Blacksburg and Christiansburg will host events, for example, Sweetgrass Yoga who will have a yoga session at sunrise and sunset.

PETS OF THE WEEK

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

Bubby is a friendly boy with a young dog energy. He enjoys meeting people and receiving affection. With some training and love, Bubby is sure to be a great addition to any home. Stop by the Animal Care and Adoption Center to meet this pawsome dog.



Handsome boy Clifford is ready to head home! This sweet canine loves a delicious treat or two and likes to interact with people and show off his happy personality. He may know a few basic commands but could use a refresher.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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