



# News Messenger

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Saturday, May 27, 2023      www.montcova.com      USPS 016-490      \$1.00

## Montgomery County Board of Supervisors sets public hearing on proposed fees for EMS transport services

**Lori Graham**  
*Contributing writer*

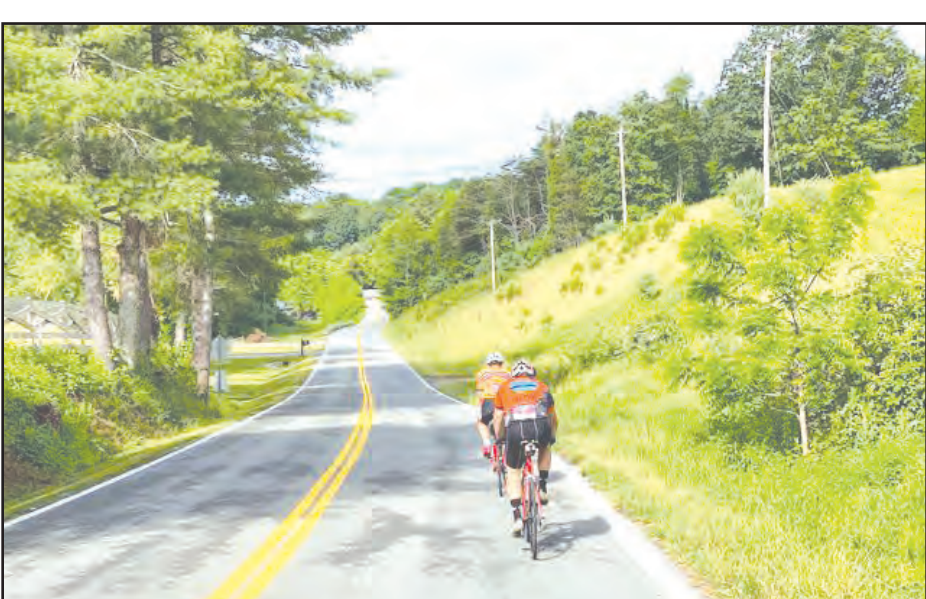
The Montgomery County Board of Supervisors has scheduled a public hearing for Monday, June 12, 2023, at 7:15 p.m. to give citizens an opportunity to comment on the proposed ordinance amendment that would allow the county to charge fees, including those individuals with insurance, for the use of their emergency medical transport services. These fees would then help to fund the EMS county services, which has seen a reduction in volunteerism in recent years. In another discussion of the county's

fire and rescue services, board member Todd King expressed to other county supervisors that alternative avenues for sharing conflicts and grievances should be made available to fire and rescue personnel. The county employs some paid rescue personnel, but also many volunteers serve the county's communities. "We are responsible for the safety of the citizens of Montgomery County" King said. "I would like to see us have a committee drawn [sic] up and I would like for it to consist of two board members, two staff from the paid side, and one member from each department in the county for an advisory board; that

way the paid side and the volunteer side will know what's going on." If established, this would be in addition to the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Commission that advises the Board of Supervisors in their service equipment needs, and the position of Emergency Services Coordinator, currently held by Michael Geary, that works directly with the emergency personnel in providing training and other support. "It is something that the fire and rescue commission took up, and we formed a committee to look into incentives to reward and thank our volunteers and it was voted down," Supervisor Steve

Fijalkowski said. "The basic response was, volunteers don't volunteer to get rewards." County Administrator Craig Meadows felt that fire and rescue personnel with grievances should communicate with their current representative and coordinator, Michael Geary. "We have a dedicated staff of some full time, a whole lot of part-time because it takes part-time to cover shifts, and the board has been very good to support that. I would say, if there's any concerns with how that side of the house is working, Michael Geary has been very cognizant

See **Fees**, page 4



Five routes are available for riders, from 26 miles to 100 miles, known as a century ride.

## 32nd Annual Wilderness Road Ride set for today

The Wilderness Road Ride, a scenic and historical adventure that follows part of Daniel Boone's Wilderness Road, is set for today, Saturday, May 27, beginning in Radford's Bisset Park. "This is a recreational ride on paved roads for all cycling levels to enjoy, with something for everyone – there are five routes to choose from ranging from a 26-mile relaxed journey for novices, to a century challenge (100 miles) for the fittest cyclist," organizers announced. "This is a great ride for cyclists of all ages and athletic abilities." The Wilderness Ride is organized by FCA Endurance SW Virginia. Mark Long, Event Director, says it is important "to inform the

community, to make them aware of bicyclists on the road." The route distances are 26, 35, 55, 76 and 100 miles. All routes will start and finish at Radford's Bisset Park, shelter #2, right, alongside the New River. "Non-riders can enjoy beautiful Bisset Park, the New River, and downtown Radford, while their families and friends are out riding," FCA Endurance announced. Fully supported aid stations will be positioned at regular intervals along the course and the start/finish location. Aid stations will be supplied with Heed Hammer Nutrition fuel, as well as water and plenty of other snacks. SAG vehicles will be on the course for emergencies.

All pre-registered riders are guaranteed a technical t-shirt and other goodies. Detailed maps and cue sheets will be available at the start of the ride. All proceeds will benefit FCA Endurance ministries and missions projects in southwest Virginia. A portion will be used to scholarship and send the region's student athletes to FCA's Summer Camps. "By riding in this event you are investing in the lives of coaches and athletes in our area and making an impact in what matters most," said FCA Endurance, which is affiliated with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, a 501c3 non-profit organization.

*News Messenger staff report*



Riders will head out on the 32nd Annual Wilderness Road Ride today, Saturday May 27 beginning in Bisset Park.

## Gearheads for a Cause is paying forward through fundraising for local charities

**Lori Graham**  
*Contributing writer*

Laken and Jay Smith, co-founders of Gearheads for a Cause, are bringing needed financial support and awareness to local charities in the New River Valley and surrounding regions. A gearhead is someone who has an interest in mechanical things, all things with gears. When the Smiths decided to combine their love of mechanical motors with charitable needs they saw in the community, Gearheads for a Cause was born. At the peak of the pandemic in 2020, a lot of local charities struggled to raise funds for people in need. The couple wanted to do something outdoors, where people could safely gather, and



Laken and Jay Smith, co-founders of Gearheads for a Cause, bring financial support and awareness to local charities. They are pictured with Bill McCann, founder of Vittles for Vets.

that would raise funds for the different organizations in the region. Each event highlights a nonprofit organization and invites car enthusiasts out to socialize and raise money for the cause. Money earned through raffle ticket sales is then given to the charity

See **Gearheads**, page 4

### Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library

One stop, unlimited possibilities

GRAPHIC COURTESY OF MFRL

## Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library launches 2023 Summer Reading Program

The Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library is thrilled to announce the highly anticipated return of its Summer Reading Program from June 2 to July 29, 2023. This year's program, themed 'All Together Now,' focuses on the importance of community and fostering connections. Readers of all ages, from toddlers to adults, are invited to join in the festivities, read books, participate in various programs and activities, and have

the chance to win exciting prizes all summer long. Recognizing the potential for learning loss during extended breaks from school, particularly over the summer, the Summer Reading Program aims to keep young minds active through reading and engaging educational activities. By offering an array of enriching experiences, the library hopes to combat learning

See **Reading**, page 4

## Remembering Their Service

Please join us in showing appreciation and support for the veterans and troops, past and present, whose service and sacrifice make us proud.

### MEMORIAL GARDENS of the NEW RIVER VALLEY

2551 North Main Street, Blacksburg • (540) 552-7800 • [www.memorialgardensnrva.com](http://www.memorialgardensnrva.com)

# UPCOMING EVENTS

Today, Saturday, May 27:

## Shawsville Ruritans 75th Anniversary Celebration

At the Meadowbrook Library; 1- 4 p.m. Come celebrate the anniversary of one of Virginia’s oldest Ruritan Clubs. This event is co-hosted by the Meadowbrook Museum and will include a display of the club’s history. This will be an “Ice Cream Social.” Bring the whole family.

Monday, May 29:

## Blacksburg Memorial Day Closings

Town administrative offices will be closed. There will be no BT service and BT offices will be closed. Blacksburg Community Center and Aquatic Center will be closed. No trash pickup in the SE quadrant. Pick-up will be Wednesday, May 31. Please have all trash at the curb by 7 a.m.

Thursday, June 1:

## American Legion meeting

The American Legion, Harvey Howe Carper Post 30 will meet on, 6pm at the VFW Post Home on 102 Watts St. in Radford. For further information, please call 540-250-2283 or 540-239-9864.

Saturday, June 3:

## CPR and AED course

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce has partnered with Compass and Shock Foundation to have a CPR and AED refresher course. It will be on June 3, 10- 11 a.m. at the Hampton Inn located on Arbor Dr. in Christiansburg. The class is free. Please visit <https://www.compressandshock.org/classlocator> to register. Look for the Chamber logo to register for the Christiansburg location.

