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Houses passes bill to award Medal of Honor to Radford's Colonel John Ripley

Rep. Morgan Griffith
U.S. House of Representatives

With the United States preparing to celebrate its 250th anniversary, American communities are bound to reflect on the inspiring legacy of our country's founding.

While the clamor of independence resonated among the colonists, achieving independence necessitated bold military action. Thanks to General George Washington and the willingness of thousands to serve, the fight for independence ultimately succeeded.

The belief in America's promise inspired the generations that followed to support and defend the U.S. Constitution against all enemies, foreign and domestic.

Throughout our 250 years of existence, our armed services have battled to protect our nation, albeit under treacherous conditions that

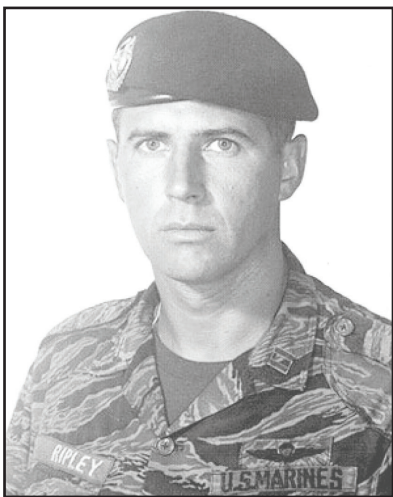
accompany the affairs of war.

For our survival and success, American servicemembers sacrificed blood, sweat and tears.

We continue to honor such amazing sacrifices in numerous ways.

The Purple Heart, the oldest military award, is presented to those who have been killed or wounded in action. Those recognized for heroic acts or meritorious achievements in combat receive the Bronze Star Medal. There is no higher U.S. military decoration than the Congressional Medal of Honor.

In my 2025 Veterans Day column, I highlighted five figures with ties to the Ninth District that have received the Medal of Honor. I am proud to say that the Ninth District will soon be home to a sixth! The House recently passed my bill to award the Medal of Honor to Radford's Colonel John Ripley.



Col. John Ripley

Following graduation from Radford High School in 1957, Colonel Ripley committed to the

See Ripley, page 2

Road salt usage being debated

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

The Virginia Department of Transportation has used about 450,000 tons of salt statewide since Jan. 1, spreading it on the roadways during the recent snowstorms. The process is the subject of a bill from the General Assembly directing VDOT to conduct an environmental study to find safe alternatives to road salt in winter weather.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), when winter passes and ice melts, road salt can make its way into nearby surface and systems and contaminate water reservoirs and wells. Excess road salt accumulation can also kill roadside plants and harm wildlife.

The bill, which was approved last week, directs VDOT to measure road salt's impact on infrastructure, the environment and its "corrosive effects" on personal property. The study should then compare results with potential alternatives.

Dr. Joel Snodgrass, a professor and the department head of Virginia Tech's Fish and Wildlife Conservation

program, believes it is a good idea to look at this process closely and begin to figure out where we can we cut back on uses, how can we become more efficient at using salt, and using it in a way that we're not putting as much in the environment.

"Ideally, we want to get to a point where we're not putting any in," he said. But it could take time.

"Even if we stop today, it's going to take a long time. Hundreds of years for the salt to get out of the system that's already been put into it," he said.

Meanwhile VDOT is already taking steps to look at the impact of using Salt on the roadway.

V D O T Communications Director Amy Friedenberger said the agency is trying to effectively manage the salt it uses.

"VDOT has partnered with the Department of Environmental Quality and other stakeholders to implement a comprehensive salt management strategy that limits salt from entering surface waters while keeping VDOT's commitment to maintain public safety during winter weather," Frie-

See Salt, page 3

RHS Speech team crowned regional champions



PHOTO COURTESY OF RADFORD HIGH SCHOOL

The Radford High School Speech team recently took first place in the 2026 regional competition. Results include: Seth Baron- 1st Place Dramatic Interpretation; Caroline Gibbs- 1st Place Storytelling; Rachel Goodhart & Zelda White- 1st Place Serious Duo; Kate Dishon- 1st Place Prose; Jackson Barnett- 2nd place Storytelling; Bear Hyers- 2nd Place Humorous Interpretation; Nicholas Keeling- 2nd Place Impromptu Speaking; Olivia Osemobor- 3rd Place Original Oratory; Owen Yates and Mickey Baron- 3rd Place Humorous Duo and Ace Rorrer- 4th Place Poetry (1st Alternate).

RHS Scholastic Bowl headed to state competition



PHOTO COURTESY OF RADFORD HIGH SCHOOL

The Radford High School Scholastic Bowl team recently took home the first-place trophy at the super-regional competition, beating Liberty-Bedford, Patrick County and Dan River. The Bobcats are going to Jamestown for the state tournament on Feb. 28.

Radford University helps address Virginia's teacher shortage

RADFORD - Virginia school divisions continue to face a significant teacher shortage.

Currently, more than 8,000 educators in the commonwealth hold provisional licenses, nearly 10% of the teaching workforce. While these educators are actively serving in classrooms, they have not yet completed all requirements for full professional licensure.

To help close this gap, Radford University launched a targeted scholarship initiative to support provisionally licensed teachers in completing their licensure requirements.

From November through April, the university offered \$750 scholarships to teachers enrolling in required professional studies coursework.

The response exceeded expectations. Demand was so strong that available scholarship funds were fully awarded a month ahead of schedule.

"When word spread that Radford was offering scholarships, teachers and school division leaders jumped at the opportunity," said Lea Monday, Provisional to Professional Pathway

See Teachers, page 2



PHOTO COURTESY OF RADFORD UNIVERSITY

A student raises their hand in a classroom.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, Feb. 27:

Ninth District candidate forum

A U.S. Congressional Ninth District candidate forum will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Blacksburg, 6:30 – 8 p.m., hosted by NRV Indivisible. Democratic candidates Adam Murphy and Joy Powers will be in attendance. Incumbent Rep. Morgan Griffith (R) has been invited to attend. The forum will be available on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/@nrvindivisible8717>.

Saturday, Feb. 28:

Blacksburg Farmers Market

At Market Square Park, 100 Draper Rd SW, Blacksburg; 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. The Blacksburg Farmers Market is a local, family-friendly gathering place in downtown Blacksburg featuring farmers of locally grown produce and meats, alongside artisans of baked goods and handmade crafts. For more information, visit blacksburgfarmersmarket.com.

Thursday, Mar. 5:

American Legion meeting

The American Legion, Harvey Howe Carper Post 30 will meet at 6 p.m. at the VFW Post Home, 102 Watts St., Radford. If Radford City Public Schools are closed on Thursday or Friday of this week due to weather, the meeting will be cancelled. For further information, please call 540-239-9864.

Friday, Mar. 6 and Saturday, Mar. 7:

Book Sale

Book sale at the Radford Public Library 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Even though the library is closed during some of the hours, the book sale will be open. Large selection of teen/young adult fantasy and science fiction books. Come and support the Radford Library and get bargains too.

Saturday, Mar. 7 – Monday, Mar. 9:

First Baptist Church on the Rock celebrates Women's Weekend

The women of First Baptist Church, 555 West Rock Rd., Radford celebrate “Bloom Where You Are Planted.” The weekend event begins Saturday, Mar. 7, 9 a.m.- 1 p.m. with a workshop with speakers, Kim Gittings and Minister Tanisha Johnson. Breakfast and lunch will be served. Join us for games, group sessions, and lots of fellowship. On Sunday, Mar. 8, the Women’s Choir will be singing and the guest speaker will be Denise Dowell from Shiloh Baptist Church, Salem. On Monday, Mar. 9, join us for a movie, “The Greatest Inheritance.” Bring your favorite brown bag dinner. The dinner is open to not only women but anyone who would like to enjoy the evening at the movie. First Baptist Church is under the leadership of David Gittings Jr., Pastor.

Monday, Mar. 9:

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.

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.

Tuesday, Mar. 10:

Blacksburg Town Council meeting

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

Christiansburg Town Council meeting

At 7 p.m. at Town Hall, 100 E. Main St., Christiansburg. This is a regular meeting of town council. The meeting will be live streamed to the Town's YouTube page at www.christiansburg.org/YouTube. Please copy and paste the URL into your browser and be sure

to select Live videos to view. Agendas and minutes can be viewed at www.christiansburg.org/agendasandminutes.

Thursday, Mar. 19:

Sons of Confederate Veterans meeting

The Sons of Confederate Veterans, Stuart Horse Artillery Camp 1784 will meet at 7 p.m. at the NRV Super Bowl, 375 Arbor Drive NE, Christiansburg. Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) are also invited to attend. The guest speaker will be Mr. Ted Farmer, Associate Professor of History and Political Science at New River Community College. His topic will be "Nathan Bedford Forrest: The Man." If Montgomery or Floyd County Public Schools are closed on Thursday or Friday of this week due to weather, the meeting will be cancelled. For further information, please call 540-320-4315 or 540-239-9864.

Ongoing:

Blacksburg Police Citizens Academy

Join the Blacksburg Police Department for a Citizens Academy. The 2026 program dates are: Tuesday evenings, Mar. 31 - May 5, 6 - 7:30 p.m. Participants will learn about patrol techniques, criminal investigations, SWAT operations, and various other operations important to police work in town. This program has limited space. Register today by emailing Ofc. A. Jones at ajones@blacksburg.gov, or calling 540.443.1439.

Ninth Congressional District candidate forum set for this Friday

ROANOKE – Adam Murphy and Joy Powers, democratic candidates for the U.S. House of Representatives in Virginia’s 9th Congressional District, will be participating in a candidate forum hosted by New River Valley Indivisible this Friday, Feb. 27, in Blacksburg.

Congressman Morgan Griffith (R) has also been invited. Murphy is a software developer from Roanoke County. Powers is a fourth-generation cattle farmer,

small business owner, and mother from Bedford County.

Eligible candidates will speak and take questions at the event, scheduled for 6:30 – 8 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Blacksburg, at 1301 Gladewood Dr.

The Democratic primary will be held June 16, 2026.

Staff report

Teachers

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coordinator for the College of Education and Human Development at Radford University.

District leaders quickly encouraged participation.

"Lea told us about this limited-time opportunity, and I had three teachers register quickly after our Zoom meeting, one enrolling the same day," said Lindsey Edmonds from Carroll County Public Schools.

As of Feb. 1, more than 50 teachers have enrolled in courses through the program. Many participants register for multiple classes, maximizing both the scholarship support and discounted tuition rates.

For many teachers, the financial support made a decisive difference.

"This scholarship was what I needed to finish my license, and with the cost savings, I will now earn my

Ripley

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Marine Corps. However, he soon enrolled at the Naval Academy, graduated and returned to the Marine Corps to begin a storied ascent within the military.

