# News Messenger

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Blacksburg

Christiansburg

Wednesday, November 9, 2022

www.ourvalley.org

USPS 016-490

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# Town of Christiansburg inviting bids for naming rights to Huckleberry Park

Pursuant to the requirements of \$15.2-2100, \$15.2-2101, \$15.2-2102, et seq., Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, the Town of Christiansburg is inviting bids from qualified bidders to enter into a naming, advertising, and sponsorship agreement with the town to obtain the right to have their name on the facilities at the Christiansburg Huckleberry Park complex located at Booker T. Washington Parkway, N.W., adjoining Peppers Ferry Road, N.W., Christiansburg (a portion of Montgomery County Tax Map No. 435 – ((A)) - 3A; Parcel ID 270079).

The term of the naming rights agreement shall be ten years, starting on April 1, 2023, and ending March 31,

The naming rights agreement will also allow the successful bidder to have

certain exclusive advertising rights at the Christiansburg Huckleberry Park facility within the successful bidder's product category, as that term is defined in the Bid Form and Naming Rights Agreement. Any such agreement, use, and advertising is subject to approval by the Town of Christiansburg.

If the town elects to award a naming rights agreement, the Christiansburg Town Council will be requested to adopt an ordinance granting such an award. A copy of the full text of the proposed ordinance and a draft of the naming rights agreement are on file and may be reviewed in the office of the town manager, Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main St. Christiansburg.

Any interested entity is invited to submit a written bid, including a completed bid form.



PHOTO CREDIT: TIM SKILES FOR VIRGINIA TECH

Virginia Tech alumnus Robert Saunders '86 (third from left) has been named the 2022 Swisher/Sunbelt Southeastern Farmer of the Year. Saunders operates Saunders Brothers, Inc., along with his brothers (from left) Jim '85, Bennett '83, and Tom '81. Photo by Tim Skiles for Virginia Tech.

## Virginia Tech alumnus earns national recognition as **Southeastern Farmer of the Year**

Virginia Tech alumnus Robert Saunders has been named the Swisher Sunbelt Southeastern Farmer of the Year. Saunders is the general manager of Saunders Brothers Inc., a multi-generational farm in Piney River, Va., that he operates along with his brothers and fellow Hokies, Tom '81, Bennett '83, and Jim '85.

They grow woody ornamentals, annuals, perennials, boxwood, grafted trees, peaches, nectarines,

apples, and Asian pears on their farm.

The Saunders family's most recent accolade was announced last week at the Sunbelt Ag Expo in Moultrie, Ga., where Robert Saunders represented Saunders Brothers and the Commonwealth of Virginia as the 2022 Virginia Farmer of the Year. Robert Saunders is just the fifth Virginia farmer to earn the Swisher/Sunbelt Expo Southeastern Farmer of the Year recognition.

The Saunders Brothers farm has roots that are deep at Virginia Tech. The university has issued degrees to 36 of Robert and Pat's family members including brothers, sisters, nephews, and nieces. Also, Saunders Brothers currently has five other Hokies as a part of their team in sales and produc-

See Southeastern Farmer, page 4

# **NRV Regional Commission** presents annual awards



Janaka Casper of Community Housing Partners received the Citizen of the Valley Award from the NRV Regional Commission.

RADFORD - The New River Valley Regional Commission board of directors recently hosted a dinner event at Brick House Pizza in Radford to honor its annual award recipients. Approximately 100 local government elected officials, state and federal representatives, and local government planning commission chairs were in attendance.

Janaka Casper of Community Housing Partners (CHP) was the recipient of the Citizen of the Valley award. This award is given to a citizen within the New River Valley who has made significant contributions to the betterment of the region. CHP was founded in 1975 by two concerned citizens who organized volunteers to perform minor home repairs for lowto-moderate income families living in unsafe or unhealthy conditions. Under Casper's leadership, CHP has grown to more than 350 employees who have delivered weatherization services to more than 50,000 homes in Virginia. CHP also provides safe and affordable housing to more than 5,800 households across 90 rental

Penny Franklin of the Montgomery County School Board was the re-

properties in multiple states, 14 of

which are in the New River Valley.



Penny Franklin of the Montgomery **County School Board received the** Champion of the Valley Award.



**Executive Director Elizabeth Underwood** received the Friend of the Valley award on behalf of the New River Conservancy.

cipient of the Champion of the Valley award. This award is given to an appointed or elected official within, or representing, the New River Valley who has greatly assisted communities and residents during their service to the public. Franklin cofounded the Community Group of Montgomery County, an inclusive,

See **Annual Awards**, page 2



PHOTO BY ELEANOR NELSEN FOR VIRGINIA TECH

Engineer Jeremy Spink (at left) works with injury biomechanics expert Barry Miller to set up an impact test for a drone.

# First drone passes Virginia Tech's test for safe flights over people under FAA rules

In April 2021, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) published a long-awaited rule outlining requirements for drone flights over people. That December, the federal agency signed off on a means of compliance developed at Virginia Tech that could determine if an aircraft met those requirements — the first, and still only, set of test methods to demonstrate adherence to a regulation expected to significantly expand drone operations. Now, for the first time,

aircraft have passed.

The drones are three models in the eBee X series, lightweight foam aircraft manufactured by

people without having

to seek permission for

AgEagle. The approval means that anyone operating one of these drones in an applicable configuration can legally fly over each individual operation through a complex waiver system, a radically streamlined process that will be a boon for AgEagle.

The milestone is a nod to the value of Virginia Tech's testing, the product of a collaboration between the Virginia Tech Mid-Atlantic Aviation Partnership (MAAP), an FAAdesignated drone test site, and injury biomechanics experts in the university's College of Engineering. It also marks the begin-

ning of a broader shift in the way drone operations will be planned and conducted in the U.S.

"This is a major, major change in how things are done," said Tombo Jones, the test site's director. "The rule provided the first clear understanding of what's required to safely operate over people. Our means

of compliance provided

the first pathway for utiliz-

ing the rule. This approval demonstrates that that pathway is viable."

The fixed-wing drones in the eBee X series are commonly used for missions such as mapping, surveying, and inspections.

"We are confident that this will serve as a key driver in the growth of eBee utilization in the United States," said Barrett Mooney, AgEagle's chairman and CEO. "It will further improve the applications made possible by our drone platform for a wide range of commercial enterprises which stand to benefit from adoption of drones in their businesses, particularly those in industries such as insurance for assessment of storm damage, telecommunications for network cover-

See **Drone**, page 4

# **OMMUNITY CALENDAR**

## Wednesday, Nov. 9:

Plaque dedication

The Board of Directors of the Radford Heritage Foundation invites the public to the New River Train Observatory Plaque Dedication at 10:30 a.m. at the Mary Draper Ingles Cultural Heritage Park, 800 Unruh Dr., Radford. The plaque honors the roles of Professors Kay Edge and Edward Becker in leading their students from the Virginia Tech School of Architecture and Design in the design and construction of the New River Train Observatory.

Montgomery County Chamber Buy Local Business Showcase

Connect with Montgomery County businesses at the 2022 Chamber Buy Local Business Showcase and Business After Hours at the inn at Virginia Tech & Skelton Conference Center, 901 Prices Fork Rd., Blacksburg. The eventis free and is open to the public. Prizes will be given away throughout the day. We'll have prize giveaways throughout the day, so be sure to stop by. This event is free to attend and open to the public from 3:45 p.m. to 7 p.m. Open to the public during the Chamber Business After Hours from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

At the Radford Public Library; 9 a.m. to noon. Free GED prep classes offered by New River Community College. Call (540) 674-3682 for additional information.

Free GED classes with NRCC

Loops group

At the Blacksburg Library; 2 p.m. Bring a project and join the Loops Group for community and conversation. Everyone is welcome.

Art club: Takashi Murakami

At the Christiansburg Library; 2 p.m. Join a group in exploring the art of Takashi Murakami and create collaborative art pieces in his style of art. For ages 8 and up. Registration is

### Thursday, Nov. 10:

Tech bytes: Internet basics

At the Blacksburg Library; 2 p.m. Literacy Volunteers and the Library are teaming up to teach basic internet skills. Registration is required. Call (540) 552-8246 for assistance with registration.

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 Photo Club

The Radford Photo Club will meet at 6 p.m. at the Radford Public Library. The program will be about travel photography, presented by Michele Borgarelli of Blacksburg. The November photo challenge will be Still Life. The club is made up of professional and amateur photographers from throughout the New River Valley. Meetings, events, and outings are open to the public. Learn more about the club by searching for "Radford Photo Club" on Facebook or on your browser.

Community quilting bee

At the Blacksburg Library, 10 a.m. Participants can bring their supplies and tools and join in with this quilting and sewing group for conversation and quilting.

Page to screen movies: Rebecca

At the Radford Public Library; 5:45 p.m. This is a movie screening of the 1940 Hitchcock classic Rebecca on the library's big projector. The movie is rated PG and has a 130-minute run time.. Popcorn from the Lil'Bit Corny LLC will be provided while

## Friday, Nov. 11:

Veterans Day closures

Christiansburg Aquatic Center will be childcare is provided for this class. closed in honor of Veterans Day. The Recreation Center will be open, but administrative offices will be closed. Solid waste and recycling normally collected on Fridays will be collected on Monday, Nov. 14, with Monday's regular collection.

## Saturday, Nov. 12:

Bingo! Bingo!

At the Meadowbrook Public Library; 1:30 p.m. This is an afternoon of fun Bingo. Children are welcome but must be accompanied by an adult.

Winter wreath workshop

At the Blacksburg Library; 2 p.m. Welcome the winter season with a holiday-themed wreath workshop. This hands-on event has all materials provided to make a grapevine wreath decorated with natural materials. Staff will even teach participants how to make a ribbon bow. This workshop is recommended for adults, but families can work together if they wish. Limited to one wreath per family please. Registration is required, but families working together need 1:00 p.m. Several of the representaare limited.

