

News Messenger

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Wednesday, March 10, 2021

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Virginia Tech Board of Visitors to consider 2021-22 tuition and fees at March 22 meeting



The Virginia Tech Board of Visitors will meet on Monday, March 22, at 1:15 p.m. in Latham Ballroom at The Inn at Virginia Tech, 901 Prices Fork Road, Blacksburg, to consider tuition and mandatory fees for the 2021-22 academic year.

Virginia Tech's tuition and fees strategy is intended to support the university's strategic plan within the context of the various budget implications of the state's general assembly actions and other major initiatives that impact university costs in the upcoming year.

Over the past several years, the board has sought to balance the affordability of a Virginia Tech education with targeted investment that will position the university as a global leader in teaching, research, and innovation. With a heightened focus on student affordability amidst the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the university has leveraged incremental state funding

with cost containment strategies, administrative efficiencies, and the reallocation of existing resources to support these high-priority needs.

As a result of these continued efforts, the board was able to freeze tuition increases for a second straight year for in-state undergraduates in 2020-21. The board also held tuition increases to 2.9 percent in each of the prior three years, all while making a sustained commitment to critical initiatives that will advance Virginia Tech's mission as a leading global land-grant institution.

On March 22, the board will consider a combination of cost containment and revenue enhancement strategies that will address the increasing costs of personnel, fringe benefits, fixed costs, continued investment in academic programs including faculty, and the enhancement of high-demand student support services.

To further advance affordability, the university will continue working to expand private philanthropy in support of the university and increase student financial aid programs, namely the university's Funds for the Future program, which offsets the cost of tuition and fee increases on returning students with family incomes up to \$100,000.

Final decisions are contingent upon the outcome of the general assembly session, when total mandated costs and the level of state support are fully understood by the university. The following ranges of tuition and Educational and General (E&G) fee adjustments for fall 2021 will be considered by the Board of Visitors:

Virginia resident undergraduates: Tuition and E&G fees may increase between 0 percent and 2.9 percent.

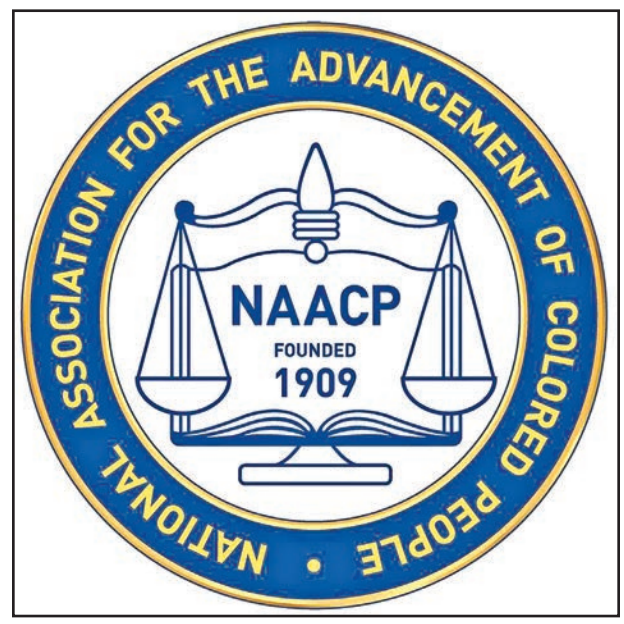
Non-resident undergraduates: Tuition and E&G fees may increase between 0 percent and 2.9 percent.

On-campus graduate students: Tuition and E&G fees may increase between 0 percent and 2.9 percent.

All students: Mandatory fees may increase up to \$90 to support mandated cost increases, including employee benefits and compensation as well as enhancements in student health and counseling services.

These recommendations are designed to continue Virginia Tech's trend of below-average increases in undergraduate tuition and fees, made possible through commonwealth investment and the university's focus on cost containment and strategic allocation of limited resources.

Local NAACP branch launches book drive



The Education Committee of the Montgomery County-Radford City-Floyd County branch of the NAACP has launched its book drive in support of early literacy development and invites families to promote reading at home, particularly among youth and children, by donating books.

The deadline for donating books is April 1 so that they can be ready for Children's Book Week, which is May 3-9. In celebration of Children's Book Week, donated books will be given to the Montgomery, Radford and Floyd school divisions to be shared with families of children ages 3-7. Because of the pandemic, donations will be limited to new books.

Books may be donated in two ways: (1) Select books from the Montgomery-Radford-Floyd NAACP Book Drive Wish List on Amazon.com. Go to <https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/genericitemPage/34CYFOCKR3XDS?type=wishlist&filter=unpurchased&sort=default&viewType=grid>. Click,

and the book(s) will be mailed directly to the NAACP Education Committee. Be sure to select Montgomery-Radford-Floyd Education Committee as the shipping address upon checking out. This will be listed as an option under "Other Addresses." This will ensure that the book(s) will be mailed directly to the Education Committee. (2) Mail a check for your donation to Montgomery-Radford-Floyd NAACP; P.O. Box 6044; Christiansburg VA 24068. Be sure to note that the donation is for the "Book Drive," and the Education Committee will make a book purchase on the donor's behalf. Credit cards or electronic donations cannot be accepted.

Book donors may also consider donating books in honor of or in memory of a loved one by clicking "This is a Gift" and noting the name of the honoree at checkout or by indicating the name of the honoree on the memo of the check. Again, orders should be placed and checks should be sent by the deadline of April 1.

NRV Public Health Task Force to host virtual forum Thursday

The New River Valley Public Health Task Force will host a virtual forum on the State of COVID-19 in the New River Valley Thursday, March 11, at 6 p.m.

All area residents are invited to view this event on the task force YouTube channel and to participate by submitting questions in advance.

The panel will include New River Health District Director

Noelle Bissell and Epidemiologist Jason Deese; Blacksburg Police Chief Anthony Wilson; New River Valley Regional Commission Executive Director Kevin Byrd; New River Valley Business Continuity Team Public Health Director Ashley Briggs; and Executive Director of New River Community Services James Pritchett

The discussion will cover an overview of the COVID-19 re-

sponse infrastructure developed in the community by the task force as well as a general update on COVID-19. Topics will also include vaccines and mental health.

Everyone is invited to submit questions for the panel in writing at <https://forms.montva.com/Forms/nrvtohall> and by voice-mail at 540-391-0792.

Visit NRVRoadtoWellness.com for more details.

RU professor, students look for solutions to one billion bird deaths each year

Radford University biology professor Karen Powers and dozens of her students have been busy researching an issue that is killing a billion birds each year in the United States.

"That's billion, with a B," Powers said.

It's the window collisions, the no.-2 cause of bird deaths in the county. To no one's surprise, cats come in first.

Because Radford University and most college campuses are populated with a number of large buildings

decorated with dozens of reflective windows, the problem is even more pronounced.

In 2020, Powers and her student researchers reported 72 individual birds that had died due to a collision. More than 140 birds have been recorded since the project began. Some might not see that number as significant, but Powers asks that people consider the problem on a larger scale.

"It has been published a lot recently that bird populations are down, in some places as much as a

75% decline in the number of individuals," she said.

The research project began back in 2018 after a guest speaker of the student chapter of The Wildlife Society brought up the topic and explained the research efforts of a neighboring institution to address the problem.

"He was telling us all about the research and how easy it was, especially for students," Powers said. "I thought it would be a neat project for our students to get involved in."

That spring, Powers was willing to take on three to four research students "just to get our feet wet a little bit," she said. Turns out, 18 signed up, and Powers couldn't say no. So, she turned the research project into a one-credit class.

The team began by identifying 15 campus buildings that were representative of the variety of buildings on campus. The subset included tall buildings of varying heights, and they chose buildings surrounded by a lot of vegetation and also those with very little. Some buildings had lots of window area, and some had a lot less.

"It's something that they could complete in between classes," Powers said. "It worked out really well



RU biology professor Karen Powers and student Trey Harris inspect a location on the Radford campus with high bird collision traffic.

Meet the latest member of Hokie Nation, a newly discovered millipede that lives at Virginia Tech



The Hokie twisted-claw millipede is one of scores of millipedes that Entomologist Paul Marek has discovered and named over the years.

Hearing the words "new species discovered" may conjure images of deep caves, uncharted rainforests, or hidden oases in the desert.

But the reality is that thousands of new species are discovered each year by enterprising scientists all over the world. Many of these new species do come from exotic locations, but more surprisingly, many come from just down the road, including the newest member of the Hokie Nation, the millipede *Nannaria hokie*.

The newest Hokie — which has about 60 more legs than the HokieBird — was discovered living under rocks by the Duck Pond behind the Grove on Virginia Tech's Blacksburg campus. Since then, the crit-

ter has been found at the area commonly referred to as stadium woods and in town in Blacksburg as well.

"It's not every day that we find new species, let alone on our campus, so we wanted to name the new species for the Virginia Tech community and to highlight the importance of conserving native habitat in the region," said Paul Marek, a systematics and taxonomy associate professor in Virginia Tech's Department of Entomology in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

Nannaria hokie (pronounced nan-aria hokie) is about 2 centimeters long and is a dark reddish millipede with

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See Millipede, page 5

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, March 10:

Radford Chamber Business over Breakfast - From 8-9 a.m. at the Radford Coffee Company, 333 W. Main St. The guest speaker is Kim Repass with the Radford Economic Development department. Pre-registration is requested at www.radfordchamber.com. Please bring a face mask to abide by current COVID-19 state regulations.

World War II: Experience and Legacy at Radford University - At 4 p.m., Sandy French of the RU School of Communication will present "Germany's Memory Problem: The Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe" as part of Radford University's series commemorating the end of the Second World War 75 years ago. The series is sponsored by the Radford University Department of History, the College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences, and McConnell Library. Everyone is welcome to attend via Zoom. More details are on the history department's website.

Virtual Book Talk - At the Christiansburg Library from 11 a.m. until noon. Discussed virtually this month is "Lady Clementine" by Marie Benedict.

Chair Yoga for everybody: Virtual - At the

Montgomery Floyd Regional Library/Blacksburg Library from 2 to 2:30 p.m. Join Rachel for 20 minutes of chair yoga. Optional props are a pillow (any size) and a strap (abathrobe tie works great). Call 540-552-8246 for details.

Thursday, March 11:

Guest Artist Ken Gonzales-Day - The Radford University Department of Art presents Ken Gonzales-Day, a guest artist and renowned photographer who will talk about his work and his career virtually at 7:30 p.m. Gonzales-Day is a Los Angeles based artist whose interdisciplinary practice considers the historical construction of race and the limits of representational systems ranging from lynching photographs to museum displays.

His widely exhibited Erased Lynching series (ongoing), along with the publication of *Lynching in the West: 1850-1935* (Duke University Press, 2006) transformed the understanding of racialized violence in the United States and raised awareness of the lynching of Latinos, Native Americans, Asians, and African-Americans in California. It also helped to ground anti-immigration and collective acts of violence within the larger discussion of racial formation, policing, and racial justice move-

ments. The link and passcode to attend this free virtual session are <https://radford.zoom.us/j/99436498509>. Passcode: 761860.

Friday, March 12:

American Red Cross Blood Drive - From 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. at the Montgomery Floyd Regional Library/Blacksburg Library. Sign up at www.redcrossblood.org.