By 1966, he was a Captain. The Marine Corps deployed him to help lead 3d Battalion, 3d Marines, “Lima” company in Vietnam. While he was wounded in action against the communist North Vietnamese forces, Ripley completed his tour.

However, Ripley would be called back into action in 1971.

Helping advise the 3rd Vietnamese Marine Battalion, he was stationed at Dong Ha Combat Base, which was in close proximity to the Demilitarized Zone.

As a result, the base was constantly under threat by North Vietnam.

This threat compounded when American forces began to evacuate from the region. The communists acted accordingly, launching the Easter Offensive. The 1972 spring attack represented their first large-scale attack into South Vietnam since the 1968 Tet Offensive.

As part of the communist offensive, they headed for the Dong Ha Bridge, a vital gateway into Dong Ha. With allied forces in Dong Ha and South Vietnam in trouble, Ripley took decisive action.

Ripley climbed beneath the Dong Ha Bridge with a small stockpile of TNT.

For three hours under enemy fire, Ripley carefully worked to plant five boxes of TNT and plastic explosives along the bridge’s five different channels.

master's degree as well," said Brooke Lawson, Wythe County Public Schools kindergarten teacher.

By investing in practicing educators already serving in classrooms, Radford University is helping school divisions retain teachers, strengthen instructional quality and move more educators toward full professional licensure. Rob Graham, superintendent of Pulaski County Public Schools, noted that the partnership with the Provisional to Professional Pathway helped the division begin the year fully staffed for the first time in many years.

The scholarship was so successful that the university is working to make the offering a permanent part of its budget, to be voted on in March by the Board of Visitors.

Radford University

Despite exposing himself to the enemy, Ripley finished his daring work and returned to shore.

The fuses detonated, and the bridge blew up!

Ripley’s decisive action at Dong Ha helped stall the North Vietnamese advance and bought time for allied forces in South Vietnam to regroup ahead of the surprise invasion. The eventual fall of South Vietnam deflated U.S. military morale, but it did not deter Ripley from serving his country.

He served in various capacities as a Marine Corps officer, most notably leading trainings in the Arctic.

Ripley never forgot his ties to rural Virginia.

At one time, Ripley commanded the Navy-Marine Corps ROTC at Virginia Military Institute in Lexington, Virginia.

After his retirement in 1992, Ripley served as president of Southern Virginia College in Buena Vista, Virginia, and later as president of Hargrave Military Academy in Chatham, Virginia.

In 2008, Ripley passed away.

I am honored to share Colonel Ripley’s remarkable service in the Halls of Congress. His courageous actions at Dong Ha will stand the test of time and deserve to be a fixture for future generations aspiring to serve.

While his inspiring journey of service has drawn countless accolades, I am no less excited to move forward a bill that will award a legendary Ninth District servicemember the most prestigious of honors.

Ameriprise Financial Radford earns Ameriprise Client Experience Award



PHOTO COURTESY OF AMERIPRISE FINANCIAL

Ameriprise Financial Radford’s team includes (from left) Joash Smith, Keith Weltens, Mark Tapp and Heather Lineberry.

RADFORD – Keith Weltens, Mark Tapp and Josh Smith at Ameriprise Financial in Radford have earned the Ameriprise Client Experience Award for 2025.

Weltens, Tapp and Smith were honored with the award “because of their ability to consistently deliver personalized, goal-based advice and exceptional client service,” according to a statement by Ameriprise. “Award recipients earned an overall client satisfaction rating equal to or greater than 4.9 out of 5.0 and maintained stellar business results. The award represents an elite group of Ameriprise

advisors recognized as leaders for their commitment to making a difference in the lives of their clients.”

“As financial advisors, Keith, Mark and Josh provide financial advice that is anchored in a solid understanding of client needs and expectations and is delivered in one-on-one relationships with their clients,” the statement continues.

For more information, please contact Heather Lineberry at 540-639-5153 or visit the Ameriprise office at 202 Third Ave., Radford.

Staff report

Roanoke man arrested after shots fired in Christiansburg

Heather Bell

Editor

CHRISTIANSBURG – A Roanoke man has been charged with multiple offenses following an altercation at the Christiansburg Recreation Center Sunday evening.

Da-shon Lynell Loudon, 26, of Roanoke, was arrested along I-81 at mile marker 143N in Roanoke after fleeing the scene in Christiansburg.

“At approximately 5:33 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 22, 2026, Christiansburg Police were dispatched to 1600 N. Franklin St. for reports of shots fired,” according to a joint statement from the Town of Christiansburg and the Christiansburg Police Department. “Upon arrival, investigators determined an argument and subsequent physical altercation took place in the parking lot of the Christiansburg Recreation Center, involving multiple individuals. Witnesses say the disagreement

originated during a basketball game but was quickly addressed. However, the argument later continued outside.”

“During the altercation, an individual retrieved a gun from his vehicle and fired two shots into the air, then drove away from the scene,” the statement continued.

Loudon is being held at the Montgomery County Regional Jail and charged with two counts of reckless handling of a firearm, one count of brandishing a firearm, two counts of discharging a firearm in a public place, four counts of child endangerment, and two counts of discharging a firearm in the Town of Christiansburg, per town ordinance.

The joint statement said no one was injured and there is no current danger to the public. The investigation is ongoing. The Christiansburg Police Department thanked the Montgomery County Sheriff’s Office and Virginia State Police for their assistance.

OBITUARIES

Bane, Elizabeth Ann

Elizabeth Ann Bane, 88 of Pulaski and formerly of Parrott, passed away peacefully on Saturday, Feb. 21, 2026, surrounded by her family and Pastor Kenneth Alley.

Born July 18, 1937, Elizabeth was simply “Liz”, or “Sister Bane” to everyone who knew her. Her passions were her family, singing and playing the piano. She was a member of the Parrott Church of God for 67 years and made the community of Parrott, Virginia her home. She played the piano at church until illness took her legs. Even then, she enjoyed practicing playing music at home with her prosthetic legs when she could, singing hymns and praise songs to her Lord Jesus Christ. Elizabeth was a committed Christian.



Even on the day of her death, she made sure her tithes were paid and affairs with the Lord were in order. Her love for God and her family guided her through life’s ups and downs, and she never lost hope of her eternal home.

Liz was preceded in death by her parents, Jessie and Freda Bishop; son, Ronald; brother, Granville Bishop; and sisters, Jeanette Bishop and Irene Bishop.

Elizabeth leaves behind her husband and love of her life, Lewis Bane; sons Douglas (Lisa) Bane and Dennis (Cissy) Bane; nine grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; brothers, Richard Bishop, Gene Bishop and Clyde Bishop; sister Pearlle Taylor; and numerous nephews and nieces, friends and neighbors, who were all special to her.

The family will receive friends 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 25, 2026, at the Parrott Church of God. Funeral services will begin at 1 p.m. with Pastors Kenneth Alley and C. Edward Dalton officiating. Burial will follow in Highland Memory Gardens in Dublin.

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

Hughes, Bonnie

Bonnie Hughes, 73, of Pulaski, passed away peacefully on Feb. 19, 2026.

Born on March 31, 1952, Bonnie was a longtime resident of Pulaski and a cherished member of her community.

Bonnie was preceded in death by her beloved

husband, Jimmy Ray Hughes, in 2019. Their bond was a testament to love and devotion.

She will be remembered by her family and friends as a loving, dedicated, and wonderfully stubborn woman whose strength and determination shaped the lives of those around her.

Her memory will live on in the hearts of all who knew and loved her.

In lieu of flowers, please share in her love of animals by making a donation to your local animal shelter.

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

Ramer, Frank A.

Frank A. Ramer, 93, of Radford, passed away peacefully Feb. 16, 2026, surrounded by his children, grandchildren and their spouses. Frank was born July 9, 1932, to the late David W and Gertrude Azalia (Zell) Ramer. He was preceded in death by Judy, his loving wife of 56 years.

Frank worked at the Quantico Marine Corp Base for many years as a heavy equipment supervisor. He built his own home and enjoyed woodworking, making furniture and playing golf. He loved nature and enjoyed watching all types of wildlife. Frank was an avid Washington Nationals baseball fan and played with church leagues for many years. He and his wife lived in



their RV and traveled the US for a number of years after retiring. Frank was an active and faithful church member his entire life and often served as a deacon. His sense of humor and calm nature will be missed.

Frank is survived by his four daughters, Faith Ramer of Fredericksburg; Catherine Stribling (Danny) of Radford; Beverly Kowalik (Jim) of

Alton, New Hampshire; and Tracy Beigie (Jeff) of Cherry Hill, New Jersey. He is also survived by six grandchildren, Courtney Buck (James), D. Evan Stribling (Elizabeth), Cassandra Mitchell (Corey), Matthew Kowalik (Nicole), Carl Beigie (Emerlyn) and Henry Beigie; and his great grandchildren, Tyler, Jacob, and Makayla Buck, Elise and Allie Stribling, Madelyn and Bo Mitchell and Maxwell and Nora Kowalik.

A graveside service with full military honors was held Monday, Feb. 23, 2026, at the Sunset Memorial Gardens Chapel in Fredericksburg.

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

Beta Sigma Phi supports Women’s Resource Center



PHOTO COURTESY OF BETA SIGMA PHI

Members of Christiansburg’s Alpha Mu Master Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi Sorority present monetary donations and many items needed to the Women’s Resource Center of the New River Valley recently. Pictured are Chapter members (left to right) Sue Warden; Eli Brown, Office Manager at the Center; Sharon Legg and Kristen Talley.

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Radford News Journal

The Rotary Club of Blacksburg presents Citizen of the Year Award

The Rotary Club of Blacksburg has presented the 2025 Citizen of the Year Award to Martha Ann Stallings.

Stallings has been an influential fixture in the community for many years. After three decades of service as an educator, she remains very active in volunteer and leadership positions in a variety of areas. As Chair of the Vocational Service committee, Tommy Loflin, said, “There were many good nominations for the award but it was obvious who deserved the award this year.”

Loflin said as the committee looked over the nominations, they looked for citizens with Rotarian values and good personal character, high standards in business practices and ethics, and people who make a real impact in the community. Over the years, they have tried to select people who represented the careers and professions that are found throughout the community.

Loflin then introduced fellow Rotarian Tommy McDearis, Senior Pastor of the Church on Main, who also serves on the Vocational Service Committee. McDearis invited Stallings to sit with him at the front of the meeting and talk about some projects that are near and dear to her heart.

Stallings began with the work she has done for 10 years with the Church on Main Street’s “Learning in Love” tutoring program for the Adams Marke Mobile Park Community. The program provides students at Prices Fork Elementary with tutoring, youth outreach events, and English language classes. The principal at the school has told them that test scores are up and discipline problems are down with the students. The program has been so successful that they have added tutoring for high school students.

“It’s a good program supported by the church community,” said Stallings.

In addition, the church has an Angel Program with an Angel Tree set up during the holidays for those students. Because they know them personally, it is easy to do good shopping to fulfill the wishes of the students.

