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## LewisGale Hospital Montgomery expands urological care in Blacksburg



Urologist Dr. Mazen Hasan is receiving new patients at 3700 S. Main St. in Blacksburg.

LewisGale Hospital Montgomery recently welcomed board-certified urologist Mazen Hasan, MD, FACS, FEBU, to its team of specialists serving the New River Valley out of its Blacksburg offices at 3700 S. Main St.

LewisGale Hospital Montgomery offers innovative urological care for conditions of the male and female urinary tract—bladder, kidneys, ureters, and urethra—and the male reproductive organs. Dr. Hasan specializes in diagnosing and treating most urological conditions including urinary stones, enlarged

prostate, bladder tumors, and prostate cancer.

"I'm excited to join a healthcare provider that works collectively to deliver the highest levels of quality, compassionate patient care," said Hasan. "I'm looking forward to serving our patients and the growing healthcare needs of our community."

"We welcome Mazen Hasan as we expand our urology services at LewisGale Hospital Montgomery," said Alan Fabian, LewisGale Hospital Montgomery chief executive officer. "There is a growing demand for urologists in the region, and he has a

proven record of continually delivering the highest level of quality care."

Hasan earned both his medical doctorate and urology residency training at the University of Damascus, Syria. Following residency training, he completed a research fellowship with Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, a kidney and pancreas transplantation fellowship at The Ohio State University in Columbus, and an endourology fellowship at St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto.

He also earned his Master of Business Administration with a concentration in the business of medicine from the Kelley School of Business in Indianapolis. He is a fellow of the European Board of Urology and is an active member of the American Urological Association.

Dr. Hasan is the recipient of several honors for his medical research, including best surgical video for demonstrating his method for robotic cystectomy of the neobladder at an annual meeting of the American Urological Society. He is bilingual, speaking both English and Arabic.

Dr. Hasan is welcoming new patients and referrals at 3700 S. Main St., in Blacksburg.

To schedule an appointment, patients can call (540) 552-1353 or visit lgphysicians.com.

## Public schools to offer full-time virtual option in 2021-22



In 2021-22, Montgomery County Public Schools will offer a permanent full-time virtual option for students and families in grades K-12.

All classes will either be remote or in person, and teachers will not have students in person and remote within the same class.

Classes will be taught by MCPS teachers whenever possible. Some classes might be taught by Virtual Virginia as needed.

Students will have the ability to sign up for all MCPS courses. Some secondary courses such as automotive technology and cosmetology require students to attend in person. All MCPS courses are subject to sufficient demand and the availability of qualified staff.

For elementary students, special classes such as art, music, PE and STEM will take place virtually via

Google Meet.

Secondary students will participate in daily synchronous sessions and will also complete some asynchronous work. Elementary students will have short synchronous sessions throughout the day. Bell schedules can be found on the Virtual School Program website (<http://bit.ly/MCPSVSP>).

For the 2021-2022 school year, students will remain at the school of their residential attendance zone and will be eligible to participate in sports, clubs, and other activities.

Students will be participating in live sessions, so a strong, reliable internet connection is essential. Virtual students will have access to the same resources, such as Chromebooks, school supplies, and school meals, as in-person students.

See Virtual, page 6

## Virginia Tech preparing for a fully in-person fall semester

Anticipating that the spread of COVID-19 infection will continue to significantly diminish, that vaccination efforts will prove effective in preventing serious or deadly illness, and that restrictions for public gatherings and prevailing public health guidelines for physical distancing will be eased, Virginia Tech is preparing for a fully in-person fall 2021 semester.

"We are excited to begin preparations for a fully in-person experience this upcoming fall at Virginia Tech," said President Tim Sands. "My hope and expect-

See Fall semester, page 6



PHOTO BY SARAH MYERS

The Virginia Tech entrance sign as it appears on West Campus Drive.

## Picasso, Warhol works part of ARTGAWK display at RU's Art Museum through April 17

Radford University's display "ARTGAWK: Choice Pickings from the Radford University Permanent Collection" on campus at the Art Museum

at the Covington Center continues through April 17. Admission is free.

In addition to Pablo Picasso and Andy Warhol, ARTGAWK will include works from renowned artists such as Honoré Daumier, Adolf Dehn, Urmila Devi, Jim Dine, Gustave Doré, Audrey Flack, Dorothy Gillespie, Guadalupe González Ríos, Francisco Goya, Jasper Johns, Käthe Kollwitz, Elaine de Kooning, Harold Little, Dinh Luc, Aristide Maillol, Joan Miró, Robert Motherwell, Robert Rauschenberg, Georges Rouault, Frank Stella, Alison Weld and James Abbott McNeil Whistler.

"Radford University has a noteworthy art collection that deserves to be seen and enjoyed by the wider community," said Radford University Art Museum director Steve Arbury. "I am pleased the Radford University Art Museum can offer this aesthetic and educational experience, especially during these trying times."

The late Dorothy Gillespie, an acclaimed artist from Roanoke who served Radford University as a distinguished professor of art, founded the art museum's permanent collection.

During her time at the university, Gillespie acquired select pieces of art that she believed would be important for preservation. Since that time, numerous artworks have been

added to the collection.

The newest acquisitions include a collection of 23 Mithila artworks from India, donated by The Ethnic Arts Foundation in August of 2020. A painting by Urmila Devi from that collection will be on display during ARTGAWK. Two joint exhibitions focusing on Mithila art and mythology are being planned for the fall of 2022.

Guest curator John H. Bowles worked with Arbury to assemble the ARTGAWK exhibition. "It [was] a joy," he said, "going through the museum's collection of some 2,200 art objects to select works for this exhibition."

Margaret Devaney, dean of the College of Visual and Performing Arts, said about the display that given the difficulties of isolation over the past several months from adhering to safety precautions amid the COVID-19 global health pandemic, the art museum is "thrilled to be able to offer an art exhibition for both our campus and surrounding community where we can gather safely and enjoy world-class artwork from our permanent collection."

Museum hours for the exhibition are Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday from noon to 4 p.m. through April 17.



Jacqueline by Pablo Picasso

## News Brief: County awarded grant to address broadband infrastructure issues

In partnership with Gigabeam, Montgomery County has been awarded a Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI) grant to improve local broadband infrastructure.

The county and Gigabeam are each adding \$140,763 to the \$919,569 VATI grant to extend the local broadband network, bringing the total investment to \$1,201,095.

In addition, Gigabeam has pledged to match \$206,540 as in-kind matching funds for resources to include labor and equipment use, design, and fiber connections/routers.

The extended broadband network will bring fixed wireless broadband access to 1,292 serviceable units, including 44 businesses in Allegheny Springs, Elliston, Lafayette, and Shawsville. Construction will begin this summer with anticipated completion by the summer of 2022.

In total, \$20.1 million in VATI grants was recently awarded to 17 localities for 11 projects, connecting more than 13,400 households, businesses, and anchor institutions to high-speed Internet, and leveraging \$18.8 million in private and local investments.

## News Brief: Christiansburg High School cancels prom

In an email to the parents and guardians of Christiansburg High School junior and seniors, school principal Tony Deibler announced that the junior-senior prom for 2021 has been cancelled.

Deibler wrote, "As spring approaches, we have received questions regarding prom. We recognize that prom is a significant celebration for our juniors and seniors, and that many high school traditions have been lost over the last year due to the pandemic. Prom

also takes a large amount of planning usually with months of lead time.

"Unfortunately, at this point, we cannot hold prom and still be within the guidelines for social gatherings in the governor's Emergency Order 72. For this reason, there will be no school prom sponsored at our school this year.

"We know that this is disappointing and will continue to find ways to recognize the Class of 2021 for all of their successes and accomplishments."



# UPCOMING EVENTS

**Wednesday, March 24,  
April 14, April 28,  
May 12, May 26**

**Hahn Horticulture Garden Virtual Road Trip** - First stop, the Des Moines Botanical Garden in Des Moines, Iowa, at 2 p.m. Visit five great gardens and arboreta via Zoom on these virtual road trips: March 24 at 2 p.m.: Des Moines Botanical Garden with Sydney Algreen-Hunter; April 14 at 2 p.m.: Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center with Tanya Zastrow; April 28 at 3:30 p.m.: Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden with Brian Trader (VT alumnus); May 12 at 2 p.m.: Wisconsin Arboretum with David Stevens (VT alumnus); May 26 at 2 p.m.: Lotusland with Paul Mills and Rebecca Anderson.

Register online for these talks and a zoom link will be provided:  
[https://virginiatech.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_cumxRA4Mec96guy](https://virginiatech.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cumxRA4Mec96guy)

**Camp Cooking** - Presented by Blacksburg Parks and Recreation. Camping out doesn't mean you can't eat well. Come learn some campsite recipes, techniques, and equipment to make a delicious feast while out in the wild. From 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Municipal Park, Turner Street, Blacksburg. The instructor is Travis Coad. The fees are \$10 for residents and \$20 for non-residents.

**Thursday, March 25:**

**Mountain Biking Skills workshop** - Let Blacksburg Parks and Recreation boost your mountain biking skills. Come out for an evening under the lights and master the MTB skills you want to learn or learn new skills on a portable skill course. 5-7 p.m. at Municipal Park; 625 Patrick Henry Dr; Blacksburg. Jaycee SB Field. The instructor is Travis Coad. Fees are \$10 for

residents and \$20 for non-residents.

**Friday, March 26:**

**Outdoor Book Sale** - 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the Blacksburg Library. Weather permitting. \$5 per bag or \$1 for hardbacks, and \$.50 for paperbacks. Gift books available at \$2 each. Call the library for more details and to confirm sale.

**Saturday, March 27:**

**Afternoon at the Pool** - 12:15 - 3 p.m. at the Aquatic Center, 625 Patrick Henry Drive, Blacksburg. Participants will enjoy hours of fun and games in the pool. Events include Corl races, "rock" hopping and balancing, use of the slide and diving board. Open to ages 8-12. Registration is required. Limit is 15 participants. The fee is \$15.

**Teen Creative: Chap sticks and body scrubs** - 1 p.m. at the Montgomery Floyd Regional Library/Blacksburg Library online. This month's Teen Creative video will cover making chap sticks and body scrubs.

