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Circuit Court clerk awarded grants to preserve old county records



Montgomery County Circuit Court clerk Erica Conner has been awarded grants to preserve county records as old as 1773.

Montgomery County Circuit Court clerk Erica W. Conner has been awarded grants totaling

\$28,780 from the Record Preservation Program (CCRP). The funds were used to conserve

and digitize eight sets of records including the records of marriages from 1785-1803; three land banks for 1819-1823, 1861-1867, and 1868-1872; Entry Book A from 1773-1783 for Montgomery and Fincastle counties; Will Book 1 (1822-1899); and Will Book 10 (1864-1874).

"I'm very pleased as we continue to preserve records in our office with available funding provided by the CCRP," Conner said. "Each record is a time capsule in the history of Montgomery County, and my continued obligation is to make sure they are available and are protected for future generations."

The CCRP is a part of the Library of Virginia's Local Records Services Branch. Funded through a \$3.50 portion of the clerk's recordation fee, the CCRP provides resources to help preserve and make accessible permanent circuit court records stored in the 120 circuit courts and at the Library of Virginia. For more information about the Montgomery County Circuit Court Clerk, visit www.montva.com/circuitclerk.

Blacksburg Rotary Club to host annual golf tournament

The Rotary club of Blacksburg is hosting its annual golf tournament on Monday, June 14, at the Blacksburg Country Club.

The tournament serves as one of the club's major fundraisers.

Check-in and practice range begin at 11:00 a.m. with a boxed lunch provided at 11:30 a.m. The shotgun start will be at 1:00 p.m.

The cost is \$450 a team or \$115 for an individual, which includes one muligan and one raffle ticket per player, range balls, a red tee package, a tee gift, the 18-hole green fee and a cart, and lunch. Prizes will be awarded to the top three teams in each of two flights and closest to the pin on par 3's. The prizes include golf at regional courses, gift cards, and memorabilia.

Hole sponsorships that will be announced to the field of golfers are available for \$100 a hole.

The Rotary Club of Blacksburg raises funds for seven to 10 scholarships each year for high school seniors, financial support for the Interfaith Food Pantry, the Montgomery County Christmas Store, the Women's Resource Center, the Free Clinic of the NRV, the Shelter Box, the Blacksburg Rotary Mountain Bike Skills Park, and the Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library.

The club also sponsors the Blacksburg High School Interact Club.

The club supports the Foundation of Rotary International and provides funds to PolioPlus, Rotary's signature health initiative, in which every dollar raised is leveraged by a \$2 match from the Gates Foundation. Rotary is committed to eradicating polio, worldwide, in our lifetime.

For more information, contact Mike Snyder at msdenhill@yahoo.com.

Christiansburg Institute, Montgomery Museum seek to plant storyboards, art on Christiansburg town square

Some time ago, Christiansburg Institute, Inc., and the Montgomery Museum of Art & History staff, board members, and local community members began to organize and take meaningful action to preserve and increase awareness about Montgomery County's deeply rich African-American history and culture.

The outcome of the work will be to erect three new history and educational storyboards in the town-owned quadrant in front of the post office in downtown Christiansburg.

Christiansburg Institute and the Montgomery Museum will seek town approval to cultivate this public space with the addition of interpretive storyboards and an art installation to creatively illustrate African-American history. The three signs will bear the themes of "Community Life," "Education," and "Slavery in Montgomery County."

The Christiansburg Institute-Montgomery Museum Joint Committee knows that this is a great opportunity to highlight African-American culture and heritage in a

prominent and highly visible location while also contributing to creative placemaking and enhancing the landscape and draw of the area as a tourist attraction.

CI, Inc. Board President Debbie Sherman-Lee and Museum Board President Ernie Wade said about the project, "We are so pleased to be in partnership and proud to collaborate on this extremely important project to benefit the entire community. Both organization's board of directors unanimously voted to approve this joint venture."

First Peace Corps Prep student poised for a future in international development



Emily Dalton celebrates her Peace Corps Prep Certificate with advisor Ryan Stewart.

Peace Corps volunteers work in 60 countries at the forefront of some of the world's greatest challenges. New Virginia Tech alumna Emily Dalton is now prepared to embark on her own global service journey and has the paper to prove it.

The Center for International Research, Education, and Development launched the Peace Corps Prep program during the fall 2020 semester. The certificate program is for undergraduate students who want to gain skills useful for international development careers and who are considering joining the Peace Corps after graduation. The certificate helps verify student training and knowledge in one of six subject areas corresponding to

the six Peace Corps work sectors.

Dalton is the first at Virginia Tech to receive the certificate. As a dual environmental policy and planning and Spanish major, she had already obtained many of the course credits and leadership experiences necessary for certification at the time of her application. The program requires completion of technical courses and hands-on experiences as well as courses in foreign languages and intercultural competence. The final certification tasks involving professional and leadership development help students prepare for job interviews, be it for Peace Corps or another employer.

"My involvement with the Peace Corps Prep program gave

me the opportunity to meet some more amazing faculty members here at Virginia Tech and learn more about the Peace Corps in general," Dalton said. "I've been telling all of my friends about it because I think it's a great chance to explore the opportunity of the Peace Corps."

The technical sectors from which students can earn a certificate — education, health, environment, agriculture, youth in development, and community economic development — match the disciplines one can enter as a Peace Corps volunteer.

Ryan Stewart, associate professor in the School of Plant and Environmental Sciences, leads

See Dalton, page 5

Radford University announces Presidential Search Committee



Radford University Board of Visitors Rector Robert A. Archer announced Wednesday, June 2, 2021, the establishment of the Presidential Search Committee charged with seeking and recommending candidates to the Board of Visitors to serve as the University's eighth president. The national search follows the announcement that current Radford President, Brian O. Hemphill, Ph.D., will assume the presidency at Old Dominion University effective July 1, 2021.

"Among all the responsibilities of the Board of Visitors, this is the most important one," said Rector Archer. "We are truly committed to conducting a process that is inclusive of our essential stakeholders. Our expectation is that this process will result in finding the right person to continue to build on Radford's many historic accomplishments, while fulfilling the mission of the university."

The 24-member committee will be chaired by Board of Visitors member Susan Whealler Johnston and co-chaired by Board of Visitors member Jay A. Brown. The committee members were chosen from the constituent groups and partners of the Radford University family, including the Board of Visitors, faculty, staff, students, administrators, alumni, community members, and Carilion Clinic.

Named to the search committee were Jeanne Armentrout, Carilion, Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer; Nancy Artis '73, alumni representative; Ashlee

Claud, AP Senate President; Holly Cline, Ph.D., College of Visual and Performing Arts; Kristina Contreras '15, M.S. '16, Staff Senate President; Vernard Harrington, Ph.D., Davis College of Business and Economics; Katie Hilden, Ph.D., Faculty Senate President, College of Education and Human Development; Grace Hurst, Student Government Association President; Chris Huther '88, J.D., Radford University Foundation Board of Directors Chair; Amanda Kellogg, Ph.D., College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences; Sheila Krajnik, Ed.D., Waldron College of Health and Human Services; Jamie Lau, Ph.D., Artis College of Science and Technology; Mark S. Lawrence, Board of Visitors member; Deb McMahon, Ph.D., Board of Visitors member; Anthony Smith '98, Athletic Foundation Board of Directors Chair; David A. Smith '85, M.S. '87, Board of Visitors member; Ray Smoot, Ph.D., Community Representative; Milena Staykova, Ed.D., School of Nursing; Lisa Throckmorton '94, Board of Visitors member; Susan Trageser, Ed.D., Vice President for Student Affairs; Tamara Wallace, Ph.D., College of Education and Human Development Dean; and Ali Wickman, Radford University Carilion Graduate Student.

To assist the Presidential Search Committee throughout this important process, the Radford University Board of Visitors has selected the experienced search firm, Greenwood/Asher & Associates, Inc.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, June 12:

Department of Wildlife Resources Boating Safety Class at Claytor Lake

At the state park's Water's Edge Building, 6620 Ben H. Bolen Drive, Dublin from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Materials and instruction are free of charge. Bring a pencil, a highlighter and lunch. Students may bring food and drink for themselves during the class. Children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

Pre-registration is required. By registering for this class, the stu-

dent agrees to observe all pandemic protocols for this indoor class including social distancing and mask wearing as required by the governor's most recent executive order. Before entering the class, the student will be asked a short health-related symptom survey and will be asked to affirm that the student will abide by classroom rules.

RSVP at <https://www.register-ed.com/events/view/167760>. For more information, contact Mendy Harman at 540-494-3569, mendy.harman@dwr.virginia.gov.