Saturday, June 10:

## Fish Fry

Mount Tabor Ruritan Club will hold its June Fish Fry, 5 to 7 p.m. at Slusser’s Chapel Picnic Shelter, 1543 Mount Tabor Rd, Blacksburg. Serving fish, fries and slaw; homemade desserts; and beverages. Adults-\$12, children under 12-\$6, under 3-free, carry-outs-\$12. This month, the Blacksburg Community Band will be playing. Held rain or shine. Call or text 540-449-6178 for further information. On Facebook at MtTaborRuritan.

Monday, June 12:

## 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](http://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, June 13:

## 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 the 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.

Thursday, June 15:

## Sons of Confederate Veterans meeting

The Sons of Confederate Veterans, Stuart Horse Artillery Camp 1784 will meet at 7 p.m. at Aly’s Italian Family Restaurant at 3204 Riner Rd. Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) are also invited to attend this meeting. Mr. Chris McCloud, Third Brigade Commander, will be the guest speaker. For further information, please call 540-320-4315 or 540-239-9864.

On-going:

## Blacksburg Hydrant Flushing Work

The Town of Blacksburg will be flushing fire hydrants in the northwest section of town during May and June. Hydrant flushing can cause temporary pressure fluctuations and discolored water. These conditions will subside after the flushing is completed. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Town of Blacksburg Engineering Department at (540) 443-1300.

## 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 Ingles (Colonial times). Can include depictions of local landmarks (Ingles Farm, the Cultural and Heritage Park, Ingles Tavern and other connected sites in the region), and Colonial style art. Painting, plein air, illustration, digital media, textiles, mixed media and photography will be considered - up to three works per artist. Applications will be accepted through 5 p.m. on June 13. Open to artists in and around the NRV area. Entry forms at [www.glencoemansion.org](http://www.glencoemansion.org) or by contacting [arts@glencoemansion.org](mailto:arts@glencoemansion.org).

## Blacksburg Farmers Market

Hours now through October: Wednesdays 2 – 6 p.m. and Saturdays 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. Located at Market Square Park, on the corner of Roanoke Street and Draper Road in downtown Blacksburg. Features growers of locally grown produce and meats, alongside artisans of baked goods, prepared foods, cheese, handmade crafts, and more.

## Christiansburg Farmers Market

Thursdays; 3 – 7 p.m. Located in the Recreation Center parking lot. Features local farmers and vendors. Seasonal produce, plants, fresh baked goods, crafts, fresh flowers, handmade jewelry and more. Items for purchase vary week-to-week. Check our Facebook page for details about weekly themes, prizes, vendors, and live music.

## Radford Farmers Market

2023 season of the Radford Farmers Market kicked off Saturday, April 22 on the grounds of Glencoe Mansion, Museum and Galley, located just off West Main Street, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. each Saturday until October 14. Features produce, plants, baked goods, artisans, fresh squeezed lemonade, eggs, meats, cheeses and more.

## Radford Field of Honor

Field of Honor on the grounds of Glencoe Mansion, Museum and Gallery- displayed until the Fourth of July by the Radford Noon Rotary Club. Sponsor flags to honor a veteran, first responder, family member, teacher, associate, etc. Individual flags - \$50. Blue sponsorship - \$500, includes five flags plus signage. White sponsorship - \$1,000, includes 10 flags plus signage. Red sponsorship - \$2,500, includes 10 flags plus premium signage. Money raised benefits scholarships to RHS students attending Radford University, polio eradication, Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, Glencoe Mansion, Radford-Fairlawn Daily Bread, Elf Shelf, the Women’s Resource Center, Sleep in Heavenly Peace, Vittles for Vets, Beans and Rice, the Wheelchair Foundation, Wonder Universe Children’s Museum, Shelterbox and Sunset Garden. Contact Tom Alston with Radford Noon Rotary at [rotary.club.of.radford.noon@gmail.com](mailto:rotary.club.of.radford.noon@gmail.com) or register at: <https://registrations.dacdb.com/Register/index.cfm>.

# Area seniors participate in 2023 NRV Senior Olympic Games

A total of 155 senior athletes, aged 50 years and older, participated in 30 events, with medals awarded to all first, second, and third place finishers in each age division at the 2023 New River Valley Senior Olympic Games.

The NRV Senior Olympic Games were held the week of April 24 and organized by the parks and recreation departments in Montgomery County; the Towns of Christiansburg and Wytheville; and Radford City.

From Badminton to Wii Bowling and several events in between, the 155 senior athletes visited several locations throughout the New River Valley for daily competitions throughout the week.

“We had the privilege of hosting

this year’s event,” said Amanda Terry, Montgomery County’s Active Adult/ Senior Recreation Program Supervisor. “This is one event we all look forward to annually. It’s great to see so many active adults who are young at heart have the opportunity to compete and fellowship together.”

All registered participants received an NRV Senior Olympic Games t-shirt, participant packet, and admission to the kick off ceremony and catered lunch on April 24.

To view the 2023 NRV Senior Olympic Games winners, visit [montcova.com/parks](http://montcova.com/parks).

The 2023 sponsors included Adjust NRV Chirospractic, Logohub, Molina Healthcare, National Wild Turkey



Carlile Price, of Blacksburg, playing bocce ball.

Federation, Spring Oak, and Warm Hearth Village.

The New River Valley Senior Olympic Games have become an important event in the community, and organizers are already planning for next year’s event.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY  
Wanda Garrison, of Christiansburg, playing softball.

“We are excited to see this event continue to grow and provide a fun and competitive environment for seniors in the New River Valley,” said Terry.

*Submitted by Montgomery County*

2023 Real Estate Taxes

Due: June 5, 2023

Town of Blacksburg Real Estate Tax invoices for the first installment of 2023 have been mailed and are due by Monday, June 5, 2023. If you have not yet received a tax statement, call the Department of Financial Services at 540.961.1105.

Payment may be mailed, made in person or placed in the drop box at 300 South Main Street, Blacksburg, paid by phone with a credit card or paid online at [www.Blacksburg.gov/payments](http://www.Blacksburg.gov/payments). Visa, MasterCard and Discover are accepted.

A 10% penalty will be charged if not paid by June 5, 2023. Interest will be charged at the rate of 10% per year beginning July 1, 2023.

TOWN OF Blacksburg



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Send community news and photos to community news @ourvalley.org



PHOTO COURTESY OF BETA SIGMA PHI

## New officers installed for Alpha Mu Master's Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi

Alpha Mu Master's Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi in Christiansburg, has installed new officers to lead the Chapter in the 2023-24 Sorority year. Beta Sigma Phi is a service, social, and cultural group and is the largest women's organization in the world. Pictured is (L to R) President Phyllis Durham, Vice President Sue Warden, Extension Officer Robin Grove, Recording Secretary Sharon Legg, Treasurer Carolyn Sowers, and Doris Caldwell, Corresponding Secretary.

- News Messenger staff report

## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

### The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi inducts new members

BATON ROUGE, LA - The following people recently were initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines: Garrett Knobl, of Blacksburg, at University of Delaware; Kaitlynn Harless, of Blacksburg, at Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University; and Serhat Keles, of Christiansburg, at Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University.

They are among approximately 25,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni to be initiated into Phi Kappa Phi each year. Membership is by invitation only and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. Only the top 10 percent of seniors and 7.5 percent of juniors are eligible for membership. Graduate students in the top 10 percent of the number of candidates for graduate degrees may also qualify, as do faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction.

Phi Kappa Phi was founded in 1897. Today, the Society has chapters on more than 325 campuses in the United States, its territories and the Philippines. Its mission is "to recognize and promote academic excellence in all fields of higher education and to engage the community of scholars in service to others."

**SNHU announces Winter 2023 Dean's List**  
MANCHESTER, NH - Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) congratulates the following students on being named to the Winter 2023 Dean's List: Joshua Rakoski, of Radford; Grayson Fritsch, of Riner; Gabriel Palma, of Blacksburg; Maya McMahon, of Blacksburg; and Patrick Holtzman, of Christiansburg.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.500 to 3.699 for the reporting term are named to the Dean's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) is a private, nonprofit institution with a 90-year history of educating traditional-aged students and working adults, recognized as one of the "Most Innovative" regional universities by U.S. News & World Report and one of the fastest-growing universities in the country.

Omicron Delta Kappa celebrates new members

See **Achievements**, page 4

## Christiansburg Lions Club honors local students

The Christiansburg Lions Club recently honored a graduating student in Auburn, Christiansburg, Eastern Montgomery and Floyd County high schools.

Recently, the club presented the following students with a plaque and a \$1,000 scholarship in recognition of their service to the community: Isabella Landon of Floyd County High School, Brantley Smith of Auburn High School, Alaina Partin of Christiansburg High School and Allison Bower of Eastern Montgomery High School.

The Lions Club is the largest

service organization in the world with 1.4 million members serving in more than 200 countries. The club's motto is simply, "We Serve."

Submitted by the Christiansburg Lions Club

## Legal Notice

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF AN APPLICATION BY  
APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY,  
FOR APPROVAL OF A RATE ADJUSTMENT CLAUSE  
PURSUANT TO VA. CODE § 56-585.1 A 4  
CASE NO. PUR-2023-00061

•Appalachian Power Company ("APCo") requests approval of a revenue requirement of \$413.2 million for its T-RAC for the September 2023 through August 2024 rate year. According to APCo, if approved, this would increase the monthly bill of a residential customer using 1,000 kilowatt hours per month by approximately \$4.15.