**Monday, March 29:**

**Talking About Books: Fiction Virtual** - 11 a.m. - noon at the Montgomery Floyd Regional Library/Blacksburg Library. Join for a discussion of "Little Fires Everywhere" by Celeste Ng. Call ahead to reserve a copy and get the link for virtual participation.

**Tuesday, March 30:**

**Conditional Use Permit for Kent Square** - The Town of Blacksburg has scheduled a neighborhood meeting for 4:30 p.m. in the Roger E. Hedgepeth Chambers to consider a request to previously approved conditional use permits (CUP 11-0002; CUP 11-0007; CUP 16-

0002 and CUP 18-0002) at Kent Square at 202 and 250 South Main St. (Tax Parcels 256-A 115 and 257-C A 1) to increase the maximum allowed ground-floor medical and general office square footage in the DC Downtown Commercial zoning district. The request is by Aaron Harris of Pointe West Management (applicant) on behalf of Kent Square LLC and Pointe West Management Co. (owners).

**Science Fiction and Fantasy Book Club: virtual** - 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. at the Montgomery Floyd Regional Library/Blacksburg Library. Join in a discussion of "The Poppy War" by R.F. Kuang. Call ahead to get a copy of this month's book and to get the link. Discussion will be held virtually.

**Wednesday, March 31:**

**Teen Book Club: virtual** - 4 p.m. at the Montgomery Floyd Regional Library/Blacksburg Library. Each month teens gather to discuss the first book in a series. This month "The Fifth Wave" by Richard Yancey will be discussed. To get the link for the virtual meeting, and to join the book raffle for the first three books, email [bford@mfrl.org](mailto:bford@mfrl.org) or call 540-552-8246.

**Peep Science** - 1 p.m. at the Montgomery Floyd Regional Library/Blacksburg Library online. Watch as the librarians experiment and learn from marshmallow peeps.

**Thursday, April 1:**

**"One Good Mama Bone" Book Club** - Bren McClain, author of "One Good Mama Bone," will be visiting library patrons virtually in April from the Radford Public Library. In preparation for her author's talk, the library will host a book discussion

on April 1. Join the meeting with the information below. Thursday, April 1 at 6:30 p.m. Meeting ID: 810 1631 3691; Passcode: 570599.

**American Legion Meeting** - The American Legion, Harvey-Howe-Carper Post 30 will meet at 7 p.m. at the VFW Post Home on 102 Warts St. in Radford. For further information, call 250-2283 or 239-9864.

**First Missionary Baptist to Reopen for Easter** - First Missionary Baptist Church, 7318 Manns Dr., Radford and the Rev. Richard A. Goodman, Sr., Pastor, will open the church's doors Sunday at 11 a.m. for Easter services. Celebrate resurrection Sunday while wearing a mask and practicing social distancing.

**Tuesday, April 13:**

**Sons of Confederate Veterans meeting** - The Sons of Confederate Veterans, Stuart-Horse-Artillery Camp 1784 will meet at 7 p.m. at Aly's Italian Family Restaurant at 3204 Riner Rd. Jonathan McPeak will give a talk on the "History of the Virginia 45th Infantry Regiment". Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy are also invited to attend. For further information, please call 320-4315 or 239-9864.

**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](http://newrivercommunityaction.org) or by picking up an application form in person at the local center. Applications are accepted year-round. The 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 the 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. The kits are free but supplies are limited. From March 22 through March 28, the kits will feature spring and Easter crafts.

**StoryWalk** - All the month of March at the Christiansburg Library. Exercise your brain and body as you read and walk the trail. Begin 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 the month of March at the Meadowbrook Public Library.

Request a teen/adult craft to receive supplies to make your own felt phone cover. While supplies last.

**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 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 clean-ups, 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.

**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 Thursday, April 15:**

**"ART GAWK: Selections from the Radford University Permanent Collection"** - The exhibition is a selection of 111 works that range widely in media, artistic styles, and historical periods. The hours of the exhibition are Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. and Saturday from noon until 4 p.m. at the Art Museum at the Covington Center.

**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.

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## Warm Hearth Village residents honor employees

BLACKSBURG -- Residents of the Founders Forest independent living community at Warm Hearth Village recently thanked employees for their leadership, protection, and excellent response to the challenges presented by the pandemic.

Officers on the Founders Forest Resident Council presented Warm Hearth Village President and CEO Brad Dalton with a special certificate at their March meeting.

"The certificate enumerates several general examples of actions for which we are especially thankful," said Les Myers, President of the Founders Forest Resident Council. "But space limitations make it impossible to cite everything. Saying "thank you" seems woefully inadequate."

Myers said, "I was especially struck by the early recognition of the pandemic's seriousness and the timely preparations and protocols; the recognizing and addressing special resident needs such as shopping, activities, new ways to communicate, and medical issues; managing the vaccination process for all in the village to have access to vaccinations; and the successful, transparent and timely communications."

"I'm so proud to know that our efforts were meaningful and helpful to our residents," Dalton said. "It was a difficult year with some difficult decisions, and this certificate validates everyone's hard work and determination. I couldn't be more proud of the entire Warm Hearth family."

## Increased demand, tighter supplies driving upsurge in gasoline prices, says Virginia Tech economist

Pent up consumer and business travel plans along with the onset of warmer weather are all playing a substantial role in the uptick of gasoline prices this spring, according to Virginia Tech economist Mike Ellerbrock.

"Oil producers have been assuming for months that consumers expect gas prices to rise once we come out of hibernation, so they fear little push-back for fulfilling expectations," said Ellerbrock. "You can add in the dramatic weather events that have disrupted network capacity and the transition beyond fossil fuels. It's not

surprising that oil producers and refiners will take advantage of consumer fears."

Ellerbrock teaches in Virginia Tech's department of agricultural and applied economics and is a noted expert in natural resource and environmental economics, along with social and technological changes affecting individuals, families, and communities.

"Other influences that drive up gas prices this year include the fact that Russia and Saudi Arabia have both cut crude product the last three consecutive months," Ellerbrock said. "And of

course, domestic refineries are now shifting to summer blends with lower vapor pressure to limit pollution, and those blends are more expensive to produce."

Motorists should anticipate the price per gallon above \$3, "at least during the summer travel season, then moderation after the travel rush calms down," said the VT economist.

Since gasoline prices tend to impact the cost of just about everything else, he warns of across-the-board inflation on food and consumer goods, and other industries such as rubber, fertilizer, plastics, cosmetics, paint and electricity.



**VT economist Mike Ellerbrock: "Oil producers have been assuming for months that consumers expect gas prices to rise once we come out of hibernation, so they fear little push-back for fulfilling expectations."**

*Mike Ellerbrock is the recipient of multiple national and university teaching awards and has taught micro- and macro-economics for over thirty years. He has taught classes of high school, undergraduate, and professional learners, and develops his curricula to incorporate current events and take a broad view of economics and how it impacts everyday life.*

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## Special vaccination clinics announced for Virginia Tech employees

As Virginia Tech President Tim Sands put it in a letter to Tech's staff and employees, "The long-awaited time in which Virginia Tech faculty and staff may receive a COVID-19 vaccine has arrived."

The first opportunities to receive a vaccine will be held on Tuesday, March 30, Wednesday, March 31, and Thursday, April 1, at the Dedmon Center on the campus of Radford University. Current faculty and staff will have an opportunity to sign up for appointments between 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on these three dates. Five hundred vaccine doses will be available to Virginia Tech employees each day for a total of 1,500 vaccine doses during the three-day period.

The registration process for this opportunity will be coordinated through a separate Virginia Tech registration and will not involve the state system. For the three clinics, the registration system will remain open through noon on Friday, March 26. Details on the registration system are forthcoming.

Which vaccine (Moderna, Pfizer, or Johnson & Johnson) will be offered at these three clinics is not yet known. The vaccinations will be for Virginia Tech employees only. Family members of employees are not eligible during these specifically designated Virginia Tech time blocks.

Faculty and staff who work in a location other than the Blacksburg campus can still register for the vaccinations provided they have transportation to the clinics.

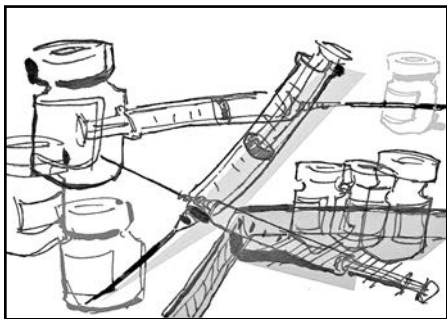


ILLUSTRATION BY STEVEN WHITE

## OBITUARIES

### Alderman, Joanne Viers

Joanne Viers Alderman, 90, passed away Friday, March 19, 2021, at her home in Radford.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Thomas and Ida Viers; seven brothers and three sisters.

Survivors include her son and daughter-in-law, Roy Lynn and Kathy B. Alderman of Radford; a daughter and son-in-law, Deborah and Benny Selvey of Pulaski; five grandchildren, Corinna Crawford (Shannon), Nikki Martin (Matt), Chris Alderman (Sarah), Ashley Selvey, and Taylor Selvey



(Joey); four great-grandchildren, Megan and Sam Crawford, J. J. Carter, and Lydia Alderman; and many other relatives and friends.

The family would like to thank Intrepid Hospice for all the kindness and care they have shown our family.

Services will be private. In lieu of flowers, please consider contributions to the American Cancer Society or the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation. The Alderman family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford. www.mullinsfuneralhome.com.

### Anderson, Buffy Marie

Buffy Marie Anderson, 50, passed away at her home in New River on Wednesday, March 17, 2021.

Survivors include her parents, James, Sr., and Wanda Anderson; a brother, James A. Anderson, Jr.; uncles and aunts Michael and Carlotta Lewis and Wendell and Sylvia Anderson; aunt and uncle Jeanette and Joe Sheffey; and many other relatives and friends.



Funeral services were private on Monday, March 22, 2021, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford.

The family would like to thank Carilion Hospice and Blue Ridge Cancer Care for all their care and kindness to our family.

The Anderson family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford. Online condolences may be expressed at www.mullinsfuneralhome.com.

### Cromer, Betty Estes

Betty Estes Cromer, 77, of Radford, passed away Saturday, March 20, 2021.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Wayne and Daphna Estes; and sisters Toby Caldwell and Rosetta Mills.

