

# Radford City Council passes 2025-26 budget, taxes and rates

Heather Bell  
Editor

RADFORD – The Radford City Council passed the city’s fiscal year 25-26 budget Monday, April 21, 2025, with cuts to spending and increases to taxes and utility rates all part of the approved plan for the next fiscal year.

Under the new budget, all open city jobs will be frozen, and any jobs that become vacant during the year due to retirement or other means of attrition will remain vacant, with a few exceptions. That freeze is projected to save \$1,000,000 for the year. City council members reduced

their salaries by 10 percent. Funding for all city departments is flat and, in many cases, reduced over last year largely due to the freezing of those open city positions.

On the revenue side, real estate taxes will increase to 82-cents per each \$100 of a home’s value. In terms of what that means for homeowners, a \$150,000 home currently pays \$1,035 annually in real estate taxes, and will pay \$1,230 under the new rate. The real estate tax bill for a \$250,000 home will go from \$1,725 to \$2,050. A \$350,000 home will now pay \$2,870 annually in real estate tax, up from \$2,415.

“We’ll be higher than the two



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF THE CITY OF RADFORD

counties but lower than the four surrounding towns and we’re providing what is basically county and town services combined as a city,” said Interim City Manager Craig Meadows.

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# Radford Farmers Market kicks off 2025 season



Kristie McWilliams and her pet chicken, Hope, entertain and delight the attendees of Saturday’s market.

RADFORD – The 2025 season of the Radford Farmers Market began Saturday, with more than 40 vendors, live music and food trucks.

The market vendors sold an array of baked goods, flower and vegetable plants, fresh meats, cheeses and eggs, craft items, microgreens, dip mixes, candles, produce, jewelry and more. As the season progresses, more fresh produce will join the list of available items.

Saturday’s opening day brought out a big crowd of shoppers, dogs and even a pet chicken to enjoy the spring weather. While shopping was paramount, the day also brought the community together to enjoy music and good conversation.

The market is held each Saturday now through October, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m., on the lower grounds of Glencoe Mansion, 600 Unruh Drive, Radford.

Staff report



Customers try out the many dips sold by Gourmet Dips by Lister Farms at Saturday’s opening day of the Radford Farmers Market.

# Take Back the Night in Blacksburg increases awareness, resources for sexual assault survivors



Gin & Sonic musical group on stage at Virginia Tech’s Take Back the Night event.

Lori Graham  
Contributing writer

BLACKSBURG – Students and community members gathered on April 10, 2025, in the Graduate Life Center (GLC) at Virginia Tech University to provide a platform for survivors of sexual assault to share stories and provide education and resources to support sexual assault victims in breaking their silence.

The Virginia Tech United Feminist Movement organization holds the annual rally, this year celebrating their 36th anniversary. Local organizations who

provide resources to students and community members were available to share information as well, with tables positioned outside of the GLC’s auditorium.

The rally began at 6:30 p.m. with a musical performance by Gin & Sonic, a young group of talented musicians who easily span an array of music genres. According to their website at [www.lojazz.com](http://www.lojazz.com), lead vocalist and guitarist Lo Jazz said, “Our goal is to take our listeners on a journey through different musical landscapes, all while

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VT United Feminist Movement Leaders (left to right) Operations Co-Director Lauren Scheerer, Operations Co-Director Ellen Taylor and Development Chair Ally Bryant.

# Two people charged in connection to Radford shooting

RADFORD - A shooting in Radford on Thursday, April 17 has led to two people being charged in connection with the incident.

Radford Police responded to a 911 call about gunshots fired at 3:03 p.m. Thursday in the 1100 block of East Main St. The incident led to a shelter in place for Radford University and Radford City Public Schools. Two people were injured in the shooting.

“Following the investigation, charges have been filed against two individuals in connection to the crime,” the Radford City Police Department announced Friday, April 18.

Robert Leonard, 47, of Radford, has been charged with possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, aggravated malicious

wounding and use of a firearm in the commission of a felony. Sidney Schwartz, 22, of Elliston, has been charged with conspiracy to commit robbery, conspiracy to use a firearm in the commission of a felony and conspiracy to commit aggravated malicious wounding.

“This investigation remains active and ongoing,” the department announced. “Further details will be released as they become available.”

Anyone with additional information regarding this case is encouraged to contact the Radford City Police Department at 540-731-3624 or email Detective Sergeant Austin Cox at [Cox@radfordva.gov](mailto:Cox@radfordva.gov).

Staff report

# Radford teenager dies in motorcycle accident



PHOTO COURTESY OF MULLINS FUNERAL HOME

Michael Lee Price

RADFORD – A Radford teenager has died as the result of a two-vehicle crash Friday afternoon.

Michael Lee Price, 19, was killed when his motorcycle collided with a pick-up truck.

According to the Radford City Police Department, “at approximately 3:15 p.m. on Friday, April 18, 2025, officers from the Radford City Police Department responded to a report of a motorcycle accident at the intersection of East Main Street and High Meadows Parkway.”

“The preliminary investigation revealed that a 2012 Kawasaki motorcycle, operated by 19-year-old Michael Price, was traveling westbound on East Main Street when a 2021 Ram pickup pulling a small utility trailer, was traveling eastbound on the same road,” the department announced. “The truck attempted to make a left turn onto High Meadows Parkway when the motorcycle collided

with the trailer. As a result of the collision, Price was thrown from the motorcycle. Radford Fire and Rescue arrived on the scene and provided immediate first aid before transporting Price to Carilion New River Valley Medical Center. Tragically, he was later pronounced deceased at the hospital.”

The Radford City Police Department, with assistance from the New River Valley Regional Traffic Crash Reconstruction Team consisting of Montgomery County Sheriff’s Office, Christiansburg Police Department, and Blacksburg Police Department, are actively investigating the crash.

In his obituary, Price was described as someone who “lived to hunt, fish, ride motorcycles and spend time with his family. He was a devoted son, grandson, brother, nephew, boyfriend and friend, and will be sorely missed by anyone that knew him.”

Staff report



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Wednesday, April 23:

**Chair Yoga for Adults**  
At the Radford Public Library, 6 p.m., in the Community Room. Take a break from the stress and hustle of daily life and join us for a rejuvenating chair yoga class with Lisa Machi of Sweetgrass Yoga. Lisa is a Yoga Instructor, Meditation Facilitator, and Reiki Practitioner.

**Blacksburg Farmers Market**  
At Market Square Park, 100 Draper Rd SW, Blacksburg; 2 - 6 p.m. (New hours for April). 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 blacksburgfarmersmarket.com.

## Thursday, April 24:

**Blood Drive**  
American Red Cross Blood Drive at Grove United Methodist Church, 1020 Tyler Ave., Radford, 1 – 6 p.m. Streamline your donation experience and save time by registering at RecCrossBlood.org/RapidPass.

## Saturday, April 26:

**Blacksburg Farmers Market**  
At Market Square Park, 100 Draper Rd SW, Blacksburg; 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. (New hours for April). 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 blacksburgfarmersmarket.com.

**Radford Farmers Market**

## Budget

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Comparatively, Pulaski County's rate is 74-cents, Montgomery County's is 75-cents, the Town of Christiansburg's is 89-cents, the Town of Dublin's is 98-cents, the Town of Blacksburg's is \$1.01 and the Town of Pulaski's is \$1.10.

The monthly water rate will increase from \$20.32 to \$24.32 per 4,000 gallons. Wastewater (sewer) will increase from \$32.48 to \$36.48 per 4,000 gallons. Solid waste (trash) pick up will increase \$3 per month, from \$22.00 to \$25.00. Meadows estimated the household increase for all of the aforementioned increase as follows: For a \$150,000 home: \$327 per year, \$27.25 per month, or \$6.29 per week; for a \$250,000 home: \$457 per year, \$38.08 per month and \$8.79 per week; and for a \$350,000 home: \$587 per year, \$48.92 per month, and \$11.29 per week.

"Yes, they are increases," said Meadows. "I would argue that the value of the services that are provided by the city and for the amounts that our citizens are paying, especially when you compare them to neighbors here in the NRV and beyond, I think are still very reasonable, especially for a community this size and what you provide on a daily basis."

Additionally, the personal property tax rate will increase from \$2.44 to \$2.55 per \$100 in assessed value. The meals tax rate will increase from 5.5 percent to 6.5 percent. The hotel occupancy tax rate will increase to 8.5 percent.

The approved budget restores \$500,000 in funding to the school system the city had considered cutting to balance the budget. That

funding comes from utilizing reserve funds the city holds for the school system's capital needs. Those funds come from "rollover" funds the school system had not used in previous years. The city had proposed reducing local school funding from roughly \$5.8 to \$5.3 million. That reduction would have put millions of dollars in state funding to the schools in jeopardy due to a required local match that has to be above and beyond the \$5.3-plus million "required local effort" in local funds. The additional \$500,000 in the approved city budget will restore school funding to \$5.8-plus million, utilizing the rollover funds.

"This budget gets the ship turned in the right direction but there is still course correction yet to be made," said Meadows. "If all goes as planned, the city should see an increase of \$2,978,365 across all funds in reserves."

"This doesn't completely fix the problem, but it stops the bleeding," said Vice Mayor Seth Gillespie.

One problem that has led to the current budget situation is an overestimation of revenues in the past several budget cycles. Meadows said this year's budget "is much more realistic in our estimation of the revenues."

Meadows also said city staff will be providing council members with monthly financial reporting.

"This budget will be a work in process throughout the year," said Gillespie.

The total amount of the 3,400-line budget passed is \$77,983,257. The general fund is \$33,843,947 of that total, with the "enterprise" funds (utilities, etc.) making up the rest.

At 600 Unruh Drive, next to Glencoe Mansion, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. More than 40 vendors, food trucks, and more.

**Shred-A-Thon new location**  
The Shred-A-Thon event scheduled for Saturday, April 26, 9 a.m.- 12 p.m. has been moved from the Blacksburg Community Center parking lot to the Blacksburg Parks and Recreation Administrative Offices parking lot, located at 615 Patrick Henry Dr. For more information, contact Morgan Shock at recycle@blacksburg.gov.

## Monday, April 28:

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

**Montgomery County Board of Supervisors meeting**

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

## Tuesday, April 29:

**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

# OPINION

## The budget passes; questions remain

Over the last several weeks, city council has held special sessions focused on the city budget, which includes the school budget, for the upcoming fiscal year. The school budget was presented for first reading and public comment at the April 14 meeting; the second meeting on April 21 did not include public comment, and the council moved expeditiously to pass the entire FY2026 budget. Even though the work of passing a budget for FY2026 is complete, questions remain. And while these questions may make some uncomfortable, they are asked with genuine concern and a desire to fully understand how we arrived at our current predicament so that a similar crisis can be avoided in the future.

Budget shortfalls and fiscal challenges are not new to Radford. Just nine months ago, the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development's Commission on Local Government rated Radford as the 11th most fiscally stressed municipality in the Commonwealth, based on FY2022 data. Running the same calculations using any of the more recent data (FY2023-2025) would likely have Radford much higher up on this unfortunate ranking, perhaps even chasing first place. Why? Because beginning in FY2023 and through our current fiscal year, Radford grossly overestimated its revenue projections to the tune of \$9.6 million.

Egregious as the total number may be, it is even more disturbing when you take into account that the city's projections *got worse each year*. For FY2023, revenue projections were off by \$2.4 million, but by FY 2025, the projected revenue was off by *a whopping \$3.9 million*. These

**Kate McConnell**  
*Radford Resident*

figures beg several questions: Why would Radford "double down" for two more years on its rosy revenue projections after missing the mark in FY2023, and then again in FY2024? Where were the checks and balances? Where were the quarterly reports and spreadsheets showing projected versus actual revenues and expenditures? The city is required to submit to an audit at the end of each fiscal year—what did the auditors have to say about the city's approach to finances? After passing the FY2026 budget Monday evening, council offered vague assurances for better fiscal management in the future, which—although encouraging—is not sufficient given what happened. Putting aside promises for enhanced future fiscal management, we still need to question past practices and decisions. It is wholly unacceptable that the answer to how Radford got to this place is currently a resounding "We don't know."

*The first step for city council now that the budget is settled is to take proactive, public steps to account for how we found ourselves in such a financial crisis.* City council—as each of its members is aware—is the fiduciary steward of the city. Council alone is responsible for hiring and—critically—supervising professionals who staff city offices and offer their expert advice to city council, so that it can then make sound financial decisions on behalf of Radford's citizenry. Mistakes

have clearly been made; not understanding when, how, and why these mistakes were made so they can be avoided in the future is irresponsible. It has been intimidated over the course of the last two weeks by council members themselves that they were caught off guard by the current fiscal crisis. That everyone on City Council seems to have been blindsided by the extent of Radford's fiscal stress is deeply concerning and suggests a lack of true oversight and supervision of city staff, including the city manager position, that goes back at least three years.

This aspect of Council's work—the hiring and supervising of a city manager—is particularly salient as Radford is actively searching for someone to take on this job full-time. By all accounts the interim city manager, Craig Meadows, is a skilled professional who adroitly led Radford through the crafting of its most challenging budget in years. But his tenure is short with the city. By reputation, Mr. Meadows is a "fixer"—he helps cities that find themselves in similar dire straits create a path forward. We will not have Mr. Meadows and his professional counsel at our disposal much longer. It would be helpful to know how council will do things differently supervising this key position moving forward.

*The second step is to repair what appears to be an antagonistic relationship with the Radford City schools.* The Commonwealth of Virginia is an outlier when it comes to how school budgets are handled. In most other states, school boards have the authority and ability to

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## Resources

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keeping their feet moving on the dance floor."

