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Blue Ridge PBS creating all-digital TV station for Southwest Virginia

Blue Ridge PBS is creating a first-of-its-kind, all-digital television station dedicated to serving Southwest Virginia.

PBS Appalachia|Va will serve 13 counties in one of the only areas of the country not currently served by a PBS station. The new TV station will tell the stories of the area's communities,

celebrate its heritage, highlight its people, and look forward to the region's growth; all through the lens of industry-leading equipment and the eyes of award-winning producers.

Over the next year, PBS Appalachia|Va will create a state-of-the-art studio, headquartered in the Southwest Virginia Cultural Heritage

Center in Abingdon. This partnership will allow the two non-profit organizations to not only showcase the region through video but also to draw more visitors to the area to tour the station and see television production as it happens.

See PBS, page 4

Governor appoints new members to Radford University Board of Visitors

Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin has announced the appointment of four new members to four-year terms on the Radford University Board of Visitors: Jeanne Armentrout of Fincastle, Jennifer Wishon Gilbert of Mount Jackson, George Mendiola, Jr., of Manassas, and James C. Turk, Jr., of Blacksburg.

Armentrout is executive vice president and chief administrative officer for Carilion Clinic where she oversees the administrative and support functions for the healthcare system, including audit and compliance; diversity, health equity and community benefit; hu-

man resources; physician recruitment and credentialing; home care and hospice; technology, data and digital care; marketing, planning and organizational communication; supply chain, retail and wellness. She received a Bachelor of Science in Nursing in 1981 from Radford University, a Master of Science in Nursing from the University of Virginia in 1987, and an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from Jefferson College of Health Sciences (now Radford University Carilion) in 2019.

Gilbert is a 20-year veteran broadcast journalist, most recently working as senior Washington correspon-

See New Members, page 4



The studios for the new all-digital TV station PBS Appalachia|Va. will be housed in the Southwest Virginia Cultural Heritage Center in Abingdon, pictured above.

New state budget means 64,000 more Virginia children can get free school meals

Virginia's new state budget that took effect July 1 includes \$8.2 million over the next two years to help local school divisions eliminate the cost of school breakfast and lunch for students who are eligible for reduced price meals under the federal National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program.

The funding will help approximately 64,500 more school-age children access free meals.

According to No Kid Hungry Virginia, the new law will help schools and community groups in the commonwealth and across the country more effectively reach students through summer meals and school meal programs. The new budget will allow for flexibilities such as grab-and-go and delivery distribution models to continue through summer 2022; remove financial penalties for food substitutions caused by supply chain disruptions; and increase meal reimbursement rates for schools and meal program operators.

The legislation comes as schools and community organizations navigate increased food and labor costs, as well as ongoing supply chain issues. Currently, 92% of school districts nationwide cite trouble sourcing the food they need due to ongoing delivery disruptions, and nearly 75% report staffing challenges.

Virginia Congressman Bobby Scott co-sponsored the federal Keep Kids Fed Act, legislation that will give schools and community organizations more of the tools and financial resources they need to continue feeding children through summer 2022 and the 2022-2023 school year.

"This is a huge step forward and provides needed support to schools and communities working tirelessly to connect kids with nutritious meals," said Sarah Steely, No Kid Hungry Virginia Director. "School and summer meals are a lifeline for the many families who are hurting from rising food, transportation and housing costs. While school districts will continue to face challenges, the new law will help teams more effectively manage rising prices and supply chain issues."

"School meals are critical to supporting our children's academic success and well-being. We applaud Governor Youngkin and Virginia's lawmakers for supporting this important budget provision, which will help more students access school breakfast and lunch at no charge. The funding will also eliminate the administrative and financial burden on school nutrition teams to collect unpaid meal debt from reduced-price-eligible students so staff can do what they do best: feed kids."

RU Police Department signs pledge to advance women in policing

In June 2022, the Radford University Police Department signed on to the 30x30 Pledge, a series of low- and no-cost actions policing agencies can take to improve the representation and experiences of women in law enforcement.

The activities help policing agencies assess the current state of a department with regard to gender equity, identify factors that may be driving any disparities, and develop and implement strategies and solutions to eliminate barriers and advance women in policing. These actions address recruitment, assessment, hiring, retention, promotion, and agency culture.

The pledge is the foundational effort of the 30x30 Initiative, a coalition of police leaders, researchers, and professional organizations that have joined together to advance the representation and experiences of women in all ranks of policing across the United States.

The ultimate goal of the 30x30 Initiative is to reach 30% women in police recruit classes by 2030 and to

ensure policing agencies are truly representative of the jurisdiction the agency serves. Radford University was founded as a women's college and has a majority female student population.

While 30x30 is focused on

advancing women in policing, these principles are applicable to all demographic diversity, not just gender. It is a goal of Radford University Chief of Police Eric Plummer to provide increased opportunities to all members of the

See Women In Policing, page 4



The Radford University Police Department has signed on to the 30x30 pledge, a series of actions policing agencies can take to improve the representation of women in law enforcement. Radford University was founded as a women's college, and a majority of its students are female.

Virginia Tech joins consortium of universities of D.C. metro area

Virginia Tech has become an affiliate member of the Consortium of Universities of the Washington Metropolitan Area, an organization founded to foster collaboration for higher education across the greater

Washington, D.C., metropolitan area.

"The presidents of the region's colleges and universities were unanimous in naming Virginia Tech our third affiliate member," said Andrew Flagel, president and chief executive officer of

the consortium. "Joining with affiliate members the Smithsonian Institute and Johns Hopkins University, Virginia Tech's membership represents

See Virginia Tech, page 6



Whitebarrel Winery to close permanently in August

Whitebarrel Winery, 4025 Childress Road, Christiansburg, has announced it will be closing permanently in August.

An announcement from the winery says it will continue to be open for food and drinks until Sunday, July 24, and will be open for bottle sales until Aug. 7. As of Thursday, July

7, according to the winery's announcement, all of its bottled wine has been marked down to 50% off.

The winery's hours of operation through July 24 are Monday and Tuesday, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.; Wednesday and Thursday, 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, noon to 8 p.m.; and Sunday, noon to 6 p.m.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Thursday, July 14:

### River City Quilt Guild

The River City Quilt Guild will meet at 9:30 a.m. at Grove United Methodist Church, 1020 Tyler Ave., Radford. All skill levels of quilters are welcome. For more information, call Anna Handy, 540-320-7791.

### Radford Reads with Ron Peterson, Jr.

At the Radford Public Library at 7 p.m. Local author Ron Peterson, Jr. will talk about some new insights on the Gina Hall case featured in his book *Under the Trestle*, as well as new information on Wally Thrasher of *Chasing the Squirrel*. He will also discuss his book *Eyes of a Monster*.

### Talking about Books: Banned books

At the Meadowbrook Public Library at 11 a.m. Participants may choose a book that they have heard about that has been banned and take part in a discussion about the reasons why the book may have been banned. The library has a list to choose from, or participants may pick one that interests them. Call the Meadowbrook Library for more information.