Survivors include her fiancé, James "Jim" Henley; a daughter and son-in-law, Sherry Cromer and Vincent Thornton; a son and daughter-in-law, Ron and Nenita Cromer; grandchildren Taylor Okes, Christian Cromer and Justin



Cromer; a brother, Tommy Estes; and many other relatives and friends.

The family will receive friends from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. on Thursday, March 25, 2021 at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services will begin at 1 p.m. with the Rev. Marcus Harrison officiating. Interment will follow in the West End Cemetery in Wytheville.

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

### Edge, Frances Pauline Boliek

Frances Pauline Boliek Edge of Blacksburg, formerly of Rock Hill, was born on July 5, 1927, and died March 16, 2021.

She loved life. She was enthusiastic about her adopted home of Blacksburg and enjoyed trips to Floyd and performances at the Moss. She drove her Prius until about six weeks ago, and she loved singing in church and bird-watching.

She grew tomatoes and flowers in her yard, taking special pleasure in rescuing half-dead plants from the "distressed rack" at big box stores and bringing them back to life. "Always check the 'distressed rack' first before paying full price for plants," she instructed.

She embraced technology as the best way to communicate with her family, though it often frustrated her. She learned to email and Instant Message in her 70s and early 80s and then to text and Facetime in her late 80s and 90s. She also liked to Google things.

In her late 80s she conceived the idea for the Circle of Grace at St. Michael Lu-

theran Church, a garden for scattering ashes and remembering loved ones. She continued to work on it into her 90s, making it a place of peace and beauty.

She was a devoted daughter, sister, wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and friend who dearly loved her family and was dearly loved in return.

She was predeceased by her parents and her husband, Charles Edge. She is survived by her son, Charles Edge, of Lexington, N.C., her daughter, Kay Edge of Radford; two grandchildren, April Lawson and Ryan Edge; two great-grandchildren, Kate Lawson and Evan Lawson; a sister, Betty Greene, and two brothers, Paulwyn Boliek and Luther Boliek.

The world is a nicer place for her having occupied it, and she will be sadly missed. Her memorial service will be at the Circle of Grace garden, St. Michael Lutheran Church in early April with COVID protocols in place. Memorials may be made to the Circle of Grace, St. Michael Lutheran Church.

## Campus trees help train the next generation of arboriculturists

The Alwood Oak, one of the most distinctive trees on the Virginia Tech campus, is taking on a new role this year: teaching assistant.

Raised from seedling by renowned entomologist and Virginia Tech Professor William Bradford Alwood and planted at the northern end of the Drillfield near the end of the 19th century, the 100-foot-tall bur oak is one of several campus trees currently being cared for by Jamie King, Virginia Tech's first-ever arborist.

This month, King, an alumnus of the College of Natural Resources and Environment, collaborated with Associate Professor Eric Wiseman of the Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation to allow students in Wiseman's Arboriculture Field Skills class to see firsthand how to care for old trees like the Alwood Oak and participate in protection strategies used by urban foresters and arborists.

"The biggest challenge in urban forestry is dealing with a tree's proximity to human activities," said King, who served as the City of Roanoke's arborist prior to joining the Virginia Tech Division of Campus Planning, Infrastructure, and Facilities in 2019. "Development, foot and vehicle traffic, and soil compaction can all have significant impacts on tree health. And the natural aging processes for a tree, where they begin to shed limbs as they get older, requires careful attention."

Another risk to large trees is lightning. Wiseman's students had a chance to talk to professional arborists contracted to check the tree's lightning protection system, which uses copper wires to transmit electricity directly into the ground instead of through the tree.

The students also learned about support systems utilized to prevent structural damage to big trees, and they got their hands dirty — or at least sappy — installing a brace rod in a nearby tree.

"The chance to be hands on with activities has been an extreme confidence booster," said Cydney Chambers, a junior majoring in forest resources management. "I feel much more confident

applying for jobs knowing I've actually practiced some of the skills we'll be expected to use in the future."

That is the goal for Wiseman, who said that this lab is an important step from understanding the science to

seeing how that science plays out in real time.

"This course is all about the practice of arboriculture," he said. "In the fall, our lab focuses on the science be-

See **Campus trees**, page 4

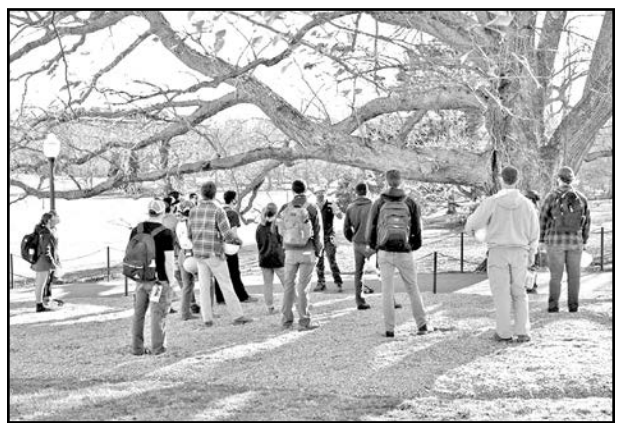


PHOTO BY KRISTA TIMNEY, VIRGINIA TECH

**Standing next to Virginia Tech's Alwood Oak, Geoff Manning of Manning Arboriculture talks with students in Associate Professor Eric Wiseman's Arboriculture Field Skills class about the field of arboriculture and techniques to preserve old trees.**

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4-Unit apartment building that has been recently remodeled and updated. The .191 acre property has been well maintained and is beautifully landscaped. There are parking spaces in front of apartments 1 & 2 as well as a large, paved lot behind the building. Each unit has laminate and carpet flooring and laundry hookups along with an electric range, refrigerator and dishwasher. Located in Downtown Christiansburg. Each unit is currently rented. Purchaser shall honor current annual lease until expiration. Contact auction company for rent roll.

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**Preview Date - Saturday March 27 @ 2 PM**

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**Contact – Broker & Auctioneer Matt Gallimore at 540-239-2585 or email gallimore.matt@gmail.com ; You can also contact Levi Cox Realtor at 540-230-7162 or email levicox87@gmail.com**

**102 S. Locust Street, Floyd, VA 24091 (540) 745-2005 VaAuctionPro.com Lic# 2907004059**

### Matherly, John David

John David Matherly, 46, of Newport died Saturday, March 20, 2021, at Roanoke Memorial Hospital.

He was born in Martinsville, Va. on June 27, 1974. John loved his dogs, Buddy, Bella, and Dixie. He was an avid fisherman, hunter, and outdoorsman.

He was preceded in death by his fa-

ther, Louis Wayne Matherly.

He is survived by his mother, Kathy Ann Dew, his maternal grandmother, Vera Dew, a brother and sister-in-law, Joshua Andrew and Jonli Matherly, and a nephew, Colton Andrew Matherly. Services will be held privately.

Arrangements by McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg.



# OPINION

## For some of us, it's sometimes dark on the inside

*Life is a comedy to those who think, a tragedy to those who feel.*  
-- Horace Walpole

If we could only understand ourselves, we perhaps could then understand each other. I admit to being introspective to a degree and have always felt some envy for those who have absolutely no awareness or sense of themselves. Susan Sarandon in Bull Durham called them the luckiest people in the world.

My father was one such person. Completely without guile, he was totally oblivious to himself, to the profound effect his presence had on other people. Life with him was a ceaseless marvel because -- lacking such self-absorption -- he never was concerned or even remotely cared about how he was supposed to act. He was simply always himself because it was the only way he could be. The rest of us were privileged to be along for the boisterous, exuberant ride, swept along in a

whirlwind he had absolutely no idea even existed. And he was the one who created it.

I say I envy such an inner composition because I think it leads to a steadfastness, a surety that does not question or spend much time rummaging around in the psyche.

Folks like me, however, who spend too much time within the Pandora's Box that is our own selves, lack that surety. I'm not laying claim to any great intellect here, just a difference in the psychological machinations.

I know I lack that certainty because even as the decades of my life on this planet have mounted up, I still don't really know how I will react to things I see or read.

For instance, the children in Africa are still starving and dogs and cats are still being abandoned and left in shelters. They are truly the world's most innocent and helpless victims. I know because of the bom-

bardment of TV commercials pleading for money. I'm not particularly moved by the images, though the fact that I'm not particularly disturbed by the images does disturb me. Maybe after all these years, I've just become inured to suffering that is on such a vast scale its relief seems both impossible and hopeless.

On the other hand, I can't shake the gloom that nags at the corners of my psyche resulting from a single death I read about recently. A bride-to-be, one week away from her wedding, was killed in an auto accident as she was out running errands for her big day. To compound the sadness, she was a nurse. The person who hit her wasn't drunk, wasn't high, wasn't speeding. Apparently some unspecified medical problem was involved.

Perhaps the accident bothers me because it reminds me too much of a friend I lost under similar circumstances. If I've

shared this story with you already, I apologize for the repetition. As the stories I've turned loose on an unsuspecting and unwary public have mounted, I can't really remember which ones I've told and which ones I haven't.

Anyway, the night before my friend's sister's wedding, the wedding party left the church after the rehearsal and headed for the rehearsal dinner when the car in which my friend was riding was struck head-on. He was killed as were several members of his family.

He and I had a few years before shared an assignment on an army base in Georgia. We had kept in touch over the years through Christmas and birthday cards. That's how I found out he had been killed. His widow sent me a Christmas card.

Even now, decades later, when I think of him, his death still bothers me. Most of all, I feel for that remarkably sweet

and pretty widow he left behind. He was a good person, like that young bride-to-be I suspect. And like those helpless, innocent children dying every day in Africa.

Being an introspective sort, I remind myself that nothing is guaranteed, that I must make the most of today because it's all I have. So what I have around me becomes -- for a moment at least -- a little more precious. My envy of those who are so unaware of themselves wanes. For a while.

If I ever figure myself out, I'll let you know, but don't count on it.

*The author is a man of a certain age who would like to take advantage of his decades of experience to suggest that Mr. Walpole's astute quote be amended to read that "life is both a tragedy and a comedy" since human beings both think and feel. The measure we receive of each ultimately determines whether our lives are a blessing or a curse.*

## Virginia's individual income tax filing, payment deadline extended to May 17

Virginia Governor Ralph Northam announced Friday that he is directing the Department of Taxation to extend the individual income tax filing and pay-

ment deadline in Virginia from Saturday, May 1, 2021 to Monday, May 17, 2021.