New Mt. Olive UMC Fish Fry

The men of New Mount Olive United Methodist Church will hold a fish fry from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. The church is located at 309 Russell Ave. in Radford (across from R&R Market and the Radford Fire Department)

Monday, June 14:

Free Tabata Hiit Class at Blacksburg Parks and Rec

On Monday, June 14, Blacksburg Parks and Recreation will offer a 25-minute Tabata Hiit full-body fat-blast

workout. Bring your water, mat, and competitive attitude. This class is free, but further classes will be held on Mondays and Wednesdays from 5:30-5:55 p.m. as part of the Fitness Class Pass.

Tuesday, June 15:

United Way Benefit Night

United Way will hold its benefit night at Zepoli's Restaurant & Wine Shop from 4 p.m. until close. What gets donated? 20% for pick-up/delivery, for dine-ins with receipt turned in,

and gift card purchases.

Ongoing:

Wednesdays through September:

Blacksburg's Market Square Jam 2021

Blacksburg's Market Square Jam 2021 will continue each Wednesday from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. through September at the Market Square Park. This season marks the jam's 10th anniversary.

Saturdays through October

Radford Farmers Market

The Radford Farmers Market will be held each Saturday through Oct. 30 from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. in the New River Valley Community Service parking lot (the Old Wade's parking lot) on West Main Street

Thursdays through October

Christiansburg Farmers Market

Every Thursday through October, the Christiansburg Farmers Market will be held at the Christiansburg Recreation Center parking lot from 3 p.m. until 7 p.m.

National Pollinator Week celebrates the birds and the bees

Everyone who enjoys sipping a cup of coffee or biting into a juicy strawberry can thank a pollinator.

June 21-27 is National Pollinator Week, an annual event designated by the U.S. Senate to highlight how essential pollinators are to the production of food and fiber. According to the non-profit Pollinator Partnership, more than 75% of all flowering plants on Earth need help with pollination—plants that are responsible for U.S. food and half of the world's oils, fibers, and raw materials.

"Pollinators are vital to reproduction for many plants including most fruits, vegetables, and legumes produced on Virginia farms," said Tony Banks, senior assistant director of agriculture, development, and innovation for Virginia Farm Bureau Federation. "Without pollinators, it would be very difficult,

if not impossible, for plants like watermelon, peaches, or peanuts to fruit or establish in the flower."

While honeybees are paramount in pollination—responsible for \$1.2 to \$5.4 billion in U.S. agricultural productivity—other essential pollinators include ants, birds, bats, beetles, butterflies, wasps, and small mammals.

However, many pollinator populations are changing. In the past 20 years, the monarch butterfly population has declined by 90%, and 25% of bumblebee species are considered in serious decline.

"Fewer pollinators in a field are likely to result in some plant flowers not being pollinated, which could reduce the size of the crop and, therefore, less income for farmers," Banks said. "Farmers have to manage farms and activities to minimize impacts

on pollinator species, including maintaining pollinator habitat and foraging areas, and applying pesticides properly and according to the label to reduce any potential negative effects."

Virginians can help encourage pollinators by planting a window box or small garden or buying local honey to support area beekeepers.

For Virginians planting a garden, here are some tips from the Pollinator Partnership and Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services:

Use native plants, and plant in clusters that serve as a target for pollinators and increase their efficiency.

Choose plants that bloom in the spring through the fall so pollinators have a continuous food supply.

Select a diverse variety of plants with multiple colors, shapes, heights, and fragrances.



More than 75% of the Earth's flowering plants need help with pollination, but 25% of bee species are considered to be in serious decline.

Provide a water source with sloping sides, such as a bird bath, and change

the water frequently to avoid mosquitoes. Birds prefer deep water while

butterflies and bees like shallow water.

Reduce pesticide use.

Discovery of circadian rhythm gene in mice could lead to breakthroughs in understanding those in humans

That internal nagging feeling that drives you to seek sleep at night and wake in the morning to eat, work, and play, is, it turns out, genetic, and it's not just in people. Nearly every living organism – from animals to plants as well as several microorganisms and fungi – has an internal body clock, or a circadian rhythm.

Yet, scientists have been perplexed as to how these genes operate.

Now, a team of Virginia Tech scientists has taken a step closer to an answer thanks to the DNA of a mouse, a petri dish, and much patience. In a new study published in the journal *Genes & Development*, Shihoko Kojima, an assistant professor in the Department of Biological Sciences, part of the Virginia Tech College of Science, and a researcher with the Fraunhofer Life Sciences Institute, and her team have

identified a novel gene, Per2AS, that controls the sleep/wake cycle in mice. Per2AS appears to be a new type of gene, known as a non-coding gene. Unlike most other genes, Per2AS is not translated from RNA into a subsequent protein, thus making its function unclear until now.

(Circadian rhythm derives from the Latin *circa diem*, or "around a day.")

The study has been in

the works for nine years. Why the long tenure? Well, it's complicated. Literally. "It was difficult to find out what its job is because Per2AS was a noncoding gene," Kojima said. "Scientists have accumulated a lot of knowledge and tools to figure out the function of traditional genes. However, these tools cannot be readily applicable to nontraditional genes, such as Per2AS, because most tools are made based on the unique characteristics common to traditional genes."

According to Kojima, when the Human Genome Project started some 30 years ago, scientists then thought most of our genome is made out of traditional genes because these genes were believed to control unique traits that we all have – eye and hair color, height and weight, personality. That didn't

turn out to be true.

"It turned out that only two percent of our genome is used for traditional genes and the rest appears to be nontraditional genes," Kojima said. "There has been a hot debate whether these nontraditional genes are also important for our traits. Some say it is DNA junk while others say they have important functions."

Growing evidence suggests that at least some nontraditional genes are important for various biological processes, such as neuronal activities, immune functions, and cell differentiation, as well as disease development including cancer, neurodegeneration, and congenital genetic diseases.

The big takeaway: A nontraditional gene can have functions to control our body clock and therefore is important for our genome to have.

In other words, nontraditional genes are as vital as their more basic counterparts.

"People also have an equivalent gene," Kojima said. "However, it is unclear at this point whether the human version has the same function(s) as the mouse version. Most organisms living on the Earth have a circadian clock because this is an internal timing system important to adapt to the daily environmental changes caused by the Earth's rotation. The circadian clock of humans is not much different from that of rodents or insects."

What's next? Kojima wants to study the gene in a live mouse model. Not just from a petri dish. "We also want to know if this gene is in many other organisms. If so, that would mean this gene is very important," she said.

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Shihoko Kojima, an assistant professor at Virginia Tech, and her team of researchers have identified a novel gene, Per2AS, that controls the sleep/wake cycle in mice.

Virginia Tech researcher assists with efforts to prevent plant disease pandemics



David Schmale co-authored a recent paper examining efforts to prevent plant disease pandemics.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, food systems faced disruptions from staff shortages and supply chain issues. Now, a Virginia Tech researcher is assisting with efforts to help plants themselves from facing their own pandemic.

Just like human diseases, plant diseases don't have arbitrary boundaries. These diseases don't stop at a border crossing or a port of entry. That's why plant disease surveillance, improved plant disease detection systems, and predictive plant disease modeling – integrated at the global scale – are necessary to mitigate future plant disease outbreaks and protect the global food supply, according to a team of researchers in a new commentary published in "Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences."

"The manuscript offers a unique and timely perspective on plant diseases, particularly in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic," said David Schmale, a co-author on the paper and a professor in the Virginia Tech School of Plant and Environmental Sciences in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

"What would happen if the world lost a staple crop, such as wheat, to a plant disease pandemic?" Schmale asks. "The manuscript considers current tools and capabilities in the context of climate change and growing human populations. There is a clear opportunity to bring researchers together that work on the epidemiology of human diseases and plant diseases."

Schmale was a part of a team of experts, led by North Carolina State University, that met in Raleigh, N.C., a few years ago to discuss plant diseases and their impacts on food security. This manuscript is the result of that meeting, and many of the experts that were there in Raleigh are co-authors on the paper.

The idea is to "detect these plant disease out-

break sources early and stop the spread before it becomes a pandemic," said Jean Ristaino, William Neal Reynolds Distinguished Professor of Plant Pathology at North Carolina State University and the paper's lead author. Once an epidemic occurs, it is difficult to control, Ristaino said, likening the effort to the one undertaken to stop the spread of COVID-19.

