



Regional tourism updates council on long-awaited virtual tourism site

Lori Graham
Contributing writer

CHRISTIANSBURG - The Christiansburg Town Council invited Regional Tourism Executive Director, David Rotenizer and Tourism Program Assistant, Cheyenne Kees to provide an update on the local tourism website improvements during the town's regular meeting on April 11.

A tourism travel survey titled "Visitor Profiling and Nature of Demand Study for the NRV" has recently been completed to determine areas of interest for travelers and the purpose of their visits.

Rotenizer called the report "the first post-pandemic study to be done for our region, and probably one of the first studies right now in the whole state, because it just came out."

The results of this study are part of a rebranding that the tourism office has been working on, in collaboration with New River Valley Partnership, to improve visitor's access to the region.

Kees presented the New Visitors Guide, which will have both print and virtual components to aid travelers to the area in finding local food, art, entertainment, parks, and accommodations. The QR codes on each page will bring a visitor to the main page of the virtual Visitor Center where they can find timely information on places to visit in the New River Valley. The electronic component of the virtual guide provides added statistical information for the department as well.

"I can track each individual QR code so I know exactly what people are using the visitor's guides for," said Kees.

The guide includes a map that shows where to find parks, trails, natural water resources and other attractions for people visiting the area. The onboarding process for the Virtual Visitor Center has begun. They hope to be up and running online by next month.

Council member Timothy Wilson addressed Kees concerning the still outdated information on the town's visitor website.

"It's nice to finally have that after almost a year waiting for it," Wilson said. "It is all a tourist has to go to. So, I told you last year that everything on your website

See **Tourism**, page 4



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF CHRISTIANSBURG-BLACKSBURG
Dr. Edward Spencer receives the Rotary Club of Christiansburg-Blacksburg 2023 Citizen of the Year Award. From left, Club President Dan Berenato; Citizen of the Year Committee Chair Doug McAlister; award recipient and Dr. Edward Spencer; Melanie Spencer; Club Past President Les Myers; President of the Sojourn Center Board of Directors Anne Judkins Campbell; and President and CEO of Warm Hearth Village William Lester.

Dr. Edward Spencer named 2023 Citizen of the Year

The Rotary Club of Christiansburg-Blacksburg presented its 2023 Citizen of the Year Award to Dr. Edward Spencer at their April 10 meeting.

The Citizen of the Year Award honors a non-Rotarian whose voluntary acts and services have made the Christiansburg-Blacksburg area a better place in which to live. "Spencer's life of volunteerism and service has unquestionably improved lives throughout the New River Valley," the Rotary Club announced.

Spencer, Vice President Emeritus for Student Affairs, retired in 2012 after 30 years of service to Virginia Tech. While working, Spencer was active in leadership roles with the Blacksburg Presbyterian Church; United Way of Montgomery, Floyd, and Radford; Free Clinic of the New River Valley, Planned Parenthood of the Blue Ridge; Town/Gown Community Relations Committee; Giles Community Apartments Corporation; and Westminster Presbyterian Homes. In retirement, he has focused his attention on two organizations that help the elderly.

"In the New River Valley, we are fortunate that when people retire, they don't stop working," said Citizen of the Year Committee Chair Doug McAlister.

Spencer has been on the Board of Directors of Warm Hearth Village since 2013, becoming the Chairman

of the Board in 2016. In this role, he has overseen the development of the Woods Edge active adult community, Warm Hearth at Home home health care service, a Carilion Clinic Family Practice sited within Warm Hearth Village, and replacement of the long-time CEO after her recent retirement.

"From my point of view, I cannot think of anyone more deserving of this award," Current President and CEO of Warm Hearth Village, William Lester, said of Spencer. "Ed has generously volunteered his time and shared talents with our employees, residents, and the community while positioning the Warm Hearth Village Board of Directors for success for years to come."

Spencer has been on the Sojourn Center Board of Directors since 2013, becoming Vice President in 2019. Sojourn Center's mission is to build a state-of-the-art inpatient hospice center to serve the terminally ill, staffed by experts in end-of-life care in the New River Valley to celebrate and lovingly support a person's final passage while offering dignity and comfort to all involved at the end of life. As a member of the Board, Spencer has actively engaged with hospitals, hospice care

See **Citizen of the Year**, page 4

VT Run in Remembrance honors lives lost



The 3.2 for 32 Run in Remembrance, held Saturday, at Virginia Tech, included approximately 8,000 Hokies and supporters.

BLACKSBURG - Virginia Tech held a Day of Remembrance in honor of the students and faculty members who lost their lives on April 16, 2007 on the campus of Virginia Tech.

On Saturday, April 15, the 3.2-Mile Run in Remembrance, an annual event that has attracted thousands of walkers, joggers, and competitive runners to campus since 2009, was held on Alumni Mall near the

Torgersen Hall bridge. The event started with a moment of silence, and runners traveled across campus and into Lane Stadium, ending at the April 16 Memorial.

On Sunday, April 16, the lighting of a ceremonial candle was held at the April 16 Memorial, located in front of Burruss Hall on Drillfield Drive, and the names of the 32 Hokies lost on April 16, 2007, were read. A wreath-laying ceremony and moment of silence also was



PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING

Runners and walkers stream by Burruss Hall and the April 16 memorial on Saturday morning during the 3.2 for 32 Run in Remembrance

held. Student members of the Virginia Tech Rescue Squad carried wreaths to the memorial, which were placed by Virginia Tech President Tim Sands and Laura Sands and Executive Vice President and Provost Cyril Clarke.

The ceremonial candle was then extinguished, and the light was carried back into Burruss Hall, representing the university's commitment to never forget.

-News Messenger staff report

Blacksburg holds public hearing for proposed FY2024 budget

Lori Graham
Contributing writer

BLACKSBURG - A public hearing was held at Blacksburg Town Council's meeting Tuesday, April 11 on the town's budget and tax rates for the coming fiscal year 2023-2024.

The council also heard an additional request for a conditional use permit concerning a downtown commercial property in Kent Square.

Real estate taxes for the 2023-2024 tax year will see a proposed rate of \$0.26 per \$100 assessed value as presented to the council and community by Marc Verniel, Town Manager. The proposed rate is the same as the current rate. Blacksburg town residents pay property taxes to both the town and the county of Montgomery. Property in the county is assessed every four years with notices most recently mailed to residents in November 2022, with an effective date of January 1, 2023. County taxes are established through the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors and Blacksburg taxes are set by the Blacksburg Town Council.

Verniel expressed that "one penny on the town real estate tax rate generates just under \$500,000 for the

town."

Reassessment of property has seen an increase, particularly in the area of rental properties and multi-family homes. Historically, 2023 real estate reassessment rates are seeing an increase of an average of 31.6%, which is comparable to the average rates last seen in 2007 of 33.7%, occurring just prior to the real estate recession of that period.

The overall budget for fiscal year 2024 was presented at the town council meeting at \$97,225,00. The total operating budget increased by 9.8% and the general funds seeing an increase of 9.4%. The general funds portion of the budget accounts for approximately half of the overall budget.

Some increases in taxes and fees by the town of Blacksburg will be seen in cigarette taxes, water, sewer, and solid waste fees. Cigarette taxes will increase from \$0.30 to \$0.40, which will come up to the current rates in Montgomery County and the town of Christiansburg. Overall, utility fees will increase by \$5.40 per month for town residents.

In overall economic health, Verniel said "being a college town helped the town be more stable" compared to the pandemic period when college students were

attending courses virtually.

A work session on the budget occurred April 18, with a vote on the tax rate scheduled for April 25, 2023. A copy of the proposal made be accessed under Budget and Reports at the www.blacksburg.gov website.

The April 11 meeting also included a request to combine previously approved conditional use permits (CUPs) at Kent Square and Kent Square North, 202 and 250 South Main Street, currently zoned as downtown commercial. Blacksburg Zoning Administrator Paul Patterson presented information on the item of discussion that would allow for additional medical and office spaces in the location that totals approximately one acre.

Patterson shared with the council that an opportunity for public comments had occurred on March 2, 2023, in the form of a neighborhood meeting, at which time no citizen comments were expressed in person or by correspondence. The Planning Commission voted on the topic of the permit as well at a meeting on April 4, with a 7 to 0 result in recommendation of approval along with the contingency of specific conditions being met.

The meeting concluded with the announcement of Take Back the Night's event date change to April 26, 2023 on Henderson Lawn in Blacksburg.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, April 19:

Business Women’s meeting
American Business Women’s Association NRV Express Network April luncheon meeting; 11:30 a.m.-1p.m., Holiday Inn Christiansburg-Blacksburg, 99 Bradley Drive, Christiansburg. Join us for networking fun at our April meeting. We will engage in interactive ice breakers to get to know each other better. We have lots of new members in recent months and would love to become better acquainted with each and everyone. Paige Godwin is the Speaker Sponsor for this meeting. RSVP by April 17. Cost is \$16. Contact: Terri Welch at christiansburg@wineanddesign.com or Paige Godwin at godwinpaige@gmail.com.

Radford Army Ammunition Plant community meeting
The Radford Army Ammunition Plant (RFAAP) will hold the next Commander’s Community Meeting at 6:30 p.m. at the Christiansburg Library, 125 Sheltman St., Christiansburg. It also will be broadcast on Facebook Live (facebook.com/RadfordArmyAmmunitionPlant/). Meetings are open to the public.

Hahn Horticulture Garden Talk
At the Virginia Tech Squires Student Center Brush Mountain Room B (not at the Garden!);10 -11:30 a.m. Campus Arborist Jamie King will discuss key elements and components of the draft of VT’s Urban Forest Master Plan.

Thursday, April 20:

Photo matting and framing
The next meeting of the Radford Photo Club will be Thursday, April 20, at 6 p.m. at the Radford Public Library. Becky Lattuca, director of the Fine Arts Center for the New River Valley, will provide instruction on matting and framing photos. Attendees are invited to bring photos they would like to discuss how to frame for maximum impact or those that are not a standard size. The Radford Photo Club is made up of professional and amateur photographers from throughout the New River Valley. Meetings, events, and outings are open to the public. If you have questions about the Radford Photo Club, email Lucy Gilmore at lucyg.gilmore@gmail.com or mborgarelli@gmail.com.

Meadowbrook Quilters
At the Meadowbrook Library; 6:30 – 8 p.m. All age groups and skill levels are encouraged to participate in this informal gathering of individuals who love quilting or just want to learn the craft. Meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month, in the Studio Room of the Meadowbrook Center.