### Teen Gaming

At the Meadowbrook Public Library at 1 p.m. Challenge friends to an afternoon of video games, board games, and other activities. Snacks and drinks will be provided while supplies last. For ages 11-17.

### Edible Oceans

At the Blacksburg Library at 3 p.m. Learn about the different layers of the ocean using Jello, graham crackers, and other candy and treats. Supplies are limited.

## Friday, July 15:

### Mill Mountain Zoo presents Fight or Flight

At the Blacksburg Library at 3 p.m. When it comes to getting away from a human that animals see as a predator, they have many tricks. Some have speed, others have camouflage, some have poi-

son and others use distraction to get away. Come see some of Mill Mountain Zoo's Education Animals and explore adaptations they use to defend themselves.

## Saturday July 16:

### End of summer reading ocean bash

At the Meadowbrook Public Library at 10:30 p.m. Celebrate the end of another fun summer reading program. The library will have all kinds of fun stations, including crafts, a water slide, cool refreshments, games, prizes, and face painting. Free.

### Caturday

At the Christiansburg Library; 12-1 p.m. Sign up at the front desk for a 15-minute slot to read to a cat from the Montgomery County Animal Care and Adoption Center to practice reading and to socialize shelter cats. All ages. Email [shodges@mfrl.org](mailto:shodges@mfrl.org) for more information.

### Teen DND

At the Blacksburg Library; 2 p.m. Dungeons and Dragons for ages 11 to 17.

## Tuesday, July 19:

### Business seminar

At Long Way Brewing, 501 Second St.; 8:10 to 9:15 a.m. Presented by Robert Towle, the Founder and CEO of 636 Advisors, a Radford-based company. He has held roles in both small and large, national and international organizations and government agencies and has helped small and large businesses alike. Anyone attending will receive a copy of Towle's book, "Don't be Dumb," a leadership playbook to help everyone be smarter, overcome obstacles, and rise rapidly. Register via email at [radfordchamber@gmail.com](mailto:radfordchamber@gmail.com).

### Family board game night

At the Blacksburg Library; 6 p.m. Enjoy an evening of board games. For all ages and skill levels, no experience is necessary, families are welcome. Choose from a variety of games, or bring one to share.

## Friday, July 22:

### Enjoy the national forest

At the Blacksburg Library; 2 p.m. Ranger Beth Christensen will give a brief overview of the Eastern Divide Ranger District/George Washington-Jefferson National Forest and the Forest Service.

## Saturday, July 23:

### Adult Yoga

At the Blacksburg Library; 3 p.m. Follow along with a video from Yoga with Adriene. Adults of all fitness levels and experience are welcome to participate. Come for a judgment-free, no-stress event. Don't forget a yoga mat and comfy clothes. Registration is recommended. Call or stop by the circulation desk to register.

### Music on the Lawn: Andy and Judy Daigle

At the Christiansburg Library; 6 p.m. This is the third show in the Music on the Lawn concert series. Bring a lawn chair and blankets. This free concert is on rain or shine.

### Seashell bath bursts DIY

At the Meadowbrook Public Library; 1 p.m. Adults and teens are invited to make a bath burst in a seashell mold. Registration is required for this free event. All supplies will be provided.

### Eight Point Star

At the Meadowbrook Public Library; 5 p.m. Eight Point Star features Mike Gangloff and Matt Peyton as songwriters. Mike plays fiddle and banjo and an eight-string, Norwegian Hardanger-style fiddle. Matt plays guitar, dulcimer, and sometimes theremin. Isak Howell plays banjo, guitar, and harmonica. Tim Thornton plays bass, dulcimer, and sometimes guitar.

## Sunday, July 24:

### Free sustainable garden tour

Free tours of Blacksburg sustainable gardens featuring native plants, wildlife-friendly plantings, edible landscaping,

and beauty will be hosted by the Sustainable Blacksburg nonprofit community organization on fourth Sunday afternoons through September. Light refreshments will be served at these drop-in tours. July 24 tour is 6 to 8 p.m. at Arlean Lambert's garden and Hale Community Garden at 215 Maywood St., which highlights edible landscaping and vegetable gardening. Lambert enjoys figs, strawberries, kiwis, nuts, greens, and other edibles, including edible flowers, at her north Blacksburg home.

## Ongoing:

### United Way Emergency Food Pantry in need

The United Way NRV Emergency Food Pantry supply is critically low. Anyone able to donate pantry items can drop them off at the United Way office at 111 West Main St. in Christiansburg.

### Alexander Black House farming exhibit

Blacksburg Museum and Cultural Foundation announces Virginia is for Farmers: Agriculture in Southwest Virginia, Then and Now exhibited through Aug. 18 in the Alexander Black House main galleries, 204 Draper Road SW, Blacksburg. Admission is free, hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. A reception open to the public will be held on Saturday, Aug. 6, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The exhibit explores pre-settler agriculture in Southwestern Virginia, Blacksburg area farms in the 18th and 19th centuries, and the birth of the Future Farmers of America at Virginia Tech in the early 20th Century, and brings the community to the present with a local farmers' market and Blacksburg's neighborhood gardens. The exhibit will include agricultural tools from the late-19th and early 20th century, adapted farm tools for farmers with disabilities, Future Farmers of America and Virginia historical items, maps, photos, and interviews. For more information, contact Janean Williams, Communications & Visitor Services Manager at 540-443-1602 or [jlwilliams@blacksburghistory.org](mailto:jlwilliams@blacksburghistory.org) or visit [blacksburgmuseum.org](http://blacksburgmuseum.org).

# Blacksburg High students awarded STAR scholarships



Ayca Bulbul



Kylene Monaghan



Karen Villanueva



# News Messenger

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Three Blacksburg High School 2022 graduates have each been awarded a \$2,500 STAR scholarship from the P.E.O. Sisterhood. Ayca Bulbul, Kylene Monaghan, and Karen Villanueva were recommended by Blacksburg P.E.O. Chapters AU, BF, and AH respectively.

Since its inception in 1869, and through its six philanthropies, the women of P.E.O. (Philanthropic Educational Organization) have been "helping women reach for the stars" by celebrating the advancement of women; educating women through scholarships, grants, awards, loans, and stewardship of Cottey College; and motivating women to achieve their highest aspirations."

What started 150 years ago with a bond of friendship among seven women in Mount Pleasant, Iowa, is now one of the oldest women's organizations in North America with more than 500,000 members in 5,800 chapters throughout the United States and Canada. During its existence this nonprofit organization has helped more than 119,000 women pursue educational goals by providing over \$398 million in educational assistance.

The STAR Scholarship

is one of P.E.O.'s six projects. It was established in 2009 to provide scholarships for exceptional high school senior women to attend an accredited post-secondary educational institution in the U.S. or Canada in the next academic year. The competitive STAR Scholarship is for women who exhibit excellence in leadership, academics, extracurricular activities, community service, and potential for future success. Since the program's inception, \$17.2 million in STAR Scholarships has been awarded to graduating high school senior women.

