



Pipeline protestor arrested in Montgomery County

Heather Bell
Editor

MONTGOMERY COUNTY – A California woman was arrested Saturday after locking herself to construction equipment at a work site for the Mountain Valley pipeline in Montgomery County. “On Saturday, August 26 at 7:43 a.m. the Virginia State Police was contacted by MVP Security in reference to protesters at a worksite on Bradshaw Road in Montgomery County,” said Sgt. Richard Garletts of the Virginia State Police. “One protester was attached with a “Sleeping Dragon” to a piece of work equipment. State police arrested and removed the 22-year-old female, and the device, from the equipment.”

Rachel Elizabeth Elliott, 22, of Monticello, Calif. was charged with obstructing the free passage of others, a Class One misdemeanor.

According to Garletts, there were approximately 25 protesters at the location who “were not violating any laws.”

“Most of the protesters left the scene when law enforcement arrived,” said Garletts.

Appalachians Against Pipelines released a statement following the incident.

“A pipeline fighter locked herself to construction equipment at a Mountain Valley Pipeline work site in eastern Montgomery County where MVP is preparing to bore under Bradshaw Creek and Road,” the statement read. “Nearby, a rally of nearly 30 people gathered to show their support for the protest. Folks held signs with slogans such as, “No MVP Destruction Zone,” “Protect Our Water,” and “Water You Doing?” Folks have been disrupting MVP construction regularly since construction restarted on July 5. Many protests have happened on

nearby Poor Mountain, where the Yellow Finch Treesits protected some of the last standing trees in the MVP’s path for two and a half years from 2018-2021. At least a dozen work stoppages have occurred since work restarted, including walk-ons, rallies and two other lockdown protests.”

Elliott also released a statement about the incident.

“I wouldn’t have done this a month ago. I came in as a friend, an ally from another state with no concrete connection to this fight,” said Elliott. “But you can’t spend time here without falling in love with the people and the place. You can’t come here and ignore the pain that this pipeline has caused. Ponds have dried up, livestock have died, family lands have been abandoned because people can’t look out their windows without being reminded of the destruction being forced on them by corporations and politicians that don’t care if they live or die. Without wondering if today’s the day that the pipe blows and turns their family to ash. Appalachians have been fighting this pipeline since day one and will keep fighting until it’s stopped for good. Doom to the pipeline.”

“This area is home to some of the steepest terrain along the pipeline’s path and contains large road, river, and railway crossings. All these obstacles have made this one of the most difficult, dangerous sections of natural gas pipeline in the country,” the Appalachians Against Pipelines statement continued. “The Mountain Valley Pipeline is a 42-inch diameter fracked gas pipeline slated to cross 300 miles of Appalachia. In June 2023, congress passed a law to fast track the MVP, despite the pipeline’s long history of environmental violations and failure to hold on to key permits. People have been resisting the MVP since it was initially proposed and continue to fight this project.”



Rachel Elizabeth Elliott, 22, of Monticello, Calif. was charged with obstructing the free passage of others, a Class One misdemeanor after locking herself to construction equipment at a work site for the Mountain Valley pipeline in Montgomery County.



Approximately 25-30 protesters gather at the pipeline work site on Saturday, holding signs against the Mountain Valley Pipeline.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF APPALACHIANS AGAINST PIPELINES

Candidate Forums

Elections 2023

Month	Date	Event	Location	Time
August	24 & 31	House of Delegates and Senate of Virginia Candidate Conversations	Asbury UMC, 500 Stuart Street, Christiansburg	7 pm
	07	School Board	Montgomery Co Government Building, 755 Roanoke Street, Christiansburg	7 pm
September	14	Board of Supervisors	Montgomery Co Government Building, 755 Roanoke Street, Christiansburg	7 pm
	21	Clerk of Court, Treasurer and Commissioner of Revenue	Montgomery Co Government Building, 755 Roanoke Street, Christiansburg	7 pm
September	28	Commonwealth's Attorney and Sheriff Candidate Conversation	Montgomery Co Government Building, 755 Roanoke Street, Christiansburg	7 pm
October	05	Town Council	Blacksburg Municipal Building, 300 South Main Street, Blacksburg	7 pm
	12	Town Council	Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 East Main Street, Christiansburg	7 pm

All Candidates Will Be Invited To Participate

GRAPHIC COURTESY OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Special meeting by Montgomery County Board of Supervisors addresses EMS needs

Lori Graham
Contributing writer

A shortage of emergency service volunteers, the closing of the Shawsville Fire and Rescue, and an increase of paid positions for emergency services were some of the topics at a Montgomery County Board of Supervisors special meeting on Aug. 23.

“One of the areas that the County staff started being concerned about a couple of years ago; the decline in

volunteerism and the decline in some of the rescue agencies’ ability to run calls,” County Administrator Craig Meadows said.

Meadows said a noticeable decline in volunteerism is happening not only in Montgomery County but in other places across the state.

Michael Geary, Emergency Services Coordinator, provided a synopsis of where the EMS county system presently is in their staffing.

See EMS, page 6

What district are you in? A big question in the state and local 2023 elections

Lori Graham
Contributing writer

Three Democratic candidates for the Virginia General Assembly were present and answered citizen questions on August 24 at the Asbury United Methodist Church in Christiansburg.

The candidates who participated in the discussion forum and running for office in 2023 were: Trish White-Boyd, State Senate for District 4, Lily Franklin, House of Delegates for District 41, and Robert Beckman, State Senate for District 5.

White-Boyd will be opposing David Suetterlein (R) for State Senate in the 4th district, Beckman will counter Travis Hackworth (R), and Franklin will compete against Chris Obenshain (R) in the 41st delegate race. Jason Ballard is currently running unopposed according to the www.ballotpedia.org.

Debbie Travis, President of the Montgomery County-Radford City-Floyd County branch of the NAACP, provided opening remarks. Gunin Kiran, President of the League of Women Voters for Montgomery County, was also present along with other members of the organization to aid in answering voters’ questions on how to register to vote and the redistricting of polling locations.

Peggy Lane, Chairperson of Voter Services, spoke to the audience prior to the candidate forum asking the audience, “How many of you know what district you are in?”

Voters at the forum were encouraged to visit www.Vote411.org, a website where citizens can register to vote, verify voter registration, and find out what’s on your

See Elections, page 5

2023 Kiwanis Wilderness Trail Festival celebrates 50th anniversary



The 50th annual Kiwanis Wilderness Trail Festival will take place in downtown Christiansburg Saturday, Sept. 16, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE KIWANIS CLUB

CHRISTIANSBURG - Fifty years ago, a group of Christiansburg citizens and businesspeople formed a festival to bring attention to the downtown area.

After a few years, the Christiansburg Chamber of Commerce agreed to manage the event and they continued to do so until the merger of the Christiansburg and Blacksburg Chambers which formed the Montgomery County Chamber. The new Chamber continued to support the festival until 2009 when the Kiwanis Club of Christiansburg agreed to take over the management of the festival and has continued to do so since.

This year, the 50th annual Kiwanis Wilderness Trail Festival will take place in downtown Christiansburg on Sept.

16 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Location of vendors will extend on Main Street all the way from Town Hall to Burger King. A record number of vendors have registered this year.

The event will include the usual local arts and crafts vendors, craft demonstrations, an enhanced children’s area, two stages, an emergency services location, great food all day, classic cars, raffles, a silent auction, and more. For those vendors who have not already applied, they need to get their applications in soon while space is still available.

See Wilderness, page 3

U.S. drug overdose deaths hit a new record in 2022

Drug deaths nationwide hit a new record in 2022. Nearly 110,000 people died, an increase of 10 percent from 2021.

**109,680 dead in one year.
That's 300 lives lost each day.
This has to stop.**



**Annual New River Valley
Candlelight Vigil for
International Overdose Awareness Day**

THURSDAY, AUGUST 31, 2023

401 Peer Center parking lot
401 W. Main Street, Radford
Brief remarks begin at 7:30 PM
Open to the public



Stop the stigma. Carry naloxone.

Learn more at nrvc.org/endoverdosenrv

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, August 30:

Virtual Author Talk with Jeffrey Selingo

Virtual event at 2 p.m. Spend an hour with bestselling author Jeff Selingo, who immersed himself in the world of admissions for a year to answer the question on the minds of teenagers and their parents: how do colleges select their freshman class? The result is his most recent book, *Who Gets In and Why: A Year Inside College Admissions*, named one of the 100 Notable Books of 2020 by the New York Times. For the book, Jeff was embedded in three admissions offices — the University of Washington, Emory University, and Davidson College — and follows a group of high-school seniors through the process and players behind the scenes, including the marketers, the financial-aid consultants, and the rankers. In this conversation, Jeff will dispel the entrenched notions of how to compete and win at the admissions game, reveal why families have much to gain by broadening their notion of what qualifies as a “good” college, and explain how the pandemic impacts admissions. Register now! <https://libraryc.org/radfordlibrary>.

Wednesday, Aug. 30- Friday, September 1:

Roanoke Street Lane Closure

Closure of the eastbound lane of East Roanoke St., Blacksburg, between South Main and Church streets originally slated to end Aug. 25, will continue through Sept. 1. The eastbound lane will be closed to traffic, as contractors will be working to replace the existing curb and sidewalk. Due to space limitations, crews will need to utilize the closed lane in order to safely complete the work. This closure will be removed daily by 5 p.m. and reestablished the following day by 8 a.m.

Thursday, September 7:

American Legion meeting

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

Saturday, September 9:

Fish Fry

Mount Tabor Ruritan Club will hold its September 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 we will be entertained by Simple Gifts of the Blue Ridge. The fish fry is a fundraiser for the Ruritan Club's community service projects and scholarships.

Held rain or shine. Call or text 540-449-6178 for further information. This is the last fish fry in 2023. On Facebook at MtTaborRuritan.

Monday, September 11:

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, September 12:

Blacksburg Town Council meeting

The 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.