•A Hearing Examiner appointed by the State Corporation Commission will hear public witness testimony on the case on June 21, 2023, at 10 a.m., and testimony and evidence of APCo, Commission Staff, and any respondents on June 22, 2023.

•Further information about this case is available on the Commission's website at: [sec.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information](http://sec.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information).

On May 4, 2023, Appalachian Power Company ("APCo" or "Company") filed an application ("Application") with the State Corporation Commission ("Commission") pursuant to § 56-585.1 A 4 of the Code of Virginia for approval to implement factors to recover an increase to its revenue requirement through its transmission rate adjustment clause ("T-RAC").

In its Application, APCo requests permission to recover a proposed total revenue requirement of \$413.2 million through the T-RAC for the September 2023 through August 2024 rate year ("Rate Year"). The Company states that its proposed revenue requirement consists of the following: a forecasted Virginia jurisdictional current-period formula rate (current) revenue requirement of \$379 million for the Rate Year, based on Federal Energy Regulatory Commission-approved PJM rates for transmission service that went into effect on January 1, 2023; a cumulative Virginia jurisdictional actual under-recovery formula rate balance, through March 2023 (true-up) of \$18.5 million; a forecasted Virginia jurisdictional under-recovery amount of \$13.7 million for the period April 2023—August 2023 (update); and a forecasted Virginia jurisdictional revenue requirement of \$2.2 million associated with the Business Park Pilot Program.

APCo states that its proposed revenue requirement is an increase of approximately \$45.1 million from the annual T-RAC revenue requirement approved by the Commission in 2022. The Company indicates that its proposed T-RAC rates would increase the monthly bill for a residential customer using 1,000 kilowatt hours per month by \$4.15.

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

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

The Commission entered an Order for Notice and Hearing that, among other things, scheduled public hearings on APCo's Application. On June 21, 2023, at 10 a.m., a Hearing Examiner appointed by the Commission will hold a telephonic hearing for the purpose of receiving the testimony of public witnesses, with no public witness present in the Commission's courtroom. On or before June 14, 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](http://sec.virginia.gov/pages/Webcasting); (ii) by completing and emailing the PDF version of this form to [SCCInfo@sec.virginia.gov](mailto:SCCInfo@sec.virginia.gov); or (iii) by calling (804) 371-9141. This public witness hearing will be webcast at [sec.virginia.gov/pages/Webcasting](http://sec.virginia.gov/pages/Webcasting).

Beginning at 10 a.m. on June 21, 2023, the Hearing Examiner will telephone sequentially each person who has signed up to testify as provided above.

On June 22, 2023, at 10 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 offered by the Company, respondents, and the Staff on the Application.

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 Application may be obtained by submitting a written request to counsel for the Company, James G. Ritter, Esquire, American Electric Power Service Corporation, 1051 East Cary Street, Suite 1100, Richmond, Virginia 23219, or [jritter@aep.com](mailto:jritter@aep.com). Interested persons also may download unofficial copies of the public version of the Application and other documents filed in this case from the Commission's website: [sec.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information](http://sec.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information).

On or before June 16, 2023, any interested person may submit comments on the Application by following the instructions on the Commission's website: [sec.virginia.gov/casecomments/SubmitPublicComments](http://sec.virginia.gov/casecomments/SubmitPublicComments). Those unable, as a practical matter, to submit comments electronically may file such comments with the Clerk of the State Corporation Commission c/o Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2118. All comments shall refer to Case No. PUR-2023-00061.

On or before June 9, 2023, any person or entity wishing to participate as a respondent in this proceeding may do so by filing a notice of participation with the Clerk of the Commission at [sec.virginia.gov/clk/efiling](http://sec.virginia.gov/clk/efiling). Those unable, as a practical matter, to file testimony and exhibits electronically may file such notice by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the Commission at the address above. Such notice of participation shall include the email addresses of such parties or their counsel. The respondent simultaneously shall serve a copy of the notice of participation on counsel to the Company. Pursuant to Rule 5 VAC 5-20-80 B, *Participation as a respondent*, of the Commission's Rules of Practice, any notice of participation shall set forth: (i) a precise statement of the interest of the respondent; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent then known; and (iii) the factual and legal basis for the action. Any organization, corporation, or government body participating as a respondent must be represented by counsel as required by Rule 5 VAC 5-20-30, *Counsel*, of the Rules of Practice. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2023-00061.

On or before June 9, 2023, each respondent may file with the Clerk of the Commission, at [sec.virginia.gov/clk/efiling](http://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-2023-00061.

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

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

APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY

MAIN STREET CLASSIFIEDS

Marketplace

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THE FINCASTLE HERALD

The Vinton Messenger

THE NEW CASTLE RECORD

SALEM TIMES-REGISTER

News Messenger

RADFORD News Journal

Legals - Montgomery County

Order of Publication

Commonwealth of Virginia  
VA Code §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316.20-104  
Case No. **CA23000012-00**  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY  
Circuit Court, 55 EAST MAIN STREET, SUITE 1, CHRISTIANSBURG, VA 24073  
Commonwealth of Virginia, in re CHRISTINE ELIZABETH GIBSON, DANIEL WARD GIBSON v. COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
The object of this suit is to:  
IN RE: DESTINEE EVONLYNN HOBACK. It is ORDERED that BETTY JOY THOMPSON appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before JULY 5, 2023.  
MAY 5, 2023, ROBERT M.D. TURK, JUDGE  
TIFFANY M. COUCH, CLERK

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Legals - Montgomery County

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG

PROPOSED OUTSIDE CORPORATE LIMITS WATER, SEWER, GARBAGE/SOLID WASTE FEE INCREASES

A public hearing will be held on Tuesday, June 13, 2023, at 7 pm at Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 East Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia in Council Chambers for the purpose of discussing the proposed water, sewer, and garbage/sewer fee increases for customers outside of the corporate limits. Effective Date: July 1, 2024  
Authority: Code of Virginia §15.2-2119  
Water rates outside of corporate limits will increase from 150% to 200% of the inside corporate limits rates. Water rates: First 0 to

Legals - Montgomery County

1,000 gallons from \$13.50 to \$20; Additional 1,000 gallons from \$16.50 to \$24.00; Over 50,000 gallons from \$12.38 to \$18.00.  
Sewer rates outside of corporate limits will increase from 150% to 200% of the inside corporate limits rates. Sewer rates: First 1,000 gallons from \$15 to \$20; Additional 1,000 gallons from \$15.38 to \$20.50.  
Garbage/Solid Waste service rates outside of corporate limits will increase from 150% to 200% of inside corporate limits rates. This proposal may be examined during regular business hours at the office of the Town Manager. 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, VA between the hours of 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday.  
All interested citizens will have the opportunity to give written or oral comments.  
Randy Wingfield  
Town Manager

Legals - Montgomery County

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN,

By the Board of Supervisors of the County of Montgomery, Virginia that the Board of Supervisors hereby schedules a public hearing for Monday, June 12, 2023, at 7:15 p.m. or as soon thereafter, at the Montgomery County Government Center, 755 Roanoke Street, Christiansburg, Virginia, in order to receive citizen comments on a proposed Ordinance Amending Chapter 2 Entitled Administration of the Code of the County of Montgomery, Virginia by adding Section 2-17 Cost Reimbursement for Emergency Medical Transport, authorizing the County to charge reasonable fees for the use of emergency medical service vehicles, including charging insurers for ambulance services.  
A copy of the full text of the Ordinance is on file in the Office of the County Administrator and is available 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday for public inspection

Legals - Montgomery County

or copying.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION AND BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 15.2-4314 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, the Montgomery County Planning Commission hereby gives notice of a public hearing to be held on June 14, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. and the Board of Supervisors hereby gives notice of a public hearing to be held on June 26, 2023 at 7:15 p.m. in the County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Christiansburg, Virginia, in order to hear citizen comment regarding the following written request to

Legals - Montgomery County

withdraw 46.990 acres owned by DW, LLC, from AFD District 7: Request by DW, LLC to withdraw approximately 46.990 acres from Agricultural & Forestal District #7 in order to apply for a Special Use Permit to convert the property to an RV Park for short-term transient vehicles. The property is identified as a portion of Tax Map No. 080-5-1, Parcel ID 033688, located on Brammer Lane, off of Houchins Road, in the Shawsville Magisterial District.  
Copies of the proposed plans, applications, ordinances or amendments may be examined at the Department of Planning and GIS Services, County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Suite 2A, Christiansburg, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. or at <http://www.montgomerycountyva.gov/pendingapplication> ns.

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# Achievements

from page 3

LEXINGTON, VA - Omicron Delta Kappa, the National Leadership Honor Society, has welcomed new members from the New River Valley.

Students initiated into the Society must be sophomores, juniors, seniors, or graduate/professional students in the top 35% of their class, demonstrate leadership experience in at least one of the five pillars, and embrace the ODK ideals. Fewer

than five percent of students on a campus are invited to join each year.

Local inductees include: From Radford University: Kristen Edwards, of Christiansburg; Radford University; Abigail Ridpath, of Radford; Allison Jones, of Shawsville; and Joshua Shimp, of Radford.

From Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University: Giorgia Cannici,

of Blacksburg; Indunil Dharmasiri, of Blacksburg; Alexander Gershberg, of Blacksburg; Zhe Meng, of Blacksburg; Venkata Naga Sai Rama Krishna Pinnimty, of Blacksburg; jingcheng luo, of Blacksburg; Brittany Dodson, of Blacksburg; Elayna Ealy, of Blacksburg; Kathleen Flint, of Christiansburg; Jon Dance, of Christiansburg; and Judith Obregon, of Blacksburg.

Laney Cline on Eastern

Mennonite University's Spring 2023 Dean's List

HARRISONBURG, VA - Laney Cline, of Radford, was named to the Spring 2023 Dean's List at Eastern Mennonite University. Cline is majoring in Business Analytics, Business Administration.

To qualify, students must earn a GPA of 3.5 or higher and complete a minimum of 30 credit hours.

A leader among faith-based,

liberal arts universities since 1917, Eastern Mennonite University (EMU) emphasizes peacebuilding, sustainability, service to others and social justice to students of diverse religious and cultural backgrounds. EMU educates undergraduate, graduate, professional and seminary students to serve and lead in a global context.

Emma Bosman achieves

See Students, page 6

# Reading

from page 1

gaps and nurture a love for books and learning in the community.

The Summer Reading Program kicks off on June 2 with a special Chalk Walk celebration at the Christiansburg Library, taking place from 2 - 4 p.m. Participants of all ages can look forward to picking up flyers and information about the program, get hands on help with registering in Beanstack, <https://mfri.beanstack.org/> or downloading the Beanstack app, as well as decorating parts of the sidewalk or Storywalk. The event will be filled with enjoyable activities, bubbles, and sweet treats for everyone to enjoy.

In addition to the traditional reading program, the Montgomery-

Floyd Regional Library has curated an exciting schedule of fun and educational activities across multiple locations. Families are in for a treat with a series of free performances by talented artists, including:

Professor Whizzpop: Friday, June 2, 3 p.m. at Jessie Peterman Memorial Library

Monday, June 3, 10 a.m. at Blacksburg Library

Monday, June 3, 2 p.m. at Meadowbrook Library

Monday, June 3, 6 p.m. at Christiansburg Library

Joelle Shenk: Friday, June 23, 11 a.m. at Christiansburg Library

Friday, June 23, 3 p.m. at

Meadowbrook Library

Saturday, June 24, 11 a.m. at Blacksburg Library

Soap Bubble Circus: Friday, July 21, 11 a.m. at Jessie Peterman Memorial Library

Friday, July 21, 3 p.m. at Meadowbrook Library

Saturday, July 22, 2 p.m. at Christiansburg Library

Other exciting programs include Youth Yoga, Adult Yoga, D&D Workshops, Mobile Movie Nights, and to conclude the Summer Reading Program, a highly anticipated Silent Disco on July 28. For a complete schedule of activities and more information about the program, visit [www.mfri.org](http://www.mfri.org).

The Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library is committed to providing a stimulating and inclusive environment that fosters the love of reading and lifelong learning. The Summer Reading Program is an excellent opportunity for the community to come together, embrace the joy of reading, and explore the wealth of resources available at the library. Thank you to the Friends of the Library and all of the community sponsors who have helped make this year's program possible.

For more information, contact Kerri Copus at [kcopus@mfri.org](mailto:kcopus@mfri.org) or call (540) 382-6969 ext. 215. \

Submitted by the MFRL

## News Messenger

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

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## Gearheads

from page 1

being supported by the event.

The season opener event on May 21 raised \$1,011 to support Vittles for Vets, a local nonprofit providing food gift cards to military veterans.

"We had a DJ set up through Aarons in Radford, Mission BBQ donated baskets, and there were rides," Laken Smith said. "We try to bring the motorcycle rides, along with cars, trucks, and jeeps."

Gearheads for a Cause Father's Day Race at Restore will be the organization's next local event happening on June 17, noon to 5 p.m., at Restore on 1675 North Franklin St. in Christiansburg.

"We are inviting everyone to bring out their derby cars for the race, just before Father's Day," Smith said. "We thought it would be a fun event for fathers and their kids."

Participants can expect vendors such as the shaved ice truck with many raffle items costing \$1 each for tickets. Restaurants within walking distance of the event are Sam's Hot Dogs, McDonald's and Casa Del Rio, so come hungry and bring sunscreen, Laken Smith said.

Another local event Gearheads for a Cause will be



PHOTO COURTESY OF GEARHEADS FOR A CAUSE

**Gearheads for a Cause's fundraiser at Aaron's in Fairlawn on May 21 raised money for Vittles for Vets.**

hosting is the celebration of the Agape Center of the NRV at Sinkland Farms on July 23. Additional events will be happening throughout the year and can be found on their Facebook page titled Gearheads for a Cause, on [nextthreedays.com](http://nextthreedays.com), and other media pages like Eventbrite. All events are free admission, and no registration is required.

## Fees

from page 1

of trying to make sure that group works well with the volunteer base, if there are issues they should be brought to Michael's attention," Meadows said.

Meadows also said any concerns not resolved through the Emergency Services Coordinator's office should then be brought to the board's attention.

The Board of Supervisors also discussed the Commissioner of the Revenue's office's request for the use of cigarette tax revenue funding to pay for the cost of producing cigarette tax stamps. King initially requested the

cigarette tax stamp be removed from the items of consent and voted on separately. The board agreed to remove the cigarette tax stamp and placed the item in new business, and unanimously voted to approve all other items of consent. An approval of the cigarette tax was later reached with a vote of 5-2; Supervisors Sherri Blevins and Todd King voted against the tax.

The Retired Senior and Volunteer Program (RSVP) of Montgomery County was recognized at the Board of Supervisors meeting for their 50th anniversary of service to the

region in a video presented during the board's regular Monday night meeting.

Mandy Hayes serves as the Montgomery County RSVP Coordinator, but first started her work with the organization in 2003 as a Program Assistant. Ava Stilwell is the current RSVP Program Assistant, with 23 years of experience supporting senior services, eight of those years with RSVP.

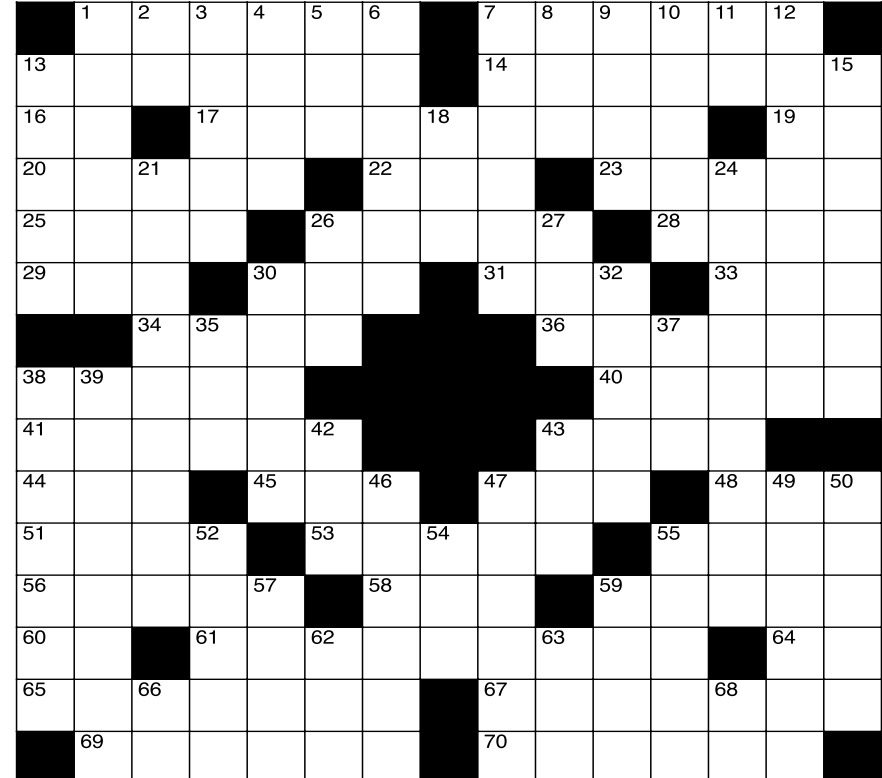
"RSVP serves as a clearinghouse, to match the needs of the community with the skills and knowledge of our volunteers. Our volunteers serve over 60 non-

profit organizations and healthcare facilities in our service area," Hayes said.

The Board of Supervisors each took a moment to congratulate and show appreciation to the members of the RSVP organization through comments to the RSVP members present during the meeting.

"The RSVP program is just invaluable, and the fact that these volunteers are paying it forward and showing the community what it means to dedicate time and resources and energy to making our community a better place to live," Meadows said.