Teen Game Night - At 5:30 p.m. at the Montgomery Floyd Regional Library/Blacksburg Library online. Join other teens online for a live, interactive game night online. Everyone will play jackbox party night games in a family friendly setting. Email shodges@mfrl.org for more information

Saturday, March 13:

New River Valley Cares 21st Annual Gala and Auction - This event will be held virtually. Proceeds will be used locally to protect children from abuse and neglect and to strengthen families through education, advocacy, and community partnerships. More information on NRV-Cares can be found at: www.nrvcares.org. The auction has unique and interesting items. Visit www.nrvcares.givesmart.com to register and to preview auction items. There is no charge to

register, and bidding starts at noon on March 11 with the online program on Mar. 13 at 7:30 p.m.

Monday, March 15:

Sock Bunnies - At 1 p.m. at the Christiansburg Library. Pick up a kit and learn how to make sock bunnies. Materials will be available for pickup starting Friday, March 12.

Tuesday, March 16:

Radford Reads with Monica Rodden - Join the Radford Public Library at 6:30 p.m. for a Zoom conversation with Monica Rodden, author of "Monsters among Us." Rodden will read from her book and talk about the publishing process. Email Elizabeth at elizabeth.sensabaugh@radfordva.gov for details. The library has a limited number of free copies of this book to give away while supplies last, so those interested in obtaining a copy should let the staff know.

Ongoing:

Head Start Enrolling - New River Community Action is now accepting applications for three- and four-year-olds for Head Start for the 2021-22 school year. Head Start offers a no-charge pre-school for income eligible families. Families may apply by calling the local Head Start center, applying online at newrivercommunityaction.org or by picking up an application form in person at the local center. Applications are accepted year-round. The respective phone numbers for the three local Head Start centers are Christiansburg 540-381-7559, Radford 540-731-4107 and Blacksburg 540-552-0490. Anyone applying in person should bring proof of the child's birth and proof of the family's income such as a 1040, a W-2, pay stubs, child support income, money received from grants, and unemployment income.

All month of March

Grab-and-Go Crafts - All month of March at the Meadowbrook Public Library. Call the library to request Take-and-Make Craft Kits

available for grab-and-go with curbside pickup. They are free but supplies are limited. Craft kits and the dates they are available are as follows: March 8-13 - St. Patrick Crafts; March 15-20- Shark Magnet Clips; March 22-28-Spring and Easter Crafts

StoryWalk - All month of March, at the Christiansburg Library. Exercise your brain and body as you read and walk the trail. The walk begins at the library at the College Street entrance of Downtown Park. This month's book is "The Big Red Barn."

Teen/Adult Craft-Felt Smartphone Cover - All month of March, at the Meadowbrook Public Library. While supplies last, request a teen/adult craft to receive supplies to make a felt phone cover.

Through March 14:

Youth softball, baseball registration - Montgomery County Parks and Recreation is accepting registrations for youth baseball and youth softball in the Auburn and Eastern Montgomery school strands. MCPR is offering tee ball (co-ed, ages 5-6), coach-pitch baseball (boys, ages 7-8), coach-pitch softball (girls, ages 7-8), Ripken Minors Baseball (boys, ages 9-10), Ripken Majors Baseball (boys, ages 11-12), Babe Ruth 10U Softball (girls, ages 9-10) and Babe Ruth 12U Softball (girls, ages 11-12).

To be eligible, players must live in or attend school in the Auburn or Eastern Montgomery school strands. Fees for tee ball and coach-pitch leagues are \$40. Fees for Cal Ripken Baseball and Babe Ruth Softball are \$50. Financial assistance is available. The registration deadline is Friday, March 12, at 5:00 p.m. for all in-person or phone registrations and Sunday, March 14, at 11:59 p.m. for online registrations. For more information or to register, visit www.montva.com/parks or phone 540-382-6975.

Through March 31:

Keep Virginia Beautiful Annual "Shiver" Fundraising Event - Keep Virginia Beautiful

(KVB) has opened registration for Shiver in Virginia, a reimagined version of its annual Shiver in the River festival that has been KVB's largest annual fundraiser since 2015. This year's initiative is designed to be COVID-safe and to give people more choice in how they can contribute to the beautification of their communities. Shiver in Virginia runs until March 31. Participants engage in activities including litter cleanups, recycling, trail cleaning, graffiti removal and other good deeds.

For a donation of \$20.21, participants will receive a free Virginia State Parks parking pass with no expiration date. Participants will also have access to the KVB Mission Challenge website where they can map the collective progress on the 2,021 mile path across the state. With each act reported, participants will be entered into drawings for additional prizes. Keep Virginia Beautiful is challenging participants to share their pictures, contributions and successes with others on social media.

Virginia Tech Parking Survey - Virginia Tech has released a 2021 Parking Survey. All those who utilize parking and transportation in and around the Virginia Tech Blacksburg campus are invited to participate, including visitors and Blacksburg residents. The survey will close March 31, 2021, at 5 p.m.

All responses will remain anonymous and will be analyzed at the aggregate level. The survey should take fewer than 15 minutes to complete. To take the survey, visit <https://vtnews.vt.edu/notices/adm-evergreens/Transpo-parkingsurvey.html>.

Through Saturday, April 24:

'Unbearable Beauty' Exhibit at Moss Arts Center - The exhibit is open each Wednesday from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. and on Saturdays from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. through Saturday, April 24. The exhibit is a demonstration of the devastation human activity has wreaked on the environment. The exhibit is free and open to the public.

LIVE & ONLINE AUCTION

Saturday, March 27th at 10 AM
478 Acre Farm being sold in 6 Tracts
426 Dry Branch Road, Pembroke VA 24136



Bid Now at
VAAuctionPro.com

Incredible farm or recreational property in Pembroke VA! 478.75 +/- acres offered in 6 tracts. Located within 30 minutes of Blacksburg VA and the New River Valley. It is close to Mountain Lake Lodge, Cascades Falls Trailhead, Jefferson National Forest and George Washington National Forest. The property is being offered in 6 tracts with the opportunity for combinations.

Tract # 1
 67.906 +/- Acres - Mostly wooded land with beautiful building sites, views, and road frontage. Close to public water & sewer.

Tract # 2
 28.288 +/- Acres - Open fields with views, fencing and a spring fed water trough.

Tract # 3
 190.467 +/- Acres - Older 2 Story farmhouse, pastureland, fencing, creek, spring fed troughs, 2 ponds and farm buildings including a 9 stall Horse Barn.

Tract # 4
 55.668 +/- Acres - Open and wooded land with long range views. Spring and Ram Hydraulic Pump are located on this property along with a spring reservoir and trough.

Tract # 5
 121.418 +/- Acres - Open and wooded land with fencing & views. Has an APCO Easement, Powerline and a Mountain Valley Pipeline Easement going through back portion of property. Auctioneer and Seller do not know if or when construction will begin or how long it will last. There is a mountain spring, spring reservoir, frost free spigot and water trough located on property.

Tract # 6
 15 +/- Acres - Open land with excellent building spots. This property would be great to build a home on or creating your own hobby farm.

Preview Dates: Saturday March 13th @ 10 AM and Saturday March 20th @ 10 AM

Terms and Conditions -10% Buyers Premium, 10k EMD per Tract, 45 day close, Subject to Seller confirmation. 6 Tracts will be offered individually and in combination. Refer to Bidder Pack for complete Terms and Conditions. It is very important that interested bidders fully and completely read and review all documents and maps in Bidder Pack. The Bidder Pack has maps and documents that explain Spring and Water Rights, and the layout of Springs, Waterlines, etc. Live Auction begins at 10 AM Saturday March 27th 2021 and will be simulcast with online bidding. Download Maps, Auction Terms, Contracts & Disclosures for complete information.

Contact - Broker & Auctioneer, Matt Gallimore
at 540-239-2585 or email gallimore.matt@gmail.com

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PETS-OF-THE-WEEK

At this time, visits to the Montgomery County Animal Care and Adoption Center are limited to one party at a time in the lobby area. Animal areas are not open to the public. To schedule an appointment to meet a prospective pet call (540) 382-5795 or email animalcenter@montgomerycountyva.gov.



"I can't live without your love and affection." -80s hair band Nelson. The Animal Control and Adoption Center's Nelson would sing that love song if he could. He loves people and other dogs. He might actually be part feline based on how he loves to nuzzle against his favorite human's legs. He's definitely a hound dog that isn't overly hound-like. Nelson would prefer to sniff out a comfy couch and hang out there than find scents outdoors. His adoption is sponsored by Montgomery County Friends of Animal Care and Control (MCFACC).



Marco ... Polo? Not exactly. Lovely gal Marco had a case of mistaken identity when she and her pals arrived at the center but her name was never changed. This sweet kitty likes to explore and find attention and affection from humans in the room. She loves a good chin scratch. Marco is house-trained.

County's Leah Greiner wins scholarships from Virginia state fair

Leah Greiner of Montgomery County has won a pair of scholarships from the State Fair of Virginia for exhibiting at the 2020 Virginia Youth Livestock Show.

Greiner was awarded \$2,880 for winning the senior division of the livestock exhibit and \$2,000 for winning the Youth Development Scholarship.

Fifteen youth who exhibited beef cattle, sheep, meat goats or swine in the 2020 Youth Livestock Show were awarded scholarships totaling \$23,000 from the fair's Applied Scholarship Program.

Restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in the cancellation of the 2020 state fair through a modified Youth Livestock Show was held in place

of the traditional 4-H and FFA youth livestock programs.

This is the first year that two \$2,000 youth development scholarships were offered for participants in any state fair competition. Additionally, it was the third year that a \$1,000 scholarship was offered to participants in State Fair 4-H, FFA or youth craft, skill or trade competitions. The latter scholarship was part of the Gatewood Holland Stoneman Endowment, established in 2018 in memory of W.N. Stoneman Jr. The Stoneman family was active in the state fair and other agricultural causes.

Judging was based on the applicants' livestock show participation, as well as on leadership and

community service activities and an essay. Applied Youth Livestock Scholarships were offered in three age groups: Juniors (9-12), Intermediate (13-15) and Seniors (16 and older).

Funds allocated for those scholarships represent a portion of proceeds from the sixth annual Youth Livestock Sale of Champions benefit auction, held on Oct. 3, 2020.

"I'm so thankful that we have a generation of young people coming up who have an interest in advancing Virginia agriculture," said M.L. Everett Jr., president of the State Fair of Virginia Youth Development Board. "The board's top priority is to give back to the community, and we feel that the

scholarship program encourages youth to continue their education and participation in agriculture."

This year's Sale of Champions raised \$90,000 to support the fair's scholarship program, surpassing the total raised at the State Fair of Virginia in 2019.

"We are very proud of the amount of money we're able to award to our youth participants despite the challenges presented by the fair's cancellation in 2020," said William F. Osl, Jr., chairman of the Youth Development Board. "We are grateful to those who made contributions and are continuing to support the fair's long-standing mission of promoting youth involvement in agriculture."

Since 2013 the State Fair of Virginia has awarded nearly 1,500 scholarships and has given over \$570,000 to support youth education. The fair offers youth more than \$80,000 each year in scholarship funds through 4-H, FFA and vocational competitions and specific equine, fine arts and horticulture competitions.