Saturday, September 16:

Ladies Night Out Workshop

At First Missionary Baptist Church, 7318 Manns Dr., Fairlawn, Va., 5 p.m. Speaker will be Ruth Wolford New Mount Olive UMC—Radford. Sponsored by Deaconess Ministry—FMBC. Refreshments will be served.

Shred-A-Thon

Town of Blacksburg Shred-A-Thon; 9 a.m. – noon, 725 Patrick Henry Dr. Free event is a great opportunity to recycle unneeded household documents, records, etc. Please bring documents in a box, tote or paper bag and observe the limit of five containers per vehicle. Items that cannot be shredded include metal, three-ring binders, composition notebooks, hardback books, and non-paper materials. This is a drive-thru event only. Remain in your

vehicle during drop off. For more information, call the Town of Blacksburg Recycling office at 540-443-1212.

Thursday, September 21:

Sons of Confederate Veterans meeting

The Sons of Confederate Veterans, Stuart Horse Artillery Camp 1784 will meet at 7 p.m. at Aly's Family Italian Restaurant located at 3204 Riner Road. Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) are also invited to attend. For further information, please call 540-320-4315 or 540-239-9864.

On-going:

Community Needs Survey underway

New River Community Action and United Way of Southwest Virginia are working on collecting feedback to better understand the needs and strengths of the New River Valley. The results of the survey will help us better plan services and strategies to make the NRV a great place to live, work and play. Please take the survey and share it with your friends, family, and neighbors! <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FF7SQ96>.

Market Square Jam

Held Wednesdays, June through September, in Blacksburg on the corner of Draper Road and Roanoke Street; 7 – 9 p.m. Catering to traditional Old-Time music, Blacksburg's Market Square Jam brings musicians together to pick a tune, enjoy fun times with friends and family, and take in all that downtown Blacksburg has to offer. Blacksburg's Market Square Jam is an official Crooked Road affiliated venue that provides fun and entertainment.

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

Held 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.

Wilderness from page 1

The Children's area, located in front of Atlantic Union Bank and sponsored by ATMOS Energy, will include inflatables, face painting, Chuckles the Clown, cork and balloon pop gun galleries, and first responder vehicles located just across Main Street on South Franklin Street.

Live crafters, in the heritage and skills area, will be located on West Main Street in front of the Dollar General Store. This area will include a blacksmith; millstone preservationist; bullet maker; leather hand crafter; basket maker; hand maker of tables and chairs and the NRV Beekeeper Association.

Two stages will offer entertainment during the day.

The community stage, sponsored by Shentel, will be in the medical parking lot at the intersection of West Main Street and South Hickok Street. The performers' stage sponsored by Walmart will be located at the junction of East Main and Pepper Street. Both stage performances begin at 9:30 a.m. and end at 3:30.

There will be twelve food vendors preparing and cooking fresh food. The food court will be located at the intersection of North Franklin and Main Streets and in front of the Museum.

In past years, this art and crafts festival has drawn from 7,500 to 10,000 attendees from all over Virginia

and neighboring states.

All proceeds from this event benefit youth-focused programs of the Kiwanis Club of Christiansburg. The Kiwanis Club assumed operation of the festival from the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce in 2009.

Admission to the event and parking are free.

For more information, call 540-230-5494 or visit www.wildernesstrailfestival.com.

Ernie Wade for the Kiwanis Club

PETS OF THE WEEK

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.



Dolly Barkton will always love you! This friendly gal is super sweet and has tons of smiles to share. She enjoys treats, affection, and meeting new humans. Stop by the Animal Care and Adoption Center to get to know her.

Meet Libby! This gal enjoys riding in the car and playing with some toys. She is friendly and likes meeting new people. Libby knows a few commands, including "sit, paw, and drop," and could likely learn more since she is treat-motivated.



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OPINION

Looking back on a heart attack with gratitude for the present

Evans "Buddy" King

Columnist

I am writing this column early in the morning on August 8, 2023. Exactly six years ago, about this same hour, I was in the process of slowly coming to the realization that I was having a heart attack.

At first, I thought I was just having a bad case of acid reflux as the side effect of a drug I was taking for gout. I had been at the beach the week before with my family, and I had ingested copious quantities of shrimp and beer, which I learned can visit gout on the best of big toes. My good friend and primary care physician Dr. Kelly Nelson had prescribed something to make it go away. And right on the bottle it said, "may cause acid reflux." There you go.

Another reason I thought my chest pains were not heart related was because my Apple Watch told me I had run 70 miles at the beach the prior week, fitting that exercise in between uric acid feedings. This was not a lot more than I was running and walking regularly at the time, so it couldn't be my heart - it was strong!

The third reason I was sure it wasn't cardiac arrest was that I am a pretty optimistic guy, and, like a lot of men of my generation, I pretty much thought I was invincible. I was 64 years of age at the time and had only missed four days of school or work since the eighth grade. Heart attacks and other such things were what happened to others, not to me.

Wrong! The pains persisted, I decided I knew what indigestion felt like and this wasn't it, and I (probably unwisely) drove myself to the hospital and went to the ER. Through a bizarre chain of events, I texted a client and good friend to cancel a breakfast meeting and mentioned that I might be having a heart attack. He immediately texted his wife who was leaving a hair salon just as my stepson Adam was coming in the door. Jackie asked him if he knew "what was wrong with Buddy?"

One thing led to another and, eventually, to an ill-considered decision by me asking my stepsons not to call my daughters until I knew more about what was going on. It was daughter Beth's daughter's first day of kindergarten, and my other daughter Laura was seven months pregnant with her first. Not a time when I

wanted to needlessly upset them.

I still remember my other stepson Chad saying, "I don't think this is a good idea." I stand by my decision, although Chad soon suffered an undeserved (in my opinion) tongue lashing for not calling my girls as events developed. I was still hoping it was all a mistake, that it was just the side effect of the meds, that I would be sent home, and that I would then call my girls and laugh about it.

As I said before, wrong! I made it to the hospital about 15 minutes from my home and walked in. The nurses in the ER checked my records and said that they showed that I was "seven years old". They even called others in to show them and laugh, all while I was lying on a table in pain. I finally said, in my lawyer way, "let's stipulate that I'm not seven years old and move on".

Next, I'm taken into another room and hooked up to all sorts of machines. Suddenly, blue lights start flashing and a public address system is announcing some sort of code. I don't know a lot about hospital procedure, but I knew some poor dude was in trouble. In fact, I saw the nurses who had been laughing about my age a few minutes before running around with very serious looks on their faces. One of them was carrying the paddle they shock people with. I was feeling bad for that poor dude. I'd seen this device in use in the movies.

It was about this time that I realized that I WAS the poor dude who was about to get shocked! Thankfully, the heart beep machine slowed, sanity took hold, and I avoided getting jolted off a hospital bed into the air.

Next, I was told they were going to perform a heart catheterization on me. Again, I don't know much medicine, but I knew that usually when they do one of those, you wake up, they tell you how many stents were put in you, and you go home. I'm thinking at this point I might even make it into the office for a few hours that day.

Wrong, wrong again! Really wrong. I came to and a few medical folks were looking down at me and saying something along the lines of "we need to move you to Morgantown to crack your chest open and make you suffer."

I asked, what happened to this stent thing? They said

your arteries are crooked, we can't do stents with crooked arteries. All I could think to say was, "I'm a lawyer, of course they're crooked."

The next few days were a bit of a blur. I was one of the very first patients in a brand spanking new cardiac wing built at WVU Hospital, built just to attract a team of three of the top heart surgeons on the East Coast. They had been lured away from a huge heart center in Pittsburgh for ballplayer-type money and this new state of the art facility.

They were wonderful in getting me through a triple bypass, as were my fabulous daughters and stepsons, and my miraculous friends from work (who, according to one of my daughters, turned my home into a frat house while caring for me). They all teamed to get me through surgery and rehab and back to normal. One of my lawyer friends said that assumed a fact not in evidence, that I was normal in the first place. A lawyer joke.

In all seriousness, I occasionally think back to those events now six years ago and appreciate how lucky I am to live in the times we do. If not for my skilled surgeon and his team, I am sure I wouldn't be writing this column.

More importantly, I would have missed the births of my grandchildren Molly, Henry, Max, and Virginia and many great holidays and beach trips with them and my other granddaughter Maggie. I would have missed my stepsons becoming fathers for the first time. I would have missed the opportunity to eulogize my wonderful wife and to celebrate (as much as Covid would allow) the retirements of many great coworkers and law partners with whom I have shared my career and my life. And I would have missed a few wonderful new relationships with people I had never met as of the time my chest was cracked open.

On a lesser note, I would not have seen my Wahoos win a national championship in basketball or the Red Sox win their 4th World Series of the new millennium (the Yankees have won only one) or the opportunity to run a few more 10K's and take a few more special trips.

Yes, very thankful for the opportunities given to me that day and looking forward to more.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

Recently, a Pulaski pastor preached a sermon to his congregation inviting them to have a conversation about righteousness, particularly in relation to the upcoming school board election. He went on to define righteousness in terms of reinforcing certain understandings of gender and sexuality that exclude and dehumanize specific members of our community. As ministers of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we welcome the invitation to conversation, but we wholeheartedly disagree with and wish to dispute how this pastor defined righteousness.

From a Biblical standpoint, righteousness is clearly defined as embodying justice, mercy, and humility (Micah 6.8) and a commitment to showing loving kindness to our neighbors of every identity (Matthew 22.36-40; Galatians 5.22-23; Colossians 3.12-13). As people of faith, we are continually admonished in scripture to respect ALL people and treat ALL people as God's beloved children. Scripture consistently affirms that ALL people have been created in the image and likeness of God and are, therefore, worthy of love and honor (Genesis 1.26-27). The idea that any person should be marginalized, dismissed, or discriminated against is contrary to the central teachings of the Bible and the Christian faith. It's also

deeply unAmerican.

This nation was founded on the revolutionary idea that ALL people are created equal and endowed with the inalienable rights of life, liberty, AND the pursuit of happiness. Though our complicated and painful history as a nation testifies to the ways we have failed to live up to those high ideals, it cannot negate the fact that these concepts are at the very heart of what it means to be an American. To argue otherwise is to reject the very foundation of what it means to be a free and fair people.