Another passion for Stallings is the Annual Race for ACCE (Access Community College Education) fundraiser for New River Community College (NRCC). She serves on the NRCC Education Foundation Board. She chairs the fundraiser that benefits high school graduates in Montgomery County Public Schools and provides funds for them to attend college tuition free. This event started six years ago and has raised \$120,000 to support students. The program requires these students to

Salt

from page 1

berger said in a statement. “Examples of these strategic tactics include training of staff, calibration of spreaders and an overall plan for route selection and application rates.”

Road salt is primarily used for de-icing roads during winter to improve safety as it lowers the freezing point of water, preventing ice formation on road surfaces.

But on the flipside, excessive use can lead to environmental issues including soil and water contamination.

Alternatives to road salt include sand and beet juice. The questions remain whether they are as effective as rock salt and road brine.

Snodgrass admits we’re at a tipping point. “If something isn’t done, it could spell an ecological disaster for not only fish and wildlife but for Virginians as well,” he said.

Typically, many localities try to deal with the road use thanks to stormwater control, but even this has done a lot of preventive management.

In a recent study by Snodgrass and his research team, “Environmental Science and Technology,” they discovered that routing runoff contaminated with road salts to stormwater ponds resulted in plumes of highly contaminated groundwater moving from ponds and wildlife.

Current stormwater management practices, according to the study, don’t completely stop chemicals from reaching streams, and the group has seen chemical contamination year-round.

“People may end up drinking watering containing sodium levels that exceed those recommended for people on low sodium diets,” Snodgrass said. “Municipal water supplies may also become contaminated and require treatment to lower sodium and chloride levels before distribution.”

He also states that we’re basically putting animals in a desert, because they can’t regulate the salt in their bodies and get enough water to balance it out.

“If salt levels continue to increase in freshwater areas, many fish and amphibians will stop breeding and eventually die because their bodies cannot adjust to the changes,” he said.

This is where the new study being ordered by the General Assembly bill will examine rock salt’s replacement.

Options being tried around the country include the beet juice mixture, calcium, magnesium chloride and even



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ROTARY CLUB

Larry Hincker presents the 2025 Rotary Club Citizen of the Year Award to Martha Ann Stallings.

perform 80 hours of community service and teaches them to give back to their community.

In addition to these favorite volunteer activities, Stallings serves on the Montgomery County Christmas Store (MCCS) Food Team and volunteers during the Store Week in December. She was involved in one of the largest food drives for MCCS to help fight food insecurity. She is a member of the Imagination Library (Dolly Parton) Board that provides free books for young children. For the past 10 years, Stallings has chaired the Dialogue on Race Education Issue Group. She is a volunteer with To Our House (TOH) that helps to provide overnight shelter for adults experiencing homelessness. She has helped organize church food drives for the Interfaith Food Pantry and the Christmas Store Food Department.

In addition to these volunteer achievements, Stallings is involved in many other local activities and has received numerous awards and recognition for her many volunteer interests.

The Rotary Club of Blacksburg was truly honored to present the 2025 Citizen of the Year Award to Stallings, an outstanding member of the community. In addition to having her name added to the Rotary Club’s Citizen of the Year Plaque, she was presented with a \$1000 donation to the charity of her choice. McDearis said she “truly cares about the well-being of others and we are blessed to have her as our neighbor.”

To learn more about the Rotary Club of Blacksburg, please go to the website at www.blacksburgrotary.org. We would love to have you as a guest at lunch on a Thursday to learn what we are all about.

Terri Lynn Howard
Rotary Club of Blacksburg

cat litter.

Experts have said they are tradeoffs with each of those.

The most unusual one might be beet juice, which is mixed 20-80 with salt brine to create a de-icer for roads working in temperatures as low as minus-25 Fahrenheit. The mixture is a sugary, sticky product. The positive includes the fact it can stay on the road longer, up to four days, and is less corrosive than salt, reducing damage to vehicles and concrete.

The beet product is labeled as GeorMelt.

Magnesium chloride is a high-performance de-icer with the ability to melt ice at lower temperatures and with less environmental impact than traditional rock salt. VDOT often uses this product as high-performance additive during inclement weather.

MC works effectively at temperatures as low as minus-15 Fahrenheit. As a hygroscopic salt, it absorbs moisture from the air to create a brine immediately, thus accelerating the melting process. It is also much gentler on concrete and contains much lower amounts of chloride, making it less toxic to surrounding vegetation and safer for “pet paws.”

MC typically leaves little or no residue, though over applications can sometimes leave a “greasy film.”

Another possibility is “pickle juice,” an eco-friendly and cost effective in comparison to rock salt. Typically, this is often a mixture courtesy of waste byproduct via food production, and costing as little as seven cents per gallon.

The future use of pickle juice and some of the alternatives will mean investment in much-different equipment, such as tanker trucks with spray nozzles versus the current standard spreaders.

Most residents have heard the use of the word “brine,” which typically a mixture of water and salt, sprayed onto surfaces before winter storms to prevent ice from bonding to the pavement. It is used proactively 24 to 48 hours before a storm to prevent, rather than melt, heavy ice buildups.

While brine improves safety by reducing ice, it has shown to cause rust on vehicles and if it rains before the snowstorm, the brine might wash away.

VDOT has until Nov.15, 2026, to submit its findings to the chairs of the House and Senate Committees on Transportation.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NRCC

Seated (L to R): Darren Troxler (GMU Executive Director of Academic Alliances), Dr. Robert Brandon (NRCC President). Standing (L to R: Dr. Peter Ander (NRCC Vice President for Instruction and Student Services), Lori Lavery (NRCC Dean of Business and Technologies), Jonathon Surratt (NRCC Assistant Professor of Computer Science/Information Technology), Josh Taylor (NRCC Assistant Professor of Information Technology)

NRCC signs agreement with George Mason to expand cybersecurity pathways

New River Community College (NRCC) recently signed an articulation agreement with George Mason University (GMU) at NRCC's Christiansburg location, creating a new 2+2 transfer pathway for students pursuing careers in cybersecurity.

Through the agreement, students who complete NRCC's information technology associate of applied science degree with a cybersecurity specialization will be able to transfer seamlessly into George Mason University's bachelor of applied science in cyber security program. The partnership allows students to continue their education without leaving the New River Valley, as the GMU program is offered in both in-person and fully online formats. Eligible students may also qualify for tuition-free attendance through the Mason Virginia Promise Grant (MVP), a last-dollar award that closes any remaining financial gaps for standard undergraduate tuition after all other gift aid has been applied, further increasing access and affordability.

"This agreement reflects our belief that students should never have to choose between career preparation and the opportunity to transfer," said NRCC President Robert Brandon. "Under this partnership, students can

use our program as a launch point into employment, into a bachelor's degree, or into both, and it reflects our ongoing commitment to open as many doors as possible for our students."

NRCC is the first community college in its region of the Commonwealth to establish this specific cybersecurity pathway with George Mason University, although similar pathways exist at other Virginia community colleges.

As part of the partnership, George Mason University will provide one-on-one advising to NRCC students to support a smooth transition. To be eligible, students must successfully complete the NRCC Information Technology AAS degree with grades of C or better in all required coursework.

The agreement underscores NRCC's ongoing efforts to expand transfer opportunities and strengthen partnerships that meet regional workforce needs, particularly in high-demand, technology-driven fields like cybersecurity.

For more information about NRCC's Information Technology programs, visit www.nr.edu/it.

NRCC

Warm Hearth Foundation Scholarship recipients reach graduation milestones



PHOTO COURTESY OF WARM HEARTH VILLAGE

Warm Hearth Village scholarship recipients

Each year, the Warm Hearth Foundation awards roughly \$30,000 in scholarships to employees of Warm Hearth Village to support their educational and professional goals.

The organization's commitment to fostering the growth and development of its employees has increased steadily over the last five years recognizing their role in the wellbeing of residents and the organization's success.

We are celebrating five recipients who have successfully completed their programs. Annie Dickerson, a Showalter Center employee, successfully completed coursework and licensure to become a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN). Kroontje Health Care Center celebrates Amy Greer who is also now an LPN as well as Tabitha Greenhalgh, Michele Harvey and Amber Sult who have each earned their nursing degree

and become Registered Nurses (RN).

"Knowing that our efforts and the support of our generous donors have helped these dedicated employees achieve their educational goals is exciting," said Tandra Dixon, V.P. of Philanthropy & Strategic Growth at Warm Hearth. "We are fortunate to have them on our team, and we couldn't be more proud of them."

The entire Warm Hearth Village community applauds the achievements of these healthcare professionals and looks forward to their continued contributions as they care for residents and collaborate with colleagues. We also extend our sincere gratitude to the generous donors whose support makes these accomplishments possible.

Warm Hearth Village

Huppert

from page 4

a retailer; they would appreciate your business.

Another indoor location is the Christiansburg Recreation Center. They have a track that goes around the four basketball courts. Do it eight times and you have a mile. Restrooms and water are available, with plenty of walking company. The track always has walkers going an assortment of speeds. I do feel bad when I get lapped by someone or some group. At least I don't get stopped for speeding.

One thing about spring, it's 40 degrees one day and 70 the next. When it hits the fifties, it is a great time to get outside for a short time. We in Christiansburg are fortunate

to have some wonderful trails right in our backyard. The Huckleberry Trail and Park offer great scenery and it's a comfortable area to walk in.

Depot Park, which is between Kroger and the aquatic center, offers a flat track with a playground for the kids. Five trips around for a mile. It is not far from Pizza Inn, so if you get hungry walking, pizza is close by.

We cannot forget the Christiansburg Aquatic Center. What a great way to get some exercise. The aquatic center is one of the best in the state, and the cost is easy to handle for everyone.

Go into spring in great shape while you are getting some fresh air.

Tech president touts economic impact of university



COURTESY PHOTO

Marty Gordon

NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Virginia Tech generated \$4.7 billion in statewide economic impact in fiscal year 2025, supporting 35,519 full-time equivalent jobs and producing \$316.9 million in tax revenue. The numbers are from a new report commissioned by the Virginia Tech Foundation.

President Tim Sands highlighted the findings during his annual State of the University Address last week, describing Virginia Tech's expanding role in strengthening communities across the commonwealth.

"This analysis demonstrates that our investments in education, research, and outreach translate into jobs, tax revenue, innovation, and long-term prosperity for Virginia," he said. "We are delivering on our responsibility to generate impact and to ensure that our work strengthens the communities we call home."

Sands is the 16th president of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University and a professor in the College of Engineering. This was his 10th annual "State of the University" address.

Of the \$4.7 billion statewide total, the university directly contributes \$1.6 billion in economic impact through salaries, capital projects, and research. An additional \$3.1 billion represents indirect and induced economic activity generated from university-related spending that circulated through businesses and households across Virginia.

He said the \$4.7 billion statewide total, the university directly contributes \$1.6 billion in economic impact through salaries, capital projects, and research. An additional \$3.1 billion represents indirect and induced economic activity generated from university-related spending that circulated through businesses and households across Virginia.

Just in the New River Valley, approximately \$3.4 billion was reported in statewide economic impact and 25,629 full-time equivalent jobs. This includes more than 9,100 direct employees and more than 16,500 additional full-time equivalent jobs supported by university-related economic activity, reflecting the university's broad role as an employer, research hub, and driver of regional commerce.

President Sands pointed to the continued emphasis on previously established priorities, a significant focus on athletics going forward and the

formulating of plans to meet possible challenges ahead. His state of university was given during an address at the Virginia Tech Center for the Arts.

"Today, the state of our university is engaged, energized, optimistic, and prepared to move ahead in 2026," Sands said. "Our focus is on serving our students and our communities, delivering meaningful and measurable impact and value, and engaging new partners and building public trust in the value of our approach to higher education."

He said two priorities, Virginia Tech Global Distinction and Virginia Tech Advantage, will continue to be a focus for the university.

Sands cited several examples of the university's global impact, including the university's collaboration with the U.S. Navy to address the organisms that grow on the hulls of ships and decrease speed and efficiency; a venture with Sinclair Broadcasting Group that involves training drone pilots for news-gathering operations; and several health care-related projects led by Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine and the Fralin Biomedical Research Institute at VTC in Roanoke.

He also discussed plans to expand Virginia Tech's medical school by as many as 400 students. A new 100,000 sq. ft facility will help the school expand the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine in Roanoke at the corner of South Jefferson Street and Old Woods Avenue across the street from the current facility. The new student enrollment would double the school's current numbers.

An estimated \$9 million has been set aside with the total cost being \$183.7 million. The university is seeking funding from the Virginia General Assembly to pay for the bulk of the construction.

The new building could open by 2028, and Sands said the expansion will help the Commonwealth solve a growing shortage of physicians.

This part of the announcement comes three weeks after the medical school received the largest scholarship endowment in the history of the school, a \$20 million gift from Virginia Tech alumni Jim and Augustine Smith.

During his State of the University speech, Sands also addressed tuition affordability, saying the Virginia Tech Advantage program helped to drive down tuition by approximately \$2,000.

Montgomery County sheriff to retire in March

Marty Gordon

NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Montgomery County Sheriff Hank Partin has announced plans to retire at the end of March.

Members of the county board of supervisors were told of the plans during their meeting this past week.

Partin has served as sheriff since 2016 and with the department since 1993, serving as a captain over the criminal warrants and civil process and courthouse security divisions. He is also a veteran with over 22 years of service in the National Guard and Army Reserves, retiring as a sergeant major.

In 2022, then-Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin appointed him to the Virginia Parole Board.

Montgomery County will have to hold a special election to complete Partin's term, which stretches through 2027. The person would serve for one more year and then have to run again in November of 2027.

The special election would take place



PHOTO COURTESY OF MONTGOMERY CO.

Sheriff Hank Partin

in November, so an interim sheriff will be appointed for the eight months leading up to it.

So far, no one has announced their intentions to seek the post. Partin is expected to name an acting sheriff in the near future.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF AN APPLICATION BY APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY
FOR APPROVAL OF A PROPOSED UPDATE TO THE RATES, TERMS, AND CONDITIONS OF A
UNIVERSAL SERVICE FEE TO BE PAID BY RETAIL CUSTOMERS TO FUND THE PIPP
CASE NO. PUR-2025-00222

On December 18, 2025, Appalachian Power Company (“APCo” or “Company”) filed an application (“Application”) with the State Corporation Commission (“Commission”) requesting approval of a proposed update to the rates, terms, and conditions of a universal service fee (“USF”) to be paid by retail customers to fund the Percentage of Income Payment Program (“PIPP”). Specifically, APCo proposes to decrease the USF to fund the PIPP from \$0.00132 per kilowatt hour (“kWh”) to \$0.00101 per kWh effective July 1, 2026. APCo also asks the Commission to approve the Company’s proposed true-up mechanism for the PIPP and accept APCo’s legal interpretation of the \$25 million statutory cap on the PIPP. On January 6, 2026, APCo made a supplemental filing, providing the proposed tariff sheets demonstrating the changes that the Company proposes as supplemental attachments to the Application.

Established as part of the 2020 Virginia Clean Economy Act, the PIPP was designed to limit the electric utility payments of persons or households participating in certain, specified public assistance programs, based upon a percentage of their income, for customers of Virginia Electric and Power Company and APCo. The General Assembly further addressed the PIPP, its funding, and implementation, as part of the 2021 legislative session with the passage of Chapter 308 of the 2021 Virginia Acts of Assembly, Special Session I.

The Commission issued an Order on July 29, 2021, directing, among other things, that APCo: (a) begin collecting the USF from statutorily designated customers to fund the estimated start-up costs that the Department of Social Services (“DSS”) needed to establish the PIPP; (b) calculate a USF on a per kWh basis to recover \$0.6 million on an annual basis; (c) file tariffs reflecting such fee with the Commission; (d) begin making payments to the state treasury to enable DSS to undertake the actions necessary to establish the PIPP; and (e) defer its PIPP administrative costs and seek their recovery at a later date.

APCo states that, in its most recently adjudicated PIPP update filing, the Commission granted a USF with an annual jurisdictional revenue requirement of \$19,234,907. Among other things, the Commission ordered the Company to address the legality and the specific details of its proposal to collect any costs incurred above the \$25 million cap in the subsequent program year.

In its current Application, the Company proposes a USF designed to recover a revenue requirement of \$13.3 million from its Virginia jurisdictional customers. The Company also proposes a true-up mechanism for the USF. As for the PIPP’s \$25 million statutory annual cost cap, APCo asserts that DSS holds the responsibility to limit program costs to \$25 million per year, and to inform APCo and participating PIPP customers when the limit is reached and the benefits are exhausted.

Further details are set forth in the Company’s Application and supporting exhibits, and interested persons are encouraged to review these documents.

The Commission entered an Order for Notice and Comment that, among other things, directed the Company to provide notice to the public and provided interested persons an opportunity to comment on the Company’s Application, to file a notice of participation and to request a hearing in this matter.

Pursuant to 5 VAC 5-20-140, *Filing and service*, of the Commission’s Rules of Practice and Procedure (“Rules of Practice”), 5 VAC 5-20-10 *et seq.*, the Commission has directed that service on parties and the Staff of the Commission (“Staff”) in this matter

shall be accomplished by electronic means. Please refer to the Commission’s Order for Notice and Comment for further instructions concerning Confidential or Extraordinarily Sensitive Information.

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

On or before April 9, 2026, any interested person may file comments on the Application by following the instructions on the Commission’s website: scc.virginia.gov/case-information/submit-public-comments. Those unable, as a practical matter, to submit comments electronically may file such comments with the Clerk of the State Corporation Commission, c/o Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2118. All comments shall refer to Case No. PUR-2025-00222.

On or before April 9, 2026, any person or entity wishing to participate as a respondent in this proceeding may do so by filing a notice of participation with the Clerk of the Commission at scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling. Those unable, as a practical matter, to file a notice of participation electronically may file such notice by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the Commission at the address listed above. Such notice of participation shall include the email addresses of such parties or their counsel. The respondent shall serve a copy of the notice of participation electronically on counsel to the Company, Staff, and all other respondents. Pursuant to 5 VAC 5-20-80 B, *Participation as a respondent*, of the 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-2025-00222.

On or before April 9, 2026, any interested person may file a written request for a hearing with the Clerk of the Commission at scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling. Those unable, as a practical matter, to file a request for hearing electronically may file such request by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the Commission at the address listed above. The interested person shall serve a copy of the hearing request electronically on counsel to the Company, Staff, and all respondents. A request for a hearing shall include: (i) a precise statement of the filing party’s interest in the proceeding; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent then known; (iii) a statement of the legal basis for such action; and (iv) a precise statement why a hearing should be conducted in this matter. All requests for a hearing shall refer to Case No. PUR-2025-00222.

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 Comment, 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 Application, the public versions of other documents filed in this case, the Commission’s Rules of Practice, and the Commission’s Order for Notice and Comment may be viewed at: scc.virginia.gov/case-information.

APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY

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.”

Unity Christian Church, 400 Tyler Ave., Radford, VA, 540-639-3696, Email: office@unitychristianchurchradford.org, Facebook: [unitychristianchurch](https://www.facebook.com/unitychristianchurch), YouTube: [unitychristianchurchradfordVA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1m1m1m1m1m1m1m1m1m1m1m), Instagram: [@unity_christian2012](https://www.instagram.com/@unity_christian2012), Worship at 11:00 am, Children’s Worship 11:00 am. Sunday School 9:45 for Adult Bible Discussions seasonally. We are a church that reaches up to worship God, reaches in to grow in discipleship, and reaches out to serve our community. ALL are welcome to participate in our ministries together.

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. Worship service each Sunday at 10 AM, Sunday School 9 AM. We are a community of God’s people where we gather for worship, learning and service. Visitors

Radford

WORSHIP DIRECTORY

WHAT WE NEED

Read Judges 17:1 through 21:25

Cities are racked by chaos. Innocents are cruelly victimized. People of all stripes—leaders and followers alike—lie and steal, thinking nothing of it. Rage, destruction, and brutality are the stuff of daily headlines. When did things get so bad?

This world is no stranger to dark times, including the period of the Israelite judges. Today’s reading is full of horrific violence and inhumanity. After the miracles that brought the Israelites into the Promised Land, how did everything fall apart? Was it because they had no ruler to keep them in line? After all, it was repeatedly emphasized that “Israel had no king.” But there’s more to it than that.

In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as he saw fit (Judges 21:25).

Our world is what it is because fit. God’s every action demonstrates that He desires peace, compassion, and community—things sorely missing from this world. Until we have the mind of Christ, politics will never offer hope. Our world doesn’t need a king. It needs God.

Prayer Suggestion: Father, remake my will from the inside out, so that I will desire what You desire.

Quicklook: Judges 21:15–25

If your church is not listed and if you are interested, call Wendi Craig at 276-340-2445 or email at advertise@mainstreetnewspapers.com

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. 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@stmcl.us; Website www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org

PRESBYTERIAN

Join us at **The Presbyterian Church of Radford (PC-USA)**, 201 4th Street, at the corner of 4th and Randolph Streets - Phone 540-639-2585. Sunday School at 10 am and Worship at 11 am. Find us on Facebook: The Presbyterian Church of Radford and our Website: www.pcradford.org. The mission of our church is to exhibit our belief in God’s love to all of our brothers and sisters. Rev. Doctor Morgan Whitfield, Jr., Pastor.