Ayca Bulbul completed a stellar program of study, graduating with honors. She was active in the Blacksburg High School Technology Student Association, serving as president and winning awards on the regional, state, and/or national levels in twelve different career categories. While still in high school, she did research with the Purdue University Science Program and the Virginia Tech Department of Mining Engineering. She will attend Carnegie Mellon University in the fall to pursue a degree in computational biology. Her ultimate goal is to improve the health and well-being of society through academic

or corporate research.

Kylene Monaghan's honors in high school included a Junior Achievement Academic Award of Excellence and being a National Merit Finalist. She earned certification as a mechanical drafter and as a building/mechanical/plumbing code specialist. Her extracurricular activities ranged from the club soccer team captain to vice-president of the student council to president of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. She will attend Sewanee: The University of the South, major in physics, pursue the pre-engineering program, and play varsity soccer. Her long-term goal is to become a mechanical or chemical engineer.

Karen Villanueva's achievements, honors and extracurricular activities include AP Scholar with Distinction and positions as a student council officer, on the Art and Graphic Design and BHS Forensic Design and BHS Physics teams; on the VHSL Student Leaders' Conference Steering Committee, a MCPS Technology Department intern; a Taekwondo instructor and serving with the Blacksburg Christian Fellowship. She will attend Princeton University where she plans to major in computer science and fine arts.

OBITUARIES

Mashburn, Jane B.



Jane B. Mashburn, of Blacksburg, went to be with her Lord on July 9, 2022 at the age of 93. She was born in Fayetteville, N.C., on June 18, 1929, to Maurice and Rosa Biggs. She was a graduate of Meredith College in Raleigh with a bachelor-of-arts degree in education. She taught her first year in the Wilmington Public School system, then married Bill, who was serving in the US Air Force at the time. She taught one year in the Florida Public School System and then when they moved to Virginia, she taught in the Montgomery Public Schools. She attended Radford University where she received her library science degree with honors. She was a charter member of Harding Avenue Elementary School in 1971, serving as the school librarian until she retired in 1989. Jane was an active member of the Belmont Christian Church and the Daughters of the American Revolution. She loved the beach and had great times with summer vacations shared with her family. She was preceded in death by her lov-

ing husband of 61 years, Bill Mashburn. She is survived by her children, son Bill, Jr., and his wife, Annette, daughter Karen and her husband, Michael Zeigler, and son David and his wife, Carolyn; four grandchildren, Scott Mashburn, and Emily and her husband, Matthew Stump, William Mashburn and Wesley Mashburn; great-grandson Ryland Stump; and great-granddaughters Colleen and Kendall Stump and Claire and Kate Mashburn. Her funeral service will be held in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel, 150 Country Club Dr. SW, Blacksburg on Thurs., July 14, 2022, at 11 a.m. with Pastor Beaver Terry officiating. The family will receive friends before the service from 10 to 11 a.m. at the funeral home. Entombment will be private. In lieu of flowers, you may make a donation to One Spirit, PO Box 3209, Rapid City, SD 57709. This was a favorite organization of Jane's, which supports American Indians. Arrangements by McCoy Funeral Home.

Neal, Delores Southerland



Delores Southerland Neal passed away at her home on June 19, 2022, after a courageous battle against lung cancer. Delores, known to her family and friends as Deedee or Dee, is survived by her husband, Billy Neal; her two sons, Jamie and Tim Lytton and their spouses; a brother, David Ford and his wife, Violet; a sister, Bertie Belvin and her husband, Jim Belvin; five grandchildren, Cain Cooper, Jennifer Chauhan, Tabitha Smith, Zack Lytton, and Olivia Montaro; two great-grandchildren, Mason and Maelyn Lytton; and a number of nieces, nephews, and cousins. Dee was preceded in death by her parents, Clarence and Eliza Southerland; and a sister, Isabelle Rhodes. Dee was an active member of the Gos-

pel Light Baptist Church, and she enjoyed spending time with members of her church family and with a number of close friends. She was an avid gardener and a lover of "fur babies." The family is grateful for the dedication and care given Dee by Tammy Akers, who spent innumerable hours tending to Dee's needs, and to the Good Samaritan Hospice that cared for her during the latter stages of her illness. Special thanks are extended to Melinda Bland for her continuing love and support. A private family burial was held at the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin. The family was in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford.

Stover, Lenora Dickerson



Lenora Dickerson Stover, 57, of Christiansburg, died Thursday, July 7, 2022, at her home. She was born in Montgomery County on Aug. 29, 1964, to the late James and Betty Lou Akers Dickerson. Nora worked in the Architectural Department at Virginia Tech for over 25 years. She was a member of Community Christian Church, McCoy. She is survived by her husband, Ray Stover; sons and daughter-in-law, Daniel Stover and Randy and Gwen Stover; daughters and sons-in-law, April and

Dustin Keene, and Katelyn and Austin Underwood; brothers and sister-in-law, Chris and Crystal Dickerson and David Dickerson; eight grandchildren, Britany, Jesse, Julie, Chelsea, Ellie, Maddie, Grace, Miranda, Annabeth (who will be here soon); longtime special friend, Dreama Price, and many other family and friends. Funeral services were conducted Monday, July 11, 2022, in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel with Pastor Henderson Woods and Mr. Chris Brandow officiating. Interment followed in the Akers Family Cemetery.

Perdue, Cora Evelyn

Linda and Gene Underwood; grandchildren Patrick Underwood (Renee), Jory (JB) Underwood (Candy), Lori Criner (Darell), Scott Perdue, and Jaime; great-grandchildren Cody, Trey (Megan), Haley, Emma, Jake, Annie, Kayla, Maggie, Landon, Ryan, Emma, Elena, Kirk, and Eva; two great-great-grandchildren, Ace and Payton; and a sister, Frances East. Funeral services were held Monday, July 11, 2022, in the McCoy Funer-

al Home Chapel with Patrick Underwood officiating. Burial followed at Reesedale Cemetery.

Zeakes, Samuel J.



Samuel J. Zeakes, lost his gallant fight with bile duct cancer June 1, 2022. He passed peacefully from his earthly home to his heavenly home, holding hands with his wife, Bev. Sam was born on June 3, 1944, to Samuel and Mary Zeakes of Tiltonville, Ohio. Nicknamed "Butch," he was an extraordinary athlete, lettering in varsity football, basketball, and baseball throughout his high school career. He was named to the All-State Ohio Eastern Football Team for the 1963-1964 season. Sam accepted a baseball scholarship at College of Emporia in Emporia, Ks. where he received a B.S. degree in biological sciences. He went on to receive a graduate teaching fellowship at Kansas State University and received both his M.S. in Parasitology (Radiation Biology) and his Ph.D. in Parasitology (Immunoparasitology). He taught at the collegiate level for over 40 years in three states. He received the "Excellence in Teaching Award" at Marymount College, Salina, KS, in 1981 and the "Donald N. Dedmon Presidential Award for Excellence in Teaching" at Radford University in 1989. He was nominated for the "Excellence in Teaching Award" at Radford University another seven times. In 1994 Sam was named as a "Virginia Master Teacher" by the State of Virginia and has been listed in "Who's Who Among America's Teachers" more than 20 times.