While there are those among us who would argue that this nation was founded on Christian principles and that the current challenges we face are due to a rejection of those ideals, the truth of the matter is that our founders were diverse in their religious and philosophical views. They recognized and strived to honor this diversity. These earliest American leaders were also exceedingly clear that religion should NEVER be forced upon anyone and should certainly never be used as a test of worthiness to serve in leadership. Those who seek to make their understanding of Christianity the foundation of governance, either on a local or national level, are betraying the very principles that have made this nation great. They are advocating for a form of Christian Nationalism, which is neither Christian nor patriotic.

As we seek to make our community a better place to live and raise families, may we embody the active righteousness that transcends fear and prejudice and honors all people of all creeds, of all colors, of all nationalities, of all identities, and of all abilities, no matter how they identify or who they love. This is the foundation of righteousness that invites all of us to join together in pursuit of a more perfect union.

Sincerely,
 The Rev. Dr. Wes Jamison, Draper, UCC
 The Rev. Libby Pfaff, Radford, ELCA
 The Rev. Dr. Bryan Katz, Blacksburg, ELCA
 The Rev. Terrie Sternberg, Pulaski
 The Rev. Monica Weber, Blacksburg, ELCA
 The Rev. Colleen Montgomery, Salem, ELCA
 The Rev. Emily Rhodes Hunter, Blacksburg, PC(USA)
 The Rev. Sarah W. Wiles, Blacksburg, PC(USA)
 The Rev. Pam Philips, Blacksburg, UU
 The Rev. Dr. Don Makin, Christiansburg, PC(USA)

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News Messenger

Established 1869

(540) 389-9355

P.O. Box 1125 • Salem, VA 24153

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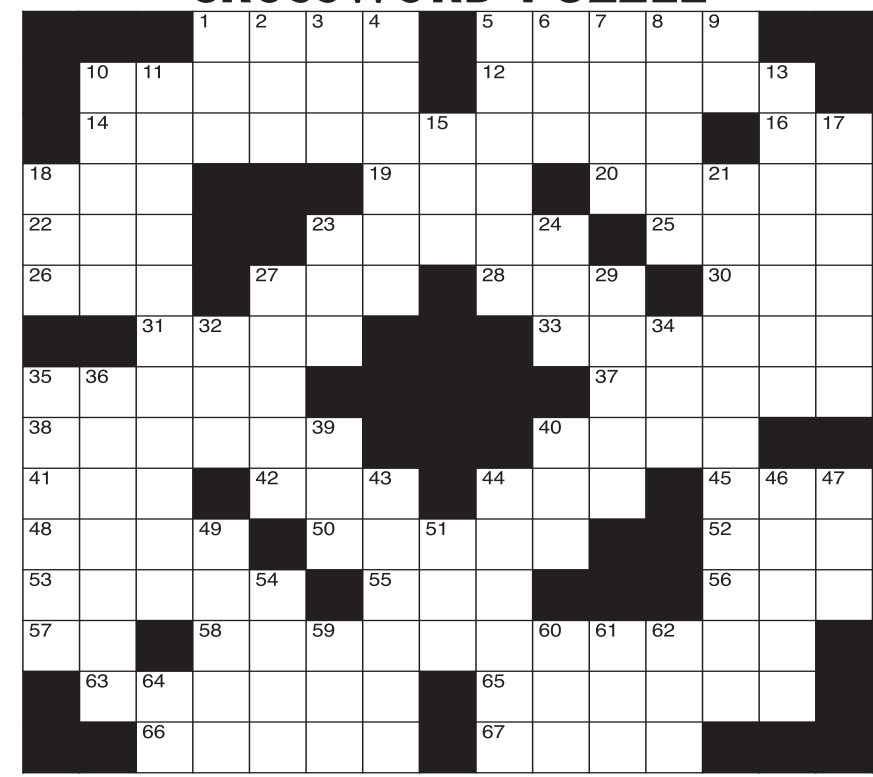
Give us your view:

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

The News Messenger (USPS 016-490) is published twice a week for \$46 a year in Montgomery County, \$55 elsewhere in Virginia, and \$59 out of state by Virginia Media Inc., P.O. Box 429, Lewisburg, WV 24901. Periodical postage paid at Christiansburg, VA. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to NEWS MESSENGER 1633 W. Main St., Salem, VA 24153.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. Currency of Guinea
 - 5. Avert something bad
 - 10. Sounds
 - 12. Immediate dangers
 - 14. Legendary Tar Heels coach
 - 16. Californium
 - 18. Work standards government dept. (abbr.)
 - 19. Coastal Scottish town
 - 20. Triangular lower back bones
 - 22. Trouble
 - 23. A way to smile
 - 25. Something that is not what it seems
 - 26. Of she
 - 27. Temporary living quarters
 - 28. Bag-like structure in a plant or animal
 - 30. Indicates near
 - 31. Spiritual leader
 - 33. Soup dish
 - 35. Philippine island
 - 37. No longer fashionable
 - 38. Peaks
 - 40. Alabama football team
 - 41. ___ King Cole
 - 42. Digital audiotape
 - 44. Open trough
 - 45. The woman
 - 48. Cools down
 - 50. Turkic language
 - 52. Body part
 - 53. Pulse steadily
 - 55. Embedded computer hardware company
 - 56. Indicates shape
 - 57. Thou (plural)
 - 58. Odd and remarkable
 - 63. An evening party
 - 65. National capital of Zambia
 - 66. Tantalizes
 - 67. Dark brown or black
- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Not naturally outgoing
 - 2. Exclamation of pain
 - 3. Polynesian garland of flowers
 - 4. Surrounded by water
 - 5. Church towers
 - 6. Hot beverage
 - 7. Body parts
 - 8. Travel documents
 - 9. Railway
 - 10. Gradually wear away
 - 11. Measuring instrument
 - 13. Minor dust-ups
 - 15. Strongly alkaline solution
 - 17. Extreme scarcity of food
 - 18. Dash
 - 21. Philly culinary specialty
 - 23. Popular lager ___ Adams
 - 24. Snitch
 - 27. Trimmed
 - 29. Greek god of desire
 - 32. Take to the limit
 - 34. Cool!
 - 35. Sound mental health
 - 36. Native American group
 - 39. Test for high schoolers
 - 40. Rocky peak
 - 43. Preferences
 - 44. Bother
 - 46. Call attention to (slang)
 - 47. Snake-like fish
 - 49. Bulgarian capital
 - 51. Don't know when yet
 - 54. Italian Seaport
 - 59. Brooklyn hoopster
 - 60. Where to bathe
 - 61. Equal, prefix
 - 62. Beverage container
 - 64. Denotes openness



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Elections

from page 1

ballot by entering your address. Candidates have also been encouraged to enter information regarding their campaigns and respond to voters' questions on issues impacting their communities as well as Virginia.

There is also information on Montgomery County's website at www.montva.com including important registration and voting dates. With the redrawing of polling districts, citizens should check their voting location as it could have changed.

Karen Jones, NAACP Political Action Environmental Justice Chair, served as moderator for the forum discussion. Audience participants could submit questions to the candidates by writing on index cards provided at the event. Questions were collected during the event and sorted by Beth Obenshain and Karen Larew.

Important issues were directed to each candidate, and they were given time to respond in front of a live audience. Some of these issues concerned bipartisan work, education, transportation, healthcare, housing, gun control, and climate change.

The candidates quickly touched on their key priorities that they wished to address if elected to office.

White-Boyd asked the audience, "How many of you would like to get rid of the car tax? Of course, you do. I think that is a great idea and reducing government spending."

Additionally, White-Boyd said, "I would not hesitate to work across the aisles with any member of the Senate to get things done. I think that's part of the problem right now, and I would not be a part of that problem."

Boyd-White also spoke on transportation issues and necessary road repairs and maintenance.

"Our roads are paid for by the localities... often times the roads in the counties are paid by the city, and so we're looking at making sure that we get the support that we need, get the funding that we need for localities," White-Boyd said. "Having that experience

in local government is going to be an asset in the Senate [...] There are lives and there are residents west of Charlottesville."

Beckman read a list of his top priorities he would address if elected to office.

"The first one is to protect reproductive rights, protect Medicaid, change the funding allocation for public schools, change the 529 rules to include private trade and licensing training organization, keep pushing broadband expansion; its underway but its not a done deal...and lastly, try to get public health and policies and programs that will combat obesity and diabetes," he said.

Franklin, a former math teacher at Teach for America, who then became a staffer with Delegate Sam Rasoul, is now running in the newly drawn 41st District.

"I believe in Virginia we can thrive at all stages of life," Franklin said. "We need to ensure that every student has access to a world-class education, no matter what your zip code is and that is definitely my top priority."

As part of that education initiative, Franklin would like to see an equitable distribution of resources in the district.

"I think back to being a teacher. I had to fight for markers I needed on my whiteboard, and I was a math teacher, so I used the markers a lot," Franklin said. "As the wealthiest nation in the world, we have the ability to ensure our students, our parents and our teachers thrive."

Franklin also added the need for working families to have access to the tools they require to be successful.

"We are not talking about luxury; we're just talking about life," Franklin said.

The 41st district delegate candidate also wishes to increase at-home services and keep prescription medication costs and food bills in check for the aging population in our communities.

Another issue brought up during the forum was the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). The program involves

cooperating eastern states of the U.S. and is aimed at reducing and capping power section CO2 emissions, according to their website at www.rggi.org. All three candidates spoke in support of the program; however, the candidates were asked what other options they would consider in reducing greenhouse emissions if RGGI fails.

Beckman suggested a "broad base transition to renewables," seeking options for expanding solar power.

"There are other options for expanding solar but even if those options are exploited, there is another level of infrastructure that needs to happen which is the way the utility, the electricity grid actually operates and how it is spread out," Beckman said. "Then we would have hopefully more of an impact on climate change in general, that would have to happen nationally and globally of course, not just in Virginia."