Ristaino said that the efforts from a wide range of scholars – so-called convergence science – are needed to prevent plant disease pandemics. That means economists, engineers, crop scientists, crop disease specialists, geneticists, geographers, data analysts, statisticians, and others working together to protect crops, the farmers growing crops, and the people fed by those crops.

While some diseases are already under some sort of global surveillance – such as wheat rust and late blight, an important pathogen that affects potatoes and caused the Irish Potato Famine – other crop diseases are not routinely monitored. A new strain of the fun-

gal pathogen that causes wheat rust turned up in 1999 (Ug99) and has moved quickly throughout Africa, recently flying over the Red Sea into Yemen.

Globalization of food trade is another factor for the jump of plant pathogens and further risks a food supply already strained by a growing world population and human diseases.

Research is underway to model the risk of plant-pathogen spread and help predict and then prevent outbreaks, the researchers report in the paper. Modeling and forecasting disease spread can help mobilize mitigation strategies more precisely to stop these plant pandemics.

"Our work extends the concept of One Health to plant disease pandemics and the threat they pose to global food security," Schmale said. "People, domestic animals, and plants are all tightly connected through each other and the environments that they share. These connections are changing, and we must address the threat of high-risk plant pathogens to staple food crops to safeguard global food security."

Researchers receive \$1.3 million to further the development of electric aircraft

Narrow and wide body aircraft are responsible for more than 75 percent of aviation greenhouse gas emissions, and an increasingly warmer climate will most likely boost that percentage even higher. Because electric aircraft can significantly reduce carbon and nitrogen oxides emissions, it is a promising solution to a global problem.

To explore that solution, the Advanced Research Projects Agency – Energy, U.S. Depart-

ment of Energy has released \$10 million in funding to support research that furthers the development of electric aircraft. The agency will fund six projects that explore innovative and unconventional ideas across the energy technology spectrum. These projects aim to radically improve U.S. economic prosperity, national security, and environmental well-being.

Serving as principal investigator for one of the projects is Mona

Ghassemi, assistant professor and Steven O. Lane Junior Faculty Fellow in Virginia Tech's Bradley Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering. The project team received \$1.3 million to develop a prototype for a high-voltage, power-dense, cost-effective cable for twin-aisle aircraft that can safely operate in high-altitude, low pressure environments.

There are two kinds of electric aircraft: more-

electric aircraft. The focus of Ghassemi's project is the latter. She will be recruiting two Ph.D. students to work on the project.

"To achieve an all-electric aircraft, not only do all the subsystems need to be replaced by their electrically-driven alternatives, but the thrust power must also be fully provided by electrochemical energy units," said Ghassemi. "Since the electric power

See **Electric**, page 4



VT assistant professor Mona Ghassemi will head up a project team seeking to further the development of electric aircraft. Her team will work to develop a prototype for a high-voltage, power-dense, cost-effective cable for twin-aisle aircraft that can safely operate in high-altitude, low pressure environments.

Surprising finding: Americans drove less during pandemic but traffic fatalities rose

Preliminary traffic fatality data recently released by the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) showed a surprising finding: While Americans drove less in 2020 due to the pandemic, the year saw the largest projected number of fatalities since 2007.

Why the seeming discrepancy? Charlie Klauer, an associate professor and researcher at the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute, has some possible answers. According to Klauer, "The driv-

ing patterns reported during the pandemic are unique, and a direct comparison to our previously collected data would be difficult. However, what previous research has shown is that drivers who engage in risky driving behaviors tend to engage in a variety of risky driving behaviors when conducive to do so.

"Given the much lower overall mileage that is reported by NHTSA, we know that roads are less congested. Thus drivers were able to travel at higher speeds during the pandemic than they

would have been able to do if everyone hadn't been staying home. Higher speeds will increase the number of fatalities, which is what we are seeing in the data."

In other words, as Klauer put it, "Past behavior is the best predictor of future behavior."

Said Klauer, "Drivers who tend to engage in risky driving will engage in a variety of risky behaviors including speeding, non-seat belt use but also alcohol and drug use. These are notoriously dangerous combinations. We have known this for a

long time, and the pandemic simply allowed for these behaviors to coexist in a way that resulted in an increase in fatality rates.

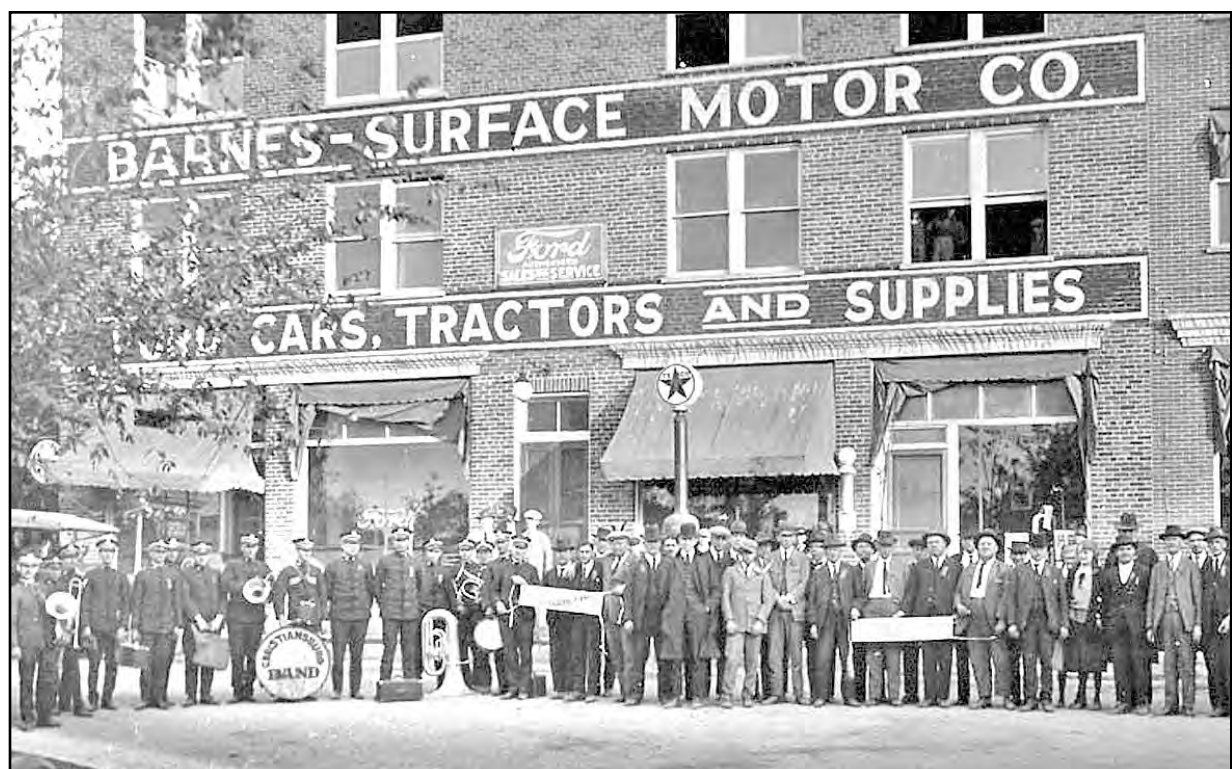
"Clearly, the pandemic has greatly altered many aspects of our society — transportation being just one," Klauer said. "Speeding, alcohol/drug use, and lack of seat belt use are well-known contributing factors to crashes and fatalities. One thing that we are learning is that lower traffic volumes may not necessarily result in lower fatalities. Thus we need to be smarter

about critical interventions to reduce vehicle speed, alcohol/drug use, and increase seat belt compliance, as well as other types of behavior that we know increase crash occurrence such as distracted driving and drowsy driving."

Charlie Klauer is a research scientist and the group

leader for the Teen Risk and Injury Prevention Group at the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute (VTTI). She is also an associate professor in the Industrial and Systems Engineering Department at Virginia Tech. Her primary research involves studying the effects of distraction and fatigue on driving, especially on novice drivers.

Historic Montgomery



The Christiansburg - Cambria Booster Club with the town band posed in the town square in front of the Barnes-Surface Motor Company Building on October 11-12, 1922. (This image and many more are available from the Montgomery Museum of Art & History.)

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OPINION

Evans King: Scarlett on retirement

Well it's me again, Scarlett the Cat, special guest columnist. My boarder just got back from two weeks on vacation, "working remotely" he called it (Yeah, like we buy that.). Said he was at the "beach." Loved my time with Molly, she checks on me and keeps my bowls full, but I did miss him a little near the end. Don't tell him.