Family movie fun

At the Radford Public Library; 11 a.m. Superman's dog Krypto, the meet at 6:30 p.m. in the Roger E. Super-Dog, must rescue his owner in the DC League of Superpets. Rated PG for action, mild violence, language and rude humor. (2022)

### Sunday, Nov. 13:

Women's only swim night

At the Christiansburg Aquatic Center, 6 to 8 p.m. Celebrate an evening of girl power. All participants, including the staff, will be women. The cost is \$6. To register, call 540-381-POOL.

Knit and chat

At the Christiansburg Library at 2 p.m. Participants can bring their bring newest work in progress to knit, crochet, spin, or weave.

### Monday, Nov. 14:

pervisors meeting

The Montgomery County Board of Montgomery County Government No registration is required. Center, 755 Roanoke St. in Chris-

tiansburg. The 6 p.m. meeting is a closed session, followed by an open session at 7:15. Citizens are invited to attend the closed session and will be allowed to speak at each meeting. All regular meetings of the Board of Supervisors are rebroadcast on Montgomery County Comcast and Shentel Channels 190 daily.

Radford City Council meeting

The Radford City Council will meet in the Starnes Council Chambers at the Radford Municipal Building, 10 Robertson St. at 7 p.m.

English conversation for adults

At the Blacksburg Library; 6 p.m. This class, English Conversation for Adults, will be led by Carole and Bob Dellinger. Call the library at 540-Christiansburg Town Hall and the 552-8246 for more information. No

> Crafting for the holiday: Scrabble ornament

At the Radford Public Library; 1 p.m. Use scrabble tiles, a hot gun, and a few other items to assemble an ornament. Supplies will be provided while they last.

## Monday, Nov. 14 through Friday, Nov. 18:

Teen Glow Paint Gloves

At the Radford Public Library; 3 to 5 p.m. Teens can spend an afternoon chilling by decorating gloves with glow paint.

## Tuesday, Nov. 15:

Legislative update

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce will present a legislative update to discuss the chamber's 2023 legislative agenda at Warm Hearth Village, 2387 Warm Hearth Dr., Blacksburg, from 11:30 a.m. to have only one person register. Spots tives from the Virginia House and Senate will be on hand.

> Blacksburg Town Council meeting The Blacksburg Town Council will Hedgepeth Chambers of the Blacksburg Municipal Building, 300 S. Main St. These meetings are open to the public and are televised live on WTOB Channel 2.

Christiansburg Town

The Christiansburg Town Council will meet beginning at 7 p.m. in the council chambers of Town Hall (100 E. Main St.).

Suicide Prevention Training with New River Valley Community Ser-

At the Radford Public Library; noon. Join NRVCS for a training on suicide prevention class. Dee Frith and Caroline Mullins will teach attendees about the QPR methodology: Question, Persuade, and Refer. Those who attend will receive certification as 'gatekeepers' for learning this information. Suicide is the twelfth leading cause of death in the United Montgomery County Board of Su- States. The class will discuss how to get help, get trained, and save lives. This training is free and is provided Supervisors will meet at 6 p.m. at the in cooperation with QPR Institute.

NaNoWriMo Event: Story Prompt

Challenge At the Blacksburg Library; 6 p.m.

From a list of over 60 one-line openings, participants are challenged to write mini-stories from as many prompts as they can. All ages are welcome. Snacks will be provided.

## Wednesday, Nov. 16:

American Business Women's Association luncheon meeting

The American Business Women's Association will hold its November luncheon meeting from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Christiansburg-Blacksburg Holiday Inn, 99 Bradley Dr. in Christiansburg. The cost is \$14.25. During the meeting, the association will present coats collected from their annual coat drive to the Women's Resource Center. The association also requests that those attending bring a nonperishable food item to donate to the Montgomery County Christmas Store. Susan Brickhouse is the speaker sponsor for this event. Those planning to attend should RSVP by Nov. 14 by contacting Terri Welch at christiansburg@wineanddesign.com or Paige Godwin at godwinpaige@gmail.com.

## Thursday, Nov. 17:

Community quilting bee

At the Blacksburg Library, 10 a.m. Participants can bring their supplies and tools and enjoy some conversation and quilting.

## Saturday, Nov. 19:

Darin Handy reptiles

At the Meadowbrook Public Library; 1 p.m. Darin Handy, a certified wildlife rehabilitator who works with injured and orphaned wildlife, will bring live exotic animals and talk about them, particularly why they should not be kept as pets.

## Ongoing:

Blacksburg holiday parade regis-

Registration is now open for Blacksburg's Annual Holiday Parade to be held on Friday, Dec. 2, at 7 p.m. This year's theme will be "Hometown Holidays." The registration deadline is Friday, Nov. 18 at 5 p.m. For more information, contact David Goodman at degoodman@blacksburg. gov or 540-443-1106.

Hand-in-Hand playground design concepts The Town of Blacksburg has re-

ceived design concepts from playground designer Leathers, Inc., for the new Hand-in-Hand playground. Check the concepts out at https:// letstalkblacksburg.org/hand-in-hand.

Radford holiday parade registration

Radford's Holiday Parade, themed "Jingle All the Way," will take place on Thursday, Dec. 8, 2022, at 7 p.m. Lineup begins at 6 p.m on East Main Street between Tyler Avenue and University Drive Bridge and will proceed westward along Main Street to the Central Square Shopping Center. Go to www.radfordva.gov to register. The deadline to register is Nov.

Help veterans with donations

The Meadowbrook Public Library is a collection point for items needed at the VA Medical Center in Salem. Persons are encouraged to bring their donations of the following items to the library during November: deodorant, denture adhesive, 3-in-1 body wash/ shampoo/conditioner, body lotion, toothpaste, nail clippers, sweatpants, sweatshirts, t-shirts (size M, L, XL) and new baseball caps. The donations drive is co-sponsored by VFW Post 5311 and Montgomery-Floyd regional libraries.

## Annual Awards from page 1

African American civil organization. The Community Group in turn established two key programs: First, the Dialogue on Race, which fosters a network of relationships across many sectors leading to a more just community for greater equity of opportunity and achievement, and, second, the New Mountain Climbers, a fund of the Community Foundation of the New River Valley that became the first giving circle and the

first African American

philanthropy in south-

west Virginia. Finally,

executive director Elizabeth Underwood received the Friend of the Valley award on behalf of the New River Conservancy. This award is given to an individual or organization outside of the New River Valley that has made significant contributions to the betterment of the region. The New River Conservancy has long been a partner assisting communities and nonprofits with water quality initiatives in the New River watershed.

They bring a high-level of technical capacity to projects including their Water Watchers water quality monitoring program and stream restoration efforts such as those in partnership with Friends of Peak Creek in Pulaski. Their technical expertise and passion for water quality are truly making a difference in the water-Each award recipient

was provided a framed print by local artist Matt Gentry featur-ing landscapes from the New River Valley.

There will be early deadlines for the November 23 issue because of Thanksgiving. Please send your news items, photos and church news by Thursday, November 17 at noon to community news@ourvalley.org. Send ads by Thursday, November 17 at noon to advertise@ourvalley.org. The paper will be printed on Tuesday, Nov. 22 in order for subscribers to receive it by mail before Thanksgiving. You may also drop off news items and ads at our offices at 1633 W. Main Street, Salem, VA 24153. The offices of the News Messenger and Radford News Journal will be closed on Thursday, Nov. 24 for Thanksgiving.

**EARLY DEADLINES FOR** 

THANKSGIVING PAPER

## P<sub>ETS</sub> OF THE WEEK



Arlo is quite the catch. Staff at the Animal Care and Adoption Center describe him as tender. He's a very sweet boy that can be shy around strangers but loves affection from everyone. He's good with other animals. Arlo is also house- and crate-trained.



Meet shy cat Haiku. Sweet and gentle. Purrfection. Looking for a home.



Influenced by Bill Monroe and the Stanley Brothers, the Java Brothers will offer bluegrass music that is a mix of standard bluegrass and newgrass at the free NRCC concert on Saturday Nov. 17.

# Java Brothers featured in NRCC free concert

The music of the Java Brothers and New Ballard's Branch Bogtrotters will be featured during New River Community College's Concert Series event on Saturday, Nov. 12, 2022.

The music will begin at 6 p.m. in 117 Edwards Hall at NRCC in Dublin.

The Java Brothers' bluegrass band members met during a Monday Night Radford Fiddle and Banjo jam. Their musical influences include Bill Monroe, Stanley Brothers, Jimmy Martin, Old and In the Way, The Seldom Scene, Sam Bush, Tony Rice, JD Crowe and Doyle Lawson.

The Java Brothers mix standard bluegrass and newgrass with fiery original tunes in their live shows. The band includes Joe Abercrombie on

banjo, Ralph Berrier on fiddle, Chris Burgoyne on mandolin, Doug Capobianco on string bass, and Wayne Frye on guitar.

The New Ballards Branch Bogtrotters have been playing old time mountain music in the Galax area since 1986. Dennis Hall is the founder of the band and continues to serve as band leader. The band was named for the small stream in Galax where Hall grew up and still resides, as well as in honor of Uncle Eck Dunford, a member of the original Bogtrotters band from the 1920s.

The current group includes Hall on guitar, Eddie Bond on fiddle and vocals, Bonnie Bond on bass and vocals, Josh Ellis on banjo and vocals, and Caroline Noel Beverley on mandolin and vocals.

The band has played at festivals across the U.S. and participated in the Friends of American Old Time Music and Dance Festival in Gainsborough, England.

Several of the band members have played internationally in Scotland, England, Ireland, and Australia. Since 1986, the band has placed first at the Galax Old Fiddlers Convention 10 times.

The doors open at 5 p.m. for the show. Admission is free; however, donations will be accepted to help offset the travel expenses for the musicians. The music events are typically held the second Saturday of each month at NRCC, a Crooked Road affiliated venue.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF NEW RIVER COMMUNITY COLLEGE

New Ballard's Branch Bogtrotters have been playing old-time mountain music in the Galax area since 1986. The band was named for the small stream in Galax where band leader Dennis Hall grew up and still lives.