Thursday, April 20 – Saturday, April 22:

Hahn Horticulture Garden Plant Sale:
At the Hahn Horticulture Garden, 200 Garden Lane, on the campus of Virginia Tech; Thurs., April 20 and Fri., April 21: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., Sat., April 22 8 a.m. -

noon (or when they sell out.) This event benefits both the Garden and the Horticulture Club, so please come out and support and purchase some interesting plants for your yard. There will be a preview on Wed. April 19 at noon where we will highlight some of the plants that will be for sale. Please note that no plants will be sold or put on hold on Wednesday.

Friday, April 20:

Friends of the Library Book
At the Blacksburg Library; noon – 4 p.m. The Friends of the Library are having their used book sale! Fill a standard grocery bag for only \$5.

Saturday, April 22:

Montgomery County/ Blacksburg Kiwanis Club Brunswick Stew fundraiser
At Prices Fork Elementary School (PFES), 4021 Prices Fork Rd., Blacksburg; noon – 2 p.m. Fundraiser benefits programming at PFES and local youth charities supported by Kiwanis. Pre-orders are encouraged by calling (540) 951-5834 or emailing pfesstew@gmail.com. Payment accepted by cash or check upon pickup. Kindly make checks payable to PFES. Drive-thru service will be available the day of pickup. Price is \$10/ quart or \$9 /quart for five quarts.

Family Movie Matinee: Lightyear
At the Radford Public Library; 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. The same studio that brought you Toy Story brings you “Lightyear”. See the origin story of Buzz Lightyear alongside his robot companion Sox. Rated PG; 101 minutes.

Monday, April 24:

Radford City Council meeting
The Radford City Council will hold its regularly scheduled meeting at 7 p.m. in council chambers at the Radford Municipal Building, 10 Robertson St., Radford. See the agenda at www.radfordva.gov.

Montgomery County Board of Supervisors meeting
Public meetings are the second and fourth Monday of each month at the Montgomery County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St. in Christiansburg. Closed sessions begin at 6 p.m. if needed. Open sessions begin at 7:15 p.m. Citizens are invited to attend and 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.

Tuesday, April 25:

Blacksburg Town Council meeting
Town Council meets in regular session the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Roger E. Hedgepeth Chambers of the Blacksburg Municipal Building, 300 S. Main St. These meetings are open to the public and televised live on WTOB Channel 2.

Christiansburg Town Council meeting
Regular Town Council meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month beginning at 7 p.m. in Council Chambers of Town Hall (100 E. Main Street). The public is welcome and encouraged to attend, with a citizen hearing time reserved at each meeting for residents to bring any matter they desire before the entire council.

Lunch and Learn: Decompress from Stress
At the Radford Public Library; noon – 1 p.m. Join us for a presentation about how to manage stress with licensed Humana agent Lauren Hand. This event is free and open to the community. To reserve

your seat and lunch, email Elizabeth.Sensabaugh@radfordva.gov.

Saturday, April 29:

Library of Virginia on-the-go
At the Meadowbrook Library; 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. The Library of Virginia is bringing their state-of-the-art equipment and offering their expertise. Join us to explore research resources, discuss regional and family history, enjoy children’s activities and much more. Door prizes, Genealogy 101 and help with your questions, tours of the Meadowbrook Museum and the MFRL Mobile Library, special guest Daniel Thorp, and Precious Valley Farms Petting Zoo. All events are free and open to the community.

Sunday, April 30:

Christiansburg Presbyterian Church Spring Concert
Christiansburg Presbyterian Church will offer its annual Spring Concert at 4 p.m. This year’s guest artist will be classical guitarist Justin Craig. Justin is a graduate of Radford University with a Master of Music degree in classical guitar performance. He is a busy regional guitarist, jazz performer, recording artist, and teacher. He performs often as a soloist and leads a variety of groups including a modern jazz and Brazilian group. This concert is free and open to the public.

On-going:

Registration open for annual Scrabble tournament for literacy
Registration is now open for the Literacy Volunteers of the New River Valley 15th Annual LVNRV Scrabble Tournament, which will be held Thursday, April 27, 2023 at Sinkland Farms in Christiansburg. All proceeds from the fun evening support free tutoring for adults to provide them with the skills they need for personal independence and family self-sufficiency. Programs include one-on-one tutoring, Skill Up NRV and Family READS programs, GED and U.S. Citizenship preparation classes, and Bridge to Digital Learning initiative. Register at www.lvnrv.org or call 540-382-7262.

Cap and Gown Drive
The Town of Blacksburg Sustainability Office is partnering with Blacksburg High School and Sustainable Blacksburg to encourage re-use of previous years’ graduate gear for the 2023 senior class. Gowns (blue only - from 2018 and later), caps, stoles, and cords are accepted. Donations can be made between 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Monday-Friday at the Main Entrance of Blacksburg High School. It is appreciated if materials are dry-cleaned, but not required. For more information, contact the Town of Blacksburg Sustainability Office at 540-443-1617 or sustainability@blacksburg.gov.

Free GED Classes
New River Community College is offering free GED at the Meadowbrook Library every Tuesday and Thursday evening from 5 – 8 p.m. The classes began on Tuesday, Jan. 17 and end on Thursday, May 11. For more information or to sign up please call the Meadowbrook Library at 540-268-1964.

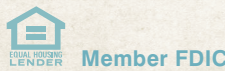
Glencoe Mansion announces call for art for Mary Draper Ingles Show
Glencoe Mansion is calling for art for its July-August 2023 Gallery Exhibit, “A Journey For All,” a multi-artist show themed on the life and times of Mary Draper Ingles. Accepted artwork should reflect the life and times of Mary Draper Ingles, expressions of life during the colonial period, and histories of all the peoples, from settlers to indigenous cultures to enslaved people, who called the frontier home. This includes, but is not limited to, depictions of local landmarks (for example, Ingles Farm, the Cultural and Heritage Park, Ingles Tavern and other connected sites in the region), and Colonial style art. All fine arts and fine craft media including painting, plein air, illustration, digital media, textiles, mixed media and photography will be considered. Artists may submit up to three (3) artworks for consideration. Applications will be accepted through 5 p.m. on June 13. Participation, which is subject to acceptance, is open to artists in and around the NRV area. Entry forms for “A Journey For All” can be found at www.glencoemansion.org or by contacting arts@glencoemansion.org.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MCCC

The Messy Tuck Boutique, located at 260 Jennelle Rd. in Christiansburg, celebrates its grand opening.

The Messy Tuck Boutique celebrates grand opening

CHRISTIANSBURG – On Wednesday, April 12, 2023, The Messy Tuck Boutique celebrated its grand opening with a ribbon cutting with the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce.

The Messy Tuck Boutique is a clothing boutique specializing in clothing for women of all styles. One of the store's main goals is to provide a positive shopping

experience for women of all generations and styles. The boutique can be contacted at 540-251-5396.

The ribbon cutting was attended by around 40 community members. The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce awarded The Messy Tuck Boutique with a certificate of appreciation as part of the festivities. After the ribbon was cut, attendees

were treated to food and beverages courtesy of The Messy Tuck Boutique.

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC) serves over 600 members of varying sizes in Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Riner, Shawsville, and throughout Montgomery County.

-Submitted by the MCCC

Community Housing Partners receives \$543,000 grant from Neighborworks America

CHRISTIANSBURG – Community Housing Partners (CHP), a member of the national NeighborWorks network, has received \$543,000 in flexible grants from NeighborWorks America, which will support CHP's efforts to develop and preserve affordable housing and revitalize and sustain neighbors throughout the Southeast and mid-Atlantic.

"We are incredibly grateful for this grant from NeighborWorks America, which will allow us to continue our critical work in developing and preserving affordable housing," said Lance Sutherland, Chief Financial Officer at CHP. "This funding helps CHP to remain agile and responsive to the evolving needs of our communities."

The grant includes \$360,000 in capital funding to support CHP's real estate development

activities. In total, NeighborWorks America announced more than \$79 million in grants to its network of 247 nonprofit organizations located around the country. Network organizations use flexible NeighborWorks grants to develop affordable rental and for-sale housing, provide housing and financial counseling services, engage residents in comprehensive community development strategies, and make commercial and economic development loans.

"In 2022, NeighborWorks network organizations were a lifeline for people facing eviction, foreclosure, and homelessness. We provided the knowledge, access and resources to secure stable housing," said Marietta Rodriguez, President and CEO of NeighborWorks America, in the grant announcement. "Rising

housing costs have put enormous strain on household budgets, and NeighborWorks network organizations continue to work with families to improve their financial well-being. NeighborWorks network organizations also lift up entire communities in urban, suburban, and rural areas, partnering with residents to strengthen and revitalize neighborhoods."

In fiscal year 2022, NeighborWorks America and the NeighborWorks network generated \$10.8 billion in direct investment in communities across the country. NeighborWorks also provided 415,800 housing and counseling services, created 18,800 new homeowners, and owned and/or managed 204,900 quality, affordable rental homes.

-Submitted by Community Housing Partners

LEGO building contest showcases creativity, skill at NRV Home Expo



Best in Show, ages 4-6: Sophie, Age 5



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE NRV HOME BUILDERS ASSOCIATION
People's Choice Winner: Jonathan, Age 11



Best in Show, ages 7-10: Lilly, Age 7

The New River Valley Home Builders Association (NRVHBA) is excited to announce the winners of their LEGO Home Building Contest that took place at the 2023 NRV Home Expo April 1-2 at the Christiansburg Rec Center.

Kids ages 4-17 from throughout the New River Valley were invited to submit entries of their best custom home creation.

Over 40 entries were received, and Best in Show winners were chosen from among three age groups.

Entries were judged at the 2023 NRV Home Expo by NRVHBA members. Each entry received scores based on Overall Design, the Best Use of LEGO Elements, and the "Cool Factor" (overall creativity and originality). An award was also given for the People's Choice. Attendees at the NRV Home Expo were invited



Best in Show, ages 11-16: Luke, Age 14

to vote for their favorite entry. Each age group winner and the people's choice winner received a custom-made medal, a \$50 gift card, and a free copy of The House That She Built, a book that educates young readers about the people and skills that go into building a home.

Winners were announced at the NRV Home Expo on Sunday April 2 by Jason Hardy, an NRVHBA Board Member and representative from the event sponsor, Carter Bank & Trust.

"Carter Bank & Trust is once again proud to sponsor the NRVHBA LEGO Home Building competition," said Hardy. "On behalf of our associates throughout the New River Valley I'd like to offer congratulations to everyone who entered their projects. It's obvious that a lot of hard work went into creating some amazing and creative homes."

Winners of the contest were:

Best in Show, ages 4-6: Sophie, Age 5

Best in Show, ages 7-10: Lilly, Age 7

Best in Show, ages 11-16: Luke, Age 14

People's Choice Winner: Jonathan, Age 11

The NRVHBA congratulates the winners and thanks all of the participants for submitting entries.