I've never been to the beach, not sure what it is, so I asked him. He said there's water and sand everywhere, plus lots of fish and seafood. Sounded perfect until he told me you couldn't drink the water, but it sounds like toilet facilities are plentiful. I prefer to do my business in closed quarters, but, hey, any port in a storm. The seafood sounded good, too. I love shrimp and scallops and flounder when this guy fixes it for me.

I'm writing this piece because the boarder has been pretty busy at the office since he got back. Or so he says. I asked him if he had been "working remotely," how he

got behind. As I suspected, he had no good answer. But that's his excuse and I won't push him on it. He gets touchy when he gets writer's block.

Anyway, I think this trip has triggered thoughts of retirement in him. Again. He came home talking about it. I told him we needed to sit down and look at our finances. I'm willing to make some sacrifices and go on a fixed income, but I've grown accustomed to a certain lifestyle. That part is non-negotiable.

I also told the boarder that he needed to formulate a PLAN. From everything I read, and from talking with my friends, every boarder needs a plan when they go into this retirement thing. Otherwise, I hear it's a disaster and they simply drive you crazy. I know some dogs that almost literally have had their legs walked off! Walk, walk, walk. Thank God we cats have control of that situation. So I told him we needed a plan, but it couldn't include getting a dog or stay-

ing home all day or drinking beer before 11 a.m.

This is where the discussions always end. The guy tells me that he doesn't have a plan, that he doesn't have a clue. He says he likes what he does, and he likes the folks he does it with and it keeps him "mentally sharp." I kept my mouth shut, but I thought to myself, Lord help us if he gets any less "sharp." Hard to fathom.

I'm actually amphibious about the boarder's retirement. He tells me I use that word wrong, that it's "ambivalent." I laugh and tell him I'm just being "ambiguous," mewing out of both sides of my mouth. I just want to make certain that he considers everything before pulling the plug. I hear it's hard to unring the bell on the retirement gig.

Why am I agnostic about the boarder's retirement? First, he tells me that he can account for every two-week period of his life with either school or work, or both, since he was 16. Not sure how long ago that is

in cat years, but a long time I bet. So I sort of think he deserves some time off, some time to enjoy life.

He also tells me that he still feels young. I tell him get a grip, look in the mirror. That train left the station a long time ago. But he doesn't buy it, I guess.

I truly have mixed feelings about him being in my house more frequently. I like him and even sit on his lap a lot when it's chilly. And he feeds me and gives me tasty treats after I wear him down. I heard his daughter, Laura, who's a veterinarian, tell him once that Temptations should not be the staple of a cat's diet. She told him "you just have to 'out-stubborn' your cat." Lots of luck with that. I'll turn in my union card if that happens. Thank God, she's not my boarder.

Having him around more would have some advantages. He plays good music and does interesting things around the house, but sometimes he has the television on and screams

at it, curious things like "never walk the first man in an inning." You got me. And sometimes he picks me up and pets me for no good reason and compounds it by holding on too long. Irritating.

On balance, I don't think we are going to make any rash decisions. We might move to the beach someday, but I don't think it's imminent. And I worry about our finances; certainly we can't live in the style to which I've become accustomed on whatever he could get paid for the drivel that he writes. So I need to check his retirement account balance. Best to keep his day job for now I'm thinking.

Later.

Evans "Buddy" King is a proud native of Christiansburg, CHS Class of 1971. He resides in Clarksburg, W.Va., where he has practiced law with the firm of Steptoe & Johnson, PLLC, since 1980. He can be reached at evans.king@steptoe-johnson.com.

Virginia school superintendent reminds families of free summer meals

Virginia Superintendent of Public Instruction James Lane is reminding Virginia families of the availability of free nutritious meals this summer through two summer meals programs.

The Summer Food Service Program and the Seamless Summer Option operate at schools, public housing centers, community centers, playgrounds, camps, parks, and houses of

worship. Last summer, meals were served under the two programs at approximately 1,000 locations in the commonwealth.

"Nearly 600,000 Virginia students rely on nutritious free or reduced-priced school meals to support their developing minds and bodies during the school year," Lane said. "I am grateful for all our summer meals sponsors and partners who keep our students and their families connected to wholesome and nutritious meals during the summer months so they are ready to learn when the new school year begins in August and September."

Children ages 18 and under may receive nutritious meals at participating locations with

no proof of identity required. Children receiving Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) benefits are also eligible to access nutritious summer meals at Summer Food Service Program and Seamless Summer Option sites.

Families may use the online USDA Meals for Kids Site Finder to find nearby summer meals program locations. Parents and others may also text "food" or "comida" to 877-877 to receive a list of nearby feeding centers.

The summer meals programs, which are funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, allow organizations to combine feeding programs with other activities in communities where at least 50% of children qualify for free

or reduced-price school meals. Due to pandemic-related federal waivers, schools and other sponsors in all Virginia communities are eligible to participate in both summer meals programs through summer 2021.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotype, American Sign Language) should contact the agency (state or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Program information may also be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form (AD-3027) found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992.

Submit a completed form or letter to USDA by mail to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; by fax to 202.690.7442; or by email to intake@usda.gov.

News Messenger

Established 1869
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editor@ourvalley.org

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

The News Messenger (USPS 016-490) is published twice a week for \$44 a year in Montgomery County, \$53 elsewhere in Virginia, and \$57 out of state by Virginia Media Inc., P.O. Box 429, Lewisburg, WV 24901. Periodical postage paid at Christiansburg, VA. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to NEWS MESSENGER 1633 W. Main St., Salem, VA 24153.

WalletHub survey lists Virginia among states with best performing economies

In a survey to determine which states had the most robust economies during this time of economic difficulty, the personal finance website WalletHub compared the

50 states and the District of Columbia across three key dimensions and 29 key indicators of economic performance and strength and determined that Virginia's economy is the 13th strongest in the country.

The results of the survey were released Monday.

The 29 indicators were grouped into three dimensions: 1) Economic Activity, 2) Economic Health, and 3) Innovation Potential.

Among the indicators were the change in the GDP (2020 vs. 2019);

the share of fast-growing firms (the number of firms in Deloitte's Technology Fast 500 list as a percentage of total firms.); the state gross public debt as a percentage of GDP; exports per capita; startup activity; the share of jobs in high-tech industries; the share of job in STEM employment; independent investor patents per 1,000 working-age population; industry R&D investment amount as a share of the GDP; non-industry R&D investment amount as a share of the

GDP; and entrepreneurial activity.

The five states with the worst performing economies (in order from bad to worse), according to the survey, were Oklahoma, Alaska, Louisiana, West Virginia, and Hawaii.

Ranked ahead of Virginia (with the best performing economies listed first) were Utah, Washington, California, Massachusetts, Idaho, Colorado, Maryland, Oregon, Arizona, Georgia, North Carolina, and New Hampshire.

Electric from page 3

system accounts for nearly 30 percent of the entire system's mass, it offers great potential, and the cables we are working on are an essential component for optimization."

The three-year project will encompass a number of innovations. These include conductors with increased current-carrying capacity and a multilayer, multifunctional insulation system made of high thermal conductivity materials.

"We will also be working on a new insulation solution to provide higher voltages with superior mechanical strength and electrical reliability that reduces partial discharge events,"

Ghassemi said.

All-electric aircraft offer numerous advantages, she said, including less energy consumption, lower greenhouse gas emissions — assuming that the whole process of electricity generation is through renewable electricity generation — less noise production compared to conventional aircraft, and more reliable electric subsystems.

"It is really exciting to be part of something that could impact both the future of aviation and our environment in such a positive way," Ghassemi said.

-- Written by Barbara L. Micalo

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
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CLUES ACROSS

1. Most courageous
8. Insurance giant
13. Small trace left behind
14. In a way, signals
15. The same letter or sound at the beginning
19. The Great Lakes State
20. Engage in a contest
21. Drinks served to celebrate a birth (Spanish)
22. Manpower
23. Undivided
24. Strong, magnetic metal
25. People of Tanzania
26. Sorts
30. Cop car accessory
31. Trade
32. Sullen and ill-tempered

CLUES DOWN

1. Expressions of approval
2. Replace the interior of
3. Not awake
4. Roman numeral 7
5. Sun up in New York
6. Institute legal proceedings against
7. Bugs homeowners don't want
8. Maltese-Italian composer
9. Very long period of time
10. Touchdown
11. Agents of downfall
12. Complacently or inately foolish
16. Argentina capital Buenos
17. County in New Mexico
18. An electrically charged atom
22. New Zealand conifer
25. Type of brandy

CLUES DOWN

27. Comments to the audience
28. Tears down
29. Gifts for the poor
30. More painful
32. Good friend
34. Lying in the same plane
35. Line in a polygon
36. Clouds of gas and dust
37. Norse god
38. Health care pro
40. Close tightly
41. One's holdings
42. Became less intense
43. Wilco frontman
45. Woman (French)
48. Expresses delight
51. TV channel (abbr.)
52. Beverage
53. Unit of work or energy
54. Cleaning accessory
56. Dorm worker

Submit letters
to the editor to
editor@ourvalley.org

OBITUARIES

Young, Joseph "Joe"

On May 27, 2021, Joseph "Joe" Young departed this life at the Oaks of Richfield in Salem at the age of 91.