Send community news and photos to communitynews@ourvalley.org

# Mt. Tabor Ruritan Club makes apple butter for annual fundraiser

Mt. Tabor Ruritan Club's major fundraiser each year is its apple butter sales.

Each year club members buy local apples, wash and cut them, and take them to the cannery in Wytheville where the apples are cooked, spices are added, and jars are filled and labeled. Club members then sell the apple butter. The price is \$9 for a quart and \$7 for a pint.

This year club members made more

than 350 gallons of apple butter. The sales net thousands of dollars each year. The club then turns those funds into support for their local charitable projects.

The apple butter is available at the Blacksburg True Value Hardware Store at First and Main until Nov. 15 and at a site new to this year, Heaveners Hardware Store.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MT. TABOR RURITAN CLUB DIRECTOR WENDY BALDWIN

The Mt. Tabor Ruritan Club makes more than 350 gallons of apple butter annually as a fundraiser supporting the Interfaith Pantry, college scholarships for teens, the Christmas Store, Hunters for the Hungry, and the Salvation Army.



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# **Home Country by Slim Randles: Haunted** by a missed opportunity. Or was it?

now and thought Doc, that opportunity comes back to haunt me. Like it is right now on this crisp morning walk. It came early in his medical life, an invitation to join with a famous big hospital Back East. He'd make more money, he knew, and there was the seductive challenge of being on the cutting edge of what the world of medicine had to offer to the world of people.

He stopped for a minute and looked up through the stark tangle of bare limbs on a cottonwood tree. The filigree patterns of early winter never grew old to Doc. Sometimes they reminded him of capillaries or the branching out of small spring creeks heading for a trout river. And sometimes, they were just pretty to look at and deserved a pause in Doc's morning walk. He and his wife, known to

everyone as Mrs. Doc, had come here to the valley many years ago. Each had become a local institution the way these things go in a small, rural area. They both regretted not having any children of their own, but the devotion each felt for the other tended to at least partially fill that emotional cavity.

Jeffrey Martin came trotting along the sidewalk on his way to school. Had his book backpack and lunch too. "Mornin' Doc!" he said.

"Hey Jeff. How's school?" "Just fine. Gotta run. I'm Doc smiled after him..

Third grade this year? Close to that anyway. Jeffrey had been a difficult birth. So had Jeffrey's mother. And Doc had been there for both of them. There's more than one way to have a family, Doc thought,

Give a kid's life a boost. https://secure.nokidhungry.

This is how to corner us .. if you want to, of course. Call any time, email us, or just saddle up and ride over here. Coffee's always on.

Slim Randles 7308 Painted Pony Tr. NW Albuquerque, NM 87120 (505) 306-6009 cell homecountry8@gmail.com

# Submit letters to the editor to editor @ourvalley.org

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## Give us your view:

editor@ourvalley.org

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

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# Virginia gas prices fall once again

Average gasoline prices in Virginia fell 1.6 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.48/g Monday, Nov. 7, according to GasBuddy's survey of 4,081 stations in Virginia.

Prices in Virginia are 4.1 cents per gallon higher than a month ago and stand 17.9 cents per gallon higher than a year ago. The national average price of diesel rose 3.4 cents last week and stands at \$5.32 per

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Virginia was priced at \$2.97/g Monday while the most expensive was \$4.69/g, a difference of \$1.72/g.

The national average price of gasoline rose 6.2 cents per gallon last week, averaging \$3.78/g Monday. The national average is down 11.5 cents per gallon from a month ago but stands 37.8 cents per gallon higher than a year ago, according to GasBuddy data compiled from more than 11 million weekly price reports covering over 150,000 gas stations across the country.

"Just over half of the nation's 50 states saw gasoline prices rise last week, pulling the national average back up for the time being due to big jumps in the Great Lakes and continued increases in New England and mid-Atlantic states," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy. "For now, the rise in the Great Lakes, brought on by tight supply, has already started to ease, and declines should start again. In the northeastern U.S., prices are likely to inch up a bit more," said De Haan.

According to De Haan, "National diesel supply remains tight, but supplies of diesel did see a slight rise last week. The majority of stations, especially away from the East Coast and Northeast, should have very few issues with diesel supply, though some stations in those regions could see diesel delivery times slip. Brief outages at a limited number of stations are possible, but with refineries continuing to churn out product and maintenance wrapping up, I'm optimistic the situation will improve."

GasBuddy is the authoritative voice for gas prices and the only source for station-level data. 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-todate in the country. GasBuddy data are accessible at http://prices.GasBud-

# Southeastern Farmer from page 1

Saunders family, I am both out the decades. honored and humbled to us from day one."

father and his four brothers. Robert Saunders and his three brothers returned father, Paul '54, throughits operation, one that has

"On behalf of the entire and production through-

According to a news be named the Southeast- release published by the ern Farmer of the Year," Sunbelt Ag Expo, when said Saunders, who gradu- Saunders returned to the ated from the university in farm it was much different. 1986 with a degree in agri- The nursery was beginning cultural engineering. "The to grow, and he spent most success of the farm would days building greenhouses, not be possible without designing and building irour dedicated employees rigation systems and reserand the community mem- voirs, potting, managing bers who have supported crews, and loading trucks. His wife, Pat Saunders '87, The Saunders family who earned a bachelor's farm, nestled on the "sun- degree in housing, interise side" of the Blue Ridge rior design, and resource Nelson management, taught art in County, was established in public schools and cared 1915 by Saunders' grand- for their growing family of three daughters and two

Saunders took over sales to the farm to join their and oversaw the expansion of the sales team and shipout the 1980s to continue ping department to match growing inventory. He grown substantially in size remained the farm's sales and shipping manager for nearly 25 years while fulfilling his passion as its resident engineer.

> "I do not consider myself a typical horticulturist or orchardist," Saunders said. "I am a problem-solv

ing farmer, working alongside my three brothers, two children [Annie '16, Price '20], three nephews [Tye '15, James '17, Marshall, who graduated from Clemson University in 2012], a highly motivated management team, and an incredibly dedicated group of employees." Robert oversees the

farm's daily operations. The fruit operation covers 160 acres. The wholesale nursery operation consists of approximately 100 acres of container production and 180 acres of field production. More than 1,100 products are shipped to garden centers, landscapers, re-wholesalers throughout the mid-Atlantic region including to the Virginia Tech's campus. The Saunders family also operates a roadside farm market where they sell their plants and produce along with canned items and other homemade goods.

Saunders was nominated for Farmer of the consideration by

Grace Monger, a Virginia Cooperative Extension agent in Nelson County.

Saunders emerged as the Virginia state winner following a competitive process with multiple strong nominees. In Georgia, he competed against state winners from Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee on his way to winning regional recognition.

The award recognizes a commitment to excellence in the agriculture industry, which includes efficiency in farming practices, sound management and financial practices, and quality environmental practices.

'Saunders Brothers is a special operation with a unique culture, and we are incredibly proud of the family's well-deserved recognition," said Dan Goerlich, Virginia Cooperative Extension associate director and state coordinator of the Farmer of the Year program.

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- 39. Wash or flow against 7. Underwater ship 40. Cross a threshold 41. Pitch symbol 42. About lizards 45. Treat with contempt 14. European money 48. Million barrels per day
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  - 54. Wipe out recorded information 56. Pesetas
  - 58. Pitcher Hershiser 59. Pronouncements

61. A coniferous tree

63. Lyric poem

31. South American Indiana 62. Ludicrously false statment 24. Chancellor Von Bismarck

- 60. Dodge truck model
- 5. Two spiral-horned African antelopes

CLUES DOWN

6. Jubilant delight 7. Cyclic

2. \_\_ Green: playwright

3. Building for autos

- 8. Fiddler crabs passengers
- 9. Vehicle carrying many Dream sleep

26. RCO group of atoms

- 13. Afghan Persian language 16. Gnawing small mammal
- 18. B1 deficiency disease 21. Not out
- Instances of disease 1. Mexican wattle & daub hut 34. A story
- 35. Surmounted 36. Cloisonned 4. Rum and lime or lemon juice 37. Counterfoil
  - 38. Kept cattle together 39. Computer screen material 43. Ancient calculator
  - 44. Cuddle 46. District nurse 47. Employee stock owner-
  - ship plan 50. Distributed game cards 52. Murres genus

57. Small amount

53. Tear apart violently 55. Umbrella support 56. Athlete who plays for pay

## **Drone** from page 1

age mapping, and energy for powerline and pipeline inspections, just to name a few. Under the waiver sys-

tem, permission to fly over people was granted on a case-by-case basis and was generally limited to a narrow set of circumstances: A waiver would specify an aircraft, operator, flight location, and other parameters. Change any of these, and a new waiver was required. The system prioritized safety in an industry where technology was changing rapidly, but it made conducting new slow and very expensive.

operations painstakingly When the new rule went into effect in 2021, it replaced that complex process with a clear, universal standard that depended on

a single parameter: Poten-

tial injury severity. That reoriented

search around the central question of what degree of injury a drone could potentially cause if it hit someone (an event, it's worth noting, that is extremely unlikely in the first place).

The FAA's operations over people rule outlines four risk-based categories. When the team put the eBee X through the battery of impact tests, in a configuration with a mass of 1.42 kg, it fell below the threshold for Category 3. That allows it to be flown over people on a site with restricted access, or on an open-access site if it's not loitering directly over

Identifying safe aircraft is the immediate objective of the testing under

the means of compliance. But for the Virginia Tech team, the broader goal is understanding more about how to make aircraft safer and how to test them effectively.

"The eBee X is a lightweight aircraft," Briggs "Heavier aircraft will need different mechanisms to reduce injury risk. There's always room to add to the test methods and always room to test new aircraft. The more we test, the more we'll learn about what design characteristics work to decrease injury risk and which ones don't." This victory for the

eBee X is just the beginning. But, said Briggs, "having the first compliant aircraft in the U.S. for operations over people is a pretty good first step."

Send community news and photos to communitynews@ourvalley.org

# Virginia Tech Board of Visitors to meet Nov. 13-14

The Virginia Tech Board of Visitors will hold its quarterly board meeting on Monday, Nov. 14, at 1:15 p.m. in Room 2100 in Torgersen Hall (620 Drillfield Drive) on the Blacksburg campus.