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- CLUES ACROSS**

  - Package
  - Wear away
  - Joins a leaf to a stem
  - Worsen
  - Promotes international cooperation (abbr.)
  - Your folks
  - Publicity
  - Moves up
  - Dept. of Labor
  - Physicist Enrico
  - Whitney and Manning are two
  - Human foot (pl.)
  - Coral is an example
  - Extended error correction
  - Small amount
  - Dash
  - The greatest of all time
  - Middle Eastern country
  - Ravine
  - Cup-like cavity
- CLUES DOWN**

  - Relating to male organ
  - Indicates position
  - Covers with frost
  - Makes a soft murmuring sound
  - Wood
  - Type of fuel
  - Confused
  - Where you go at night
  - Canadian flyers
  - Type of birch tree
  - Beloved Welsh princess
  - Coated
  - Smooth substance of crushed fruit
  - Improves intellectually
  - A sign of assent
  - Island-based Italians
  - Pragmatic
  - Peter's last name
  - A bag-like structure in a plant or animal
- Chemical substances
  - Extremely stupid behavior
  - He built Arantea
  - Beverage beloved by Brits
  - Cereal plant
  - Signal
  - A bar bill
  - Comedienne Faris
  - Preface to a book
  - Stores grain
  - In a way, medicated
  - Small island (British)
  - An Indiana-based hooper
  - Measures width of printed matter
  - Riders use this to transport goods
  - Once more
  - Thin layers
  - Says again
- Mexican city
  - Sir Samuel \_\_, Brit. statesman
  - Summer Olympics were just here
  - Fiddler crabs
  - Southern military academy
  - Tumors
  - Speaks incessantly
  - Sacred sound in Indian religions
  - Transactions
  - Et-
  - Reminders
  - Doesn't interest
  - Norse gods
  - Canola is one type
  - Beloved sportscaster Craig
  - Irish mother goddess
  - Daddy
  - Press against lightly
  - Sound unit
  - Master of Ceremonies
  - Morning

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# OBITUARIES

## Barton, Glennie “Chuck” Roy

Glennie “Chuck” Roy Barton, Evelyn Barton; daughter, Jennifer Barton; special sister-in-law, Donna Gamble; special friends, R.F. and Diane Pruitt; many nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. Services will be private. The Barton family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory

Survivors include his wife, Minnie in Radford.



## Chinault, Willard Leon

Willard Leon Chinault, 74, of brother, Timmy Chinault (Donna); Pulaski, passed away Wednesday, May 17, 2023. He was preceded in death by his parents Lee and Audrey Chinault. He was a well-known horse farrier. Survivors include his daughter, Jessica Chinault; granddaughter, Audrey Mitchell; girlfriend, Jackie Vance; sister, Yvonne McConnell (Jeff); Crematory in Radford.

nephew, Adam Cregger (Sonya); nieces, Sherry Nack (Steve), Ashley McCambridge, and Reagan McCambridge; other relatives, and friends. In keeping with his wishes, there will be no services. The Chinault family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford.



See Obituaries, page 6

### ANGLICAN CATHOLIC

**St. Peter the Apostle Anglican Church**, 230 W. First St., Christiansburg, VA. Fr Peter Geromel OHI Th.M., Vicar, Fr. Alex Darby, “Associate”, 540-382-0432/540-270-9166. Sundays: 8:00 am & 10:00 am Holy Eucharist followed by Christian Education and refreshments. Holy Communion most Thursdays at 12Noon, other Holy Days as announced. Traditional services use the 1928 Book of Common Prayer and 1940 Hymnal. Handicapped accessible. All are welcome. Come worship with us! Website: www.stpetersacc.org. Follow us on Facebook

**St. Philip’s Anglican Church**, 306 Progress Street, NE, Blacksburg, Virginia 24060, (540) 552-1771, www.stphilipsblacksburg.org. Reverend Fr. Wade Miller, Priest. Eucharist Sundays at 11am and Wednesday’s at 12pm.

**St. Thomas Anglican Church** - located at 4910 Hubert Rd, NW Roanoke, Va. Traditional Liturgical Lenten Services, Sunday at 10:30 am. Call (540) 589-1299 or visit www.sttofc.org for midweek masses and events. (In Roanoke, go E on Hershberger, L on Hubert to 4910).

### BAPTIST

**First Baptist Church on 3rd Ave.**, 215 Third Ave at the corner with Downey St. We nurture meaningful connections to God and others through worship, spiritual growth, and community ministry. We celebrate the dignity and worth of all persons, created in the image of God. Sunday Bible Study Groups - 9:45, Sunday Worship - 11:00. Website: fbradford.org 540-639-4419. Worship is in-person and live-streamed on Facebook and on our YouTube channel: First Baptist Church Radford.

**Trinity Community Church**, 1505 N. Franklin Street, C’burg. John Altizer, Lead Pastor, Brian Cockram, Associate Pastor, 382-8121. Worship at 10:45 a.m., Outreach Ministries - 6:00p.m. Wednesday, Growth Groups - 5:00p.m. Sunday, Youth and Children’s Ministry - 5:00p.m. Sunday, www.trinitycburg.org

### CHURCH OF CHRIST

**Blacksburg Church of Christ**, 315 Eakin St., 552-1331. Sun. Bible Classes 9:30 a.m., Sun. Worship 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m., Wed. Bible classes, 7 p.m., Outreach Minister Curt Seright, Community Minister Tom Gilliam, Dean Meadows, Campus Minister.

**Faith Christian Church of Christ**, 305 3rd Street, Christiansburg, David Rhudy, Minister, 382-4628, Sunday School 10 am; Worship 11 am; Evening Worship 6:30 pm; Wednesday night Bible Study for Women and Men 6:30 pm. We welcome you to any and all of our services.

### CHURCH OF GOD

**New Hope Church of God**, 1404 Mud Pike Rd., C’Burg. Rev. T. Michael Bond, pastor, 731-3178. Sun. School 10 a.m., Worship 10:50 a.m., 6 p.m. Thurs., 7:00 p.m.

**West Radford Church of God**, 1824 West Main Street, Radford, VA 24141, Sunday School– 10:00A.M. Morning Worship– 11:00A.M., Children’s Church 11:00A.M. Sunday Evening – 6:00P.M., Wednesday Night – 7:00P.M., Pastor Danny Newman, Church Office – 540-639-6562 or 804- 921-0828.

### CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

**Christiansburg Church of the Brethren**, 310 South Franklin Street. Pastor: Hal Sonaf Frank, 1-336-583-4822. Sunday School 10 a.m.; Morning Worship 11 a.m.; Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays. Website: www.christiansburgcob.org. A loving family, fueled by the Holy Spirit, grounded in God’s Word, and delivering Jesus forgiveness and love to all people. Come as you are... you are welcomed!

**(DOC - DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)**

**Snowville Christian Church**, 5436 Lead Mine Rd., Hiwassee, VA 24347, Pastor: Jerry King, Website: www.SnowvilleChristianChurch.com (and Facebook), Office: 540-633-3761, Email: office@SnowvilleChristianChurch.com, Sunday Worship Service: 11:00 a.m., Sunday School: 10:00 a.m., Thursday Bible Study: 6:00 p.m., We are: “Inspiring hope, helping people grow their faith, and sharing God’s love with others!”

### ECKANKAR

**Eckankar, the Path of Spiritual Freedom**, is a simple teaching that focuses on the Light and Sound of God to help people find more love in their life. The Roanoke Eckankar Center is located at 1420 3rd St. SW, Roanoke, VA 24016. A spiritual event is held on the 2nd Sunday of each month at 10:30 a.m. Since contracting COVID-19 may still be possible, please take the health steps that are best for you. It is appreciated that by attending you are taking responsibility for your own health. Visit www.eck-va.org, www.meet-up.com/Roanoke-Spiritual-Experiences \* Group\* or call 540-353-5365 for other Eckankar programs and for more information about how the teachings of Eckankar can lead you to spiritual freedom.

### EPISCOPAL

**Grace Episcopal Church**, 210 4th Street, Radford, 639-3494. A friendly, mission-oriented spiritual community sharing the Word of God. ALL ARE WELCOME. In person and live-streamed services 10:30AM Sundays. Holy Eucharist twice a month. Morning Prayer twice a month. Fellowship and refreshments follow services. Find us on

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TIME TO REST

Read Exodus 30:1 through 32:35

“This project has to be done right, and it has to be done soon. Work all weekend if you have to.” Some work assignments make us wonder if we need to make a few clones to help us get the work done. Life’s responsibilities may seem larger than we can handle, yet we need to learn the importance of rest.

“It will be a sign between me and the Israelites forever, for in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day he rested and was refreshed” (Exodus 31:17).

God created the Sabbath for two key purposes. First, people need to set aside a day to worship God and fellowship with His people. Second, we need a day of rest and refreshing. Scientific research bears this out.

Nearly everyone must contend with deadlines and expectations from others. God, however, wants us to set aside time to rest and to seek Him. Obeying His instructions for rest and worship actually helps us gain the energy and renewal we need to be more effective and productive in the responsibilities we carry.

Prayer Suggestion: God, please direct me in ways to better rest in You.

Quicklook: Exodus 31:14–17

If your church is not listed and if you are interested, call Randy Thompson at 540-389-9355 or email at advertise@ourvalley.org

Facebook: Grace Episcopal Church and www.graceradford.org.