His move to Radford University found him actively involved with "Writing Across the Curriculum," and as the Director of Medical Technology, and Director of Marine Science Study Abroad Program. Sam met Bev while both were at Kansas State. They were best friends and soulmates for their more than 53 years of marriage. He is survived by his wife; a son, Jason Zeakes (Katrin), of Austin, TX; a daughter Nichole Hawkins (Kyle), of Troutville, VA; four granddaughters, Natalie and Savannah Zeakes and Elise and Alina Hawkins; a brother, Ray Zeakes, and family of Martins Ferry, Ohio, and a sister, Mary Lee Boroski and her family of Rayland, Ohio. The family will receive friends from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday, July 21, 2022, at Mullins Funeral Home and Crematory in Radford. Funeral service will be held at noon on Friday, July 22, 2022 at St. Jude Church, 1740 Tyler Road. In lieu of flowers please consider a donation in Sam's memory to either SECU House, 1970 Baldwin Lane, Winston-Salem NC 27103 or NRV Good Samaritan Hospice, 1160 Moose Dr. NW, Christiansburg, VA 24073. The Zeakes family is in care of Mullins Funeral Home and Crematory. Online condolences can be made at: www.mullinsfuneralhome.com.

Legal Notice

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF A PETITION BY APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF NEW BROADBAND PROJECT AND TO IMPLEMENT A SURCREDIT THROUGH ITS RATE ADJUSTMENT CLAUSE, BC-RAC, PURSUANT TO § 56-585.1 A 6 AND § 56-585.1-9 OF THE CODE OF VIRGINIA CASE NO. PUR-2022-00020

Appalachian Power Company ("APCo") has applied for approval of a new broadband project and to implement a surcredit through its rate adjustment clause, BC-RAC, which recovers the costs of providing broadband capacity related to rural broadband projects. APCo requests approval to implement a surcredit of approximately \$1.35 million effective February 1, 2023. According to APCo, this amount would decrease the monthly bill of a residential customer using 1,000 kilowatt hours per month by \$0.69. The Hearing Examiner appointed to this case will hold a telephonic hearing in this case on October 5, 2022, to receive public witness testimony. The Hearing Examiner will hold an evidentiary hearing in this case on October 6, 2022. Further information about this case is available on the SCC website at: sec.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information.

On June 8, 2022, Appalachian Power Company ("APCo" or "Company") filed a petition ("Petition") with the State Corporation Commission ("Commission"), pursuant to § 56-585.1 A 6 and § 56-585.1-9 of the Code of Virginia ("Code"), seeking to amend a rate adjustment clause, the BC-RAC, previously approved by the Commission and approval of a new project to make available broadband capacity to an Internet Service Provider ("ISP") in parts of Bland County and Montgomery County that are unserved by broadband ("Bland-Montgomery Broadband Project"). Specifically, APCo requests authority to implement a surcredit of approximately \$1.35 million through the BC-RAC to reflect the actual costs of providing broadband capacity under the Company's existing broadband project in Grayson County, as well as projected costs related to the Bland-Montgomery Broadband Project. According to the Petition, under the proposed Bland-Montgomery Broadband Project, APCo seeks to expand middle-mile broadband capacity in the unserved areas of Bland and Montgomery counties, both in the southwestern part of Virginia. The Company states that the areas targeted by the Bland-Montgomery Broadband Project are unserved by broadband pursuant to Code § 56-585.1-9 D as the Virginia Telecommunication Initiative of the Department of Housing and Community Development has issued a grant or loan to construct a broadband service project within the last 18 months, and the grant or loan recipient is the ISP to which the APCo proposes to lease capacity. The Company states that the Bland-Montgomery Broadband Project entails the installation of approximately 233 miles of 96-strand fiber optic cable on the Company's distribution system, which will also provide a communications platform for APCo's own distribution grid network backhaul requirements. The Company states that it will lease a portion of the middle-mile broadband infrastructure to GigaBeam Networks LLC, the ISP selected by the counties to provide service to unserved areas in Bland and Montgomery counties. APCo states that the estimated capital investment for Bland-Montgomery Broadband Project is approximately \$37.1 million. According to the Petition, the approximately \$1.35 million surcredit that the Company proposes to return to customers through the BC-RAC pursuant to Code § 56-585.1 A 6 will result in a decrease of \$0.69 on the monthly bill of a residential customer using 1,000 kilowatt hours per month. APCo proposes to implement the surcredit beginning February 1, 2023, and ending January 31, 2024. Interested persons are encouraged to review the Petition and supporting documents for the details of these and other proposals. TAKE NOTICE that the Commission may apportion revenues among customer classes and/or design rates in a manner differing from that shown in the Petition and supporting documents and thus may adopt rates that differ from those appearing in the Company's Petition and supporting documents. The Commission entered an Order for Notice and Hearing in this proceeding that, among other things, scheduled public hearings on APCo's Petition. On October 5, 2022, at 10 a.m., the Hearing Examiner assigned to this case 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 September 26, 2022, 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; (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 6, 2022, at 10 a.m., in the Commission's second floor courtroom located in the Tyler Building, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, the Hearing Examiner will convene a hearing to receive testimony and evidence related to the Petition from the Company, any respondents, and the Commission's Staff ("Staff"). The Commission has taken judicial notice of the ongoing public health issues related to the spread of the coronavirus, or COVID 19. 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. 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 public version 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 East Cary Street, Suite 1100, Richmond, Virginia 23219, or njcoates@aep.com. On or before September 28, 2022, any interested person may file comments on the Petition by following the instructions found on the Commission's website: sec.virginia.gov/cascomments/Submit-Public-Comments. Those unable, as a practical matter, to submit comments electronically may file such comments with the Clerk of the Commission, c/o Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2118. All comments shall refer to Case No. PUR-2022-00020. On or before August 3, 2022, 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. Those unable, as a practical matter, to file a notice of participation electronically may file such notice by U.S. mail with the Clerk of the Commission at the address listed above. Such notice of participation shall include the email addresses of such parties or their counsel. The respondent 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 Rule 5 VAC 5-20-30, Counsel, of the Rules of Practice. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2022-00020. On or before August 17, 2022, each respondent may file with the Clerk of the Commission, at sec.virginia.gov/clk/efiling, any testimony and exhibits by which the respondent expects to establish its case. Any respondent unable, as a practical matter, to file testimony and exhibits electronically may file such by U.S. mail with the Clerk of the Commission at the address listed above. Each witness's testimony shall include a summary not to exceed one page. All testimony and exhibits shall be served on the Staff, the Company, and all other respondents simultaneously with its filing. 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-2022-00020. 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 public version of the Company's Petition, the Commission's Rules of Practice and the Commission's Order for Notice and Hearing may be viewed on the Commission's website at: sec.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information. APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY

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# OPINION

## Financial Focus: Should you make extra mortgage payments?

You might enjoy owning your home – but the mortgage? Not so much. In fact, you might want to do everything you can to pay it off as quickly as possible. But is that always the best strategy?