All other committee meetings held during the two-day session will be held at The Inn at Virginia Tech (901 Prices Fork Road) in Blacksburg unless other-

On Sunday, Nov. 13, at 2 p.m., all board members will meet in open session and attend an information session in Latham Ballroom A/B.

In addition, on Sunday, Nov. 13, and Monday, Nov. 14, the following committee meetings will be held:

On Monday, the Academic, Research, and Student Affairs Committee will meet over breakfast at 7 a.m. in the 1872 Salon. At 8:30 a.m., its members will meet in closed session, followed by open session, in Latham Ballroom A/B.

The Buildings and Grounds Committee will meet with the Finance and Resource Management Committee on Sunday at 9 a.m. in open session in Latham Ballroom A/B. On Monday, the committee will assemble in the lobby of The Inn at Virginia Tech at 8:30 a.m. for a tour of two capital construction projects — the Corps Leadership and Military Science Building and the Upper Quad Residence Hall. Following the tour, the committee will meet in open session at approximately 10 a.m. in the Smithfield Room.

On Monday, the Compliance, Audit, and Risk Committee will meet in closed session at 9 a.m., followed by open session, in the Duck Pond Room.

The Finance and Resource Management Committee will meet Monday beginning at 8:30 a.m. in closed session, followed by open session, in the Solitude

The Governance and Administration Committee will meet Sunday at 10 a.m. in open session in Latham Ballroom A/B.

On Monday, committee chairs will meet at 7:45 a.m. in open session in the

During the two-day meeting, board members will receive a design preview of The full meeting of the board Mon-

day at 1:15 p.m. and the information session held Sunday afternoon will be livestreamed. To view either meeting, go to the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors

Public comment will not be received at the meeting. More information may be found at the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors website.



## Jessie Peterman Memorial Library schedule of November events

Nov. 10: Talking about Books at 2 p.m. To be discussed is "The Sentence" by Louise Erdrich.

Nov. 10: Teen Writing from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. Teens can bring their imagination to life with short stories. Choose a prompt out of a hat.

dall using charcoal, pencil, and other media to create drawings. All supplies will be provided. Pumpkin models will have different shapes and appendages. All ages are welcome, and par-

Nov. 13: from 1 to 3 p.m.

Join Floyd artist Kim Wod-

ents of little ones may participate with them.

Nov. 14: from 10 a.m. to noon. Stop by the library, pick up a book, and get a flu shot. The Floyd County Health Department will be on hand to give the flu shot.

11/15: "We Can All Use a Little Help" at 3 p.m. A Certified Peer Recovery Specialist from the 401 Peer Center will lead a group meeting. Certified Peer Recovery Specialists are trained to offer support to individuals who are dealing with

substance use disorder and/or mental health challenges. This meeting will provide a safe, nonjudgmental space that will promote overall wellness. Sign-up is not required.

PHOTO BY RAY MEESE FOR VIRGINIA TECH

11.16: Bingo at 2 pm. Fun and prizes.

# Student Tailgate at Hokie Village offers new game-day experience

home football games this season, fans taking a stroll down Beamer Way will see a familiar sight: a long line of students in Hokie apparel stretching to Washington Street. These students, however, are not waiting to enter Lane Stadium (at least not yet). They're looking forward to joining the newest tradition at Hokie Village, the Student Tailgate.

A joint effort between Student Affairs and Virginia Tech Athletics, the Student Tailgate offers a traditional game day experience in a safe and welcoming environment. While Hokie Village, the field of vendors and activities that pops up at each home game across from Lane Stadium, is open to the public, the Student Tailgate provides a more exclusive and intimate experience especially for

Virginia Tech students. Once inside, attendees will find many elements common to football tailgates. They have access to lawn games such as cornhole, kan jam, and spike ball; free treats such as snow cones or hot chocolate; and coupons for vendors offering game

day foods. Maya Mahdi, a senior majoring in philosophy, politics, and economics, said the free treat was her favorite part of the tailgate before the Wofford game. "It was starting to get cooler, so it was nice to warm up with a delicious hot chocolate."

For checking into the tailgate, students receive Tech-branded Virginia merchandise such as clear drawstring bags suitable for sports events and T-

shirts. "There are so many perks you can access from the moment you swipe your Hokie Passport," said Anahi Sanchez-Moya, a sophomore studying international

relations.

There's even a chance to earn one of 100 wristbands that allow access to the North End Zone student section, normally available on a first-come, first-served basis when entering the game.

"The Student Tailgate allows students to be a part of our game day experience that is really so unique," said senior Miles Guth, the student project coordinator for the Student Tailgate. He touts the tailgate as not only a new fun option to pass time before the game, but also a way to acclimate to Virginia Tech and find new ways to socialize with fellow Hokies.

'We're providing firstyear and other newer students space to experience the same thing everyone else does," he said. "You see two students who show up alone. Then they start talking and walking around with each other. And then we see them going into the game together."

James Bridgeforth, assistant vice president for student affairs and ExperienceVT, is part of the team responsible for planning and overseeing the tailgate. Among his priorities: getting student organizations involved to help students socialize and adjust to Virginia

"You'll find that a big part of the tailgate experience is really social networking. It's hard to make friends, and it can feel like the university is so big and intimidating," Bridgeforth said. "Groups such as the Latino Association of Student Organizations,

a recent sponsor, greet students when they enter the tailgate. In addition, their presence alone demonstrates to the attendees that there are groups that represent students like them at Virginia Tech that they can join and interact with.

Why choose the Student Tailgate over othgame day activities around Blacksburg? Guth said there are plenty of reasons, the first being convenience.

The location is huge. We're directly across from the west entrance to Lane Stadium, so it couldn't be simpler."

In addition to the many giveaways, tree food, and drinks at the tailgate, Mahdi cites the nearby live music as a benefit. "I love the music at the tailgate. It creates

such a loud and fun atmosphere."

When faced with the sheer volume of activities available on game days, deciding where to spend time before kickoff can be overwhelming. The Student Tailgate aims to solve this by offering a special pre-game experience in a low-pressure, dedicated space.

In life, you get to decide what is a party,' said Sanchez-Moya. "And thankfully, this is a space by students and for students."

The Student Tailgate, located at the rear of Hokie Village, opens 3 1/2 hours before each home game and ends 45 minutes prior to kickoff. Students need to present a Hokie Passport for admission and to receive the week's freebies.

By Joshua Sweeney





PHOTO BY JAMES BRIDGEFORTH FOR VIRGINIA TECH

Students play spike ball in front of the live music stage at the Student Tailgate.



Finances (Begins at 1:40 pm) Learn about ways to help you pay for a private education

(You can attend any time for the subject that interests you the most)

## FREE SYMPOSIUM ON EDUCATIONAL FREEDOM

Saturday, November 12th **Location: Victory Restoration Church** 190 Bishops Gate Rd. NW, Christiansburg, Va.

(Symposium presented and sponsored by Passing the Baton Training Center)

For more information and times,

go to www.symposiumeducationalfreedom.com



# OT ROADWATCH

The following is a list of forecasted highway projects that may impact traffic traveling in the 12-county Salem Transportation District this week. Work schedules and construction project timelines are always subject to change and weather dependent. New information is noted by "NEW" and updates are noted when a current project has had an update added to the listing. The Salem District covers Bedford, Botetourt, Carroll, Craig, Floyd, Franklin, Giles, Henry, Montgomery, Patrick, Pulaski and Roanoke counties.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

I-81 NORTHBOUND AT EXIT 105 NEW RIV-ER BRIDGE REPLACE-MENT IN MONT-COUNTY GOMERY Traffic on northbound I-81 has been switched onto the newly constructed bridge over the New River at the Montgomery/Pulaski County line. The old bridge is being demolished. Lane and shoulder closures may be in place near exit 105. Lane closure may be in effect during the week from 8 p.m. to 7 a.m. Shoulder closures may be in effect at any time during the week. Slow rolls may be performed on I-81 in the north and southbound lanes from mile marker 98 to 109. Speed limit is reduced to 60 miles per hour in the work zone. Shoulder closures will remain in place though the duration of the project. Project completion is estimated by summer 2023.

ROUTE 114 TURN CONSTRUC-LANE TION - Construction is underway on road improvements on Route 114 (Peppers Ferry Road) for a new entrance to Belview Elementary School. Motorists should expect daily lane closures controlled by flagging. Work is expected to be completed by the end of November 2022.

**INTERSTATE 81 INTERSTATE** WIDENING CONSTRUCTION PROJECT EXIT 137 TO EXIT 141 - A \$179 million design-build project to widen both directions of I-81 between mile markers 136.6 and 141.8 from two to three lanes is set to begin. Starting in February and continuing into the early summer, work will be performed on the inside and outside shoulders along a five mile section of both northbound and southbound Interstate 81 in Roanoke County and the city of Salem. The shoulders will be built up before barrier wallS can be installed for road crews to work behind. Barrier wallS will be installed along the shoulders in the spring and summer. Two lanes of I-81 traffic in each direction will remain open during the project with periodic lane closures scheduled ville Rest Area is closed, during nighttime hours southbound I-81 drivers or outside of peak travel can use the Fairfield Rest times as needed. Drivers Area at mile marker 195 can expect the following in Rockbridge County or lane closures and upcom- the Radford Rest Area at ing impacts on north- mile marker 108 in Montbound and southbound gomery County. In addi-

shoulders and lane shifts temporarily available for in various locations, driv- commercial vehicles. ers should adhere to posted 60 mph speed limits in TIONS - Weather perthe work zone and allow mitting, crews will pave, space when following a patch and repair pavevehicle.

SURES: Ramp closures place during nighttime are possible during night- hours, 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. the time hours, 12 a.m., to 5 following morning. Driva.m. Drivers should watch ers should watch for signs for message boards dates and expect possible delays. and times the ramp will be

possible. Lane widths will be reduced to 11 feet. o Northbound lane

closures from I-81 mile marker 136 to 141. Southbound Lane

closures from I-81 mile marker 141 to 136. Nightly lane closures

may be in place along the right lane with possible nightly ramp narrows as needed for guardrail and shoulder strengthening.