5TH ANNUAL FREEDOM FEST
APRIL 22 & 23, 2023

featuring:
"Missing Man"
Formation Flyover by
WWII T-6 Texans

New Freedom Farm
Buchanan, VA

LIVE MUSIC BY:
ERIC WAYNE BAND
Tate Tuck
MARTIN KELLY
TERRY & RAYMOND

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Tickets: \$8.00 includes raffle ticket for a \$500 Visa gift card.
Rain, sleet, snow, or shine just like our troops serve.
Children 17 and under free.

SATURDAY April 22
11 AM - Gates Open
12:22 PM - Opening Ceremonies
- Missing Man Flyover
- New Freedom Farm Color Guard Presentation of Colors
- Mary Miller Jordan Founder of I AM HERD with her own Mustangs Performing at Liberty.
12:30 - 2 PM - Terry and Raymond
2 - 5 PM - Martin and Kelly Band

SUNDAY April 23
11 AM - Gates Open
12:22 PM - Opening Ceremonies
12:30 - 2 PM - Tate Tuck Band
2 - 5 PM - Eric Wayne Band

WFXR FOX 23
TOO MANY
MANY

For more information or to buy tickets, visit us online at:
www.NewFreedomFarm.org

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LYNCHBURG HILLCATS VS SALEM

APRIL 18TH 6:05PM
GAME 1 - GATES OPEN AT 5:00PM

APRIL 19TH 11:05AM
EDUCATION DAY - GATES OPEN AT 10:00AM

APRIL 20TH 7:05PM
80'S IN ASPEN - GATES OPEN AT 6:00PM

APRIL 21ST 7:05PM
PBS KIDS NIGHT - GATES OPEN AT 6:00PM

APRIL 22ND 6:05PM
HALFWAY TO HALLOWEEN - GATES OPEN AT 5:00PM

APRIL 23RD 3:05PM
GAME 6 - GATES OPEN AT 2:00PM

Tourism

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promoted Blacksburg more than Christiansburg.”

Rotenizer countered that the new system is cutting edge technology and “worth the wait I think.”

During public address of the meeting, one citizen also thought the visitor information was lacking in content and accessibility.

“Mr. Wilson is right. It’s been almost a year and it’s still...it’s pretty much a joke”, said Chris Waltz of Christiansburg. “If you look for things to do in Montgomery County on Google, Google does a good job of giving you things to do but the tourism website doesn’t even show up until the end of the page.”

In another presentation to council, Human Resources Director Alicia Dials revealed a proposal for an all-inclusive Wellness Program, which includes a new two-hour fitness leave with employee’s department head approval. The results of the 12 selected employees

appointed to a planning committee for the proposal provided input to work towards a more comprehensive wellness program. Then a short survey was provided to the employees in the town.

“The survey results, we had 63% overall participation...over half of our employees participated,” Dials said. “Massage by far won out, about 80%. We had a lot of employees that wanted a massage.”

Other popular topics selected by employees included walking and running, hunting and fishing, and financial wellness.

Following a brief discussion, the council voted 6 to 0 in support of the wellness program and the fitness leave.

On another point of discussion during the meeting, council voted 6 to 0 in approval of a recommendation for a tax map revision, which the street committee had also previously approved. Tax Map Nos. 528-((A))91,

528-((45))-15, and 528-((45))-16, will create seven residential plats and one commercial plat located on Gatewood Street in Christiansburg.

Council member Tanya Hockett also presented information concerning a request for Rockstep Christiansburg LLC, who has requested a conditional use permit for a carnival from April 29 through May 17, 2023 at the Uptown Mall location. A public hearing was held on March 28 allowing citizens an opportunity for comment. Council member Johana Hicks made a first motion, with Wilson seconding the motion and council voting 6 to 0 in approval of the conditional use permit.

A reappointment of Barry Helms to the Montgomery Regional Solid Waste Authority Board of Directors with a term of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2027 was also approved by the council in a 6 to 0 vote.

Citizen of the Year

from page 1

agencies, the Virginia Department of Health, legislators, architects, town and county officials, and many other groups to gain understanding of and support for the project.

President of the Sojourn Center Board of Directors, Anne Judkins Campbell says that all of these groups “have benefitted from Ed’s communication skills and kind personality as well as his extensive life experience and intellect.”

“Ed’s passion and devotion to the elder community, specifically those with time limiting illnesses, is remarkable,” she said.

Upon receiving the 2023 Citizen of the Year Award from the Rotary Club of Christiansburg-Blacksburg, Spencer said, “I think role models are important,” and that he traces his passion for volunteerism back to his father who volunteered throughout his life, including for 26 years after retirement. He said he finds inspiration for the organizations where he volunteers from his father and mother-in-law, who lived at Warm Hearth Village, and his wife, Norrine, who died in hospice care. Spencer concurred with McAlister, expressing his gratitude for the many Virginia Tech employees and graduates in the area who take Ut Prosim to heart, continuing to “work”

as volunteers long into retirement and improving our collective quality of life.

The Rotary Club of Christiansburg-Blacksburg is celebrating 100 years of Service Above Self in 2023. Local leadership recognition, youth development programs, and community service projects as well as sponsorship of the Virginia Tech Rotaract Club and participation in Rotary International programs such as PolioPlus exemplify this motto. For more information, find @ChristiansburgBlacksburgRotary on Facebook.

-Submitted by the Rotary Club of Christiansburg-Blacksburg

AARP Virginia fraud alert: Student loan relief scam

If there is one constant in the criminal world it’s that scammers follow the news. Student loan forgiveness has been the focus of recent headlines, which has given scammers room for student-loan-related fraud.

Be wary of any unsolicited contacts from “debt relief experts” offering access to instant, easy-to-access loan forgiveness options or mentioning the “Biden Plan.” They often ask for upfront payment or for personal information such as your Social Security number or your FSA ID (the username and password on your loan account).

It is illegal for debt relief companies to collect payment from you before they get results, so upfront

fees are a surefire sign of fraud. Secondly, these offers provide nothing you can’t find yourself for free by contacting your loan servicer or the U.S. Department of Education.

Be a fraud fighter! If you can spot a scam, you can stop a scam.

Visit the AARP Fraud Watch Network at www.aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork or call the AARP Fraud Watch Helpline at 1-877-908-3360.

News Messenger

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editor@ourvalley.org

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

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Virginia gas prices on the rise

Average gasoline prices in Virginia have risen 9.3 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.53/g today, according to GasBuddy’s survey of 4,081 stations in Virginia. Prices in Virginia are 31.2 cents per gallon higher than a month ago, and stand 40.2 cents per gallon lower than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has fallen 0.3 cents in the last week and stands at \$4.15 per gallon.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Virginia was priced at \$2.84/g yesterday while the most expensive was \$4.29/g, a difference of \$1.45/g. The lowest price in the state yesterday was \$2.84/g while the highest was \$4.29/g, a difference of \$1.45/g.

The national average price of gasoline has risen 7.6 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.65/g today. The national average is up 22.1 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 41.2 cents per gallon lower 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.

Historical gasoline prices in Virginia and the national average going back ten years:

April 17, 2022: \$3.93/g (U.S. Average: \$4.06/g)
April 17, 2021: \$2.72/g (U.S. Average: \$2.86/g)
April 17, 2020: \$1.74/g (U.S. Average: \$1.79/g)
April 17, 2019: \$2.59/g (U.S. Average: \$2.84/g)
April 17, 2018: \$2.55/g (U.S. Average: \$2.73/g)
April 17, 2017: \$2.23/g (U.S. Average: \$2.41/g)
April 17, 2016: \$1.94/g (U.S. Average: \$2.11/g)

April 17, 2015: \$2.22/g (U.S. Average: \$2.43/g)
April 17, 2014: \$3.48/g (U.S. Average: \$3.66/g)
April 17, 2013: \$3.43/g (U.S. Average: \$3.52/g)
Neighboring areas and their current gas prices:
Roanoke- \$3.44/g, up 12.4 cents per gallon from last week’s \$3.32/g.
Richmond- \$3.52/g, up 6.3 cents per gallon from last week’s \$3.46/g.
West Virginia- \$3.56/g, down 1 cent per gallon from last week’s \$3.57/g.

“With oil prices touching their highest level of 2023 at nearly \$83 per barrel, the national average price of gasoline has continued to inch higher, with 45 of the nation’s 50 states seeing prices rise over the last week. While the rising price of oil is likely the largest factor in rising gas prices, seasonal impacts continue to also exert pressure on prices,” said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy. “With the Northeast making the final step in the transition to summer gasoline this week, states in that region should expect a sharp rise in gasoline prices over the next week or two. Every other region has already seen the final step in the transition occur, so while other areas will see prices continue to slowly rise, the Northeast is likely to see a pretty hefty jump of 15-40 cents per gallon soon. Oil prices remain a wildcard, but we’re likely a few weeks away from seeing the national average peak. Whether it hits \$4 per gallon or not is still perhaps a 50/50 chance.”

-Submitted by Gas Buddy

Be sure to ‘Like’ the News Messenger on Facebook.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14			15					16				
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			58					59				
60	61						62	63			64	
65						66					67	
68						69					70	

CLUES ACROSS

1. Product or ___ (abbr.)

4. Zodiac sign

9. S. China seaport

14. Former OSS

15. Early English printer

16. Aphid genus

17. General’s assistant (abbr.)

18. Aussies

20. Dissuades

22. Make law

23. Drench

24. Soak in a liquid

28. Male child

29. It cools your home

30. Small constellation

31. To call (archaic)

33. Explores beneath the Earth

37. Commercial

38. W. hemisphere orga-nization

39. You can find it in a can

41. “Land of the free”

42 36 inches

43. Footwear

44. Challenges

46. They hold things together

49. Of I

50. Partner to flow

51. Not connected by kinship

55. Worries

58. Garlic mayonnaise

59. A way to take by force

60. Legendary English rockers

64. Your consciousness of your own identity

65. Fencing swords

66. Silly

67. Actor DiCaprio

68. Encircles with a belt

69. Mails a message

70. Longing

CLUES DOWN

1. Horse mackerels

2. It can be viral

3. Prickly plants

4. Consciousness

5. Type of sarcoma

6. Tax collector

7. Sun up in New York

8. One who scorches

9. Influential psychotherapist

10. Situated at an apex

11. Communicative

12. Forearm nerve

13. Former CIA

19. Folk singer DiFranco

21. Employee stock owner-ship plan

24. Large-scale

25. School environment

26. Remove

27. Male parents

31. Large rodent

32. Weighed down

34. Held tightly

35. ___ route: going there

36. Explains again

40. Exclamation of surprise

41. Courteously

45. Lying down

47. Judge

48. Forcefully took

52. Loosely compacted sediment

53. High mountain

54. Portable conical tents

56. Cereal grass

57. Dining utensil

59. Thoughtful

60. Helps you walk

61. Indicates near

62. Midway between northeast and east

63. Local area network

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Women in Data Science Blacksburg comes to campus April 20-21



PHOTO BY NATALEE WATERS FOR VIRGINIA TECH
Angie Patterson, a professor of practice in the Department of Statistics, heads up the committee for Women in Data Science (WiDS) Blacksburg, a hybrid event that will take place April 20-21.