The music set the stage for an inspirational rally allowing a safe space for survivors to share their stories with the audience. The event is open to everyone, but no recording of the event or pictures are permitted during the speaking portion of the evening. Gender-based violence, sexual assault, and stalking were topics shared openly with the group in their goal to break the silence for victims who may feel afraid to come forward.

Blacksburg Town Council member Susan Anderson, and also the President of the Montgomery National Organization for Women (NOW) Chapter of Virginia NOW, passed out resources at the event and later took the stage to discuss legislation currently in the House of Delegates and Senate. One of the three amendments discussed during her speech is the HJ9 Amendment in Virginia that would ensure the right for all individuals to make their own reproductive health decisions. Anderson said Virginia voters should be aware of all legislation coming in 2025 and again in 2026, so that

amendments could be moved forward.

Following the speaking portion of the rally, attendees took to the streets to march in solidarity and share their message. Local police accompanied the group in support of providing a safe environment.

Another organization in attendance was the Women's Resource Center of the New River Valley. The Center offers counseling, emergency and transitional shelter, emergency advocacy, justice system advocacy, prevention and education, as well as a 24-hour crisis hotline. Their services are free and confidential, according to the information provided at the event. Resources are also available for supporters of sexual assault victims, urging people to "Stand Up! Speak Up!" if witnesses see something happen. The Center can provide intervening methods for bystanders on how to interrupt an assault and/or what to do after an event is witnessed.

The 24-hour hotline local number for the Women's Resource Center of the New River Valley is (540) 639-1123 or regionally toll-free at 1-800-788-1123.

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# OBITUARIES

## Dalton, Susan Pauline

The angels escorted Susan home April 16, 2025. There to meet her was her husband, Berlie Dalton; father, Ulysses (Buddy) Edwards; mother, Margaret Harry Edwards; sister, Betty Edwards; and brother, James Edwards.

Left to cherish her memory are her son, Travis Dalton (Melissa); granddaughter, Alivia Dalton, who was the apple of her eye; sisters, Peggy Hungate and Brenda Wilson; nieces and nephews, Stormie



Wilson, Jamie Conner, Bobby Wilson and Eddie Love; and several great nieces and nephews.

Susan was born in

Richlands, Va. and lived in Jewell Valley until the age of three. She then moved to Radford and was residing in Pulaski when she passed.

Susan worked in health care facilities from age 18 until she got sick. She was employed by Warm Hearth Facility until December 2024.

Per her request, there will be no services at this time.

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

## Dowdy, Cindy H.

Cindy H. Dowdy, 67, of Dublin, left the family that she dearly loved to be with her Heavenly Father on April 12, 2025, after a long illness.

She was born in Radford May 4, 1957, to Harold and Lula Hollins. She was preceded in death by her dad, Harold Hollins, grandparents, Elson and Rosie Hollins, Allen and Ada Long. Also, Jeff and Marie Hedge and Russell and Fleta Dowdy.

She was a great wife, mom and granny. She was also known as Granny to the kids at French's Chapel where she taught Sunday school and was a faithful member since 1992. She also enjoyed being in the choir and when living in Alleghany County, she sang with the Potts Valley Singers. She enjoyed going to the beach, and to Colorado and Montana.

She worked in the



grocery business, insurance and banking before her illness.

Cindy is survived by her mother, Lula Hollins; husband, Jay Dowdy; children, Jeff Hedge (Robin), Scott Hedge (Karen), Jason Dowdy (Lori) and Michele Blevins (Kevin); seven grandchildren, Lily, Becky, Abby, Cassy, Laney, Landon and Maddie; brothers, Joey Hollins (Lois) and Steve Hollins (Marcy); sister, Cathy Smith (Darrell); many nieces, nephews,

and cousins; brothers-in-law, Joe Dowdy, Jeff Dowdy and Jerry Dowdy (Robin); special friends, Emily Hart, Salina Smiley and Elhelene Sadler; and special cousin, Emily Harmon.

Her family and friends take comfort in knowing that she is now at peace in the arms of her Savior.

The family would also like to extend thanks to Good Samaritan's nurses and staff. As well as the doctors, nurses, and staff throughout this journey, including Dr. Spence, Dr. Carter, Dr. Daniels and Karen, NRV Medical Center, Wake Forest, and UVA Medical Center.

Funeral services were held Saturday, April 19, 2025 at French's Pentecostal Holiness Church with Rev. Joseph H. Hollins, Jr. officiating. The family received friends prior to the service at the church.

## Price, Michael Lee

Michael Lee Price, 19, of Radford, passed away Friday, April 18, 2025. Born Sept. 2, 2005, he was preceded in death by his maternal grandparents, Penny Brown and Willie Nolen, Jr.; his paternal grandfather, Charles Curtis Price, Sr.; aunt, Linda Hilton; and his best friend, Liam McCoy.

Survivors include his parents, Rebecca Hughes (Christopher) and Oren Lee Price (Amber Auvil); sisters, Lynzi Price and Kynzlie Hughes; brother, Bryson Hughes; girlfriend, Alex Stevens; paternal grandmother, Sandra Kay Price; aunts,



Catherine Linkous (Damon), Lisa Hodge (Justin), Karen Price, Samantha Grisham and Amanda Price; uncle, Charles Price, Jr.; best friend, Conner Crumley; numerous cousins; and

many other relatives and special friends.

Michael lived to hunt, fish, ride motorcycles and spend time with his family. He was a devoted son, grandson, brother, nephew, boyfriend and friend, and will be sorely missed by anyone that knew him.

A celebration of life will be held this Saturday, April 26, 2025, 1 - 4 p.m. at the Claytor Lake State Park (Shelter 1). Please feel free to join and celebrate the life of Michael.

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

# 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.

*Sunny is ready to find his furever home. He's a friendly boy who is curious and perks up when treats are nearby. Sunny has a calm personality and would benefit from training. Stop by to meet him at the Animal Care and Adoption Center.*



*Chex Mix is in search of her purrfect match, and treats may be the way to her heart. She is a sweet gal who may be a little shy at first but is ready for affection once she feels comfortable. Her purrs will let you know she's happy!*

## Warm Hearth Village residents and staff honor those lost on April 16, 2007

BLACKSBURG —

On April 12, 36 residents, family members, volunteers and staff of Warm Hearth Village (WHV) walked 3.2 miles through the Village to honor those lost in the 2007 Virginia Tech tragedy. The annual event, organized by residents with strong ties to the university, is a quiet and meaningful way to reflect and remember. WHV residents John Hillison, former Virginia Tech Agricultural Education professor and department head and Dr. Richard Shepherd, a retired physician who specialized in emergency and family medicine, mapped 3.2 miles on the campus and recruited the walkers. The walk follows a route through the Village's wooded paths and common spaces, offering a moment of peace and connection for all who participate. It is one of many ways the residents of Warm Hearth continue to stay engaged with the town and the university



PHOTO COURTESY OF WARM HEARTH VILLAGE

**Warm Hearth Village residents, family members, volunteers and staff.**

that have shaped so much of their lives.

Many of the residents at Warm Hearth Village are former Virginia Tech faculty, staff, alumni, or long-time community members. Their connections to the university run deep, and the walk is both a personal and community-wide act of remembrance.

Fran and Bill Sargent have been Village residents since 2024.

“Fran and I weren't associated with Virginia Tech before my job brought us here in 2007. On April 16th I was at work and the office TV played news of the event all day. I remember

thinking something like that should never have happened here; this is not a big city,” Sargent said. “We recognize the importance of Virginia Tech on Montgomery County and beyond. Many things wouldn't be here if it weren't for Tech. We make the walk every year in recognition of the lives lost and the importance of Tech to the area,” he added.

Warm Hearth Village is a nonprofit senior living community in Blacksburg that provides a full continuum of living options on our campus and in the home.

Warm Hearth Village

# Possible Carriage Road Community Center in Riner subject of SUP request



COURTESY IMAGE

**The proposed Carriage Road Community Center in Riner would provide a coffee shop and recreational area for citizens and soccer club members.**

**Lori Graham**  
*Contributing writer*

A public hearing for property owner Carriage Road, LLC, who has made a special use permit (SUP) request to rezone a 1.571-acre parcel of land in the Riner area from agricultural use to traditional neighborhood development infill, was held during the April 14 Board of Supervisors meeting in Montgomery County.

The SUP request is for a property located adjacent to Riner Road/Route 8 as a short

lane that connects to Five Points Road and Union Valley Road. The property is further designated as mixed-use in the Riner Village Expansion as part of the 2025 Montgomery County Comprehensive Plan

“It was originally developed as a church but ultimately ended up without a religious organization to occupy the space,” GIS Director of Planning Brea Hopkins said during her presentation to the Board of Supervisors. “In May of 2022, you approved a special use permit for a contractor storage yard. The contractor was there for a while,

but they have vacated the property and now the lot's currently unoccupied.”

According to Hopkins' presentation, a proposed mixed-use concept could be implemented for the property creating a “community center, coffee shop, residential use for soccer coaches/staff, and soccer practice facility.”

The 20x15 yard outdoor soccer training area would be for light recreational use and be a location for clinics, camps, and leagues, but not for regular soccer games. A second floor would provide space for coach use. The coffee shop would be open to the public and is planned to be staffed by soccer club members as a means to raise funds for leagues, Brea said.

Some short term or rental property would also be a part of the complex. A parking area that would allow for approximately 55

parking spaces, including ADA spaces, is also part of the design.

“VDOT took no exception to the approval of the rezoning,” Hopkins said. “The site is currently served by public water and sewer and is not within a FEMA flood zone.”

The Planning Commission voted 9-0 in support of the development with no proffered conditions for the site rezoning.

Supervisor Todd King asked for clarification from Hopkins on the use of additional lighting for the soccer field. At this time, no additional lights are a part of the plan process, but the property owners would have to make a request to the county for that installation.

There were no citizens who addressed this rezoning request during the public hearing portion of the meeting.

## Christiansburg massage therapist charged with sexual battery

CHRISTIANSBURG – Christiansburg Police have arrested a massage therapist and charged him with sexual battery.

Anthony Otis Hayes, 55, of Christiansburg, is charged with four counts of class one misdemeanor sexual battery.

The Christiansburg Police Department received multiple complaints of inappropriate sexual contact during massage appointments at Pampered Healing Massage Therapy and Day Spa located at 100 Arbor Drive Suite 108 B. Subsequent investigation revealed Hayes to be the massage therapist in each of the complaints.

He is currently being held at Western Virginia Regional Jail with no bond.

Anyone with information concerning these or other incidents may contact Investigator Roop at 540-382-3131 x.5344.

Town of Christiansburg

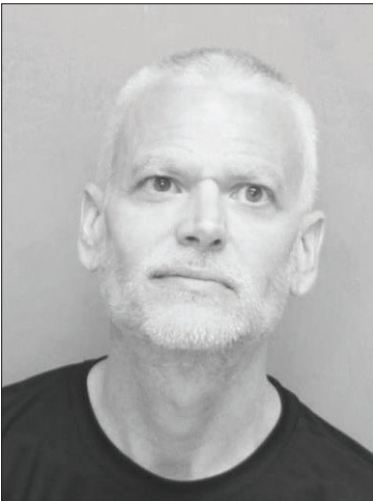


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG

**Anthony Otis Hayes**



OPINION

Remembering the indomitable Aunt Maggie


Last week the power in my neighborhood went off while the city was placing new waterlines underneath Main Street about a block from my home. They said it was a “planned outage” but I guess I was not part of the plan. I wasn’t informed.

I was doing my morning chores and getting ready to go into the office when the lights went out. I was thinking they would be back on in a matter of minutes, but it actually took five-and-a-half hours.

Fortunately, I have a gas water heater and was able to shave and shower and head out to work. I walked out my back door and across my deck to my garage. I live in an old neighborhood and there is no such thing as an attached garage. If you are lucky enough to have one at all, it is free-standing and has its own door or doors. I entered mine on this day from the side door, as I always do, pushed the button to activate the garage door itself, and nothing happens. Then I remembered that the power was off.

I’ve encountered this a few times over my years on Stanley Avenue, so I know enough to open the door manually and back my car out in the alley, put it in park and go back and close the door, and then get back in the car and get on with my day. This is probably as close to “roughing it,” in the spirit of my pioneer ancestors, as my life gets.

But the moment brought back a flood of memories of my late Aunt Maggie. For around 40 years, she lived in a home in Christiansburg across from the old primary school of my era, originally the building that housed Christiansburg High in my father and his siblings’ days as students, later the “school board offices” in my dad’s days as superintendent. Her house shared a driveway with the next-door neighbor and she had an old garage with no automatic door opener. In fact, I remember heavy metal coils as critical to its function and that the darn thing weighed a ton and a half - at least 15 times more than Aunt Maggie. So, from the early 1940’s until the mid-1970’s, she spent nine months of the year, five days a week, walking out her back door, on cold winter mornings or blistering hot late summer days,



Evans “Buddy” King

Columnist

in snow storms or brilliant fall foliage, opening that door and driving to Christiansburg High where she taught.

Aunt Maggie was part and parcel of the lore of public school teaching of her time. She was an “old maid school teacher”, a phrase not used any more. She never married and pretty much devoted the best years of her adult life to taking care of her mother. Raised on a dairy farm in Riner, she was the youngest of the three “Weaver sisters”, all of whom graduated from Radford College and became teachers.