Northbound I-81 lane closures from mile marker 138 to 142

Northbound I-81 exit and entrance ramp narrows possible at Route

The project also includes replacing six bridges, widening two bridges, installing approximately 2.6 miles of sound barrier walls along northbound I-81, improving the southbound exit 137 off-ramp intersection at Wildwood Road and adding interchange lighting at exits 137, 140 and 141 are also included in the project. Expected completion in early 2026.

TROUTVILLE I-81 REST AREA CLOSURE - The Troutville Rest Area located on southbound Interstate 81 near mile marker 158 in Botetourt County will remain closed until before Thanksgiving to support holiday travel. Signage indicating the closure is posted in the rest area. A temporary concrete barrier wall will remain in place in front of the facility. The rest area facility, ramps and parking lot are closed to the public. This project will extend the ramp into the rest area by 500 feet and the ramp out of the rest area by 2,100 feet. It will also include expanding the truck parking area at the facility by about 10-13 spaces. Work is expected to be completed before Thanksgiving to support holiday travel. AREA OP-REST

TIONS: While the Trout-

drivers.

tion, the Troutville Weigh WORK ZONE Station, located on south-SPEED: With narrow bound I-81 at mile marker spacing in lanes due to 149, will have portable barrier walls, lack of toilets and parking will be

> I-81 PAVING OPERAment on various routes. RAMP CLO- Lane closures may be in Roanoke County:

Alternating lane closures LANE CLO- on I-81 northbound for SURES: Alternating left milling and paving from and right lane and shoul- mile marker 134.5 to der closures during night- 132.4, 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. the time hours between 8 following morning. Perip.m. and 6 a.m., Sunday odically, exit 132 norththrough Thursday, are bound may be closed.

Message boards will notify

I-81 BRIDGE DECK REPAIRS – Weather permitting, crews will repair bridge decks on Interstate 81. Between mile markers 138 to 152, right and left lane closures will be in place northbound and southbound during nighttime hours, 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning. Drivers should watch for signs and expect possible delays.

**POTHOLE** I-81 PATCHING OPERA-TIONS – Weather permitting, crews will patch potholes along southbound and northbound Interstate 81. Mobile right and left lane closures will be in place and moving along northbound and southbound lanes during nighttime hours, 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning. Drivers should watch for moving vehicles and equipment. Expect possible delays.

**INTERSTATE 581** 

**ROUTE 581 BRIDGE** WORK OVER WIL-LIAMSON ROAD -On

Route 11 (Williamson Road) drivers can expect intermittent and alternating lane closures between the intersections with Rutherford Avenue and Wells Avenue. Intermittent daytime and nighttime lane closures between the intersections above might be required, and will be in place utilizing flagging operations. Any impacts to I-581 will be minimal. Expected com-

LANE CLO-**SURES:** 

pletion is the end of 2022.

o A left lane closure will be in place on northbound and southbound I-581 from mile marker 0-1, Monday at 7 a.m. through Wednesday at 7

o A right lane closure will be in place on northbound and southbound I-581 from mile marker 0-1, Thursday at 7 a.m. through Saturday at 7

A left and center lane closure will be in place on northbound and southbound I-581 from mile marker 0-1, Saturday at 5 p.m. through Sunday

A right lane closure may be in place on Route 11 northbound between the intersections of Rutherford Avenue and Wells Avenue periodically.

Nighttime left lane closures for both the northbound and southbound directions of Route 11 are possible between the intersections referenced above.

I-581/220 LANE & RAMP CLOSURES FOR PAVING AND MAIN-**TENANCE** OPERA-TIONS IN ROANOKE COUNTY-Weather permitting, crews will be milling and paving along Interstate 81. Right and left lane closures will be in place along northbound and southbound lanes during nighttime hours. Drivers should expect possible delays.

## **Legal Notice**

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF A PETITION BY APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY BY APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY
FOR APPROVAL OF A MODIFICATION TO ITS RATE
ADJUSTMENT CLAUSE, RPS-RAC, TO RECOVER THE
INCREMENTAL COSTS OF PARTICIPATION IN THE
VIRGINIA RENEWABLE ENERGY PORTFOLIO PROGRAM
PURSUANT TO TITLE 56 OF THE VIRGINIA CODE
CASE NO. PUR-2022-00146

Appalachian Power Company ("APCo") has applied for approval to revise its rate adjustment clause, RPS-RAC, related to its voluntary RPS program. APCo requests approval to return approximately \$9.4 million to customers as a sur-credit through its RPS-RAC from June 1, 2023, through May 31,

The Hearing Examiner appointed to this case will hold a telephonic hearing on March 8, 2023, at 10 a.m., to receive public witness testimony.

The Hearing Examiner will hold an evidentiary hearing on March 9, 2023.

•Further information about this case is available on the SCC website at: <a href="mailto:scc.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information">scc.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information</a>.

On September 29, 2022, Appalachian Power Company ("APCo" or "Company") filed a petition ("Petition") with the State Corporation Commission ("Commission"), pursuant to the Commission's Final Order in Case No. PUR-2021-00048 and the Commission's broad ratemaking authority under Chapter 10 of Title 56 of the Code of Virginia ("Code"), for approval to revise the rate adjustment clause ("RAC") that APCo uses to recover the incremental costs of participation in its voluntary renewable energy portfolio standard ("RPS") program ("RPS-RAC") previously established under the now repealed provisions of Code § 56-585.2. Specifically, the Company seeks approval to return approximately \$9.4 million to customers as a sur-credit through its RPS-RAC from June 1, 2023, through May 31, 2024. According to the Petition, this update will reduce the current sur-credit that customers receive from the current RPS-RAC from \$0.00116 to \$0.00110 per

Citing the repeal of Code § 56-585.2 and the replacement of the voluntary RPS program with a mandatory RPS program by the Virginia Clean Economy Act, APCo also requests that the Commission order that the RPS-RAC be discontinued and no longer applicable to customers as soon as its corresponding sur-credit has been fully depleted. Specifically, the Company asks that the RPS-RAC rate schedule no longer be applicable to customers, effective June 1, 2024, and that any under or over-recovery balance at that point be considered part of the Company's cost of service.

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 March 8, 2023, 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 March 1, 2023, 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 <a href="scc.virginia.gov/pages/Webcasting">scc.virginia.gov/pages/Webcasting</a>; (ii) by completing and emailing the PDF version of this form to <a href="scc.virginia.gov">SCCinfo@scc.virginia.gov</a>; or (iii) by calling (804) 371-9141. This public witness hearing will be webcast at scc.virginia.gov/pages/Webcasting

On March 9, 2023, 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

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 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 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 nicoates@aep.com

On or before March 1, 2023, any interested person may file comments on the Petition by following the instructions found on the Commission's website:

sec.virginia.gov/casecomments/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-2022-00146. On or before December 7, 2022, any person or entity wishing to participate as a respondent in this proceeding may do so by filing a notice of participation at <a href="mailto:scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling">scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling</a>. 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. A copy thereof also must be sent to 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-2022-00146 On or before January 4, 2023, each respondent may file with the Clerk of the Commission, at <a href="sec.virginia.gov/clk/efiling">sec.virginia.gov/clk/efiling</a>, 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 sent to the Staff, the Company, and all other respondents simultaneous 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-2022-00146.

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 fillings 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, the Commission's Rules of Practice and the Commission's Order for Notice and Hearing may be viewed on the Commission's website at: scc.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information.

APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY

## **STATEWIDE ADS**

AUCTIONS

REAL ESTATE PORTFOLIO AUCTION. Over 80 lasting material – steel from Erie Metal Roofs! Three properties. Commercial, Office Buildings, Apartments, Shopping Centers, Single Family Homes, Multi-Family lifetime! Limited Time Offer - \$50 Discount + Additional Properties, Developmental Land, Recreational Acreage 10% off install (for military, health workers & 1st respond-located in Southside Virginia being offered at Auction on ers.) Call Erie Metal Roofs: 1-84-902-4611 November 16 at Chatmoss Country Club – Martinsville, VA. For information, visit woltz.com or call Woltz & Associates, Inc. (VA#321), Real Estate Brokers & Auctioneers 800-551-3588.

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#### Yard Sales -**Botetourt County**

**Inside Yard Sale** VFW Post 1841 Auxiliary Roanoke Daleville VA Nov. 12 8am-1pm. Bag Sale starting at

#### For Sale - Firewood

#### **FIREWOOD**

Mixed Hardwood. Call 540-784-3436 or 540-581-4183. Delivery Botetourt only

#### For Sale - Misc

**FOR SALE** Unprinted end rolls of newsprint. Great for packing & shipping, moving & storage and for art projects. Various sizes available. Stop by the Salem Times-Register 1633 West Main St. or call (540)389-9355 for details

#### **Lost & Found**



#### **Lost Chihuahua** \$100 Reward

Light Brown, 10-12in, just had pups. Lost on 8th St. West End, Radford. Call anytime, Larry Prescott H(540)745-5154 C(540)285-0179

#### miscellaneous

#### **Part Time** Newspaper **Production Help** Salem Times Register has

openings for afternoon/evening shift work- inserting, labeling and bundling newspapers for delivery. No experience necessary Hours may vary. Will train. \$11 per hour. Contact Lynn Hurst, General Manager, Salem-Times Register (540)389-9355 or email lhurst@ourvalley.org

#### Help Wanted -General

#### Seeking a New Musician for **Fincastle** Presbyterian Church

The Fincastle Presbyterian Church is seeking a musician to play for its Sunday service. The church has both a pipe organ and a parlor grand piano, so the ability to play either one of those or both of those would be just fine. The church service is from 10:30  $\square$ 11:30 each Sunday. interested, please contact the church at: (540) 473-2042 or email: fincastlepresbyterianchurc

#### Legals - Botetourt County

h@gmail.com

## Order of

**Publication** Commonwealth of Virginia VA Code §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316, -317, 20-104 **Botetourt County Circuit** Court 1 West Main Street P.O. Box 219, Fincastle, VA 24090 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re WILLIAM P ARNEY, THEASURER OF **BOTETOURT COUNTY** Case No. CL22000461-00 Civil Action No. 22-461 The object of this suit is to: **RULE TO SHOW CAUSE** THIS CAUSE came to be heard upon the Petition of William P. Arnev, that he be released and fully discharged from liability as Treasurer of Botetourt County, Virginia, pursuant to §58.1-3145 et seq. of the Virginia Code. That in the aforesaid Petition, the Petitioner, William P. Arney, states that he has filed certificates from the Comptroller of the Commonwealth, the Board of Supervisors of Botetourt County. Virginia and the School Board of Botetourt County, Virginia showing the final settlement of his accounts, that he has turned over to his successor in office, Donna Boothe, all books and papers in his possession as Treasurer and that he is requesting

that he be discharged of his

liability as Treasurer of

Botetourt County, Virginia.