B L A C K S B U R G - Driven by the goal of encouraging and supporting women who pursue careers in data science, the annual Women in Data Science (WiDS) Blacksburg event will take place April 20-21.

The free event, which is designed for anyone with an interest in data science, will be held in-person at New Classroom Building on Virginia Tech's Blacksburg campus, as well as virtually via Zoom. WiDS Blacksburg is an independent event organized by Virginia Tech as part of the annual WiDS Worldwide conference, the WiDS Datathon, and an estimated 200 WiDS regional events worldwide. All genders are invited and encouraged to attend WiDS conference events which feature outstanding women doing outstanding work.

"With this event, we want to show women that they can build successful careers in data science," said Angie Patterson, a WiDS ambassador and professor of practice in the Department of Statistics. "By highlighting the amazing work that is being done by women here at Virginia Tech and beyond, hopefully we can build a community of data scientists – of all genders – that understand how data science can be used to

tackle the world's problems across all domains."

This year's two-day event will kick off with a pair of tutorial options on Thursday evening: a workshop on explaining complex data science using the ADEPT framework and a tutorial on using Git and GitHub with RStudio.

Meanwhile, the main event of WiDS Blacksburg 2023 is a half-day conference on Friday. Headlining this year's conference is current American Statistical Association President Dionne Price, who works for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration as the deputy director of the Office of Biostatistics, Office of Translational Sciences at the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research.

The first African American to serve as American Statistical Association president, Price will present the opening keynote address, titled "Our Impact in the Evolving Data Landscape." Her talk will explore not only challenges and opportunities for data scientists and statisticians as the data landscape continues to grow and change, but their contributions and impact as well.

Providing the closing keynote address is Ruoxi

Jia, assistant professor in the Bradley Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering. Jia, who was recently honored with a National Science Foundation Faculty Early Career Development award, will focus her discussion on trustworthy machine learning.

Another conference highlight will be a panel discussion focusing on the varied careers available in the realm of data science. Titled "Data Science is a Multidisciplinary Sport," the discussion will feature a slate of women who have forged successful careers in data science across a variety of domains.

Other activities on Friday include a session for student poster presentations, as well as roundtable discussions over dinner.

"The beauty of this event is the chance it gives to students to meet and interact with women who have careers to which they aspire," said Monica Ahrens, a research scientist at the Center for Biostatistics and Health Data Science and co-chair of WiDS Blacksburg 2023. "I'm looking forward to two nights of networking, learning about the vast work done by women in data science, and having some fun along the way."

-Melissa McKeown for Virginia Tech

OBITUARIES

Lytton, Nancy Kay Duncan

Nancy Kay Duncan Lytton, 75, of Christiansburg, passed away at her home on Thursday, April 13, 2023. She was preceded in death by her parents, Troy and Margaret Duncan; and her sister, Loretta White.

Survivors include her loving husband of 31 years, Howard Junior Lytton; daughter and son-in-law, Tracy and Cory Webb; sons and daughters-in-law, Randy and Patricia Cox, and Michael and Missie Cox; 18 grandchildren;

14 great-grandchildren; brothers and sister-in-law,



Ray and Shirley Duncan, and Ricky Duncan; sisters and brothers-in-

law, Catherine and Glen Hall, Shirley and Paul Hutchinson, and Linda and Mike Bishop; and many nieces, nephews, and other family members and friends.

The family received friends on Tuesday, April 18, 2023, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. A graveside service followed in Sunrise Burial Park in Radford with Pastor Chris Sellors officiating.

The Lytton family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home and Crematory in Radford.

PETS OF THE WEEK



Burrito



Boise and Borah

Sweet Burrito has been a resident at the Animal Care and Adoption Center for a short time. She is a loving feline who enjoys cuddling up in a soft blanket. She likes being pet and given affection.

Boise and Borah are BFFs (best furry friends). They are a bonded pair who will need to go to the same furever home. These energetic gals love to play and romp together. Borah cannot hear, and when it comes to the "sit" command, she typically follows suit and mimics what her buddy Boise does!

These pets and many others are available for adoption at the Montgomery County Animal Care and Adoption Center, 480 Cinnabar Rd., Christiansburg. Phone: (540) 382-5795.

New pest targets Virginia onions, garlic, and leek crops

Home gardeners and commercial farmers alike should be on the lookout for a new Virginia pest: the allium leaf miner, says Tom Kuhar, a professor of entomology at Virginia Tech.

The allium leafminer is an invasive fly that can devastate allium crops like onions, garlic, and leeks. It was first recorded in the U.S. in Pennsylvania in 2015 and was recorded in Virginia in

2021.

"The pest attacks onions, garlic, and leeks where the larvae (maggots) feed on plant tissue by "mining" the plant, causing wilting and possible death," says Kuhar.

Kuhar says that adult females repeatedly puncture allium leaves with their ovipositor (a tube-like organ for depositing eggs), resulting in a line of small white dots. This may cause leaves to be wavy, curled, and distorted.

"Larvae, which look like a typical whitish maggot, are extremely destructive as they "mine" leaves and move into bulbs and leaf sheaths where they pupate (enter the next stage of their lifecycle)," says Kuhar. "Infected plants may appear wilted or stunted with distorted leaves and smaller bulbs."

Kuhar says the invasive pest was recorded in Southwest Virginia in 2021 and has been found in Montgomery, Carroll, Botetourt, and Bedford counties. Virginians are encouraged to be on the lookout for this pest and help monitor its spread.

To protect plants, Kuhar says covering crops with agricultural fabric in April-May and September-October, during the adult flights will exclude egg-laying

females from reaching your plants and help prevent larval infestations. There are a number of registered insecticide options for commercial growers. For pesticide recommendations or other information, contact your local Virginia Cooperative Extension Office or consult the Mid-Atlantic Commercial Vegetable Production Recommendations, Virginia Cooperative Extension Publication 456-420 (SPES-391P).

Virginia Cooperative Extension experts help all Virginians implement the research of Virginia's two land-grant universities, Virginia Tech and Virginia State University, and provide real solutions for a more sustainable and collaborative commonwealth.

To help connect your community with research-based horticulture education and participate in volunteer projects related to emerging pests, environmental stewardship, and community resilience, become an Extension Master Gardener by contacting your local Extension Office.

-Max Esterhuizen for Virginia Tech

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Employment

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

The Town of Fincastle is looking for an Administrative Assistant. The position is responsible for essential bookkeeping, secretarial and clerical duties for the Town Manager and Mayor. Applicants should be proficient in Excel, Word, PowerPoint, and QuickBooks, and should be well-organized and have strong communication skills. A portion of the work performed is of confidential nature. The incumbent must be eligible to be bonded. This is a part-time position, typically 9 am to 2 pm Monday through Thursday.

Salary is commensurate with experience.

Please submit resume and cover letter to David Tickner, Town Manager, Town of Fincastle, P.O. Box 250 Fincastle, Virginia 24090, or by emailing davidtickner@townoffincastle.org

The Town of Fincastle is committed to providing jobs for all types and sizes, without discrimination based on race/color, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, or veteran status.

BI Data Engineer, Roanoke, VA.

Design, deploy, support data acquisition & data integration solutions from source systems to data warehouse & data marts for BI solutions. F/T remote work from home allowed. Apply online w/Carilion Services, Inc. at <https://jobs.carilionclinic.org/job>.

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in Roanoke, VA and undetermined locations in Roanoke metro area. Create reports & dashboards. Develop reports & databases on projects of low & medium complexity. Coordinate validation & ensure solutions are suitably tested. Apply online w/Carilion Services, Inc. at <https://jobs.carilionclinic.org/job>.

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Roanoke, VA. Work w/epic & non-Epic tools, content, data sources, processes & distrib. methods to provide actionable info. Prep reports/dashboards for int/ext clients. Ensure secure/high integrity data integration. Coordinate validation, ensure solutions are apptly tested & meet end user workflow. F/T remote work from home allowed. Apply online w/Carilion Services, Inc. at <https://jobs.carilionclinic.org/job>.

Help Wanted - Construction

DD Kerns Construction Co., Inc.

is currently accepting applications for welder/fabricators, fabrication foreman, diesel/heavy equipment mechanic, skilled carpenters, carpentry foreman, skilled laborers, experienced dry wall workers, experienced industrial concrete workers, and block-layers. All work is local, year round, and paid weekly. Benefits include: health, vision, dental, life insurance, short-term/long-term disability insurance, paid vacation and retirement IRA. Pay is based on experience. Candidates must have a valid driver's license and be able to pass a drug screening. We are accepting applications Monday-Thursday 8:00am to 5:00pm at 505 S. Lexington Ave. Covington, VA 24426. 540-962-4994

Help Wanted - General

Designer Greetings is looking for a Part-time Retail Merchandiser

to take care of the greeting card department in Food Country, New Castle, Va. Requires just 2 visits per month and days are flexible. If you interested please call Noreen at 908-217-3862 .

Meetings

VIRGINIA GENTLEMEN ACADELLA CHORUS

Is having a guest night on MAY, 1, 2023 From 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm at GRACE CHURCH, 2731 EDGEWOOD ST. SW, ROANOKE, VA 24015

We are looking for male acapella singers. Join us and enjoy singing music in the Roanoke Valley.

Light Refreshments will be served

RSVP BY APRIL 21, 2023 Call: LARRY SHEPHERD 540-525-0709

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Legals - Botetourt County

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 170 CAMBRIDGE DR, DALEVILLE, VA 24083

In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated July 19, 2021, in the original principal amount of \$299,475.00 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Botetourt County, Virginia as Instrument No. 210003873. The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for Botetourt County, Main Street, Fincastle, VA 24090 on May 15, 2023, at 12:45 PM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: ALL OF THE FOLLOWING LOT OR PARCEL OF LAND LYING AND BEING IN THE COUNTY OF BOTETOURT, STATE OF VIRGINIA, AND MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: LOT 2 (BLOCK 7), ACCORDING TO PLAT OF SECTION NO. 4, CAMBRIDGE, RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 11, PAGE 56, IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF BOTETOURT, VIRGINIA. TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit of ten percent (10%) of the sale price or ten percent (10%) of the original principal balance of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, in the form of cash or certified funds payable to the Substitute Trustee must be present at the time of the sale. The balance of the purchase price will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Purchaser's deposit may be forfeited to Trustee. Time is of the essence. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser may, if provided by the terms of the Trustee's Memorandum of Foreclosure Sale, be entitled to a \$50 cancellation fee from the Substitute Trustee, but shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. A form copy of the Trustee's memorandum of foreclosure sale and contract to purchase real property is available for viewing at www.bwwsales.com. Additional terms, if any, to be announced at the sale and the Purchaser may be given the option to execute the contract of sale electronically. This is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. The sale is subject to seller confirmation. Substitute Trustee: Equity Trustees, LLC, 8100 Three Chopt Road, Suite 240, Richmond, VA 23229. For more information contact: BWW

Legals - Botetourt County

Law Group, LLC, attorneys for Equity Trustees, LLC, 6003 Executive Blvd, Suite 101, Rockville, MD 20852, 301-961-6555, website: www.bwwsales.com. VA-360977-1.