Marketplace



ourvalley.org



For Sale

Legals - City of Salem

Legals - Botetourt County

Legals - Montgomery County

Legals - Montgomery County

Legals - Montgomery County

Legals - Town of Vinton

For Sale
Whirlpool refrigerator
20 cubic feet
side by side doors
33 inx33in, 5ft 6",
\$300.00
540-797-2646

Help Wanted

Field Engineer - Drives & Control Systems sought by TMEIC CORPORATION AMERICAS in Roanoke, VA,
to provide Technical Advisory Services (TAS) to coord installation & commissioning activities for assigned projects while meeting project schedules & performance criteria. Telecommuting is allowed. Availability to travel, domestically & internationally, more than 75% of the time, sometimes w/ limited notice. Min Req: Bach's deg in Electrical Engg, Mechanical Engg, Mechatronics Engg, Comp Engg or related field or foreign equiv deg. 24 months of exp w/ process & automation controls. 2 yrs' field engg exp or 2 yrs' exp working in the metals, material handling, paper, or general industries. Proficiency in MS Excel, Word & Access. Send resume to recruitment@tmeic.com. Ref# 8028.

Project Manager sought by TMEIC CORPORATION AMERICAS in Roanoke, VA
to lead & manages matrix team to complete execution of projects w/ typical project cycles exceeding 1 yr. Availability to travel domestically & internationally 25% of the time, sometimes w/ limited notice. Min Req: Bach's deg in Electrical, Mechanical, or Comp Engg, or a rtd field, or foreign equiv deg. 24 months of exp specifying, dsngn, or commissioning electrical & automation systems for the renewable energy, oil & gas, mining, power generation, metals, material handling, or paper industries. Proficiency in MS Project & MS Word, Excel, Outlook, & PowerPoint. Send resume to recruitment@tmeic.com. Ref#8010.

US Logistics, is looking for reliable, professional Class A CDL drivers to join our growing team.
Join a company that values your time at home and rewards your hard work.

Pay & Bonuses:
-\$0.70 CPM
-\$20.00 S/O
\$1500.00 retention bonus

Position details:
-regional routes
-home during the week and weekends
-no touch freight
-no NY runs

Benefits:
-cell phone reimbursement
-medical benefits

Contact:
Wendy Parsons
302-985-3949
Chris Sheridan
856-931-5500
Email:
Wparsons
@uslogisticsnj.com

Technical Services Field Engineer sought by TMEIC CORPORATION AMERICAS in Roanoke, VA
to provide warranty engg, incl tech'l & parts support, for clients & field engineers. Telecommuting is allowed. Availability to travel, domestically & internationally, approximately 15%, occasionally w/ limited notice. Min Req: Bach's Deg Electrical, Mechanical, or a rtd engg field, or foreign equiv deg. 36 months of Field engg, customer support, dvlprnt, or testing exp of photovoltaic inverter in the field or lab environment. Proficiency in MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access, Outlook. Knowl of power conversion & distribution transformers. Send resume to recruitment@tmeic.com. Ref #8029.

ABC NOTICE
J&D CULINARY GROUP LLC., trading as J'S DELI, 7 BROAD STREET, 3 WEST MAIN STREET, SALEM, VA 24153

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Retail Restaurant or Caterer Application – Restaurant, Wine, Beer, Mixed Beverages, Consumes On and Off Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

Jason Maxwell, 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.

Notice is hereby given to all interested persons that the City of Salem Planning Commission.
at its regular meeting on March 11, 2026, at 6:30 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 WILLIAMHART LLC, property owner, for a special exception permit to allow a two-family dwelling on the property located at 740 North Mill Road (Tax Map #48 – 2 – 7).

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

Legals - Botetourt County

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 182 SUNSET AVENUE, TROUTVILLE, VA 24175

In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated May 31, 2022, in the original principal amount of \$227,272.00 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Botetourt County, Virginia as Instrument No. 220002086. The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for Botetourt County, Main Street, Fincastle, VA 24090, or any such temporary alternative Circuit Court location designated by the Judges of the Circuit Court, on April 3, 2026, at 10:45 AM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: ALL THAT CERTAIN LOT, PIECE, OR PARCEL OF LAND LYING AND BEING IN THE COUNTY OF BOTETOURT, VIRGINIA AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT CORNER NO. 1, BEING A FENCE CORNER POST AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THE GALEN R. LAYMAN BARNYARD LOT; THENCE WITH THE BOUNDARY LINES OF THE REMAINING PROPERTY OF SAID GALEN R. LAYMAN AND FOLLOWING THE EXISTING FENCE LINE, S. 85° 19' 19". W. 122.36 FT. TO A FENCE CORNER POST AT CORNER NO. 2; THENCE N. 4° 30' E. 36 FT. TO A STEEL PIN AT CORNER NO. 3; THENCE N. 77° 04' W. 164 FEET TO A FENCE CORNER POST AT CORNER NO. 4; THENCE LEAVING SAID LAYMAN PROPERTY AND WITH THE EASTERLY BOUNDARY LINE OF THE

PROPERTY OF HADEN S. CRONK AND FOLLOWING THE EXISTING FENCED LINE, S. 30° 47' W. 169 FT. TO AN OLD IRON PIPE AT CORNER NO. 5 ON THE NORTH SIDE OF OLD FINCASTLE ROAD, BEING SECONDARY ROAD ROUTE 651; THENCE WITH THE NORTHERLY SIDE OF SAID ROAD, BEING 30 FT. WIDE, S. 58° 36' E. 151.22 FT. TO CORNER NO. 6; THENCE S. 88° 50' E. 129.59 FT. TO CORNER NO. 7; THENCE LEAVING SAID ROAD AND PASSING THROUGH THE CENTER OF A FENCE POST AT 2.88 FT. AND THENCE FOLLOWING THE EXISTING BOUNDARY LINE FENCE AND WITH THE WESTERLY BOUNDARY LINE OF THE REMAINING PROPERTY OF GALEN R. LAYMAN, N. 34° 25' E. 198.87 FT. TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING, AND CONTAINING 1.386 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, BEING AS SHOWN ON RECENT SURVEY BY T. P. PARKER & SON, ENGINEERS AND SURVEYORS, LTD., DATED SEPTEMBER 19, 1983, RECORDED IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF BOTETOURT, VIRGINIA IN DEED BOOK 288, PAGE 54, REFERENCE TO WHICH IS HERE AND NOW MADE FOR THE LOCATION OF IMPROVEMENTS ON SAID PROPERTY AND SLIGHT FENCE ENCROACHMENT ALONG THE EASTERLY LINE THEREOF. 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. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Virginia Pre-Sale Department of counsel for Equity Trustees, LLC at 301-961-6555, website: www.bwwsales.com. VA-381507-1.

Legals - Montgomery County

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL
The Town of Christiansburg Town Council will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, March 10, 2026, at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments concerning:

A. Rezoning request by LZM-BAM, LLC, Applicant and Property Owner, for an amendment to proffers on property located at 2886 Roanoke Street, identified as Tax Parcel 501 - ((1)) - 24A (Parcel ID 011123), consisting of approximately 0.968 acres. The property is zoned General Business District (B-3) with proffers, and the request is to amend the proffers accepted with the 2001 rezoning action. The property is designated as Business/Commercial on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.

B. Conditional Use Permit request by Rockstep Christiansburg LLC, Property Owner, to allow operation of a Carnival from March 26, 2026 through April 5, 2026 on the property located at 782 New River Road NW, Tax Parcel 435 - ((A)) - 41, Parcel ID 007741, zoned General Business District B-3. The property is designated as Business/Commercial on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.

A copy of the applications, the Town's Zoning Map, Zoning Ordinance, and Future Land Use Map may be viewed in the Planning Department Office, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073 during normal office hours of 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contact the Planning Department, by phone at (540) 382-6128, Ext. 1902 or by email at planning@christiansburg.org, with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN,
By the Board of Supervisors of the County of Montgomery, Virginia that the Board of Supervisors hereby schedules a public hearing for Monday, March 9, 2026 at 7:15 p.m. or as soon thereafter, at the Montgomery County Government Center, 755 Roanoke Street, Christiansburg, Virginia, in order to receive citizen comments on the proposed Ordinances Temporarily changing the A-3, E-3 and F-3 Precinct Polling Place from Squires Student Center located at 290 College Avenue, Blacksburg, Virginia, to McComas Hall located at 895 Washington St. SW, Blacksburg, Virginia, for the April 21, 2026 Special Election Only.
BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Angela M. Hill
County Administrator

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD AND PUBLIC HEARINGS: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) & HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP (HOME) ANNUAL ACTION PLAN

The Town of Blacksburg and the New River Valley HOME Consortium (NRVHC) invite public Comments to inform the development of the 2026-27 Annual Action Plan for Blacksburg's CDBG Program & NRVHC's HOME Program. The Annual Action Plan describes how the Town and NRVHC plan to use funding from the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) to support low-income affordable housing and community development programs from July 1, 2026 Through June 30, 2027.

A public hearing on the development of the Annual Action Plan will be held Wed, March 4, 2026 at 12:00 pm (virtual) and Wed, March 4, 2026 at 5:00 PM (in person)

A public hearing on the draft of the Annual Action Plan will be held Wed, May 14, 2026 at 12:00 pm (virtual) and Wed, May 14, 2026 at 5:00 PM (in person)

Materials related to this proposal and link for virtual meetings will be available to the public prior To the scheduled hearings at Blacksburg.gov/HUDreport

30-Day Public Comment Period on the development of the Annual Action Plan will begin February 26, 2026 and end on March 29, 2026 at 5:00 PM. 30-Day Public Comment Period on the draft Annual Action Plan will begin April 8, 2026 and end on May 8, 2026 at 5:00 PM.

Comments to regarding the Action Plan must be submitted in writing to jmmaher@blacksburg.gov or Town of Blacksburg, Housing and Community Connections, 300 S. Main Street, Blacksburg, VA 24060

Questions and requests for accessibility assistance or special arrangements may contact Jill Maher at 540-443-1615.

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG PLANNING COMMISSION

The Town of Christiansburg Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, March 16, 2026, at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073, pursuant to Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia, as amended. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments concerning:

A. Rezoning request by Madison Apartment Homes LLC and Madison Apartment Homes II LLC, Property Owner and Applicant, for an amendment to proffers on Tax Parcel 434 - ((A)) - 8A (Parcel ID 110779) and 434 - ((A)) - 8B (Parcel ID 310087), consisting of approximately 7.950 acres, located at the intersection of Peppers Ferry Road, New Village Drive, and Bozeman Trail. The property is zoned Multi-Family Residential (R-3) with proffers, and the request is to amend the proffers accepted with the 2020 rezoning action. The property is designated as Residential on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan. Town Hall will be open and available to receive public comment in-person at the time of this Public Hearing. A copy of the application, the Town's Zoning Map, Zoning Ordinance, and Future Land Use Map may be viewed in the Planning Department Office, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073, during normal office hours of 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contact the Planning Department, by phone at (540) 382-6128, Ext. 1902 or by email at planning@christiansburg.org, with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations.

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE 945 Brooklyn Ave., Christiansburg, Virginia 24073 Tax Map No. 080-9 32 / Parcel ID No. 150446

COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY, VIRGINIA

In execution of a credit line deed of trust dated June 30, 2022 (the "Deed of Trust"), recorded in the Office of the Circuit Court of Montgomery County, Virginia, as Instrument No. 022005240, the undersigned substitute Trustees, any or all of whom may act, will offer for sale at or near 945 Brooklyn Ave., Christiansburg, Virginia 24073, on March 6, 2026, at 12 o'clock p.m., property located at or near 945 Brooklyn Ave., Christiansburg, Virginia 24073, which property is more particularly described as follows: All that certain lot or parcel of land situate, lying and being in the Shawsville Magisterial District of Montgomery County, Virginia, and more particularly described as follows: Being all of Lot Number Thirty-Two (32), The Preserve At Walnut Creek, Phase IV, as shown and described on a plat of survey entitled, "PLAT OF MAJOR SUBDIVISION OF LOTS 1-13, 29-35 & ESMT. DEDICATION THE PRESERVE AT WALNUT CREEK," prepared by Gay and Neel, Inc., a copy of which is of record in the Circuit Court Clerk's Office of Montgomery County, Virginia at Instrument Number 2008011650 (the "PLAT"). This sale is subject to all liens, easements, restrictions, conditions, and reservations of record affecting the title to the property hereinabove described, to the extent any of them have priority over the lien of the Deed of Trust. TERMS AND CONDITIONS: 1.Registration: Bids will only be accepted from registered bidders. Your driver's license and a cashier's check or cash in the amount of 10% of the bidder's projected high bid

will be required to register. 2.Deposit: The successful bidders will be required to sign a Memorandum of Sale immediately following the falling of the hammer, and a cashier's check or cash in the amount of 10% of the contract sale price, as described below, will be delivered to the Substitute Trustee. The deposits will be applied to the purchase price at closing. The deposit is non-refundable unless Seller is unable to convey marketable title. Closings are to take place within 30 days of sale. Time is of the essence. 3.Deed: The property will be conveyed by Special Warranty Deed. 4. Announcement: Announcements made on the day of sale, take precedence over all prior communications, both verbal and written, concerning the sale or the property. 5.Buyer's Premium: There will be a 5% Buyer's Premium in effect on the day of sale. The Buyer's Premium is added to the high bid amount, to determine the contract sale price. 6."As-Is, "Where-Is": The property is being sold "AS-IS", "WHERE-IS". Potential Buyers must perform such independent investigations with respect to the property as they deem necessary to verify information provided by the Auction Company or the Seller. 7. Advertisements: All information provided by Auction Company and the Seller is deemed reliable but is not warranted. The information contained in the advertisement brochure and any advertisements by Auction Company are subject to verification by all parties relying on it. No liability for its accuracy, error or omission is assumed by the Auction Company or the Seller. 8.Representations: Auction Company and its representatives represent the foreclosing party. 9.Bid Increments: Auctioneer reserves the right to set bid increments. 10.Lines on Photographs: The lines drawn on the photographs in the marketing materials are not exact. Refer to the survey for the actual property lines. Bryson J. Hunter, Peter M. Pearl, and Timothy J. Lovett, Substitute Trustees **For Information Contact:** Timothy J. Lovett, Esquire tlovett@spilmanlaw.com Spilman Thomas & Battle, PLLC, P.O. Box 90 Roanoke, Virginia 24002 540-512-1800 Telephone

ABC NOTICE
VINTON CAFÉ LLC, trading as VINTON CAFÉ KITCHEN & BAKERY, 126 E. Lee Ave, Vinton Roanoke County, Va 24179-2518.

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

Kerianne Campbell
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.



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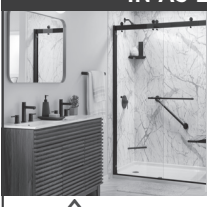
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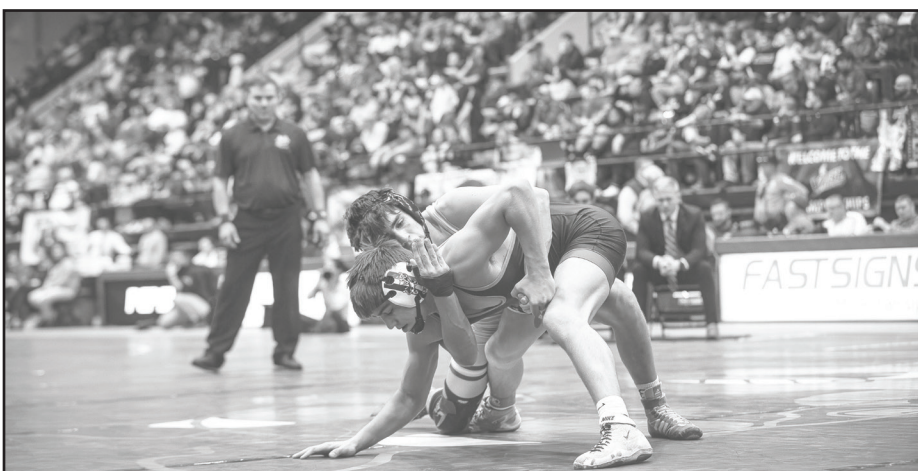
Christiansburg, Radford wrestlers win state wrestling championship



Cole Martin (left) of Radford throws opponent Carson Duckworth of Strasburg to the mat for a pin 16 seconds into the first period to become the state champ at 190 pounds of Class 2. Martin was a state champ in 2025 also.



Brady Hand (back) of Christiansburg works his Staunton River opponent Owen Borden right before he pins him for the win 52 seconds into the first period. Hand is now a four-time state champ. This year Hand is the champ at Class 3 weight 150.



In the finals match, Reza Massjouni (back) works his Brentsville District opponent Leland Cline into a position before a takedown. Massjouni of Christiansburg won 10-5 in his finals match to become the state champ at weight class 144 (Class 3).



PHOTOS BY KYMN DAVIDSON-HAMLEY

Jake Robie (right) of Christiansburg won over Culpeper County opponent Riley Vinyard at the end of the first period with a technical fall 17-1 at the weight of 190 pounds, Class 3. Robie was a state champ in 2025 also.

Indoor track: Blacksburg Region 4D champions, Auburn 1C region runner ups

Marty Gordon

NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Blacksburg High School continues to roll in regional track.

This past week, both the boys and girls teams took the top spots. The girls finished with 232 points to James Wood’s 69 points. The boys had it a little closer with 97 points to second place Jefferson Forest with 80.

Tomy Douglas and Mirabella Garza started things out with 1-2 finish in the girls 55-meter dash. The two would then finish in the same spots in the 300 meters.

The Lady Bruins had 2-4 in the 1,000 meters as Reilly Thomas led the group with Tess Dickhans third and Penny Griggs fourth.

Ruthie Delapp was the top 3,200 runner. Garza continued her outstanding

performance in the 55-meter hurdles with teammate Jose Marshall in second. Mallory Farmer won the pole vault event with a 9-0 mark.

Garza continued her special day with a win in the triple jump. Kensington Jones won the shot put with a throw of 35 feet and six inches.

Maddox Jones gave the Blacksburg boys a win in the 300-meter dash. His teammate, Rivers Matthews took second in the 1,600 and then turned around for a first in the 3,200. Jones also won the long jump with a leap of 21 feet and 6.75 inches.

Auburn High School’s indoor track teams took the Region 1C championships this past week. The boys’ squad tallied 214 points to outdistance second place Eastern Montgomery at 104 and Parry McCluer at third with 72 points.

The Auburn boys dominated from

start to finish with Ethan Brunk claiming first in both the long jump and 55-meter run. Gideon Mirear won the high jump with a mark 6-6, while Kobi Bonds had the top thrown in the shotput at 62 feet and 11.75 inches.

Isayah Hamann brought home gold in the 55-hurdles, and Patrick Surface did the same in the 300. James King finished first in the 500, and Blacke Brown crossed the line to lead the 3,200.

Trevin Mower continued Auburn’s top spots on the pole vault podium with a 10-6 mark.

On the other side of the track, the girls tallied 201 points with George Wythe second at 171 points. Eastern Montgomery finished in fourth place.

Allyson Harris took first in the shotput with a throw of 35 feet and 6.5 inches. Jillian Tucker won the high jump at 4-8. Charlee Songer finished first in

the 3,200.

In Region 2C, Radford had five regional champions. Izzy Lytton won the long jump. Raelin Adams took the shotput. Essiq Williams won three events in regional action in the triple jump, 300 meters and 55-meter dash.

Lytton also qualified for this week’s state competition in the triple jump and Lily Hyatt in the 3,200. Team-wise, both of Radford’s squads finished in fifth place.

In Region 3D, Christiansburg’s Jenna Saia claimed the pole vault on the girls’ side of the fence. Mariah Reed also won the 1,600 meters. Abingdon was the team champion with 141 points as Christiansburg finished second with 93.

Abingdon claimed the boys’ regional title with 102 team scores with Lord Botetourt second. Christiansburg finished fourth.

Local swimmers shine in state championships



Blacksburg's Cameron Roy won the Class 4, 200-yard freestyle event with a time of 1:39.36 in the competition held in Richmond.



Blacksburg senior Soren Anderson is the VHSL Class 4 one-meter diving champion.



The Blacksburg boys finished second in the team standings at the VHSL Class 4 swim and dive championships, finishing 11 points behind Lafayette High School (234-245).



The Radford High School Girls Swim and Dive team are the 2026 state runners-up. The boys and girls teams 2026 State Swim and Dive results included: Boys 200 Medley Relay: 10th (Emrys King, Anderson Waff, Ben Marinaro, Joseph Epley); Girls 200 Medley Relay: 10th (Emma Yates, Allie Mayer, Peyton Mowry, Lily Francis); 200 Free: Peyton Mowry – 10th; 200 IM: Tatti Bernier 4th; 50 Free: Ben Marinaro -2nd and Jill Grim – 5th; 1m Diving- Joseph Epley -3rd, Jill Grim – 1st and Kennedy Fender -2nd; 100 Fly: Tatti Bernier -4th; 100 Free: Ben Marinaro – 3rd; 500 Free: Emma Yates – 13th; Girls 200 Free Relay: Jill Grim, Allie Mayer, Peyton Mowry and Tatti Bernier- 2nd; and Girls 400 Free Relay: Jill Grim, Allie Mayer, Peyton Mowry, Tatti Bernier- 2nd.



PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING

The Blacksburg girls team placed second at the VSHL Class 4 swim and dive championships, finishing 14 points behind Monacan High School (312-326).