In one sense, your mortgage can be considered a “good” debt because it’s backed by a tangible asset – your home – that has real value and may even gain further value. Furthermore, by historical standards, you’re probably paying a pretty low interest rate on your mortgage, so you’re getting a lot of benefit – a place to live and a potentially appreciating asset. And if you itemize on your taxes, you can possibly deduct some, or maybe all,

of your mortgage interest.

Nonetheless, despite these benefits, a mortgage is still something you have to pay, month after month and year after year. And for some people, it may feel good to pay it off. After all, there may well be a psychological benefit to being free of this long-term debt. But is it really in your best financial interest to make extra payments?

Suppose, for example, that you need a large sum of money quickly for a new car, a new furnace or some other unexpected, significant expense. Or, in an even more serious scenario, what if your job ends and you need money to tide you over until you get a new one? In

these situations, you need liquidity – ready access to available cash. And your house may not be the best place to get it. You could apply for a home equity loan or line of credit, but these typically require approvals (which might be difficult if you aren’t employed), and you’ll be using your home as collateral. A home equity loan or credit line isn’t always bad – under the right circumstances, it can be a valuable financial tool. But that doesn’t change the basic fact that your home is essentially a non-liquid asset.

So, instead of making extra house payments, make sure you have built an emergency fund containing several months’ worth of liv-

ing expenses, with the money kept in a low-risk, accessible account. After building an emergency fund, you should weigh extra mortgage payments against other uses of your money. For example, if you have other types of debt – such as credit cards or student loans – you might want to work on paying those off more quickly, as these debts may also carry higher interest rates.

You might also consider increasing your contributions to your 401(k), IRA or other retirement/investment accounts. You could spend two or three decades in retirement, so it’s important to save as much as possible for those years. As you can see, you do have

some good reasons for using any extra money you may have for purposes other than making additional mortgage payments. Ultimately, though, it’s a personal decision. In any case, think carefully about your choice. You may want to review the various tradeoffs with a financial professional, who can possibly recommend the most advantageous strategies. And you may also want to consult with a tax professional. By understanding all that’s involved in the “extra payment” decision you’ll be better prepared to make the right moves.

Submitted by Marquise Francis, Edward Jones Financial Advisor

## Virginia’s gas prices continue to fall

Average gasoline prices in Virginia fell 14.8 cents per gallon last week, averaging \$4.46/g Monday, July 11, according to GasBuddy’s survey of 4,081 stations in Virginia.

Prices in Virginia are 41.1 cents per gallon lower than a month ago but stand

\$1.50/g higher than a year ago. The national average price of diesel declined 8.5 cents last week and stands at \$5.65 per gallon as of Monday.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Virginia was priced at \$3.69/g Monday

while the most expensive was \$5.99/g, a difference of \$2.30/g.

The national average price of gasoline fell 12.8 cents per gallon last week, averaging \$4.66/g Monday. The national average is down 34.4 cents per gallon from a month ago but still stands \$1.54/g higher than a year ago, according to GasBuddy data compiled from more than 11 million weekly price reports covering over 150,000 gas sta-

tions across the country.

“The national average has declined for 27 days straight, or four weeks, the longest decline in average gas prices since the pandemic started in 2020,” said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy. “Average gas prices are down nearly 40 cents with Americans shelling out \$140 million less on gasoline every day than they did a month ago. We may see the trend last a fifth week,” accord-

ing to De Haan, “as long as oil prices remain cooperative and don’t surge beyond \$105 per barrel, and as long as refinery production of gasoline remains strong. But we’re not completely out of the woods yet. We could also see a sharp reversal in the decline. There remains risk of a spike in prices that could send us to new record levels in August, should any disruptions occur. It could be a wild ride, but for now, the plummet at the pump

shall continue.”

GasBuddy is the authoritative voice for gas prices and the only source for station-level data spanning nearly two decades. GasBuddy’s survey updates 288 times every day from the most diverse list of sources covering nearly 150,000 stations nationwide, the most comprehensive and up-to-date in the country. GasBuddy data are accessible at <http://prices.GasBuddy.com>.

### 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.

The News Messenger (USPS 016-490) is published twice a week for \$45 a year in Montgomery County, \$54 elsewhere in Virginia, and \$58 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.

### New Members

from page 1

dent for CBN News. She worked as a White House correspondent for nearly a decade after previously covering Congress. She began her television career in the Roanoke Valley at WDBJ-7 as an associate producer and reporter, then left to manage WDBJ-7’s Richmond bureau where, as Richmond bureau chief and capitol correspondent, she covered the General Assembly, the governor’s office and Virginia’s congressional delegation.

She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Communication and Media Studies in 2001 from Virginia Tech.

Mendiola serves as the third president of FSA Federal, the largest U.S. Department of Justice government service provider. He leads the organization of more than 1,500 professionals across 400 government sites, providing investigative, legal,

litigation, and administrative support services. He has 20 years of experience in strategic planning, organizational development, contracts management, proposal development, customer engagement, and financial planning.

He earned a Bachelor of Science in criminal justice in 2000 and a Master of Business Administration in 2002 from Radford University.

Turk has served as a partner in the law firm of Harrison & Turk, P.C., since 1987 and practices general law in all Virginia state and federal courts. A native of Radford, Turk has a legacy of community involvement, having served on numerous boards, including SunTrust Bank, the New River Valley Region Board of Directors; the Virginia Tech Athletic Foundation Board of Di-

rectors; Roanoke College, the President’s Advisory Board; and the New River Community College Education Foundation Board of Directors. Turk served as an adjunct professor in the Radford University Department of Criminal Justice from 1986 to 1999.

He received a Bachelor of Arts in economics and business administration from Roanoke College in 1979 and a Juris Doctor from Cumberland School of Law, Samford University, in Birmingham, Ala., in 1984.

“Each new member brings unique insight and experiences to the Board of Visitors, and I look forward to working with them as we continue to envision the future for Radford University and focus on our students’ success,” said Radford University President Bret Danilowicz.

The new Board of Visitors members were appointed to fill the expiring terms of Thomas Brewster, Ed.D., of Roanoke; Krishna Chachra of Charlotte; Susan Whealler Johnston, Ph.D., of Berryville, Va.; and Nancy Angland Rice of Vienna, Va.

“Radford University was so fortunate to have the vision and leadership provided by Tom, Krishna, Susan and Nancy over the past years,” said Rector Debra K. McMahon. “They were instrumental in moving our strategic plan forward and remained passionate about their service, steadfastly supporting our students, faculty, staff, and the broader community. We are extremely indebted to Dr. Johnston who chaired the Search Committee for our new president, Bret Danilowicz, Ph.D.”

### PBS

from page 1

“Blue Ridge PBS covers a staggering 42% of the geographic commonwealth, including rural Appalachia, an often-overlooked region.

Due to limited resources, those areas have been underserved,” said William Anderson, Blue Ridge PBS President and CEO. “We know we must be where other media outlets are not and provide the content that they won’t or can’t.”

PBS Appalachia|Va already has key personnel in place.

Julie Newman is Vice President and General Manager of the new station. She has earned four Regional Emmy Awards and has 23 years of broadcast and public television experience,

most recently as News Anchor for News 5 WCYB in Bristol.