Joe was the fifth of six children born to the late Silas, Sr., and Sarah Catherine Young. He was preceded in death by his siblings, Bertha, Charlie, Bessie, Silas Jr., and Thomas. His passing closed out this generation of Youngs.

Ann "Pauline" Young, Joe's devoted wife of more than 60 years, preceded Joe in death in 2017. They raised a daughter and a son.

Joe never dodged hard work and did whatever was necessary to help his parents and support his family. He gathered wood chips as his first daily chore and quickly graduated to bringing in the wood and coal. At the age of 12, he picked green beans earning ten cents a bushel. Many days he spent ten cents of his dollar earned for a bottle of pop and a cake. He left high school at the age of 16 to supplement the family's income by working for the Norfolk & Western Railroad repairing tracks. Most of the work Joe performed manually was mechanical years later.

He was drafted into the Army in 1951, a few months before turning 22. He served his two-year tour in the engineering center at Fort Belvoir in Northern Virginia, training to build pontoon bridges and then explode the bridges.

In 1953, Joe returned to Elliston and the same job with the railroad. Joe's railroad foreman encouraged him to find a job offering better opportunities and requiring less strenuous labor. Joe took the advice and landed a job at the Salem Veterans Administration Hospital as a nursing assistant where he remained for 42 years.

During his tenure at the VA Hospital, he earned numerous awards including the Unsung Hero Award, the Employee of the Year Award, seven superior performance-outstanding awards, four special achievement awards, a quality-step increase award, and a commendation for 40+ years of service in 1992.

On a part-time basis, Joe manually unloaded tractor-trailer trucks at several food distributors for 35 years, retiring at the age of 79.

Joe was committed to active and ongoing participation in organizations touching the lives of his family and him. This activism included service as president of the Elliston-Lafayette Elementary School PTA and the New River District Planning Authority, and as a lifetime member of the First Baptist Church of Elliston where he served on the Trustee Board and in other ministries.

Joe and Pauline were fondly known as the church's mother and father since they were the oldest couple in the church, and Joe was often referred to by many as Uncle Joe. He was a



member of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia, St. John's Lodge #35, for over sixty years.

Joe was a jovial person who enjoyed talking to everyone he met. He never met a stranger. His favorite pastime was sitting on the front porch, waving to everyone and talking with anyone who stopped to

say "hello." Joe's jovial personality and his community activism earned him the unofficial title of "Mayor of Elliston."

Upon his second retirement, Joe stepped up his volunteer service by taking part in the Montgomery County Retired and Senior Volunteer Program. His activism in the Montgomery County Democratic Party resulted in his meeting former Virginia Governor Douglas Wilder and shaking former President Barack Obama's hand during a campaign stop in Roanoke. He also served on the Meadowbrook Museum Board of Directors until his health declined.

With the exceptions of military service and the time in assisted living, Joe spent his entire life in Elliston, living in the house he was raised in and then in another house he bought at age 16.

Rejoicing in a life well lived and cherishing the Joe's memory are a daughter, Viveca (David) Ware; a son, Donnovan (Melissa) Young; grandsons David, Douglas, Dexter, Donnie, and Derrick; three great-grandchildren, Julian, Quentin, and Leila; one brother-in-law, James (Lucille) Saunders; two sisters-in-law, Augustine Saunders and Susie Saunders; and nieces, nephews, cousins, friends and neighbors. Joe was respected, loved and appreciated by many.

God extended His richest blessings to Joe by surrounding him with individuals and organizations committed to providing loving care, friendship, and medical expertise. The family is grateful for these blessings and extends sincere appreciation to Visiting Angels Darlene Witt and Sue Davis; the staffs of The Oaks at Richfield, the Good Samaritan Hospice, Visiting Angels, Dr. Jeffrey Todd, and Dr. George Smith, Jr.

Joe instilled the values of excellence, responsibility, education, perseverance, respect for all, and activism in his children and his grandchildren. He will be deeply missed, and his legacy will be continued by his children and grandchildren. May he rest in peace.

Funeral services were conducted at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 5, 2021, at Simpson Funeral Home 5160 Peters Creek Road by the Rev. Paul Andrews. Interment followed in the Elliston First Baptist Church Cemetery. The family received friends one hour prior to the service. Arrangements by Simpson Funeral Home. (540)366-0707.

Hughes, Helen Rae (Cookie)

Helen Rae (Cookie) Hughes, 76, of Christiansburg passed away peacefully in her home surrounded by her family on June 2, 2021.

Cookie was born in Christiansburg on Jan. 22, 1945. She was a woman of Christian faith and attended New Hope Church of God. Cookie was a devoted wife, mother,

grandmother, and great-grandmother.

She was preceded in death by her parents, W.W. (Moot) and Juanita Roberts; her grandson, Zachary Graham; her sisters, Pearl (Sis) Smith, Frances (Pee-Wee) Swain, Brenda Custard, and Linda Roberts; and her brothers, Noblin and John Roberts.

Cookie is survived by her loving husband of 31 years, Mike Hughes; her sons and daughters-in-law, Dwayne and Kathy Graham and Greg and Beth Graham; her five grandchildren, Josh and wife Tori Graham, Phoebe, Matthew, and Olivia and John Graham; her great-grandchild, Aubree Graham and soon-to-be-born Riley Graham; Cookie's siblings, Hoover and wife, Sadie Roberts, Faye Curtis, Peggy and husband, Jay Woolwine,



Nancy McGrady and her sister-in-law, Nita Kingrea, and many nieces and nephews; stepchildren Conrad, Dawn, Cole, Tessa, and nine step-grandchildren.

Cookie will be remembered in the Christiansburg area for her years of cutting hair. Whether it was in the barber shop on Main Street

or any number of other places in town, Cookie has cut the hair of a good portion of the Christiansburg population at one time or another. She was also known for her loving and giving spirit. Her family was everything to her, and she also held room in her heart for all those around her.

Cookie wishes to spend eternity among the mountains, so her ashes will be spread near her home at a later date. The family welcomes donations to The International Fellowship of Christians and Jews as an expression of sympathy in lieu of flowers.

Cookie will be greatly missed by her family and friends. Until we see you again . . .

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

Farmer, Mack Lewis

Mack Lewis Farmer, 82, passed away Saturday, June 5, 2021, at his home in Fairlawn.

He was a U. S. Army Veteran. He was preceded in death by his parents, Robert Graham and Mary Emeline Farmer; siblings Annie Belle Furrow, Mary Alger, Lillie Nester, and David, Walter, Vernon, Em-

mett and Edward Farmer.

Survivors include his son, Matthew L. Farmer; a sister, Betty McPeak; and many other relatives and friends.

Services will be private.

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

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Dalton

from page 1

the program's agriculture sector, the discipline in which Dalton earned her certificate. A past Peace Corps volunteer herself, Stewart said that while the coursework for the program is important, gaining the required hands-on experience is particularly helpful.

"When entering the Peace Corps, people often have many of their expectations placed on the technical aspects of the program, such as providing information and assistance to farmers," Stewart said. "However, it is important to keep in mind that the Peace Corps has other missions that focus on cultural exchange. So, my advice to students is to really try and take advantage of this rare opportunity to become immersed in a different culture, and get to know the locals and their customs with as few preconceptions as possible."

Since the 1960s, Virginia Tech has produced more than 700 Peace Corps volunteers who participate in a range of global initiatives, including increasing food security, fighting HIV/AIDS, protecting the en-

vironment, and improving access to technology.

Dalton is no stranger to learning about and serving local and global communities. She served as president of the Virginia Tech Union, one of the university's largest student-run event planning boards. She also has extensive experience volunteering abroad in Kenya and Nepal. One of her inspirations for pursuing the Peace Corps, she said, is her mom.