"If we can educate folks and help them understand that it is important for us to move in that direction...climate change is real," Boyd-White said. "The wind farms, they are huge, and I know a lot of people don't like the look of them, but when I was in Europe and I saw the big fields of them, I stopped to take pictures. I thought it was amazing. I thought these are really beautiful but I guess if it is in your backyard it may not be so beautiful."

Franklin, speaking in full transparency, stated that she struggles with RGGI.

Although, there has been good results shown from the program across areas of Virginia, she is concerned about the impact it would have on marginalized communities.

"I do struggle with paying for programs by polluting in marginalized and communities of color. I think we're past that point in the urgency of the crisis and need to be thinking of what a cap looks like and not allowing people to continue to pollute because they are paid for it," Franklin said. "The truth of the matter is, we have plenty of places where we can pull that money from. We have surplus here in Virginia. The electric utilities have been overcharging rate payers for the past five years, why don't we start there and hold them accountable for their effects on Virginia."

Citizens are encouraged to visit each candidates' individual campaign website as well to read more about their priorities and initiatives.

The next discussion forum will happen on Aug. 31 at Asbury United Methodist Church located at 500 Stuart Street in Christiansburg beginning at 7 p.m. Chris Obenshain, Republican candidate for the 41st House of Delegates District, Jason Ballard running for the 42nd House of Delegates District, David Suetterlein for the 4th Senate district, and Travis Hackworth for the 5th Senate district seat have all been invited to the forum on the 31st.

Editor

from page 4

Dear Editor,

The Field of Honor sponsored by the Rotary Club of Radford was a patriotic success. It was a pleasure seeing the waving flags conveying our American Spirit. May it become an annual event to highlight Radford's pride and commitment to local concerns.

The recent article in the Radford News Journal (August 12, 2023) identified how

some of the donated funds will enhance the image of Radford. Hopefully the Women's Resource Center will receive funds since abuse and domestic violence are issues which blemish the image of Radford and our society and dehumanize some of our citizens.

*John R. Phillips, RN; PhD
Radford*

OBITUARIES

Davis, Aaron Austin

Aaron Austin Davis died unexpectedly at the age of 39 on Aug. 22. Aaron was born Feb. 23, 1984 in Richmond to Ann Moore and Doug Davis.

Aaron is survived by his daughter, Kylie Davis; his mom, Ann Moore; his sister and brother-in-law, Amy and Josh Malcolm; his nieces, Maizey and Matilda Malcolm; his paternal grandma, Jean Boosinger; and so many other loving extended family members and friends who were family. He is preceded in death by his dad, Doug Davis; his paternal grandpa, Harry Davis III; his maternal



grandpa, Bart Moore; his maternal grandma, Gladys Moore; and his uncle, Bart Moore.

Aaron was a loving father and took his greatest pride in being a father to Kylie.

He loved her with his whole heart.

Aaron was a skilled electrician and was all around amazing at building. He could teach himself any skill, as long as there was a YouTube video to follow.

Aaron will be remembered as the hilarious, gentle, mischievous, stubborn, kind spirit that he was.

A visitation was held Sunday, Aug. 27 at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford.

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

Rupe, Betty Porter

Betty Porter Rupe, 90, of Pulaski, passed away Monday, Aug. 21, 2023. She was preceded in death by her husband, Robert Lee Rupe; parents, Andrew and Mary Porter; nine sisters; four brothers; and great grandson, Tyler Cregger.

Survivors include her daughters and sons-in-law, Sharon and Sonny Honaker, and Patricia and Eric Gollhier; son, Dennis Rupe; grandchildren, Leesa Cregger and Donald, April Sutton and Chad, Eric Nunn, and Todd Nunn;



great grandchildren, Courtney Cregger, Lexi Caldwell, Whitesell, and Madison

Whitesell; and many other relatives and friends.

The family will receive friends 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 30, 2023, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services will begin at 1 p.m. with Pastors Eddie Dalton, Doug Stuart and Marcus Harrison officiating. Interment will follow in Highland Memory Gardens in Dublin.

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

Jennelle, Larry Craig

Larry Craig Jennelle, of Christiansburg, passed away Aug. 24, 2023, at the age of 66.

Larry was preceded in death by his parents, Calvin and Virginia Delp Jennelle, and by two brothers, Michael Jennelle and Eugene Allen Jennelle.

Larry graduated from Christiansburg High School in 1975. He retired from Montgomery County Public Schools after more than 40 years of service. Larry was a loyal member of Christiansburg Moose Lodge #1470. He loved children and always made time to make them feel important. Larry enjoyed talking to people and never met a stranger. He loved



dancing and socializing with his friends.

Larry is survived by his soulmate Linda Craft and her loving family including seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. He is also survived by four children and their families, as well as many nieces and

nephews, cousins, and other extended family members.

The family would like to thank the Christiansburg Rescue Squad for always being there to help Larry. In lieu of flowers donations can be made to the Christiansburg Rescue Squad at 190 Depot St. NW, Christiansburg, VA 24073.

The family will receive friends at McCoy Funeral Home at 150 Country Club Dr SW, Blacksburg, on Wednesday, Aug. 30, 2023, 1 -2 p.m. A funeral service will follow at 2 p.m. It will be immediately followed with a graveside burial at Roselawn Memorial Gardens at 2880 N. Franklin St. in Christiansburg.

Legal Notice

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF AN APPLICATION BY
ATMOS ENERGY CORPORATION
FOR A GENERAL INCREASE IN RATES
CASE NO. PUR-2023-00008

On June 30, 2023, Atmos Energy Corporation ("Atmos" or "Company") filed an application ("Application") with the State Corporation Commission ("Commission") for a general increase in rates pursuant to Chapter 10 of Title 56 of the Code of Virginia ("Code"), the Commission's Rules Governing Utility Rate Applications and Annual Informational Filings, 20 VAC 5-201-10 *et seq.* ("Rate Case Rules"), the Commission's Rule of Practice and Procedure ("Rules of Practice") 5 VAC 5-20-80 and consistent with the Commission's Order on Request For Waiver dated January 31, 2023. In its Application, the Company requests authority to increase its rates and charges, revise the terms and conditions applicable to natural gas service, and to implement its proposed rates, charges, and revised terms and conditions on an interim basis, subject to refund, effective for service rendered on or after November 30, 2023.

The Company indicates that the Commission last granted Atmos an adjustment to its rates on March 11, 2019, which required a \$400,000 reduction to the Company's operating revenues, authorized a 9.2% return on equity ("ROE"), and accepted the partial stipulation between Atmos and Staff, which addressed the impact of the federal Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 ("TCJA") on the Company's rates, and included an agreement to the return of excess deferred income taxes ("EDIT") to customers. The Company states that the Application in this instant case reflects the completion of the Company's unprotected EDIT approved in the 2018 Final Order, as well as to reflect the capital investments and other changes in its cost of service that have occurred since the last rate case.

In its Application, the Company is seeking a rate increase that will produce additional annual jurisdictional revenues of \$3,178,349, or an overall increase of approximately 26.42%, based on an 11.15% ROE. Among other things, Atmos is proposing an increase in the monthly customer charges for schedule 610 residential customers to \$16.00 from the current rate of \$10.24, with similar changes in the monthly customer charges for other rate classes.

Additionally, the Company is also proposing revisions to its tariffs and Terms and Conditions of Service, to include: (i) modernization of the Company's terms and conditions of service to align with current operations and consistent with those of existing Virginia local distribution companies; (ii) clarification of the responsibilities of the utility and its customers; (iii) a proposal to remove late payment fees and miscellaneous service fees and instead include these in base rates; and (iv) a proposed new provision to its general terms and conditions, Section 8.1(c) (4) related to the construction of line extensions by the Company to serve new customers.

Interested persons are encouraged to review Atmos's Application and supporting public documents in full for details about 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 in this proceeding that, among other things, scheduled a public hearing on Atmos's Application. On March 12, 2024, at 10 a.m., the Hearing Examiner assigned will hold the telephonic portion of the hearing for the purpose of receiving the testimony of public witnesses, with no witness present in the Commission's courtroom. On or before March 5, 2024, 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 scc.virginia.gov/pages/Webcasting; (ii) by completing and emailing the PDF version of this form to SCCInfo@scc.virginia.gov; or (iii) by calling (804) 371-9141. This public witness hearing will be webcast at scc.virginia.gov/pages/Webcasting.

Beginning at 10 a.m. on March 12, 2024, the Hearing Examiner will telephone sequentially each person who has signed up to testify as provided above.

On March 12, 2024, at 10 a.m., or at the conclusion of the public witness portion of the hearing, whichever is later, in the Commission's second floor courtroom located in the Tyler Building, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, the Hearing Examiner will convene a hearing to receive testimony and evidence related to the Application from the Company, any respondents, and the Commission 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 required electronic service on parties to this proceeding.

An electronic copy of the Company's Application also may be obtained by submitting a written request to counsel for the Company: Timothy E. Biller, Esq., and Andrea D. Gardner, Esq., Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP, Riverfront Plaza, East Tower, 951 East Byrd Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, tbiller@huntonak.com and agardner@huntonak.com. Interested persons also may download unofficial copies of the Application and other documents filed in this case from the Commission's website: scc.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information.

On or before March 5, 2024, any interested person may submit comments on the Application by following the instructions found on the Commission's website: scc.virginia.gov/casecomments/Submit-Public-Comments. Those unable, as a practical matter, to submit comments electronically may file such comments by U.S. mail with 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-2023-00008.

On or before November 3, 2023, any person or entity wishing to participate as a respondent in this proceeding may do so by filing a notice of participation at scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling. Those unable, as a practical matter, to file a notice of participation electronically may file such notice by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the Commission at the address listed above. Such notice of participation shall include the email addresses of such parties or their counsel. The respondent simultaneously shall serve a copy of the notice of participation on counsel to the Company. Pursuant to 5 VAC 5-20-80 B, *Participation as a respondent*, of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure ("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-2023-00008.