Jacob Dellinger is Executive Producer of PBS Appalachia|Va. He is a three-time regional Emmy winning cinematographer, director, and producer covering Southwest Virginia.

“PBS Appalachia is the answer to a critical need! Producers at this new digital station will create educational and community content that is relevant and vital to our region, giving a positive voice to this underserved region like never

before,” said M. E. Marty Hall, Jr., Chairman of the Blue Ridge PBS Governing Board of Directors.

PBS Appalachia|Va is expected to launch June 10, 2023. The digital station will deliver the full PBS schedule and local stories that matter on any smart TV connected to WiFi or Broadband and will also be offered to local cable stations. It will also be on streaming services such as YouTube TV, Roku, DirectTVstream, Amazon Fire, and Apple TV, as well as on a new mobile app available in conjunction with PBS.

### CROSSWORD PUZZLE

- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. Absence of difficulty
  - 5. Preserve a dead body
  - 11. Gratitude
  - 14. The act of coming together again
  - 15. More cushy
  - 18. Visionaries
  - 19. Large, fish-eating bird
  - 21. Indicates near
  - 23. NY Mets legend
  - 24. Icelandic books
  - 28. Pop
  - 29. Hammer is one
  - 30. Sense of self-importance
  - 32. Thyrotrophic hormone
  - 33. Can't be found
  - 35. Electronic data
  - 36. Passports and licenses are two
  - 39. Snake-like fishes
  - 41. Air Force
  - 42. Popular computers
  - 44. Intermediate ecological stage
  - 46. Wings
  - 47. Used in combination
  - 49. Laid back
  - 52. Jewelled headdress
  - 56. Slow
  - 58. Famous Falls
  - 60. Reassertions
  - 62. Periods of time
  - 63. Hyphen
- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Body part
  - 2. Mimics
  - 3. Expel large quantities
  - 4. Sea eagle
  - 5. Genetically distinct varieties
  - 6. Dialect of Chinese
  - 7. Famous Mr. T character
  - 8. Consumed
  - 9. Chinese dynasty
  - 10. Menace to yards
  - 12. Ireland
  - 13. Palm trees
  - 16. Fungal disease
  - 17. Willis and Robert are two
  - 20. Affirmative! (slang)
  - 22. It shows who you are
  - 25. The First State (abbr.)
  - 26. Get older
  - 27. Associations
  - 29. Woman (French)
  - 31. Sunscreen rating
  - 34. Brew
  - 36. Leader
  - 37. Plants in the legume family
  - 38. Burn with a hot liquid
  - 40. Junior's father
  - 43. Scads
  - 45. Morning
  - 48. Length of a line (abbr.)
  - 50. Double curve
  - 51. Small, thin person
  - 53. Worn by exposure to the weather
  - 54. Mars crater
  - 55. Humanities
  - 57. Word element meaning ear
  - 58. To the \_\_\_ degree
  - 59. Residue of something burned
  - 61. It cools your home

### Women In Policing

from page 1

department.

“This pledge means that the Radford University Police Department is actively working toward improving the recruitment, representation and experiences of women officers in our agency,” Plummer said. “We are honored to be among the first in the nation and the first university police department in Virginia to make this critical commitment, and we look forward to working with and learning from agencies across the country who share our priority.”

More than 175 agencies – from major metro departments like the New York City Police Department to mid-sized, rural, university and state policing agencies – have signed the 30x30 Pledge,

which is based on social science research findings that greater representation of women in police forces leads to better policing outcomes for communities.

Currently, women make up only 12% of sworn officers and 3% of police leadership in the United States. This underrepresentation of women in policing has significant public safety implications. Research suggests that women officers use less force and less excessive force; are named in fewer complaints and lawsuits; are perceived by communities as being more honest and compassionate; and see better outcomes for crime victims, especially in sexual assault cases.

“We are grateful to the Radford University Police Department for being one of the first in the nation to commit to being a part of this growing movement,” said 30x30 co-founder Maureen McGough, chief of staff of the Policing Project at the New York University School of Law and former policing expert at the U.S. Department of Justice.

“We believe strongly that advancing women in policing is critical to improving public safety outcomes,” McGough said. “We look forward to having more agencies follow Radford University Police Department’s lead by signing the pledge and improving the representation and experiences of women in policing.”







# Marketplace



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### Legals - Botetourt County

#### Order of Publication

Commonwealth of Virginia VA Code §§1-211.1:8.01-316, -317,20-104 Case No. CW21000078-00 Botetourt One West Main St, Suite 120, Fincastle, VA 24090  
 Commonwealth of Virginia in re MICHAEL DEWEY MYERS, DECEASED. The object of this suit is to LOCATE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF MICHAEL DEWEY MYERS, DECEASED. It is ORDERED that ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interest on or before JULY 29,2022. Dated JUNE 17, 2022 Tommy L. Moore, Clerk.

#### Order of Publication

Commonwealth of Virginia VA. Code Ann. §§8.01-316,-317  
**Case No. 22-7**  
 Botetourt County Circuit Court Commonwealth of Virginia, in re **James Daniel Hull Amy Diane Hammond, Stephen Holloway Hammond v. James Brandon Hull**  
 The object of this suit is to: Adopt James Daniel Hull by stepparent, Stephen Holloway Hammond. It is ORDERED that James Brandon Hull, whose location is unknown appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before August 15, 2022. Signed and dated- Tommy L. Moore, Clerk 06/24/2022

### Legals - City of Radford

#### ABC NOTICE

7-ELEVEN, INC./CAMPUS CONVENIENCE INC., trading as 7-ELVEN 35781 B 302 Tyler Ave. Radford, VA. 24141.

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GOBINDSINGH CHAWLA, President

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

### Legals - City of Salem

#### Order of Publication

Commonwealth of Virginia VA Code §§1-211.1:8.01-316, -317,20-104 Case No. CL20000259-00 CITY OF SALEM 2 East Calhoun Street, Salem VA 24153. RICHARD HARDY V. MIA WALK-HARDY. The object of this suit is to: TO OBTAIN A DIVORCE. It is ORDERED that MIA WALK-HARDY appear in the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before AUGUST 5,2022. Dated JUNE 7, 2022 Stacy L. Owen, D.C., Clerk

### Legals - Montgomery County

#### Notification is given

that Skyline National Bank, 113 West Main Street, Independence, Virginia24348 has filed an application with the Comptroller of the Currency on July 12, 2022, as specified in 12 CFR 5 for permission to establish a full-service branch at 1206 South Main Street, Blacksburg, Virginia 24060. Any person wishing to comment on this application may file comments in writing with the Northeastern District Office, Comptroller of the Currency, Director for District Licensing, 340 Madison Avenue, Fifth Floor, New York, NY 10173-0002 or by email to NE.Licensing@occ.treas.gov within 30 days of the date of this publication.