The state fair is held each fall at its permanent home at The Meadow Event Park in Caroline County and attracts 250,000 fairgoers. The event celebrates the best of Virginia's past, present and future through scholarship initiatives, creative programming and a focus on the commonwealth's agriculture and natural resources industries.

COVID update: New COVID-19 vaccine arrives in New River Valley

The new Johnson & Johnson coronavirus vaccine has arrived in the New River Valley, and the New River Health District is making plans to distribute it as widely as possible within the current priority group.

Health district director Dr. Nolle Bissell also told the media in her weekly virtual meeting that the district will host a virtual town hall on March 11 at 6 p.m. to discuss the state of the pandemic in the region. More info about the town hall can be found at <https://www.nrvroadtowellness.com/>.

This week, the district received 5,000 doses of the new vaccine, in addition to its weekly shipments of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, Dr. Bissell said.

The district will begin to offer the Johnson & Johnson vaccine to as many people who want it and who are part of the phase 1a and phase 1b priority groups. They include health care workers, people who work in critical infrastructure jobs, such as manufacturing, and those who are 65 and older.

"We are hoping to make a big dent in those [groups] with the

infusion of these numbers," Bissell said.

Unlike the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, the Johnson & Johnson vaccine requires only one dose. But the side effects, which can include headaches, body aches, and low grade fever, are similar to those that people may experience with the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, Bissell said.

Though people can choose which vaccine they take, Bissell encouraged anyone who is eligible to receive the vaccine that is available to them. There have been reports

questioning the efficacy of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, but Bissell said the vaccine is as effective as the others, adding "I don't want people to look at it as something less."

"From a public health standpoint, we are not going to get to COVID zero," she said. "COVID will be circulating. Vaccine success is preventing serious hospitalization and death, and all three vaccines are excellent choices to do that."

Bissell said she is hopeful that having additional vaccine supply will allow the district to move

quicker to the next priority phase, phase 1c. But she did not offer a timeline estimate.

"We are working hard to make sure that we are not missing people [in phases 1a and 1b] before we start moving on," she said.

Throughout the district, COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations continue to decline, and that largely is attributed to the administration of vaccines for people in high risk priority groups, Bissell said.

Cases also are decreasing at local universities, according to health district data.

Bird deaths

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that students could work around their own schedules."

Some students measured the window area of each building or looked for the presence of bird feeders and other objects that would attract birds. Others looked at whether the birds were migratory or resident.

Student project participants Justin McLaughlin, Trey Harris and Thomas Marshall come from different backgrounds. McLaughlin, a psychology and biology major, is a pre-med student. Harris, also a biology

major, is interested in pursuing a career in wildlife rehabilitation. Marshall graduated from Radford over the Winter 2020 semester and is studying medical technology.

Despite their different personal and professional preferences, they share a special bond over birds.

"I've always been a big bird person. I even have two birds as pets back home," McLaughlin said. "They are very meaningful and symbolic to me, and I think they're such intelligent

and beautiful creatures."

Harris is an animal and outdoor enthusiast. The project, he said, aligned perfectly with his interests. A sophomore, Harris has been involved in the research since the summer of 2020.

All three men agreed the research rallied them through the Fall 2020 semester, which was filled with challenges.

"It was nice to put in a pair of headphones and head outdoors, especially after days of being cooped up. We could go outside, get some fresh air, en-

joy nature and conduct really important research at the same time," McLaughlin said.

Now in its third year, the project has yielded significant findings.

According to Powers, the biggest takeaway from the project so far is that buildings with more window area were the sites of more collisions.

Collisions are also more common among migratory birds and juvenile birds, birds that are not familiar with the territory or are confused by their reflection

in the windows.

With these data, the team is now advancing toward a solution.

Powers and several students have met with university administrators to discuss the possibility of installing film on the windows attributed to the most collisions. "This is our first tangible output that I'm very excited about," Powers said. "If the film gets installed, we now have before data and after data, so we could see if it's really having an impact."

Massive China grain purchases mean multiyear highs for Virginia corn, soybean farmers

WASHINGTON — Bookings for record-breaking shipments of U.S. corn and soybeans to feed a Chinese hog herd recovering from African swine flu have bumped the crop price to multiyear highs.

That demand means U.S. grain growers will fetch a good price, while livestock farmers are concerned that higher feed costs, and the potential loss of pastureland, will impact their bottom lines.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture recently confirmed three separate sales of U.S. corn to China for delivery in the 2020-21 year, ending Aug. 31. Those sales total 3.74 million tons, or 147 million bushels. A January booking of 1.7 million tons is the sixth-largest, single-day sale of U.S. corn since 1977, and two of the sales to China last summer are in the top five.

"Farmers are excited about it, because the more demand we have, the higher their cash price goes," said Robert Harper, grain division manager for Virginia Farm Bureau Federation. "Today in Virginia, looking at the futures market, we're around a six-to-seven-year high on corn prices, and we're at an eight-year high on soybean prices."

Harper said so much feed grain was purchased that U.S. supplies are low, so he expects prices to stay elevated throughout the summer.

Significant movement in agricultural markets can reward or punish farmers. Soaring grain prices mean the cost of production goes up and profits narrow for livestock producers like Jacob Gilley of Heaven's Hollow Farm in Orange County. His farm purchas-

es up to 4 tons of feed grain a week for his beef cattle.

"Based on my math, there's been a 27% cost increase for our purchased feed since September," said Gilley, vice president of Orange County Farm Bureau and mid-Atlantic sustainable grazing manager for American Farmland Trust. "And because input costs are higher at the feedlot level, it impacts what buyers will pay for calves we produce."

If feed prices stay high, "We may see another influx of pasture-to-cropland conversion, which makes it harder to lease pasture land, when crop producers can make more money on that acreage."

But agriculture is cyclical. "If you can stay in business until it comes back your way," Gilley added.

Corn and soybean farmer Steven Crocker, president of Isle of Wight Farm Bureau, contracted his 2020 corn crop too early to get the hot prices, but he hopes the China sales will ultimately benefit Vir-

ginia's grain farmers.

"I'm cautiously optimistic," Crocker said. "The contracts are good, even if they're not help-

ing too many local farmers yet. It's still good news for next fall's price. I've already bought seed, so I plan on planting."



China's purchase of 3.74 million tons of U.S. corn has driven prices in Virginia to six-to-seven-year highs.

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OPINION

Evans King: My top 10 greatest athletes of all time

In light of the recent passing of Hank Aaron and the even more recent horrific automobile accident of Tiger Woods, I thought it might be appropriate to write a column on my Top 10 greatest sports stars of all time. I have often said that I have been blessed to have lived in the greatest era in the history of sports, so this piece will be great fun for me.

A few qualifications that I need to state at the outset. First, the athlete must be someone who competed during my lifetime. I will not go back to Jim Thorpe or Jesse Owens or Babe Ruth days. Secondly, the list will include a bit of mixing of pure athletic talent and celebrity stardom.

For example, my number one of all time did not attain the celebrity status of some on my list because of the era in which he played games, but rather he leads my list because of pure athletic ability and dominance. Finally, there is no doubt the opposite of a recency bias (a "latency bias"?) in my selections, as many on my list excelled in their games when I was growing up in the 1960's and 70's.

So here goes. Also, please be advised that two through 10 are in no particular order. Only number one is intended to signify any prioritizing.

TIGER WOODS. The only golfer on my Top 10

list with all due apologies to my father who worshipped Jack Nicklaus, and to my mom who was a huge fan of Arnold Palmer. Tiger's star burned the brightest when it was out, and he brought fan interest and world-wide attention to his sport. Plus, he introduced conditioning and training to a sport where it really isn't necessary.

SERENA WILLIAMS. You probably will not be surprised to learn that Serena is the only tennis player on my list. In my life as a sports fan, tennis ranks only slightly ahead of NASCAR (forgive me my Southwest Virginia brethren). "Wow, look, he hit the ball back over the net; wow, they've gone around the track in a circle again." But I have to include Serena for the sheer force of her accomplishments and her killer mentality in a country club sport.

TOM BRADY. This was the most difficult athlete to put on my list. Not that I'm a Brady hater. I think he's a pretty cool guy. But having been a Steelers fan since the 70's and having bet and rooted against the Patriots passionately over the last 20 years, I have had my heart and pocket book broken too many times by the son of a gun. All I can say is that I hope in 15 years they will be saying that Patrick Mahomes is the G.O.A.T.

WILLIE MAYS. Not-

withstanding my love and respect for Hank Aaron and the fact that I was a huge fan of his arch rival (the Dodgers) during his era, Willie is in my opinion the greatest baseball player who ever lived. He invented the concept of the five-tool player and took it to its highest art form. He could hit, hit for power, run, throw and field in combination better than anyone who has ever played the game. He made basket catches in the outfield, ran out from underneath his cap and yelled "say hey" at everyone he met. He was also one of history's greatest stickball players, while his team - the Giants - played in New York. He loved baseball so much that he participated in this street version of the game with young kids in Harlem, using a broom handle for a bat and a tennis ball or a "spaldeen" for the ball.

WILT CHAMBERLAIN. Perhaps the biggest freak athletically of all time. In more ways than one. He was 7'1" and 300 pounds and could run a 10-second 100-yard dash. Averaged 50 points a game one year in the NBA. Scored 100 points in a single game. Wilt was also a track star in the hurdles and shot put and discus while playing basketball at Kansas. A Harlem Globetrotter one season. Sadly now, I remember that Wilt was a villain to my dad and to me and to many others, simply because he played against Bill Russell and the Boston Celtics and

had the audacity to "almost" single-handedly beat them every year. He seemed not to be the team player that Bill was, but upon reflection he wasn't surrounded by the great group of talent Russell was. Over the years I have developed tremendous respect for Wilt and his game.

BILL RUSSELL. The aforesaid, as we lawyers like to say. Perhaps the greatest defensive player in NBA history. The captain and later player-coach of the Celtics while the franchise was one of the great sports dynasties of all time. While Wilt was averaging 50 per game, Bill would hold him to 19 and get 30 rebounds. Sports rarely got better than seeing Wilt versus Bill, which I did many a time on Sunday afternoons with my dad.

HANK AARON. I've written of Hank recently and there is no way not to include him on this list. In my world he is still the all-time home run champ and another consummate five-tool player. Not much separates him from Willie in my opinion, perhaps only a matter of style. Willie played with a flair and dynamism while Hank played with a quiet dignity and stoicism.

MICHAEL JORDAN. With apologies to LeBron and despite my intense dislike for his college team, Michael is the greatest basketball player of my lifetime and of anyone else's in my humble opinion. His level of competitiveness and his abil-

ity to come through in the clutch were beyond compare. But it didn't transfer to the batter's box.

MUHAMMAD ALI. The greatest boxer of all-time (my dad would say Joe Louis) and perhaps the most socially significant athlete as well. He "floated like a butterfly and stung like a bee" and "rope a doped" for many a year, back when people cared about boxing. I was never a fight fan (and abhor the UFC now), but there is no way to leave Ali off my list.

And now, if you're still with me, the Number one athlete of my lifetime: **JIM BROWN.** Star running back of the Cleveland Browns, on the last Browns team to win the NFL Championship.

Had an amazing athletic career at Syracuse (back when people cared about Syracuse football).