It appearing proper in all

## Legals - Botetourt

County respects to do so, it is accordingly ADJUDGED ORDERED and DECREED that this rule be served upon David A. Von Moll, the Comptroller of the . Commonwealth of Virginia, upon Richard Baily, Chair of

the Board of Supervisors of Botetourt County, and John Russ, Superintendent of Schools, and shall be published once a week for four successive weeks in the Fincastle Herald and by posting at the front door of the Courthouse. That a hearing upon his Petition requesting the he be released of liability and granted his final discharge as Treasurer, shall be held the 6th of December 2022 at 11:00 a.m. in the Circuit Court for Botetourt County, Virginia. Any party who feels that William P. Arnev should not be released of

liability shall file an objection to the release from liability or appear in Court at said date and time. It is ORDERED that INTERESTED PARTIES appear at the above-named court to protect his/her interests on December 6, 2022 at 11:00am. Entered this the 14th day of October, 2022 by Joel R. Branscom I ask for this: Michael W.S. Lockaby VSB# 74136 **Botetourt County Attorney** Guynn, Waddell, Carroll & Lockaby, P.C. 415 South Collage Avenue Salem, Virginia 24153 Phone: (540)387-2320 Fax: (540)389-2350



MikeL@guynnwaddel.com

Arney Dated: October 13th,

Counsel for William P.

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#### Legals - City of Salem

#### **Planning** Commission

Notice is hereby given to all interested persons that the City of Salem Planning Commission, at its regular meeting on November 16, 2022, at 7:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 114 N. Broad Street, in the City of Salem, Virginia, will hold a public hearing, pursuant to Sections 15.2-. 2204 and 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia, as amended, to consider approval of the following requests relative to the CODE OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA: 1. The request of Jefferson Bennett Development Group, LLC, contract purchaser, and Layman Candy Co, Inc, property owner, for the issuance of a Special Exception Permit to allow for personal storage on the property located at 1630 West Main Street, (Tax Map # 139-4-6) and 1700 blk West Main Street (Tax Map # 139-4-7). 2. The request of DBMB, LLC, property owner, to replace the zoning and use permit, with conditions, issued May 1987, to store scrap metal on the properties located at 1108 Florida St. (T/M# 198-3-2), 1112 Florida St. (T/M# 198-3-3), 1100 blk. Florida St. (T/M# 198-3-6), 1100 blk. Florida St. (T/M# 198-3and 1100 blk. Indiana St. (T/M# 198-3-11) with a special exception permit to allow scrap and salvage services. This updated special exception permit would include the addition of the properties located at 600 9th St. (T/M# 198-3-1) 1116 Florida St. (T/M# 198-

3-4), 1120 Florida St. (T/M#

198-3-5), 1103 Indiana St.

Indiana St. (T/M# 198-3-9)

and 1115 Indiana St. (T/M#

proposed plans, ordinances

198-3-10). Copies of the

or amendments may be

(T/M# 198-3-8), 1100 blk

#### Legals - City of Salem

examined in the Office of Community Development, 21 South Bruffey Street, Salem, Virginia. At said hearing, parties in interest and citizens shall have an opportunity to be heard relative to the said requests. THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA BY: James E. Taliaferro, II **Executive Secretary** 

#### **City Council** Notice is hereby given to all

interested persons that the

Council of the City of

Salem, at its regular meeting on Monday, November 28, 2022, at 6:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 114 N. Broad Street, in the City of Salem. Virginia, will hold a public hearing, pursuant to Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia, as amended, to consider approval of the following requests relative to the CODE OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA: 1. The request of Jefferson Bennett Development Group, LLC, contract purchaser, and Layman Candy Co, Inc, property owner, for the issuance of a Special Exception Permit to allow for personal storage on the property located at 1630 West Main Street, (Tax Map # 139-4-6) and 1700 blk West Main Street (Tax Map # 139-4-7). 2. The request of DBMB, LLC, property owner, to replace the zoning and use permit, with conditions, issued May 1987, to store scrap metal on the properties located at 1108 Florida St. (T/M# 198-3-2), 1112 Florida St. (T/M# 198-3-3), 1100 blk. Florida St. (T/M# 198-3-6), 1100 blk. Florida St. (T/M# 198-3-7), and 1100 blk. Indiana St. (T/M# 198-3-11) with a special exception permit to allow scrap and salvage services. This updated special exception permit would include the addition of the properties located at 600 9th St. (T/M# 198-3-1), 1116 Florida St. (T/M# 198 3-4), 1120 Florida St. (T/M# 198-3-5), 1103 Indiana St. (T/M# 198-3-8), 1100 blk Indiana St. (T/M# 198-3-9), and 1115 Indiana St.m. (T/M# 198-3-10). Copies of the proposed plans. ordinances or amendments may be examined in the Office of Community Development, 21 South Bruffey Street, Salem, Virginia. At said hearing, parties in interest and

citizens shall have an

opportunity to be heard

THE COUNCIL OF THE

relative to the said requests.

CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA

BY: H. Robert Light, Clerk

of Council

#### **FORMER OWNER** NOTICE OF INTENT **TO DISPOSE**

FORMER OWNER'S NOTICE OF INTENT TO DISPOSE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to the Provisions of the Code of Virginia (1950) as amended, §33.2-1005A, (formerly §33.1-90A). This is to notify the last known owners, heirs or assigns of the William H. Young and Beulah F. Young Estate, City of Salem, VA, of the opportunity to purchase property located in the 600 Block of Dalewood Avenue, containing approximately 5.750 acres. Contact Amanda Newhouse, amanda.newhouse@vdot.vi rginia.gov. 540-387-5572. Right of Way and Utilities Division, 731 Harrison Avenue, Salem, VA 24153, by November 16, 2022.

#### Legals - Craig County

### ORDER OF **PUBLICATION**

Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 CRAIG COMBINED **COURT-JUVENILE** Case No JJ002184-18-00 Juvenile and Domestic **Relations District Court** Commonwealth of Virginia, in re EVANS, MASON GRAY The object of this suit is to:

terminate. the residual parental Rights of the father of Mason Gray Evans thought to be either Ryan Quinlin, Mark Evans, James Cook, or Unknown Father pursuant to Virginia Code Sections 16.1-283 B and C, and which child is seven (7) years of age and was born

### Legals - Craig County

to Katlin Daniel Evans. Residual parental rights are defined in Section 16.1-228 of the Code of Virginia (1950, as amended) as the rights and responsibilities remaining with a parent after the parent loses custody of a child, including but not limited to the right to visitation, consent to adoption, the right to determine religious affiliation, and the responsibility for support. The termination of your residual parental rights will permanently end all of your rights and responsibilities to the child named in the petition. The ties between you and your child are severed forever and you become a legal stranger to the child. It is ORDERED that JAMES COOK appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before 12/02/2022 10:30AM signed by Patty Taylor, clerk 09/08/2022

#### ORDER OF **PUBLICATION** Commonwealth of Virginia

VA. CODE § 8.01-316 **CRAIG COMBINED COURT-JUVENILE** Case No JJ002184-19-00 Juvenile and Domestic **Relations District Court** Commonwealth of Virginia, in re EVANS **MASON GRAY** 

The object of this suit is to: terminate. the residual parental Rights of the father of Mason Gray Evans thought to be either Ryan Quinlin, Mark Evans, James Cook, or Unknown Father pursuant to Virginia Code Sections 16.1-283 B and C. and which child is seven (7) years of age and was born to Katlin Daniel Evans. Residual parental rights are defined in Section 16.1-228 of the Code of Virginia (1950, as amended) as the rights and responsibilities remaining with a parent after the parent loses custody of a child, including but not limited to the right to visitation, consent to adoption, the right to determine religious affiliation, and the responsibility for support. The termination of your residual parental rights will permanently end all of your rights and responsibilities to the child named in the petition. The ties between you and your child are severed forever and you become a legal stranger to the child. It is ORDERED that UNKNOWN FATHER appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before 12/02/2022 10:30AM signed by Patty Taylor, clerk 09/08/2022

#### ORDER OF **PUBLICATION**

Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 CRAIG COMBINED COURT- JUVENII F Case No JJ002185-16-00 **Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court** Commonwealth of Virginia, in re EVANS,