### LUTHERAN

**Luther Memorial Lutheran Church ELCA**, 600 Prices Fork Rd, Blacksburg. Weekly Online Worship at www.lmlc.org. We are a Reconciling in Christ congregation that welcomes and affirms all people just as they are. For information on Bible studies and Wednesday Vespers, email luthermemorialblacksburg@gmail.com, or contact the church office, (540) 951-1000. Rev. Monica Weber, pastor.

**Our Saviour Lutheran Church ELCA**, 1845 Cambria St NE, Christiansburg. Worship each Sunday at 10 am, in person and online at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMsB-gbyjmV5ce9mr43dbCw. Please visit our website at www.oslc-cburg.org and our Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/oslcchristiansburg to learn more about us. Little Free Pantry and Little Free Library located in our parking lot. Pastor Joshua L. Copeland; church office 540-382-2223.

**St. Michael Lutheran Church, 2308 Merrimac Road**, Blacksburg, VA 24060. Worship service each Sunday at 10 AM, Sunday School 9 AM. We are a community of God’s people where people gather for worship, learning and service. Visitors and new members are always WELCOME! Google comments: “Wonderful, welcoming congregation...A place where all are truly welcome... Nice, friendly, competent staff.” You will like our minister, The Rev. Michelle L. Stramiello. Her previous service was as Family Faith Formation Director at Cross and Crown Lutheran Church, Indianapolis, IN, Pastor of St Matthew Lutheran Church, Paducah, KY, and Hospice Chaplain in Largo, Fl. St. Michael started and administers Micah’s Backpack which

has great community impact, Micah’s Soup for Seniors, Micah’s Garden, Closet, and Mini Pantry. Also, partnering with Rainbow Riders and Total Action for Progress, we opened open the first Early Childhood Head Start in our community (6 weeks to age 3), and have numerous other programs including a Justice & Mercy Fund providing assistance for those needing emergency assistance with critical bills. Further St. Michael sponsors an awesome Scouting program of Boy & Girl Scout Troops, Venture Scouts for older youth, and a new Cub Pack for girls & boys kindergarten - 5th grade. Directions: From Price’s Fork Road, turn onto Merrimac Road and St. Michael is 3/10ths of a mile down on the left. For more information about any of our activities: Phone 540 951-8951. Email hope@stmcl.us or visit our Website www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org

### MULTI-CULTURAL NON-DENOMINATIONAL

**Christian Growth Center**, 1850 Electric Way, Christiansburg, VA 24073 (beside Hubbell Lighting). Sunday Worship: 9:30am Prayer, 10:00am Service \*Nursery Available. Lead Pastor: Todd Hallinan. Founding Pastor: Rob Sowell. Mission: Sow, Grow, & Go Sow Faith! Grow in Righteousness! Go into all the world in the authority of the believer! 540-382-2908.

**PENTECOSTAL HOLINESS**

**Merrimac Pentecostal Holiness Church**, Rev. Richard Hall (540) 552-7194. pastorhall29@gmail.com. Sunday School at 10 a.m. and morning worship is 11 a.m. Evening service at 6 p.m. and Wednesday at 7 p.m.

**Compassion Church**, 1820 Second Street, Radford, 639-6287, Our music is passionate, our worship is real, and Pastor Chandler Jones brings relevant messages for every-

one at any place on their journey, Sunday Worship Experience at 9:30 AM & 11:00 AM, Wednesday Family Night at 7 PM, Children Ministry provided for all services. Our vision is to see all Saved. Freed. Restored. Fulfilled. Find us on facebook and Instagram

**Walton Pentecostal Holiness Church**, 4003 Morning Glory Rd., off Walton Rd. on Rt. 114. 731-1755. Lee Sarver, pastor. Sun. School 9:30 a.m., Worship 10:30 a.m. & 6: p.m., Wed., 7 p.m.

### UNITED METHODIST

**Asbury United Methodist Church**, 500 Stuart Street, Christiansburg. 540-382-0743. Rev. Dr. Patricia Jones. Sunday School, 9:45 a.m., Sunday Worship, 11:00 a.m. All are welcome.

**Central United Methodist Church**, 803 Wadsworth Street, Radford. 639-3529. 8:30 a.m. Sunday Services: 8:30am (interpreter provided); 9:45am Sunday School (interpreter provided); and 11:00a.m. Wednesday Bible Study: 6:30p.m. Child care is provided. www.centralmethodist-church.com.

**St. Paul United Methodist Church**, 220 W. Main St., C’Burg. Rev. Mike Derflinger (540) 382-2410. Sunday Worship 10 a.m., Sunday School 9 a.m. Live streaming Sunday Service - www.twitch.tv/stpaulumc

**Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church**, 350 Stafford Drive, Christiansburg, VA 24073, Sunday School 10am, Sunday Worship Service 11am.

### WESLEYAN

**Christ Wesleyan Church**, 525 Harkrader Street, Christiansburg. Public Worship service at 11:00 AM. Sunday School for adults - 10:00 AM. Pastor: Gale Janofski 540-510-0952. The building is totally handicapped accessible. Website: christwesleyanchurch.org

Send community  
news and photos to  
communitynews@ourvalley.org

# Obituaries

from page 5

## Duncan, Virginia Lynn Bland

Virginia Lynn Bland Duncan, 76, of Christiansburg, passed away peacefully at her home surrounded by her family on Sunday, May 21, 2023.

She was born in Radford on February 22, 1947, to the late James Edward Bland, Sr., and Doris McGhee Bland. She was also preceded in death by her brother Harry Lee Bland.

Lynn dreamed of following in her mother's footsteps to become an RN. She accomplished this and served many families during their time of need.

She is survived by her husband, Jackson B. Duncan; daughter and son-in-law, Marie and Mike Rorrer; son and daughter-in-law, Eddie and Suzanne Woolwine; grandchildren, Ashley Apjok and husband Scott, Kelsey Woolwine, McKinley Rorrer, Ryan Woolwine and wife Nicole; great-grandchildren, Maggie Apjok and Lucas Apjok; stepdaughter, Kim Wade and husband Steve; step-grandchildren, Jackson Wade and Shannon Wade; sisters, Kaye Bland



Griffith; brother and sister-in-law, Jimmy and Sandy Bland; sister-in-law, Mary Bland; numerous nieces and nephews; and Jenny, her beloved companion who was always by her side.

A special thank you to her caregivers Lena Lytton and Alicia Leonard. Our family was comforted

in knowing that Lynn was being cared for and loved on a daily basis. Thank you to all the nurses and staff at Intrepid USA Hospice Radford during this time.

Funeral services were conducted Thursday, May 25, 2023 in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Sebert Rorrer officiating. Interment followed in Sunset Cemetery in Christiansburg. The family received friends Wednesday, May 24, 2023, at McCoy Funeral Home, 150 Country Club Drive SW, Blacksburg. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to the Intrepid USA Hospice Radford, 101 West Main Street, Radford, VA, 24141.

## Long, Buford Anthony

Buford Anthony Long, 74, a life-long resident of Blacksburg, went to be with the Lord on Tuesday, May 23, 2023.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Gilbert and Mary Long; his loving son, Brian Long; and two sisters, Martha and Evelyn. Buford leaves behind his loving wife of 55 years, Shirlene Long; son Robbie Long (Amanda); daughter-in-law Michelle Long; grandchildren Whitney Akers (Justin), Dana Long (Brian), Colton Long, Billy Long, and Josie Long; two great-grandsons, Connor, and Sawyer; his three sisters Janice Price, Joyce Garthrune, and Nancy Keys, and countless close friends.

Buford was born on June 9, 1948. He was a hard-working man with many talents. He started out building houses, plumbing, and doing



electrical work. Years later, at age 25, he bought a backhoe from the company he was working for, soon after that he started his own business and never looked back. He did it his way! His son Robbie worked along beside him, and he contracted jobs with his other son Brian as well.

The family would like to thank all the nurses and caregivers who have helped so much in the past several weeks. Visitation will be from 10 - 11 a.m. followed by the funeral service on Tuesday, May 30, 2023, at 11 a.m. at McCoy Funeral Home in Blacksburg. He will be laid to rest on his son's farm at the Long Family Cemetery officiated by Pastor Terry Price. In lieu of flowers donations can be made to the American Cancer Society.

## Sherman, Grant Leon

Grant Leon Sherman transitioned on May 22, 2023, at Cozy Home Haven, Radford, at 93 years old.

He was born May 1, 1930, to the late Robert Houston and Juanita Paige Sherman. He was the last of their 14 children. He was also preceded in death by his wife, Ada Ernestine Sherman. He leaves to cherish his memory his son Ronald D. (Bettie) Mills; two grandsons, Jason (Ashley) Mills, and Myron (Fajr) Mills; great-grandchildren Myree



Mills and Mycah Mills; special nieces Inest Hurdle, Esther Reed, and Keiona Eaves; a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and other relatives.

Graveside services will be held Thursday, June 1, 2023, at 11 a.m. at Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery, Dublin, with Rev. Jessie Eaves officiating. The family will receive friends Wednesday, May 31, 2023, from 5 - 7 p.m. at McCoy Funeral Home.

## Whittaker, Florence Anne

Florence Anne Whittaker, 69, of Parrott, died Tuesday, May 23, 2023 at Lewis Gale Hospital- Montgomery.