Had his skin been a different color he probably would have won the Heisman Trophy. At the Cuse, he was an All-American in football and lacrosse, a starter on the basketball team and a track star. He was offered a baseball contract by the Yankees out of high school. In the NFL he was truly a man among boys, a 6'2", 230 pound running back at a time when linebackers weighed 220. He retired and went on to an acting career (sort of) in Hollywood and to become the leader and spokesman of many socially significant causes. Much like

Hank Aaron, he played his game and has lived his life with a quiet dignity and respect for others.

Apologies (as if they care) to my "close but no cigar" group: Mickey Mantle (but for injury a rival to Willie for best ever), Sandy Koufax (for a short time, the greatest pitcher ever), Gordie Howe (hockey player who played till he was in his 50's), LeBron (single name enough), Wayne Gretzky (holds several unbreakable scoring records in the NHL), Bob Hayes (fastest human ever for a long time, beat the Russians in the 400-meter relay in the 1964 Olympics after starting 10 meters behind on the anchor leg), Jerry West (the "Logo," Zeke from Cabin Creek, Laker and WVU star), Johnny Unitas (the greatest NFL QB of his era), Kareem Abdul-Jabbar (really hard not to have in my Top 10, I loved his UCLA teams when he was Lew Alcindor), Ralph Sampson (three-time National Player of the Year at UVA), Bo Jackson (if not for injuries, perhaps the second coming of Jim Brown), Roberto Clemente (best arm ever and another player with flair), Oscar Robertson (one of the great early NBA stars) and Ted Williams (slightly ahead of my time, but my dad's favorite).

Feel free to criticize or make your own list. This is mine and I'm sure I have overlooked someone.

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P.O. Box 1125 • Salem, VA 24153

USPS 016-490 Online: www.ourvalley.org

Michael Showell, *Publisher*

Ed McMinn, *Editor*

editor@ourvalley.org

Heather Bell, *Community News Editor*

communitynews@ourvalley.org

Lynn Hurst, *General Manager*

lhurst@ourvalley.org

Randy Thompson, *Advertising Consultant*

advertise@ourvalley.org

Give us your view:

editor@ourvalley.org

The News Messenger is a newspaper of, by and for the people of Montgomery County. We encourage letters from our readers on topics of general interest to the community and responses to our articles and columns. Letters must be signed and have a telephone number where you can be reached for verification. All letters will be verified before publication. We reserve the right to deny publication of any letter and edit letters for length, content and style.

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Once briefly, like Elvis' beloved, I was nothin' but a hound dawg

I love dogs.

They're truly one of God's best ideas. They're just happy when they're well cared for. And it doesn't take much. A little food, a warm place to sleep, and a human who lavishes attention on them.

Have you ever noticed how happy dogs look when they're riding in a vehicle with their heads out of a rolled-down window? Bliss.

I got a lesson once in riding around with my head stuck out the window of my truck, though it wasn't really by choice but as a mode of self-defense. Necessity, the old mother of invention.

I mentioned Muriel a while back, this little dog I found abandoned by the side of the highway malnourished and so dirty at

first I wasn't sure what she was. She was arguably the best dog the wife and I ever had.

Don't ever tell me dogs don't have a sense of humor and don't like to play games. Muriel sure did. (Her full name was Muriel Pritchett, which may give you some idea of how long ago this was. The spouse and I have often indulged an inclination to name the varmints with which we share our living space after entertainers or movie characters. We once had a cat named Aretha Franklin. Muriel Pritchett was named after the dog trainer played by Geena Davis in the movie *The Accidental Tourist*.)

But back to Muriel's penchant for games.

We always rolled the passenger-side window down for her, and she would immediately stick her head out. But it wasn't just to enjoy the breeze. She would wait like a furry spider for an unsuspecting target: A pedestrian just walking along minding his or her own business. With a perfect sense of timing, she would wait until she got alongside that casual stroller and then erupt into a series of barks loud enough to wake up *The Walking Dead* again. I never did figure out how a body that small could manufacture so much racket.

The results were inevitable. Driven into a panic, the startled pedestrian would scream and jump. Her work accomplished, satisfied little Muriel would pull her head back into the

car and look around at the wife and me as if saying, 'Look what I just did.' We, of course, couldn't help ourselves. While we might have felt some sympathy for Muriel's victims, we couldn't stop laughing.

She didn't bark at every pedestrian. Some she just ignored. We never did figure out what her criteria were.

Anyway, back on track and my head-hanging in the breeze.

Muriel had a palate about as discriminating as a ravenous shark. In other words, if it fit into her mouth, she ate it. That meant some pretty grotesque things frequently showed up in various places around the porch, the yard, the house, and -- unfortunately -- the truck.

Once, Muriel took off on an exotic culinary excursion just before she hopped into the truck with me for a short trip. I won't go into the gory, scatological details -- this is a family publication -- but suffice it to say that while I was attending to my newspaper business, Muriel Pritchett's digestive system was quite demonstratively seeing about its business.

So when I returned to the scene of the crime, Muriel was sitting there quite happily and contentedly. That was understandable; she must have felt a lot better.

It didn't take me long to notice that something was amiss. The first gentle hint was when my eyes started watering and I began to gag and generally make so sorts

of noxious and rude noises.

My first thought was that something akin to a large bovine had managed to crawl into the cargo bed of my pickup and died. That's the only way I could account for that awful stench.

But I learned you could never underestimate the power of a 10-pound dog with one monumental upset stomach. Muriel's little cure-all was right where she had left it: in the back seat of my truck. She, of course, was firmly deposited beside me in the front seat. No way SHE was gonna sit back there.

Naturally, it took some time to erase the last vestiges of Muriel's dyspepsia. So I spent several days tooling around the countryside with my head out the window just like an ole hound dawg. We were quite the pair: Muriel at one window and me at the other.

Actually, I kind of enjoyed riding around a la caninus. Except for the bugs that kept running into my teeth.

The author is a man of a certain age who is a confirmed dog lover. Muriel may well have been the perfect dog. She even spared the author and his wife the pain of putting her down. As her health declined after a long, full life, it was obvious she was suffering, so the wife and the author decided on the day to take her to the vet. Probably intentionally putting the sad trip off, they first had some business to take care of. When they came home, she was in her basket, dead. The perfect little dog.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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Appalachian power seeks increase for Virginia transmission costs

ROANOKE -- Appalachian Power has filed a request with the Virginia State Corporation Commission (SCC) seeking recovery of electric transmission costs. Submitted last week, the rate change is the first sought by the company since 2017 for transmission infrastructure improvements.

In its filing, Appalachian Power requested to increase the authorized Transmission Rate Adjustment Clause (T-RAC) from \$225.1 million to \$337.7 million, a \$112.6 million increase. The T-RAC recovers costs for transmission services, fees and new construction.

Appalachian is making significant investments in transmission infrastructure to improve grid reliability and accommodate the anticipated growth in renewable generation.

If approved by the commission, the change

See Increase page 5

GasBuddy predicting \$3/gal. national average for gasoline by Memorial Day

GasBuddy is warning motorists that the national average for gasoline may breach \$3 per gallon by Memorial Day after OPEC's meeting closed last week with no meaningful increase in oil production.

The group's large cuts to oil production in 2020 will generally be extended with just Russia and Kazakhstan granted small exemptions to raise oil production by 130,000 barrels a day and 20,000 barrels a day, respectively.

In response, crude oil prices rose to fresh highs with a barrel of West Texas Intermediate crude oil nearing \$65 per barrel, the highest level since 2019.

The last time the national average reached the \$3/gal threshold was on Oct. 10, 2014, but it did get close in 2018, when the national average reached \$2.97 per gallon.

Much of the reason why oil prices have their strongest chance to reach \$3 in years comes due to OPEC's delay in raising production to meet the global rise in demand. As vaccines have spread country to country, demand for oil has rebounded notably. Early in the pandemic, OPEC cut

some 10 million barrels per day of oil production, which largely remains the case today, as OPEC has not yet responded in kind to the rebound in global demand.

"The outcome of today's OPEC meeting lends to a running of the bulls in oil markets, as global oil demand rebounds amidst recovery in the COVID-19 pandemic while OPEC, which controls a third of global production, balks at the recovery and maintains extreme production cuts," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy. "Extending the production cuts maintains a growing imbalance between demand and supply, and puts more pressure on oil prices to rise, should global demand continue to recover."

"A continued recovery seems likely, led by American motorists filling their tanks at the fastest pace since the pandemic began," de Haan said. "I predict the national average now has 70% odds of reaching \$3 per gallon, a level not seen since 2014, primarily due to OPEC's opposition to raising oil production."

The decision by OPEC not to increase produc-

tion comes as Americans are increasing their appetite for fuels. According to Pay with GasBuddy data, gasoline demand last week reached the highest level in nearly a year, rising 15% from the prior week and now just single digits away from gasoline demand pre-pandemic.

U.S. production has also been cut drastically after the pandemic curbed demand and pushed oil companies to lose billions of dollars, costing thousands of jobs in the

oil sector in the process. It is worth noting that of President Biden's recent decisions to rescind the Keystone XL pipeline and end approval of new leases on federal land, neither of those is playing a role in today's rising oil prices. There is no shortage of pipeline capacity and U.S. producers aren't racing to install new rigs on federal land. Since some existing wells remain shut down, it would make little sense for companies to look to purchase new leases to drill.

Increase

from page 4

will increase the monthly bill for a residential customer using 1,000 kilowatt-hours by \$11.52, or roughly 11 percent, effective in July 2021.

Rate adjustment clauses (RACs) allow Appalachian to adjust parts of the bill periodically for specific costs not included in base rates. This month's filing was made to cover an increase in Network Integration Transmission Service (NITS) Charges administered by PJM, and an anticipated decline in revenues in the company's

base rate charges. PJM is the independent regional transmission organization that manages the electric grid in 13 states, including Virginia.

Appalachian Power has 1 million customers in Virginia, West Virginia and Tennessee (as AEP Appalachian Power). It is part of American Electric Power, which is one of the nation's largest electricity producers with approximately 31,000 megawatts of diverse generating capacity, including 5,200 megawatts of renewable energy.

Millipede

from page 1

yellow-white highlights (apologies to those who thought it would be maroon and orange). These creatures are roughly the size of a penny and usually find their home under rocks, leaves, and among other forest floor debris. The common name "Hokie twisted-claw millipede" comes from the presence of twisted claws on their feet before their reproductive organs.

Millipede biodiversity is the primary focus of Marek's lab, which investigates habitats all over the world, including Vietnam, Japan, and the United States. Marek, recent entomology graduate Jackson Means, and other co-authors recently published a paper in the journal "Insect Systematics and Diversity," that describes 10 new species of millipedes, including the Hokie twisted-claw millipede, which was found only a stone's throw from Marek's lab window.

The announcement of these new species speaks to the biodiversity that has yet to be discovered, not just in far off exotic locations, but in your backyard.

"Millipedes are surprisingly abundant and diverse yet have thus far avoided major attention from both the scientific community and the public," Jackson said. "I guarantee that if you just go out into a forest near your home and start looking under leaves you will find several species of millipede, some of which will likely be large and colorful."

Millipedes are a unique group of arthropods that are characterized by having two pairs of jointed legs on most segments of their bodies. For anyone who may have turned over a rock in the dirt, the shiny exoskeleton of these types of arthropods should be familiar. These critters boast an incredible amount of biodiversity and have many fasci-

ating and unique traits; some have bright colors, some glow in the dark, and some can even exude cyanide in self-defense. Most millipedes are known as detritivores, or decomposers, and feed on decaying plant matter on forest floors.