JACOB LUCAS The object of this suit is to: terminate, the residual parental Rights of the father of Jacob Lucas Evans thought to be either Ryan Quinlin, Mark Evans, Kevin Scott Minnix, or Unknown Father pursuant to Virginia Code Sections 16.1-283 B and C, and which child is six (6) years of age and was born to Katlin Daniel Evans. Residual parental rights are defined in Section 16.1-228 of the Code of Virginia (1950, as amended) as the rights and responsibilities remaining with a parent after the parent loses custody of a child, including but not limited to the right to visitation, consent to adoption, the right to determine religious affiliation, and the responsibility for support. The termination of your residual parental rights will permanently end all of your rights and responsibilities to the child named in the petition. The ties between you and your child are severed forever and you

become a legal stranger to

the child. It is ORDERED

that UNKNOWN FATHER

Court and protect his or her

**VIRGINIA: IN THE** 

**CIRCUIT COURT** 

FOR THE COUNTY

OF CRAIG

THE COUNTY OF CRAIG,

interests on or before

by Patty Taylor, clerk

09/08/2022

# appear at the above-named 12/02/2022 10:30AM signed

diligence has been used,

#### Legals - Craig County Virginia a political

subdivision of the

Commonwealth of Virginia, Plaintiff V. UNKNOWN HEIRS OF ROY KENNETH BRITT, DECEASED, UNKNOWN HEIRS OF VIOLET S. COLEMAN. DECEASED, UNKNOWN HEIRS OF ROY A. BRITT. DECEASED, UNKNOWN HEIRS OF RUTH S BRITT DECEASED, D. ALLISON BRITT, RUSSELL M BRITT, and PARTIES UNKNOWN, Defendant(s). Case No. CL22-185 Order of Publication The object of this suit is to enforce a lien for delinquent real estate taxes against the property known as Tax Map No. 53A-117-14 (Craig Springs, Lot 14, Block 17). An Affidavit having been filed stating that due diligence has been used without effect, to ascertain the location of the named Defendant(s), that the Defendant(s) may be nonresidents of Virginia and maintain no domicile within the borders of the Commonwealth, or are deceased, or that there may be parties who have an interest in the property but are unknown, namely, the heirs, devisees, and successors in the title of the named Defendant(s), made Defendants by the general description of Parties Unknown, it is hereby ORDERED that the named Defendant(s) and all Parties Unknown appear on or before November 22, 2022, and do what may be necessary to protect their interests in this cause. Entered 10/24/2022 by: Sharon P. Oliver, Clerk I Ask For This: N. Reid Broughton VBS No. 38899

#### **VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT** FOR THE COUNTY OF CRAIG

THE COUNTY OF CRAIG.

Sands Anderson PC P.O.

Box 2009 Christiansburg,

(540)260-9011 fax:

(540)260-0022

Virginia 24068-2009 phone:

Virginia a political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Virginia, Plaintiff V. JESSICA DAWN ADKINS, JONATHAN STILTNER, JR. JONATHAN MICHAEL OWENS, MELISSA JAYDE ADKINS, HANNAH CANTRELL, and PARTIES UNKNOWN, Defendant(s). Case No. CL22-189 Order of Publication The object of this suit is to enforce a lien for delinquent real estate taxes against the property known as Tax Map No. 37-A-49B (on Barbours Creek). An Affidavit having been filed stating that due diligence has been used, without effect, to ascertain the location of the named Defendant(s), that the Defendant(s) may be nonresidents of Virginia and maintain no domicile within the borders of the Commonwealth, or are deceased, or that there may be parties who have an interest in the property but are unknown, namely, the heirs, devisees, and successors in the title of the named Defendant(s), made Defendants by the general description of Parties Unknown, it is hereby ORDERED that the named Defendant(s) and all Parties Unknown appear on or before December 2, 2022, and do what may be necessary to protect their interests in this cause. Entered 10/24/2022 by: Sharon P. Oliver, Clerk I Ask For This: N. Reid Broughton VBS No. 38899 Sands Anderson PC P.O. Box 2009 Christiansburg, Virginia 24068-2009 phone: (540)260-9011 fax: (540)260-0022

#### **CIRCUIT COURT** FOR THE COUNTY **OF CRAIG** THE COUNTY OF CRAIG.

VIRGINIA: IN THE

Virginia a political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Virginia, Plaintiff V. BRIANNA LYNN JUSTUS aka BRIANNA KEEN aka BRIANNA STILTNER, individually and as guardian of her minor children, ELIJAH BENNETT ABEL STILTNER, SIERRA GRACE JUSTUS, KAYLEE MARIE FAYE JUSTUS, and PARTIES UNKNOWN, Defendant(s). Case No. CL22-190 Order of Publication The object of this suit is to enforce a lien for delinquent real estate taxes against the property known as Tax Map No. 37-A-49 (on Barbours Creek). An Affidavit having been filed stating that due

#### Legals - Craig County

without effect, to ascertain the location of the named Defendant(s), that the Defendant(s) may be nonresidents of Virginia and maintain no domicile within the borders of the Commonwealth, or are deceased, or that there may be parties who have an interest in the property but are unknown, namely, the heirs, devisees, and successors in the title of the named Defendant(s), made Defendants by the general description of Parties Unknown, it is hereby ORDERED that the named Defendant(s) and all Parties Unknown appear on or before December 2. 2022 and do what may be necessary to protect their interests in this cause. Entered 10/24/2022 by: Sharon P. Oliver, Clerk I Ask For This: N. Reid Broughton VBS No. 38899 Sands Anderson PC P.O. Box 2009 Christiansburg, Virginia 24068-2009 phone: (540)260-9011 fax: (540)260-0022

#### VIRGINIA: IN THE **CIRCUIT COURT** FOR THE COUNTY OF CRAIG

THE COUNTY OF CRAIG, Virginia a political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Virginia, Plaintiff V. UNKNOWN HEIRS OF VINCENT D PRICE, DECEASED, and PARTIES UNKNOWN. Defendant(s) Case No. CL22-192 Order of Publication The object of this suit is to enforce a lien for delinquent real estate taxes against the property known as Tax Map Nos. 48A-2-3-4A and 48A-2-3-5 (287 Virginia Mineral Springs Road). An Affidavit having been filed stating that due diligence has been used, without effect, to ascertain the location of the named Defendant(s), that the Defendant(s) may be non-residents of Virginia and maintain no domicile within the borders of the Commonwealth, or are deceased, or that there may be parties who have an interest in the property but

### Legals - Craig County

heirs, devisees, and successors in the title of the named Defendant(s), made Defendants by the general description of Parties Unknown, it is hereby ORDERED that the named Defendant(s) and all Parties Unknown appear on or before December 6, 2022, and do what may be necessary to protect their interests in this cause. Entered 11/01/2022 by: Sharon P. Oliver, Clerk I Ask For This: N. Reid Broughton VBS No. 38899 Katie M. DeCoster, Esq. VBS No. 82696 Sands Anderson PC P.O. Box 2009 Christiansburg, Virginia 24068-2009 phone: (540)260-9011 fax: (540)260-0022

### Montgomery County

Legals -

### **Public Aution**

Under Provisions of Article 55.1-2902 of the Lien Law of the State of Virginia, Bolt Storage LLC, (814)983-0099, will sell the personal property stored by the following tenants. One occupant at 230 Lakewood Forest Rd. Moneta, VA 24121: Michelle Myers-220.401 -Three occupants at 1579 Depot St. NE

Christiansburg, VA 24073: Charles Estep-B3; Eric James-B13; Donna Hodge-B26 -Eight occupants at 2860 Roanoke St. Christiansburg,

VA 24073: Sabrina Martin-48B; Charles Estep23B; Greg Reynard-56F; Chris Gwaltney-33F; Donald Sampson Jr-74C; Jobeth Brown-73G; Pearl Smith-18A; Jennifer Crawford-45F Payment from the buyer will be taken by credit or debit card only. Auction will be held online through storagetreasures.com with open bidding starting on Friday, November 18, 2022 at 8:00 am. Bolt Storage LLC reserves the right to bid at the sale; refuse any or all bids, and to cancel the auction at any time for any reason. To settle this claim please call (866) 300-2658



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# Montgomery Sports

# Radford, Christiansburg begin playoffs at home Friday

Marty Gordon

NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Radford High School will open as the top seed in Region 2C when the playoffs open this Friday, hosting eighth-seeded (5-5) Dan River. Glenvar is #3 and Floyd #6 in the regional points, looking up at the Bob-

At 9-1, Radford is rolling into the playoffs after a Thursday night win over James Riv-

Junior QB Landon Clark has had a sensational year with 130 for 192 passing with 2,396 yards and 36 touchdowns. He has also rushed 97 times for 404 yards with another six touchdowns.

His favorite receivers have been Parker Prioleau (48 catch-

es for 811 yards with 11 touchdowns), Marcell Baylor (36 receptions for 778 yards with 15 touchdowns), and Max Kanipe (24 catches for 483 yards with five touchdowns). For the season, David Wood-

ward added 76 rushes for 360 yards with seven touchdowns. On defense, Baylor leads

the team with 44 tackles, and Prioleau is second on the team with 33 stops. As long as they keep winning, Radford will continue to

host the regionals. Christiansburg will also open the Class 3 playoffs with

miliar foe in Abingdon. Last week, Tanner Evans and Curtis Altizer combined for 302 yards on the ground as the Blue Demons held off

a region D matchup with a fa-

a late comeback by Pulaski for a 34-31 win. Altizer finished the night with 172 yards on 11 carries with touchdown runs of 79 and 65 yards. Evans added 130 yards on 12 carries that included a 66-yard score in the first quarter. Evans also threw for two touchdowns to Jayron Thompson and Dishon

The key for Christiansburg will be how the defense responds after giving up 31 points in the season finale against Pulaski including two scores in the last three min-

Abingdon will enter the contest with a 5-5 record, including a 22-13 loss to Christiansburg in Week #2. Last week, they pulled out a 21-20 thriller over Lee County.

Alex Hawkins piled up 153 rushing yards on 20 carries and scored two touchdowns for Abingdon while Luke Honaker gained 81 yards on the ground and scored the other touchdown for the Falcons. In the earlier game this sea-

son, Thaxton Henley picked off two passes as the Blue Demon defense produced three Abingdon turnovers and two sacks. Cam Cooper led the Blue Demons with 85 yards rushing on nine carries with a 68-yard touchdown. He was also two-of-three through the air for 36 yards with a 28-yard completion to Evans, who added 79 yards on the ground on 15 carries.