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE 5 tracts of land located in Botetourt County

Parcel 2 - 0.28 acres, Tax Map 61-85B, Parcel 21438 Parcel 3 - 608.59 acres, Tax Map 61-90, Parcel 21444 Parcel 4 - 2.533 acres, more or less, Tax Map 62-39, Parcel 21613 Parcel 5 - 15.002 acres, more or less, Tax Map 62-38, Parcel 21612 Parcel 6 - 53.880 acres, Tax Map 62-43, Parcel 21618 5 tracts of land located in the Town of Fincastle (Botetourt County) Tract 1 - 87.5070 acres, Tax Map 73-118, Parcel 23865 Tract 2 - 9.8590 acres, New Lot E, Tax Map 73-122E, Parcel 30519 Lot 7, Phase IV, Santillane, 0.4770 acres, Tax Map 73(13)7, Parcel 31461 Lot 16, Phase IV, Santillane, 0.5660 acres, Tax Map 73(13)16, Parcel 31470 Lot 18, Phase IV, Santillane, 0.5680 acres, Tax Map 73(13)18, Parcel 31472 BOTETOURT COUNTY, VA In execution of a Credit Line Deed of Trust dated April 23, 2014 (the "Deed of Trust"), recorded in the Office of the Circuit Court of Botetourt County, Virginia, as Instrument No. 140001192 as corrected by the Corrected Credit Line Deed of Trust dated April 23, 2014, recorded in the Office of the Circuit Court of Botetourt County, as Instrument No. 140002419, the undersigned substitute Trustees, any or all of whom may act, will offer for sale at Daleville Town Center Clubhouse, 150 Shenandoah Ave, Daleville, Virginia, on April 28, 2023, at 12:00 o'clock noon, the following property located in Botetourt County, Virginia, which properties are more particularly described as follows: Parcel 2: Tax Map 61-85B, Parcel 21438 BEGINNING at a point at the lowest point of Catawba Creek which borders the property of George P. Moore, Jr. and Emily W. Moore and Earl G. and Annie Bell Cahoon property; thence in an easterly direction over the Cahoon property to the Moore property known as Spiller's Ridge; thence in a southerly direction 50' along the Moore property known as Spiller's Ridge to a point; thence westerly to a point on Catawba Creek which borders the Moore property; thence northerly 50' to the point of BEGINNING; and being a parcel 50' wide and approximately 250 yards long over which there is a road bed. Parcel 3: Tax Map 61-90, Parcel 21444 BEGINNING at a point in the East line of the Earl G. Cahoon property, said beginning point being in the extreme westerly line of the herein conveyed property; thence with the Cahoon property North 43° 59' East, 396.78 feet to an old iron pipe set in concrete; thence with the South lines of a tract of 6.53 acres, to be conveyed to Earl G. Cahoon, the following eleven courses and distances: North 45° 05' E. 388.13 feet to an iron pin by an 8" cedar; North 2° 16' West, 327.47 feet to an iron pin by a 6" pine; North 45° 18' East, 133.96 feet to an iron pin in an old road; North 13° 28' East 120.15 feet to an iron pin in old road; North 36° 40' East, 103.20 feet to an iron pin in an old road; North 28° 16' East, 94.83 feet to an iron pin in an old road; North 10° 28' East, 125.30 feet to an iron pin in old road; North 21° 10' West, 101.09 feet to an iron pin in old road; North 7° 36' East, 91.82 feet to an iron pin in old road; North 63° 22' East, 126.73 feet to an iron pin in old road; North 52° 10' East, 167.96 feet passing the center of a newly established 50 foot right of way and easement leading from the herein conveyed property to Virginia State Route 681 at 142.93 feet to the East side of said newly established 50 foot right of way and easement, said point also marking the southwest corner of a tract of 8.70 acres heretofore conveyed to James I. Lowdon (see Deed Book 182, page 370); thence with the Lowdon tract of land the following seven courses and distances, continuing with the center of said old road: North 60° 02' East, 24.86

Legals - Botetourt County

feet; North 46° 47' East, 208.68 feet; North 58° 48' East, 126.92 feet; South 85° 21' East, 90.83 feet; thence leaving the center of said old road, North 54° 54' East, 116.46 feet to an old iron; North 53° 40' East, 97.67 feet to an old iron; North 20° 12' East, 186.16 feet to an old iron, marking the southeast corner of the Lowdon tract of 8.70 acres; thence with the southeast line of a tract estimated to be 90 acres, conveyed by Lewis Twyman and Edith M. Twyman, his wife, to Earl G. Cahoon and Annie Bell Cahoon, his wife, by deed dated the 27th day of September, 1968, and recorded October 4, 1968, and to be found spread beginning page 573, of Deed Book 183, all references herein being of the records of the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court for the County of Botetourt, North 34° 35' East, 1893.95 feet passing through a 15" pin oak at 1336.84 feet and passing an 18" pin oak 1.6 feet North of line at 1611.08 feet to a 12" walnut 25 feet northeast of a sink hole and North 39° 36' East, 383.77 feet to an iron pin between two 8" cedars; North 41° 43' East, 689.93 feet to a steel rod at a 12" white oak; North 41° 14' East, 655.48 feet to an iron pin in hollow 14.5 feet from a 36" chestnut oak; North 31° 32' East 233.45 feet to a 12" red oak; North 40° 59' East, 559.11 feet to an iron pin at base of a 15" white oak; North 40° 14' East, 729.70 foot to an iron pin at base of a 12" cedar; North 37° 59' East, 453.41 feet to a 30" white oak; North 38° 33' East, 1262.23 feet to an iron pin at 2 - 3" cedars; North 34° 45' East, 1178.21 feet to a steel rod at a double 12" pin oak, corner to what is known as the Will Tucker property; thence with said property South 45° 39' East, 920.26 feet passing through an 8" cedar on line at 143.42 feet to a 24" white oak; thence South 42° 37' East, 168.08 feet to an 18" red oak; thence South 43° 50' East, 379.98 feet to a 40" chestnut oak to the property now or formerly known as the Sam Johnson property; thence South 60° 20' East, 560.27 feet to a point west of a branch; thence South 46° 42' East 237.56 feet, crossing said branch to an iron on the East side of said branch; thence South 29° 53' West, 102.23 feet recrossing said branch to a 24" Hickory to a point in what was formerly or is now the Barnett property; thence South 33° 13' East, crossing an old road 232.79 feet to a post to the property now or formerly the George Thompson estate; thence with this property the following three courses: South 22° 13' East, 420.22 feet to a point; South 2° 29' West, 59.17 feet; South 24° 40' East, 470.36 feet to an iron pin by a post to the property now or formerly the Frank Marshall property; thence with this property South 38° 21' West, 1352.36 feet to an iron pin planted by a stone in the property line of what is now or formerly known as the Till Booze property; thence with this property South 38° 32' West, 1300.74 feet to an iron pin by a cedar post and fence line; thence with what now is or formerly was the Secrist Waldron property; South 73° 00' West, 1076.34 feet to an iron pin by a post in a fence corner; thence with what now is or formerly was the Hedan Craft property the following two courses and distances: South 21° 12' West, 816.02 feet to a 15" black oak; South 18° 07' West, 289.72 feet to an 18" double walnut in a fence corner adjoining what was or now is the Walt Craft property, and with this property the following three courses and distances: South 58° 06' West, 448.56 feet to an iron at an 18" cedar; South 26° 23' West, 520.07 feet to a 24" white oak; South 27° 42' West, 309.28 feet to an iron pin at a corner post in a fence line, marking the northeast corner of the Nofsinger property; thence with the Nofsinger property the following seven courses and distances: South 58° 39' West, 554.13 feet to an iron pin by an old stake; North 46° 28' West, 1256.51 feet to an iron pin set by old stake on the edge of a large sink hole; South 81° 07' West, 455.49 feet to an iron pin at a planted stone between a 20" and an 18" white oak; South 38° 38' West, 398.06 feet to a 36" white oak in

Legals - Botetourt County

hollow; South 30° 43' West, 704.33 feet to an iron pin; South 17° 07' West, 2036.66 feet to an iron pin set in a rock pile by old stone; North 73° 04' West, 650.99 feet to an iron pin set at a corner post in the North line of Earl G. Cahoon's property; thence with the Cahoon property North 62° 21' West, 1325.33 feet to the place of BEGINNING, and containing an area of 608.59 acres, in accordance with a survey and plat thereof made on November 4, 1969, by T. P. Parker, State Certified Engineer, a plat or a map of which survey was being recorded with the Deed recorded in Deed Book 189, page 295, in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court for the County of Botetourt, Virginia, said Map being also recorded in Plat Book 6, page 16, in the aforesaid Clerk's Office. The plat or map also shows the following 50 foot right of way or easement leading from said tract of 608.59 acres in a general northwesterly direction through the Earl G. Cahoon property to Virginia Route 681, the centerline of said right of way being described as follows: BEGINNING at a point in the old road as shown on insert on said plat, said beginning point being 25.03 feet from the southwest corner of the James I. Lowdon tract of 8.70 acres, as shown on plat; thence through the 6.53 acre tract of land to be conveyed to Earl G. Cahoon and the remaining Cahoon property, North 33° 45' West 125.02 feet to a point; thence continuing through said Cahoon property the following eight courses and distances: North 29° 29' West, 583.02 feet; North 63° 16' West, 253.33 feet; North 74° 55' West, 145.18 feet; North 36° 39' West 103.72 feet; North 53° 16' West, 197.80 feet; North 59° 30' West, 435.80 feet; North 43° 42' West, 260.61 feet and N. 57° 05' W. 93.95 feet to a point in the center line of Route 681, which said right of way or easement is to be for the joint use and benefit of the grantee, his heirs or assigns and devisees, and likewise for the equal benefit of the Earl G. Cahoon and Annie Bell Cahoon, his wife, and their heirs, devisees and grantees, who are joined in a deed in Deed Book 189, page 295, as parties of the third part for the purpose of establishing said right of way and easement. Parcel 4: Tax Map 62-39, Parcel 21613 All of that certain tract or parcel of land containing 2.533 acres, more or less, and shown more fully as Tract VI on that certain "Plat of the Property of Sarah L. and Virginia Smith Patterson" dated November 20, 2003, prepared by Christopher N. McMurry, L.S., a copy of which is recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Botetourt County, Virginia, in Plat Book 30, Page 19. Parcel 5: Tax Map 62-38, Parcel 21612 All of that certain tract or parcel of land containing 15.002 acres, more or less, and shown more fully as Tracts IV and V on that certain "Plat of The Property of Sarah L. and Virginia Smith Patterson" dated November 20, 2003, prepared by Christopher N. McMurry, L.S., a copy of which is recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Botetourt County, Virginia, in Plat Book 30, Page 19. Parcel 6: Tax Map 62-43, Parcel 21618 Beginning at a stone, at 1, corner to the land of A. A. Bryant and runneth thence, new lines N. 40° W. 27 poles crossing the branch and passing over a spring to a water oak, at 2, on the south bank of the branch; thence down said branch N. 61° W. 10 4/10 poles to a point, at 3; N. 49° W. 17 8/10 poles to a cedar, at 4, on the south bank of the branch; N. 82 ½° W. 22 poles, passing a walnut tree marked as a corner at 20 poles, to the middle of the creek, just above the mouth of said branch; thence up the creek as it meanders 70 poles to a point, at 6, corner to E. I. Lemon and I. L. Twyman, and with the latter, leaving the creek S. 50° E. 111 poles to a point, at 7, corner to the heirs of Austin Thompson, and with the same, N. 7 ½° E. 65 2/10 poles, passing a double cedar, corner to said heirs and Barnett, at 45 poles to a white oak, old corner, at 8, corner to said Barnett, and with the same S. 47° E. 40 poles to a stake, at 9, N. 34° E. 23 poles to a white oak, old corner at 10; S. 60