Including the Hokie millipede, the publication goes on to detail nine other millipedes, all native to Appalachian forests. As the scientists who discovered these arthropods, the Marek lab had the honor of naming these new species, including references to Virginia Tech alumnus and arachnologist Jason Bond (Appalachioria bondi), alumna Ellen Brown (Appalachioria brownae), and even one named after Marek's wife Charity (Rudiloria charityae). This millipede he named for his wife after he found it while taking a quick stroll with family before their wedding by the Chagrin River where he grew up in northeastern Ohio.

Millipedes have existed far longer than humans have and represent some of the first land animals discovered by scientists in fossil records. Their role as detritivores is crucial to forest ecosystems, and the primary role of millipedes in this environment is to break down plant matter into smaller material, so that bacteria and other smaller organisms can continue to recycle the material into the soil and make its nutrients available for future generations of life.

Despite an ancient lineage and a plentiful food source, the threat of extinction is very real for many millipede species. Millipedes typically remain confined to select, relatively small geographical regions, due to their limited mobility and their dependency on specific habitats. As such, changing climate and habitat destruction is highly threatening to the survival of these organisms.

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Legal Notice

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF A PETITION BY
APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY,
FOR APPROVAL OF A RATE ADJUSTMENT CLAUSE,
BC-RAC, PURSUANT TO §§ 56-585.1 A 6 AND
56-585.1:9 OF THE CODE OF VIRGINIA
CASE NO. PUR-2020-00259

•Appalachian Power Company ("APCo") requests a total of \$4.9 million for its 2021 BC-RAC. According to APCo, this amount would increase the bill of a residential customer using 1,000 kilowatt hours per month by approximately \$0.54.

•A Hearing Examiner appointed by the Commission will hear public witness testimony on the case on July 7, 2021, at 10 a.m., and testimony and evidence of the Company, Staff, and any respondents on July 8, 2021.

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

On January 28, 2021, Appalachian Power Company ("APCo" or "Company"), pursuant to §§ 56-585.1 A 6 and 56-585.1:9 of the Code of Virginia ("Code") filed with the State Corporation Commission ("Commission") its petition ("Petition") for approval of a rate adjustment clause - the "BC-RAC" - to recover the incremental costs of broadband capacity ("BC") under the Company's broadband capacity pilot project in Grayson County, Virginia ("Grayson Broadband Project").

In its Petition, APCo seeks approval of its proposed BC-RAC to recover the incremental costs of providing broadband capacity, through the Grayson Broadband Project, to a nongovernmental Internet service provider in areas of Grayson County that currently are unserved by broadband. The Grayson Broadband Project was approved as a pilot by the Commission in Case No. PUR-2019-00145 under Code § 56-585.1:9. The Company proposes to base its BC-RAC on a revenue requirement of approximately \$4.9 million during the rate year beginning December 1, 2021, and ending November 30, 2022. The proposed revenue requirement consists of a Forecast Revenue Component of \$4.9 million plus a True-Up Revenue Component set at \$0.0. According to the Company, implementing the proposed BC-RAC will increase a residential customer's monthly bill, based on 1,000 kilowatt hours of usage per month, by \$0.54.

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

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

The Commission has taken judicial notice of the ongoing public health emergency related to the spread of the coronavirus, or COVID-19, and the declarations of emergency issued at both the state and federal levels. In accordance therewith, all pleadings, briefs, or other documents required to be served in this matter shall be submitted electronically to the extent authorized by 5 VAC 5-20-150, *Copies and format*, of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure ("Rules of Practice"). Confidential and Extraordinarily Sensitive Information shall not be submitted electronically and should comply with 5 VAC 5-20-170, *Confidential information*, of the Rules of Practice. For the duration of the COVID-19 emergency, any person seeking to hand deliver and physically file or submit any pleading or other document shall contact the Clerk's Office Document Control Center at (804) 371-9838 to arrange the delivery.

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

The Commission entered an Order for Notice and Hearing that, among other things, scheduled public hearings on APCo's Petition. On July 7, 2021, at 10 a.m., the Commission will hold a telephonic hearing, with no witness present in the Commission's courtroom, for the purpose of receiving the testimony of public witnesses. On or before July 2, 2021, any person desiring to offer testimony as a public witness shall provide to the Commission (a) your name, and (b) the telephone number that you wish the Commission to call during the hearing to receive your testimony. This information may be provided to the Commission in three ways: (i) by filling out a form on the Commission's website at scc.virginia.gov/pages/Webcasting; (ii) by completing and emailing the PDF version of this form to SCCInfo@scc.virginia.gov; or (iii) by calling (804) 371-9141. This public witness hearing will be webcast at scc.virginia.gov/pages/Webcasting.

On July 8, 2021, at 10 a.m., either in the Commission's second floor courtroom located in the Tyler Building, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, or by electronic means, a hearing will be convened to receive testimony and evidence from the Company, any respondents, and the Commission's Staff. Further details on this hearing will be provided by subsequent Commission Order or Hearing Examiner's Ruling.

Electronic copies of the Petition and other supporting documents, as well as the Commission's Order for Notice and Hearing, may be obtained by submitting a written request to counsel for the Company, Noelle J. Coates, Esquire, 3 James Center, American Electric Power Service Corporation, 1051 East Cary Street, Suite 1100, Richmond, Virginia 23219, or njcoates@aep.com. Interested persons also may download unofficial copies from the Commission's website: scc.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information.

On or before June 30, 2021, any interested person may file comments on the Petition either electronically by following the instructions on the Commission's website: scc.virginia.gov/casecomments/Submit-Public-Comments, or by filing 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-2020-00259.

On or before April 16, 2021, 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 or at the physical address listed above. Such notice of participation shall include the email addresses of such parties or their counsel. A copy of the notice of participation as a respondent also must be sent to counsel for the Company. Pursuant to 5 VAC 5-20-80 B, *Participation as a respondent*, of the Commission's Rules of Practice, any notice of participation shall set forth: (i) a precise statement of the interest of the respondent; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent then known; and (iii) the factual and legal basis for the action. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2020-00259. For additional information about participation as a respondent, any person or entity should obtain a copy of the Commission's Order for Notice and Hearing.

On or before May 3, 2021, each respondent may file with the Clerk of the Commission, either electronically or at the physical address set forth above, and serve on the Commission's Staff, the Company, and all other respondents, any testimony and exhibits by which the respondent expects to establish its case, and each witness's testimony shall include a summary not to exceed one page. In all filings, respondents shall comply with the Commission's Rules of Practice, as modified by the Commission's Order for Notice and Hearing, including, but not limited to: 5 VAC 5-20-140, *Filing and service*, and 5 VAC 5-20-240, *Prepared testimony and exhibits*. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2020-00259.

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

The Commission's Rules of Practice, APCo's Petition, the Commission's Order for Notice and Hearing, and other documents filed in this case may be viewed on the Commission's website at: scc.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information.

APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY

Submit letters
to the editor to
editor@ourvalley.org

A year later, still no evidence food transmits COVID-19

Despite ongoing and continuous research, there is still no evidence that COVID-19 is capable of being transmitted through food, according to Virginia Tech consumer food safety expert Joell Eifert.

"After one year, FDA, USDA-FSIS and CDC have yet to confirm a case where food or food packaging has been linked to a person catching COVID-19," Eifert said. "That does not mean that scientists have stopped studying this. For instance, Dr. Reza Ovissipour, an assistant professor in Virginia Tech's Department of Food Science & Technology, and other Virginia Tech researchers are currently studying how long SARS-CoV-2 survives on surfaces along the food supply chain."

In late February, the FDA, USDA, and CDC released a joint statement emphasizing the difference in how respiratory viruses like COVID-19 and foodborne illnesses are transmitted. While it might be possible for someone to contract COVID by making contact with an infected surface and then touching their mouth or eyes, that is thought to be rare. The virus primarily spreads from person to person.

Eifert explained that even though consumers are incredibly unlikely to contract the novel coronavirus from their

takeout, the precautions they've been taking have likely helped protect them from illnesses that are transmitted through food as well.

"The good news is that some of the practices like good cleaning and sanitation as well as hand washing that we are using to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus also help keep us healthy from foodborne illness," Eifert explained. "These foodborne illnesses are caused by harmful bacteria like Salmonella, E. coli, and Listeria."

But whether it is safe for people to eat at their favorite local restaurant depends on the precautions being taken by both the customers and the restaurant, Eifert said.

"It's safer as long as you and the restaurant follow safety guidelines for preventing the spread of COVID, which includes wearing face coverings when not eating, socially distancing within the restaurant, not touching your face, and washing your hands before eating," she said.

"It is also important for the restaurant to be employing best practices," Eifert said. These include "excluding sick employees and customers, limiting occupancy so that proper social distancing can occur, using proper cleaning and disinfecting procedures, limiting shared use objects and scenarios like buffet service, ensuring



TIMUR SAGLAMBILEK FOR PEXELS

proper ventilation, modifying layouts, and controlling employee and customer traffic to avoid congregations.

"Many restaurants are providing for these changes," Eifert said, "but even if this is not enough to make you comfortable to dine in, there is usually a take-out option so that you can still enjoy your favorite restaurant offerings."

Consumers who want to protect themselves

from actual foodborne illnesses should follow the four basic tenets of food preparation safety:

CLEAN: Wash hands and surfaces often. Kitchen counters should be regularly cleaned and sanitized using a commercially available disinfectant product or a do-it-yourself sanitizing solution consisting of five tablespoons (1/3rd cup) unscented liquid chlorine bleach to one gallon of water or four teaspoons of bleach per

quart of water. **WARNING:** Do not use this solution or other disinfecting products on food.

SEPARATE: Avoid cross-contamination of foods. Separate raw meat, poultry, seafood, and eggs from other foods. Before eating, rinse fresh fruits and vegetables under running tap water, including those with skins and rinds that are not eaten. Scrub firm produce with a clean produce brush.

COOK: Cook foods

to the right temperatures. Color is not a good indicator of doneness. Use a food thermometer to ensure that the proper temperature has been reached.

CHILL: Refrigerate foods promptly. When unpacking groceries, refrigerate or freeze meat, poultry, eggs, seafood, and other perishables like berries, lettuce, herbs, and mushrooms within 2 hours of purchasing.

-Written by Alex Hood

OBITUARIES

Adams, William Ernest

William Ernest Adams, 61, of Blacksburg, passed away Thursday, March 4, 2021.

He was a welder. He was preceded in death by his wife, Norma Gayle Adams; his parents, Donald and Ruth Adams; and a son, John Adams.

Survivors include his son, Sam Adams, and



April Largen; his brother and sister-in-law, Curtis and Leslie Adams; and his canine companion, Flea.

Services will be private.

The Adams family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford, Virginia. www.mullinsfuneralhome.com.

Harris, Magdalene Dowdy

Magdalene Dowdy Harris, 86, of Christiansburg, died Wednesday, March 3, 2021.

She was born in Montgomery County on Aug. 29, 1934, to the late Sidney Aurthor and Mildred Linkous Dowdy. She was preceded in death by her husband, Carless Harris; two sons, Larry Wayne Harris and Richard Allen Harris; three brothers, and five sisters. She was a loving wife, mother and grandmother.