She was born in Radford on January 2, 1954, to the late George and Lucille Boswell Page. She was also preceded in death by her daughter, Barbara Ann Bryant, a brother, George Page, Jr., and a nephew, Michael Douglas Page.

She is survived by her husband, John H. Whittaker; son, John H. Whittaker, Jr. (Monica); daughter, Hope Draper; grandchildren, Cherish Thompson, Chasity Woods, Brandon Caldwell, Brian Caldwell,



Cassandra Jarrells, Sarah Bishop, and Ashley Hevener; 14 great-grandchildren; sister, Virginia (Ray) Wilburn; brothers, Gary (Norma) Page, Robert (Melanie) Page, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be conducted Saturday, May 27, 2023, at 2 p.m. in the Parrott Church of God with Pastor T. Michael Bond and Pastor Kenneth Alley officiating. Interment will follow in the Sifford Cemetery. The family will receive friends 1-2 p.m. Saturday, before the service.

# Lured by lower gas prices, Americans want to travel this summer, but remain cautious

*More Americans are planning to take a road trip, yet two-thirds have yet to confirm their plans*

The national average price of gasoline this Memorial Day weekend is projected to be \$1.10 less than it was in 2022, at \$3.53 per gallon on average, though lower gas prices alone may not be enough for many Americans to hit the road this summer.

According to GasBuddy's 2023 Summer Travel Survey, released today, 64% of Americans are planning to take a summer road trip this year, up from 58% last year. However, 60% of that group has yet to confirm their plans by booking accommodations, activities or other travel plans.

After a grueling summer at the pump last year, it's clear that Americans are tempted to get back out on the road. In fact, less than half of survey respondents (45%) said high gas prices were affecting their road trip plans this year - in

2022, that number was 70%. While gas prices might be in motorists' favor, the costs of other travel essentials such as hotels and airfare remain elevated. Nearly 40% of people said inflation and high prices overall have caused them to rethink their travel plans this summer.

"While gas prices are far lower in most areas than they were last year, Americans seem to feel a bit worse about the economy this year on the heels of rising interest rates, the bank crisis, and inflation that has spiked, impacting their ability to take a road trip during the summer driving season," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy. "While the number of Americans planning on taking a road trip is higher this year, we're finding that many remain cautious about the direction of the economy and thus have not yet cemented

those plans in, with some hinting that price uncertainty is making things challenging."

How to save money on summer road trips:

Shop around for the best gas prices. Drivers can save upwards of 30¢ per gallon just by comparing prices before filling up and choosing a price - not a station - to fill up at.

Beware of crossing state lines. Gas prices often vary drastically between states due to tax changes and summer gasoline requirements. Make sure to check prices before crossing a state line to avoid overpaying.

Change the way you drive. Curbing aggressive habits like speeding, hard braking and fast acceleration and using cruise control on the highway at 65 mph can increase efficiency by 15 to 25% versus going 75 mph.

**Put The Classifieds To Work!**  
**Call 389-9355**

# Students

from page 4

## Spring 2023 Dean's List at Belmont University

NASHVILLE - Emma Bosman, of Blacksburg, qualified for Belmont University's Spring 2023 Dean's List.

Belmont Provost Dr. David Gregory said, "For Belmont's vision of becoming the leading Christ-centered university in the world to be realized, having a student body that is keenly committed to academic excellence, among other things is required. Dean's List achievements are consistently earned by a high percentage of the student body, giving evidence of

an ever-increasing regard for scholarship across all programs. It is an honor to have a body of students as dedicated to stellar academic performance as it is to extra and co-curricular excellence."

Dean's List eligibility is based on a minimum course load of 12 hours and a quality grade point average of 3.5 with no grade below a C.

### Local residents earn award from WGU

SALT LAKE CITY - The following local residents have earned an Award of Excellence at Western Governors

University. The award is given to students who perform at a superior level in their coursework.

David Sweeney, of Blacksburg, has earned an Award of Excellence at Western Governors University College of Information Technology.

Robert Schulte, of Blacksburg, has earned an Award of Excellence at Western Governors University College of Information Technology.

Anna Dantzler, of Christiansburg, has earned an Award of Excellence at Western Governors University College of Business.

Jason Callahan, of Dublin, has earned an Award of Excellence at Western Governors University College of Business.

Established in 1997 by 19 U.S. governors with a mission to expand access to high-quality, affordable higher education, online, nonprofit WGU now serves more than 131,000 students nationwide and has more than 257,000 graduates in all 50 states.

### Local students named to Bridgewater College's Spring 2023 Dean's List

BRIDGEWATER, VA - Approximately 530 students were named to the Dean's List for the 2023 spring semester at Bridgewater College, which was announced by Provost and Executive Vice President Dr. Leona A. Sevik.

Students on the Dean's List have attained a 3.4 or better grade point average out of a possible 4.0. Students from your area named to the 2023 spring Dean's List at Bridgewater College include:

Emelyn Koene, of Blacksburg, (English

and communication, technology and culture major); and Ashley Rutherford, of Blacksburg, (biology major).

Bridgewater College is a private, four-year liberal arts college located in the Central Shenandoah Valley. Founded in 1880, it was the state's first private, coeducational college.

### Gabrielle Boling earns Dean's List honor at Lee University

CLEVELAND, TENN. - Lee University congratulates Gabrielle Boling, of Christiansburg, on earning Dean's List honors during the Spring 2023 semester. Dean's List recognition is earned by full-time, undergraduate students with a semester grade point average between 3.7 and 4.00. Congratulations on earning this academic achievement, Gabrielle!

Lee University is a private, Christ-centered university.

### Caroline Jones recognized by UNG president for earning 4.0 GPA

DAHLONEGA, GA. - Caroline Jones, of Blacksburg, has been named to the President's Honor Roll at the University of North Georgia (UNG) for achieving a 4.0 grade point average during spring 2023.

Dr. Bonita C. Jacobs, president of UNG, recognized students who reached this academic achievement during the spring 2023 semester. Students enrolled in 12 or more credit hours in bachelor's degree programs who achieved a 4.0 grade point average were named to the President's Honor Roll. Students enrolled in associate degree or dual enrollment programs who met the same level of achievement were named to the President's List.

## PUBLIC NOTICE FROM THE OFFICE OF ELECTIONS

### TEMPORARY PRECINCT CHANGE JUNE 2023 DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY ELECTION ONLY

NORMAL PRECINCT  
Christiansburg Church of the Brethren – Precinct C-5  
310 S. Franklin St., Christiansburg, VA.

REASON FOR CHANGE  
The Church of the Brethren is being remodeled and may not be completed by June 20, 2023 Democratic Primary.

TEMPORARY PRECINCT  
Christiansburg Church of Christ – Precinct C-5  
1250 S. Franklin St., Christiansburg, VA

Questions? Contact the Office of Elections at  
540-382-5741  
montva.com/vote

# MONTGOMERY SPORTS

## River Ridge announce 2023 all-star teams

**Marty Gordon**  
*NRVsports@mainstreetnewspapers.com*

Christiansburg High School's Mason Selfe has been named the River Ridge District's co-player of the year for baseball. He shares the honor with Trey Lundy of Cave Spring.

Self was named to the first-team all RRD at both first base and pitcher. His battery mate, Marshall Basham, was named first-team catcher.

The Blue Demons placed four players on the second team including Tanner Evans (pitcher and shortstop), Sam Dudash (second base), Jeremiah Thompson (outfield) and Cam Dunn (utility).

Blacksburg High School's Brice Abbott was named to the second team as a utility player.

Blacksburg's Alec Staneck was named the River Ridge softball coach of the year as four Bruin players were named first team. Blacksburg was represented by: pitcher Lorelei Spradlin, her battery mate in catcher Kasey Mathena, along with outfielder Mia Farley and utility player Emily Dickerson. Christiansburg's Kady Camper was also named first team.

The two school added to more to second teams, which were also announced

on Thursday. Blacksburg's Evelyn Rhoads and Lindsey Mann were joined by Christiansburg's Brailyn Wilburn and Addison Reasor.

Christiansburg and Blacksburg dominated the boys' soccer team also announced on Thursday. Blacksburg coach Shelly Blumenthal was named coach of the year, and he was joined by first-teamers: Edric Zhang, Sean Delorenzo, Kai Feng, Addison Bass, Wyatt Eschenman and goalie D.J. Garza.

Christiansburg's Sami Seife and Luca Pickeral were also first team RRD.

Blacksburg added Charlie Lattimer on the second team along with Christiansburg's Chase Fisher, Caleb Yopp and Isaac Prather.

On the girls' soccer side, Christiansburg and Blacksburg shared the player of year honors with Ava Sanders (Christiansburg) and Mila Santsaver-Jones (Blacksburg)

Blacksburg had first-team honorees in Mila Santsaver-Jones, Erin Bishop, Kallan Malabad, Ava Massjouni. Charlotte Ellis and Kailyn Brawley. Christiansburg added four to the first team in Sanders, Ava Rose, Bridget Miller and Madison Farley.

Second teamers for Blacksburg were Virginia Crawford and Paige Miller.