Legals - Botetourt County

½° E. 16 ½ poles to a dead white oak, at 11, corner to A. A. Bryant, and with the same, N. 35° E. 13 poles to a gum and cedar, somewhat recently marked, at 12; and thence N. 61° W. 70 ¼ poles to the place of beginning, at 1, and containing 53 7/8 acres. Tract 1: Tax Map 73-118, Parcel 23865 All of that certain tract or parcel of land containing 91.775 acres as more fully described on "Plat of the Property of Helen S. Cronise, et als, To Be Conveyed to Santillane, LLC", dated February 25, 2004 and prepared by McMurtry Surveyors, Inc., a copy of which is recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Botetourt County, Virginia, in Plat Book 30, Page 60. LESS AND EXCEPTING Phase IV, Santillane, as shown on survey dated March 28, 2013, prepared by McMurtry Surveyors, Inc. of record in the aforesaid Clerk's Office in Plat Book 56, Pages 5-7. Tract 2: Tax Map 73-122E, Parcel 30519 All that certain lot or parcel of land, with improvements thereon lying and being situate in the Fincastle Magisterial District of the County of Botetourt, Virginia, shown as New Lot E, containing 19.496 acres, by survey, with metes and bounds as shown on plat of survey made by Christopher N. McMurry, L.S., dated December 1, 2005, a copy of which plat is recorded in the Office of the Circuit Court of Botetourt County, Virginia, in Plat Book 35, Page 8. TOGETHER WITH those rights conveyed by Deed of Easement dated April 8, 2013, from Clay O. Fitzgerald and Juanita F. Fitzgerald, husband and wife, of record in Instrument No. 130002677, and corrected by Instrument No. 130002725. LESS AND EXCEPTING Phase IV, Santillane, as shown on survey dated March 28, 2013, prepared by McMurtry Surveyors, Inc. of record in the aforesaid Clerk's Office in Plat Book 56, at Page 5-7. Tax Map 73(13)16, Parcel 31470: Lot 16, Phase IV, Santillane as shown on plat of survey dated March 28, 2013, prepared by McMurtry Surveyors, Inc. and recorded in the aforesaid Clerk's Office in Plat Book 56, at Page 5-7. This sale is subject to all liens, easements, restrictions, conditions, and reservations of record affecting the title to the property hereinabove described, to the extent any of them have priority over the lien of the Deed of Trust. TERMS AND CONDITIONS: 1. Registration: Bids will only be accepted from registered bidders. Your driver's license and a cashier's check or cash in the amount of 10% of the bidder's high bid will be required to register. 2. Deposit: The successful bidders will be required to sign a Memorandum of Sale immediately following the fall of the hammer, and the cashier's check or cash, as described above, will be delivered to the Substitute Trustee. The deposit will be applied to the purchase price at closing. The deposit is non-refundable unless Seller is unable to convey marketable title. Closings are to take place within 45 days of sale. Time is of the essence. 3. Deed: The property will be conveyed by Special Warranty Deed. 4. Announcement: Announcements made on the day of sale, take precedence over all prior communications, both verbal and written, concerning the sale or the property. 5. Buyer's Premium: There will be a 5% Buyer's Premium in effect on the day of sale. The Buyer's Premium is added to the high bid amount, to determine the contract sale price. 6. "As-Is, "Where-Is": The

Legals - Botetourt County

property is being sold "AS-IS", "WHERE-IS". Potential Buyers must perform such independent investigations with respect to the property as they deem necessary to verify information provided by the Auction Company or the Seller. 7. Advertisements: All information provided by Auction Company or the Seller is deemed reliable but is not warranted. The information contained in the advertisement brochure and any advertisements by Auction Company are subject to verification by all parties relying thereon. No liability for its accuracy, error or omission is assumed by the Auction Company or the Seller. 8. Representations: Auction Company and its representatives represent the foreclosing party. 9. Bid Increments: Auctioneer reserves the right to set bid increments and to establish the bid sequences for the order of the sale and/or to change both. Lienholder reserves the right to bid at the sale. 10. Types of Auction: This Auction is an Absolute Auction - regardless of price. 11. Lines on Photographs: The lines drawn on the photographs in the marketing materials are not exact. Refer to the survey for the actual property lines. Peter M. Pearl, Bryson J. Hunter, and Brian H. Richardson, Substitute Trustees For Information Contact: Peter M. Pearl ppearl@spilmanlaw.com Spilman Thomas & Battle, PLLC, P.O. Box 90 Roanoke, Virginia 24002 540-512-1800 Telephone

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE Lot 17, Phase IV, Santillane, 0.5660 acres, Tax Map 73(13)17, Parcel

BOTETOURT COUNTY, VA In execution of a Credit Line Deed of Trust dated July 25, 2013 (the "Deed of Trust"), recorded in the Office of the Circuit Court of Botetourt County, Virginia, as Instrument No. 1303476 and by a certain Deed of Addition of Collateral dated January 31, 2014, duly recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court for Botetourt County, Virginia, as Instrument No. 1400364, the undersigned substitute Trustees, any or all of whom may act, will offer for sale at Daleville Town Center Clubhouse, 150 Shenandoah Ave, Daleville, Virginia, on April 28, 2023, at 12:00 o'clock noon, the following property located in Botetourt County, Virginia, which property is more particularly described as follows: Tax Map 73(13)17: Lot 17, Phase IV, Santillane as shown on plat of survey dated March 28, 2013, prepared by McMurtry Surveyors, Inc. and recorded in the aforesaid Clerk's Office in Plat Book 56, at Page 5-7. This sale is subject to all liens, easements, restrictions, conditions, and reservations of record affecting the title to the property hereinabove described, to the extent any of them have priority over the lien of the Deed of Trust. TERMS AND CONDITIONS: 1. Registration: Bids will only be accepted from registered bidders. Your driver's license and a cashier's check or cash in the amount of 10% of the bidder's high bid will be required to register. 2. Deposit: The successful bidders will be required to sign a Memorandum of Sale immediately following the fall of the hammer, and the cashier's check or cash, as described above, will be delivered to the Substitute Trustee. The deposit will be applied to the purchase price at closing. The deposit is non-refundable unless Seller is unable to convey marketable title. Closings are to take place within 45 days of sale. Time is of the essence. 3. Deed: The property will be conveyed by Special Warranty Deed. 4. Announcement: Announcements made on the day of sale, take precedence over all prior communications, both verbal and written, concerning the sale or the property. 5. Buyer's Premium: There will be a 5% Buyer's Premium in effect on the day of sale. The Buyer's Premium is added to the high bid amount, to determine the contract sale price.

**Legals -
Montgomery
County**

Entered on the 5th day of
April, 2023 K. Mike Fleenor,
Jr., Judge
ask for this:
John A. Rife, Esq. (VSB No.
45805) Jeffery A. Scharf,
Esq. (VSB No. 30591) Mark
K. Ames, Esq. (VSB No.
27409) Andrew M. Neville,
Esq. (VSB No. 86372) Paul
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91609) Gregory L. Haynes,
Esq. (VSB No. 37158) Seth
R. Konopasek, Esq. (VSB
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MONTGOMERY SPORTS

CHS introduces inaugural Hall of Fame class

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Christiansburg High School's inaugural sports hall of fame class was introduced Sunday afternoon in the school auditorium with 24 former athletes, coaches and supporters.

The group spans six decades ranging from the 1950s to the early 2000s.

The coaches included as inductees include Buddy Earp, Norma Cox, Tim Cromer, Kevin Dresser, Wally Flinchum, Dean Underwood, Mutt Byrd, Steve Wright, Randy Bailey, Jeff Custer, Debbie Sherman-Lee and Shane Guynn. Athletes included Tommy Barber, Joe Board, Clifford Dillard, Gloria Dillard, Brian Eigel, Mark Franklin, Darren Graham, Randy Lawrence, Rebecca McNeil, Billy Parker, Jeff Stanley and Betty-Jo Lester Willard.

Some of the inductee highlights include:

Earp was a lifelong educator and a Colonel in the United States Marine Corps Reserves. He attended Emory & Henry College where he played football and was a team captain, four-year starter, and Little All American Honorable Mention. He is a charter member of the Emory & Henry Sports Hall of Fame. Upon graduating from Emory & Henry College in 1951 with a Bachelor of Arts degree, Buddy enlisted in the United States Marine Corps and served in the Korean War where he was wounded and awarded a Purple Heart.

In 1954, Buddy and his wife, Jane, moved to Christiansburg where Coach Earp began his career as a physical education, health, Spanish, and English teacher at Christiansburg High School. He is most often remembered as the CHS football coach from 1954 – 1960.

Cox graduated from Radford College in 1968 and later received her master's degree from Radford University. She was hired in 1968 by Buddy Earp to be a student teacher at CHS and began a teaching and coaching career that would last 32-years from 1968-2000. Coach Cox had the privilege of teaching grades 8-12 in Health, Physical Education, and Drivers Education.