This extension aligns Virginia with the recent announcement from the

United States Department of the Treasury and the Internal Revenue Service that federal income tax filings and payments would be extended from Thursday, April 15, 2021 to Monday, May 17, 2021.

"Aligning Virginia's filing and payment deadline with the federal

government will provide additional flexibility and simplify the process for taxpayers," said Governor Northam. "Even with this extended deadline, we encourage Virginians to file as soon as possible so we can get people the refunds they are entitled to while also protecting the commonwealth's

strong fiscal footing."

This deadline extension affects only individual income taxes and does not apply to estimated payments. Individuals who owe taxes will need to make payments by Monday, May 17, 2021, to avoid penalties. While interest may still accrue beyond the

original deadline, legislation to address this issue will be considered at April's reconvened session.

"This extension should provide certainty to tax preparers so that we can conclude the tax filing season," said Secretary of Finance Aubrey L. Layne, Jr.

### News Messenger

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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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## WalletHub: Virginia is state with 15th most Medicaid coverage

Health care is one of the nation's most pressing issues and concerns amid the pandemic and with more families struggling to make ends meet.

Medicaid has thus become more important than ever for America's citizens. It's a fact that some states rely on Medicaid coverage more than others do. To find out the states where Medicaid is most prevalent, the personal finance website WalletHub compared the 50 states across 12 key metrics in three overall categories: spending, quality, and eligibility

and enrollment.

The survey results placed Virginia 15th in the Medicaid pecking order.

The 12 metrics WalletHub used were total Medicaid spending per low-income population, the percentage of change in total Medicaid spending, the state vs. the federal Medicaid contribution, the state Medicaid spending as a share of the state budget, life expectancy for low-income individuals, adult care quality, Medicaid denial rate for in-network claims by Healthcare.gov,

transparency in reporting quality measures, children Medicaid eligibility Level, pregnant women Medicaid eligibility level, adults Medicaid eligibility level and total Medicaid enrollment per low-income population.

According to WalletHub's survey, the five states with the most Medicaid coverage are Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Vermont, Pennsylvania and Connecticut. The five states with the least Medicaid coverage, per WalletHub, are South Dakota, Wyoming, Tennessee, Oklahoma and Georgia.

Submit letters to the editor to editor@ourvalley.org

## 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.



**Meet Rogue.** In her short time at the Animal Care and Adoption Center, she has become a staff favorite. She's very much a love bug who enjoys affection and attention, giving doggie kisses, rolling over for belly rubs, and cuddling with her favorite people. She's very friendly, loves treats, and knows some commands, including "sit" and "down."



**Black Pearl is quite a gem.** She's a sweet young gal who easily stretches out to a long slinky feline when she gets her favorite head scratches and chin rubs. It's pure delight for her. Black Pearl can be a little shy at first but show her some affection and she could be your purrfect match.

### CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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- CLUES ACROSS**
- As soon as possible (abbr.)
  - Japanese warrior
  - Festivity
  - Interruptions
  - Nonsense (slang)
  - Data mining methodology (abbr.)
  - Calvary sword
  - French river
  - Global business conference (abbr.)
  - Afflicted
  - Con man's game
  - No (Scottish)
  - Jewish spiritual leader
  - Fish
  - Camera term (abbr.)
  - Impudence
- CLUES DOWN**
- A continuous portion of a circle
  - Genus of seabirds
  - Infant's dining accessory
  - Native Americans from Arizona
  - Popular fruit
  - Poisonous plant
  - Scolded
  - Assists
  - Hand (Spanish)
  - Amazon product identifying system (abbr.)
  - Basics
  - Cain and \_\_\_
  - Malaria
  - Indicates particular shape
  - Respiratory disease
  - Central Standard Time
  - Imitate
  - Golf score
  - A place to lay your head
  - Three cards of the same suit
  - Not in
  - Human gene
  - Ancient Chinese philosophical concept
  - French river
  - Thanks up
  - Type of geological deposit
  - Helps little firms
  - Area units
  - A device to remove
  - Secret political clique
  - Polite interruption sound
  - Foundation
  - Clare Boothe \_\_\_
  - American writer
  - Swiss river
  - Prejudice
  - Actor Idris
  - Resistance fighters
  - Speak disrespectfully of

### Campus trees

from page 3

hind trees living in built environments, and we spend a lot of time observing, measuring, and evaluating trees. In the spring, we get into the practice side of the science."

Ben Stauffer, a junior majoring in forest resources management, recognizes the important role that trees play in enhancing the experiences for students.

"Not only are we benefiting from the ecosystems services trees provide, but they contribute to the unique aesthetic that the

campus has," he said. "Fall foliage is always commented on and shared across social media, and on warm days people all over campus are sitting beneath the trees or tying slack lines to them."

And sometimes Virginia Tech students are among the trees, drilling holes and bolting limbs and learning more about the work of keeping the campus green.

-Written by David Fleming

# LAND TRANSFERS

James R. King to Christina Burke Watty, Lot 96, Ph V New River Village, Christiansburg, \$258,000

R Fralin Homes LLC to R Fralin Construction, Inc., Lot 16, The Villas on N Main, Ph II, \$65,000

Bruce A. Altis to Bruce A. Altis, 2.4564 acres, Shawsville Magisterial District

Steven Douglas Angermann MacKay to LEMONIA B. STROUMBOS, Lot 37, Ph II, New River Village, Christiansburg, \$269,900

Beatriz Soles Hernandez to Brian E. Mansfield, Lot 90, Cambria Crossing, Ph II, Christiansburg, \$280,000

Sunwest Trust Inc. to Millennium Trust Co., LLC, Lot 10, Coal Bank Ridge, Mt. Tabor Magisterial District

Patricia Jane Nolen to Tanner Blankenship, metes and bounds, Christiansburg Magisterial District, \$275,000

Paula W. Willemann to Pravesh Deshmukh, Condo unit 800 Ph I, University Place, Blacksburg, \$180,000

Elwood T. Hodnett, Jr., to Jill M. Sundie, Lot 11, Stroubles Mill, Sec IX, Blacksburg, \$250,000

Kurt Fuge to Dazak LLC, Lot 58, Haymarket Square, Sec II, Ph II, 2800 Chelsea Ct., Blacksburg

Pierre Couture to Michael Keith Thompson, Lot 33, Coal Bank Ridge, Mt. Tabor Magisterial District, \$135,000

Robert Michael Baldwin to Eli Meyer, 1.011 acres, Parcel B, Prices Fork Magisterial District, \$218,500

Norma Tomlinson Carroll to Martin & Martin Investments LLC, Lot 3, Edgewood, Christiansburg, \$12,450

Norma Tomlinson Carroll to Martin & Martin Investments LLC, Lot 4, Edgewood, Christiansburg, \$12,450

Timrock LLC to Dylan Analytical and Filtration, See 2005012484, Christiansburg, \$200,000

NW Development, Inc., to John Y. Gooch, 1.2965 acres, Lot 11, Village 5, Maple Ridge, Blacksburg, \$72,000

Absolute Construction LLC to Stephen A. Sowder, 1.312 acres, Lot A, Riner Magisterial District, \$368,000

Jennifer Horne Exor Lester to Chelsea Leigh McCreight, Lot 15 Ph III, White Oak Townhouse, Christiansburg, \$217,000

Tyris Rentals LLC

R Fralin Construction, Inc., to Prashant V Patel, Lot 16, The Villas on N Main, Ph II, \$527,245

Ewing Building & Remodeling Inc., to Emma C. Sparks, 0.5671 acres, a part of lot 14, Dudley Village, Sec B, Riner Magisterial District, \$260,000

Carol Slonka to Inna Kolesnik, condo unit 92, Bldg H, Cascades Pointe, Blacksburg, \$165,000

Allyn G. Suc Turner Trust to Maeve E.M. Gould, Lot 1, Sec E, Airport Acres, Blacksburg, \$286,000

Brain W. Barger to Jeffrey K. Racow, 15.512 acres, lot 3, Craig and Montgomery counties, Alleghany Magisterial District

Nicholas A. Vevurka Trust to Nicholas A. Vevurka, 5.003 acres, lot 82, Ph 3, Indian Run Investment, Mt. Tabor Magisterial District

Ray Anthony Kingrea to Nita Bishop Kingrea, 4.206 acres, Riner Magisterial District, \$300,000

Donald R. Wallace to Donald R. Wallace, Jr., ½ acre, metes and bounds, Town of Lafayette, 5309 Historic Drive, Elliston

Katherine T. Hemphill to Brush Mountain LLC, 10.0193 acres, Parcel C, 2520 Poverty Creek Rd., Blacksburg

Herbert B. Simpkins to Herbert B. Simpkins, Lot 2, Sec. 1, Raintree Village, Christiansburg, 425 Rainbow St.,

Herbert B. Simpkins to Herbert B. Simpkins, Lot 3, Sec. 1, Raintree Village,

Christiansburg

Randy S. Biddle to Paul J. Whittemore, Lot 146, unit 6, Belmont Farms, Christiansburg, \$295,000

Brittany G. Conner to Zane William Whetzel, 0.7925 acres, Tract B, Shawsville Magisterial District, \$146,000

Nicholas A. Vevurka to Nicholas A. Vevurka Trust, 5.003 acres, Lot 82, Ph 3, Mt Tabor Magisterial District

Alexander L. Mattson to Alexander Lee Mattson, 0.952 acres, Blacksburg

F&B Land LP to R. Fralin Construction, Inc., Lot 15, Ph VI, Kensington Subd, Christiansburg, \$58,000

Michael Kessler to Michael Kessler, Lot 2, Rolling Hills, Sec IV, Riner Magisterial District

Wilmar Jean Brammer to Charlene Brammer Simpkins, Shawsville Magisterial District, 2.094 acres, Den Creek, 811 Izaak Walton Lane, Christiansburg

R. Fralin Construction, Inc., to Tyler Pierce Spahr, Lot 15, Ph VI, Kensington Subc, Christiansburg, \$348,860

Thomas R. Shirley III to Connor Marie Shirley, Lot 42, Shenandoah Subd, Ph I, Blacksburg

David Bower to Rebecca L. Sandridge, 6.909 acres, Lot 1, Shawsville Magisterial District, \$29,200