"My mom went to Romania with the Peace Corps from 1995 to 1997, working in small-business development in Sibiu, Transylvania," Dalton said. "I grew up hearing stories about her time there and all of the friends she made and wonderful experiences she had. Because of all of this, the Peace Corps has always been something that I have wanted to do at some point in my life. Travel is a key value of mine, and I appreciate the level of immersion you get with the Peace Corps."

Dalton plans to wait one year to apply to the Peace Corps and will be beginning a new job as a crew member on an organic farm in the fall.

Legal Notice

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF A PETITION BY APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF A RATE ADJUSTMENT CLAUSE, RPS-RAC, TO RECOVER THE INCREMENTAL COSTS OF PARTICIPATION IN THE VIRGINIA RENEWABLE ENERGY PORTFOLIO STANDARD PROGRAM PURSUANT TO VA. CODE §§ 56-585.1 A 5 D AND 56-585.2 E CASE NO. PUR-2021-00048

*Appalachian Power Company ("APCo") has applied for approval to revise its rate adjustment clause, RPS-RAC, to recover the residual, incremental costs related to its voluntary RPS program.

*APCo requests a total revenue requirement of approximately \$7.1 million for its RPS-RAC.

*A Hearing Examiner appointed by the State Corporation Commission ("Commission") will hold a telephonic hearing in this case on October 6, 2021, at 10 a.m., for the receipt of public witness testimony.

*An evidentiary hearing will be held on October 7, 2021, at 10 a.m., either in the Commission's second floor courtroom located in the Tyler Building, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, or by electronic means. Further details on this hearing will be provided by subsequent Commission Order or Hearing Examiner's Ruling.

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

In 2008, Appalachian Power Company ("APCo" or "Company") sought and received approval from the State Corporation Commission ("Commission") to participate in a voluntary renewable energy portfolio standards ("RPS") program pursuant to § 56-585.2 E of the Code of Virginia ("Code"). In 2011, the Commission approved APCo's request for approval of a rate adjustment clause, designated RPS-RAC, to recover the incremental costs of participation in the voluntary RPS program pursuant to Code §§ 56-585.1 A 5 d and 56-585.2 E.

During its 2020 Session, the Virginia General Assembly enacted Chapters 1193 (HB 1526) and 1194 (SB 851) of the 2020 Virginia Acts of Assembly. These duplicate Acts of Assembly, known as the Virginia Clean Economy Act ("VCEA"), became effective on July 1, 2020. The VCEA repealed Code § 56-585.2, thereby ending the voluntary RPS program, and established a mandatory RPS program for APCo in new Code § 56-585.5.

On May 3, 2021, pursuant to Code §§ 56-585.1 A 5 d and 56-585.2 E, APCo filed a petition ("Petition") with the Commission for approval to revise the RPS-RAC to recover the residual, incremental costs related to the Company's participation in the voluntary RPS program. The Company notes that it has separately received Commission approval of a new non-bypassable rate adjustment clause to recover the costs of compliance associated with the VCEA's mandatory renewable portfolio standard (in Case No. PUR-2020-00165) and that the revised RPS-RAC proposed in the current case is intended to recover only the residual costs of compliance with the voluntary RPS standard. Due to the termination of the voluntary RPS by the VCEA, APCo also requests that the Commission discontinue the RPS-RAC effective March 1, 2023.

APCo requests implementation of its proposed revenue factor effective March 1, 2022, through February 28, 2023 ("Rate Year"). For the Rate Year, the Company states that it calculated a total revenue requirement for the RPS-RAC of \$7,127,710, which takes into account: (i) an actual under-recovery balance as of December 31, 2020, (ii) actual rider surcredit revenues through February 28, 2021, and (iii) projected rider surcredit revenues for the period March 2021 through February 2022. APCo states that it expects to have materially recovered all costs associated with the voluntary RPS by the end of the Rate Year, on February 28, 2023, but requests that any under- or over-recovery balance as of that time be considered part of its base rates.

If the proposed RPS-RAC is approved, the impact on customer bills would depend on a customer's rate schedule and usage. According to APCo, implementation of its proposed RPS-RAC on March 1, 2022, would increase the monthly bill of a residential customer using 1,000 kilowatt hours per month by approximately \$0.89. The proposed RPS-RAC would also affect non-residential customer bills, though the Company indicates that in accordance with the Code it has not allocated RPS-RAC costs to certain large power service customers.

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

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

The Commission entered an Order for Notice and Hearing that, among other things, scheduled public hearings on APCo's Petition. On October 6, 2021, at 10 a.m., the Commission will hold a telephonic hearing for the purpose of receiving the testimony of public witnesses, with no public witness present in the Commission's courtroom. On or before October 4, 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/Webcastings; (ii) by completing and emailing the PDF version of this form to SCCInfo@sec.virginia.gov; or (iii) by calling (804) 371-9141. This public witness hearing will be webcast at sec.virginia.gov/pages/Webcasting.

On October 7, 2021, at 10 a.m., either in the Commission's second floor courtroom located in the Tyler Building, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, or by electronic means, the Commission will convene a hearing to receive testimony and evidence offered by the Company, any respondents, and the Commission's Staff on the Company's Petition. Further details on this hearing will be provided by subsequent Commission Order or Hearing Examiner's Ruling.

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 should 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.

An electronic copy of the Company's Petition may be obtained by submitting a written request to counsel for the Company, Noelle J. Coates, Esquire, American Electric Power Service Corporation, 3 James Center, 1051 E. Cary Street, Suite 1100, Richmond, Virginia 23219, or njcoates@aep.com.

On or before October 6, 2021, any interested person may file comments on the Petition by following the instructions on the Commission's website: sec.virginia.gov/casecomments/Submit-Public-Comments. All comments shall refer to Case No. PUR-2021-00048.

On or before July 30, 2021, any person or entity wishing to participate as a respondent in this proceeding may do so by filing a notice of participation at sec.virginia.gov/clk/efiling. Such notice of participation shall include the email addresses of such parties or their counsel. The respondent simultaneously shall serve a copy of the notice of participation on counsel to 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. Any organization, corporation, or government body participating as a respondent must be represented by counsel as required by 5 VAC 5-20-30, *Counsel*, of the Rules of Practice. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2021-00048.

On or before August 20, 2021, each respondent may file with the Clerk of the Commission at sec.virginia.gov/clk/efiling 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, including 5 VAC 5-20-140, *Filing and service*, and 5 VAC 5-20-240, *Prepared testimony and exhibits*. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2021-00048.

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

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

APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY

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Auctions

STORAGE AUCTION

Salem Storage 736 Roanoke Street Salem, Va. 24153 June 18, 2021 at 11:30 am Salem Storage will conduct a public sale of merchandise to collect liens from the following delinquent building. Owner Wanda Baier-Bordeaux Unit 73 Cash Only We reserve the right to refuse bids.

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

Section Chief, Roanoke, VA & other Carilion sites across state of VA. Promote clinical & svc excellence. Lead collab. processes. Actively dvlp & manage approp. balance between clinical, svc, & financial performance. Provide clinical med. svc to patients. Mail resume to A. Ollie, Carilion Medical Center, 1212 Third Street SW, Roanoke, VA 24016.

Legals - Botetourt County

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316
Case No. JJ013851-08-00
BOTETOURT JDR DISTRICT COURT
Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Commonwealth of Virginia, in re JOYCE, AUDREY ELIZABETH COMMONWEALTH OF VA - DSS
/v.
UNKNOWN FATHER
The object of this suit is to: TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS TO AUDREY E. JOYCE
It is ORDERED that the defendant UNKNOWN FATHER appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before 07/20/2021 01:00 PM
05/03/2021
Pamela Jarvis
CLERK

Legals - City of Salem

Notice is hereby given to

all interested persons that the City of Salem Planning Commission, at its regular meeting on June 16, 2021, at 7:00 p.m., in the Community Room of the Salem Civic Center, 1001 Roanoke Boulevard, in the City of Salem, Virginia, will hold a public hearing, pursuant to Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia, as amended, to consider the following requests relative to the CODE OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA:

1. Consider the request of Bethel Baptist Church, Inc., property owner, for rezoning the property located at 6 Front Avenue (Tax Map # 234-6-2) from RSF Residential Single-Family District to HBD Transitional Business District with proffered condition.
2. Consider the request of Peter R. Fields and Vivian D. Fields, property owners, for rezoning the property located at 303-305 South Colorado Street (Tax Map # 121-10-4) from RMF Residential Multi-Family to TBD Transitional Business District.
3. Consider the request of MCLIP Properties, LLC, property owner, for rezoning the property located at 901 South Colorado Street and proffered condition.