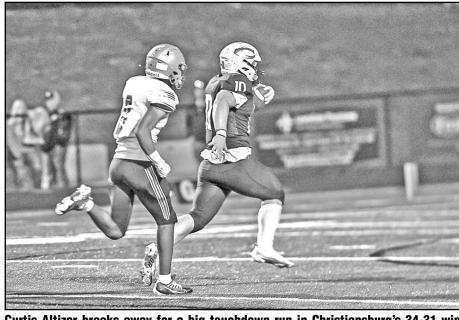
Since then, Cooper has been benched and the Blue Demons have used three other players at quarterback. Evans has the most starts with six and is expected to start this Friday

Abingdon, which stopped a Lee County two-point conversion in the final regular season contest, slipped in at number six. Their losses have come 24-7 to Gate City, 34-14 to Tennessee High, 20-13 to River View and 37-0 to Union.

In the region points, a win by Christiansburg might not mean another home game. Magna Vista is second and would have to lose for that to happen. The winner of the Christiansburg-Abingdon game will play the winner of Magna Vista-Śtaunton River.

Area Top Five: 1) Radford, 2) Salem, 3) Narrows, 4) Christiansburg, 5) Glenvar.

# Christiansburg slips by Pulaski 34-31



Curtis Altizer breaks away for a big touchdown run in Christiansburg's 34-31 win Friday night over Pulaski.



J.T. Thompson makes a flying tackle to stop a Pulaski runner in Friday's contest. With the win, Christiansburg will host a regional playoff game this Friday versus

# **Blacksburg loses to Cave Spring 41-10 in season finale**



Blacksburg running back Gordan Grisham-Vaden drags a Cave Spring defender for a few additional yards in the Bruins' Thursday night loss. On Senior Night, Cave Spring grabbed a 41-10 win to keep the Bruins winless on the season.



Blacksburg's Spencer Campbell scores on a long touchdown run during the first half against Cave Spring.



Blacksburg's defense stiffens on fourth down on a second-half goal-line stand to keep Cave Spring out of the end zone.

# Examining COVID's impact on home-court advantages

Virginia Tech economics expert Jadrian Wooten and two colleagues recently concluded research to determine whether fan restrictions during the 2020-21 basketball season impacted traditional home-court advantages often enjoyed by teams playing in home venues.

"Fans definitely matter. I think almost any sports fan is going to tell you that fans matter, especially once they go, and so what we were really curious about was how much they matter," said Jadrian Wooten, an associate professor in the Virginia Tech's Department of Economics, about the motivation behind researching whether COVID-19 restrictions reduced homecourt advantages for college

Several months ago, Wooden, Emily Marshall, an associate professor of economics and data analytics at Dickinson College, and Stephen Locke, an associate professor of economics at Western Kentucky University combed through two seasons of data to determine

COVID's impact on college

basketball.

basketball teams.

Wooten said the group feels that three factors impacted home-court or home-field advantage: fans, familiarity with the venue (for example, playing baseball in Denver with its high elevation that allows balls to travel farther versus playing in Miami), and travel-related issues (for example, NBA teams playing on back-toback nights in different cit-

According to Wooten, prior to the pandemic, separating the influences of those three was hard, though many studies have made attempts. The pandemic offered

this trio of researchers a rare opportunity to take an indepth look at the fan aspect. 'We've never really had

a situation where fans just completely disappear," Wooten said. "And it happened for almost everybody, and so this was slightly different. It took us a while to think about how to frame it because we normally think ing at it as if you lose a lot of fans, what's the impact?

about the more fans, the better, and so we were look-

We're kind of doing the

reverse of, if I have a lot of fans versus losing a lot of fans," Wooten said. "It was really the first chance to isolate the fan side of it across a wide variety of teams."

The group analyzed data from all 358 Division I teams that play college basketball. To be able to make a comparison, the group looked at game-level data from the 2019-20 season and the season right after pandemic-induced restrictions, 2020-21. The data encompassed more than 7,300 games.

The group focused its attention on four main categories: who won or lost the game, the scoring margin, field-goal percentage, and free-throw percentage. Typically, a team wins and shoots better both from the field and the free-throw line when playing at home.

Behind Marshall, the point guard of the research team, the group found that the home team won 63.2 percent of the time in the season before the pandemic

but won only 58.9 percent

of the time during the pan-

demic season. In the season

before the pandemic, the

home team won by a margin of 4.29 points per game, but that margin dropped to 3.1 points per game during the pandemic season.

From a Virginia Tech perspective, the Hokies, who opened their 2022-23 season on Nov. 7, won 16 games during the pandemic season and 15 the following season, a season in which they played fewer games. Because of that, analyzing data on individual teams was a bit tricky.

Overall, the numbers supported the group's hypothesis that fans matter.

"That effect was even stronger in games played between two what we're calling 'Power 6' teams," Marshall said, referring to teams from the ACC, the BIG EAST, the Pac-12, the Big Ten, the SEC, and the Big 12. "Those teams are used to playing in front of more fans," Marshall said. "So the impact of taking away fans is stronger for those teams." "I think the biggest sur-

prise to me is the free-throw percentage differential," Marshall said. "I would have expected the fans behind the baskets to be doing a little bit more."

After Locke collected the data for analysis, Wooten and Marshall collaborated on a 33-page paper of their results. They have submitted the paper for peer review in hopes of having it published.

They admitted that they started this project because of their interests in sports and because of a fun curiosity. But their research also serves as an incentive to get students interested in economics and analytics.

--Jimmy Robertson, VT



PHOTO COURTESY OF DAVE KNACHEL

The home court/home field advantage was affected thanks to COVID but will be back into play as action gets underway at Cassell Coliseum.

## Rusty Wallace group purchases Lonesome Pine Raceway

Mark Ebert, owner of the Rusty Wallace Racing Experience, has entered into an agreement with Bobby Hill and the ownership group of Lonesome Pine Raceway to purchase the raceway.

The parties have agreed to a brief lease period with a closing date in the first quarter of

"We are really excited to get to work at Lonesome Pine Raceway," Ebert said. "This came together fast. We've only been working on this for a little over a week with Bobby and his group. I have to say that when we first came to LPR we were really impressed by the condition of the track and the work that Bobby and his team have put into the speedway."

Concessions have been redone, the restrooms and VIP area are first-rate. With a little investment and some elbow grease, the racing surface is going to be outstanding. Ebert and the Rusty Wal-

now manage Lonesome Pine Raceway and Motor Mile Speedway. 'When we started at Motor Mile Speedway two years ago, we inherited an amazing facility with so much potential,

and we see that same potential

lace Racing Experience will

here at Lonesome Pine," Rusty Wallace said. 'I've learned so much at Motor Mile the last two years. There were certainly a few missteps along the way, but the experience and growth

has been invaluable to me.

The staff here at MMS is top notch. I've learned to trust them to bring MMS back to where it belongs. We have fallen in love with this area and the community here. The support we've received has us really encouraged for the fu-

"Although I still have plenty to improve on, we feel like we have great momentum going into 2023. Adding Lonesome Pine is going to make us better at both tracks," Wallace said. "When Mark and I first got together with the Rusty Wallace Racing Experience over ten years ago, we talked short-track racing before we ever talked business. It's a passion that runs deep for us both and through our whole team. You see that passion in

our short track Late Model program and you'll soon see it at Lonesome Pine. I'm excited for the racetrack and Rusty Wallace Racing Experience. It's going to be great watching Lonesome Pine come back to life in 2023.'

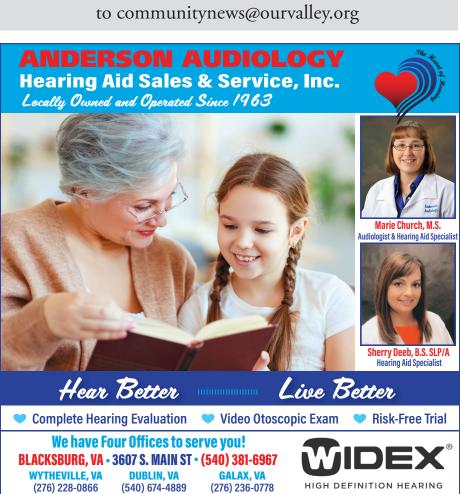
Incoming Lonesome Pine Raceway track President Ieff Roark said, "First of all, I'm really happy to be coming home to 'The Pine." There's a great foundation here, but there's a lot of work to do to be ready for spring. We plan to run a full slate of asphalt racing on the oval and continue with the dirt go-kart track. Rusty Wallace Racing Experience will be moving into the race shop, and we'll have a full schedule for the driving experiences here. We're also working on a bunch of new ideas, and we would encourage fans to watch FaceBook for some announcements,' exciting Roark said.

Bobby Hill said the decision to sell Lonesome Pine was difficult for his entire family.

We put a lot of time, effort, and money into the track. When Mark and the Rusty Wallace Racing Experience team came to us with their plans and vision, we knew this was the future for the track and the community that we were looking for. We're excited for the future of Lonesome Pine, and we'll be in the stands next year to watch the races," Hill said.

The Rusty Wallace Racing Experience runs at over 70 racetracks nationwide.

Send community news and photos



# Big South and ESPN3 reach broadcast agreement

The Big South Conference has announced it has obtained exclusive regular-season basketball broadcasts on ESPN3, which will be among the nearly 415 total broadcasts featuring Big South men's and women's basketball programs during the 2022-23 campaign.

Five men's basketball league matchups and five women's basketball conference contests will make up the exclusive ESPN3 "Game of the Week" package beginning in January. An additional six men's conference games will be televised on ESPNU, while all remaining home Big South contests will be carried on ESPN+. Meanwhile, coverage

of the preliminary rounds of the 2023 Hercules Tires Big South Basketball Championships are slated to be carried on ESPN+. The men's and women's championship games on Sunday, March 5, will be telecast on an ESPN linear network.

Six regular-season Big South men's games will be televised on ESPNU for the tenth consecutive year, with all six being "Wild Card" selections that will be determined two weeks in advance. ESPNU will televise a Big South game on Thursday, Jan. 12 (7:00 p.m.), Thursday, Jan. 26 (7:00 p.m.), Thursday, Feb. 2 (7:00 p.m.), Thursday, Feb. 9 (7:00 p.m.), Thursday, Feb. 16 (7:00 p.m.) and Thursday, Feb. 23 (7:00 p.m.).

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