As was common in those days, taking care of aged parents usually fell to the youngest daughter, as it did in Aunt Maggie’s case. My mom and the other Weaver sister, Aunt Mary Alma, married and had families. Aunt Maggie taught school and took care of her mother, not an easy task, as my grandmother had, I’m pretty sure now, early onset Alzheimer’s. They called it “hardening of the arteries” in those days. My only memories of her are not good ones - she was mean and made life miserable for everyone around her. Aunt Maggie endured and took care of her mother and immersed her life in her teaching. And in me.

I spent many a weekend and summer night at the house on Junkin Street when I was a young child. I think I was a break from the sadness and the fatigue of Aunt Maggie living with someone in my grandmother’s condition. I’ve had people ask if my parents were that anxious to get me out of the house (they would have been justified), but I think they knew she wanted and needed the company. She was

truly a second mother to me.

Aside from the dangerous garage door and the frightening grandmother, I have wonderful memories. Aunt Maggie was an excellent athlete, the best of the three sisters and a star on the girls’ basketball team at Auburn High, and we played whiffle ball in her backyard and a game called “Annie over” where she stood in her front yard and I was in the backyard. She would throw the ball over her tall two-story house and I would try to catch it, not knowing the angle from which it would be coming. I became a decent fielder at age six if I say so myself.

I also remember that she loved to go barefoot in the yard in the summer and that she had an old fashioned push mower she used to cut her grass and how there was a certain weed, we called it a grasshopper, that the blades on the mower would not cut. She was encouraged to get a power mower but that was luxury beyond her means.

I also remember that she had a chicken coop and a garden and a grape arbor and a tiny pond stocked with big goldfish. I would help her in the garden and watch her collect eggs, although I stayed out of the henhouse because there was the occasional blacksnake she had to throw out.


But most who remember my Aunt Maggie will remember her for another term that we don’t hear much these days. As CHS grew in enrollment, she became a full-time teacher in the subject she loved. Technically, it was called “government”, but it was old fashioned “civics”. Aunt Maggie loved (and lived) to teach about “how a bill becomes a law,” how a federal system of government works, how “checks and balances” are critical. She taught a couple of generations of Christiansburg kids about how government works. Not every student liked her or the subject or both, but by the time they graduated, they darn well knew they had been in a civics class.

You can only imagine how proud and excited I was when my first grandchild was named for her. Maggie turned 13 last month.

Delegate takes umbrage with state Democrats

When Virginia Democrats gathered recently to certify the top of their 2025 ticket, they did the same thing that they did during the General Assembly reconvened session: focus on President Trump. It’s pretty easy to see why – it’s the same reason they avoided votes they considered to be “hard” whenever possible. At the end of the day, all statewide Democrats have to offer is rhetoric and failed policies.

In the 2025 legislative session, Republicans put forward legislation that would create real, immediate results for Virginians. Power bills are too high? Republicans will stop making you pay for someone else’s solar farm. Or at the very least, let you see the breakdown of what you are paying for in each electric bill. Worried about crime in your community? Republicans will make it easier to hold fentanyl dealers accountable, keep dangerous felons in prison for the majority of their sentences, and crack down on illegal immigrants who commit violent criminal acts. Worried about your children’s education? Republicans will raise academic standards, restore teachers’ authority to maintain discipline, and ensure that classroom instruction is based



Delegate Jason Ballard

Virginia General Assembly

on proven educational methods.

General Assembly Democrats are the same people who refuse to acknowledge that wide scale school closures during the COVID era were unnecessary and, in many cases – especially in rural regions such as ours – irreparably harmful to the learning environment of our children. They pushed policies that closed businesses – putting thousands of Virginians out of work – as well as severely restricting the activities of churches and other places of religious congregation. Solutions put forth by Virginia Democrats are paper thin at best. When confronted with the high cost of housing or prescription drugs, their best answer is usually “price controls.” They have tried to force you to subsidize solar farms in your backyard, even if you do not want them. They have tried to force you to purchase electric vehicles, even if they do not fit your lifestyle or are too expensive for

you to afford. And Democrats have tried to make you pay new taxes on a haircut or car repair, instead of working with Republicans to eliminate taxes universally hated by all, such as the annual car tax, which will be arriving in our mailboxes soon.

At nearly every turn this year, General Assembly Democrats stood in the way of Republican policies that would make life less expensive, our communities safer, and our educational system focused on positive student outcomes. While state Democrats waste time by campaigning against President Trump, Virginia Republicans are focused on delivering real solutions that make life better for Virginians.

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

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14						15				16				
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	47	48						49				50	51	52
53								54			55	56		
57											58			
59						60					61			

CLUES ACROSS

1. North American people

6. Chinese surname

10. Fit in at the last minute

14. “Very” in musical terminology

15. Underwater displays

17. Crosby’s bandmates

19. Belong to he

20. Informed about the latest trends (archaic)

21. Sequences of alternating turns

22. Genus of grasses

23. Satisfy

24. Petty quarrel

26. Made level

29. Ruler of Iran

31. Historical region of Syria

32. Food suitable for babies

34. Something to lend

35. Zone of oceanic trenches

37. Philippine island

38. Domesticated animal

39. Plant of the lily family

40. Bluish green

41. \_\_ Tomei, actress

43. Without (French)

45. Lilly and Manning are two

46. Apply pressure to

47. Divide in half

49. Bad deed

50. Don’t know when yet

53. Hollywood’s greatest honor

57. Aiming to exhort

58. Faked

59. A way to pierce

60. Midway between north-east and east

61. Points

CLUES DOWN

1. Chop up

2. \_\_ Spumante (Italian wine)

3. Egyptian goddess

4. Split pulses

5. Afflict

6. Type of area rug

7. Tide

8. Affirmative

9. Sudden change

10. One picked

11. Debauched man

12. Stiff bristles

13. Famous arena

16. Established rules and methods

18. Injection

22. Father

23. Protein-rich liquids

24. He delivers gifts

25. Advanced degree

27. Fencing swords

28. Chinese mountain range

29. Shaft horsepower (abbr.)

30. Precursor to hemoglobin

31. Much \_\_ about nothing

33. Compound fabric (abbr.)

35. A way to act slowly on

36. Ottoman military commanders

37. Popular kids’ network

39. Hard compound

42. Sympathize with

43. Northeast college

44. Blood group

46. Frosted

47. Turn away

48. Benefit

49. Dry or withered

50. Bangladeshi monetary unit

51. Reproduced

52. Contributes

53. Thrust horse power (abbr.)

54. Wear

55. Promotes retention of water (abbr.)

56. Very small



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# BOS delays vote on comprehensive plan amendment for Fotheringay property

**Lori Graham**

*Contributing writer*

ELLISTON – A vote on a comprehensive plan change to the 633.72-acre property in Elliston known locally as the historic Fotheringay estate has been moved to the next regular Board of Supervisors meeting, April 28 at 7 p.m., for further discussion.

The location in eastern Montgomery County is proposed for development into an approximately 400-home project. The change would be from a “Resource Stewardship” to “Village Expansion” designation, and would designate 307.72 acres of the total 633.72 acres in Village Expansion as Open Space, with the remaining 326 acres designated as Medium-Density Residential, within the Elliston Lafayette Village.

The decision not to extend a vote by the supervisors at the April 14 meeting occurred due to a large public response in opposition to the amendment.

Planning GIS Director Brea Hopkins presented information to the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors during the meeting.

“In regards to the changing conditions, at the time of the adoption of the 2025 comp. plan, public water and sewer were not extended to this property,” Hopkins said. “We did not know that there would be an elementary school there, so we did not know it would be extended.”

This extension continues now to the property under consideration for the housing development.

Although cattle are grazing on the open fields of the property currently, Hopkins said that the farming operations on the property have decreased, and the property has been withdrawn from the agricultural forestal district.

A large concern from local community

members has been the destruction of not only historical property but a viewscape enjoyed by many either living or passing through Elliston Valley. A 1796 home, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and adjacent cemetery are on the property. However, Hopkins said that portion of the property does not have an impact on the development planned for the property, and an open space would provide a buffer for the home. According to the proposed ordinance at [www.montva.com](http://www.montva.com), 326 acres would be designated as medium-density residential for homes, with the remaining 307.72 acres remaining as open space.

The Montgomery County Planning Commission recommended approval with a 5-2 vote on March 19, 2025. Many community members attended the commission’s public hearing to participate in the discussion.

“How would a potential amendment to the 2025 Comprehensive Plan in this case affect any updates that are drawn up or laid out in the Montgomery Matters update to the Comprehensive Plan, asked Supervisor Anthony Grafsky.

Hopkins explained that if the property meets with the criteria to be included in the expansion of the village, then it is viable for development.

“We do have owners that had conservation easements in several of our villages and that’s why some of those village boundaries look a little weird is because they said ‘we’re in a conservation easement. We don’t want to be in a village, we’re never going to develop. So, we drew the boundary around their properties.”

“If we were to grant the amendment... could you through the evaluation process of the updated comprehensive plan be, like, no, this shouldn’t be,” Grafsky

asked.

“No, we wouldn’t do that,” Hopkins said.

In order to further develop on the open space, the property owner(s) would have to complete the process again, receiving approval of a policy change on the comprehensive plan and going through the rezoning process.

Supervisor April DeMotts opened the citizen comments section of the meeting for the public hearing on the property, resulting in a mixed response from the public.

Sandra Wellons of Elliston, living across from the Eastern Montgomery High School, said, “My concern is flooding because my house has been flooded twice...once in ’99 and once in 2000.”

“You know I understand this is a very emotional and complex issue for a lot of people and I respect that; however, I believe my opinion is grounded in fact and the long-term view of our community’s future,” Allen Childress of Shawsville said. “This project has the potential to meaningfully address housing needs in our part of the county.”

“Locals know that anywhere what’s to be developed, it would be this property,” Zach Milton, a graduate of Eastern Montgomery High School, said. “It has great proximity to our schools, available utilities, and probably most importantly the owners do not live here.” Milton went on to say that this year marks his 20-year anniversary of graduating from Eastern Montgomery High School and the graduating class has not grown in size and the school is not able to fully utilize the space in the school losing the availability of some courses as a result.

Speaking in opposition to the comprehensive plan amendment,

Kimberly Homer said, “Please, please do not ‘Blacksburg’ Elliston.”

“I’ve lived in Blacksburg since 1980, and it’s a college town, I get it, but talk to anyone who lives in Loudon County, talk to anybody who lives in Chester, Pennsylvania, it’s not better,” she said. “And these houses that are going to be built are not going to be occupied by people who are homeless. Nobody who is homeless can get a mortgage. Nobody that lives in Elliston now and doesn’t own a home is going to be able to get a mortgage.”

“The home that we live in was built in 1760,” Paige Williams of Alleghany Springs Road in Shawsville said in opposition to the housing development “It has stood in this valley for over 260 years, and my husband and I see ourselves as stewards of the history and of the land and the legacy that surround it. We love people. We want people in our community, but that type of growth transforms a place, and it would increase our population by 50%. It would singlehandedly change the culture and the composition of an entire community.”

Susan Moffett, a resident of Baltimore, Maryland, who grew up in Shawsville, also spoke in opposition to development of the property.

“You’re going into a poor community. You’re putting in these homes that they will never be able to buy...I think it’s sick,” she said. “I think it’s disgusting. I think it’s gross. It’s being built on a plantation; a place where there was human suffering and misery that we will never know.”

“There could be enslaved persons’ remains from those enslaved people; they still could be very well buried on that property,” she added.

# Extension Master Gardeners divert garden seed from the landfill to those in need

If you have ever purchased a packet of garden seeds, you may have noticed the current year printed on the outside of the package. Seed companies must test and label seeds to be sold each year — but what happens if those packets haven’t been sold by the end of the year?

“Expired seed from previous years can no longer be sold and will often be thrown away,” said Wendy Silverman, Extension Master Gardener coordinator for the New River Valley, which includes Montgomery, Giles, Floyd, and Pulaski counties. “It’s still good, usable seed, but the germination rates have started to decline so companies can’t sell it, and many big-box stores simply throw it away. Instead, we collect all those seeds, sort them, and distribute them to community organizations or give them away at our events.”

In 2024, the New River Valley Master Gardeners provided more than 29,000 seed packets with an original retail value of more than \$52,000 to local community gardens, 4-H programs, schools, and nonprofits.

For example, the group regularly provides seeds to local schools who might use them for school gardens or educational programming. Public libraries also request

seeds to stock their free seed programs. Many local community gardens, as well as the New River Valley Glean Team, request seeds which are used to grow food. Food pantries request seeds to hand out to their patrons.

“We have an order form, and local groups will ask us for certain things they need for events or for their community garden,” Silverman said. “Extension Master Gardener Volunteers sort the seeds and then fill the order for the group. We keep an updated list of what we have, and groups can make requests for certain varieties.”

In addition to collecting seed from big-box stores, Silverman has cultivated relationships with seed companies and receives large amounts of seed that are out of date. In this way, seed companies can donate product that would otherwise be discarded.

“Free seeds are a good giveaway for farmers markets or plant clinic booths, where we provide education and answer questions,” Silverman said. “We can help people figure out how to grow a new variety and encourage them to do research-based gardening practices.”

The germination rate is the percent



PHOTO BY DEVON JOHNSON FOR VIRGINIA TECH

**New River Valley Master Gardeners sort and organize donated seed packs to distribute throughout the community.**

of seed that is viable and will germinate and grow within each package. Although year-old seed might have a slightly lower germination rate than the rate printed on the packet, many year-old seeds will still grow and are fine to plant the next growing season. To account for the slightly lower germination rate, New River Valley Master Gardeners advise those receiving their seed to double seed by planting twice what is recommended on the package.

*Virginia Tech*

# Radford seeks comments on 2025 Community Development Block Grant Programs Annual Action Plan

RADFORD - In accordance with guidelines established by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the City of Radford is seeking public comment on the proposed draft of the 2025 Annual Action Plan for the City of Radford’s Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program.

The Annual Action Plan provides a yearly accounting of CDBG, and other funds allocated towards the implementation of objectives outlined in the Consolidated Plan. The Consolidated Plan identifies community needs and proposed solutions in the areas of housing, special needs, economic development and non-housing community development. CDBG activities benefit low-to-moderate-income persons by making improvements throughout the city, taking into consideration the public input received. Funding for the 2024 fiscal year will be \$172,251 for the CDBG program, plus \$29,110 has been rolled from prior year allocations.

The proposed housing and community development goals for 2025 are: support affordable housing; prevent and end homelessness; and support non-homeless special needs.

All proposed activities’ budgets will be proportionally increased or decreased from estimated funding levels to match actual annual allocation amounts.

Proposed use of PY 2025 CDBG funds

include:

- Emergency Home Repair - \$20,000
- Public Facility-- Water line Grove - \$130,000
- Façade Program - \$7,500
- New River Community Action - \$6,500
- Women’s Resource Center of the NRV - \$6,500
- Radford-Fairlawn Daily Bread - \$6,500
- Bobcat Back Pack Program - \$3,600
- August Kids - \$2,650
- Program Administration - \$18,061
- CDBG TOTAL - \$201,361

The draft 2025 Annual Action Plan can be reviewed on the city’s website at <https://www.radfordva.gov/>.

Radford City Community Development office is soliciting comments on the city’s housing and community development needs during a 30-day comment period beginning April 16, 2025, and ending May 15, 2025. A public comment meeting will be held on Monday, May 12, 2025 at 7 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, at 10 Robertson St., Radford.

Comments may also be given via e-mail to: [Melissa.Skelton@radfordva.gov](mailto:Melissa.Skelton@radfordva.gov), by phone at (540) 267-3188 or by mail to Community Development, 10 Robertson St., Radford, VA 24141. Comments must be received by 5 p.m. May 15, 2025.

*City of Radford*

# Local Beta Sigma Phi chapter supports Humane Society



PHOTO COURTESY OF BETA SIGMA PHI

**Members of Alpha Mu Master Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi Sorority present a monetary donation, along with needed cleaning materials, to the Montgomery County Humane Society. The donation was made in memory of former member Cindy Koziol who had a deep fondness for cats. Pictured are Beta Sigma Phi members ( from left) Phyllis Durham, Sue Warden, Carolyn Sowers, Kristen Talley and Doris Caldwell. Receiving the donation was staff member Victoria Hern.**

# Slate Creek Builders of Blacksburg named national runner-up in Best in American Living Awards

BLACKSBURG – Slate Creek Builders, a custom home and renovation firm based in Blacksburg, has been recognized on the national stage as the Silver Award

Winner in the Best in American Living Awards (BALA), presented by the National

Association of Home Builders (NAHB).

The honor was awarded as part of the International Builders’ Show held in Las

Vegas in February 2025. The firm earned the award in the “Addition, Indoor or Outdoor over \$100,000” category for an extraordinary luxury backyard transformation.

The award-winning project features a stunning pool house complete with a bar and sauna, a custom in-ground pool, and a three-car garage with an accessory dwelling

above.

“We are honored to be recognized

among the top builders and designers in the country,” said Sean Beliveau, Owner of Slate Creek Builders. “This project was a labor of love, and it truly showcases our commitment to craftsmanship, innovation, and creating spaces that bring people together. We are incredibly proud of our team and grateful to our clients for trusting us to bring their vision to life.”

The Best in American Living Awards celebrate the nation’s most

outstanding residential designs and projects, recognizing firms that push the boundaries of architectural excellence and design innovation. This year’s competition was fierce, with entries from across the country showcasing the best in home design and construction.

For more information about Slate Creek Builders visit [scbhomes.com](http://scbhomes.com) or contact [info@scbhomes.com](mailto:info@scbhomes.com).

*Slate Creek Builders*





## LEGAL NOTICE

### NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF THE PETITION OF APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY PROPOSING A MINIMUM BILL, TARIFFS, AND AGREEMENTS TO IMPLEMENT A SHARED SOLAR PROGRAM PURSUANT TO VIRGINIA CODE § 56-594.4 CASE NO. PUR-2025-00028

During its 2024 Session, the Virginia General Assembly enacted Chapters 715, 716, 763 and 765 of the 2024 Virginia Acts of Assembly. Among other things, these Acts of Assembly amend the Code of Virginia (“Code”) by adding a section numbered 56-594.4, effective July 1, 2024. Code § 56 594.4, which is applicable to Appalachian Power Company (“APCo” or the “Company”), requires the State Corporation Commission (“Commission”) to “establish by regulation a shared solar program that complies with the provisions of subsections B, C, D, and E by January 1, 2025, and shall require each utility to file any tariffs, agreements, or forms necessary for implementation of the program by July 1, 2025.”

On November 25, 2024, in Case No. PUR-2024-00122, the Commission entered an Order Adopting Regulations to implement the directives in Chapters 715, 716, 763 and 765. On December 12, 2024, the Coalition for Community Solar Access filed a Petition for Reconsideration and Clarification. On December 13, 2024, the Commission issued an Order Granting Reconsideration that: (1) continued jurisdiction over this matter to consider the Petition; and (2) suspended the Order Adopting Regulations pending the Commission’s reconsideration. On February 10, 2025, the Commission issued an Order on Reconsideration in Case No. PUR-2024-00122 that un suspends the Order Adopting Regulations, thus finalizing the new shared solar rules, effective February 14, 2025.

Pursuant to Code § 56-594.4 D, the Commission must establish a minimum bill for APCo, which shall:

include the costs of all utility infrastructure and services used to provide electric service and administrative costs of the shared solar program. The Commission may modify the minimum bill over time. In establishing the minimum bill, the Commission shall (i) consider further costs the Commission deems relevant to ensure subscribing customers pay a fair share of the costs of providing electric services, (ii) minimize the costs shifted to customers not in a shared solar program, and (iii) calculate the benefits of shared solar to the electric grid and to the Commonwealth and deduct such benefits from other costs.

On February 10, 2025, the Commission entered an order in this proceeding that, among other things, directed APCo to file a minimum bill proposal on or before April 1, 2025. On April 1, 2025, APCo filed its petition proposing a minimum bill (“Petition”) as directed by the Commission. In addition to a proposed minimum bill rate of \$48.66 per 1,000 kWh, the Petition includes several tariff schedules that the Company requests the Commission approve, including the Company’s proposed (i) Subscriber Tariff (Schedule SSP-S); (ii) Subscriber Organization Tariff (Schedule SSP-SO); (iii) Subscriber Organization Coordination Agreement; and (iv) Subscriber Organization Registration Agreement.

According to the Petition, the Company largely followed the methodology approved by the Commission for Virginia Electric and Power Company in Case No. PUR-2020-00125. The Company states that in that proceeding, the Commission found that the minimum bill should include certain fixed and volumetric costs. APCo states that the Company includes as fixed costs the Customer Charge and the Administrative Charge. APCo proposes that the existing Customer Charge apply from the applicable tariff under which a customer takes service. The Company explains that it set the Administrative Charge to \$1.00, as it is currently in the process of determining the necessary work to reprogram its customer information and billing systems to accommodate the shared solar program.

APCo states that the Company includes as proposed volumetric costs: (1) Statutorily Non-Bypassable Generation Charges; (2) Base Distribution Charges; (3) Distribution RAC Charges; (4) Base Transmission Charges; and (5) Transmission RAC charges. APCo explains that the Company did not propose Base Transmission Charges, as those charges are not included in the Company’s tariffs.

APCo asserts that its proposed minimum bill also includes five Non-Bypassable charges, which are statutorily mandated: Rider Percentage of Income Payment Program (PIPP); Rider Broadband Capacity (BC) Rate Adjustment Clause (RAC); Rider RPS Compliance A.5; Rider PCAP Capacity A.5; and Rider Renewables Capacity A.6. Additionally, APCO explains that its proposed minimum bill includes base distribution charges from the applicable tariff under which a customer takes service, including the Rider Energy Efficiency RAC and the Company’s Transmission RAC for transmission charges.

The Company states that prior to the consideration of benefits, the Company’s proposed gross minimum bill equals \$89.25 for a customer who uses 1,000 kWh of grid electricity per month and subscribes for the same amount.

The Company asserts that it calculated benefits consistent with how the benefits of utility-scale, distribution-interconnected solar facilities have been presented to and approved by the Commission in the past. The Company proposes to include credits for shifted PJM Interconnection, LLC (“PJM”) zonal transmission costs, avoided load-based ancillary service costs, and Renewable Energy Certificates (“REC”) generated by the shared solar facilities, which would be used to comply with the Company’s Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard obligations under the Virginia Clean Economy Act. APCo proposes that the REC credit on the minimum bill be the renewable energy premium charge in Optional Rider W.W.S. for each applicable subscriber’s schedule.

For the proposed shifted transmission and ancillary services credit on the minimum bill, the Company proposes to use the avoided cost rates for transmission and ancillary services that it calculated and proposed in the Company’s ongoing net metering case, Case No. PUR-2024-00161. To calculate the proposed transmission benefit, the Company states that it compared the average hourly monthly load profile of a typical residential customer with the average hourly generation profile of a representative solar array. The Company explains that it divided the average avoided transmission credit component, which is based on the Annual Network Integration Transmission Rates for the AEP Transmission Zone, by the total net excess generation to produce the proposed credit rate. The Company states that it based its proposed ancillary service cost component rate on its actual 2023 PJM Ancillary Services charges.

In sum, the Company states that it determined the total proposed shared solar benefits to be \$40.59 per 1,000 kWh. The resultant minimum bill (net of benefits) the Company proposes in the Petition is thus \$48.66 per 1,000 kWh. According to the Petition, the proposed \$48.66 minimum bill minimizes cost shifts to non-participating customers by appropriately compensating shared solar subscribers for the benefits provided by shared solar facilities while ensuring those subscribers contribute their fair share towards the Company’s cost of providing retail electric service.

Interested persons are encouraged to review the Petition and supporting documents in full for additional details.

The Commission entered an Order for Notice and Hearing in this proceeding that, among other things, scheduled public hearings on APCo’s Petition. A hearing for the receipt of testimony from public witnesses on the Company’s Petition shall be convened telephonically by the Commission at 10 a.m. on June 9, 2025. On or before May 27, 2025, 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: (i) by filling out a form on the Commission’s website at [scc.virginia.gov/case-information/webcasting/](https://scc.virginia.gov/case-information/webcasting/); or (ii) by calling (804) 371-9141 to register. This public witness hearing will be webcast at [scc.virginia.gov/case-information/webcasting/](https://scc.virginia.gov/case-information/webcasting/).

Beginning at 10 a.m. on June 9, 2025, the Commission will telephone sequentially each person who has signed up to testify as provided above.

On June 9, 2025, at 10 a.m., or at 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, the Commission will convene a hearing to receive testimony and evidence related to the Petition from the Company, any respondents, and the Commission Staff (“Staff”).

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 required electronic service on parties to this proceeding.

An electronic copy of the Company’s Petition may be obtained by submitting a written request to counsel for the Company: Andrew J. Flavin, Troutman Pepper Locke LLP, 1001 Haxall Point, Richmond, Virginia 23219, or [andy.flavin@troutman.com](mailto:andy.flavin@troutman.com). Interested persons may also download unofficial copies of the Petition and the public versions of other documents filed in this case from the Commission’s website: [scc.virginia.gov/case-information/](https://scc.virginia.gov/case-information/).

On or before May 27, 2025, any interested person may submit comments on the Petition by following the instructions found on the Commission’s website: [scc.virginia.gov/case-information/submit-public-comments](https://scc.virginia.gov/case-information/submit-public-comments). Those unable, as a practical matter, to submit comments electronically may file such comments by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the State Corporation Commission, c/o Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2118. All such comments shall refer to Case No. PUR-2025-00028.

On or before May 1, 2025, 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](https://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 listed above. Such notice of participation shall include the email addresses of such parties or their counsel, if available. The respondent simultaneously shall serve a copy of the notice of participation on counsel to the Company, any other respondents and Staff electronically as described above. Pursuant to 5 VAC 5-20-80 B, *Participation as a respondent*, of the Commission’s Rules of Practice and Procedure, 5 VAC 5-20-10 *et seq.* (“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-2025-00028. For additional information about participation as a respondent, any person or entity should obtain a copy of the Commission’s Order for Notice and Hearing.

On or before May 12, 2025, each respondent may file with the Clerk of the Commission, at [scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling](https://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 served electronically on the Staff, the Company, and all other respondents simultaneous with their filing. In all filings, respondents shall comply with the Rules of Practice, as modified herein, including, but not limited to: 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-2025-00028.

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 Rules of Practice.

The Company’s Petition, the Commission’s Rules of Practice, the Commission’s Order for Notice and Hearing, and the public versions of other documents filed in the case may be viewed at: [scc.virginia.gov/case-information/](https://scc.virginia.gov/case-information/).

APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY

## McConnell

from page 2

raise taxes to support their schools directly. In Radford as in all other Virginia localities, the school budget falls within the overall city budget—indeed, it is often a city’s largest expense. Given the tone and tenor of the April 14 meeting that included the presentation of the Radford City Public Schools (RCPS) budget, it would do us all well to remember that RCPS as well as our city council are comprised of our friends and neighbors. During that session, Council rightfully admonished that ad hominem attacks on individual council members would not be tolerated. I would respectfully suggest that moving forward council follow its own advice regarding the preservation of civil discourse, and pivot from the defensive tone and tenor demonstrated throughout the meeting to being open to questions, receptive to alternative ideas, and humble in responding to citizens.

Beyond tone, the substance of some of the council’s questions raised concerns as well. Many of the questions posed to the RCPS superintendent suggested a complete lack of knowledge on the part of the council regarding the different funds and lines of revenue that comprise a school system budget, never mind how these funds can—and, importantly, cannot—be spent. Council seemed unclear regarding its two largest responsibilities: the LCI and the LRM.

By Virginia state policy, local municipalities must have skin in the game when it comes to school funding. The Commonwealth produces a “Composite Index of Local Ability-to-Pay” for each budget cycle. This Local Composite Index (LCI) is calculated using three indicators of a locality’s ability to pay: (1) true value of real property (weighted 50 percent), (2) adjusted gross income (weighted 40 percent), and taxable retail sales (weighted 10 percent). Each locality’s index is adjusted to maintain an overall statewide local share of 45 percent and an overall state share of 55 percent.

Through this calculation of the LCI, the state affords the City of Radford significant grace in the amount of funding it must contribute. For this budget cycle, the city’s LCI has fallen to a mere 16.6 percent, down from approximately 23 percent in the last state budget cycle. As a point of comparison, Montgomery County’s LCI is the highest regionally at approximately 40 percent, the City of Salem’s is 36 percent, Roanoke County’s is 36 percent, Roanoke City’s is 34 percent, and neighboring Pulaski County’s is 33 percent. This figure is yet another indicator of Radford’s poor financial health and high ranking for fiscal stress. ***To put it bluntly, this means Radford an outlier community deemed so economically needy that tax dollars from across the Commonwealth will cover 84 percent of the school system’s budget.***

Beyond the 16.6 percent required of the city, there is an additional expectation of municipal funding through the Commonwealth’s calculation of the Locally Required Match (LRM). In Virginia, communities are required to provide a local match in order to access certain state funding, particularly for programs like the Standards of Quality (SOQ) and other incentive programs. The specific amount required varies, but typically, localities must contribute a portion of the total cost, with the state covering the remainder. Radford’s City Council initially balked at contributing to the LRM, jeopardizing such things like additional special education and tutoring programs, the city’s preschool initiative, and other resources for the most vulnerable students within RCPS. Make no mistake—

these students will still be members of the RCPS community, but RCPS would no longer have all the necessary resources at its disposal to actually educate them if the city refused to fund the LRM.

There is much to celebrate when it comes to RCPS. RCPS has demonstrated significant financial prudence as well as creative problem solving to help mitigate the effects of being a relatively poor school system, under the leadership of two different superintendents. Notably, RCPS’s overall student population now stands north of 3,000, thanks not only to out-of-district tuition students paying to attend RCPS, but also the large contingent of virtual students from across the state. RCPS has increased the number of seats available to high-achieving students in math and the sciences at the Southwest Virginia Governor’s School and is in talks with Radford University to establish parallel programming for the region’s students focused on the arts and humanities. The high school’s move to block scheduling affords RCPS the opportunity to increase both career and technical education offerings as well as upper division, AP and/or dual enrollment courses. Last, through its own fiscal prudence, RCPS amassed a reserve of approximately \$500,000, meaning it has a “rainy day” fund for certain categories of possible expenses. Rather than hold onto that money, however, RCPS instead relinquished it to the city to help balance the FY2026 budget. City council needs to start seeing RCPS as an incredible resource for and potential driver of economic development.

But you can only take blood from a stone so many times. It does not matter that none of sitting council currently have students who attend city schools; the economic development case for investing in RCPS alone should warrant their attention and support. We need council to work with the school board to move from a model of minimally funding the city’s schools to one of investment. In a city where nearly half of all properties (e.g., government/social service buildings, Radford University properties, and churches) are not on the tax roll, the recruitment of tax-paying residents must be the centerpiece of economic development, with the schools themselves the focal point of such efforts. While we passed a budget for this year, headlines about Radford’s financial crisis—and its minimal support of its crumbling schools—are likely a red flag to potential home buyers during the current spring real estate season.

Moving forward, council members need to get comfortable with and commit to being more actively curious. Curious about budget projections. Curious about quarterly reports regarding actual collected revenue versus targets. Curious about the minutia, not just the big picture, of city financing, including state policy around school funding. Curious about the disconnect between their view of the school system and the broader community’s view of the school system, with an eye toward reframing their understanding of RCPS. RCPS can and should be cultivated as the heart of future economic development initiatives in this small college town. City Council needs to start to see RCPS as worthy of protection in hard times and increased investment as finances improve.

Finally, each member of city council must commit to being curious enough to ask tough questions and to hold themselves to a higher standard of accountability. No more surprises. Radford citizens deserve no less.



# DAR Alleghany Chapter honors Wendy Baldwin and Jimmie Lee Price



**Pictured (left to right) Jimmie Lee Price, Alleghany Chapter Regent Debbie Haught and Dr. Wendy Baldwin.**

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE DAR ALLEGHANY CHAPTER

Alleghany Chapter honored two individuals for their outstanding community service work in our local area.

A reception was held on Thursday, April 10 at the Luther Memorial Lutheran Church in Blacksburg to present these individuals with the DAR Community Service Award. Those honored are Jimmie Lee Price and Dr. Wendy Baldwin.

Baldwin is Chair of the Montgomery County Dolly Parton Imagination Library. She has organized volunteers, raised funds, and enrolled children where the Imagination Library distributes free books through the mail each

month to children ages birth to five. Books are provided without consideration of economic status, race, gender, ethnicity or any other characteristic. As of this date, over 18,000 books have been mailed to children in the county on a monthly basis. Baldwin’s work with the Dolly Parton Imagination Library has been extensive and this keeps her very busy. She is a person who would rather work and be useful. Wendy is also a volunteer Board Member of the Blacksburg AARP and Chair of the Social Development Committee of the Mt. Tabor Ruritan Club.

Price, son of coal miner Henry Price, is a Blacksburg resident,

minister and local historian. He is the author and co-author of several books on millstone makers and the history of coal mines in Montgomery County. Price founded the Coal Miner’s Heritage Association. His uncle perished in the April 18, 1946 coal mine explosion in Montgomery County. Jimmie says “for those who lived through it, it is a day no one can forget.”

Price is involved with helping the Coal Mining Heritage Association which holds its annual Coal Miners Day. This event honors the 12 men who died at the Great Valley mine in 1946. Price also was involved in developing The Price Family

Historical Society which is a local organization with founding members Jimmie L. Price, Suzanne P. Jones, James Price and Edith P. Sloop. This organization was formed in 2006 and the society’s mission is to identify, research, record, and preserve the Price Family history for future generations. As a local historian, he says he is proud to honor the founding pioneers, while promoting local history, knowledge and tourism in western Virginia and Montgomery County.

*National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution Alleghany Chapter*

## BAPTIST

**First Baptist Church**, 555 West Rock Road, Radford, 639-3873. Worship with us: 9:45 a.m.; Sunday School: 10:45 a.m.; Praise and Worship: 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship Service; Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord. 1 Corinthians 15:58.

**First Baptist Church on 3rd Ave.**, 215 Third Ave at the corner with Downey St. We nurture meaningful connections to God and others through worship, spiritual growth, and community ministry. We celebrate the dignity and worth of all persons, created in the image of God. Sunday Bible Study Groups - 9:45, Sunday Worship - 11:00. Website: fbcradford.org 540-639-4419. Worship is in-person and live-streamed on Facebook and on our YouTube channel: First Baptist Church Radford.

## CHURCH OF GOD

**New Hope Church of God**, 1404 Mud Pike Rd., C’Burg. Rev. T. Michael Bond, pastor, 731-3178. Sun. School 10 a.m., Worship 10:50 a.m., 6 p.m. Thurs., 7:00 p.m.

**West Radford Church of God**, 1824 West Main Street, Radford, VA 24141, Sunday School – 10:00A.M. Morning Worship – 11:00A.M., Children’s Church 11:00A.M. Sunday Evening – 6:00P.M., Wednesday Night – 7:00P.M., Pastor Danny Newman, Church Office – 540-639-6562 or 804-921-0828

## (DOC - DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

**Snowville Christian Church**, 5436 Lead Mine Road, Hiwassee, VA. 24347, Website: http://www.SnowvilleChristianChurch.com & Facebook. Email: Office@Snowvillechristianchurch.com, Sunday School: 9:30, Worship Service: 11:00, Bible Study: Thursdays @ 6:00pm. We are: “Inspiring hope, helping people grow their faith and sharing God’s love with others.”

## EPISCOPAL

**Grace Episcopal Church**, 210 Fourth Street Radford. Welcoming and accepting, we have been a part of the Radford community for more than 130 years. ALL ARE WELCOME. Grace offers an 8:00am Contemplative Eucharist and a 10:30am Eucharist with organ music and a choir, with refreshments served afterwards. The 10:30am service is also available on YouTube for those unable to leave their house. Find us on Facebook and www.graceradford.org.

## LUTHERAN

**St. Michael Lutheran Church**, 2308 Merrimac Road, Blacksburg, VA 24060. Worshipservice each Sunday at 10AM, Sunday School 9 AM. We are a community of God’s people where we gather for worship, learning and service. Visitors and new members are always WELCOME! Google comments: “Wonderful, welcoming congregation.” A place where all are truly welcome.” You’ll love our minister, Pastor James Henricks, who is a guiding light for our lives. St. Michael started and administers Micah’s Caring Initiative which includes Micah’s Backpack, Soup for Seniors, Garden, Closet, and Mini Pantry, with tremendous community impact.

# Radford

# WORSHIP DIRECTORY

### GOD’S COVENANT

**Read Genesis 9:1 through 11:32**

A covenant is a promise or contract between two parties. However, a biblical covenant involved much more. It was a permanent arrangement designed to promote friendship and understanding between God and man. After the flood, God made a covenant with Noah and every living thing.

I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth (Genesis 9:13).

This covenant had three parts. Never again would a flood devastate the earth. Season would follow season as long as the earth remained. Then God gave the rainbow to show that He could be trusted to keep His part of the covenant.

The rainbow speaks of God’s grace and mercy. But His grace didn’t stop with the rainbow. God wanted to have a relationship with us in spite of our unworthiness, so He sent us a Mediator—Jesus—who, by His death, opened up a new and better covenant, one that removed our sin and cleansed our conscience (Luke 22:20).

Prayer for Today: Lord, with Your help I will keep my part of the covenant—to love and honor You. Amen

Quicklook: Genesis 9:8–17

**If your church is not listed and if you are interested, call Wendi Craig at 276-340-2445 or email at [advertise@mainstreetnewspapers.com](mailto:advertise@mainstreetnewspapers.com)**

Partnering with Rainbow Riders and Total Action for Progress, we opened the first Early Childhood Head Start in our community (6 weeks to age 3). We sponsor an awesome Scouting program of Scouts Boy & Girl Troop, Venture Scouts for older youth, and a Cub Pack for girls & boys kindergarten - 5th grade, amongst many other programs. Directions: From Price’s Fork Road, turn onto Merrimac Road. St. Michael is ~quarter mile on the left. For more information: Phone 540.951.8951; Email hope@stmclc.us; Website www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org

## ECKANKAR

**Eckankar, The Path of Spiritual Freedom**, is a simple teaching that focuses on the Light and Sound of God to help people find more love in their life. We offer a Spiritual Event on the 2nd. Sunday of each month at 2:00 p.m. The program may be a Light and Sound Service, a Spiritual video and discussion, or other topics and techniques to help Raise Your Spiritual IQ. The Roanoke ECK Center is located at 1420 3rd. St. SW, Roanoke,

VA 24016. For more information visit [www.eck-va.org](http://www.eck-va.org) or call 540- 353-5365. People of all faiths are welcome.

## PRESBYTERIAN

Join us at **The Presbyterian Church of Radford**, 201 4th Street, at the corner of 4th and Randolph. Sunday School for adults and children will be at 10 am and Worship will be at 11 am through Memorial Day. Pastor Morgan Whitfield, Jr. will lead worship. Phone 540-639-2585. Email [pcofradford@gmail.com](mailto:pcofradford@gmail.com). Website [www.pcradford.org](http://www.pcradford.org). We are called to share the love of Christ in this community and beyond

## UNITED METHODIST

**Asbury United Methodist Church**, 500 Stuart Street, Christiansburg. 540-382- 0743. Rev. Ryan Schaeffer. Sunday School, 10:15 a.m., Sunday Worship, 11:30 a.m., Wednesday Bible Study 7pm, alternating month’s with Schaeffer Memorial Baptist Church, Senior Bible Study Thursday, 10:30 a.m. All are welcome.





# Marketplace



ourvalley.org

THE FINECASTLE HERALD

The Vinton Messenger

THE NEW CASTLE RECORD

SALEM TIMES REGISTER

News Messenger

RADFORD News Journal

Help Wanted

Legals - Bedford County

Legals - Botetourt County

Legals - City of Radford

Legals - Montgomery County

Legals - Montgomery County

STATEWIDE ADS

**Help Wanted Part-Time**  
REMAX Real Estate One Secretary/Receptionist needed to answer phone, do light computer work, and filing 540.353.8661

Legals - City of Salem

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given to all interested persons that the Council of the City of Salem, at its regular meeting on Monday, May 12, 2025, at 6:30 p.m., in Council Chambers, City Hall, 114 N. Broad Street, in the City of Salem, Virginia, will hold a public hearing, pursuant to Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia, as amended, to consider the following requests relative to the CODE OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA:

1. Consider the request of Gwynn Properties, LLC, contract purchaser, to rezone the property located at 220 Brand Avenue (T/M# 74-2-8) from HBD Highway Business District with conditions to HBD Highway Business District. Copies of the proposed plans, ordinances or amendments may be examined in the Office of Community Development, 21 South Bruffey Street, Salem, Virginia. At said hearing, parties in interest and citizens shall have an opportunity to be heard relative to the said requests. THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA BY: H. Robert Light Clerk of Council

**Notice is hereby given to all interested persons that the City of Salem Planning Commission,** at its regular meeting on May 14, 2025, at 7:00 p.m., in Council Chambers, City Hall, 114 North Broad Street, in the City of Salem, Virginia, will hold a public hearing, pursuant to Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia, as amended, to consider approval of the following requests relative to the CODE OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA:

1. Consider the request of Danny R. and Sonja S. Kane, property owners, to rezone the property located at 151 St. John Road (Tax Map #155-2-3) from HM Heavy Manufacturing to HBD Highway Business District.

2. Consider adopting resolution of recommendation regarding "Comprehensive Plan 2045" for the City of Salem. The plan addresses housing, redevelopment, open space, city government, transportation & infrastructure, land use, and other information used to outline the City's long-term vision and goals for development and growth.

Copies of the proposed plans, ordinances or amendments may be examined in the Office of Community Development, 21 South Bruffey Street, Salem, Virginia.

At said hearing, parties in interest and citizens shall have an opportunity to be heard relative to the said requests.

THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA BY: Christopher J. Dorsey Executive Secretary



## BAG

A GREAT DEAL IN THE CLASSIFIEDS!

To place your ad, call 389-9355

ABC NOTICE

MAHANT 9 LLC., trading as LAKERS COUNTRY STORE, 10999 MONETA ROAD, MONETA, BEDFORD CO. VA 24121.

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Wine and Beer, OFF Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

Hardik C. Patel, OWNER.

NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

Legals - Botetourt County

**Trustee's Sale 344 LLOYD TOLLEY RD, NATURAL BRIDGE ST, VA 24579 Parcel ID: 113E100A00000030**

Default having been made in the terms of a certain Deed of Trust dated 4/29/2008, in the original principal amount of \$101,042.00 and recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of the Rockbridge County, Virginia on 4/30/2008, as Instrument No. 080001623, Loan Modification recorded on 12/20/2017 as Instrument No. 170003480, the undersigned Substitute Trustees will sell at public auction on 6/30/2025 at 1:30 PM, Rockbridge County Circuit Court, 20 S Randolph St, Lexington, VA 24450, the property designated as 344 LLOYD TOLLEY RD, NATURAL BRIDGE ST, VA 24579. All that certain lot or parcel of land, with any and all improvements thereon and appurtenances thereunto belonging, lying, being and situated in:

Being that certain real estate, together with the buildings and improvements thereon, and the rights and appurtenances thereunto, belonging, situate in the Natural Bridge Magisterial District of Rockbridge County, Virginia, containing 0.42 acre, more or less, and being more particularly described on a survey of B.S. Clark, Jr., dated February 6, 1968, said plat being attached to a deed to Raymond V. Shanks from Helen Chiles Mason and husband recorded in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Rockbridge County, Virginia, in Deed Book 301 at Page 574.

TERMS: CASH. A deposit of \$10,104.20 or 10% of the sale price, whichever is lower, will be required of the successful bidder at time of sale. Prior to the sale, interested bidders will be required to register with and must present a bid deposit which may be held during the sale by the trustee. The bid deposit must be certified funds and/or cash, but no more than \$9,900.00 of cash will be accepted. The successful bidder's deposit will be retained at the sale and applied to the sale price. If held by the trustee, all other bid deposits will be returned to the unsuccessful bidders. Settlement is to be made within 15 days. The successful bidder will be responsible for obtaining possession of the property, and for all costs and fees related to recording the Trustee's Deed, including the grantors tax. The successful bidder will be required to execute a Memorandum of Trustee's Sale, available for review upon request before the sale, outlining additional terms of sale and settlement. A Trustee's Deed will be prepared by Trustee's attorney at high bidder's expense. This is a communication from a debt collector. Vylla Solutions - Virginia, LLC, 283 Constitution Drive, Suite 102, Office B, Virginia Beach, VA 23462, File No. 25-33255, Tel: 888-313-1969

Legals - Town of Vinton

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Planning Commission of Town of Vinton, Virginia, hereby gives notice of a work session to be held on Tuesday, April 29, 2025, at 5:15 p.m., or shortly thereafter. The purpose of the work session is to discuss Fiscal Year 2026 Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) and the Vinton 2050 Comprehensive Plan Update. The work session will be held in the Council Chambers of the Vinton Municipal Building, 311 South Pollard Street, Vinton, Virginia. Further information concerning this notice may be obtained by calling (540) 983-0605.

NOTICE OF INTENT TO COMPLY WITH DISABILITIES ACT. Reasonable efforts will be made to provide assistance or special arrangements to qualified individuals with disabilities in order to participate in or attend the meetings. Please call (540) 983-0605 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting so that proper arrangements may be made.



### THE CLASSIFIEDS-

Where the Deals Are!

**Trustee's Sale 133 RIDGEVIEW CIRCL, ROANOKE, VA 24019 (Parcel ID: 13766/107E(1)BK5-9)**

Default having been made in the terms of a certain Deed of Trust dated 7/18/2009, in the original principal amount of \$155,652.00 and recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of the Botetourt County, Virginia on 8/7/2009, as Instrument No. 090004397, Loan modification recorded on 4/3/2024 as Instrument No. 240000818, the undersigned Substitute Trustees will sell at public auction on 7/10/2025 at 1:00 PM, Botetourt County Circuit Court, 1 W Main St, Fincastle, VA 24090, the property designated as 133 RIDGEVIEW CIRCL, ROANOKE, VA 24019. All that certain lot or parcel of land, with any and all improvements thereon and appurtenances thereunto belonging, lying, being and situated in:

The Land situated in the County of Botetourt in the State of VA Lot 9, Block 5, according to the Revised Map of Section 4, Botetourt East, which map is recorded in Plat Book 8, page 74, in the Clerk's Office of the County of Botetourt, Virginia.

Being the same property conveyed to STEVIE W. SHIRES and BARBARA T. SHIRES, husband and wife as tenants by the entirety, by deed dated March 20, 1991 of record in Deed Book 385, Page 730, in the Botetourt County Clerk's Office. Group Number: N/A Commonly known as: 133 Ridgeview Circl Roanoke, VA 24019

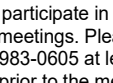
TERMS: CASH. A deposit of \$15,565.20 or 10% of the sale price, whichever is lower, will be required of the successful bidder at time of sale. Prior to the sale, interested bidders will be required to register with and must present a bid deposit which may be held during the sale by the trustee. The bid deposit must be certified funds and/or cash, but no more than \$9,900.00 of cash will be required. The successful bidder's deposit will be retained at the sale and applied to the sale price. If held by the trustee, all other bid deposits will be returned to the unsuccessful bidders. Settlement is to be made within 15 days. The successful bidder will be responsible for obtaining possession of the property, and for all costs and fees related to recording the Trustee's Deed, including the grantors tax. The successful bidder will be required to execute a Memorandum of Trustee's Sale, available for review upon request before the sale, outlining additional terms of sale and settlement. A Trustee's Deed will be prepared by Trustee's attorney at high bidder's expense. This is a communication from a debt collector. Vylla Solutions - Virginia, LLC, 283 Constitution Drive, Suite 102, Office B, Virginia Beach, VA 23462, File No. 25-34358, Tel: 888-313-1969

Legals - Town of Vinton

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### THE CLASSIFIEDS-

Where the Deals Are!

**NOTICE OF SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 486 Waterworks Rd., Radford, Montgomery County Virginia, Tax Map #064-A-68 (Montgomery County, Virginia)**

In execution of a deed of trust, from Bobby Ray Southern, dated July 24, 2008, recorded in the Clerk's Office of the County of Montgomery, Virginia, as Instrument No. 08008179, (Craig P. Tiller, Esq., PLLC, having been appointed Substitute Trustee under instrument of record as Instrument No.025000961, in said Clerk's Office) due to default in payment of the debt secured, the undersigned Trustee will offer for sale at public auction that certain tract of real estate known as 486 Waterworks Road, Radford, Virginia 24141, Montgomery County, Virginia, on the front steps of the Courthouse for the Circuit Court of Montgomery County, Virginia on the 12th day of May, 2025, at 2:00 o'clock p.m., the following described real estate situate in the Prices Fork Magisterial District of Montgomery County, Virginia:

All certain lot or parcel of land with all improvements thereon, situate, lying and bin in the Prices Fork Magisterial District of Montgomery County, Virginia, on Water Works Road, containing 2.1417 acres, more or less, as shown on a plat of same dated October 15, 1992, prepared by W.A. Davis, CE/LS, referred to as "Plat prepared for Bobby Wayne Southern, et al".

Less and Except all that certain lot or parcel of land with all improvements thereon lying and being in the Prices Fork Magisterial District of Montgomery County, Virginia, and being all of Lot Two (2) containing 1.03 acres, conveyed to Allan K. Southern and Dreama J. Southern by Deed dated June 1, 1995 and recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Montgomery County, Virginia, in Deed Book 876, Page 361, and as shown on plat of survey of record in Deed Book 876, Page 363.

Included is a 2007 Manufactured Home: Make: Clayton VIN #HHC017033NCAB.

Sale subject to all conditions, restrictions, reservations and easements, if any of record and now applicable thereto.

Terms: Cash in full due on day of sale. Trustee Craig P. Tiller, Esq., PLLC FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

Craig P. Tiller, Esq., PLLC 15421 Forest Road, Suite D Forest, Virginia 24551 Telephone: 434-525-3335 Facsimile: 434-525-3302

Legals - Montgomery County

Order of Publication

Commonwealth of Virginia VA Code§§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316;-317,20-104 Case No.CL25000550-00 MONTGOMERY COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT, 55 EAST MAIN STREET, SUITE 1, CHRISTIANSBURG, VA 24073

Kayla Dawn Comer, Stanley Hunter Early v. Commonwealth of Virginia,

The object of this suit is to: Name change of a minor It is ORDERED that Anthony Paul Early appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025 @ 9:00 AM. Entered March 17, 2025 Honorable Robert M.D. Turk Judge

Order of Publication

Commonwealth of Virginia VA Code§§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316;-317,20-104 Case No.CL25000555-00 MONTGOMERY COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT, 55 EAST MAIN STREET, SUITE 1, CHRISTIANSBURG, VA 24073

Megan Alyssa Sawyers v. Elden Raul Gonzalez

The object of this suit is to: Divorce

It is ORDERED that Elden Raul Gonzalez appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before May 27, 2025 @ 9:00 AM. Entered March 25, 2025 Honorable Robert M.D. Turk Judge

TOWN OF BLACKSBURG - NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS BLACKSBURG TOWN COUNCIL will hold public hearings on Tuesday, May 13, 2025

beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Roger E. Hedgepeth Chambers of the Blacksburg Municipal Building, 300 South Main Street, Blacksburg, regarding the following items:

Ordinance 2069: An Ordinance to Amend Town Code Sections 18-109 and 24-306 and Add New Town Code Sections 18-109.1 and 24-306.1 Pertaining to Waiving Utility Availability Fees for Affordable Housing Developments. Ordinance 2069 will amend sections of the Town Code to permit the waiver of utility availability fees for certain affordable housing developments.

Ordinance 2076: An Ordinance Adopting the Budget for the Town of Blacksburg, Virginia for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2025 and Ending June 30, 2026; Adopting the Real Estate Tax Rate; and Appropriating Funds for the Fiscal Year. The proposed ordinance authorizes the Town's 2025/2026 operating budget and maintains the existing tax rate. This is described in more detail in the stand-alone advertisement published in the Montgomery News Messenger on April 23, 2025.

Ordinance 2077: An Ordinance Amending Blacksburg Town Code Sections 18-400, 20-206, and 24-602 to Increase Fees for Water and Sewer Services and Solid Waste and Recycling Fees. The ordinance will increase the amounts of the referenced fees; the increases are described in more detail in stand-alone advertisements published in the Montgomery News Messenger April 23, 2025 and April 30, 2025.

All persons affected by or interested in the proposed items above may appear and present their views. After each public hearing, Town Council will consider action on the item. Copies of materials related to the above items are on file and can be obtained in the Office of the Town Clerk, 300 South Main Street, Blacksburg, weekdays between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. For land use matters, copies of applications and all related items may also be found online at www.blacksburg.gov/public hearings or reviewed in person at the Blacksburg Planning and Building Department, 400 South Main Street, Blacksburg, Virginia. Individuals with disabilities who require special assistance to attend and participate in this meeting should contact Lorraine Spaulding, Town Clerk at (540) 443-1025 or 443-1000 (voice or TDD).

**TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 295 NEWTOWN ROAD, SHAWSVILLE, VA 24162.**

In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated October 2, 2007, in the original principal amount of \$139,200.00 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Montgomery County, Virginia as Instrument No. 2007013212. The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for Montgomery County, 55 East Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia, or any such temporary alternative Circuit Court location designated by the Judges of the Circuit Court, on May 19, 2025, at 1:30

PM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: ALL THAT CERTAIN TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND, WITH THE IMPROVEMENTS THEREON AND THE APPURTENANCES THEREUNTO BELONGING, SITUATE, LYING AND BEING ON THE SOUTHWESTERLY SIDE OF NEWTOWN ROAD IN THE VILLAGE OF SHAWSVILLE, SHAWSVILLE MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, . VIRGINIA, DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: ALL OF NEW PARCEL 2, CONTAINING 0.374 ACRES AS SHOWN ON THE PLAT OF C.B. SISSON AND R.D. SISSON BOUNDARY LINE REVISION AND LOT LINE VACATIONS, PREPARED BY C.S. CORRELL, L.S. PLAN #P-1095, DATED APRIL 2, 1999 A COPY OF WHICH IS RECORDED HERewith IN PLAT BOOK 19, PAGE 74, AND TO WHICH MAP REFERENCE IS MADE FOR A MORE PARTICULAR DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY HEREBY CONVEYED. TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit of ten percent (10%) of the sale price or ten percent (10%)

of the original principal balance of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, in the form of cash or certified funds payable to the Substitute Trustee must be present at the time of the sale. The balance of the purchase price will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Purchaser's deposit may be forfeited to Trustee. Time is of the essence. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser may, if provided by the terms of the Trustee's Memorandum of Foreclosure Sale, be entitled to a \$50 cancellation fee from the Substitute Trustee, but shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. A form copy of the Trustee's memorandum of foreclosure sale and contract to purchase real property is available for viewing at www.bwwsales.com. Additional terms, if any, to be announced at the sale and the Purchaser may be given the option to execute the contract of sale electronically. This is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. The sale is subject to seller confirmation. Substitute Trustee: Equity Trustees, LLC, 8100 Three Chopt Road, Suite 240, Richmond, VA 23229. For more information contact: BWW Law Group, LLC, attorneys for Equity Trustees, LLC, 6003 Executive Blvd, Suite 101, Rockville, MD 20852, 301-961-6555, website: www.bwwsales.com. VA-375117-1.

PM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: ALL THAT CERTAIN TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND, WITH THE IMPROVEMENTS THEREON AND THE APPURTENANCES THEREUNTO BELONGING, SITUATE, LYING AND BEING ON THE SOUTHWESTERLY SIDE OF NEWTOWN ROAD IN THE VILLAGE OF SHAWSVILLE, SHAWSVILLE MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, . VIRGINIA, DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: ALL OF NEW PARCEL 2, CONTAINING 0.374 ACRES AS SHOWN ON THE PLAT OF C.B. SISSON AND R.D. SISSON BOUNDARY LINE REVISION AND LOT LINE VACATIONS, PREPARED BY C.S. CORRELL, L.S. PLAN #P-1095, DATED APRIL 2, 1999 A COPY OF WHICH IS RECORDED HERewith IN PLAT BOOK 19, PAGE 74, AND TO WHICH MAP REFERENCE IS MADE FOR A MORE PARTICULAR DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY HEREBY CONVEYED. TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit of ten percent (10%) of the sale price or ten percent (10%)

of the original principal balance of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, in the form of cash or certified funds payable to the Substitute Trustee must be present at the time of the sale. The balance of the purchase price will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Purchaser's deposit may be forfeited to Trustee. Time is of the essence. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser may, if provided by the terms of the Trustee's Memorandum of Foreclosure Sale, be entitled to a \$50 cancellation fee from the Substitute Trustee, but shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. A form copy of the Trustee's memorandum of foreclosure sale and contract to purchase real property is available for viewing at www.bwwsales.com. Additional terms, if any, to be announced at the sale and the Purchaser may be given the option to execute the contract of sale electronically. This is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. The sale is subject to seller confirmation. Substitute Trustee: Equity Trustees, LLC, 8100 Three Chopt Road, Suite 240, Richmond, VA 23229. For more information contact: BWW Law Group, LLC, attorneys for Equity Trustees, LLC, 6003 Executive Blvd, Suite 101, Rockville, MD 20852, 301-961-6555, website: www.bwwsales.com. VA-375117-1.

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# RADFORD SPORTS



PHOTO BY JON FLEMING

**Nine Blackburg seniors signed Letters of Intent on Tuesday afternoon for the Bruins' spring signing day ceremony. They are (from l to r): Aiden Carrier, Miles Carrier, Louis Semtner, Asher Roach, Leighton McGee, Trent Nichols (all track and field), Anna Boteler (equestrian), Evelynnn Ihlefeld (lacrosse), and Braden Henderson (wrestling).**

## Bruins to play at next level

**Marty Gordon**

*NRVsports@ourvalley.org*

Historically, for the past 10 years, Blackburg High School's cross country and track program has been one of the tops in the state.

Six of this year's group announced plans this week to continue their track careers at the next level.

Trent Nichols, a varsity runner, has committed to run cross-country and track and field at the University of Mary Washington. He is a four-year member of the indoor and outdoor track and field team and a two-year member of the cross country team.

He has accumulated multiple medals while competing in junior varsity cross country races. He also anchored the 4x800 relay team to a third place finish at the 2025 indoor region 4D championships where BHS won the meet. Nichols plans to study cybersecurity at the University of Mary Washington.

Asher Roach, a senior varsity cross country / track and field runner, will sign his national letter of intent to run and continue his academic career at the University of North Carolina Asheville. Roach has been a team leader for both the Blackburg cross country and track and field teams, racing in three consecutive cross country state championships as well as national-qualifying relays. He was the 2024 Region 4D Cross Country Champion and placed seventh in the state, winning all-state honors there. He qualified for three individual races at the 2025 Indoor Track State Championships.

Roach received Best Newcomer and Most Improved Awards for the BHS Cross Country team in previous years, and he was named Team MVP as a senior. He is a four-year varsity cross country and outdoor track and field letterman, earning a letter in indoor track and field his junior and senior years.

He plans to study engineering while attending UNC Asheville.

Louis Semtner, a senior varsity runner, will sign his National Letter of Intent to run and continue his academic career at Longwood University and study environmental science. Semtner is a four-year varsity member of the BHS cross country and indoor track teams and a two-year member of the outdoor track team. Semtner has participated in New Balance Indoor Nationals in 2024 and 2025 and competed at Penn Relays in 2024.

He is an all-state runner placing eighth in the 1000-meter, third in the 4x8 in 2024, 4th in the 4x4 in 2024 and 2025. He was part of the indoor state champion in the 4x8 relay in 2025.

Aiden Carrier, a senior varsity distance runner, has committed to continuing his academic and athletic career at Winthrop University. Carrier is a four-year member of the BHS cross country and track teams, and a captain of the cross country/distance team this year.

Carrier has been a letter earner since his freshman year and has been on varsity since his sophomore year. He is also a two-time all-region runner in the one-k. Carrier has been awarded the BHS Cross Country Lynchpin award this past season and has continued to be a key piece of Blackburg's vibrant running community. After graduating from BHS, Carrier plans to major in Kinesiology and Exercise Science.

Miles Carrier, a senior cross country and track runner, will sign his national letter of intent to continue his academic and athletic career at Winthrop University.

Carrier runs cross country, indoor track, and outdoor track, and has been a varsity runner since sophomore year. He has been a letter-earner since freshman year and has competed in multiple regional meets. He is a hard-working and extremely dedicated member of his team. Carrier has been running competitively since sixth grade. He plans to study

political science.

Leighton McGee, a senior pole vaulter, will continue his academic and athletic career at William and Mary. He has been a member of the Blackburg High School track and field program since the outdoor season of his freshman year. He is a three-time All-State track athlete. He earned second place at the Virginia High School League State (VHSL) Championships, tying for first in a historic meet where, for the first time in VHSL history, three athletes attempted 16 feet.

His school records include 15'6" for indoor track and 15'7" for outdoor, both of which surpassed the previous school records made in 1985 of 15'1" (indoor) and 14'6" (outdoor). He also set the Blackburg High School facility record in the pole vault.

McGee was awarded the prestigious Bruin Award for his leadership and hard work and was named Field Event MVP at his school. In addition to athletics, he is a part of the National Honor Society and the Spanish National Honor Society and spent a year studying abroad in Norway.

McGee plans to study business at William and Mary and will pursue excellence in both academics and athletics.

But it was not just track athletes who signed letters of intent this week in front of friends, family and teammates.

Evelynn Ihlefeld, a senior lacrosse player, will sign her national letter of intent to continue her academic and athletic career at UVA-Wise. Ihlefeld started playing lacrosse with the New River Valley Lacrosse Club in first grade. She has played on local travel teams, as well. The summer of her tenth grade year she attended a prospect camp at UVA-Wise and knew she wanted to continue playing lacrosse with their program upon graduation.

Ihlefeld plans to study sports marketing and management at UVA-Wise.

Braden Henderson, a senior wrestler at Blackburg high school will sign his commitment to Roanoke College to further his academic and wrestling career. Henderson started his wrestling career in the sixth grade at Blackburg Middle School after coach Ryan Wade grabbed him out of the hall and told him he would be wrestling.

Henderson is a four-year varsity letterman, four-year team captain, four-year region placer, three time region champion and four time state placer, finishing fifth his freshman year, fourth his sophomore year, state champion as a junior and state runner-up as a senior. He has compiled a high school career record of 134 wins and 18 losses. Henderson plans to pursue a degree in psychology.

Anna Boteler, a senior equestrian, will sign her celebratory commitment letter to continue her academic and athletic career at Sweet Briar College. Boteler rides in the Hunter, Jumper, and Equitation rings, primarily focusing on Hunters. She has claimed two consecutive Virginia state titles as the Champion Hunter Rider and Champion Equitation Rider. She has also led several of her young horses to championships at both the state and national level.

Boteler has been on the Virginia Tech IEA Team for eight years and has been the Open rider during the past two years. Anna qualified for post-season seven times, has won the IEA Sportsmanship award on multiple occasions, and claimed the High Point Rider award four times during her junior and senior years of high school.

Outside of the saddle, she is a Nationally Certified EMT, holds the Junior Lieutenant position at Blackburg Volunteer Rescue Squad, and has held several leadership positions within Blackburg FFA. She credits all of her success to her coach, Beth Sheely, who is a USHJA Certified Trainer and the IHSA Equestrian Team Coach at Virginia Tech.

Boteler plans to study Business and Political Science at Sweet Briar College.

## Two from Radford sign letters of intent



FILE PHOTO

**Senior Melody Burks drives through the lane for an easy layup this past season against James River.**

**Marty Gordon**

*NRVsports@ourvalley.org*

Two student athletes from Radford High School are taking their talents to the next level. Nolan Dalton and Melody Burks have signed to play football and women's basketball, respectively.

Dolan will play football at Bluefield State. He was a 2023 Class 2 center of the year and 2024 offensive lineman of the year. The 6-3, 275 lineman was also named to his second consecutive all-county/all-city team.

Bluefield State is located on the West Virginia side of the border and has a current enrollment of 1,301 students. The school belongs to the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA)

at the NCAA Division II level, primarily competing in the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) since the 2023-24 academic year.

In 2020, the school announced the return of football to the athletics program for the first time since 1980. Eleven new sports were added as well.

This past season, the football team was 1-9. Former Virginia Tech player Davon Martin is entering his third season at the helm of the program.

Burks is a 5-9 guard, who will play at Belmont-Abbey College, in Belmont, North Carolina.

The Belmont Abbey Crusaders participate in the NCAA's Division II program and are members of Conference Carolinas.

## 17 from CHS sign letters of intent

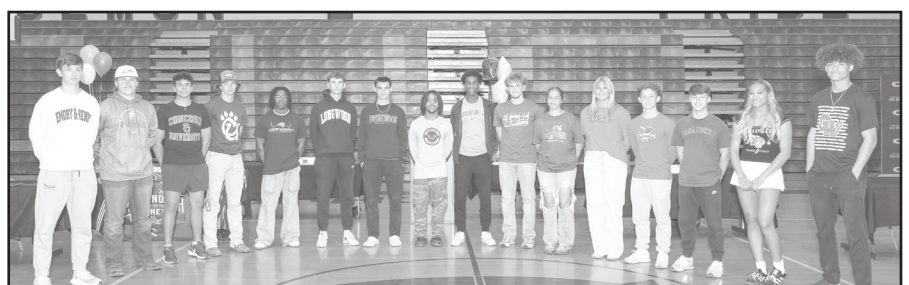


PHOTO BY KYMN DAVIDSON-HAMLEY

**Christiansburg had a record amount of student-athlete signings this past week. The group gathers around center court of the school's gymnasium before placing their names on letters of intent to their respective colleges.**

**Marty Gordon**

*NRVsports@ourvalley.org*

Christiansburg High School held an event this past week with the most student-athletes at one time in the history of the school signing their name on the dotted line to continue their careers at the next level.

Sam Wolfe will play lacrosse at Emory and Henry College and major in exercise science.

Connor Adams is headed to New River Community College, where he will join the baseball team and attend the school's Welding Technology Program.

Gavin Dow will join Concord University's baseball team. He is a three-year letterman in baseball at Christiansburg and was the 2024 second team all-district at third base and was honorable mention all-region 3D. Dow was also all-county/all-city shortstop this past year. He plans to major in business.

Rocky Fizzano will join Dow at Concord, also on the baseball diamond. He too plans to major in business.

Xavier Joplin will take his football talents to Averett University, where he will major in Kenisiology. He was the 2023-24 Region 3D honorable mention at the kick returner position along with being second team all-River Ridge District kick returner.

Joshua Cummins, first-team Class 3 all-state golfer, is headed to Longwood where he will continue his golf career. He was selected to represent Team

Virginia in the 2024 Mid-Atlantic Junior Invitational, was sixth in the 2024 Virginia Stroke Play Championship and made it to the quarterfinals of the Virginia Junior Match Play. Cummins also finished 30th in the 2024 State Open of Virginia that included several professionals and other college golfers.

Luca Pickeral plans to play soccer at Shenandoah University. He is a two-times first-team all-River Ridge District, two times first team all-region and a first-team Class 3 all-state this past year.

Lyriq Pittman will play soccer at Penn State Altoona, while majoring in criminal justice. He was all-region honorable mention this past season.

Samuel Selfe will attend Washington and Lee and play soccer. He is a three-time All-District player, was named Virginia State Cup Most Valuable Player, named on the Virginia State Cup Best 11 players and was a first-team all-state and all-region this past year, where he was named the 2024 region player of the year.

Micaiah Widrig continued the soccer theme and will play at Freed-Hardeman. He will major in law and politics.

Nevah Wimmer will play soccer at Concord University and major in nursing.

Tyleigh Dillard is a member of this past year's state championship softball team and will continue her career at



# Glenvar blanks Radford boys



Louis Webster battles for ball possession as the Bobcats lost 4-0 to the visiting Highlanders to fall to 5-1 overall on the season.



Radford's Vincenzo Pugliese takes a shot on goal in the first half of Monday's match against Glenvar, who took the 4-0 win.



Goalkeeper Cole Martin goes around a Glenvar player to disrupt the corner kick approach.

PHOTOS BY BRYANT ALTIZER

## Weekly reports: Christiansburg grabs one from Auburn

Both teams were strong in the circle on Thursday, but Christiansburg was just a little bit stronger at the plate in their 3-2 victory over Auburn Varsity Eagles. McKenzie Booth started the game for Auburn Varsity Eagles and recorded seven outs. Christiansburg jumped out to the lead in the bottom of the first inning after Addison Reasor homered to left field, scoring two runs, and Makaylee Hughes singled, scoring one run. Sophia Russell earned the win for Christiansburg. The hurler gave up three hits and one run over four innings, striking out five and walking six.

Skyler Hodges pitched three and two-thirds innings in relief for Auburn. The hurler gave up two hits and zero runs while, striking out two and walking none.

Booth took the loss for Auburn. The hurler went two and one-third innings, allowing three runs (two earned) on four hits, striking out two and walking none. Kaylee Ramrattan went two-for-three at the plate to lead Auburn Varsity Eagles in hits. Samantha Anderson and Ramrattan each drove in one run for Auburn Varsity Eagles. Mallory Akers paced with two walks.

Overall, the team had patience at the plate, tallying seven walks for the game. Hughes, Russell, and Reasor each collected two hits for Christiansburg. Reasor led Christiansburg with two runs batted in. The shortstop went two-for-three on the day.

### Eagles down Byrd

Auburn came through with some clutch hitting last week to defeat William Byrd 9-4. The Eagles scored six of their nine runs with two out hits from Landen Marrs (3 RBI), Jared Lavergne (1 RBI), Talan Mower (1 RBI) and Zac two McGlothlin (1 RBI).

Marrs and Mower both finished with two hits and three RBI each. McGlothlin picked up the win going five-plus innings allowing six hits and four runs (three earned) with Josh Givens pitching the last two innings to pick up the save.

### Auburn pounds Galax

Auburn had another big offensive evening pounding out 16 hits in a 21-6 win over Galax. Zac McGlothlin continued to stay red hot going 5-5 with 7 RBI, 2 doubles and his third home run of the season.

Matthew Altizer and Jared Lavergne added two hits each with Altizer having four RBI for the game. Lavergne scored five runs and had four stolen base to help lead the offense. Mitchell Hale picked up the win going 3 2/3 innings with Cody Flinchum pitching the final 1 1/3 innings.

### Blacksburg hands Auburn first loss

It was a wild evening at the ballpark as Auburn suffered their first loss of the season, 20-15 at the hands of Blacksburg. In a game that saw 35 runs, 28 hits, seven errors, 18 walks and 11 different pitchers, the Bruins exacted revenge of their only loss of the season.

Mitchell Hale and Zac McGlothlin had three hits and Landen Marrs two hits for the Eagles. McGlothlin had five RBI and Jared Lavergne two to lead the Auburn offense. Bryce Abbot and Major Marshall homered for the Bruins with Abbot finishing with four RBI and Marshall three for the game.

### Blacksburg boys remain unbeaten

The Blacksburg boys' soccer team moved to 7-0 with a 6-0 shutout this past week over Cave Spring.

Blacksburg had two goals from Pee Wee Distler and Jack Hanowski with individual ones from Alex Doyle and Craig Huxtable. The Blacksburg shutdown shared by goalkeepers Nathan Pratt and Toby Jones. With the loss, Cave fell to 2-5.

### Lady Bruins also unbeaten

The Blacksburg High School Girls defeated Salem High School 3-0 on a cold rainy night in Blacksburg. Erin Bishop, Piper Berger, and Bella Garza scored for the Bruins. Anna Dove collected four saves for the shutout win.

Blacksburg improves to 7-0, 3-0 on the season as Salem drops to 3-2, 0-2 on the season.

### Bruins drop first one Thursday

The Blacksburg High School girls soccer team dropped their first game of the season on the road at Cave Spring Thursday night 2-1. After trailing 1-0 at halftime, Cave Spring bounced back to win 2-1. Bella Garza scorned with Erin Bishop recording the assist for the Bruins.

Blacksburg drops to 7-1, 3-1 on the season as Cave Spring improved to 7-0, 4-0.

### Auburn girls shut out Galax

The Auburn girls' soccer team moved their overall record to 6-3 with a 6-0 shutout this past week over Galax. There was one goal each from Junior Brooklyn Mikowicz, sophomore Nora Garland, sophomore Lacy George, sophomore Marley Thomas, freshman Caroline Fultz and freshman Kaycie Smith. Kennedy Marshall had the shutout in goal.

### Auburn boys play to tie

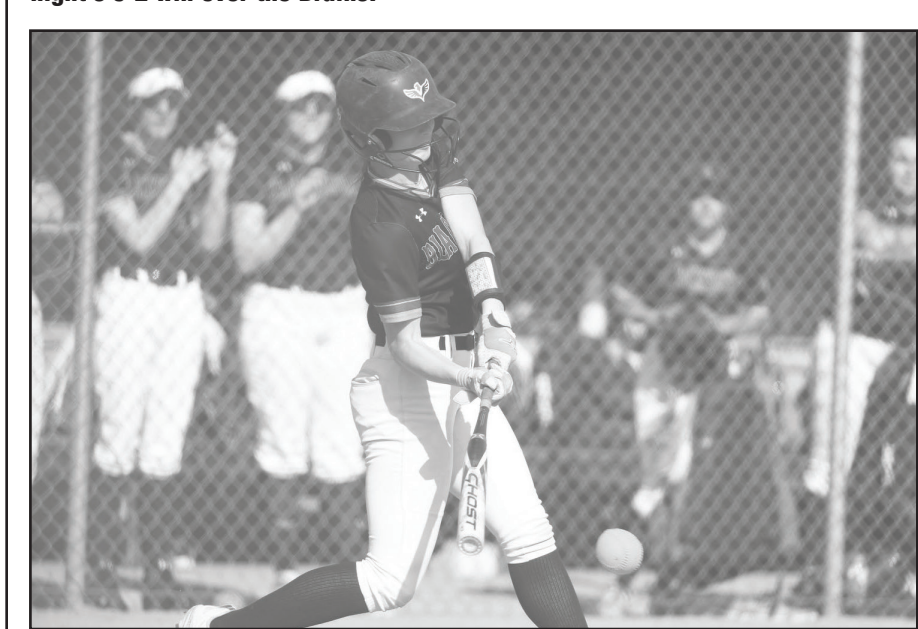
For the third time this season, the Galax boys' soccer team played to a 0-0 scoreless tie in regulation this past week against Galax. Auburn's Bryce Brunk had the shutout in goal. Auburn is now 5-2-3 on the season. Galax is 6-1-1.

Staff report

## Auburn downs Blacksburg in softball



Auburn's Skyler Hodges throws a pitch against Blacksburg during last Monday night's 9-2 win over the Bruins.



Blacksburg's Sullivan Shealor makes solid contact on an Auburn pitch during the first inning but would ground into a fielder's choice play.



### FREDERICKSBURG NATIONALS VS SALEM RED SOX

APRIL 29th	6:35 PM
Bark in the Park	
APRIL 30th	6:35 PM
Wings Wednesday	
MAY 1st	6:35 PM
Mental Health Awareness Night	
MAY 2nd	6:35 PM
Teacher Appreciation Night	
MAY 3rd	6:35 PM
Metallica Night	
MAY 4th	1:05 PM



# RU women claim first-ever Big South championship



PHOTO COURTESY OF RU ATHLETICS

**For the first time in school history, your Radford women's golf team is Big South Champions, with their first ever trip to NCAA Regionals just around the corner.**

The Radford University women's golf program's storybook season isn't over just yet as the Highlanders captured the 2025 Big South Championship for the first time in school history on April 16. With the historic win, Radford also punched its ticket to the NCAA Regional for the first time. A day after recording its highest finish in the stroke play portion of the Big South Championships since 2015, Radford won the conference's match play title with a 3-1 victory over No. 1 seed Charleston Southern to earn the league's automatic berth to the NCAA Regionals. The Highlanders, who were competing in the Big South Championship Match Play portion for the first time in program history since the format was added in 2021, knocked off No. 2 High Point, 3-1 in the morning semifinals. After the Panthers won match two for an early 1-0 lead in the showdown, Radford stormed back to score three-straight wins to advance to the title match. The squad then kept that strong momentum going into the day's later championship round. Radford won the first two points when Grace Addison and Caroline Gilreath both picked up individual victories. Despite the quick lead, Charleston Southern fought back and made it a 2-1 match. Radford needed to win one of the remaining two matches to take the school's first conference crown in program history. All eyes turned to Shea Smith, who found herself down three through the first nine holes. She reduced the deficit to just one after hole 11 and then went on to tie the match on hole 16. It was all knotted up after 17 holes when Smith took the only lead she needed to in the second session of the day as she drained an eight-foot put on the par-5 18th for the victory.

The Highlanders made it to the semifinals for the first time after the group posted a strong third-place finish over the tournament's first three days of team stroke play. Radford finished +53 as a squad, just three back of leader Charleston Southern and 22 up on the fifth-place team to easily advance to four-team match play.

After helping the Radford women's golf program to its first conference championship in school history, Macy Johnson was named the Big South's Scholar Athlete of the Year to go with First Team All-Conference honors, announced by the league office last Thursday morning. Johnson had an unreal year on the course for the Highlanders this season. To go with the program's first championship in program history, the Salem native won two events as an individual during the 2024-25 campaign (at ECU, Fall 2024 and at William & Mary, Spring 2025). She also became the program's all-time individual tournament wins leader in school history with three career victories overall. She was a standout in the classroom just as much as she was on the course as she recorded a perfect 4.0 grade point average as an economics major. Johnon was also inducted into Beta Gamma Sigma (an organization honoring the top 10 percent of business undergraduate students in the country) to go with being a mainstay on both Radford's Dean's List and the Big South's Presidential Honor Roll. Johnson is the first Radford student-athlete to claim the Big South's Scholar Athlete of the Year since 2014 and is just the fourth Highlanders to win the prestigious award overall.

Radford University Athletics

# Blacksburg duels Cave Spring



**Blacksburg's Mack Strahm races upfield to start the Bruin's offense against Cave Spring during a Monday night lacrosse game.**



PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING

**With the game tied and in overtime, Blacksburg's Owen Fotinos gets past Cave Spring defender Jason Shilling and scores for a dramatic 7-6 win over the Knights, avenging an earlier 2-10 loss to Cave Spring on the road. The Bruins are now 2-2 on the season.**

## CHS from page 10

Bluefield University. She plans to study occupational therapy.

Addison Reasor was also a member of the state championship softball team and also played volleyball at Christiansburg. Along with earning first-team All-District, All-Region and All-State Class 3 in both volleyball and softball, she holds the all-time kill record in volleyball.

She is headed to the University of Virginia to play softball and major in education.

Lucas Beasley will play tennis at Shenandoah and major in sports management. He was the 2023 and 2024 Region 3D player of the year after gathering all-region and all-state honors.

Beasley was a 2023 Class 3 Doubles and Singles runner-up. He was the 2024 Region D champion in both singles and doubles, while being the 2024 Class 3 Singles runner-up.

Jacob Evans is headed to Roanoke College to run track and field,

while majoring in Environmental Science. He is on track to graduate with a 4.0 grade point average.

Leila Haley will attend Davidson College to run track, while majoring in Biology to pursue Pre-Med. She, too, has a 4.0 GPA and was named to the dean's list at New River Community College.

Haley is the CHS record holder in the 55 meters, 300 meters, 500 meters, 100 meters, 200 meters and 400 meters. This includes an eight-time region 3D champion

including being named the 2025 Region 3D indoor female runner of the year. She is a Class 3 300 meters and 500 state champion.

Donovan Richardson will also continue his track career in college at Gardner-Webb. He is a three-time All-American in the triple jump, including placing third at the 2025 Adidas National event. He placed third at the recent state indoor event and holds both the school's indoor and outdoor triple jump records at 46-7 and 47-8 meters.

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**mountainmedianews.com/best-of-nrv/**

Our ballot is super simple! Don't know much about the accounting firm in your region? Feel free to skip it and move on. Fill out the entire ballot if you're feeling ambitious, or pick and choose among our categories. Select from our drop down list, or if your favorite coffee shop or spa isn't listed, write in your own winner. And, take your time. Our voting platform saves your votes, so you don't have to feel rushed. That means you can return to the ballot to continue choosing your favorites without worrying about any of your votes being lost.

**Winner's will be published in  
News Messenger & Radford News Journal  
July 2nd**

CROSSWORD ANSWERS												
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