On or before January 16, 2024, each respondent may file with the Clerk of the Commission, at scc.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 Commission's Staff, the Company, and all other respondents simultaneous with its filing. In all filings, respondents shall comply with the Commission's Rules of Practice, as modified herein, including, but not limited to: 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-2023-00008.

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

ATMOS ENERGY CORPORATION

EMS from page 1

“Craig and I had a meeting very shortly after I started, and I said this is an issue that we need to look into,” Geary said. “Pretty quickly after we started providing coverage in the Shawsville and Elliston area, there was a particular call that the volunteers weren’t able to answer and unfortunately resulted in a fatality and we recognized that the volunteers just didn’t have enough staff to cover the nighttime down there either.”

Geary said, thanks to funds approved by the Supervisors, they were able to put together more staff to cover the Shawsville and Elliston area.

“Riner still does have a good core group of volunteers that still staff trucks at night,” Geary said.

Also, in April, additional funds approved by the Supervisors allowed for some positions to ensure the Riner area would be supported by paramedics if necessary.

Supervisor Sara Bohn reiterated the difficulty in finding volunteers as someone that has worked in non-profit community support programs.

“What the County has done well is the RSVP program,” said Bohn. “It has paid staff, but I understand it’s also funded differently. Was there ever any discussion about having paid staff help with the volunteer?”

Meadows said, “That was the intent of what we were doing is to make sure we had paid first responders so that in situations where the volunteers weren’t able to be available for calls, we could provide coverage.”

Chair Sherri Blevins added another reason that Christiansburg EMS struggled to keep up with calls that were pulling them to the Shawsville area while still being responsible for emergency services in the town of Christiansburg.

“It became a ripple effect that other outside agencies would cover Christiansburg while Christiansburg is covering Shawsville,” Blevins said. “Basically, we were told in some meetings that they couldn’t sustain that, and it would come to a point that they may have to stop that because the burden was too great on them, and that was another

considering factor when I was involved in those discussions.”

Supervisor Steve Fijalkowski has met with the former Shawsville rescue team on two separate occasions in the past and stated this has been an ongoing problem for some time in the county.

“Things have been tough for a long time and everything that’s been said so far is absolutely true,” Fijalkowski said. “You can’t put the burden on the bigger squads just because they’re bigger.”

Supervisor Todd King wished to pose a question to the Supervisors and EMS administration during the meeting.

“Is any other department having trouble running their calls?” King said.

Assistant County Administrator Bradley St. Clair responded to King’s question that his office could provide the data necessary to the board to answer the question, but the Supervisors should make that decision.

“I don’t think that my opinion or Michael’s opinion should be interjected into that,” St. Clair said. “Ultimately, it is the board’s, I feel like it’s the board’s responsibility to look at the call data, to look at the response data, the times, the number of staff and decide is this adequate or is it not.”

Meadows agreed with St. Clair in his response to King. However, Bohn emphasized that the Supervisors depend on expert interpretation of data.

“There is not a doubt in my mind that we don’t have, or are working towards, the same goal,” Blevins said. “That is to protect our citizens, provide the best service at the quickest response.”

Vice Chair Mary Biggs asked how calls are picked up by different agencies within the county and how effectively volunteers are integrating and interacting with paid first responders.

Geary and St. Clair both responded that the type of call is very dependent on the truck or team that is sent to the scene.

“EMS services can be very territorial,” St. Clair said. “Fortunately, at the end of the day, for the most part everybody says okay, we may have had a disagreement, let’s take care of the patient, let’s take

care of whatever and we sort it out afterwards.”

Meadows emphasized the need to “supplement the volunteers”, speaking to the County’s Supervisors, administration staff, and EMS coordinators tasked with working together to answer the call for emergency services.

Another big question during the special meeting that warranted much discussion is whether each agency has similar or standard operating procedures.

Forest Redd, Deputy Chief of the Christiansburg Fire Department, said, “The response times, we have a standard of five minutes. They ask who’s coming and if you need a second dude.”

In response to Blevin’s questions about the standard procedures as to who would be in charge of a crew or the scene when responding to an emergency.

“Usually, whoever is the highest-ranking officer on scene is who’s in charge,” Redd said. “Christiansburg has call nights, so like, one night it might be a captain or lieutenant, that’s who’s in charge of that scene.”

In mutual aid situations, if for example, Blacksburg squad would respond to an emergency event in Christiansburg, then the Blacksburg squad would stay in charge of the scene until the Christiansburg squad was up to speed, according to Redd.

If multiple jurisdictions are needed to respond to a larger emergency event, then the primary jurisdiction will be in charge of the scene, according to Dave English, Chief of Blacksburg Rescue.

Mike King, Riner Fire Department Volunteer, expressed some dissatisfaction on communication from the volunteer’s perspective.

“We’re going to continue to run calls until y’all tell us we can’t anymore, but ya know it helps out, because there is a lot of people getting discouraged,” King said.

The Board of Supervisors agreed that an increased method of communication to the volunteer members would help with decreasing misunderstandings within the EMS agencies.

Prioritize summer travel safety ahead of Labor Day weekend

RICHMOND—Twelve people lost their lives in fatal traffic crashes in Virginia throughout 2022’s four-day Labor Day holiday weekend, according to Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles crash data.

Those 12 included juveniles, pedestrians and several not wearing seat belts.

“Twelve families lost loved ones,” said Col. Gary T. Settle, Virginia State Police superintendent. “Some of those tragically lost were young people with a full life ahead of them, including children who were not wearing a seat belt or safely secured in a child safety restraint. I implore all Virginians to wear their seat belts and require all those riding with you

to do the same.” Most fatal crashes during the 2022 holiday weekend occurred around Portsmouth and Roanoke. In total, state police investigated 772 traffic crashes. They also stopped 4,094 speeders and 1,807 reckless drivers; arrested 87 people for impaired driving; cited 435 seat belt violations; and assisted 818 stranded motorists.

“As you venture out during this busy travel weekend, keep Virginia’s newly updated ‘Move Over’ law in mind that went into effect July 1,” noted David Tenenbaum, senior actuarial manager at Virginia Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Co. The company is a DRIVE SMART Virginia partner.

The previous “Move Over” law required motorists to make space for flashing red or blue emergency lights. As of July 1, drivers also must change lanes when possible or slow down for any vehicle on the roadside flashing amber or hazard lights. This includes utility, tow and roadside assistance trucks.

“In this last push of the busy summer travel season, keep an eye out for more disabled vehicles with their hazard lights on at the side of the road,” Tenenbaum continued.

The Virginia Department of Transportation offers these tips for motorists to help make holiday travel safer for all:

If you plan to drink, have a

designated driver.

Put the phone down! It’s unlawful in Virginia to hold a communication device while driving.

Don’t drive distracted and speak up if someone else is doing so.

Buckle up, and ensure children and car seats are secured.

Maintain a safe distance from the vehicle in front of you.

Use your signals for lane changes and turns.

Don’t leave children, elderly people or pets in parked cars for any amount of time; cars can heat dangerously fast on hot days.

Submitted by Farm Bureau Virginia

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THE FINCASTLE HERALD The Vinton Messenger THE NEW CASTLE RECORD SALEM TIMES REGISTER News Messenger RADFORD News Journal

Homes For Rent

Brick Ranch rent: Daleville, Bot. Co shopping, schools 5 min

3 BR 2 Ba EIK + formal dining room, quiet street, great neighborhood. Family room w/ fp. Rear Deck has gorgeous views of mtns & large back yard. Basement: finished rec room, laundry hookups, lots storage!! 2 car garage 2400' living space on quiet pretty street, great neighborhood. Shown by appt. after Aug/15/2023. Move in Sept 15. Rent \$1950 + deposit \$1950 tenant pays utilities. Tenant to provide credit report. Call Micki 540-556-2525 Will send photos

Autos - Cars FOR SALE

2007 Toyota Camry LE 169k miles very good condition. Lots of new equipment such as battery and alternator \$5200 Dsgriggs6@gmail.com

Meetings

Trail Information Exhibit: Craig Botetourt Scenic Trail
September 9, 11 am to 1:30 pm
September 11, 4 pm to 7 pm
Fincastle Public Library meeting room 11 Academy St. Fincastle, VA 24090
Sponsored by DeRail the Trail

Legals - Botetourt County

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 3465 WEBSTER ROAD, BLUE RIDGE, VA 24064.

In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated December 26, 2006, in the original principal amount of \$105,539.12 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Botetourt County, Virginia as Instrument No. 070000271. 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 or any such temporary alternative Circuit Court location designated by the Judges of the Circuit Court on October 2, 2023, at 9:45 AM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: BEING THAT CERTAIN 0.713 ACRE, AS SHOWN ON HTAT CERTAIN PLAT OF SURVEY PREPARED BY JACK G. BESS, C.L.S., FOR GERALDINE B. CARTER, DATED APRIL 3, 1980. 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 Mortgagee, the Mortgagee or the Trustee'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.bwvsales.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,

Legals - Botetourt County

LLC, 8100 Three Chopt Road, Suite 240, Richmond, VA 23229. For more information contact: BWW Law Group, LLC, attorneys for Equity Trustees, LLC, 6003 Executive Blvd, Suite 101, Rockville, MD 20852, 301-961-6555, website: www.bwvsales.com. VA-359323-1.