July 13, 2022 Skyline National Bank Independence, Virginia

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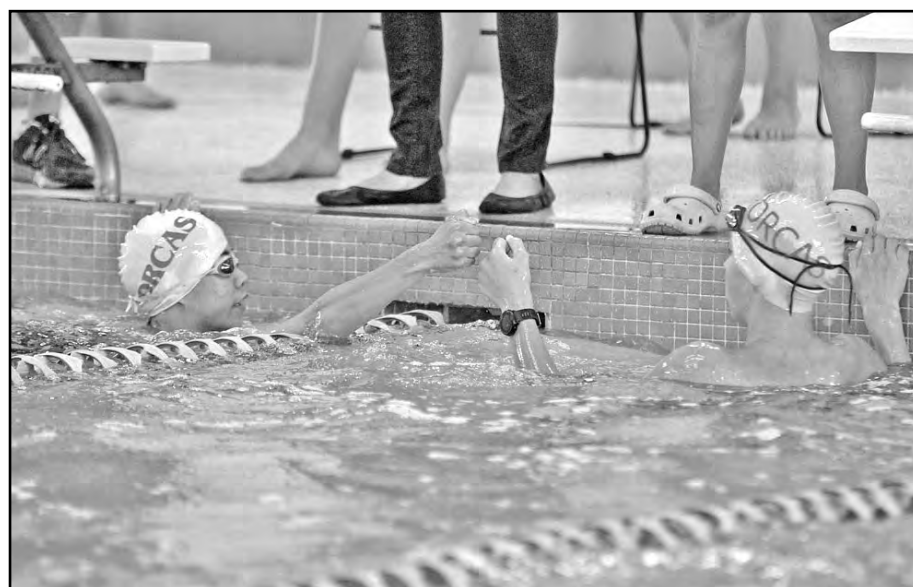


# MONTGOMERY SPORTS

## Southwest Virginia Swim League



Blacksburg Aquatic Center's Evelyn Leng won the girls 9-10-year-old 50-meter freestyle as the BAC Orcas hosted Shawnee Swim Club during week 5 of the Southwest Virginia Swim League meet this past Thursday.



Blacksburg Aquatic Center Orca teammates Nathan Chen (left) and Patrick Dickhans congratulate each other on a close 1-2 finish in the boys 11-12-year-old 50-meter freestyle. Dickhans edged out Chen by 0.15 seconds for the win.



8-year-old Logan Powell swims in the 50-meter breaststroke for the Shawnee Swim Club Sharks during week five of the Southwest Virginia Swim League meet.



Liam Haithcock competes in the boys 7-8 year-old 50-meter breaststroke for the home team Blacksburg Aquatic Center Orcas.

PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING



Montgomery County saw a harvest of 262 turkeys during the 2022 spring season, according to the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources.

## Outdoor report: Spring turkey results

**Marty Gordon**  
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

The 2022 spring turkey season resulted in the fourth-highest spring turkey harvest on record as the Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) announced a harvest of 19,711 turkeys during the season. The three highest harvests occurred in 2015, 2021, and 2020.

Ryan Brown, DWR Executive Director, said, "Virginia's spring turkey season continues to provide exciting opportunities for individuals to connect with nature, family, and friends while helping to conserve the state's wildlife resources."

Montgomery County saw its harvest rise from 201 in 2021 to 262 this past year. Floyd County saw a jump from 264 to 304 while Giles County's harvest went from 261 to 291.

The 2022 harvest was well within DWR staff expectations, and the slightly lower harvest this season appears to be driven by lower participation on opening weekend caused by poor weather. Much of the western portion of the state experienced cold and wind with several counties reporting snow on opening day. The opening weekend harvest was down approximately 28% from the 2021 spring turkey harvest. This difference was minimized through the remaining 5 weeks of the season as the harvest totals finished only 4% lower than last year.

As in previous years, more birds were

harvested east of the Blue Ridge (66%) than west of the Blue Ridge (34%). The eastern harvest was down approximately 7% from 2021 while the western harvest increased by approximately 3%.

Adult gobblers (those with a beard at least 7" in length) made up 86% of the total harvest while juvenile gobblers known as "jakes" (those with a beard less than 7" in length) accounted for 14% of the harvest. Turkey harvests occurred overwhelmingly in the morning (91%) versus the afternoon (8%).

The majority of the spring turkey harvest took place on private lands (94%). Public land hunters (both federal and state) accounted for 6% of the total spring harvest, which was nearly identical to 2021. A majority of the federal land harvest occurred on the George Washington-Jefferson National Forest where a total of 639 birds were taken, 13% lower than 2021 (737 birds).

Although some states within the region are reporting declining spring turkey harvests and populations, Virginia seems to be a bright spot regionally. Considering that three of the top 4 season harvests have occurred since 2020, there is considerable room for optimism within Virginia's turkey woods. However, that optimism is somewhat tempered with the realization that DWR's Wild Turkey Management Plan calls for increasing populations in several areas of the commonwealth where DWR biologists are monitoring these areas for potential management solutions.

## Char Viers nails hole in one at Auburn Hills



PHOTO COURTESY OF AUBURN HILLS GOLF CLUB  
Char Viers picked up an ace on hole #11 this past week at Auburn Hills Golf Club in Riner.

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# Sports notes: ACC/Big Ten softball matchups, RU coach leaves, VT women's basketball to tournament

The Atlantic Coast and the Big Ten Conferences have announced the matchups for the 2023 ACC/Big Ten Softball Challenge.

The sixth annual event will take place next Feb. 16-19 and has been expanded to include games played between the two leagues in the TaxAct Clearwater Invitational, in addition to other programs playing four games each at campus sites.

ACC champion Florida State, regular-season champion Virginia Tech, and Duke will represent the ACC in the 2023 TaxAct Clearwater Invitational while Indiana, Michigan, and Nebraska will comprise the Big Ten contingent in the tournament. The head-to-head results between ACC and Big Ten schools at the event will count towards the final ACC/Big Ten Softball Challenge standings.

Four ACC schools will serve as host sites for the ACC/Big Ten Challenge — Clemson, Georgia Tech, North Carolina and NC State — with the other ACC participants being Louisville, Notre Dame, Syracuse and Virginia. Illinois, Iowa, Maryland, Minnesota, Northwestern, Ohio State, Purdue, and Wisconsin will compete from the Big Ten.

The ACC owns a 3-2 lead during the first five years of the challenge. The ACC won the challenge in 2017, 2018, and 2020 with the Big Ten claiming the title in 2016 and 2019.

The ACC and Big Ten offices collaborate to determine the schedule each season for the event, which returns for the first time since 2020. In addition, the official title of the challenge rotates each year. The 2023 event will be referred to as the ACC/Big Ten Softball Challenge and will continue to mirror the official title of the conferences' challenge agreements for men's basketball, women's basketball, and volleyball.

Exact game dates and times, as well as television and online coverage, will be announced at a later date.

Lady Hokies to Baha Mar

The Virginia Tech women's basketball team will participate in the 2022

Baha Mar Hoops Pink Flamingo Championship the organization announced last week.

Tech will take on the SEC Champion Kentucky Wildcats in the opening game of the competition on Monday, Nov. 21. The matchup with the Wildcats will be the third all-time meeting in the series and the first since 1989. Both programs own a victory in the series.

The Hokies will then take on Missouri on Wednesday, Nov. 23. That will be the second meeting between the schools with the first coming at the 2006 NCAA Tournament when the Hokies won 82-51.