Sports notes: Whitfield claims gold in conference meet

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

The Hokies wrapped up ACC Championships with strong performances across the board, highlighted by a gold medal from Brendan Whitfield in the 100 free (40.93).

At the conclusion of the meet, the Virginia Tech men finished fifth overall, while the women's team placed ninth overall. The Hokies finished the week with six school records, three medals and 30 program top 10 times. These contributions came from veterans and newcomers alike, showing the program's continued upward trajectory in one of the nation's most competitive conferences.

Leading the way was Brendan Whitfield, who captured the gold in the men's 100 freestyle with a record-breaking time of 40.93. This victory marked Whitfield's first career ACC title, a milestone moment in his Hokie career. The win followed his silver medal in the 50 free earlier in the week, logging an 18.62-second swim.

Eli Martin also had a standout week for the Hokies, bringing home silver with a 51.36 in the 100-breast. His swim in the 200-breast earned him fourth place, hitting the wall at 1:51.49.

On the women's side, the 400-freestyle

relay made history with a school record time of 3:12.45, adding to the Hokies' record-setting momentum throughout the championship.

In the 2026 race for the Commonwealth Cup, the Hokie men beat out the Cavaliers 715.5 to 577.5, adding a point to the Hokies' score. The women fell 409.5 to 1410.5 to the 2026 ACC Champions, giving up the point. This brings the Commonwealth Clash to 7.5-3.5 in favor of UVA.

Hokies regular season champs

For the first time since 2016-2017, the No. 6 Virginia Tech wrestling team snatched outright possession of the Atlantic Coast Conference regular season title on Friday night by defeating Duke, 26-17, to finish an undefeated conference competition slate. The Hokies won six of ten matches on Senior Night in Cassell in the dual season finale to give Tony Robie and company their ninth conference title since taking the helm in Blacksburg.

Tech will look to defend its ACC tournament title in two weeks in Cassell Coliseum for the 2026 ACC Championships on March 8. This will be the first time Tech has hosted since 2019.

Jeff King new Bears assistant GM

Former Pulaski County and Virginia Tech football player Jeff King has been

named assistant general manager for the Chicago Bears.

King played in 58 games in Blacksburg, starting his final two seasons for the Hokies at tight end before embarking on an eight-year NFL career. From 2006-13, King played for the Carolina Panthers and Arizona Cardinals, appearing in 108 games and starting 84. He caught 156 career passes and 12 touchdowns. He then joined Chicago Bears as a scouting intern, pro scout and assistant director of pro scouting. In 2024, he was named senior director of player personnel in 2024.

Hokies honored by ACC

The Atlantic Coast Conference is proud to celebrate and recognize over 60 exceptional student-athletes, including 32 selected as 2026 Weaver-James-Corrigan-Swofford Postgraduate Scholarship recipients, three of whom will also receive the prestigious Jim & Pat Thacker Scholarship Award.

Two Hokies, Kylie Aldridge and Lauren Hargrove were named Weaver-James-Corrigan-Swofford Postgraduate Scholarship recipients, and the duo was also on the 2026 ACC Excellence Award List.

Aldridge, an athlete on the Hokies' softball team is a career .303 hitter who

had her best season in 2025 where she hit .368 and registered career highs in nearly all statistical categories including hits, home runs, RBI and total bases. She was named to the 2025 ACC All-Second Team and was also a 2025 NFCA Mid-Atlantic Third Team member. So far in 2026, Aldridge and her Hokies are ranked 20th ahead of a trip to Athens, Georgia for the Georgia Classic this weekend.,

Hargrove, Tech women's soccer's starting goalkeeper for each of the last three seasons, finished her career in the gall with 58 starts in 59 appearances. In the 2025 season she started all 18 matches for Tech and became the fourth goalkeeper in program history to reach 5,000 career minutes. She was named ACC Defensive Player of the Week twice in her career.

High Point Big South champs

High Point defeated Gardner-Webb on Saturday, 83-53, to win the outright women's basketball regular-season title. The Panthers will be the No. 1 seed in the upcoming Air Force Reserve Big South Women's Basketball Championship. Elsewhere, USC Upstate knocked off Longwood in double-overtime, while Radford won at Charleston Southern to move into second-place in the standings.

Radford girls advance in regional playoffs



Radford's Bryanna Perry gets behind the defense on a fast break in Friday's game. Perry finished with 10 points and four steals in the win.



Angel Thompson drives through the contact as the Bobcats' beat Patrick County. Thompson tallied 21 points.



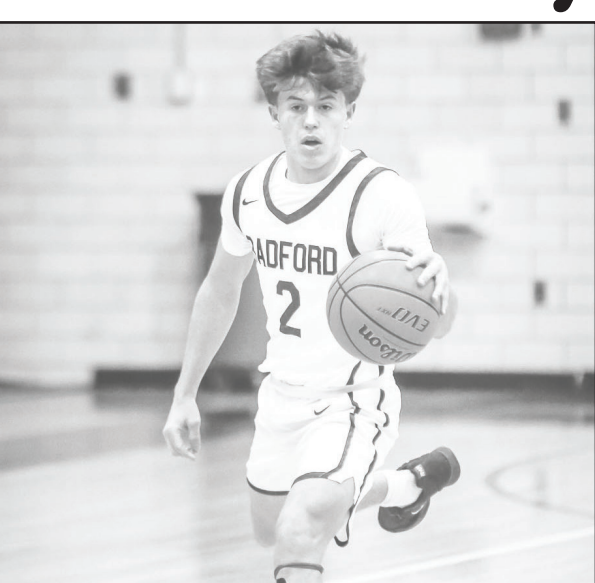
Kearson Carter glides to the basket for a layup as Radford wins 62-53 for two of her 24 points. She also finished with seven rebounds.



Amara Thompson nails a three-pointer in the second quarter as the Bobcats' advance to the next round of Region 2C playoffs. Thompson added 10 points and nine rebounds in the win.

PHOTOS BY BRYANT ALTIZER

Radford boys eliminated from regions



Senior Austin Nicely dribbles over half court to start the Bobcats' offense. Radford fell to Floyd 62-55 in the opening round of the 2C playoffs.



Senior Ashton Taylor gets free for an easy bucket in Radford's loss. The Bobcats finish the season with a 14-7 overall record.



Radford's Pace Prioleau scores on a layup late in the game.

PHOTOS BY BRYANT ALTIZER

River Valley Juniors win national championship



PHOTO COURTESY OF RVJ

The Travel Club River Valley Juniors (RVJ) volleyball team out of Christiansburg brought home the Capital Hill Volleyball Classic national championship. The 18 and under club team took the gold bracket title. Pictured are: (from left) Front row- Jasmyn Charlton -Christiansburg High School, Peyton Evans - Giles High School, Mattox Adams - Radford High School and Haley Melton -Pulaski High School; Second row- Ela Shepherd -Christiansburg High School, Jaylyn Holt - Radford High School, Ava Pitzer - James Monroe High School, Ellie Eddleton - Christiansburg High School and Coach Caleb Adams.

Claytor Lake State Park completes Campground Birch renovations

Reservations now open

Claytor Lake State Park has announced the completion of major renovations to Campground Birch, offering visitors an upgraded camping experience just in time for spring.

The campground now features 50/30/20-amp electrical hookups and water hookups at each site, providing added convenience for campers with RVs up to 30 feet.

Campground Birch will reopen on April 3, but guests can make reservations now to secure their spot for the upcoming season. These enhancements are part of the park's ongoing commitment to improving visitor amenities and ensuring a comfortable, memorable outdoor experience.

In addition to Campground Birch,

Claytor Lake State Park



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Brush Mountain Park includes an extensive trail system.

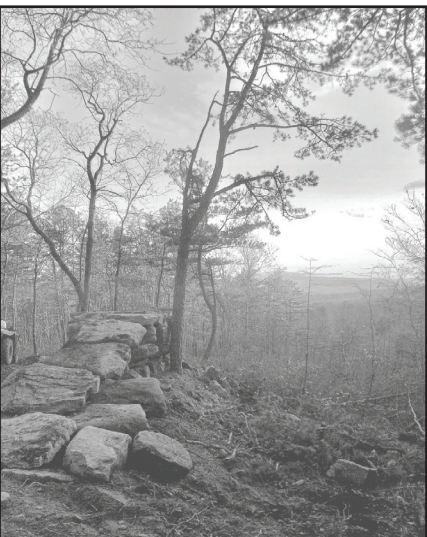
BLACKSBURG - The New River Land Trust (NRLT) has announced the transfer of ownership of the 239-acre Brush Mountain Property 2, also known as Stone-cutters Hollow, to the Town of Blacksburg.

The land is the second of three properties that make up Brush Mountain Park to be transferred to the town.

“This project was first and foremost a conservation project and combines two important aspects of conservation: permanent legal protection of the land and public access so that people can experience first-hand the peace, beauty and inspiration that comes with conserved open naturally spaces,” NRLT announced. “At the same time as the ownership transfer, the Virginia Outdoors Foundation placed a permanent Open Space Easement on the property, ensuring that the land will remain protected forever. VOF was the primary funder for the Brush Mountain Park land acquisition, awarding a \$1.2 million grant in 2018 through its Forest CORE Fund.”

“Together, the ownership transfer and conservation easement guarantee that the property will remain open to the public as a forest park with trails,” according to NRLT. “This outcome was made possible through generous community donations of time and resources, along with the hard work of the Poverty Creek Trails Coalition and trail construction contractor Eastern Trail Company.”

NRLT intends to continue



PHOTOS COURTESY OF NRLT

Brush Mountain Park offers impressive views.

to pursue opportunities to “add acreage to the park, expand and enhance the trail network, and support ongoing trail maintenance needs.”

“The Land Trust extends its sincere thanks to the Town of Blacksburg for its foresight in supporting the project from the beginning and its willingness to assume long-term ownership and management responsibilities,” NRLT’s statement reads. “We also extend our thanks to the many stakeholders who contributed to the project’s success, recognizing that large conservation efforts like Brush Mountain Park are only possible through a coordinated team effort.”

Staff report



PHOTO BY JON FLEMING

The Leisure and Therapy Pool at the Christiansburg Aquatics Center remains closed as construction work continues on the interior of the building as its HVAC is replaced.

Work continues on HVAC system at CAC

Marty Gordon
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Renovations at the Christiansburg Aquatic Center are continuing and could stretch into late spring.

According to Christina Bolt, spokesperson for the town, the extensive HVAC renovation project is a crucial investment in the future of the Christiansburg Aquatic Center (CAC).

The preparatory work has begun, and contractors will be completing physical construction of the project in two phases. The timeline of work is subject to change dependent on weather and supply chain availability.

Both the Leisure and Therapy pools were closed this past fall. During the renovation time, the fitness room and multi-purpose room will remain open during public hours. The work will slide over to the competition pool during the month of May. The other pools could be back open by April.