Legals - City of Salem

NOTICE OF SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE SALE 740 Elizabeth Avenue, Salem, VA 24153

By virtue of the power and authority contained in a Deed of Trust dated July 31, 2002 and recorded at Instrument Number 020003402 in the Clerk's Office for the City of Salem Virginia Circuit Court, Virginia, securing a loan which was originally \$87,400.00. The appointed SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE, Commonwealth Trustees, LLC will offer for sale at public auction at the front steps for the Circuit Court for the City of Salem located at 2 E Calhoun Street, Salem, VA 24153-7933. September 28, 2023 at 10:00 AM improved real property, with an abbreviated legal description of the following described property, to wit: BEGINNING at a point on the south side of Elizabeth Avenue, said point being N. 82 degs. 58' E. 339.50 feet from the intersection of Arch Street and Elizabeth Avenue; thence N. 82 degs. 58' E. 62.50 feet to an iron; thence S. 7 degs. 02' E. 158.05 feet to an iron; thence S. 87 degs. 37' W. 62.71 feet to an iron; thence N. 7 degs. 02' W. 152.96 feet to the place of BEGINNING, and being part of Lots 7 and 8, Section 3, Map of Puckett Addition; and BEING the same property conveyed unto the Grantor herein by deed dated July 30, 2002 from James M. George and Buddy D. Mason and recorded in the aforesaid Clerk's Office immediately prior hereto. AND as more fully described in the aforesaid Deed of Trust. TERMS OF SALE: The property will be sold "AS IS," WITHOUT REPRESENTATION OR WARRANTY OF ANY KIND AND SUBJECT TO conditions, restrictions, reservations, easements, rights of way, and all other matters of record taking priority over the Deed of Trust to be announced at the time of sale. A deposit of \$20,000 or 10% of the sale price, whichever is lower, will be required at the time of sale, in the form of certified check, cashier's check or money order by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price, with interest at the rate contained in the Deed of Trust Note from the date of sale to the date said funds are received in the office of the SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE, will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale. In the event of default by the successful bidder, the entire deposit shall be forfeited and applied to the costs and expenses of sale and Substitute Trustee's fee. All other public charges or assessments, including water/sewer charges, whether incurred prior to or after the sale, and all other costs incident to settlement to be paid by the purchaser. In the event taxes, any other public charges have been advanced, a credit will be due to the seller, to be adjusted from the date of sale at the time of settlement. Purchaser agrees to pay the seller's attorneys at settlement, a fee of \$470.00 for review of the settlement documents. Additional terms will be announced at the time of sale and the successful bidder will be required to execute and deliver to the Substitute Trustees a memorandum or contract of the sale at the conclusion of bidding. FOR INFORMATION CONTACT Rosenberg & Associates, LLC (Attorney for the Secured Party) 4340 East West Highway, Suite 600 Bethesda, MD 20814 301-907-8000 www.rosenberg-assoc.com

Legals - City of Salem

Trustee's Sale 1442 Filson St, Salem, VA 24153 (Parcel ID: 239-6-1)

Default having been made in the terms of a certain Deed of Trust dated October 18, 2004, in the original principal amount of \$74,000.00 and recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of the City of Salem, Virginia on November 15, 2004, as Instrument Number 040004736, the undersigned Substitute Trustees will sell at public auction on September 29, 2023 at 10:00 AM, in front of the building housing the City of Salem Circuit Court, 2 East Calhoun Street, Salem, VA 24153, the property designated as Lot 10, Block 6, according to the Map of Section 3, South Side Hills, made by Raymond E. Robertson, SCE, February 26, 1955, of record in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Roanoke County, Virginia, in Plat Book 6, page 43. Sale is subject to all prior liens, easements, restrictions, covenants, and conditions, if any, of record, or other matters which would be disclosed by an accurate survey or inspection of the premises. TERMS: CASH. A deposit of \$7,000.00 or 10% of the sale price, whichever is lower, will be required of the successful bidder at time of sale. Prior to the sale, interested bidders will be required to register with and must present a bid deposit which may be held during the sale by the trustee. The bid deposit must be certified funds and/or cash, but no more than \$9,900.00 of cash will be accepted. The successful bidder's deposit will be retained at the sale and applied to the sale price. If held by the trustee, all other bid deposits will be returned to the unsuccessful bidders. Settlement is to be made within 15 days. The successful bidder will be responsible for obtaining possession of the property, and for all costs and fees related to recording the Trustee's Deed, including the grantors tax. The successful bidder will be required to execute a Memorandum of Trustee's Sale, available for review upon request before the sale, outlining additional terms of sale and settlement. A Trustee's Deed will be prepared by Trustee's attorney at high bidder's expense. This is a communication from a debt collector. Tromberg, Morris & Poulin, PLLC on behalf of Southeast Equity Trustees, LLC and/or Auction.com-VA, LLC, Substitute Trustee(s), 413 Stuart Circle, Suite 314, Richmond, VA 23220, File No. 22-001096, Tel: 804-525-1570.

Notice

is hereby given to all interested persons that the City of Salem Planning Commission, at its regular meeting on September 13, 2023, at 7:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 114 N. Broad Street, in the City of Salem, Virginia, will hold a public hearing, pursuant to Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia, as amended, to consider approval of the following requests relative to the CODE OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA:

1. Hold public hearing to consider the request of David A. Thompson, property owner, for the issuance of a Special Exception Permit to allow a 1,500 square foot detached garage on the property located at 640 Joan Circle, (Tax Map # 243 -2 - 16). Copies of the proposed plans, ordinances or amendments may be examined in the Office of Community Development, 21 South Bruffey Street, Salem, Virginia. At said hearing, parties in interest and citizens shall have an opportunity to be heard relative to the said requests.

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

Legals - Montgomery County

Order of Publication

Commonwealth of Virginia VA Code §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316
Case No. JJ00376703-03
RADOFRD CITY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT
Commonwealth of Virginia, *in re* Miranda Sue Simpkins. Toney Lee Martin, Christopher and Christa Simpkins, Tammy Sue Davidson
v. Karen Sue Webb
The object of this suit is to: DETERMINE CUSTODY AND VISITATION OF THE MINOR CHILD. It is ORDERED that TONY LEE MARTIN appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before September 22, 2023.
July 21, 2023
Sally Davis, CLERK

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF PROPERTY 201 S. Main Street and 105 Lee Street, Blacksburg, VA 24060

Tax Map Nos. 257-A 47 and 257-A 48
Parcel ID Nos. 002611 and 002612
In execution of a Credit Line Deed of Trust dated February 20, 2020, in the principal amount of \$2,109,000.00, recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Montgomery County, Virginia, of record as Instrument Number 2020001260, Woods Rogers Vandeventer Black PLC, Substitute Trustee, will offer for sale at public auction outside the main entrance of the Montgomery County Circuit Court, 55 East Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073, on September 8, 2023 at 12:00 noon, the property described in said Deed of Trust lying in Montgomery County, Virginia, and more particularly described as follows:
All of the following tract or parcel of land lying and being in the Town of Blacksburg, Mt. Tabor Magisterial District, County of Montgomery, State of Virginia, and more particularly described as follows:
Two parcels of adjacent real estate in the Town of Blacksburg, County of Montgomery, Virginia bounded in part by South Main, Lee, and Church Streets, Blacksburg, Virginia, Tax Map Numbers 257-A 47 (PID 002611) and 257-A 48 (PID 002612), beginning at the corner of Main and Lee Street and running with the south line of Lee Street in an easterly direction 268 feet to the corner of Lee and Church Street in a southerly direction 100 feet to a point on said line; thence in a westerly direction parallel to Lee Street 268 feet to a point on the east line of Main Street; and thence with the east line of Main Street in a northerly direction 100 feet to the place of Beginning.
TERMS: Cash - Bidder's deposit of ten percent (10%) of the sales price by cashier's or certified check may be required. Balance of purchase price shall be due and payable not later than ten (10) days after sale.
WOODS ROGERS VANDEVENTER BLACK PLC, Substitute Trustee
For Information Contact: Woods Rogers Vandeventer Black PLC, P.O. Box 14125, Roanoke, VA 24038-4125, Telephone: 540-983-7729

Order of Publication

Commonwealth of Virginia VA Code §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316.20-104
Case No. CL23000992-00
MONTGOMERY COUNTY Circuit Court, 55 EAST MAIN STREET, SUITE 1, CHRISTIANBURG, VA 24073 Commonwealth of Virginia, *in re* NANNIE FAY LONG, THOMAS LONG AND EDWARD LONG *v.* NONE
It is ORDERED that GAIL LONG, BETHANY LONG, SABRINA LONG, SCOTTY W. LONG, BILLY W. LONG appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before OCTOBER 20, 2023 AT 8:30 AM..
AUGUST 9, 2023
TIFFANY M. COUCH, CLERK

Legals - Montgomery County

Notice of Public Hearing

Town of Blacksburg Planning Commission

Tuesday, September 5, 2023.

Notice is hereby given that the Planning Commission of the Town of Blacksburg will conduct a public hearing on Tuesday, September 5, 2023 during its meeting beginning at 6:30 PM in the Roger E. Hedgepeth Council Chamber, 300 South Main St, Blacksburg, VA on the following item:
ROW 23-0001/ORD 2036-Request to vacate approximately 20,439 square feet of Town-owned Right-of-Way known as Rimrock Drive (adjacent to Tax Parcel 347-8 1) at 2600 Research Center Drive by Snyder- Hunt Company, LLP (owner).
A request to vacate approximately 20,439 square feet (0.47 acres) of Town-owned Right-of-Way known as Rimrock Drive from Research Center Drive to its termination at Route 460 Bypass. The application states that the vacated property will be absorbed into Tax Parcel 347-8 1 and used as a private driveway to access the Blue Ridge Cancer Center. Rimrock Drive ROW is a built street and includes sidewalk and utilities.
RZN 23-0002/ORD 2035-Request to rezone approximately 1.1 acres from R-4 Low Density Residential to PR Planned Residential in the 1200 block of Airport Road (Tax Map Number 317-2 31, 32, 34A & 317-2 32A, 33, 34) by Habitat for Humanity of the New River Valley (contract purchaser) for Blacksburg Fire Safety Foundation (owner).
A request to rezone approximately 1.1 acres of land from R-4 Low Density Residential to PR Planned Residential for the development of 11 income-restricted townhomes with 33 bedrooms total in the 1200-block of Airport Road. Townhomes will be sold to buyers earning between 30%-80% of Area Median Income (AMI). The Future Land Use Designation for this parcel is Medium-Density Residential. This development request represents an increase in the allowable bedroom density above the Future Land Use density of 20 bedrooms per acre.
ROW 23-0002/ORD 2032-Request to vacate approximately 0.13 and 0.09 acres (total of 0.22 acres) of Town-owned Right-of-Way in the 1200 block of Airport Road by Habitat for Humanity of the New River Valley (contract purchaser). This is a request accompanying RZN 23-0002 to vacate approximately 0.22 acres of unbuilt Town-owned Right-of-Way adjacent to Tax Map Number 317-2 31, 32, 34A and Tax Map Number 317-2 32A, 33, 34 known as unbuilt Airport Drive and unbuilt Virginia Street. The land to be vacated would be incorporated in the proposed Habitat for Humanity townhome development as driveway and rear yard space.
Persons affected by or interested in the rezoning request and right-of-way vacation requests may appear and present their views. After the hearing, the Planning Commission will take action. Copies of the request and all related items may be found online at www.blacksburg.gov/public hearings or reviewed in person at the Blacksburg Planning and Building Department, 400 South Main Street, Blacksburg, Virginia. You may also call the office at (540) 443-1300 for more information. Individuals with disabilities who require special assistance to attend and participate in the public hearing on the above should contact the Planning & Building Department at (540) 443-1300, or (540)-443-1000-TDD.