Coach Kenny Brooks is 4-2 against competition from the Southeastern Conference in his tenure in Blacksburg.

The other teams competing in the championship are: Utah, Alabama, Wake Forest, Dayton, and Ole Miss.

RU coach leaves

Radford University announced Thursday afternoon that the school's Director of Tennis, Rob Bareford, will be moving on to coach at Montana State. Bareford leaves the Highlanders after four successful and historic seasons with the men's tennis program and three exciting seasons with the women's tennis program.

Between the two programs, Bareford put together an 80-48 overall record with a 25-13 Big South record. The men's tennis program won the Big South tournament twice under Bareford's tenure and finished as the tournament runner-up once. The two NCAA Tournament berths are the second-most in men's tennis coaching history. The women's tennis program also finished as Big South tournament runners-up in 2021 after a huge upset victory in the semifinals.

RU soccer clinic

Head women's soccer coach Ben Sohrabi has announced the date and information for the upcoming ID Clinic set for July 31, at the Dedmon Center and Cupp Stadium for ages 13 and older. The registration fee is \$125 per person.

# VT wrestler Sam Fisher claims gold medal in Mexico



VT sophomore wrestler Sam Fisher won gold Sunday at the Pan-American Championships in Mexico.

Virginia Tech wrestler Sam Fisher claimed 86-kilogram gold at the United World Wrestling U20 Pan-American Championships in Oaxtepec, Mexico Sunday.

This was the Hokie's first tournament abroad representing the United States after an impressive summer that saw him make his first age-group national team.

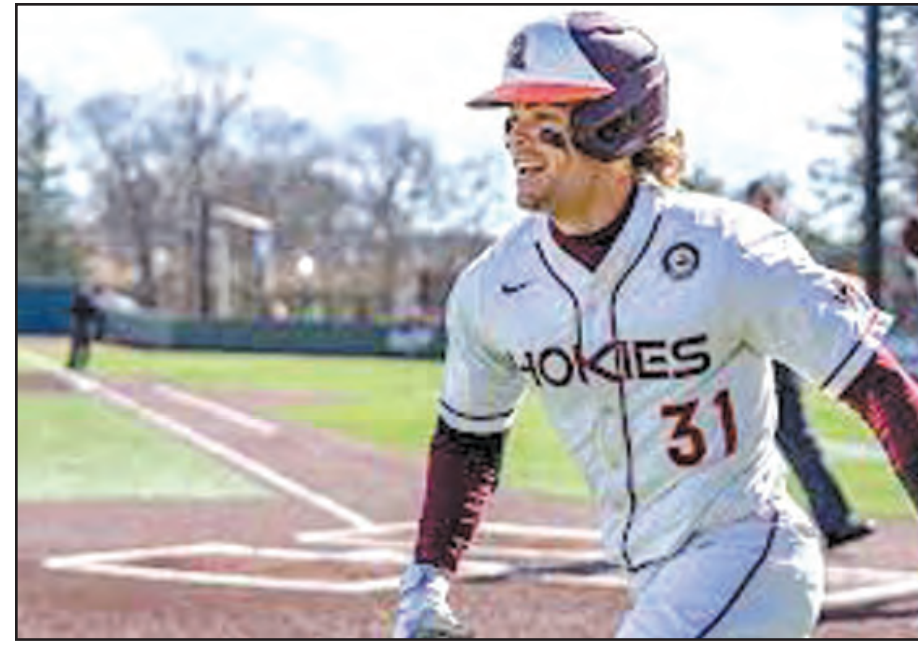
Fisher started his tournament against Guatemala's Cesar Andres Ubico Estrada in the quarterfinals. He led 5-1 at the break courtesy of one takedown and three step-out points. He then iced the bout with another takedown and two more step-out points to win 9-3.

Fisher made quick work in the semifinals

with a dominant victory over Aiden Stevenson of Canada. A takedown 45 seconds into the match gave Fisher a 2-0 lead before he finished the bout with a pin courtesy of an underhook throwby to cross ankle pick that pushed Fisher into the finals.

The Hokie continued his dominant run and ended his continental championship in emphatic fashion as he won via technical superiority over Jhon Sebastian Sanchez Solis of Ecuador in the finals. Fisher scored two takedowns and added three gut wrenches to take the 10-0 victory in just over 1:05 of the first period to claim gold in his first international competition.

# VT outfielder Jack Hurley named to collegiate baseball national team



Hokie outfielder Jack Hurley was among 26 players named to the collegiate baseball national team after a recent training camp. 51 players took part in the camp.

After posting the second-highest batting average during the 2022 USA Baseball Collegiate National Team Training Camp, Virginia Tech rising junior outfielder Jack Hurley has been selected to the formal, 26-man roster that will represent Team USA and compete for gold at Honkbalweek Haarlem in the Netherlands.

Hurley started four of five games during the recent six-day training camp that featured five intrasquad Stars vs. Stripes showcase events across three North Carolina venues: Cary (June 30), Durham (July 1-3), and Charlotte (July 4). Tech's four-time 2022 All-American slugger batted .357 (5-for-14) with a double, an RBI, three runs scored, and two stolen bases.

"A week ago, as I sat with the 51 players that we invited to Cary, I told them what a tremendous honor this is because you are 51 of the best amateur baseball players in the United States of America," said Team USA manager Mike Bianco. "To narrow it down nearly in half is quite a task. We shared with all of them, as honestly as we could, that there are players that will go home that will play in the big leagues and be All-Americans next year."

"I commend these coaches and the USA Baseball committee on the selections we have made," Bianco said. "We cannot wait to get to work today and on the road to winning the championship at Honkbalweek."

Hurley becomes Tech's fifth rostered Collegiate National Team selection all-time, joining Franklin Stubbs (1981), George Canale (1985), Trey McCoy

(1986), and Gavin Cross (2021). This summer, he is one of eight ACC players competing with Team USA and one of four such position players, accompanying infielder Yohandy Morales (Miami), catcher Jack Payton (Louisville), and catcher/outfielder Kyle Teel (Virginia).

During the 2022 collegiate season, Hurley paced the Hokies with his .375 batting average that featured 87 hits, 23 doubles, a triple, and 14 home runs. Starting all but one of Tech's 59 games, the native of Boalsburg, Penn., carried his .400 batting average from opening weekend into May, compiling a 26-game hitting streak along the way that set the Hokies' ACC-era program record.

Hurley earned All-American Second Team honors from the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association this season while earning three additional All-American Third Teams. The 2022 All-ACC First Team outfielder was named a national semifinalist for the Dick Howser Trophy while also earning American Baseball Coaches Association/Rawlings Atlantic All-Region First Team, Virginia Sports Information Directors All-State First Team, and All-ACC Academic Team praise.

Team USA has earned five medals at Honkbalweek Haarlem since 2000, four championship gold medals in 2014, 2008, 2002, and 2002, and a bronze medal in 2012.

Hurley was joined at the training camp by Tech rising sophomore Drue Hackenberg, who came away with Sunday's game-four victory after tossing two scoreless, hitless late innings in relief.

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