During her tenure, Cox earned several awards. In basketball, she was named as the 1975 New River District Coach of the Year. Later in 1995 Coach Cox was named as the New River District/VHSL/and Mid Atlantic Regional Coach of the Year.

Cromer, who is the current CHS athletic director, has coached athletics for 35 years in both Florida and Virginia. He coached four years as a baseball assistant coach, six years as an assistant and one year as a track and field coach, three years as a head weightlifting coach (in Florida it is a sport), and two years as a Head girls basketball coach. He spent his entire 35 years coaching football, spending 15 years as an assistant coach (four years at CMS and three years at CHS) and 20 years as a Head Football coach, the last 15 years of that time coaching the CHS Blue Demons.

In 15 years as Head Football Coach at Christiansburg High School, Coach Cromer led the Blue Demons to an overall record of 98-75. During his tenure, the Blue Demons carried a 13-10 record over 23 playoff games. From 2002-2017, the Blue Demons won 3 District and Conference Championships, three Region Runner-ups, three Region Championships and competed in the 2011 Division 4 State Football Championship game, losing 28-26 to Briar Woods High School.

Dresser was a two-time wrestling state champion at Humbolt High School in Iowa. He attended the



PHOTO BY JON FLEMING

Members of the first-year Christiansburg Sports Hall of Fame gather for a photo after the event in the school's cafeteria.

University of Iowa to wrestle where he was an NCAA National Champion at 142 pounds and was a two-time NCAA All-American.

After graduation, he was an assistant wrestling coach for several years at Iowa under legendary coach Dan Gable.

Later Kevin accepted a position as head wrestling coach at the Virginia powerhouse Grundy High School where he won eight state titles in eight years. In 1996, Coach Dresser moved to Christiansburg to take over the wrestling program at CHS. Coach Dresser led the wrestling program from 1996-2006, and during the 10-year span he led the Demons to three VHSL state runners-up before winning 5 consecutive State championships. This started the streak of 17 straight state championships for the CHS wrestling program. During his tenure at CHS, the wrestling program was nationally ranked at one time being as high as number 4 in the country.

Coach Dresser left Christiansburg to take over the wrestling program at Virginia Tech where he won two ACC Tournament Championships and three ACC Dual Championships and was named NWCA Coach of the Year. In 2017, Coach Dresser accepted an offer to be the new Head wrestling coach at Iowa State University.

Underwood began teaching at Christiansburg High School in 1975 and continued teaching Auto Mechanics until 1992.

He began coaching at Christiansburg and during his tenure was a coach for the football and track teams, however wrestling is where Coach Underwood would put his fingerprint on Christiansburg. He was the co-founder of the Christiansburg High School wrestling program. He also started the middle school wrestling program as well as founded the Christiansburg Recreation Youth Wrestling program.

Custer was a member of the CHS graduating class of 1983. During his time at CHS he was a member of the boys' cross-country, indoor and outdoor track teams from 1980-1983. team captain cross country, indoor and outdoor track 1982, 1983. most valuable runner-cross country, indoor and outdoor track 1982,1983.

After attending and running cross country at Radford University, he would return to coach at Christiansburg

High School. He then continued his teaching and coaching career at several other schools where he had similar success in cross-country and track including time at Woodbridge, Gar-Field, Lake Braddock, and Forrest Park High schools.

Overall, as a coach of the cross -country and track teams for all of his schools, Coach Custer led teams to a combined: 15 STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS, 11 STATE RUNNER-UPS, 41 REGION CHAMPIONSHIPS, 73 DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIPS from 1988-2017.

Sherman- Lee graduated from CHS in the Class of 1970!! While in school she was on the CHS volleyball team and the track team. She excelled in sports and won first place in the 220 at the state meet in 1970.

She went on to attend Radford College, which was a women's college at the time. The name changed to Radford University in 1979 where she played Field Hockey and Volleyball and played on the first volleyball team at Radford College.

Board graduated from Christiansburg High School in the Class of 1958. He played on Coach Buddy Earp's first football teams at CHS, from 1953 through 1957, lettering each year and scoring 40 touchdowns in his career. Board was reputedly the fastest player in the region, and it was said that he was never caught from behind once he got in the open field. He played halfback and quarterback during his years at CHS and was on teams that went 8–2 and 6–4 during his junior and senior years, playing with other Blue Demon stalwarts like Red Griffith, Jack Sayers, and Ford Wirt among others.

Board's speed carried over to an unparalleled track career at CHS, where he almost single-handedly won the Group 2 State Track Meet in the spring of his senior year, taking first place in the 100-yard dash, the 220, the long jump (then called the broad jump), and anchoring the first-place half-mile relay team.

This first class will also be recognized at a CHS football game in September, and from this date forward, the new HOF class will be announced at a fall halftime. Blair Allen, HOF committee member, said the plan calls for five additional athletes every year to follow.

Local residents can nominate new HOF members by going to the committee's Facebook page.

Bruins down Byrd in boys lacrosse



Blacksburg's Ethan Ratcliffe whips a sidearm shot and scores one of his three goals on the evening during the first half against William Byrd.



PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING
Blacksburg's Sam Purcell embraces teammate Michael Mullins after Mullins' game winning goal with less than 2:30 remaining in the contest. Blacksburg would add an insurance goal for the 8-6 win over William Byrd for their first victory of the season.

Lady Bruins slide past Byrd



Blacksburg's Hayli Williams tries to penetrate the William Byrd defense during a Thursday night home game. Blacksburg pulled ahead in the second half to collect a 14-10 win over William Byrd.



PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING
Blacksburg's Azalee Chase finds an opening against William Byrd and scores a second half goal. In a back-and-forth game, the Bruins used a strong second half to record a 14-10 win over the Terriers.

Questions remain after VT spring game

Marty Gordon

NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Coach Brent Pry comes out of his second Spring game on Saturday with a little better understanding of his Virginia Tech football program.

The questions might outweigh the answers as several possible starters sat out of the game with injuries.

Of course, nothing is final in what fans saw on Saturday, but coaches now have a canvas to work with. Head coach Brent Pry admitted afterwards his roster is not where it needs to be.

Quarterback Grant Wells and a stingy defense led the maroon squad to a 34-0 victory over the white team. Wells finished 12-of-18 for 148 passing yards and one score through the air to go along with a 10-yard rushing score on the maroon team’s first possession.

Pry thought Wells came out strong and that’s what the coaching staff has seen all spring.

“He’s made good decisions,” said Pry. “He’s thrown the ball well. He operates the offense really well right now. I think Tyler [Bowen] has done a nice job with that. They’re more efficient. Their timing and their tempo. Everything looks better to me. I was pleased with Grant.”

On the ground, Bryce Duke and Chance Black were a potent one-two punch for the maroon team, piling up 157 rushing yards. Black found the end zone twice on the day, catching a four-yard pass from Wells followed by a 12-yard rush, both in the first quarter.

Tucker Holloway led the maroon squad with 77 receiving yards, including a 39-yard catch on an eye-catching pass from William “Pop” Watson III that got the crowd on its feet. Defensively, Wilfred Pene paced the maroon team with seven tackles, including one sack and a pass break-up. Miles Ellis, Derrick Canteen and Mose Phillips III all finished the game with an interception while Keli Lawson recorded a pair of sacks.

Transfer quarterback Kyron Drones settled in nicely for the white team, going 7-of-13 for 102 passing yards. Dae’Quan Felton led the white squad with 40 receiving yards on two catches while P.J. Prioleau gained a team-best 27 rushing yards.

The white team’s defensive line had some bright spots, highlighted by sacks from Norell Pollard, Josh Fuga and Gunner Givens. Tyler



PHOTO BY JON FLEMING

Former Radford Bobcat and redshirt sophomore running back P.J. Prioleau makes a cut after catching a short pass during Saturday’s Spring Game.

Childress led all players with 12 tackles.

Overall, Pry felt the team was efficient.

“Only had four penalties,” he said. “The kicking game was pretty clean. The operation was pretty clean. I don’t think the turnovers were necessarily bad decisions. They were tipped balls and the defense did a good job of getting on. All in all, we came out most importantly healthy. Nothing substantial occurred in the game.”

Pry is optimistic there is a deeper group of playmakers now at his disposal.

“There is. Yeah,” he said. “You saw Da’Quan Felton today made a couple of nice catches and Ali [Jennings] had a couple of catches. Jaylin Lane was nursing a muscle pull, so he wasn’t out there. The young, the freshmen, even Marcell Baylor took a hit on his shoulder last year. He’s had a good spring and wanted to see him out there. Today he couldn’t go. Then the development of Tucker Holloway and Stephen

Gosnell. Xayvion Turner-Bradshaw. It’s just a better-looking room.

“There’s certainly more there, too. We had two tight ends out today. Dae’Quan [Wright] and Harrison Saint Germain. I would have liked to see those guys. They weren’t able to do a whole lot this spring. Then I think out of the backfield, you didn’t see it today, but Bhayshul [Tuten] has good hands and can do things in the open field. Malachi [Thomas] has good hands. You saw Bryce [Duke] and Chance [Black]. I do think we have more weapons. There are more things to do with.”

Pry also took the opportunity to hand out several spring awards: Offensive MVP – Parker Clements; Defensive MVP – Jaylen Jones, Special Teams MVPs – Jalen Stroman and Bryce Duke, Frank Beamer Ultimate Teammate – Matt Johnson and the President’s Leadership Award – Nick Gallo.

Lady Hokies gain transfer

Marty Gordon

NRVsports@ourvalley.org

A month out from a trip to the NCAA Final Four, the Virginia Tech women’s basketball team has begun the steps to reload for next season. This past week, the team gained 6-2 forward Alanna Mlicheaux from the transfer portal.

Micheaux spent the past two seasons at Minnesota where she averaged 13.8 points and 7.8 rebounds a game and was named to the All-Big Ten honorable mention team.

According to reports, she led the team in rebounding, blocks and free throw attempts.

Micheaux will help add to the lineup which includes incoming freshmen 6-4 Clara Strack, 6-1 Carys Bakers, 5-8 guard Machenzie Nelson and 5-7 guard Samyha Suffren.

Coming out of high school, Micheaux was a four-star recruit, the No. 75 player overall in the country and the No. 9 power forward according to ProspectNation.com. In addition, she was the runnerup as Miss Basketball in the state of Michigan.

She will have two years of eligibility left when she arrives in Blacksburg.

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Legal Notice

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF RENEWABLE PORTFOLIO STANDARD (RPS) FILING BY APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY CASE NO. PUR-2023-00001

•Appalachian Power Company (“APCo” or the “Company”) has submitted its 2023 Renewable Portfolio Standard (“RPS”) Filing.