John Mark Carper to Howard W. Phillips, 89.75 acres, Lots 2, 3, Riner Magisterial District, \$359,000

Reuben Thomas East, Jr., to Michael Lynn East, 3 parcels, 116.551 acres, 2.9889 acres, 8.68 acres, \$63,377

Linda H. Kaluk to Harrison Kaluk, Lot 25, Windmill Hills, Sec VIII, Christiansburg, \$170,000

Jeana M. Brooks to Jeana M. Brooks, 0.377 acres, lot 26, Walnut Grove, Sec. N

Matthew Duane Acord to Garrett Alan Williams, 0.783 acres, Prices Fork Magisterial District, \$196,500

Zachary Weller to Sara Weller, Lot 25, Highland Park #5, Christiansburg

William Exor Haithcock to Universal Trading LLC, \$299,950

Golden Triangle Development LLC to Jennier B. Mackay, Lot 52, Reagans Pointe, Christiansburg, \$259,900

Jack B. Shepherd to Jimmy S. Martin

Kelly Z. Hall to Charles A. Stanislav, Lot 13, Maple Ridge, Village 3, Blacksburg, \$385,000

Golden Triangle Development LLC to Renay D. Moore, Lot 49, Christiansburg, \$244,900

Snyder-Hunt Company LLP to Stateson Homes LLC, Lot 26 Clifton Ph II, Christiansburg, \$70,031

Kathryn Kelly to Kathryn Kelly Trust, Lot 6, Windmill Hills, Ph IV

Howard E. Bane, Jr., to Howard E. Bane III, 4 parcels, see legal

Jack B. Shepherd to Jimmy S. Martin, 20.224 acres, Shawsville Magisterial District, \$60,000

Lee Tilson Strand to M&T Development LLC, Unit 1, Church Street Square, \$410,000

Randall D. Ingham to Kelly Z. Hall, 2 parcels, Shawsville Magisterial District, \$328,000

Southwood Management Inc., to Janeanna Galli, 0.230 acres, lot A, Shawsville Magisterial District, \$189,900

Saied Mostaghimi to Mostaghimi-Pezeshkpour Family, 2709 Chelsea Court, Lot 19, Sec I, Ph II, Haymarket Square, Blacksburg

Saied Mostaghimi to Mostaghimi-Pezeshkpour Family, 0.6310 acres, 1802 Glade Road, Blacksburg

Saied Mostaghimi to Mostaghimi-Pezeshkpour Family, Lot 8, Ph II, Deerfield PDR, 1097 Deerfield Dr., Blacksburg

Matthew Joseph Belay to Matthew Joseph Belay,

Matthew Joseph Belay to Whistle Pig LLC, 1.4785 Harding acres, Harding Rd., 1836 Harding Road, Blacksburg, Mt. Tabor Magisterial District

Matthew Joseph Belay to Whistle Pig LLC, 3.5 acres, parcel A. 3262 Mt. Tabor Road, Blacksburg, Mt. Tabor Magisterial District

Janet L. Donahue to Janet Lee Hansberry Donahue Trust, 1.903 acres, 2722 Bunny Trail Drive, Blacksburg, Mt. Tabor Magisterial District

Jonathan D. Weston Trust to Jonathan D. Weston, 7.27 acres, 4614 Mountain Pride Rd., Hiwassee, Va.

Barbara T. Duncan to Barbara T. Duncan, Lot 2

Victor Dicenzo to William J. Trent, 0.041 acres, lot 22, Hunters Ridge Ph II Christiansburg, \$142,500

Sisson & Ryan Inc., to Long Hollow LLC, 60.095 acres, Shawsville Magisterial District, \$5,000

Kevin Hynes to Hokie House LLC, Condo unit 1210-C, Ph VII, University Village, \$215,250

David K. Wright to Alexander Prouty, 1.35 acres, lot 15A Mt. Tabor Magisterial District, \$215,000

Suzanne M. Miles to James L. Miles, 2 parcels, lots 10, 11

Mark A. Boyd to Alexander Wilkens, lot 11, Henley Place, Ph II, Christiansburg, \$166,000

Herbert T. Albert to Nathan Balls, 1.692 acres, Prices Fork Magisterial District, \$175,000

John R. McAden to F&B Land LP, 8.172 acres, Kensington Ph I

Richard M. Wright to RW Management LC

Adrienna Andersch to Jeremy Counts, Lot 67, Windsor Estates, Ph III, Christiansburg, \$331,000

William Jeffrey Gardner to Cynthia D. Moore, 0.476 acres, lot 2A Christiansburg

Bruce C. Morris to Harless Properties LLC, Lot 130, Johnston Hts Subdv, Christiansburg

Jacob Adam Hall to Christina L. Hall, Lot 12, Belmont Est., Sec 1, Riner Magisterial District, \$220,000

Gloria E. Mullins, Lot 12, Belmont Est., Sec 1, Riner Magisterial District, \$220,000

Brian Y. Lattimer to Benjamin Matthews, Lot 20, Sec IX, Stroubles Mill, \$580,000

Lois Baker Bailey to Carl D. Farmer, Jr.,

Richard Dale Langford Trust to Richard Dale Langford, Lot 10, Windsong Hts, Sec I, Christiansburg

Golden Triangle Development LLC to Mary Ann Thuesen, Lot 35, Reagans Pointe, Christiansburg, \$259,900

Kenneth E. Burton to Jason M. Ronan, Lot 4, Sec I, Round Meadow Country Club, Riner Magisterial District, \$380,000

Mary Ann Weimer Lentz to Blacksburg Homestay.com LLC, 2 parcels, Blacksburg

Thomas A. poole to Mary Ann Weimer Lentz Trust, 2 parcels, lot 22, Knob Hill and parcel A, Blacksburg

Keelan Utzinger to Ashleigh S. Utzinger Trust, 2.337 acres, new lot D, Mt. Tabor Magisterial District

Donald Bruce Garrison Trust to Linda M. Garrison Trust

Harless Street LLC to Smith Creek Properties LLC, Lots 13, 14 and portions of vacated streets, Christiansburg, \$329,900

Herb Smith Inc., to Jacob Seth Radford, Lot 11, Shawsville, 7090 Roanoke Rd, Shawsville, \$195,000

Robert E. Magee Jr. Trust to Mildred Noell Owen, condo unit 30-3, ph 13, sec 2, Villas at Peppers Ferry, Christiansburg, \$340,000

George C. Anderson to NRV Properties LLC, 0.416 acres, Riner Magisterial District, \$109,500

Stateson Homes LLC to Dana Beth Calvert Lot 25, ph II, Clifton, Christiansburg, \$567,055

Joseph and Barbara Straub Living to American Eagle Enterprise LLC, 2 parcels, lots 5,6,7,8,26,27,28, Calhoun & Miller addition, \$100,000

Kirk C. Pearce to Alius Joseph Meilus, Lot 11 Ph VIII, Oak Tree Townhomes, Christiansburg, \$205,000

Raymond A. Dowe to CMH Homes Inc., 1.67 acres Shawsville Magisterial District, \$60,000

Katherine V. Hubbard to Katherine V. Hubbard Trust, 40.425 acres, parcel 2, metes and bounds, Piney Woods Rd., Riner

Sunilkumar R. Parmar to Ana G. Lazo-Jones, Lot 14, ph. 1, Fox Hollow, Christiansburg, \$305,000

Robert H. Yopp to Gregory A. Walters, 2 tracts, metes and bounds, Raines Rd., Elliston, \$8,335

Gregory A. Walters to Gregory A. Walters, 83,4989 acres, Raines Rd., Elliston

Gregory A. Walters to Susan Mara, 35.7845 acres, Raines Rd. Elliston

Gregory A. Walters to Roger D. Deweese, 23.8540 acres, Raines Rd., Elliston

James M. Successor Gaines Trust to Gaines Mountain LLC, Highland Park 2 lot 74, Blacksburg

James M. Successor Gaines Trust to Gaines Mountain LLC, W/S Poverty Creek, Blacksburg

Walter A. Sandberg to Walter A. Sandberg, New River Village ph I, Lot 19, 120 Tula Circle, Christiansburg

Michael B. Shaw to Michael B. Shaw Trust, Knob Hill, Sec V, Lot 8, 707 Knob Hill Drive, Blacksburg

Michael C. Lambusta to Michael Hazuda, Lot 6, Preserve at Walnut Creek, Shawsville Magisterial District, \$326,000

Eric G. Noonkester to Khristoher Searl Beagley, 2.4025 acres, Mt. Tabor Magisterial District, \$135,000

Karen C. Lynn to Karen L. Forshay, 1,195 acres, Prices Fork Magisterial District

Mark A. Ratcliffe to Oaks LLC, Lot 6, Auburn Magisterial District, \$73,000

Kipps Farms LLC to Kipps Farms Homeowners Association, 3 parcels: 2,640, 33,428, 1.151 acres, Kipps Farms Subdv., Blacksburg

Joseph R. Sheppard to Justin R. Sheppard, 7.542 acres, Prices Fork Magisterial District

Snyder Hunt Company LLP to Stateson Homes LLC, Lot 28 Clifton, Ph II, Christiansburg, \$70,031

Glada Reed Luckadoo to Billy D. Massie, 0.005 acres, adjusted area C and 0.019 acres, adjusted area D, 1480 Pine St., Christiansburg

Billy D. Massie to Billy D. Massie, 0.013 acres, adjusted area A, 0.037 acres, adjusted area B, Starlight Dr. SE Christiansburg

Billy D. Massie to Sally Shumate, 0.281 acres, new area, Christiansburg, Pine Street

Starlight MHP LLC to Billy D. Massie, 2 tracts,

1.265 acres, adjusted area B and 0.065 acres, adjusted area A, Starlight Drive SE, Christiansburg

Jessica Manese Lacson to Jessica M. Lacson, Lot 9, Kessler Park, Sec III Blacksburg

Henry Y. Ingram II to Michael D. Lett, Tract 71, Sec II, Laurel Ridge Subdv, Prices Fork Magisterial District, \$420,000

Elizabeth A. Flanagan to Emory M. Hodges, metes and bounds, Mt. Tabor Magisterial District, \$925,000

Grant Realty LLC to Glenn R. Reynolds, Lot 6, Emerald Place Townhomes, Ph III, Blacksburg, \$230,000

John O. Butler to Elliston Land Co., 0.310 acres, Christiansburg, \$2,000

Thomas I. Peterson to Stephanie W. Peterson, Lot 15, Sec 7, Craig Mtn., Christiansburg

Steven Santiago Flores Munoz to Steven Santiago Flores Munoz

Derek Alston Lucas to Derek Alston Lucas

Warren S. Neily to Adrian Yocum, 2 parcels, Riner Magisterial District, \$29,700

Tawni Michon Paradise to Gary Silverman, Lot 7 Ph II, Mt. Tabor Meadows Subdv, Blacksburg, \$556,275

Phala L. Shephard to Sue N. Clements, 2 parcels, 1/2 acre and 14 acre, Shawsville Magisterial District, 7145 Cove Hollow Rd, Elliston, \$42,000

Randall Douglas Gaynor Trust to Julie M. Gerdes, lot 17 and 7 feet of lot 18, blk 6, Mtn View Estates 2, Blacksburg, \$295,500

Randall J. Reese to Randall J. Reese, 3.850 acres, Mt. Tabor Magisterial District

Grant Realty LLC to Klaudia Joanna Kanska, Lot 64, Sec II Ph II, Haymarket Sq., Townhouses, Blacksburg, \$265,000

Catherine S. Stacy Trust to Catherine S. Stacy, 1.478 acres, Oilwell Rd., Prices Fork Magisterial District

Ashley Jo Slagel-Perry to Ashley Jo Slagel-Perry, Lot 4, Apperson Park, Sec 2

David A. Bower to Frank Eugene Price, 13.920 acres, Riner Magisterial District, \$49,000

Kenneth D. Farrar to Nelson Douglas Farrar, 0.407 acres, lot 19, Riner Magisterial District

Chin Chung Hsu to Chin Chung Hsy, 0.141 acres, lot 47-B, Ph IIA, The Village at Toms Creek, \$383,000

Golden Triangle Development LLC to William L. Neeley, Lot 36, Reagans Pointe, Christiansburg, \$289,900

Brandon Lee Fancher to Elizabeth M. Pines, Lot 92, Deercroft, Ph V, Mt. Tabor Magisterial District, \$595,000

Deanna Wimmer Alexander Estate to Old School Properties NRV LLC, Condo unit 104, Chowning Place, Ph I, \$130,000

Thomas S. Barros to DBR LLC, 0.046 acres, lot 9, Hunters Ridge, Ph II,

Riner Magisterial District, \$161,500

Common Ground Properties LLC to Benjamin E. Smith, Lot 53, Belmont Estates, sec. II, Christiansburg, \$235,000

Laura J. Meyer to Joseph Stephen Meyer IV, 1.615 acres, see inst 2008000079, \$99,000

Lawrence J. Ball to Kevin Lawrence Ball, Lot 72, Blacksburg Country Club Estates, Sec III, Mt. Tabor Magisterial District

Jeanette H. Wade to Jeanette H. Wade, Lot 58, Eastern one-half of Lot 59, Oakwood Subdv, Christiansburg

Linda B. Palmer Trust to EFW Jr. LLC, 2.5 acres, Riner Magisterial District, \$177,000

Barnard Chestnut, Sr. to Guy R. Chestnut, multiple lots, see legal

David A. Kelly, Sr., to Walter W. Skoch III, Lot 24, Coal Bank Ridge, Mt. Tabor Magisterial District, \$86,500

Henry S. Keuling-Stout to Roanoke Valley 4-Wheelers Association, 2 tracts, 30.7107 acres and 27 acres, Elliston, Mt. Tabor Magisterial District, \$56,000

Jared Gragg to Scott Barquette Jr., Lot 92, Vistavia, Ph IV, Christiansburg, \$286,000

Tyler P. Spahr to Richard L. Mayo III, Lot 25, Cambria Crossing, Ph I, Christiansburg, \$250,000

Mark F. Walker to Sue L. Hoffman

SB Holdings LLC to Christopher B. Wright, Lot 5, Demaury Lots, Shawsville Magisterial District, \$177,500

Atlantic Union Bank to Progress Street Builders, Inc., 0.955 acres, lot 42, Heritage Place, ph III, Riner Magisterial District, \$54,950

Diana Jones to Ross S. Van Winkle, Lot 25, Brush Mtn Estates, Ph II, Mt Tabor Magisterial District, \$440,000

Freddie A. Walers to Christina M. Davis, 4.3925 acres, lot 2, Childress Estates, Christiansburg, \$390,000

Glynn C. Lopresti to Glynn C. Lopresti, Lot 6, Woodland Park Subdv, 620 Woodland Drive, Blacksburg

Glynn C. Lopresti to Stall Ventures LLC, Lot 6 Woodland Park Subd, 620 Woodland Drive, Blacksburg

Michael M. Moyer to Mark Umansky, 0.465 acres, lots 55, 56, Prices Fork Magisterial District, \$610,000

Harold Wayne Bishop to Jeffery F. Dankof, Lot 18, Ph II, Vistavia, Christiansburg, \$185,000

Simandhar LLC to Town of Christiansburg, 0.006 acres, \$5,700

Terri E. Wilson to Kayla B. Edwards, Parcel 3, see 2010008001, \$105,000

Robert E. Linkous to Mark D. Smith II, 13.367 acres, parcel C, Mt. Tabor Magisterial District

Stateson Homes LLC to Amber R. Vargas, Lot 91, Clifton Ph I, Christiansburg, \$281,390

See Land Transfers, page 6

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# Fall semester

from page 1

tion is that the fall semester experience will be much like the pre-pandemic experience, with enhancements based on what we have learned through the course of the pandemic.

“Of course, we will base our planning on the latest public health guidance and trends informed by still emerging data and science. As we have throughout the pandemic, we will build flexibility into our plans and communicate any updates to our plans in a timely and transparent manner.”

The first visible sign of the university’s goal for a fully in-person fall experience will be seen on March 24 when students will begin to select courses through course request.

“As students begin the process for registering for fall semester classes, they will notice that most classes will be assigned a classroom location,” said Executive Vice President and Provost Cyril Clarke. “As we move forward to the fall, we will closely monitor the public health data and guidance from medical and governmental authorities.”

“Our current planning assumes that physical distancing requirements will be eliminated,” said Clarke. “If that is delayed, we will ask for patience and flexibility as we work through alternatives, with the goal of maximizing use of available instructional space in accordance with public health guidelines.”

In preparation for the new academic year, the university’s in-person experience goal assumes that all faculty and staff who intend to receive the COVID-19 vaccine will have been vaccinated, and that most students will have been able to receive the vaccine before the fall semester begins. To help those students who are unable to receive a vaccine at home, Virginia Tech plans to work with the New River Health District to create opportunities on or close to campus and offer the vaccine to any student who still seeks one.

Because vaccines are provided under FDA emergency use authorizations, the university cannot mandate students to receive vaccination. If the FDA fully approved vaccines, these can be mandated only if required by the commonwealth.

The university is planning to continue its robust surveillance and prevalence testing program this fall, which may include tests for all students living in university housing during move-in days. The testing will be based on current public health guidelines as the semester approaches.

The decision to require masks in all public spaces such as classrooms or university events will be determined at a later date. That decision will depend on the state of the pandemic, state requirements, and prevailing public health guidelines.

Virginia Tech is also planning to operate its housing and dining operations close to normal capacity, but intends to continue to reserve isolation and quarantine space in residence halls for students that are directed to isolate or quarantine by a medical professional.

It is anticipated that indoor dining capacity will increase in the fall, and that off-campus students will be permitted to purchase meal plans if desired. Again, specific capacity and the number of meal plans sold to off-campus students will be determined by state regulations and public health guidelines in place at the start of the school year.

“As we prepare for the fall, it is imperative that we continue to prioritize the wellbeing of our community by complying with all health and safety protocols,” Clark said. “I anticipate that by adhering to this commitment we will have the opportunity to restore the in-person instructional experiences that are so meaningful to faculty and students.”

Sands said, “Few could have predicted how the global pandemic would turn all our lives upside down this past year. But Hokie Nation showed its resiliency once again and came together to figure out how we would move forward in the face of extreme challenges. Despite much difficulty and disappointment, we found our path forward, helping our students take the important steps necessary to earn a Virginia Tech degree.”

Elementary and secondary students can be enrolled on a semester-long basis. Elementary students will be enrolled in the school of their virtual teacher. For 2021-2022, middle and high school students will remain enrolled in the school of their residential attendance zone.

Instructions for signing up can be found on the Virtual School Program website (<http://bit.ly/MCPSVSP>).

Secondary sign-ups are due on April 23, 2021. Elementary sign-ups are due on May 14, 2021. For administrative planning purposes, it is strongly recommended that families who are unsure of their choice sign up for the Virtual School Program.

Families will have flexibility to change learning modalities in August.

## Virtual

from page 1

ly/MCPSVSP). Secondary sign-ups are due on April 23, 2021. Elementary sign-ups are due on May 14, 2021. For administrative planning purposes, it is strongly recommended that families who are unsure of their choice sign up for the Virtual School Program.

Families will have flexibility to change learning modalities in August.