She is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Kathy H. and David Brumfield; sons and daughters-in-law, Bruce O'Neil and Kitty Harris, and Tony A. and Karen Harris; nine grandchildren, numerous great-grandchildren



and great-great grandchildren; a sister-in-law, Peggy Harris; and special friends, Emma Poff and Richard Hinkley.

The family would like to express special thanks to Kindred Hospice Nurses Kari Perfater, Heather Stover, Jennifer Vishneski, Brenda Hale, and Karen Kessler.

Funeral services were conducted Monday, March 8, 2021, in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel with her nephew, David Gearheart, officiating. Interment followed in the Roselawn Memorial Gardens Cemetery. The family received friends prior to the service.

Arrangements by McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg.

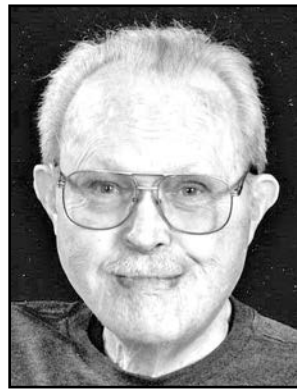
Luz, George Richard

George Richard Luz, 78, passed away Thursday, March 4, 2021, at his home in Radford.

He was a member of Gethsemane Baptist Church, a retired truck driver for Amoco, and a U. S. Navy veteran.

He was preceded in death by his parents, George and Wilton Esther Luz; a daughter, Cathy L. Ward; a sister, Doris Jean Luz; and his first wife, Deloris.

Survivors include his wife, Brenda Luz of Radford; daughters Anderia Thacker (Thomas) of Piney River and Donna Campbell (Erick) of Ashley, Ohio; sons Barry Luz (Karen) of Hawaii and George



M. Luz (Samantha) of Salem; sister Beverly Button (David) of Manassas; stepson Bruce Hobbs (Kathy) of Radford; son-in-law W. B. Ward of Madison Heights; 16 grandchildren; and many other relatives and friends.

The family received friends on Sunday, March 7, 2021, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Memorial services followed with Pastor Brent Strouf officiating.

Graveside services with full military honors were held on Monday, March 8, 2021, at the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin.

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

Williams, Howard

On March 4, 2021, Howard Williams finally found peace after a 20-year battle with Parkinson's disease and dementia.

Born on April 11, 1952, in Easton, Penn., he was the son of Barbara (Bachman) and Mason Williams of Easton. He was a graduate of Easton Area High School, class of 1970.

Howard graduated from Alfred State University in 1972 and from Syracuse University in 1974 with degrees in mechanical engineering. He was a professional engineer and was employed by Bethlehem Steel Corporation at the Burns Harbor Plant in Indiana. He went on to work at Arlington County Wastewater Treatment and Fairfax County Water Authority in Virginia.

Howard was devoted to his family and was an example of perseverance and hard work, which he instilled in them. He challenged, inspired, and supported his daughters throughout all their life goals. Beside his

family, he loved fishing, home remodeling, and home repair. He had an inquisitive mind and had a passion for improving everything and anything.

He is survived by his wife of 42 years, Sandy (Mazzeo) Williams; two daughters, Alicia M. Williams and wife, Amanda Williams of Livermore, Calif., Krista A. Williams and husband, Andrew Boulanger of Blacksburg; and two grandsons, Cameron and Tyler Williams of Livermore, Calif.; a brother, Mason Williams and wife, Trudy of Hawaii.

He was predeceased by his brother, David C. Williams.

Due to COVID restrictions, a memorial service will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Micah's Backpack (Blacksburg), St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, Make a Wish Foundation, or the National Parkinson's Foundation. Arrangements by McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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Help Wanted - General

Part Time Newspaper Production Help
The Salem TimesRegister has openings for afternoon/evening shift work inserting, labeling and bundling newspapers for delivery. No experience necessary. Hours may vary. Will train. \$7.50 per hour. Contact Lynn Hurst, General Manager, Salem-Times Register (540)389-9355 or email lhurst@ourvalley.org

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Hire Full-Part Time Housekeeping. Apply in Person. Ph-540-639-3000

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Executive Director Friends of Claytor Lake
Promote/implement FOCL's mission by serving as main contact for Board and public. Duties include fundraising, social media and website management, organizing events, maintaining finances, corporate documents, and database, day to day management, and accounting/payroll. Requirements: Bachelor's degree in Communications, Business, Nonprofit or related field required or equivalent, with minimum 2 years non-profit experience. Excellent written/oral communication skills with dedication to customer service. Skill in social media, MS Office, accounting and recordkeeping. Excellent organizational skills with ability to multitask. Public speaking, and knowledge of Claytor Lake preferred. 30 hours per week. Send Resume and References to claytorlakegirl@gmail.com

ADVERTISE!

Help Wanted - General

Job Opening:
The Craig New Castle Public Service Authority has an opening for a full-time position as Operator/Trainee for the Authority. The Position requires the applicant to be able to do a wide variety of tasks which include but are not limited to, meter reading, grass mowing, pipeline construction, lab work, operation of the water and sewer plants, equipment and vehicle operation and maintenance, sewer and water line repairs and maintenance, and all other aspects of running and operating the Craig New Castle Public Service Authority. The Craig New Castle Public Service Authority is offering Operator Trainees an annual salary of \$25,000 which will include full health and dental insurance, life insurance, vacation and sick leave, paid holidays, and a retirement plan. Salaries for applicants who already possess certifications in wastewater and or water operation will be negotiable.

Application will be accepted until position is filled. Resumes can be emailed to psasgans@gmail.com or mailed to P.O. Box 128 New Castle, VA 24127, and application can be picked up in the office.

Craig New Castle Public Service Authority is an equal opportunity employer.

Now Hiring Dishwasher at the Swinging Bridge Restaurant in Paint Bank.
Friday evenings and weekends only. Dependable, motivated self-starter needed. Come join our team!
Great for a High School Student or a 2nd job Paid Vacation Estimated 26 hours per week.
Great Pay
If interested, please E-mail Melissa@paintbankgeneralstore.com or call (540) 897-5099.

Legals - Botetourt County

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE COUNTY OF BOTETOURT

COUNTY OF BOTETOURT, VIRGINIA, a Political Subdivision of the Commonwealth of Virginia **Case No. CL21-53**
Complainant, v.
ELMER DAVID PARKER JR., ET AL,
Respondent(s).

ORDER OF PUBLICATION
The object of this suit is to enforce the lien of the Complainant, County of Botetourt, Virginia, for delinquent real estate taxes against certain real property located in the County of Botetourt, Virginia, described as follows: Tax Map No. 89-234 Account No. 27204 All that certain lot or parcel of land, together with any improvements thereon and appurtenances thereunto belonging, lying and being situate in Botetourt County, Virginia and being more particularly described as follows: All that certain lot or parcel of land lying and being situate in Botetourt County, on Stoney Battery branch, a branch of Back Creek waters of James River and is bounded as follows to-wit: Beginning at an iron stake, at 1, at the west end of the bridge across "Dry Branch" and in the middle of the road leading from county road, toward the factory now or formerly owned by Jere Lemon's and running thence with said road S. 70 E. 190 feet to a stake (2) in the road corner to the land of Jere Lemon and with the same along the fence N. 31 1/2 E. 138 6/10 feet to a fence post (3), on the east side of the Spring branch, corner to the lot now or formerly of Mullin, and with the same N. 67 W. 184 8/10 feet, to a fence post (4), corner to the lot now or formerly owned by Emory Boggess and thence with the same S. 32 1/2 W. 148 5/10 feet to the

Legals - Botetourt County

beginning at 1, containing 5/8th's of an acre, more or less. And being the same property conveyed to Elmer David Parker Jr., from Bertha Kelly Connor by Deed dated November 15, 2010 and recorded in the Circuit Court Clerk's Office of Botetourt County, Virginia on November 19, 2010 as Instrument Number 100004683. This description is made subject to all easements, conditions, agreements, restrictions, and reservations of record which affect the property herein described including but not limited to those recorded in Deed Book 12 at Page 471, Deed Book R at Page 474. IT APPEARING that an Affidavit has been made and filed stating that due diligence has been used, without effect, to ascertain the identity and location of certain parties to be served, that the last known addresses for the Respondents herein are as follows: Elmer David Parker Jr., who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is 2446 Stoney Battery Road, Troutville, Virginia 24175; April Parker, whose last known address is 2446 Stoney Battery Road, Troutville, Virginia 24175; Joshua Parker, whose last known address is 848 Cookbrook Road, Apt 6, Vinton, Virginia 24179; Stormy Parker, whose last known address is 2446 Stoney Battery Road, Troutville, Virginia 24175; and that any officers, heirs, devisees, and successors in title of the Respondent named herein are made parties Respondent to this action individually and/or by the general description of Parties Unknown, it is hereby ORDERED that the parties herein and all Parties Unknown and/or whose location cannot be ascertained appear on or before April 14, 2021 in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of the County of Botetourt, Virginia, and do what may be necessary to protect their interests in this cause.
Entered on the 22nd day of February, 2021.
Tommy L. Moore
Clerk
I Ask For This:
Gregory L. Haynes, Esq. (VSB No. 37158)
John A. Rife, Esq. (VSB No. 45805)
Jeffrey A. Scharf, Esq. (VSB No. 30591)
Mark K. Ames, Esq. (VSB No. 27409)
Andrew M. Neville, Esq. (VSB No. 86372)
Paul L. LaBarr, Esq. (VSB No. 91609)
Taxing Authority Consulting Services, PC

Legals - City of Radford

Public Notice Tyler Avenue / East Main Street Connector, Phase 1 City of Radford

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and the City of Radford propose to construct Phase I of a new 2 lane connector road from Tyler Avenue to East Main Street. Phase I shall include reconstruction of the existing skewed Tyler Avenue/Auburn Avenue intersection, construction of approximately 620LF of the Connector Road, and the construction of approximately 900LF of re-aligned Auburn Avenue.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 23 CFR Part 771, a Categorical Exclusion (CE) has been prepared to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of the proposed Tyler Avenue/East Main Connector and was approved by the Federal Highway Administration for public availability. In accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106 and 36 CFR Part 800, information concerning the potential effects of the proposed project on properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places has been provided in the CE.

The document is available for review and comment for 10 business days at the City of Radford Office located at 10 Robertson Street, Radford, Virginia. Please call ahead at 540-731-3603. Please call ahead to ensure the availability of

Legals - City of Radford

appropriate personnel to answer your questions. The comment period expires March 24, 2021. Comment regarding the document should be mailed to the City Manager at City of Radford Office, 10 Robertson Street, Radford, VA 24141; or emailed to radfordengineering@radfordva.gov. Please reference "Tyler/E. Main Connector - Categorical Exclusion" in the subject line.

The City ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact 540-731-3603.

State Project: U000-126 106, C501, P101, R201
Federal Project: STP-5126(107)
UPC: 76402

LEGAL NOTICE Tyler Avenue/East Main Street Connector - Phase 1 City of Radford Notice of Public Review

Find out about a project to construct Phase I of a new 2 lane connector road from Tyler Avenue to East Main Street. Phase I shall include reconstruction of the existing skewed Tyler Avenue/Auburn Avenue intersection, construction of approximately 620LF of the Connector Road, and the construction of approximately 900LF of re-aligned Auburn Avenue.