## Lady Hokies club team wins national title



PHOTO COURTESY OF VT CLUB SOFTBALL

**For the second time in the past five years, the Virginia Tech Club Softball team are national champs. The Lady Hokies downed Iowa 4-2 this past weekend to bring home the trophy.**

## Two hole-in-ones at Auburn Hills



**Auburn Hills Golf Course is offering congratulations to George Remsen (top) for making a hole in one on #11 and Rodney Ratliff (lower) for making a hole in one on #3.**



PHOTOS COURTESY OF AUBURN HILLS GOLF COURSE

## OUTDOOR REPORT



PHOTO COURTESY OF VIRGINIA STATE PARKS

**Virginia State Parks has announced the winners of its 2022 Volunteer of the Year awards in five categories and three subcategories that includes First Place: Lambda Iota Mu of Virginia Tech.**

## Claytor campgrounds re-opening

Claytor Lake State Park has completed its long-awaited renovation of the bathhouse in Campground D, allowing the park to open 40 additional campsites just in time for Memorial Day weekend.

Campground D (PDF) is the park's only campground that offers water and electric hookups for guests and can accommodate RV units up to 40 feet. The campground usually opens in March but remained closed at the start of the season for a complete overhaul of the 1980s bathhouse to address several issues, including limited ADA accessibility, aging fixtures and communal showers.

The renovation added 322 square feet to the bathhouse; highlights include on-demand hot water heaters, a new roof, an ADA-accessible parking space, a wraparound concrete walkway and six new showers – two family and two ADA-accessible.

"This much-needed bathhouse renovation offers a more comfortable camping experience for our guests," said Park Manager Brody Havens. "It provides a new look for a familiar place."

Campground D opened Friday, May 26, 2023. Reservations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. To make a reservation, go to [reservaparks.com](https://reservaparks.com) or call 800-933-PARK (7275).

Virginia State Parks has announced the winners of its 2022 Volunteer of the Year awards in five categories and three subcategories.

Virginia Tech's Lambda Iota Mu received the group award for their efforts at Hungry Mother State Park. Their signature project is keeping the popular Molly's Knob Trail in good condition for hikers. They also keep the flowerbeds clean, split firewood and assist at festivals as part of their mission to support local ecosystems and educate the public.

Dedicated and hardworking volunteers donated 210,693 hours of time and talent at 41 state parks across the Commonwealth in 2022.

With projects ranging from beekeeping to repairing bikes, these volunteers really went above and beyond their duties to enhance the guests visit to the park. Individuals, groups, couples and even families worked to create new hiking trails, sponsor events, help with environmental education, plant and maintain gardens as well as handle

various repairs. These are just a few of their accomplishments.

The wandering waters of Virginia connect communities and people across landscapes and through time. From mountain streams and lakes to tidal rivers and bays, the waters of Virginia provide an endless source of adventure and fun. Beginners can get into paddle sports at one of our tranquil lakes or go with the flow on a lazy stretch of river. Get on the water and explore at a Virginia State Park. Get prizes just for doing so.

There are 41 total state parks, with 31 offering the Paddle Quest program. You must visit the Know Before You Go section on each park page before visiting and check with the park about operating hours and availability. Park rentals are subject to change due to staffing and water/weather conditions.

Here's how it works:

Visit a Virginia State Park and participate in a paddle-based adventure in one of three ways:

Join a Ranger Guided paddle program

Rent paddle equipment from the park and go on a self-guided tour

Bring your own equipment and design your own paddling experience

After your visit, log into (or make a new account on) the State Park Adventures page.

Select the name of the park you visited, pick "Wandering Waters," and record the date of the visit and method of participation. The "Wandering Waters" option will only be available if the park you select has paddling amenities.

The State Park Adventures system keeps track of your progress and you will receive email confirmation.

Paddles taken at a park prior to the start of the program on May 3, 2023, do not count towards the Wandering Waters program.

Here's what you get when you paddle at participating parks:

Paddle at 5 parks and you get a sticker.

Paddle at 10 parks and you get a patch.

Paddle at 20 parks and you get a mesh gear bag.

Paddle at all 31 parks that offer the program, and you get a cellphone dry bag and a certificate.

*Submitted by Virginia State Parks*

CROSSWORD ANSWERS															
PARCEL	ABRADE														
PETIOLE	DECLINE														
UNMOMANDAD	AD														
RISES	DOL	PERMI													
ELIS	PEDES	REEF													
EECTAD	DAH	ALI													
IRAN	GOULEE														
CALIX	ACIDS														
IDIOCY	ARAS														
TEA	OAT	CUE	TAB												
ANNA	PROEM	SILLO													
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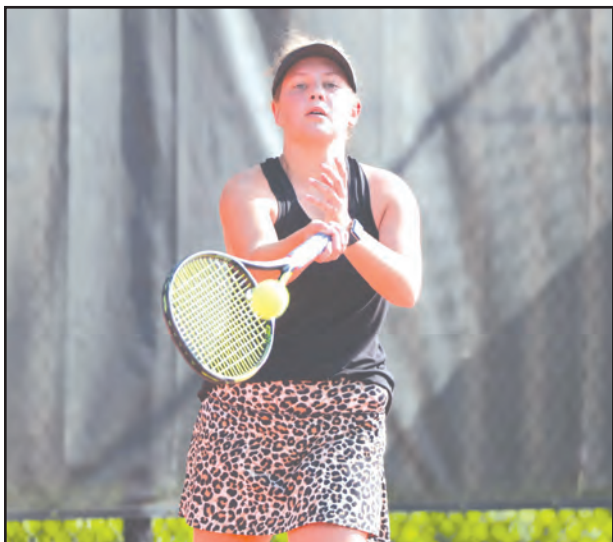
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# Radford girls Region C champs



In number one singles, Radford's Lydia Pratt hits a forehand return against Glenvar's Isabella Gustafson during the Region 2C team championship match on Wednesday morning at Virginia Tech. Radford took the title with a 5-0 win in the event.



Radford's Madison Graham was matched up against Glenvar's Avery Flynn in number two singles during the Region 2C team championship.



Radford's Sophia Mishoe hits a backhand off a high bounce in the number three singles match against Glenvar's Cara Butler.

PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING

# Blacksburg boys and girls win regional track championship

DANVILLE – The Blacksburg Bruins Girls and Boys Outdoor Track teams swept the Region D Championships at George Washington High School. The track meet was held Tuesday, May 23 at the school, located in Danville.



The Blacksburg Bruins 2023 boys track team



The Blacksburg Bruins 2023 girls track team

PHOTOS COURTESY OF BHS

## Want a backyard beehive? Expert explains benefits and tips for homeowners

Bees serve an important role in pollinating our gardens, helping flowers grow and regrow, helping trees to bear fruit and crops to yield food. However, homeowners looking to venture into beekeeping have a lot to think about long before any potential honey harvest. The checklist includes acquiring the right equipment, access to good sources for food and water, investigating the use of pesticides by neighbors, and many additional considerations.

James M. Wilson, beekeeping expert for Virginia Tech and Virginia Cooperative Extension, has plenty of tips to offer about starting up and tending to a personal beehive.

**Q: How can homeowners know whether beekeeping is right for them?**

“The best way to determine whether to keep bees is to meet with beekeepers at an organizational meeting, not just at the farmer’s market where they are hoping to sell their honey. Local, regional, and state beekeeper associations hold meetings that cover a great deal of topics on bees and bee products. Ask about or listen to the challenges of keeping bees, because when they arise, they can be formidable. It may

be that keeping a native bee house or nest in your yard might be more of what you are looking for in terms of pollination or curiosity.”

**Q: Why might a homeowner want to try beekeeping?**

“If you are interested in serious pollination benefits and a sweet taste of honey as a payoff, honeybees are a great place to get started. Being a beekeeper requires optimism that you and your bees can succeed, stubbornness to work through the challenges, and some realism to know that you will at times need to make some tough decisions about your bees. The rewards often do pay off, but they may not come as soon as you think.”

**Q: Is every yard suitable for beekeeping?**

“When we look at our surroundings like a bee would, we can see just how different, and at times how inhospitable, the designed world of green grass lawns with few flowers can be. Location is one of your top priorities when you are trying to get started keeping bees. Important factors include early morning sun in the spring, windbreaks, good air and water drainage, and nearby forage and water sources. Also, think about



Beekeepers handling a honeycomb.

IMAGE COURTESY OF PEXELS

what having more bees in your area will look like — will you have to redirect them from foraging in a popular public park?”

**Q: What does a homeowner need to get started?**

“In addition to the resources provided by beekeeping associations, bee supply companies sell the basic kits of hive components, personal protective equipment, and some not-so-light reading to get folks started. We want to make sure that we are setting the bees up for success, so having equipment assembled, painted, and a location prepped will help you to install your new package or nucleus colony of bees and let them get right to work. They have a big

job to do to get ready for their first winter, so we do not want to slow them down at all.”

Wilson, apiculturist for the Virginia Cooperative Extension, works with growers, gardeners, naturalists, beekeepers, educators, and Extension Agents throughout the Commonwealth. He also teaches classes on bees and insects at Virginia Tech, maintains the university’s research and teaching beehives, and advises the student Beekeepers club. For even more information, follow the Bee Group at VT on Facebook.

Mike Allen for Virginia Tech

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