Director of Aquatics Terry Caldwell said the project ensures the facility remains an important hub for therapy and recreation while maintaining an ACC Level Competition Pool for many

years to come.

Specific design upgrades include widening the ductwork to drastically improve airflow and installing four powerful new dehumidification units, a key function the previous system lacked.

“While less apparent near the competition pool, this project is vital for mitigating interior building damage, which was caused by chronically high humidity, condensation, and lingering chloramines (the irritating chlorine odor), particularly around the therapy and leisure pools and present in the competition pool area with high bather loads,” Caldwell said.

The upgrade will significantly increase the overall lifespan of the building, decrease potential health hazards, and achieve substantial long-term savings by reducing both energy consumption and maintenance repair costs.

Caldwell said ultimately, the work allows for superior regulation of air quality and temperature to comfortably support large swim meets and ensure optimal daily use of all the facility’s pools.

The project is estimated to be completed in May.

‘Standing Tall and Proud’ at NRCC



PHOTO BY LARRY HYPES

At the Black History Month presentation at New River Community College, regional artist and educator Ellen Elmes (l); Don Elmes, artist; Susie Green community activist; and Alethea “AJ” Robinson, member of the Virginia Community College Board, addressed ways that New River Valley citizens can help to highlight African American contributions in the local area.

Larry Hypes
Contributing writer

DUBLIN – “Standing Tall and Proud” was the featured theme of the 2026 Black History Month celebration at New River Community College.

An invitation to not only recognize the contributions of African Americans in the New River Valley but to showcase those achievements was a key element of the event held in Edwards Hall on Feb. 22.

Althea “AJ” Robinson, Tazewell County Director of Communications and Tourism and member of the Virginia Community College Board, chaired a panel discussion with noted regional artist Ellen Elmes and community activist Susie Green featuring their previous work to highlight noted community members in Southwest Virginia and southern West Virginia.

Chair Elaine Powell-Hawkins, in her 26th year of leading the event at NRCC, opened the program after a welcome from college president Dr. Robert Brandon, saying “Change begins with us” in a review of the reasons for the gathering, followed by Radford Church of God in Christ pastor Marc Watson.

“The intention is to uplift, educate and inspire” was announced prior to the discussion.

Elmes, a talented educator with half a century of work including decades as an art instructor at Southwest Virginia Community College, reviewed her activities not only in Tazewell County, where she has coordinated murals with community participation in several area locations but also the ongoing progress in Bluefield, West Virginia in conjunction with the “Monuments Across Appalachia Virginia” funded by the Mellon Foundation and coordinated by Virginia Tech. Along her husband, Don Elmes, she has been instrumental in a variety of projects around the area.

A video presentation highlighting

the giant mural adjacent to the Tazewell County Court House directed by Elmes with assistance from local citizens and generous support from the Board of Supervisors. Citizens suggested individuals to be represented. Each is deceased and a variety of related objects including informative coloring books and illustrated bookmarks are available. Fourth grade students studying Virginia history are provided these items with assistance from visittazewellcounty.org and coordinated by Robinson.

Bluefield resident Green, an embodiment of pride and persistence, outlined her successful efforts to upgrade the Maple Hill Cemetery, where the African American section received a major upgrade including the previously inaccessible area where her grandparents were buried.

Green also led the way to recognize Katherine Goble-Johnson, who taught at Tazewell County High School, the “colored” county high school, later known as Graham Jr. High. Goble-Johnson later gained fame for her work in the space program as one of the finest “human computers” who was a key to the success of the many flights over the decades in the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

She pointed out that working with local leaders both in the community and in government is essential and sometimes a lengthy process which requires energy, determination and creative thinking.

“Not all people are going to participate or care about the projects,” said Green, “but you must keep going to succeed in your efforts.”

A large crowd attended the program and enjoyed inspirational music provided by the “Drumbeat” group of Randolph Avenue United Methodist Church, music by William Penn and Drew Dowdy, the New River Valley Glorylanders along with refreshments and souvenir items for the public.

Calling all LEGO architects

LEGO Home Building Contest returns to Home Expo



PHOTO COURTESY OF NRVHBA

Last year’s entries in the LEGO Home Building Contest included several impressive structures, including this one.

CHRISTIANSBURG - The New River Valley Home Builders Association (NRVHBA) has announced the opening of registration for the LEGO Home Building Contest, sponsored by Carter Bank, taking place at the 2026 NRV Home Expo Mar. 21 and 22 at the Christiansburg Recreation Center.

Kids and adults ages four and up from the New River Valley are invited to submit entries of their best custom home creation. The contest encourages creativity and design thinking at an early age, reflecting the NRVHBA’s commitment to inspiring future builders and fostering an interest in the construction trades, essential to developing our region’s skilled workforce. Legos are a lifelong creative outlet, and we are excited to once again accept entries from our adult Lego creators.

Best in Show winners will be chosen from among three age groups for the kid’s entries, and one from the 18 and up entries. The homes will be judged at the 2026 NRV Home Expo by NRVHBA

member experts, receiving scores based on Overall Design, the Best Use of LEGO Elements, and the “Cool Factor” (overall creativity and originality). An award will also be given for the People’s Choice for both the younger and adult groups. Attendees at the NRV Home Expo will be invited to vote for their favorite entry. The top score in each age group will receive a LEGO gift card and the top three scores in each age group will receive a custom-made medal. Winners will be announced at the NRV Home Expo on Sunday, Mar. 22.

We invite you to start brainstorming and dig through the pile of Legos you’ve been storing just for this occasion! There is no entry fee. Entry spots are limited and available on a first-come, first-serve basis. For contest details, submission guidelines, and to sign up, please visit www.nrvhomeexpo.com.

NRVHBA

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.

Michelangelo is a high-energy pup looking for a home that can keep up with his rowdy pace! He loves kids and is looking for a forever playmate (or two!) who will keep his toys tossing and his tail wagging all day long! Come meet Michelangelo today at the Animal Care and Adoption Center!





Meet Dodger, a fun-loving pup who's ready for his next adventure! He's down to be the ultimate BFF to kids of all ages! He's looking for an active home where he can burn off his zoomies and soak up the sunshine. If your life is full of movement and your backyard is ready for action, Dodger is your perfect match!

Making magic happen: The YMCA Boutique brings affordable prom style to teens

BLACKSBURG - The YMCA at Virginia Tech, in partnership with the Blacksburg Junior Women's Club and the members of Chi Delta Alpha, Virginia Tech's first service sorority, is proud to announce the return of the Cinderella & Prince Charming Boutique. This collaborative community initiative ensures that all teens can enjoy a magical and affordable prom experience. The boutique provides high school students with access to new and gently used formal wear, shoes, and accessories for both young men and young women. With prom and other formal events often creating financial barriers for families, the boutique is designed to help ensure that every student who wants to attend has the opportunity to do so. "Prom is a meaningful milestone for many teens, and we believe cost should never be the reason someone misses out," said Laureen Blakemore, Director of Community Engagement. "Our boutique offers a wide range of styles and sizes, and volunteers are available to help each guest find just the right outfit." The Blacksburg Junior Women's Club shares the YMCA's commitment to accessibility and youth empowerment. "This project reflects our mission perfectly," said a representative. "It's a joy to help students who might otherwise struggle with the expense of formalwear." The YMCA also recognizes Chi Delta Alpha as a key partner in delivering this event. Members assist in organizing, welcoming participants, providing styling support, and ensuring the boutique runs smoothly. Their ongoing service commitment continues to enhance the experience for local teens. **Location:** The Y Center, Emily Stewart Event Room, 1000 N. Main St., Blacksburg. No appointment required. **Event Dates:** Fri., Feb. 27 - 3-6 p.m.; Sat., Feb. 28 - 10 a.m.- 2:30 p.m.; Fri., Mar. 27 - 3-6 p.m.; Sat., Mar. 28 - 10 a.m.- 2:30 p.m.; Fri., April 11 - 3-6 p.m.; and Sat., April 11 - 10 a.m.- 2:30 p.m. The Cinderella & Prince Charming Boutique promises a warm, supportive environment, a variety of clothing options, and a commitment to ensuring that every teen leaves prepared for their special night. High school students shopping on a budget are invited to attend the boutique. Let us help make your prom dreams come true!

YMCA at Virginia Tech

Gun threat locks down NRCC campus, public schools

Heather Bell
Editor

DUBLIN - A phone call indicating a possible shooter was on the campus of New River Community College's main campus Friday led to a lockdown of the campus, as well as Pulaski County Public Schools. According to information released by NRCC, on Friday, Feb. 20, "NRCC received a phone call indicated that a possible shooter was on campus in Godbey Hall." "NRCC immediately contacted local law enforcement, who arrived within minutes," the statement reads. "NRCC went on lockdown while law enforcement investigated and cleared campus. The lockdown was lifted at 10:14 a.m. No threat was found. Law enforcement will continue to investigate the phone call. The college remained closed for the remainder of the day. Pulaski County Public Schools also went into lockdown on Friday. PCPS Superintendent Rob Graham made a statement following the lockdown. "I would like to commend all students, staff, parents and community members for the absolutely professional way the incident at NRCC... was handled by all," he announced. "I am grateful for this caring community...providing proving us the grace and patience we needed to keep our students and staff safe while the investigation was taking place." In the Friday, Feb. 20 statement, NRCC thanked "all the local first responders who assisted on campus today. Thank you to our NRCC faculty, staff, and students for remaining calm and cooperating with law enforcement during this time."

No hate crime found in Christiansburg incident

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Allegations of a hate crime directed at a Virginia Tech professor have been ruled unfounded. Dr. Onwubiko Agozino, a professor of sociology who lives in Christiansburg, informed the police about a Feb. 10 incident in which a group of white juveniles stopped in front of his house and shoveled snow and ice out of their truck bed. In addition, his police report showed the juveniles were playing loud rap music with profane language. Agozino, who was born in Nigeria, describes himself as a "scholar-activist who values inclusive excellence and diversity with critical attention focused on people of African descent and other marginalized groups around the world." The Christiansburg Police Department handled the incident and released the following statement: "There have been incorrect reports that this may have been a targeted incident toward a specific residence or person based on racial bias. The Christiansburg Police Department does not tolerate discrimination, hate speech or racial profiling within the Town of Christiansburg. Our investigation has found no evidence of criminal intent or racial bias." "After several interviews, including a third-party eyewitness, and a detailed investigation, detectives found that a group of juveniles were attending an organized function at a home in the area," the town explained. "Before departure, two juveniles attempted to clear frozen snow and ice out of the bed of a truck, but were unable to completely remove, due to the slope of the vehicle. Upon departure, the juveniles stopped at a flat spot on the street, where a juvenile pushed out the remaining frozen snow and ice." Agozino unsuccessfully ran for election to the Virginia House of Delegates to represent District 42 against Del. Jason Ballard in 2025.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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