Review project information and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation in the form of a Categorical Exclusion (CE) are available at 10 Robertson Street, Radford, 540-731-3603. Please call ahead so the City can make arrangements for personnel to share more information or answer your questions.

If your concerns cannot be satisfied, City is willing to hold a public hearing. You may request that a public hearing be held by sending a written request to Radford City Manager, the City of Radford Office located at 10 Robertson Street, Radford, Virginia 24141 on or prior to April 9, 2021. If a request for a public hearing is received, notice of date, time and place of the hearing will be posted.

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact the phone number listed above.

State Project: U000-126-106, C501, P101, R201
Federal Project: STP-5126(107)
UPC: 76402

Legals - City of Salem

ABC NOTICE

Pizza Den LLC, trading as Pizza Den, 1302 W Main St, Salem, Virginia 24153-4.

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Wine and Beer On Premises/Mixed Beverage Res license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.
Jason Booker, Owner

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

Legals - Montgomery County

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Commonwealth of Virginia Va. Code Ann. §§ 8.01-316,-317
Case No. CL21000021-00
Pulaski County Circuit Court Hope Marie Moles LONG v Robert William LONG, Jr.

Legals - Montgomery County

The object of this suit is to: obtain a divorce from the bond of matrimony from the Defendant on the grounds of living separate and apart for a period exceeding one year. It appearing by affidavit that the Defendant's last known address of residence was 1670 Spruce Drive, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073; that the Defendant's present whereabouts are unknown; and that diligence has been used by or on behalf of the Plaintiff to ascertain Defendant's whereabouts without effect; that the Plaintiff previously sought service of process on the Defendant at his last known address stated above; and the Sheriff of Montgomery County, Virginia has filed a return of service stating that the process has been in his hands for 21 days and that he has been unable to make service of process; it is ORDERED that the Defendant appear before this Court on or before April 15, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. and protect his interest herein.

It is ORDERED that Robert William Long Jr. appear at the above-named court and protect his interests on or before April 15, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

2-16-2021
Trish L. Albert
Deputy Clerk

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
VA. CODE §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316, -317, 20-104
Case No. CL21000326-00
MONTGOMERY CIRCUIT COURT
55 EAST MAIN STREET, CHRISTIANSBURG, VA 24073
CHARLES PHELEGAR
KAREN PHELEGAR
v.
JAMES FULTON HOGE, DECEASED
UNKNOWN OF HEIRS OF JAMES FULTON HOGE
The object of this suit is to: REMOVE THE REMAINS FROM ABANDONED FAMILY GRAVEYARD It is ORDERED that THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF JAMES FULTON HOGE, DECEASED appear at the above-name court and protect his/her interests on or before APRIL 26, 2021.

FEBRUARY 24, 2021
Bridget Adams
Deputy Clerk

Legals - Town of Vinton

NOTICE:

COUNTY OF ROANOKE, VIRGINIA v. BARBARA WILCHER MOORE, ET AL
Roanoke County Circuit Court Hearing on 4/8/2021 at 10:00 AM regarding proceeds from sale of property. Any legal heirs with an interest in Ms. Moore's estate must appear at this hearing to protect their interests.

TOWN OF VINTON NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Pursuant to the provisions of Sections 15.2-1800 (B) et seq., of the 1950 Code of Virginia, as amended, the Town Council of the Town of Vinton, Virginia, hereby gives notice of a public hearing to be held on Tuesday, March 16, 2021, at 7:00 p.m., or immediately thereafter.

The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments concerning the proposed granting of a lease to Cargill Animal Nutrition for three (3) lots lying on the south side of 11th Street identified as 60.14-2-24, 60.14-2-25 and 60.14-2-26 and five (5) lots lying on Railroad Avenue identified as 60.14-2-1, 60.14-2-2, 60.14-2-3, 60.14-2-4 and 60.14-2-5, all of which are located in the Town of Vinton, Virginia, said lease to be for one 15 month period with the option to renew said lease for no more than three additional one-year renewal terms.

In light of the ongoing COVID-19 emergency, participation in this public hearing by Council members, staff, and the public will be available through electronic or other alternative means. The public may comment on the proposed Ordinance by emailing johnson@vintonva.gov, leaving a message at

Legals - Town of Vinton

540-983-0607 or writing to the Town Clerk, Vinton Municipal Building, 311 S. Pollard Street, Vinton, Virginia 24179. Voice mails, emails and other messages containing comments on the Ordinance will be provided to Council members. The public also may be able to comment during the electronic public hearing. Citizens interested in this option must register in advance by calling the Town Clerk's Office at 540-983-0607 or sending an email to johnson@vintonva.gov by 12 Noon on Monday, March 15, 2021. The public can observe this meeting through a livestream on the Town's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/vintonva. Additional

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MONTGOMERY SPORTS

Radford High boys swim to the Class 2 state championship; Shull, Bloomer win boys, girls diving state titles

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

The Radford High School boys' swim team dominated action this

past weekend at the Christiansburg Aquatic Center, splashing their way to the Class 2 state championship.

Radford outscored Virginia High 281-207 with Strasburg finishing

third with 176 points.

The Radford girls finished fourth as Glenvar took the team title ahead of Strasburg.

Stone Fisher took gold for Rad-

ford in both the 50-yard and the 100-freestyle events Saturday. Earlier in the week, Ben Shull finished first in the diving competition.

Radford's Tommie Bloomer

won the diving championship for the girls' team.

The state title came after the Bobcats earlier won the regional championship.



PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING

The Radford High School Bobcat boys won the 2021 Class 2 swim and dive championship Saturday. Team members pictured are (front, left to right) Ben Shull, Hunter King, William Hartig, Hampton Wohlford, (back, left to right) Caleb Vaughan, Stone Fisher, Devin Cullop, Graham Minarik, and Harper Moore.



Radford's Stone Fisher took home state championship titles in the 50-yard and 100-yard freestyle races Saturday at the Class 2 state meet.



Radford's Hampton Wohlford placed second in the 100-yard backstroke at the Class 2 state meet.

Game previews: What we have learned in first two weeks

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

We now know what spring high school football will look like: cold temperatures, teams moving games to locations with artificial turf and the sound of fans or should we say the lack of fans.

So far, schools have adjusted to having little or no attendance and to changing their schedules on the fly. Auburn has played two games at Christiansburg High School, and Radford is considering some games at Blacksburg High School. What they have in common is the fact that both Christiansburg and Blacksburg have recently installed artificial turf fields.

Athletic directors worry how much damage playing on the real grass at home might do to the fields.

A game two weeks ago at

Christiansburg High School included almost an inch of ice on the bleachers. School officials moved quickly to have employees shovel the ice off before what few fans there were arrived.

If you have never experienced the roar of the crowd as a student-athlete runs over 40 yards for a touchdown, maybe you will not understand why no fans in the stands is a big difference this year. When you're sitting in the press box and you're able to hear the head coach call a play on the opposite side of the field, there is something different. In most cases, the small group of people in attendance can hear players talking to each other on the field and referees announcing the penalty without the use of a microphone. Things are definitely different this season.

On the field, we have learned Blacksburg is not your typical Blacksburg team after falling to

0-3. Christiansburg is showing improvement but has yet to pick up a win this season, and Radford is ready for a run into the playoffs.

Game previews for this week: Narrows (2-0) at Eastern Montgomery (2-1)

Last week: Eastern Montgomery got its second win of the year, 33-7 over Bath. Seth Burleson scored on an 84-yard run and returned a fumble for another touchdown. Eli Brown finished with 111 yards rushing for the Mustangs.

Narrows has not allowed a score in two contests: 59-0 over Bath and 32-0 over Parry McCluer.

Prediction: Eastern Montgomery 32, Narrows 28.

Grayson County (1-0) at Auburn (1-1)

Last week: Auburn took it on the chin against Fort Chiswell.

Grayson sat out last week but picked up a 24-20 win over Holston the week before.

Prediction: Auburn 40, Grayson 21.

Blacksburg (0-3) at Pulaski (3-0)

Last week: Blacksburg sputtered in a 34-7 loss to Cave Spring.

Pulaski took a 28-7 win at Christiansburg as Ethan Gallimore came off the bench to rush for 138 yards and three touchdowns. Drew Dalton completed 15 of 16 passes for 183 yards and a touchdown.

Prediction: Pulaski 48, Blacksburg 6

Radford (1-0) at Alleghany (0-2)

Last week: Radford downed James River 46-8 as P.J. Prioleau rushed for 80 yards and three touchdowns in his first game back after a season-ending knee

injury last year. Zane Rupe completed eight of nine passes for 133 yards. He also threw for two scores in the win. James River rushed for only 22 yards in the game and had only 29 yards passing. Radford's Xavier Cobb returned a kickoff 83 yards for a touchdown.

Alleghany was held to -8 yards of total offense in a 58-7 loss to Floyd.

Prediction: Radford 50, Alleghany 7

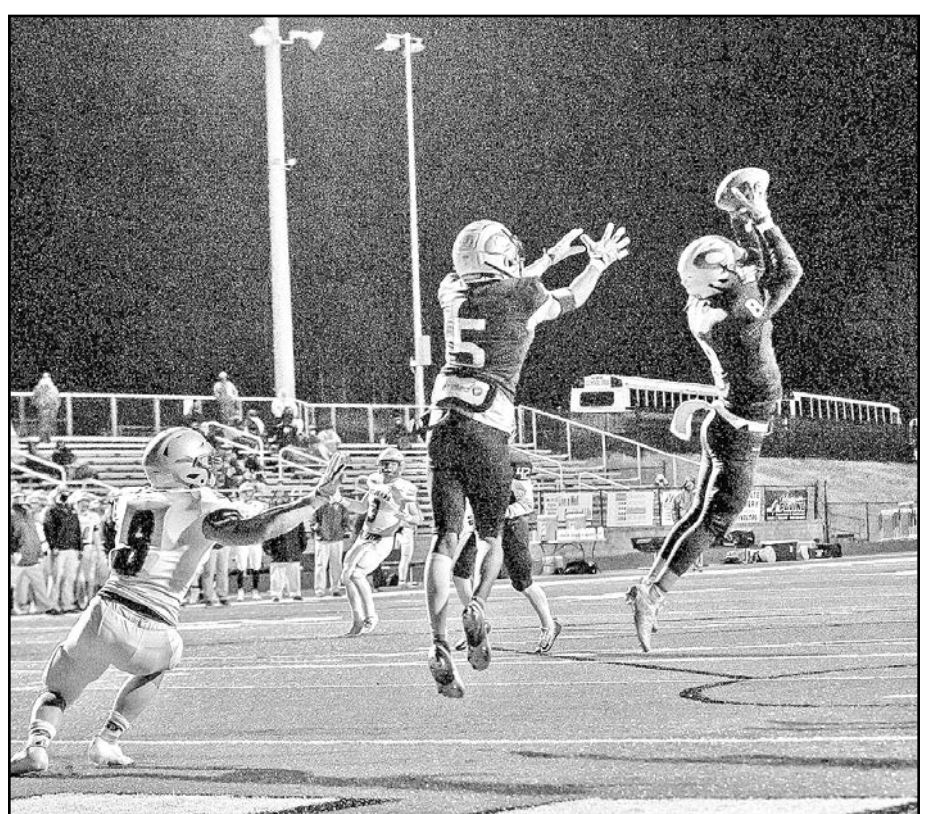
Christiansburg (0-2) at Hidden Valley (0-2)

Last week: Christiansburg fell 28-7 to Pulaski as the offense had 138 yards on the ground, none through the air, and managed only seven first downs.