Legals - Montgomery County

TOWN OF BLACKSBURG - NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS BLACKSBURG TOWN COUNCIL will hold public hearings on Tuesday, September 12, 2023

beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Roger E. Hedgepeth Chambers of the Blacksburg Municipal Building, 300 South Main Street, Blacksburg, regarding the following items:
Ordinance 2023: An Ordinance Authorizing the Lease of Space on the North Main Street Water Tank to New River Valley Unwired Ventures, LLC. The proposed ordinance request is to provide New River Valley Unwired Ventures, LLC the opportunity for a one year lease term to place wireless equipment on the Town's water tank with an option to extend for an additional year.

All persons affected by or interested in the proposed item above may appear and present their views. After each public hearing, Town Council will consider action on the item. Copies of materials related to the above items are on file and can be obtained in the Office of the Town Clerk, 300 South Main Street, Blacksburg, weekdays between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. For land use matters, copies of applications and all related items may also be found online at www.blacksburg.gov/public hearings or reviewed in person at the Blacksburg Planning and Building Department, 400 South Main Street, Blacksburg, Virginia. Individuals with disabilities who require special assistance to attend and participate in this meeting should contact Lorraine Spaulding, Town Clerk at (540) 443-1025 or 443-1000 (voice or TDD).

Services Needed Salem Area



ADVERTISEMENT FOR SNOW REMOVAL EQUIPMENT SERVICES WITH OPERATOR SIGNUP

The Virginia Department of Transportation invites heavy equipment owners to sign up for the rental of their equipment with operators for SNOW & ICE REMOVAL purposes in Salem Residency which includes the counties of Roanoke, Botetourt and Craig during the winter of 2023-2024. Price per hour shall include operators, fuel, tire chains, supplies and required insurance. VDOT will need dump trucks, pickups with plows, motorgraders, backhoes, dozers, track loaders, tractors, rubber-tire loaders and farm tractors. All equipment shall be equipped for night work and be in good mechanical condition to ensure a safe and dependable 24/7 operation. VDOT reserves the right to determine acceptability of equipment size and condition for the task. Contractors submitting prices meeting the requirements of the Agreement may be contracted with and may be eligible to receive a mobilization payment and a minimum guaranteed payment for the season.
Contractors must submit their application on the electronic M7B bidding site at https://plov4va.com/. All new and returning Contractors must be active in the Virginia eProcurement Portal (eVA) in order to do business with the Commonwealth of Virginia (https://eva.virginia.gov). Applications received by 7:00 PM on Monday October 2, 2023 may be eligible for a mobilization bonus. See the EVA posting for additional information, including contract requirements. Questions can be directed

Services Needed Salem Area

to the Salem Residency from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Monday – Friday. Phone: 540-387-5497. Email: SalemDistrictSnow@vdot.virginia.gov EEO/AA Employer

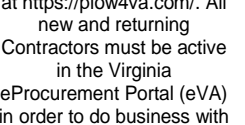
Services Needed Christiansburg Area



ADVERTISEMENT FOR SNOW REMOVAL EQUIPMENT SERVICES WITH OPERATOR SIGNUP

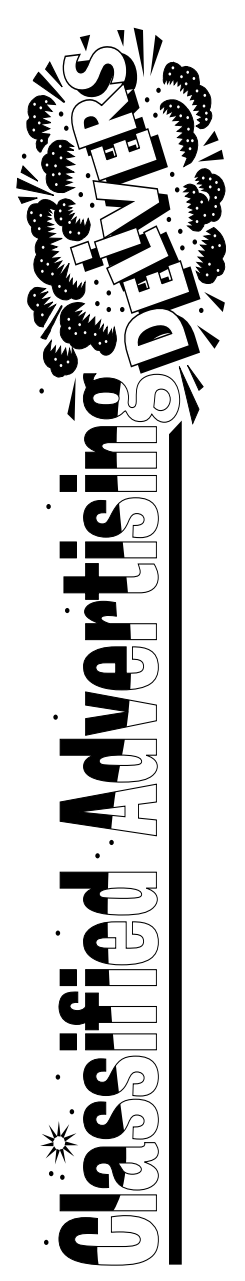
The Virginia Department of Transportation invites heavy equipment owners to sign up for the rental of their equipment with operators for SNOW & ICE REMOVAL purposes in Christiansburg Residency which includes the counties of Floyd, Giles, Montgomery, and Pulaski during the winter of 2023-2024. Price per hour shall include operators, fuel, tire chains, supplies and required insurance. VDOT will need dump trucks, pickups with plows, motorgraders, backhoes, dozers, track loaders, tractors, rubber-tire loaders and farm tractors. All equipment shall be equipped for night work and be in good mechanical condition to ensure a safe and dependable 24/7 operation. VDOT reserves the right to determine acceptability of equipment size and condition for the task. Contractors submitting prices meeting the requirements of the Agreement may be contracted with and may be eligible to receive a mobilization payment and a minimum guaranteed payment for the season.
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Services Needed Salem Area



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MONTGOMERY SPORTS



Christiansburg's JT Thompson (center, below) tackles Floyd wide receiver Tyler Fenton aided by Noah Davis (left) and Donovan Richardson (right) as the Blue Demons took the 42-0 win.

Christiansburg team shuts out Floyd 42-0



Christiansburg quarterback Tanner Evans makes a clean entry into the end zone for his second touchdown of the night as the Blue Demon sideline signals his score during Friday night's game.

PHOTOS BY KYMN DAVIDSON-HAMLEY

Radford, Christiansburg roll in home openers

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Week one of high school football is in the books. Radford and Christiansburg picked up wins, while Eastern Montgomery, Auburn and Blacksburg were on the end of losing games.

Games this Friday:
Christiansburg at Abingdon
Tanner Evans ran for four touchdowns, ran for 101 yards and passed for another 131 as Christiansburg began the 2023 season with a 42-0 win over Class 2 Floyd County. Evans, a senior, was 5-12 through the air and rushed 10 times, only playing 2 1/2 quarters before taking to the sidelines. Evans had touchdown runs of 39, 25, three and seven yards. He also threw a 22-yard touchdown to Jacob Evans. Matt Annis added a 51-yard score.

The Christiansburg defense held the Floyd offense to 87 yards of total offense with only 17 coming in the first half.

In Week one, Abingdon Falcons fell 26-21 to John Battle. Abingdon took a 14-6 into halftime as junior Alex Hawkins scored on a fumble following a muffed punt snap and quarterback Luke Honaker found 6-6 tight end Aidan Woods on a seven-yard scoring pass.

Honaker finished with 122 yards on 14 carries. The Falcons turned the ball over three times on interceptions.

Honaker will have a couple of big targets in Woods and 6-5 Lucas Brooks at receiver.

The Falcons finished 4-6 last season and took two losses at the hands of Christiansburg in the regular season and then in the Class 3 regional playoffs.

Prediction: Christiansburg 38, Abingdon 21.

Lord Botetourt at Blacksburg
Botetourt was shut out last week in a 14-0 loss to E.C. Glass.

Blacksburg took it on the chin in

Week One, 35-8 to Giles. Ethan Karpa was eight of 13 in the passing category for 97 yards. Jared Bradshaw rushed for 42 yards.

E.C. Glass took the 14-7 victory of Botetourt in their openers. Tristan Overby led the team with 80 yards, while Javari Nicely added 76 on 23 carries.

Prediction: Lord Botetourt 48, Blacksburg 14.

Giles at Radford
Radford will look to move to 2-0 with a contest against former New River District-foe Giles and its Single-Wing offense. Radford beat George Wythe 42-7 in last week's game.

Giles rolled in a 35-8 win over Blacksburg. Christian Ratcliffe rushed for 134 yards and three touchdowns. He also completed four of five passes for 80 yards. Khalik Saunders added 62 yards and a score. Prediction: Radford 32, Giles 21.

Auburn at Craig County
Auburn managed to score last week on a potent Narrows' defense. This week, their offense will have to step up against an opponent, which is also fighting the depth-bug. Both teams hope to finish a 10-game season with no cancellations.

Prediction: Auburn 12, Craig County 8.

Rural Retreat at Eastern Montgomery
Rural Retreat fell 14-12 to Ft. Chiswell, after failing to convert on a two-point conversion with minutes left in the game. Caleb Roberts threw for 197 yards and two touchdowns.

Eastern Montgomery is coming of a 41-8 loss to Holston.

Prediction: Rural Retreat 28, Eastern Montgomery 14.

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

Players of week: The All-County/All-City preseason co-players of the year, Christiansburg's Tanner Evans and Radford's Landon Clarke, are the first week's players of the week.

Blacksburg boys first, girls second at Blacksburg Relays



Christiansburg's Mariah Reed won the Girls Middle School 2k race at the Blacksburg Relays with a time of 7:27.2 on Saturday morning.



Blacksburg's River Matthews clears the water pit as he goes on to win the Boys Middle School 2k race at the Blacksburg Relays on Saturday morning.