2. Consider the request of Peter R. Fields and Vivian D. Fields, property owners, for rezoning the property located at 303-305 South Colorado Street (Tax Map # 121-10-4) from RMF Residential Multi-Family to TBD Transitional Business District.

3. Consider the request of MCLIP Properties, LLC, property owner, for rezoning the property located at 901 South Colorado Street and proffered condition.

Legals - City of Salem

110 7th Street (Tax Map # 184-4-8) from LM Light Manufacturing District to CBD Community Business District.

4. Consider the request of Timothy J. Toohig and Lonzie L. Linkous, Jr., property owners, for the issuance of a Special Exception Permit to allow a two-family dwelling on the property located at 335 Roanoke Boulevard (Tax Map # 146 - 1 - 3).

5. Consider the request of Total Motion Performance, lessee, and 751 Union Station, LLC, property owner, for the issuance of a Special Exception Permit to allow athletic instruction services on the property located at 773 Union Street (Tax Map # 183 1 1).

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

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

THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA BY
James E. Taliaferro, II
Executive Secretary

Notice

I, Cody Frederick Joshua Gibbs am doing business under the fictitious name CODY FREDERICK JOSHUA GIBBS.

Notice is hereby given to

all interested persons that the Council of the City of Salem, at its regular meeting on Monday, June 28, 2021, at 6:30 p.m., in the Auditorium of Andrew Lewis Middle School, 616 South College Avenue, Salem, Virginia, will hold a public hearing, pursuant to Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia, as amended, to consider the following requests relative to the CODE OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA:

1. Consider the request of Bethel Baptist Church, Inc., property owner, for rezoning the property located at 6 Front Avenue (Tax Map # 234-6-2) from RSF Residential Single-Family District to HBD Highway Business District with proffered condition.

2. Consider the request of Peter R. Fields and Vivian D. Fields, property owners, for rezoning the property located at 303-305 South Colorado Street (Tax Map # 121-10-4) from RMF Residential Multi-Family to TBD Transitional Business District.

3. Consider the request of MCLIP Properties, LLC, property owner, for rezoning the property located at 901 South Colorado Street and 110 7th Street (Tax Map # 184-4-8) from LM Light Manufacturing District to CBD Community Business District.

4. Consider the request of Timothy J. Toohig and Lonzie L. Linkous, Jr., property owners, for the issuance of a Special Exception Permit to allow a two-family dwelling on the property located at 335 Roanoke Boulevard (Tax Map # 146 - 1 - 3).

5. Consider the request of Total Motion Performance, lessee, and 751 Union Station, LLC, property owner, for the issuance of a Special Exception Permit to allow athletic instruction services on the property located at 773 Union Street (Tax Map # 183 1 1).

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

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

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA BY
H. Robert Light
Clerk of Council

Legals - Montgomery County

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
VA. CODE §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316, -317, 20-104
Case No. CL21000845-00
Montgomery County Circuit Court
55 East Main Street Suite 1 Christiansburg, VA 24073
MASTROGIOVANNI, JENNIFER v.
EVANS, MICHAEL TAHIR
The object of this suit is to: NAME CHANGE ON A MINOR
It is ORDERED that MICHAEL TAHIR EVANS appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before JULY 20, 2021.

MAY 27, 2021
ERICA W. CONNER
CLERK

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
VA. CODE §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316, -317, 20-104
Case No. CL21000748-00
Montgomery County Circuit Court
55 East Main Street Suite 1 Christiansburg, VA 24073
ARROYO, ESMERALDA RUIZ v.
HERNANDEZ, ERNESTO ARROYO
The object of this suit is to: DIVORCE
It is ORDERED that ERNESTO ARROYO HERNANDEZ appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before JULY 26, 2021.

MAY 27, 2021
ERICA W. CONNER
CLERK

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Christiansburg Town Council will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, June 22, 2021 at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments concerning:

- A. An amendment of proffers for conditional zoned property for The Reserve at Round Meadows by Shah Development LLC (applicant/property owner). The change of proffers would allow an increase of five (5) additional lots for a total of no more than 56 single-family detached dwellings. The development is adjacent to Round Meadow Drive on Tax Map Nos. 494 – ((A)) – 62 and 63, Tax Map 495 – ((A)) – 64, and Tax Map 494 – ((A)) – 55E1 – 55E3.
- B. Conditional Use Permit request by Shah Development LLC (applicant/property owner) for a revision to The Reserve at Round Meadows subdivision previously approved 51 single family detached dwelling Planned Housing Development to add five (5) additional single-family dwellings on property located adjacent to Round Meadow Drive on Tax Map Nos. 494 – ((A)) – 62 and 63, Tax Map 495 – ((A)) – 64, and Tax Map 494 – ((A)) – 55E1 – 55E3.

Town Hall will be open and available to receive public comment in-person at the time of this Public Hearing. Additionally, the meeting will be streamed live on the Town of Christiansburg's YouTube channel at www.christiansburg.org/youtube and will remain on the Town's YouTube page once the meeting concludes. For information on contactless methods for submitting public comment, please visit www.christiansburg.org/publichearings.

A copy of the applications, the Town's Zoning Map, Zoning Ordinance, and Future Land Use Map may be viewed in the Planning Department Office, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073 during normal office hours of 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contact Andrew Warren, Assistant Town Manager, at (540) 382-6128 ext. 1130 or by email at awarren@christiansburg.org with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations.

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MONTGOMERY SPORTS

Pulaski's Calfee Park to host Appy League all-star game

Marty Gordon
Contributing writer

Pulaski's Calfee Park will continue to be the center of attention this summer as on Sunday Major League Baseball, USA Baseball, and the Appalachian League announced that the 2021 Appalachian League All-Star Game presented by Pennzoil will take place at historic Calfee Park, the home of the Pulaski River Turtles.

In addition, the event will be broadcast on MLB Network and will bring together the Appalachian League's top players in the first year of the league's new format, featuring the nation's top rising college freshmen and sophomores.

Additional details about the game and related festivities will be revealed at a later date.

The park was initially built in 1935 and has undergone a major facelift over the past seven years. Most recently, Calfee was home

to the Pulaski Yankees, but that all changed this past winter when Major League Baseball decided to cut the minor league system almost in half. The Appy took a major hit as rookie league teams lost their affiliations.

This came after the She-lor Motor Mile Group made millions of dollars in improvements to the park.

The Christiansburg ownership remains optimistic as the league transitions to wooden bats.

Morgan Sword, MLB's Executive Vice President of Baseball Operations, was on hand this weekend for the all-star game announcement.

"Pulaski has one of the best ballparks not just in the Appalachian League but across the entire country," Sword said. "This historic stadium is a great venue to demonstrate both the Appalachian League's legacy and its future, and we can't wait to see the league's brightest stars shine in the first all-star game of this new

format. The 2021 All-Star Game will be an exciting and memorable event for fans in Pulaski and across the region."

Paul Seiler, Executive Director/CEO of USA Baseball, also expressed some excitement.

"Calfee Park and the people of Pulaski have proven themselves to be a first-rate facility and fan base within the Appalachian League," Seiler said. "We cannot think of a better introduction for the first all-star game ever to be played in the league's history than to be featured in this historic venue. It will be a memorable event for the players and the Pulaski community."

JW Martin, general manager of the Pulaski River Turtles, said Calfee is honored to host the inaugural Appalachian League All-Star Game.

"To have Calfee Park and our baseball community in the national spotlight is an incredible opportunity, and we are eager to welcome the



Calfee Park

FILE PHOTO

Appalachian League's best to Pulaski for what promises to be a great night of baseball," Martin said.

This news follows previous announcements about MLB's and USA Baseball's initiatives to support baseball in Appalachian League communities.

As part of the MLB and USA Baseball Prospect Development Pipeline, the Appalachian League is a critical stop on the develop-

ment pathway for amateur baseball players in the U.S., and this summer and fall, MLB and USA Baseball will partner to bring "Fun At Bat" school programs and USA Baseball Community Coaching Clinics across the region.

Through these programs, MLB is creating new generations of fans and players and demonstrating a model for other leagues and communities across the country.

Top MLB executives recently concluded a tour of the Appalachian League to mark Opening Day, meeting with clubs, fans, and local officials at TVA Credit Union Ballpark in Johnson City, Tenn.; Hunter Wright Stadium in Kingsport, Tenn.; Bowen Field in Bluefield, W.Va.; and Calfee Park in Pulaski; plus visits to Greeneville, Tenn.; Elizabethton, Tenn.; Bristol, Va.; and Princeton, W. Va.

Rule changes for Appy League play announced

The Appalachian League and USA Baseball jointly have announced the addition of experimental and modified rules for the Appalachian League's inaugural season as a part of the Prospect Development Pipeline.

Driven by Major League Baseball's (MLB) and USA Baseball's commitment to long-term overall athlete and arm safety, the updates involve the addition of a re-entry rule and modifications to the extra-innings rule.

Excluding select additions or modifications, the Appalachian League will follow the 2019 Official Baseball Rules as set by MLB and the Playing Rules Committee in cooperation with its mission for national team development and to prepare athletes for a career in professional baseball.

RE-ENTRY: The re-entry rule is for the second half of the season (July 8 and later).

PITCHERS: A pitcher who starts an inning and exceeds 25 pitches before recording three outs may be substituted for a relief pitcher to complete the inning. The pitcher who began the previous inning and was substituted out of the game will be allowed to re-enter to begin the subsequent inning. The pitcher who came on in relief will also be eligible to re-enter the game in the following inning. Any pitcher who re-enters a game may only do so in consecutive innings.

POSITION PLAYERS: Position players may be allowed to re-enter a game as necessary due to injuries or if injury prevention is essential.

EXTRA INNINGS: If the game is tied at the end of regulation, the extra-inning rule will begin in the subsequent inning, placing runners on first and second with no outs. If the game remains tied after the first completed extra inning, the following inning will begin with the bases loaded and no outs. The game will end in a tie if a winner has not been determined after two full extra in-

nings have been completed.

On the new rules for the Appalachian League UCLA head coach and Appalachian League Steering Committee member John Savage:

"The new re-entry rule will allow pitchers to get consistent work while balancing their pitches per inning for each outing. This is a tremendous addition to a league focused on the development of young athletes."

Bristol State Liners manager Dave Trembley:

"Players improve by getting game experience and the new re-entry rule will allow coaches to create player development plans that will provide the opportunity to monitor pitch counts while allowing the player to stay on schedule. This is a win-win situation for the players and that is the most important consideration."

Kingsport manager Daren Brown: "The Appalachian League is laying the foundation to prioritize development and the protection of its athletes, and the re-entry rule will only afford players more safe opportunities to do so. Our goal in this league is to help these young players prepare for a long career in professional baseball and it is our responsibility to do whatever we can to help them avoid unforeseen injuries so that they may take advantage of this unique development experience."

Appalachian League pitching coordinator Ray Burris:

"For me, the re-entry rule gives credence to keeping a player healthy by not taxing his body and the mind. Those who have played or been around the game of baseball their entire lives know that there will be times where a pitcher will experience long innings; however, it should not come at the expense of harming a pitcher. It is an important step for the Appalachian League to introduce the re-entry rule and reinforce itself as a development league first and foremost."

Baseball is fun again



From the Sidelines

Marty Gordon

Baseball is back this spring, and we also have it for the summer in the version of the Appalachian League's wooden bat league and the Carolina League's Salem Red Sox. It will be so nice to finally see a crowd in the stands and to hear people yell at umpire's calls.

We have to make note of two recent fun connections to the sport at Auburn High School and Radford University.

Carter Keith has been a key for Auburn High School's baseball team for the past four years, and this past week, he did something that will be hard to accomplish ever again. Keith literally played every position on the field.

His typical position is catcher and he has played every position in the outfield. But in a game against Mt.-Empire-District-foe George Wythe, he started on the mound in the first, caught in the second, played all three outfield positions in the third, went to first base in the fourth, and then rotated to every other infield position in the fifth inning.

Nine positions in one game. Rain delays are unavoidable when it comes to baseball, and sometimes many of the teams find unusual ways to stay busy during that "stop time." No more was this true than during a regular season game between Radford University and High Point. The contest is now featured on a Fan Buzz online.

Players from both teams stepped out in the rain wearing catcher's gear while sitting on the shoulders of a fellow player. What ensued was a "baseball jousting event."

Radford University's Mark Peterson and Jake Taylor took the victory over High Point's Kyle Mahoney and Corey Swickle.

Also, USA Baseball has announced the schedule for the 2021 Collegiate National Team. The collegiate team will not face an international opponent this summer; instead, this year's team will feature 48 players on two 24-man rosters, the Stars and Stripes, who will play 11 intrasquad games in July.

The Stars and Stripes will play 10 of its 11 games in the cities of the Appalachian League, which begins its first season as a summer collegiate league as a part of the Prospect Development Pipeline. The Appalachian League also serves as a national team pathway and identification event for the Collegiate National Team and other future USA Baseball national teams.

Team USA will kick-off its 11-game tour on Friday, July 2, in Danville, Va., followed by a game in Burlington, N.C., on Saturday, July 3. USA Baseball will host the Fourth of July game at its National Training Complex in Cary, N.C., before hitting the road again to finish its season.

Greeneville, Tenn., will host the U.S. team on Tuesday, July 6, followed by Johnson City, Tenn.; Bristol, Va.; Elizabethton, Tenn.; and Kingsport, Tenn., on four consecutive nights.

The 11-game tour will conclude with a trio of games in Pulaski; Princeton, W.Va.; and Bluefield, W.Va., from July 13-15, respectively.

Go out and enjoy a ball game with a hot dog and some peanuts. Here's to summer's favorite pastime.

RU pitcher signs with SouthShore Railcats

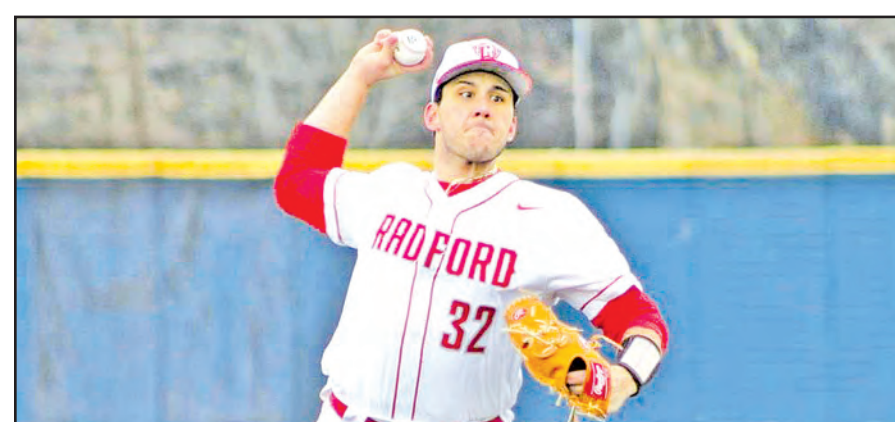


PHOTO COURTESY OF RU ATHLETICS

Greg Duncan finished Radford University's 2021 baseball season with a 6-3 record.

Radford University's Greg Duncan has signed with the SouthShore Railcats after his successful 2021 campaign with the Radford Highlanders baseball team.

A starting pitcher for the Highlanders during the 2021 campaign, Duncan will be taking his talent to Gary, Ind., the Railcats' home. The team is part of the independent American Association League and plays its home games in U.S. Steelyard Stadium. The team has posted an 8-8 record through the early stretch of the season so far while under the management of head

coach Greg Taggart.

Duncan was one of the Highlanders' top arms this past season. He finished the season with a 4.38 ERA and posted a 6-3 record in 13 starts. He pitched 78 innings, struck out 64 batters, and held opponents to a .305 batting average.

Over his final seven appearances of the season, he was a reliable arm for the Highlanders going five or more innings in all of those starts. Duncan lasted five or more innings in all but one of his 13 starts. He also never walked more batters than he struck out in his starts.

VT men's basketball to face St. Bonnie

The Virginia Tech men's basketball team will face St. Bonaventure on Friday, Dec. 17, in the first-ever Shootout Hall of Fame Shootout at Spectrum Center in

Charlotte, N.C.

The Hokies and the Bonnies are part of a one-day quadruple-header that will also feature NC State vs. Richmond, Charlotte vs. Wake Forest, and East Carolina vs. Liberty.

Game times, ticket information and television broadcast details will be released at a later date.

Tech and St. Bonaventure have met 16 times previously on the hardwood, with the Hokies owning an 11-5 advantage. The Hokies have won three straight in the series but have

not played their former conference foes since 2011.

For the first time in program history, St. Bonaventure won both the Atlantic-10 regular season and tournament titles outright last season.

With the announcement of the game against the Bonnies, Tech now has three confirmed games for its 2021-22 season. The Hokies had previously published that they will be playing in the NIT Season Tip-Off, Nov. 24 and 26, at Barclays Center in Brooklyn, N.Y.

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