Hidden Valley had an open week but fell to Pulaski 48-7 two weeks ago.

Prediction: Christiansburg 32, Hidden Valley 14.

Pulaski County downs Christiansburg



PHOTOS BY KYMN DAVIDSON-HAMLEY

With backup support from Jaxson Clark (center), Christiansburg's Casey Graham (right) intercepts a pass on its way to a Pulaski touchdown. Pulaski moved to 3-0 on the season with the 28-7 win. The Blue Demons fell to 0-2 with the loss.



Kenyon Johnson-Buchannon faces a PCHS defender on one of his runs for Blue Demon yardage in Friday night's defeat.

Auburn falls to Ft. Chiswell



Auburn's John Keith hurdles a tackler on his way to the end zone for a late touchdown in his team's 41-19 loss Saturday afternoon to Ft. Chiswell in a game played at Christiansburg High School.

PHOTOS BY JAMES PERKINS



Ronnie Worth races up the sideline on his way to an Auburn touchdown. The loss to Ft. Chiswell dropped the Eagles to 1-1 for the season.

Former Auburn standout Trevor Dominy claims Big South title

Trevor Dominy from Auburn High School won the Big South cross-country individual title this past week to lead Charleston Southern to its second league championship.

Overall, the Buccaneers had seven of the top nine performers, including Dominy's championship run in 23:54.6.

Dominy became the third Buccaneer to win the individual championship in program history joining Al Dunn and Stewart Uldrick. He head-

lined seven Bucs who set new personal records in the 8K meet, shaving 48 seconds off his previous best run set earlier in the spring.

Dominy's individual title earned him the Runner of the Year honors while Buccaneer freshman Gavin Kuhlbeck was the first rookie to cross the finish line, which earned him the Freshman of the Year Award. Jim Stintzi, Charleston Southern's Director of Track and Field, took home Coach of the Year honors.



Former Auburn runner Trevor Dominy won the Big South Conference cross-country individual title this past week.

FILE PHOTO

Highlander cross-country teams leave Big South championships with host of awards

The Radford University women's cross-country team placed second and the men's team finished third in the Big South Championships Friday afternoon, but the teams still returned to Radford with a bunch of awards.

The squads picked up two All-Academic awards, a Scholar Athlete of the Year award, a women's Coach of the Year award, four all-conference team selections, and three new all-time bests in the Highlander record books.

The first of the RU awards came when Annsley Eckert was named the Big South Scholar Athlete of the Year. She has maintained a perfect 4.0 GPA as a nursing major all four years in Radford despite the many challenges of her academic work and her sports activities and the unique situations presented by the pandemic.

"Eckert winning the scholar athlete of the year award embodies what our program is about," said head coach Sam Bradley. "Her diligence in the classroom combined with her attitude at practice and racing demonstrate what she is all about. We are so incredibly impressed by Annsley and everything she has brought to our program."

Junior Joe Limo was named to the Big South All-Academic Team from the RU men's team on the strength of his 3.74 GPA in RU's nursing program.

Three RU runners from the women's squad placed in the top 10 to pace the Highlanders' second-place finish. Rachel Werking posted the best time of the day for Radford at 17:28.8, a new program all-time record

for the 5k. Rachel Millirons placed fifth for the Highlanders with a personal best time of 17:44.2, which left her fourth all-time in the Highlander record book. Freshman Chloe Wellings finished tenth with a time of 18:08.2, sixth-fastest time in program history.

Because they finished in the top-12, Werking, Millirons, and Wellings were all named to the Big South All-Conference Team.

Rounding out the first five finishers for the day for the RU women were MegAnne Gilmore and Eckert, who placed 19th and 20th respectively. MacKenzie Gardner (23rd), Kayland Bond (24th), Maddie Yancey (26th), Savannah Hoff (29th), and Abby Seigel (32nd) all competed in the championship race and all finished in the front half of the pack.

"The women ran with such passion and confidence today," Bradley said. "They have consistently been incredible this year, and this performance was a demonstration of how much they've committed to our plan from day one. We couldn't be prouder of how they performed today, and we continue to keep edging closer to the top of the conference. It was our best result since 1990, and we are so incredibly happy with how things are progressing."

Bus Baker's 11th-place finish led the Radford men to their third-place finish. Baker's top-12 placement earned him Big South All-Conference Team honors. The freshman duo of Nate Jennings (18th) and Luke Richards (22nd) was the next highest finish-

ing pair. Peyton Hurd (25th) was also a top-placing Highlander, and the top five scorers for Radford were rounded out by another freshman, Joshua Daggett (27th).

Also competing in the championship race were Limo (28th), Alejo Cobos (37th), Sam Sikora (53rd), and Adam Downs (56th).

"The men had another stellar day," said Bradley. "We asked them to be bold and press in a field of hugely talented guys from around the conference. With the youth we have in our team, they are set up for more success in the years to come, and like the women, they had one of the best finishes since 1990."

Following the race and the strong performance of the women's team, Bradley was named the Women's Coach of the Year by the Big South in just his third year at Radford. He is the first coach from Radford to win the honor since Tom Morris was named the men's Coach of the Year in 1997.

The Big South Championships marks the end of a successful season for Radford. The Highlanders competed in three meets during the season, including one meet at home for the first time in over two decades.

Eckert is the first Highlander to win the Scholar Athlete of the Year since Teresa Williamson won it in 2014. The second-place finish for the women was their highest finish since they won the Big South Championship in 1990. The men's third-place finish was their best performance in the league championships since 2016.

Hokies land no.-3 seed for ACC men's tournament

GREENSBORO, N.C. – Following the league's final slate of games Saturday, the 2021 New York Life ACC Tournament has been set, with the No. 22/19 Virginia Tech men's basketball team earning the no.-3 seed.

This was just the second time the Hokies (15-5, 9-4 ACC) have been seeded third in the ACC Tournament (2007) and the first time they have been awarded a double bye since the tourney expanded to 15 teams in 2014. Third is the highest Tech has ever been ranked in the ACC Tournament.

The Hokies will face the winner of No.-6 North Carolina versus the winner of no. 11/14 (Notre Dame/Wake Forest) on Thursday at 9 p.m. on ESPN/ESPN2 in the quarterfinals.

Tech is 10-16 all-time in the ACC Tournament including a 3-7 record in Greensboro Coliseum and is 1-1 as the No. 3 seed.

The five-day tournament in

Greensboro, N.C., will wrap up Saturday night, with the championship game on ESPN at 8:30 p.m.

The 68th annual ACC Tournament will have all of its games nationally televised on ESPN, ESPN2 or the ACC Network. In addition, all 14 games will be available via phones or tablets on ACC Network Extra.

The Greensboro Coliseum Complex has instituted the Patron Health Initiative, a program dedicated to the safety of patrons, staff and performers stemming from the COVID-19 outbreak. Face coverings are mandatory for every person 5 years or older and must be worn at all times, except while actively eating and drinking in a seat.

The tournament schedule for the remainder of the week is as follows:

Wednesday, March 10; second round
Noon – No. 8 Syracuse vs. No. 9 NC State (ACC Network)
2:30 p.m. – No. 5 Clemson vs. Pitt/Miami winner (ACC Network)

6:30 p.m. – No. 7 Louisville vs. Duke/Boston College winner (ACC Network)

9 p.m. – No. 6 North Carolina vs. Notre Dame/Wake Forest winner (ACC Network)

Thursday, March 11; quarterfinals
Noon – No. 1 Virginia vs. Wednesday Noon winner (ESPN or ESPN2)

2:30 p.m. – No. 4 Georgia Tech vs. Wednesday 2:30 p.m. winner (ESPN or ESPN2)

6:30 p.m. – No. 2 Florida State vs. Wednesday 6:30 p.m. winner (ESPN or ESPN2)

9 p.m. – No. 3 Virginia Tech vs. Wednesday 9 p.m. winner (ESPN or ESPN2)

Friday, March 12; semifinals
6:30 p.m. – Thursday afternoon winners (ESPN or ESPN2)

9 p.m. – Thursday evening winners (ESPN or ESPN2)

Saturday, March 13; championship
8:30 p.m. – Semifinal winners (ESPN)



Redshirt junior forward Keve Aluma led the Hokies this season in scoring (15.9 points per game), rebounds (eight per game) and blocks (1.4 per game). He was named this week to the All-ACC Second Team. With its no.-3 seed in the ACC championship tournament, Tech earned its first-ever double bye and will begin play Thursday in the quarterfinals.

VT's Mike Young voted ACC coach of the year

A panel consisting of the ACC's 15 head coaches and 60 members of the media has named Virginia Tech men's head basketball coach as the ACC Coach of the Year.

In other league awards, Georgia Tech senior forward Moses Wright was voted the Player of the Year while Florida State guard Scottie Barnes received a double nod as the ACC Freshman and Sixth Man of the Year, Georgia Tech senior guard Jose Alvarado earned ACC Defensive Player of the Year honors, and Duke sophomore Matthew Hurt was voted

the ACC's Most Improved Player.

A native of Raleigh, N.C., who came to Georgia Tech having played only one year of high school basketball, the 6-9 Wright is the second Yellow Jacket player to earn ACC Player of the Year honors and the first since Dennis Scott in 1990. Wright also earned a spot on this year's All-ACC Defensive Team.

Florida State's Barnes helped the Seminoles to a second-place ACC finish while averaging 10.4 points and 4.3 rebounds, and ranking fifth among conference players in assists with 4.3 per

game and fourth among ACC players in assist/turnover ratio.

FSU's Leonard Hamilton finished second to Young in the voting for ACC Coach of the Year.

In his second year with the Hokies, Young guided a team picked for an 11th-place finish in the preseason to a no.-3 ACC Tournament seed, only the second time the Hokies (15-5, 9-4 ACC) have been the no.-3 seed in the tournament (2007) and the first time they have been awarded a double bye since the tourney expanded to 15 teams in 2014. The no.-3 seed ties the

highest Virginia Tech has ever earned in the ACC Tournament.

Young's selection marks the third time the ACC Coach of the Year honoree has come from Virginia Tech and the first time since 2008 (Seth Greenberg).

Georgia Tech's Alvarado leads the ACC in steals with 66 in 23 games while Duke's Hurt leads the conference in scoring at 18.7 points per game.

Wright is joined on the All-ACC First Team by Louisville's Jones (17.0 ppg), Pitt's Champagne (18.4 ppg, 11.1 rpg), Duke's Hurt and Virginia's Sam

Hauser (15.8 ppg).

The All-ACC Second Team is composed of Virginia Tech's Keve Aluma, Georgia Tech's Alvarado, Virginia's Jay Huff, Florida State's M.J. Walker and Clemson's Aamir Simms.

Barnes was joined on the ACC All-Freshman Team by Duke's DJ Steward, North Carolina's Sharpe, Louisville's Jae'Lyn Withers and UNC's Caleb Love.

Alvarado was joined on the All-Defensive First Team by NC State's Manny Bates, Virginia's Huff, Duke's Jordan Goldwire and Georgia Tech's Wright.