Eastern Montgomery's Calvin Wilbon placed third in the Boys Middle School 2k in a time of 6:48.2 at the Blacksburg Relays on Saturday.



PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING

Blacksburg senior Allie McDonald hurdles a set of hay bales during her anchor leg for the Blacksburg 10k relay team. The Bruin girls "A" team would place second overall, while the Bruin boys "A" team would win their team competition.

Sowers wins Stock-6 championship

As the racing season begins to wind down, fans were treated to a season-high nine races across six different divisions on Saturday night at Pulaski County Motorsports Park.

While most of the series enter their final few races, it was Championship Night for the Stock-6 Series. The highlight of the night belonged to Caleb Sowers, who used a pair of podium finishes to claim the 2023 track championship.

The night started with the first of two 50-lap races for the Price's Body Shop Late Model Stock Car Series and it was Karl Budzevski that put on a dominant performance en route to his first win. The Montvale, Va. native started on the outside of the front row and used an early jump on the start to take command and lead every lap of the race. Mike Looney started sixth and worked his way into

second with just eight laps remaining when he passed defending track champion Kyle Dudley. While Looney settled for second, he was able to extend his points lead over the third place-finishing Dudley.

Another tight points battle resides in the DCT Towing Super Streets Series, and they were the ones to take to the track next. Fresh off a win his last time out, Jimmy Mullins doubled down with another impressive run which resulted in his second consecutive trip to O'Reilly Auto Parts Victory Lane. The current points leader worked his way to the front after starting sixth and led the final 29 laps of the race. Tristen Barnes fought his way up to second and Brent Bell, who started ninth, earned the final podium spot.

The Collision Plus Sportsman Series then opened their evening with their first 35-lap twin. After Budzevski's

win kicked off the night, his car owner Mike Trenor earned his second trip to the winner's circle thanks to Jason Merriman.

After falling from the lead due to a mechanical failure a couple weeks ago, Merriman rebounded with an impressive drive up to the top spot. Brad Foy, who won on SRX night, stayed up front for the entirety of the race and ultimately came across the line second. Daryn Cockram started in tenth and drove his way up to the final podium spot. The Draper native extends his podium streak to three races after winning the previous two.

Action for the Stock-6 Series then began with their first twin and those 20 circuits provided a very exciting

See Win, page 10

Win from page 9



Caleb Sowers is the 2023 Stock-6 track champ at Pulaski County Motorsports Park.

start to Championship Night. A caution-filled race proved to benefit race winner Darrell Allen. His machine accelerated so much better on restarts which helped him rocket to the front. After being sent to the back, Houston Miller fought his way back to second while Caleb Sowers claimed the title of 2023 track champion after crossing the line third.

Blue Ridge Church Pure-4 Series competitors saw their race be shortened by ten laps after an 18-minute red flag halted action. Once the race resumed it was Brandon Southern that led the three-lap shootout to claim the victory. Kirby Shipman took control of the points standings with a second-place finish while Anthony Jefferson Jr. claimed his second consecutive third-place finish.

The late model stocks returned to the track and the second twin proved to be much like the first; the same three suspects climbed the podium. Following an inversion of the field, it took Dudley just 12 laps to get the point position. By lap 19, Looney was in second and Budzevski climbed to third by the 30th circuit.

Looney and Dudley were nose-to-tail by the midway point and a pass to the inside by Looney helped him claim the double yet again this season as well as a firm grasp on the 2023 track championship that will be decided the next time out.

For the first time this season, the Virginia Mini Cup was showcased at the New River Valley short track. A field of nine competitors took to the oval and

it was Tyler Warriner that dominated the race, leading all 25 laps. A race-long battle for the second spot ultimately went the way of Noah Matthews with Zach Sprouse finishing third.

When the sportsman division returned to the track, Merriman became the second driver of the evening to collect the double. He picked up his second victory after leading the final half of the race. Current points leader and defending track champion Kyle Barnes ended his night with a second-place finish to extend his advantage in the standings. Foy collected another podium finish, crossing the line third.

The final race of the night was shortened to 15-laps and it belonged to the stock-6 competitors. As they did in the first twin, Allen, Miller and Sowers claimed the top three spots. Allen became the third driver to sweep the twins on the night. Miller extended his podium streak to three races while Sowers ended his night with the 2023 title.

Action returns to the .416-mile oval on Saturday, Sept. 9 when the track will name a trio of champions for the 2023 campaign. The opening race of September will be Championship Night for the Price's Body Shop Late Model Stock Cars, the Total Car Care Mod-4s as well as the Blue Ridge Church Pure-4s. Fans can expect the green flag to be dropped at 6 p.m. for an exciting night filled with eight different races.

Pulaski County Motorsports Park



Jason Merriman had a clean sweep of both Sportsman races this weekend at the Pulaski County Motorsports Park in Radford.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF PCMP

Tyler Warriner is your Virginia Mini Cup feature winner from Saturday's race at Pulaski County Motorsports Park.

ODU brings kryptonite to Lane

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

No one wants to admit it, but Old Dominion University has had Virginia Tech's number in the two straight games. In 2022 and 2018, the Norfolk-based school picked up wins over the big brother across the state in Blacksburg.

Watson scored on a one-yard run with 33 seconds to play and Old Dominion beat Virginia Tech 20-17. VT back Keshawn King ran for 111 yards and caught a touchdown pass from transfer quarterback Grant Wells for the Hokies. Wells also ran for a score, but threw two first-half interceptions, and then

one to set up the decisive drive.

The Hokies were driving and trying to put the game away when Wells' pass from ODU's 40 bounced off of Jalen Holston to the Monarchs' Ryan Henry. A 15-yard penalty against ODU moved the ball back to their 26 with 2:58 left, but a long completion by Hayden Wolff and then a

defensive pass interference call near the goal line on Dorian Strong set the Monarchs up at the 1-yard line. Watson needed two tries to make it but tumbled in with 33 seconds left.

The 2018 win was a little more surprisingly in a night that Tech running back Steven Peoples had a career-best rushing performance.

The Hokies struggled for much of the afternoon against in-state foe Old Dominion, and the No. 13 Hokies fell 49-35 to the Monarchs in a non-conference game in Norfolk.

With the loss, Virginia Tech fell to 2-1 overall. ODU moved to 1-3.

Peoples rushed for 156 yards on 20 carries and scored on runs of 87 yards and 1 yard. Quarterback Josh Jackson threw two touchdown passes.

But the Hokies struggled against ODU's offense, led by backup quarterback Blake LaRussa. The 5-foot-11 LaRussa completed 30 of 49 for 495 yards and threw touchdown passes of 14, 4, 25 and 29 yards. He also rushed for a touchdown on a day in which ODU's offense finished with 632 yards.

The Hokies led 28-21 after a 72-yard touchdown pass from Jackson to Damon Hazelton with 32 seconds left in the third quarter, but ODU scored on its next two possessions, taking a 35-28 lead on a 15-yard Jeremy Cox touchdown run with 9:57 to go — its first lead of the game.

Things got worse for Tech, as Jackson went down with a lower leg

injury on the first play of the ensuing drive. Backup quarterback Ryan Willis led the Hokies on a 75-yard march that ended with a 13-yard touchdown pass from Willis to tight end Chris Cunningham with 7:15 remaining, tying the game at 35.

But the Hokies simply had no answer for ODU. LaRussa polished off a 75-yard drive with a beautiful 29-yard fade pattern to Jonathan Duhart for a touchdown with 5:11 left that was the game winner. Jeremy Cox's 40-yard touchdown run with 1:34 remaining sealed the win.

Just like Superman even Virginia Tech has a soft spot and maybe, ODU has found Hokies' Kryptonite.

But in the preseason and summer, things have not been all hunky-dory in Norfolk.

First, ODU officially joined the Sun Belt. Then their offensive coordinator left suddenly over the summer and a new one was named, thus causing a lot of transition in the offense. Oh and did we say, the team lost starting QB Hayden Wolff to Western Michigan and his backup Brandon Clark retired from football.

Then the shopping continued as other schools starting picking players from head coach Rick Rahne's squad. ODU did manage to bring a couple of their own transfers into the foe, but they will be untested and have questions surrounding them.

At the QB1 position, Grant Wilson, a junior transfer from Fordham who has experience in first-year offensive coordinator Kevin Decker's up-tempo offense, will start for ODU. It will be the first in the 6-foot-3, 217-pound Wilson's college career after he spent two seasons as a backup at Fordham. He is an Arlington, Virginia native who won the job after a three-man battle with sophomore Jack Shields and true freshman Colton Joshston.

Wilson saw limited action as the backup in 2021 and 2022. He was a two-time District 6A Offensive Player of the Year at Yorktown High School, where he threw for more than 2,600 yards and 24 touchdowns as a senior.

But he will be without the team's favorite target. Coach Brent Pry slid in and picked ODU's top receiver in Ali Jennings, who led that team with 54 receptions, 959 yards and nine touchdowns.

Jennings was third in the country with 106.6 yards per game and had five, 100-yard receiving games. In ODU's win over Tech last season, he caught five passes for 122 yards.

Otherwise beside the win over Tech, last season is one Rahne would simply like to forget.

The 2021 team was one of the surprises of the season getting to six wins and a bowl game - winning five straight after a 1-6 start, but the 2022 team basically did the reverse, starting out 3-3 before losing six straight in the new and improved Sun Belt.


ODU's offensive line struggled to keep defenses out-of-the-backfield as the running game only averaged 92 yards a game. Keshawn Wicks was the team's second-leading back with just 125 yards and a score for a small but quick game.

The other side of the ball also struggled, finishing 117th in the nation, losing Alonzo Ford to Penn State and Chazz Wallace to Colorado. ODU did gain 5-1, 285-pound Jahill Taylor from UNC.

Look for linebacker Jason Henderson to be the leading tackler this season for the Monarchs.

ODU starts its real first season as a member of the Sun Belt Conference, which includes games against the likes of James Madison, Marshall, Appalachian State, Coastal Carolina, Georgia State and Georgia Southern.

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