## LAND TRANSFERS

from page 5

Jason Paul Austin to Jason Paul Austin, Lot 67, Ph VII, Oak Tree Townhouses, Christiansburg

Mark Fitchett to Timothy Scott Pratt, 71 acres, Shawsville Magisterial District, \$90,000

Melinda R. Exor Simpkins to Susan R. Keen, Lot 8A, ph II, White Oaks containing 0.1261 acres, Christiansburg, \$166,000

Quing Li to Huafeng Zhao, 0.230 acres, lot 8, Blacksburg, \$362,500

Elizabeth D. Gillis-Robinson to Robert A. Whitlock, Lot 9, Echols Village Subdv, Ph I, Blacksburg, \$300,000

Abdul Rahim Rahimi to Michael G. Creque, Condo unit 102, Ph I, Patrick Henry Place, Blacksburg, \$177,900

F&B Land LP to R. Fralin Construction Inc., Lot 14, Ph VI, Kensington Subdv, Christiansburg, \$58,000

Izel Fourie Sorensen to Heidi Toria Mock, Lot 36, ph III, Haymarket Square Townhouses, Blacksburg, \$237,000

Melanie S. Sontheimer to Marion Somtheimer, condo unit 405 Kent Square

APFI Inc., LLC to Haribabu Kapireddy, condo unit 812, University Pl II, Christiansburg, \$185,000

Michael Paul Belcher to Michael Paul Belcher

Robert C. Williams to Martin J. Dowd, 1.0643 acres, lot 1, Blacksburg, \$442,000

Jimmie R. Salyers to Jimmie R. Salyers, 1.167 acres, 115 Lester St., Christiansburg

Marie Hunt to John Johnston, 1 and 1/2 acres, Prices Fork Magisterial District, \$15,000

Indigo Road Investments LLC to Shah Development LLC, 1 parcel containing 6.4 acres, Ph VIII, Christiansburg, \$500,000

Katherine Bissett to Katherine Bissett, 1.01 acres, Christiansburg

Barney E. Mecom to Ernest Fulop, 1.128 acres, lot 81, Heritage Pl, Ph IV-A, Riner Magisterial District, \$435,000

Federal National Mortgage Association to Charles Kyle Hubbard, Lot 62, Viewland, Sec 3, \$266,250

R Fralin Construction, Inc., to James Hungate, Lot 14, Ph VI, Kensington Subdv, Christiansburg, \$339,947

Christopher J. Fazio to Christopher J. Fazio, Lot 72 Sec IX, Northside Park, Blacksburg

Larkin W. Fields to Kathryn L. Backus, Lot 49, Ph II-A, Village at Toms Creek, Blacksburg \$363,000

Francine M. Anderson to Michael F. Craun, Condo J, Bldg A, Park Place, Blacksburg, \$150,000

Nicholas J. Littier to Aja Helena Eddins, lot 14, Westover Hills, sec III, Blacksburg, \$315,000

Deeds Transfer Upon Death

Wilmar Jean Brammer to Charles Brammer Simpkins, 811 Izaak Walton Lane, Christiansburg, 2.094 acres Den Creek, Shawsville Magisterial District

Thomas R. Shirley III to Connor Marie Shirley, lot 422, Shenandoah subdv., Ph I, Blacksburg

Thomas A. Poole to Mary Ann Weimer Lentz Trust, 2 parcels, lot 22 Knob Hill and parcel A, Blacksburg

Keelan Utzinger to Ashleigh S. Utzinger Trust, 2.337 acres, new lot D, Mt. Tabor Magisterial District

Walter A. Sandberg to Waltr A. Sandberg, New River Village, ph 1, lot 19, 120 Tula Circle, Christiansburg

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING SOLID WASTE AND REFUSE DISPOSAL SERVICE RATES, FEES AND CHARGES TO BE IMPOSED BY THE MONTGOMERY REGIONAL SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY

Notice is hereby given of a public hearing to be held on April 15, 2021 at 1:30 pm at the Montgomery Regional Solid Waste Authority, 555 Authority Drive, Christiansburg, VA 24073 concerning MRSWA's proposed rates, fees and charges for solid waste and refuse disposal services. Such proposed rates, fees and charges are as follows:

<b>SOLID WASTE SERVICES</b>	
Clean brush, wood & pallets	\$52.00 per ton (\$2.60 minimum charge up to 100 lbs.)
Construction waste	\$43.00 per ton (\$2.15 minimum charge up to 100 lbs.)
Dead animals	\$61.00 per ton (\$3.05 minimum charge up to 100 lbs.)
Industrial waste	\$43.00 per ton (\$2.15 minimum charge up to 100 lbs.)
Leaves	\$61.00 per ton (\$3.05 minimum charge up to 100 lbs.)
Municipal solid waste – jurisdictional	\$61.00 per ton (\$3.05 minimum charge up to 100 lbs.)
Municipal solid waste - commercial	\$40.00 per ton (\$2.00 minimum charge up to 100 lbs.)
Sludge	\$61.00 per ton (\$3.05 minimum charge up to 100 lbs.)
White goods/appliances – contain freon	\$16.00 per unit freon surcharge
Alternate daily cover direct haul material	Contact NRRRA
Direct Haul – non friable asbestos	Contact NRRRA
Mulch sold to public	\$20.00 per ton
Untarped/unsecured loads	\$10.00 per load (in addition to the per ton material fee)
Member clean-up events	\$61.00 per ton

Special waste: Must be of a type allowed by law and acceptable to the Montgomery Regional Solid Waste Authority. Rate charged will be a rate set by the New River Resource Authority plus cost of transportation and handling.

### RECYCLING SERVICES

Tires	\$0.18 per pound (\$3.60 minimum charge up to 20 pounds)
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Single Stream recycling processing fee: \$62.00 per ton charge for loads of single stream recyclables unless contaminated and rejected then the processing fee is \$67.00 per ton.

All interested persons will be given an opportunity to be heard at the public hearing, but due to the state of emergency and COVID-19 pandemic, MRSWA's Board of Directors may impose certain requirements governing the format and conduct of the public hearing. Persons wishing to make comments are strongly encouraged to make written comments in advance of the hearing by email or mail. Those wishing to make written comments or seeking more information may contact Kim Stafford, Administrative Coordinator, 555 Authority Drive, PO Box 2130, Christiansburg, VA 24068 (telephone 540-381-2820 and email address of [kstafford@mrswa.com](mailto:kstafford@mrswa.com)).

## Legal Notice

### NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF AN APPLICATION BY APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY, FOR APPROVAL OF A RATE ADJUSTMENT CLAUSE PURSUANT TO VA. CODE § 56-585.1 A 4 CASE NO. PUR-2021-00018

•Appalachian Power Company (“APCo”) has applied to update its Rider T-RAC by which it recovers certain transmission and demand response program costs.

•APCo requests approval of a revenue requirement of \$337.7 million for its T-RAC for the July 2021 through June 2022 rate year. According to APCo, if approved, this would increase the bill of a residential customer using 1,000 kilowatt hours per month by approximately \$11.52.

•Due to the ongoing public health emergency related to the spread of the coronavirus, or COVID-19, a Hearing Examiner appointed by the Commission will hold a telephonic hearing in this case on April 26, 2021, at 10 a.m., for the receipt of public witness testimony. An evidentiary hearing on the Application shall be convened immediately following the telephonic witness hearing on April 26, 2021, to receive the testimony and evidence of the Company, any respondents, and the Staff.

•Further information about this case is available on the SCC website at: [sec.virginia.gov/pages/CaseInformation](http://sec.virginia.gov/pages/CaseInformation).

On March 5, 2021, Appalachian Power Company (“APCo” or “Company”), pursuant to § 56-585.1 A 4 (“Subsection A 4”) of the Code of Virginia (“Code”), filed with the State Corporation Commission (“Commission”) its application (“Application”) for approval to implement factors to recover its actual and forecast transmission-related costs through its transmission rate adjustment clause (“T-RAC”). Specifically, APCo requests permission to recover a proposed total revenue requirement of \$337.7 million through the T-RAC for the July 2021 through June 2022 rate year.

In its Application, APCo states that the transmission costs sought by the Company fall within the definition of costs deemed reasonable and prudent by Subsection A 4. APCo requests a total annual transmission revenue requirement of approximately \$337.7 million, which the Company indicates consists of three parts: (1) \$287.7 million of costs that APCo projects will be incurred during the July 2021 through June 2022 rate year; (2) a cumulative Virginia jurisdictional actual under-recovery, or true-up, balance through January 2021 of \$21.6 million; and (3) a forecast Virginia jurisdictional under-recovery amount of \$28.4 million for the period February 2021 - June 2021. APCo states that its proposed revenue requirement is an increase of about \$122 million from the expected revenue requirement using rates approved by the Commission in 2018. APCo states that its proposed T-RAC rates would increase the monthly bill for a residential customer using 1,000 kilowatt hours by \$11.52.

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

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

The Commission 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 Application. On April 26, 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 April 21, 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 [sec.virginia.gov/pages/Webcasting](http://sec.virginia.gov/pages/Webcasting); (ii) by completing and emailing the PDF version of this form to [SCCinfo@sec.virginia.gov](mailto:SCCinfo@sec.virginia.gov); or (iii) by calling (804) 371-9141. This public witness hearing will be webcast at [sec.virginia.gov/pages/Webcasting](http://sec.virginia.gov/pages/Webcasting).

On April 26, 2021, after the receipt of public witness testimony, 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 Application 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](mailto:njcoates@aep.com).

On or before April 19, 2021, any interested person may file comments on the Application either electronically by following the instructions on the Commission’s website: [sec.virginia.gov/casecomments/Submit-Public-Comments](http://sec.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 refer to Case No. PUR-2021-00018.

On or before April 9, 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: [sec.virginia.gov/clk/efiling](http://sec.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-2021-00018. 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 April 9, 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-2021-00018.

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 Application, the Commission’s Order for Notice and Hearing, and other documents filed in this case may be viewed on the Commission’s website at: [sec.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information](http://sec.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information).

APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY

### CROSSWORD ANSWERS

A	S	A	P		B	A	B		A	M	A
R	U	B	I		A	C	E		A	B	A
C	L	I	M		N	O	R		B	E	N
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# MONTGOMERY SPORTS

## Blacksburg loses to Hidden Valley 22-0



PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING

After catching a pass in the middle of the Titan defense, Blacksburg's Addison Bass makes a cut up field against Hidden Valley.



Blacksburg's Stephen Ritenour celebrates an interception against Hidden Valley during the second quarter of Friday night's game. Despite playing tough defense against the Titans throughout the game, Blacksburg lost 22-0 at home.



Blacksburg's Reed Kirk returns a failed Hidden Valley field goal attempt. Despite the long return, Kirk would be tackled by the Titans to end the first half.

## Game previews: Week 5 as season nears end

**Marty Gordon**  
 NRVsports@ourvalley.org

The short spring football season is quickly coming to an end.

This week is critical for Christiansburg and Auburn, who are still in the hunt for a postseason appearance. Only the four top teams in each region make the playoffs.

Coming into the week, Christiansburg was sixth in points in the region, .5 points behind Magna Vista with Lord Botetourt first, Carroll County second, Abingdon third and Cave Spring fourth.

In Class 1C, Auburn is sixth just .2 points behind Eastern Montgomery and George Wythe. Galax and Narrows are tied for first and Grayson is third.

Games this week:

Floyd (1-3) at Radford (3-1)

Last week: Glenvar rallied to down Radford 16-14 in the battle of Three River District foes. Zane Rupe threw a 70-yard touchdown to P.J. Prioleau who returned from an injury.

In the common opponent, Floyd lost 34-0 to Glenvar.

Prediction: Radford 38, Floyd 12.

Cave Spring at Christiansburg (1-3)

Last week: Christiansburg fell 41-21 to Patrick Henry. The Blue Demons scored 21 points in the second quarter to tie the ball game, but failed to find the end zone in the second half. MJ Hunter, who played multi-positions in the contest, rushed 14 times for 90 yards. Kenyon Johnson-Buchannon added 54 yards on 12 carries while Christian Cunningham had 67 yards on nine runs. The two latter running backs each scored a touchdown. Travis Altizer had Christiansburg's other score on a 52-yard reception. The defense gave up 468 total yards to PH.

Cave Spring lost 63-7 to River Ridge District power Salem. Cave managed only 64 yards of total offense.

Prediction: Christiansburg 27, Cave Spring 24.

Galax (4-0) at Auburn (1-3)

Last week: Auburn ran into a buzz saw in a 38-6 loss to George Wythe. Auburn has been outscored 132-71 this season.

Galax shut out Carroll County 40-0 as Cole Pickett passed for 164 yards and two touchdowns while adding 91 yards on the ground on seven carries with two more scores.

Prediction: Galax 34, Auburn 10.

## Glenvar slides by Radford 16-14



PHOTOS BY BRYANT ALTIZER

Radford's Allen Hamblin tackles a Glenvar player on a punt return in Saturday's 16-14 loss.



Radford senior Alex Kanipe leaps to bat down a Glenvar pass.



P.J. Prioleau hauls in a 70-yard touchdown pass late in the fourth quarter, but it was not enough as Glenvar scored late to take the 16-14 win.

## Hokies advance in NCAA Tournament with 70-63 defeat of Marquette

SAN ANTONIO – Behind 23 points from Elizabeth Kitley, the seventh-seeded Virginia Tech women's basketball team defeated 10th-seeded Marquette 70-63 Sunday at Straham Coliseum in the first round of the NCAA Tournament.

The Hokies (15-9) advanced to the second round of the tournament and were to play fifth-seeded Baylor Tuesday at 7 p.m.

Kitley (11 of 19 shooting) was steady all afternoon, giving the Hokies a cushion early and helping maintain momentum later in the game when the Golden Eagles made a run.

After Aisha Sheppard's transition layup at 7:32 in the fourth gave the Hokies a 15-point lead, Marquette countered with their best offensive stretch of the game, hitting all four of their 3's in a 90 second span to cut the lead to just three.

The Hokies closed the game out on the free throw line, with Cayla King and Azana Baines each knocking down a

pair free throws.

Baines joined Kitley in double figures with 15 and Georgia Amoore added 13 as the Hokies advanced to the Second Round for the eighth time in program history.

**GAME NOTES**

•Virginia Tech is now 1-0 against Marquette.

•Kenny Brooks' record moves to 101-58 at Virginia Tech and 438-180 in his career.

•Tech is 3-1 all-time on March 21.

•The starting lineup of Georgia Amoore, Aisha Sheppard, Cayla King, Azana Baines and Elizabeth Kitley accounted for 63 points.

**IN THE RECORD BOOKS**

•Kitley's 11 field goals is a new program mark in the NCAA Tournament.

•Kitley became just the fourth Hokie ever to record 40 minutes on the floor in the competition.

•Virginia Tech is now 10-9 all-time in 10 appearances in the NCAA Tournament.



# Associated press names Aisha Sheppard to its All-American team

Senior guard Aisha Sheppard became just the fourth Hokie and the first since 1999 to be named to an All-American team when the Associated Press last Wednesday named her an honorable mention All-American.

A unanimous All-ACC

First Team selection, Sheppard scored 20 or more points in nine contests this season, second-most behind ACC Player of the Year Dana Evans, and, like Evans, she scored in double figures in every regular season contest prior to playing the con-

ference tournament in Greensboro.

The Alexandria native averaged 18.3 points per game and hit 85 3-pointers, breaking her own school record for most in a single season. Her career total of 304 treys ranks first in Virginia Tech his-

tory and is eighth all-time for an ACC player. Sheppard's 1,423 points is the eighth-most by a Hokie.

She also had a career season in terms of free throw shooting (79 of 93) and assists when she averaged a career-high 3.1 per contest.



## OUTDOOR REPORT

# Some tactics for spring crappie success

Is there an angler alive who doesn't thrill to the sight of a bobber twitching, then slowly descending out of sight as a crappie nails the minnow below?

Bass and trout may be the "glamor" species, but for Virginia fishermen, the crappie is king. There's little cause for wonder why. Crappies are plentiful throughout the state, from reservoirs in the western mountains to tidewater rivers and blackwater lakes in the east. And they're almost always willing to bite.

While they can be caught year-round, most anglers feel there's no finer time to go after these speckled silver, white, and black panfish than spring. That's when the fish gather in dense schools before swarming into the shallows to spawn near flooded brush, timber, dock pilings and beaver huts.

When the redbuds bloom and turkeys gobble

from ridge tops, crappies shake themselves out of their winter doldrums and move towards shore, stirring deep roots within the hearts of anglers. The fishing season is going full bore once again. It's time to catch crappies.

Also known as speckled perch, crappies are great fish for family outings, biting more readily than species such as bass, muskies, and trout. That makes them the perfect choice for someone new to the sport of angling, young or old.

Crappies are delicious when fried, baked, or broiled. Even a half-pounder yields two small but tasty filets. Since a female can expel over 50,000 eggs, there's no worry about keeping a few fish for the pan.

Virginia's lakes and rivers are home to both black and white crappies. Identifying the two is easy. Black crappies have a deeper body than

whites and a high, arched back. The marks on white crappies form nine vertical bars while black crappies have more random speckles on their sides. Black crappies have seven or eight dorsal fin spines, whites only six. As a rule, white crappies tolerate murky water better than blacks, which favor clearer habitat.

A variety of tackle can be used to catch crappies, including light spinning gear, bamboo and fiberglass cane poles, even fly rods. Here are four proven tactics you can use for Old Dominion crappies this spring.

1. Drift for Pre-spawn Fish

When winter loosens its grip on the land and water temperatures rise into the upper 40s and low 50s, crappies stir from the depths and begin a slow movement towards the shoreline. This isn't a quick, sudden shift into the shallows. Instead, the transition process takes several weeks.

Some of the year's best fishing comes in March for these crappies that are gradually becoming more active.

Drift fishing is the way to go since it allows you to cover lots of water and pinpoint roving schools. Concentrate on points, the mouths of large feeder

creeks, drop-offs, bridge pilings, creek channel edges and deep-water structure. A depth finder will help you locate these areas, and often pinpoint the crappies too.

Two different riggings work well. The first set-up simply consists of a cylindrical bobber, a split shot or two and a fine-wire hook. The second set-up for drift fishing is the "tight-line rig." This consists of a 1 to 2-ounce dipsey or bell sinker attached to the end of the line, and droppers 18 and 36 inches above that with minnows for bait.

2. Comb-Cast the Transition Zones

From mid to late March, fish move a bit closer to spawning areas but not actually on the beds, except for a few "scouts." Comb-casting the transition areas is a great tactic now. A number of lures will catch these more active fish such as small crankbaits, spoons and spinnerbaits, but no artificial will top the humble jig. Since crappies can be picky about which jig they prefer on any given day, though, it pays to stock a variety of these lures.

Focus on water just off from the brushy cover-rich areas where crappies spawn, in 8- to 12-foot depths. With this tactic

you'll be fan-casting to probe lots of water and locate fish. A light weight 6- to 7-foot spinning outfit with 4 to 8-pound line is the perfect rig. Reel slowly and steadily. Every now and then you can pause and let the lure drop back deeper, but no jerking or twitching. The smoother the retrieve the better.

3. Search the Shallows with Minnows

When the majority of crappies move in tight to cover and begin the spawning ritual, it's time to pull out a fly rod, special "crappie rod," or an old-fashioned bamboo cane pole. The length of these fishing tools, 9 to 10 feet and up, gives you "reach" to gently flip minnows back into pockets in brush and drop them next to logs and dock pilings where crappies spawn, without actually casting. That allows precision accuracy.

Cover, especially woody structures such as brush piles, logs, flooded trees, dock pilings, and beaver huts, are the places to target now. If wood cover is scarce, fish next to weed beds or bridge abutments in four to eight feet of water.

4. Dap the Brush with Jigs

This is an exciting tactic if you prefer using "ar-

tificial" over bait. Simply tie on a tiny jig in the 1/8 to 1/32-ounce range and lower it down next to flooded trees, stumps, beaver huts, weed beds, and docks in the shallows.

At this point you'll probably be tempted to jiggle or twitch the lure. Don't! Instead, hold it steady next to the cover. Your hand is actually trembling and shaking just enough to give the jig a very life-like, quivering motion, something like a minnow rotating its pectoral fins. That's usually enough to draw thumping strikes from any nearby crappie protecting its nest.

After holding it steady next to the cover, slowly swim the jig around to the other side of the tree or piling. Pause a few seconds there, then lift the lure up and plunk it down near the next piece of cover.

This method lets you probe the very best flooded brush quickly and usually results in a heavy

Keep these four strategies in your arsenal of fishing tactics and you should be well-equipped for the challenge of catching Virginia's most popular panfish this spring.

--Gerald Almy,  
Virginia Department  
of Game and Wildlife

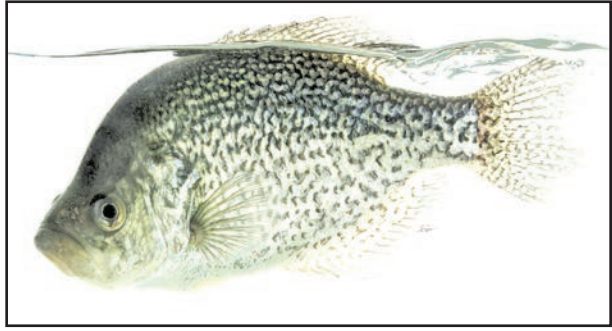


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