•APCo requests approval of a revenue requirement of \$23,178,026 over the rate year October 2023 through September 2024. According to APCo, this amount would decrease a typical residential customer’s bill using 1,000 kilowatt hours per month by \$0.58.

•The Hearing Examiner appointed by the State Corporation Commission will hold a telephonic hearing in this case on June 27, 2023, at 10 a.m., for the receipt of public witness testimony.

•An evidentiary hearing will be held on June 28, 2023, at 9:30 a.m., in the Commission’s second floor courtroom located in the Tyler Building, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219.

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

During its 2020 Session, the Virginia General Assembly enacted Chapters 1193 (HB 1526) and 1194 (SB 851) of the 2020 Virginia Acts of Assembly. These duplicate Acts of Assembly, known as the Virginia Clean Economy Act (“VCEA”), became effective on July 1, 2020. The VCEA, inter alia, establishes a mandatory renewable energy portfolio standard (“RPS”) for Appalachian Power Company (“APCo” or “Company”) in new § 56-585.5 of the Code of Virginia (“Code”). Subdivision D 4 of Code § 56-585.5 requires APCo to submit annually to the State Corporation Commission (“Commission”) plans and petitions for approval of new solar and onshore wind generation capacity (“RPS Filing”). The Commission must determine whether the RPS Filing is reasonable and prudent, giving due consideration to the following factors: (i) the RPS and carbon dioxide reduction requirements in Code § 56-585.5; (ii) the promotion of new renewable generation and energy storage resources within the Commonwealth, and associated economic development; and (iii) fuel savings projected to be achieved by the plan. The Commission’s final order regarding any RPS Filing is required by Code § 56-585.5 D 4 to be entered by the Commission not more than six months after the date of such filing.

On March 15, 2023, APCo submitted its third annual RPS Filing to the Commission (“2023 RPS Filing” or “Petition”). The 2023 RPS Filing requests that the Commission:

- (i)Approve the Company’s annual plan for the development of new solar, wind, and energy storage resources pursuant to Code § 56-585.5 D 4 in order to comply with the mandatory RPS established by the VCEA (the “2023 RPS Plan”);
 (ii)Approve a revenue requirement of \$23,178,026 for the rate year of October 2023 through September 2024 (“Rate Year”) to be recovered through the mechanisms and methodology approved by the Commission in the 2022 VCEA Order;
 (iii)Determine that six new power purchase agreements (“PPAs”) and one re-negotiated PPA with solar facilities, all except one located in Virginia, are prudent and can be added to the Company’s RPS compliance portfolio;
 (iv)Approve the future cost recovery related to the acquisition by APCo, pursuant to a Purchase and Sale Agreement, of one other renewable facility, which is not located in Virginia and will not be online during the Rate Year; and

APCo states that its 2023 RPS Plan includes multiple scenarios to help inform subsequent requests for proposals for renewable and storage resources that meet the RPS goals, Virginia domiciled renewable generator requirements, and the energy storage requirements of Code § 56-585.5. The Company further states that each of the portfolios modeled for this RPS analysis was least cost and VCEA compliant, and demonstrated an optimal selection of diverse resources. The Company asserts that new renewable resources serve to mitigate some of the expected capacity needs in 2040 with the modeled retirement of the Amos and Mountaineer units. The Company further states that market purchases of renewable energy certificates (“RECs”) constitute a significant share of compliance strategy for the years prior to 2025. The Company asserts that the use of Virginia compliant RECs in the years prior to 2025 will enable the Company to bank RECs generated from its own resources for use in 2025 and 2026 as its first wave of acquired and contracted resources begin to go into service.

Non-Virginia-Domiciled Wind Facility to be Owned by APCo

APCo proposes to own a wind facility outside of Virginia, the Grover Hill Facility, which is being developed as a 146.2 megawatt (“MW”) facility located in Paulding County, Ohio. The Company states that this project may be resized to 103.5 MW, which would result in a decrease in the purchase price. APCo asserts that the Grover Hill Project qualifies as an “RPS eligible source,” as it is physically located within the PJM region.

The Company asserts that Grover Hill will not be in commercial operation during the Rate Year. Therefore, the Company states that it is not requesting recovery of specific costs in this proceeding. APCo requests that the Commission authorize the Company to implement “zero rates” to be kept in place until the Grover Hill enters commercial operation. The Company states that the Commission’s determination that Grover Hill will be a reasonable and prudent addition to the Company’s RPS compliance portfolio is necessary to the project’s advancement. The Company asserts that approval in this Petition will allow the Company to take advantage of the federal tax credits for the benefit of its customers.

Solar Power Purchase Agreements

The Company sets forth seven solar PPAs as part of its 2023 RPS Plan for which it seeks a prudence determination: (1) Green Acres Solar, a 5 MW solar facility (single axis tracking) located in Henry County; (2) Horseen, a 20 MW solar facility (single axis tracking) located in Louisa County; (3) Mountain Brook Solar, a 20 MW solar facility (single axis tracking) located in Franklin County; (4) Pleasant Prairie Solar, a 100 MW solar facility (single axis tracking) located in Franklin County, Ohio; (5) River Trail Solar, a 20 MW solar facility (single axis tracking) located in Carroll County; (6) Shifting Sands Solar, a 19 MW solar facility (single axis tracking) located in Henry County; and (7) Sunny Rock Solar, a 20 MW solar facility (single access tracking) located in Henry County.

Environmental Justice

The Company states that it screened each of the proposed projects for any environmental justice concerns and determined that each met the objectives of the Virginia Environmental Justice Act. Further, the Company states that none of the projects disproportionately impacted environmental justice communities as defined in Code § 2.2-234.

Legacy Voluntary Compliance Resources

APCo sets forth one legacy wind PPA that it includes as a compliance resource as part of its 2023 RPS Plan. The Beech Ridge Wind Farm PPA (“Beech Ridge”) was executed in 2010 with a West Virginia wind farm. The Company states that the Commission did not approve the Company’s inclusion of Beech Ridge as part of the Company’s previous voluntary RPS compliance portfolio. The Company requests that the Commission approve inclusion of Beech Ridge in its RPS compliance portfolio and allow recovery of the costs of the RECs and capacity produced by Beech Ridge.

Cost Recovery and Rate Impact

APCo seeks approval to recover through its RPS RACs the Rate Year revenue requirement of \$23,178,026. The Company states that this revenue requirement consists of: (1) the under-recovery of costs through November 2022 in the amount of \$16,294,531; (2) the Bridge Period revenue requirement of \$(14,382,731) for the period December 2022 through September 2023; (3) and the 2022 VCEA Rate Year revenue requirement of \$21,266,226.

APCo states that the cost allocation methodologies and recovery mechanisms used in this Petition are those approved by the Commission on a conditional basis in the 2022 VCEA Order, which are as follows:

- (1)A.5 RPS RAC to recover \$19,591,559, the non-energy, non-ancillary services, non-capacity costs for all owned facilities, PPAs, and REC purchases;
 (2)A.5 RPS-PCAP RAC to recover \$2,832,042, the costs for the capacity purchased through PPAs; and
 (3)A.6 RPS RAC to recover \$754,425, the costs of capacity and energy from facilities owned by the Company.

APCo estimates implementation of the revised RPS RACs on October 1, 2023, would decrease the monthly bill of a residential customer using 1,000 kilowatt-hours per month by approximately \$0.58.

The foregoing is not an exhaustive list of all the proposals contained in the Company’s Petition. Interested persons are encouraged to review the Company’s 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 2023 RPS Filing. On June 27, 2023, at 10 a.m., a Hearing Examiner appointed by the Commission will hold a telephonic hearing, with no witness present in the Commission’s courtroom, for the purpose of receiving the testimony of public witnesses. On or before June 20, 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 sec.virginia.gov/pages/Webcasting; (ii) by completing and emailing the PDF version of this form to SCCInfo@sec.virginia.gov; or (iii) by calling (804) 371-9141. This public witness hearing will be webcast at sec.virginia.gov/pages/Webcasting.

Beginning at 10 a.m. on June 27, 2023, the Hearing Examiner will telephone sequentially each person who has signed up to testify as provided above.

On June 28, 2023, at 9:30 a.m., in the Commission’s second floor courtroom located in the Tyler Building, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, a Hearing Examiner appointed by the Commission will convene a hearing to receive testimony and evidence related to the Company’s 2023 RPS Filing from the Company, any respondents, and the Commission’s Staff (“Staff”).

To promote administrative efficiency and timely service of filings upon participants, the Commission has directed the electronic filing of testimony and pleadings unless they contain confidential information, and require electronic service on parties to this proceeding.

An electronic copy of the public version of the Company’s 2023 RPS Filing may be obtained by submitting a written request to counsel for the Company: Noelle J. Coates, Esquire, American Electric Power Service Corporation, 1051 East Cary Street, Suite 1100, Richmond, Virginia 23219, or njcoates@aep.com. Interested persons also may download unofficial copies from the Commission’s website: sec.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information.

On or before June 20, 2023, any interested person or entity may submit comments on the 2023 RPS Filing 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 by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the State Corporation Commission, c/o Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2118. All such comments shall refer to Case No. PUR-2023-00001.

On or before May 19, 2023, any interested person or entity wishing to participate as a respondent in this proceeding may do so by filing a notice of participation at sec.virginia.gov/clk/efiling. Those unable, as a practical matter, to file a notice of participation electronically may file such notice 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, if available. The respondent simultaneously shall serve a copy of the notice of participation on counsel to the Company. Pursuant to 5 VAC 5-20-80 B, *Participation as a respondent*, of the Rules of Practice, any notice of participation shall set forth: (i) a precise statement of the interest of the respondent; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent then known; and (iii) the factual and legal basis for the action. Any organization, corporation, or government body participating as a respondent must be represented by counsel as required by 5 VAC 5-20-30, *Counsel*, of the Rules of Practice. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2023-00001. For additional information about participation as a respondent, any person or entity should obtain a copy of the Commission’s Order for Notice and Hearing.

On or before May 30, 2023, each respondent may file with the Clerk of the Commission, at sec.virginia.gov/clk/efiling, any testimony and exhibits by which the respondent expects to establish its case. Any respondent unable, as a practical matter, to file testimony and exhibits electronically may file such by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the Commission at the address listed above. Each witness’s testimony shall include a summary not to exceed one page. All testimony and exhibits shall be served on the Staff, the Company, and all other respondents simultaneously with its filing. In all filings, respondents shall comply with the Commission’s Rules of Practice, as modified by the Commission’s Order for Notice and Hearing, 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-2023-00001.

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

The public version of the Company’s 2023 RPS Filing, the Commission’s Rules of Practice, the Commission’s Order for Notice and Hearing, and other documents filed in the case may be viewed at: sec.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information.

APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY