



PHOTO BY LORI GRAHAM

Senator Tim Kaine (left) and Nanci Hardwick CEO of MELD Manufacturing meet at the Christiansburg facility on Friday during Kaine's stops in the NRV.

## Senator Tim Kaine tours MELD manufacturing during NRV stops

Lori Graham  
Contributing writer

MONTGOMERY COUNTY – United States Senator Tim Kaine was met by Nanci Hardwick, CEO of MELD Manufacturing and Aeroprobe Corporation, and Robb Hudson, CEO and President of MELD Printworks for a tour of the facility on Friday, Sept. 15.

The MELD Corporation holds numerous patents of revolutionary technology in the

metal processing business, which could provide necessary support to military branches currently experiencing backlogs in replacement parts.

In the fall of 2022, Hardwick met with U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen, along with Kaine, to discuss how MELD's manufacturing could support supply chain demands, according to an article in The

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## Gearheads for a Cause Car Show to aid Montgomery County Christmas Store

Lori Graham  
Contributing writer

Gearheads for a Cause's Mega Car Show is scheduled for Sept. 30 on West Main Street in Christiansburg to aid the Montgomery County Christmas Store.

Steven Smith, event organizer for Gearheads for a Cause, received approval from Christiansburg Town Council at its Tuesday, Sept. 12 meeting for a street closure from 1- 9 p.m. on Sept. 30 on West Main Street from Franklin Street to Dunkley Street, N.W.

According to Smith, vendors will be available, but alcohol and food will not be sold at the event itself. Eventgoers may patronize Macado's, a supporter of the event, for food and beverages. The event is co-organized with Pace O Matic and Collins Amusement, according to Gearhead's Facebook page.

Council approved the street closure for the car show event with a 6-0 vote, subject to the event organizers submitting their insurance agreement.

Multiple resolutions were unanimously approved by Christiansburg Town Council in the consent agenda relating to funding and awarded contracts.

According to the Town of Christiansburg Council and Council's agenda, a resolution to re-submit four applications for funding under the VDOT Revenue Sharing Funding Program (50/50) for the upcoming two-year funding cycle was agreed upon. Previous funding had been received, and additional funding has now been requested with the following streets identified as Tier 1 priorities: Stafford Drive Signal at Peppers Ferry Road, Roanoke Street Sidewalk In-Fill, North Franklin / Wades Lane Intersection Pedestrian Improvements, and South Franklin / 1st Street Intersection Pedestrian Improvement

The Town of Christiansburg intends to re-submit applications for funding under the VDOT Transportation Alternatives Funding Program for the following projects: North Franklin / Wades Lane Intersection Pedestrian Improvements

South Franklin / 1st Street Intersection Pedestrian Improvements

An award of a contract in the amount of \$671,391 to Rinker Design Associates, P.C. (RDA), for Professional Services for the Town's North Franklin Street / Depot Street Intersection project was read by Council. Council unanimously approved the proposal with RDA and authorized the town manager to execute the contract for the referenced work, subject to VDOT's approval.

An award of a contract totaling \$391,407 to RDA, P.C., for Professional Services for the Town's Roanoke Street / Depot Street Pedestrian Accommodations and Roanoke Street Crossing and Sidewalk projects was read. Council unanimously approved the contract with RDA and authorized the town manager to execute the contract for the referenced work, subject to VDOT's approval.

A contract award in the amount of \$298,700.00 to Aaron J. Conner General Contractor, Inc. for construction of the Wastewater Treatment Facility Waterline Extension was also approved by Council, subject to attorney approval. The project consists of installation of approximately 1,350 linear feet of 8-inch water main and miscellaneous appurtenances near the Town of Christiansburg Wastewater Treatment Facility. Two wells on the town property will be abandoned as part of this project, according to the Town's agenda at www.christiansburg.org.

A public hearing has been set for Sept. 26, 2023, for a street vacation of the existing 40-foot right-of-way known as Alma Street in its entirety from Simmons Road S.E. to the VDOT park and ride property.

An additional road closure was unanimously approved by Council for the annual Christiansburg High School Homecoming Parade on Wednesday, Oct. 4, 2023. The roads will be shut down from 5-9 p.m., but will also have a temporary shutdown for set up between 3 and 3:30 p.m. The parade is scheduled to take place from 7-8 p.m.

## Rec League football, cheerleaders honored at varsity game



PHOTO BY KYMN DAVIDSON-HAMLEY

Christiansburg Rec League football and cheer teams/squads were given recognition at the Christiansburg Friday night home football game. Rec cheerleaders cheered with Varsity cheer squad members for the first half of Friday night's game. Varsity members leading on the front are (left to right) Mary Sarver, Lilia Vaughn, and Hailey Graves.

## Christiansburg hosts county-wide band festival



PHOTO BY JON FLEMING

Christiansburg High School hosted a county-wide band festival on Saturday afternoon. CHS hosted Eastern Montgomery, Auburn, Blacksburg, and Galax on Saturday afternoon for a band festival. To kick-off the event, the five bands joined together to play the National Anthem.

## Landsdowne Street citizens address Blacksburg Council, requesting speed humps to deter speeding drivers

Lori Graham  
Contributing writer

BLACKSBURG – Citizens living on Landsdowne Street, off South Main in Blacksburg, have continuing concerns about traffic issues in their residential area.

Tom Roberts, a resident of Landsdowne Street, addressed Council during the citizens' comments session of the meeting. According to Roberts, speeding drivers have been an issue for many years causing many near misses with neighborhood children and adults. Residents are asking for speed deterrents to slow drivers down.

"I would wish for Council to direct staff to expedite the process toward

getting two speed humps there," Roberts said.

Lisa Graves, also a resident of Landsdowne Street in Blacksburg said, "We have elderly people. We have children. We have animals, and do we get a lot of deer that come from over the valley."

Public Hearings have been scheduled for the following ordinances and one conditional use permit for Oct. 10, 2023:

Ordinance 2033, vacating a portion of public rights-of-way located at Airport Road,

Ordinance 2035, rezoning approximately 1.10 acres of land at the

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# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Wednesday, Sept. 20 – Friday, Sept. 22:

### Airport Road Closure/Detour

Blacksburg Public Works crews to close and detour Airport Road between Southgate Drive and Allendale Court. Due to the recent heavy rains a section of the storm sewer network under Airport Road has begun to fail. The existing pipe crossing Airport Road and connecting structures will be removed and replaced. In order to perform the work the roadway must be closed. During the closure, traffic will be detoured utilizing Allendale Court, Millhurst Street, Edgewood Lane, and Southgate Drive. The work is located immediately north of Dunton Drive, therefore, Dunton Drive traffic will need to access and exit at the Southgate Drive intersection and will not be able to turn north on Airport Road. Additionally, pedestrian traffic along the sidewalk will be impacted, however, access will be maintained but may be rerouted at times as the work progresses. The roadway will be restored daily by 4 p.m. with the closure being reestablished the following day at 9 a.m. All work is scheduled to be completed by Friday, Sept. 22 by 4 p.m. For more information, contact Public Works at 540-443-1200.

## Thursday, Sept. 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.

### Community Quilting Bee

At the Blacksburg Library; 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Join us for our weekly quilting and sewing group. Bring your supplies and join us for conversation.

## Friday, Sept. 22:

### VR Tour of the Anne Frank House

At the Radford Public Library; 11 a.m. – noon. Take a self-guided tour of the Anne Frank House using a Virtual Reality headset. We also have downloaded for this month only an immersive documentary that puts you in the middle of the Russia-Ukraine conflict. If you'd prefer a 30-minute demo another day, email duncan.hall@radfordva.gov.

### Friends of the Library Two-Day Book Sale

At the Meadowbrook Public Library; 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Stock up on books (plus DVDs and CDs) at our Book Sale! Fill a bag paper grocery bag (provided) for \$5. All proceeds benefit the Friends of the Library.

## Saturday, Sept. 23:

### Radford Summer Concert

Last installment of 2023 concerts, featuring country artist Ryan Perry and opening act Sofie Lynn. Held on grounds of Glencoe Mansion, just off West Main St. (600 Unruh Dr.). Gates open at 6 p.m., music starts at 7 p.m. Cost is \$5 per person; children under 12 are free. Food trucks and adult beverages.

### Mornings with the Mayor

Join Mayor Leslie Hager-Smith, 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. to learn how the Town of Blacksburg operates. Tour the new police station, explore the Town's history and geography

and learn how to get involved at any age! Program admission is free. Open to ages 8 – 12 years. Program admission is limited to 12 participants. Participants must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. To register, call 540.443.1026 or email lspaulding@blacksburg.gov.

## Monday, Sept. 25:

### Special Education Advisory Committee

A Radford City Public Schools Special Education Advisory Committee meeting will be held at 4:30 p.m. at McHarg Elementary School, 700 12th St., Radford. The public is invited to attend. The meeting will also be available virtually using Google Meet. To be invited using Google Meet, contact Anne Goodman, Chair, at 540-267-7144, or Kate Leeper, Vice Chair, at 540-267-7223, to obtain a virtual meeting link. We hope to see you there!

### Radford City Council meeting

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

### Montgomery County Board of Supervisors meeting

Public meetings are the second and fourth Monday of each month at the Montgomery County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St. in Christiansburg. Closed sessions begin at 6 p.m. if needed. Open sessions begin at 7:15 p.m. Citizens are invited to attend and allowed to speak at each meeting. All regular meetings of the Board of Supervisors are rebroadcast on Montgomery County Comcast and Shentel Channels 190 daily.

### Family Movie Matinee: Coco

At the Radford Public Library; 6:30 p.m. Come see 'Coco' on the library's BIG projection screen! Rated PG; 105 minutes.

## Tuesday, Sept. 26:

### 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.

## Wednesday, Sept. 27:

### Grownup Mario Kart "Tournament"

At the Radford Public Library; 6- 7:30 p.m. Adults are invited to race in a friendly Mario-Kart tournament using the library's Nintendo Switch on the huge TV in the teen section.

### Radford Photo Club presents Cityscapes with Michele Borgarelli

At the Radford Public Library; 6 p.m. All skill levels are welcome to our discussion of photographing cities. This will be a two-part discussion that carries over into our next meeting on Thursday, Oct. 26.

## Friday, Sept. 29:

### Basic Computer Skills

At the Radford Public Library; 10:30 a.m. -noon. This eight-week adult education opportunity is for beginners looking to learn how to safely incorporate the internet into their daily lives. Lunch is provided after class. Please call the Literacy Volunteers of the New River Valley at (540) 382-7262 to register. Spaces are limited. Laptops are provided during the classes.

## Thursday, Oct. 19:

### Blood Drive

The New River Health District will be hosting a blood drive on in the Community Room at the Montgomery Co. Health Department from 10 a.m.- 2 p.m. We have set a goal of having 20 donors for the day and need your assistance. Donors of all blood types are urgently needed now to ensure patients at hospitals across the country continue to receive critical medical care. Each donor for this drive will receive a \$15 Amazon gift card as a thank you for your donation. Register at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org).

## On-going:

### Hydrant Testing

The Town of Blacksburg will test fire hydrants in the Southwest Quadrant of Town between Sept. 12 – Oct. 5. Hydrant testing can cause temporary pressure fluctuations and discolored water. These conditions will subside after the testing is completed. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Town of Blacksburg Engineering Department at (540) 443-1300.

### 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.

### Free GED classes

New River Community College is offering free GED at the Meadowbrook Library every Monday and Tuesday through Tuesday, Dec. 12. For more information or to sign up please call the Library at 540-268-1964.

# 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.

*Say "Bone' jour" to Pierre! This pup will benefit from a home that will provide patience and understanding, as he tries to navigate the world. Pierre tends to be a bit timid and unsure. He could use some guidance from caring humans who help him grow his confidence and live his best doggie life.*



*Tater is a sweet boy. He's good with dogs and is litter box trained. He also enjoys playing with and being carried by his favorite humans. Stop by the Animal Care and Adoption Center to see if this guy is your purrfect match!*

## NRCC to offer fall motorcycle safety courses

New River Community College is offering several beginner motorcycle rider safety weekday and weekend courses throughout the fall.

The Basic Rider Course (BRC) multiday classes are held on NRCC's campus in Dublin. The fall midweek courses are held 6 - 8:30 p.m. Tuesdays and 7 a.m.- 12:30 p.m. or 1 p.m.- 6 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays on Oct. 3-5, Oct. 24-26, and Nov. 14-16.

Weekend fall courses will be held Fridays through Sundays on Sept. 29- Oct. 1, Oct. 20-22, Oct. 27-29, and Nov. 3-5. Course hours are Fridays from 6 p.m.-8:30 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays from 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

The one-credit course includes an online portion and on-motorcycle instruction under controlled range conditions. Riders will learn the basic skills of motorcycle

operation, effective braking, obstacle avoidance and safe riding strategies. Tuition is \$161.16 for Virginia residents and \$361.26 for out-of-state residents. Students must provide their own DOT approved helmets (nothing less than a ¾ size).

Completion of the BRC prepares riders for state licensing with an exemption of skills and written DMV tests and may qualify for discounts with some motor vehicle insurance companies. The program provides motorcycles (no larger than 500cc) and textbooks for each student.

To register for the course, call (540)674-3613 or visit [www.nr.edu/workforce](http://www.nr.edu/workforce). For more information about the program, visit [www.nr.edu/motorcycle/](http://www.nr.edu/motorcycle/).

*Submitted by NRCC*

## Food City kicks off School Bucks Challenge

*Food City to award \$800,000 to local schools*

Food City has pledged \$800,000 in contributions for the upcoming school year.

With Food City's School Bucks Challenge, it's easy to earn reward points. For every \$1 a customer spends using a Food City ValuCard, one point is earned.

"Our Food City School Bucks Program has provided much-needed support for thousands of schools throughout our market area and our School Bucks Challenge makes points collection easy and efficient," said Steven C. Smith, Food City president and chief executive officer.

The 2023-2024 School Bucks Challenge began Sept. 6, 2023 and continues through May 7, 2024. To ensure points credit to the school of choice, simply go online to <https://www.foodcity.com/schoolbucks> to link a Food City ValuCard to a preferred

school.

Food City has pledged \$800,000 for the upcoming school year. School allocations are based upon the percentage of customer purchases assigned to each school. Schools can monitor their progress biannually online at [foodcity.com](http://foodcity.com).

"Food City is committed to supporting the education of our youth," said Smith. "Since the program's inception, we've awarded over \$22,100,000 in much-needed educational equipment and tools to more than a thousand participating area schools."

For more information about the new Food City School Bucks Challenge, please contact your local school, visit [foodcity.com](http://foodcity.com) or contact the Food City School Bucks Coordinator, Lisa Johnson at 1-800-232-0174.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRIS OBENSHAIN

Republican candidates gather Tuesday at their new headquarters in Blacksburg.

# Republican headquarters opens in Blacksburg

BLACKSBURG - On Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2023, Chris Obenshain, candidate for House of Delegates, District 41, and a unified slate of Republican candidates opened their headquarters, located at 3966 Prices Fork Rd., Blacksburg.

"We are running a unified campaign focused on turning Montgomery County red at the state and local level," said Obenshain. "Under Governor Youngkin's leadership, Republicans have cut taxes and helped working families through recent car and grocery tax relief. It is paramount that Republicans are elected up and down the ballot to move Governor Youngkin's agenda of empowering parents and growing the economy forward. This Headquarters will

serve as the heart of our effort to elect common-sense, experienced leaders to help the working families of Southwest Virginia."

Obenshain was joined by Senator Travis Hackworth, Senator David Suetterlein, Delegate Jason Ballard, Sheriff Hank Partin, Supervisor Darrell Sheppard, candidate for Clerk of Court Cody Rush, candidate for Treasurer Mary Weaver, candidate for Supervisor Meredith Hutton, and candidate for School Board Lindsay Rich. Residents are invited to visit the new headquarters to pick up signs, stickers, and information, and to sign up to volunteer.

Submitted by Chris Obenshain

# Body discovered in submerged vehicle in lake at Claytor Lake State Park

DUBLIN - On Saturday, Sept. 16, 2023, at approximately 7 p.m., a Claytor Lake State Park Law Enforcement Ranger was notified of a vehicle fully submerged in the lake behind the picnic/day use area of the park.

State Park Law Enforcement Rangers, deputies from the Pulaski County Sheriff's Office, and first responders from Pulaski County Fire & EMS Special Operations Team and the Newbern Fire Department, were called in to assist with the recovery of the vehicle.

Divers entered the water and found a

Jeep Grand Cherokee in approximately 12 feet of water, with the body of Jean Cecilia Lester, 79, from Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania, inside the vehicle.

The body was taken to the Roanoke medical examiner's office, and the incident is under investigation. No additional information is available at this time.

Dave Neudeck, Communications and Marketing Director, Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation

# Council

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1200 block of Airport Road from low density residential to planned residential zoning.

Ordinance 2036, vacating a portion of public right-of-way located at Rimrock Road, Ordinance 2037: vacating a public utility and sidewalk easement on land located at 2600 Research center Drive, and

Conditional Use Permit 23-0003, request for hotel use and additional height in the downtown commercial zoning district at 501 South Main Street. Additionally, Council also adopted the following resolutions:

Resolution 9-A-23, establishing a written policy for participation in Council meetings

through electronic communication, Resolution 9-B-23, transferring \$1,500,000 between Water and Sewer Fund Capital Projects,

Contract for professional services for Prices Fork Road Interchange Study, and an authorization for Town manager to sign contract.

Chris Lawrence presented to Council on Ordinance 2023, which would authorize a lease of space, known as the North Main water tank, to New River Valley Unwired Ventures, LLC. Unwired Ventures is known by its street name of All-Points Broadband, according to Lawrence.

"This lease is actually a new lease, but it is an

extension of the lease we have had with New River Unwired for almost seven years. The first one was for five years, and this will renew it for an additional year with the option to extend one more year," Lawrence said.

Council unanimously approved Ordinance 2023.

Detailed information on proposed ordinances, CUPs, and public hearings can be found in the agenda at www.blacksburg.gov.

# MELD

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PHOTO BY LORI GRAHAM

MELD manufacturing involves 3-D printing of a variety of sizes and shapes.

Sun Chronicle.

MELD Manufacturing uses revolutionary technology in 3D printing and machining to design and manufacture a variety of metal materials into custom parts. Metals that are typically heated to a melting point to make similar materials, are manufactured without this intense melting process at MELD. Not only does MELD have a reputation of quality design and production, but parts can sometimes even be ready within a few hours, making their company extremely vital to the military's defense.

Senator Kaine serves on the Armed Services Committee and is Chairman of the Seapower Subcommittee, and a member of the Foreign Relations Committee.

"We've got the largest Navy base in the world," Kaine said. "I think we have the best shipbuilding and ship repair in the world, in Hampton Roads."

Kaine also serves on the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee. According to Kaine, low unemployment rates have made it difficult for employers to fill necessary job roles. For these reasons, building the defense's supplies and maintaining a defense system has met recent challenges.

Kaine's defense work is the very reason that MELD brought him to southwest Virginia for a visit of the facility.

"We are really facing, in the Navy but the other service branches too, a lot of backlogs on parts and supplies that are slowing down the pace of production whether its ships or subs, or the repair of refueling for ships and subs," Kaine said. "Then you have a big percentage of your ships and subs that are in the dock whether than performing the mission."

The Senator said MELD brings to the table flexibility on providing parts, quickly, and with less use of energy.

Kaine also has been

working on a bipartisan bill with (R-IN) Senator Mike Braun called the Jump Starting Our Businesses by Supporting Students (JOBS) Act that would provide grant money to individuals who wish to pursue technical education, versus a two-year or four-year degree.

"PELL grants can't be used for high-quality career and technical education; they can only be used for college," Kaine said. "A lot of our community colleges like New River, what they would really like to do is deliver some technical training in like 6-8 weeks, super intense courses, eight hours a day/five days a week, and you get more classroom hours in that then you would get in a 15-week long college course... but you can't have PELL grants."

The JOBS Act is pending but Kaine is hopeful that the time is right for the bill to be passed.

More information about MELD manufacturing can be found at their website (www.meldmanufacturing.com).

During his visit to the NRV, Kaine also visited SWVA Biochar in Floyd to "learn more about their process to manufacture

biochar, a specially produced charcoal used to enhance soil fertility, improve agricultural yields, and reduce carbon emissions, and that has the potential to remove dangerous 'forever chemicals' like PFAS from water supplies," according to information released by Kaine's office. "The visit comes as the Senate prepares to consider a Farm Bill, and it follows multiple visits by Kaine with farmers in Virginia to discuss how he can best shape that bill to benefit Virginia. Kaine has also long supported efforts to strengthen sustainability and helped pass the Inflation Reduction Act, which made significant investments in clean energy to tackle climate change."

On Saturday, Sept. 16, Kaine met with ROTC cadets at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg "to share his national security priorities and discuss VT's Defense Civilian Training Corps (DCTC), a new pilot program for students to build civilian careers related to acquisition, digital and critical technologies, science, engineering, and finance within the Department of Defense (DOD)" according to his office.

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**Discover the Vineyard's Paw Paw patch; Sip excellent wine along the way!**

## 4th Annual Paw Paw Festival

**OCTOBER 7<sup>TH</sup>**  
12 - 5 PM  
Music by the  
**FORK MOUNTAIN RAMBLERS**

**OCTOBER 8<sup>TH</sup>**  
1 - 5 PM  
Music by  
**LESLIE BROOKS**

**Discounts at Eggleston Campground and Karios Resort; discount for dinner at The Palisades Restaurant.**

**NO ADMISSION FEE!**

**JBR Vineyards, LLC**  
1360 Springdale Rd., Pearisburg, VA  
540-250-7291  
<https://www.facebook.com/jbrwine>

# OPINION

## Financial Focus: Own a business? Consider these retirement plans

If you own a small business or are self-employed, you've always got plenty to do, but you can't forget about the days when you'll be less busy — that is, when you're retired. How can you prepare for that time of your life?

One key step is establishing a retirement plan for your business or yourself. And thanks to the 2022 SECURE 2.0 Act, you can now receive tax credits for opening and administering a 401(k), SEP-IRA or SIMPLE IRA. These aren't the only plans available for small businesses or sole proprietors, but they are among the most popular. Let's look at each of them:

**401(k)** – A 401(k) offers several key benefits: First, any earnings growth is tax deferred, and your contributions can be tax deductible. (Taxes are due upon withdrawal, and withdrawals prior to age 59½ may be subject to a 10% penalty.)

If you choose a Roth 401(k), your contributions aren't deductible, but your earnings and withdrawals will be tax free, provided you meet certain conditions. And a 401(k) offers a variety of investment options. If you have workers, you'll need to consider whether to offer matching contributions, which are tax deductible to you, up to the limit of 25% of compensation paid to eligible employees.

But even if you're self-employed, with no employees other than your spouse, you can establish what's known as a "solo" or "owner-only" 401(k). In 2023, you can put in up to \$22,500 as an employee, plus a catch-up contribution of \$7,500 if you're 50 or older, for a total of \$30,000. Plus, you can contribute an additional 25% of earned income as an employer, up to an overall employee and employer maximum of \$66,000 (or \$73,500 if

you're 50 or older).

**SEP-IRA** – An SEP-IRA may be attractive to you if you're self-employed or if you own a business but have few or no employees. That's because you must contribute an equal percentage of your own compensation to every eligible employee. In 2023, you can contribute up to \$66,000 or 25% of your income, whichever is less.

**SIMPLE IRA** – A SIMPLE IRA is easy to establish and administer. As with an SEP-IRA, earnings in a SIMPLE IRA can grow on a tax-deferred basis. If you have employees, they aren't required to contribute to this plan — but you are. You must match up to 3% of employees' contributions or provide 2% of their annual salaries, although you do have some flexibility. If your business goes through a rough patch, you can temporarily decrease

SIMPLE IRA contributions to 1% for up to two years out of the previous five. Your contributions to your employees' accounts are tax deductible, but in terms of building resources for your own retirement, a SIMPLE IRA may be less appealing because of its contribution limits, which are relatively low compared to a 401(k) or SEP IRA. In 2023, you can put in up to \$15,500, or \$19,000 if you're 50 or older.

You should consult with your tax advisor to determine which retirement plan is right for you. Your financial advisor can also help you explore your options. And the sooner you put a plan to work, the better.

*This article was written by Edward Jones, Member SIPC, and submitted by Edward Jones Financial Advisor Meghan Kuczmarzki, 540-944-1511.*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

Lily Franklin is the Democrat running for the House of Delegates in the 41st District - a brand new, open seat in this battleground district. Lily is a former teacher who was Chief of Staff for

Delegate Sam Rasoul for a number of years. Lily grew up in the region and has five generations of family living here.

I support Lily as the only candidate who has actually written and passed legislation. She'd be a huge asset to the region. Her priorities include protecting

abortion, fully funding Virginia's public education system, making healthcare accessible, keeping our air and water clean, and fighting for a family-friendly economy.

She's been endorsed by EMILY's List, Giffords, Run for Something, Clean

Virginia, WinVA, and U.S. Senators Tim Kaine and Mark Warner.

*Su Clauson-Wicker  
Blacksburg*

Dear Editor,

Montgomery County is fortunate to have Tiffany Couch running for Clerk of Court. The clerk's office handles many more documents than most of us are aware of. The office handles marriage licenses, recorded real estate deeds, keeps probate records provides jurors for our courts and keeps courts records.

Before being appointed Interim Circuit Court Clerk by the judges, Couch had 4 years of experience as Deputy Clerk. She's been a key player in obtaining

grants to preserve our county's historical records dating back to the 1700s.

Couch has the training for the job – we don't need to waste time while a newcomer learns the ropes. She has attended many workshops and has been certified as a Master Deputy Clerk. Her college degree is in Criminal Justice from Radford University.

Couch grew up in Christiansburg. She's always been active in our community promoting the town, the NRV and local businesses and activities. Her husband is retired from the U.S. Marines.

Among her goals in her next term are to: provide a faster and more convenient way for jurors to be paid; provide appointments for citizens regarding probate matters; and provide civil case online filings.

Tiffany Couch has the experience, the education and qualifications to continue to make our Clerk of the Court's office as efficient as possible and efficient as possible."

*Ernie Bentley  
Pilot*

## News Messenger

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

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## Virginia gas prices on the rise

Average gasoline prices in Virginia have risen 3.1 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.58/g today, according to GasBuddy's survey of 4,081 stations in Virginia. Prices in Virginia are 8.0 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 19.5 cents per gallon higher than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has risen 9.9 cents in the last week and stands at \$4.53 per gallon.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Virginia was priced at \$3.13/g yesterday while the most expensive was \$4.47/g, a difference of \$1.34/g. The lowest price in the state yesterday was \$3.13/g while the highest was \$4.47/g, a difference of \$1.34/g.

The national average price of gasoline has risen 4.6 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.83/g today. The national average is down 1 cent per gallon from a month ago and stands 19.9 cents per gallon higher than a year ago, according to GasBuddy data compiled from more than 11 million weekly price reports covering over 150,000 gas stations across the country.

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

September 18, 2022: \$3.39/g (U.S. Average: \$3.64/g)  
September 18, 2021: \$3.00/g (U.S. Average: \$3.19/g)  
September 18, 2020: \$2.08/g (U.S. Average: \$2.17/g)  
September 18, 2019: \$2.41/g (U.S. Average: \$2.66/g)  
September 18, 2018: \$2.62/g (U.S. Average: \$2.84/g)

September 18, 2017: \$2.51/g (U.S. Average: \$2.60/g)  
September 18, 2016: \$2.03/g (U.S. Average: \$2.20/g)  
September 18, 2015: \$2.04/g (U.S. Average: \$2.30/g)  
September 18, 2014: \$3.12/g (U.S. Average: \$3.36/g)  
September 18, 2013: \$3.28/g (U.S. Average: \$3.49/g)

Neighboring areas and their current gas prices:

Roanoke- \$3.53/g, up 4.2 cents per gallon from last week's \$3.49/g.

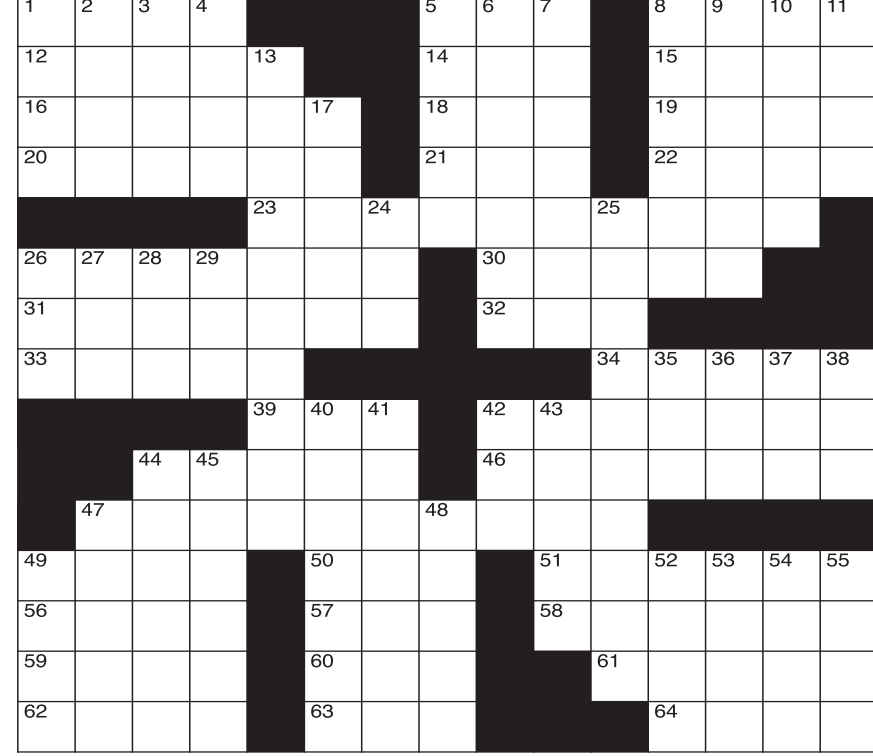
Richmond- \$3.56/g, up 5.9 cents per gallon from last week's \$3.50/g.

West Virginia- \$3.63/g, up 5.2 cents per gallon from last week's \$3.57/g.

"The national average rose slightly over the last week due to continued refinery challenges in the western U.S. that have pulled gas prices up considerably in some states, while some 1 in 5 states have seen average gasoline prices decline in the last week," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy. "With the transition back to cheaper winter gasoline now upon us in nearly every state, we should see prices eventually cooling back off, but if refinery issues continue to develop or linger, especially now that we're entering maintenance season with less available capacity online, the expected decline could certainly be offset. In addition, with oil prices now above \$91 for the first time in nearly a year, there remains some offset from the rising price of oil thanks to Saudi Arabia and Russia's war on low oil prices, now in its third month."

*Submitted by GasBuddy*

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE



**CLUES ACROSS**  
1. One of the four Vedas  
5. Part of (abbr.)  
8. At the peak  
12. African antelope  
14. Expression of satisfaction  
15. Yankees' ace  
16. Belittled  
18. A baglike structure  
19. Utah Jazz coach Snyder  
20. Actress Tomei  
21. Explosive  
22. Formal for "on"  
23. Cruelties  
26. Country singer Brad  
30. Make very happy  
31. Binary compound of hydrogen with a metal  
32. Albanian currency  
33. Subatomic particle  
34. Type of salt  
39. 007's creator

42. Emerging  
44. Railroad flare  
46. Observed  
47. Capable of reproduction  
49. Indicates adjacent to  
50. Legendary Notre Dame coach  
51. Not wide  
56. An embarrassing mistake  
57. Pearl Jam's debut album  
58. Denotes passerine birds  
59. Stumble  
60. Midway between east and southeast  
61. W. Indian trees  
62. You  
63. Pigpen  
64. Be aware of

**CLUES DOWN**  
1. Crease  
2. "Honey" actress Jessica  
3. Broad volcanic crater  
4. Product safety watchdog  
5. Southern Colombian city  
6. Part of a church  
7. Perceptible by touch  
8. Pronounce not guilty of criminal charges  
9. Hairpiece  
10. Variety acts  
11. "Mystic River" actor Sean  
13. Remove salt  
17. Went out with  
24. Type of bread  
25. Popular Eagles song  
26. Philosophy degree  
27. Yes vote  
28. Passports and licenses are two  
29. No seats available

35. Pounds per square inch  
36. A way to launch an attack on  
37. The lowest cardinal number  
38. Popular Miller beer  
40. Pokes holes in  
41. Closest to  
42. Folk singer DiFranco  
43. Rivne's former name  
44. Flat ruler  
45. Lacking the means to do something  
47. Cockatoo  
48. Dred Scott decision deliverer  
49. Explosion exclamation  
52. Canadian flyers  
53. Houston university  
54. At some prior time  
55. Red, swollen pig

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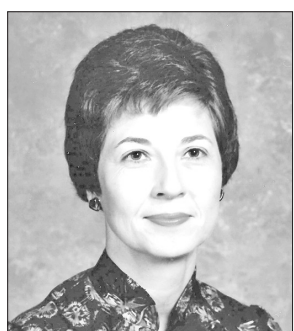
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# OBITUARIES

## Dishon, Maxine Shelburne

Maxine Shelburne Dishon, 85, of Pulaski, passed away Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2023, in Richmond.



She was born in Pulaski County on Sept. 2, 1938, to the late Edna Louise Ridpath and Roscoe Josiah Shelburne. Maxine was a graduate of Radford College (1959). She was a high school English teacher for 42 years, serving 12 years in Franklin County, and the remainder of her career in Pulaski County Schools. She was a member of Alpha Delta Kappa, the Honorary Society for Women Educators, having been initiated on May 20, 1966. Her service to ADK included serving as president of the local chapter. Also, she was a member of Memorial Baptist Church in Pulaski, and in more recent years, enjoyed attending services at First Baptist in Radford.

Maxine was preceded in death by her husband, Duane Dishon, and brother, Rodney Teel Shelburne.

She is survived by her only child, Clayton Duane Dishon, Jr. of Richmond; daughter-in-law, Leah Michelle Thomas of Petersburg; sister-in-law, Nancy Morris Shelburne of Snowville; brother-in-law, Garnie Franklin Dishon of Radford; nieces, Sandy Shelburne Landreth of Radford and Lori Shelburne Angle of Snowville; nephews, Ronald Teel Shelburne of Snowville, Richard Franklin Dishon and Brian Keith Dishon of Radford.

Maxine inherited significantly more than blue grey eyes from her mother Edna. She shared her mother's tenacity, quick wit, keen insight, and seemingly indefatigable strength. All

traits which served well within the classroom. She dearly loved her aunts, Iva Ridpath Phillips and Eunice Ridpath Phillips, and spoke of them considerably in later years and how they had impacted her life.

Family mattered much to Maxine. She counted amongst her dearest friends, her brother Rodney and Everette Martin, as they had shared so much growing up together.

Maxine possessed a distinctive accent that did not betray her identity as a proud Snowvillian. Regardless of being a grammarian of the first order, her speech was befitting with all manner of idiomatic expression and colloquialisms, some for which references elsewhere have not been found. She was natural and authentic in her presentation, and it appeared that it would not have dawned on her to be any other way.

She did not suffer well domineering and foolish men. Most fortunately, the love of her life, Duane Dishon, whom she married on July 29, 1961, was far from being either of those things. Their love was an exemplary sort, distinguished by respect, kindness, and tremendous affection. There's was a partnership of equality and rare compatibility. Their son Clay, counts this as a supreme blessing of his life, never having to give

a single thought as to whether his parents loved one another, or whether that love extended in his direction.

Maxine was a fun mom to her son. She loved him unconditionally and refused to believe that he was as nearly incorrigible as he seemed at times, most times. There were no lengths at which she would refrain with regards to the boy. Emblematic of such, fearing that he would skip out on a college exam to get concert tickets, she called him up at school one day and said that she had a lead and would procure the desired ticket, that he need not worry, and moreover, that he needed to keep his rear end in class. She proceeded to head to the Ticketron outlet in the old Heironimus department store at the University Mall in Blacksburg, standing in what surely was an altogether ridiculous line, in order to get her wayward son the much needed Grateful Dead ticket. She wanted to share his life and learn all she could of his burgeoning interests. Encouragement and care was how that got conveyed.

Maxine would back away from these words. Attention was never a thing she sought. She was dignified and private and she loved with all her heart. To say that she will be greatly missed is the most considerable understatement written here.

The family received friends Tuesday, Sept. 19, 2023, at the Snowville Baptist Church in Snowville. A celebration of life followed with Neil Wood officiating. Interment followed in Sunset Cemetery in Christiansburg.

## Fisher, Brenda Mae

Brenda Mae Fisher, 63, of Christiansburg, passed away Friday, Sept. 8, 2023. She was a member of Compassion Church in Radford. Brenda was preceded in death by her parents, Robert and Eula Lytton; and brothers, Ronnie and Robert Lytton.

Survivors include her husband of 33 years, David Fisher; sons, Michael Cantrell and Amy, James Cantrell and Colin, and Jason Cantrell and Brandy; four grandchildren; sisters and brother-in-law, Ellen and Bobby McGuire, and Lisa Lytton and son Chris; and many other nieces, nephews, other relatives

and friends. Memorial services were held Monday, Sept. 18, 2023 at the Compassion Church in Radford with Pastor Chandler Jones officiating. The Fisher family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE VIRGINIA DCR

Virginia state parks depend heavily on volunteers for everything from trail maintenance to interpretative programs.

## Virginia State Parks celebrate National Public Lands Day, provide free parking Sept. 23

On Sept. 23, 2023, state parks across Virginia will celebrate National Public Lands Day (NPLD), the nation's largest single-day volunteer effort for public lands.

NPLD, now in its 30th year, highlights the vital impact of public lands on our well-being, from the air we breathe to the spaces we inhabit, and it brings together thousands of volunteers across the country, fostering community, teamwork and the enjoyment of public lands for education and recreation.

In Virginia, the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), the state's lead natural resource conservation agency, manages nearly 130,000 acres of land, including nearly 80,000 acres of public land across 41 state parks.

"Since 1936, Virginia State Parks have provided citizens a fun, safe place to connect with nature, learn and participate in outdoor recreation," said DCR Director Matt Wells. "For National Public Lands Day, we invite Virginians to support their state parks by volunteering to help restore, improve and protect the lands they cherish, preserving them for future generations to enjoy."

There's a state park within an hour's drive of every Virginian, and each park depends heavily on volunteers for everything from trail maintenance to interpretative programs. In 2022 alone, volunteers across the state donated 210,693 hours of service, equivalent to 101 full-time employees.

"Our skilled and passionate volunteers play a vital role in our mission to protect, conserve and enhance our natural resources," said Virginia State Parks Director Dr. Melissa Baker. "Without them, the parks that millions of visitors have come to love would not be the same."

One of those parks is Mason Neck, located in Northern Virginia. Chief Ranger of Visitor Experience Jamie Leeuwrik said their highly dedicated volunteer base has helped the park's

staff provide excellent service and opportunities for the public.

"From our volunteer paddle guides leading kayak trips to the Fairfax Master Naturalists revitalizing pollinator gardens, there has been a significant impact made by our volunteers," said Leeuwrik. "The Friends of Mason Neck State Park have also been instrumental in numerous projects over the decades, including our work toward improving accessibility in the park, establishing the pollinator gardens and helping to organize the annual Eagle Festival."

Established and new volunteers are invited to Virginia State Parks for NPLD. They can choose from more than 30 NPLD events, including invasive species removal, shoreline cleanup, habitat restoration and environmental education activities.

"National Public Lands Day is a reminder that the preservation of our natural treasures depends on the dedication of volunteers," said Katie Gibson, chief ranger of visitor experience at Douthat State Park, in Millboro, Virginia. "Their efforts embody the spirit of unity and stewardship that ensure the beauty, diversity and wonder of these spaces remain accessible and protected for generations to come."

For the complete list of NPLD events, click here. Volunteers should dress for the weather and the project and bring water, insect repellent and sunscreen.

Standard parking fees, such as trailhead parking, will be waived at most state parks for NPLD. The parking fee at Grayson Highlands and the admission fees for Natural Bridge and Southwest Virginia Museum will not be waived. To learn more, go to [www.virginiastateparks.gov/parking-fees](http://www.virginiastateparks.gov/parking-fees).

NPLD also coincides with Bike Your Park Day. Visitors and volunteers are encouraged to bring their bikes to their park on Sept. 23.

Submitted by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation

# Big teeth, bigger data

Virginia Tech researchers in the College of Natural Resources and Environment are assessing the efficacy of shark sanctuaries by developing a modeling system that utilizes publicly accessible fishing data to determine shark catch and mortality rates.

Published in the journal Science Advances, their findings represent an important step in utilizing data science to tackle oceanic conservation challenges.

"Shark sanctuaries are coastal areas designated by countries as places where the targeted fishing of sharks is prohibited," said Brendan Shea, a Ph.D. student in the Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation and the paper's lead author. "My initial ambition was to use publicly available data to look at these sanctuaries from a high-level perspective, understanding how much fishing is occurring in these areas and what the potential risks are to sharks."

That goal led Shea to collaborate with Assistant Professor Francesco Ferretti, who encouraged Shea to take the research further. Ferretti suggested that shark sanctuary data could be utilized to develop a model that could provide numbers on how many sharks were being caught from fishing in protected waters, and how many will die from the experience.

"Unlike some other marine protected areas that ban commercial fishing entirely, shark sanctuaries still allow fishing to occur, and anytime you have fishing, you're going to catch sharks," said Shea. "The stress of being caught and released means that you're going to have some unintended mortalities of sharks in these sanctuaries, even if all sharks are released."

Using fisheries data to better model conservation challenges

To estimate catch and mortality rates for oceanic shark species, the research

team utilized positioning data of fishing vessels from Global Fishing Watch, an open-access website that provides a global view of commercial fishing activities around the world to advance ocean governance. The group also collected publicly available data from regional fisheries management organizations to create a model that would estimate the impacts of longline fishing on seven species of open-ocean sharks.

The team's models estimate that 286,820 large sharks were caught within the eight sanctuary areas the group focused on in 2019, with 109,729 of those sharks dying as a result of the stress of capture. The researchers learned that blue and silky sharks represented more than 70 percent of the sharks caught, with thresher and oceanic whitetip sharks also experiencing sizable capture and mortality numbers.

"There is always a discussion about the conservation impact that marine protected areas and shark sanctuaries have on species populations," said Ferretti, an affiliate of the Global Change Center and the Center for Coastal Studies. "What this paper does, for the first time, is provide clear numbers on how many sharks are being caught and how many are dying as a result of fishing in these waters."

Shea, who collaborated with research partner Beneath the Waves, a nonprofit marine research institution, said that utilizing multiple streams of data to tackle a specific conservation question marks an important stride forward in fisheries research.

"We've traditionally relied on a lot of old-fashioned measures in fisheries management, such as direct observations and having people sit on boats with log books to monitor catches," said Shea.



PHOTO COURTESY OF FRANCESCO FERRETTI

Assistant Professor Francesco Ferretti and Brendan Shea retrieve a drop camera used to film sharks and other fish underwater.

# Teeth

from page 5

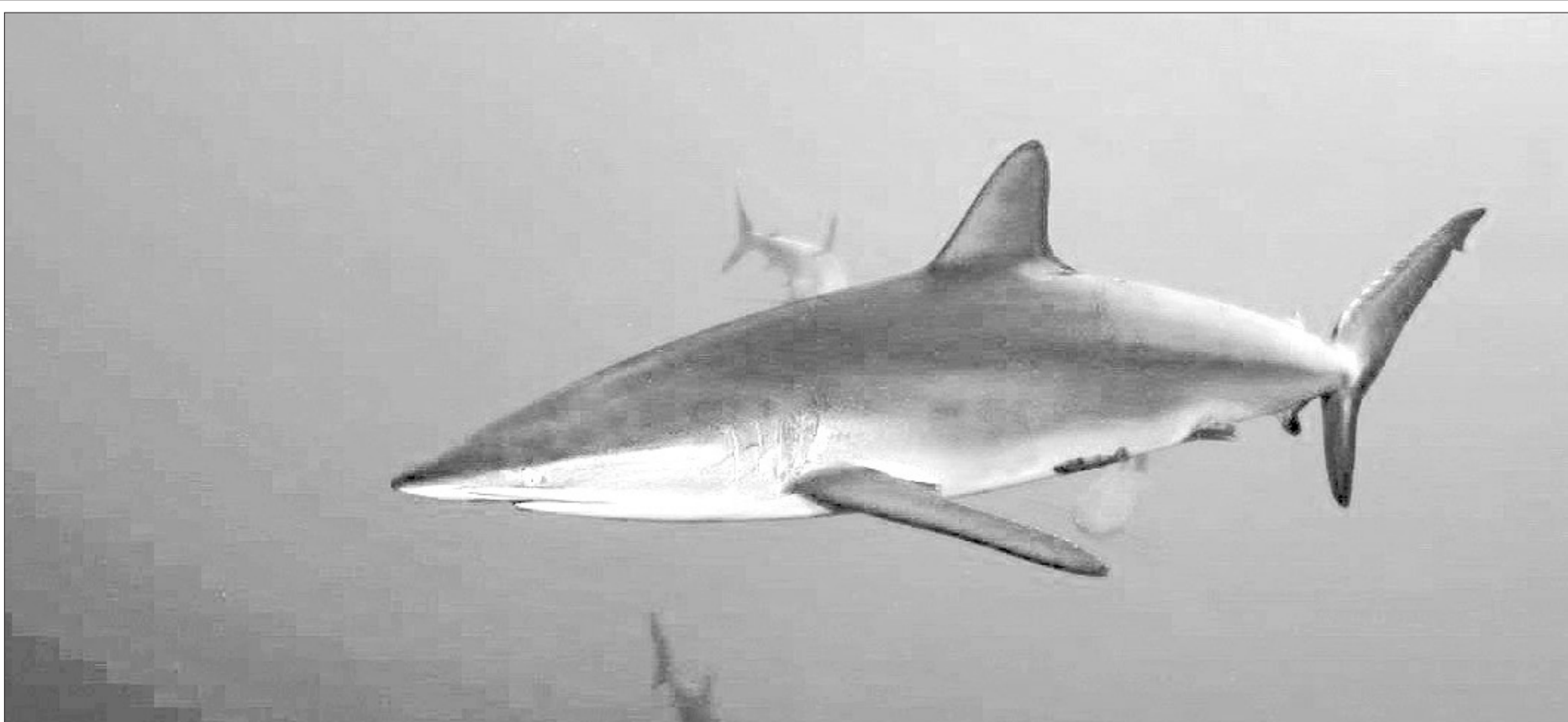


PHOTO COURTESY OF SIMON J. PIERCE

## Silky sharks are one of the species considered in a recent study that uses geospatial analysis to better assess ocean conservation strategies.

“Now we’re in an age where absolutely everything has a data point attached to it all the time. We need to start trying to leverage all of these data streams into telling a clearer story about what’s happening in our oceans.”

Ferretti echoes that research like this marks an important inroad toward considering new approaches to understanding fish populations, as well as the impacts that humans have on open oceans species.

“This is an illustration of how we’re transitioning from fisheries science to fisheries data science,” said Ferretti. “In the age of big data, we’ve demonstrated that we can do applied conservation and management

research, and it is work that is applicable to many other aspects of fisheries management at large and even global scales.”

Next steps in merging data with conservation research

Shea’s next research efforts will continue to utilize data. He aims to better understand the home ranges of large marine predators, to more accurately assess the benefits of conservation strategies such as shark sanctuaries.

“For spatial protections to be impactful in conserving large pelagic species, we need to better understand their

home ranges, or how much space they need and use throughout their lifetimes,” said Shea. “This is not well-studied for many wide-ranging species, and the knowledge gained will build on our initial work to better evaluate the conservation and management roles of marine protected areas.”

Funding for this research came from the Bertarelli Foundation’s Programme in Marine Science, which seeks to support and foster collaborative studies on the most pressing questions in ocean science.

Krista Timney for Virginia Tech

### Legals - Town of Vinton

#### ABC NOTICE

MRDN LLC, trading as BIG BELLY PIZZA & SUBS RESTAURANT, 105 W. LEE AVE. VINTON VA. 24179.

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Retail Restaurant or Caterer Application, Restaurant, Wine, Beer, Consumed ON and OFF Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

NASIM FALTAS OWNER

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

#### LEGAL NOTICE

#### TOWN OF VINTON, VIRGINIA

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Please be advised that the Vinton Town Council will hold a public hearing at its meeting on Tuesday, October 3, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard,

### Legals - Town of Vinton

in the Council Chambers of the Vinton Municipal Building, located at 311 South Pollard Street, Vinton, Virginia, concerning the proposed amendment to the Town of Vinton’s FY 2023-2024 budget to appropriate funding for several capital improvement projects, including Mountain View Road, parking lot construction, economic development incentives, and community blight abatement and acquisition in the total amount of \$1,833,750.00 in the Capital Fund. State law requires a public hearing to be held whenever a proposed budget amendment exceeds 1% of the locality’s total budget. Any additional information on this public meeting is available in the Town Manager’s Office, located in the Vinton Municipal Building, (540) 983-0607. Persons requiring special assistance to attend and participate at this public meeting should contact the Town Manager’s office at (540) 983-0607.

Antonia Arias-Magallon Town Clerk

#### TOWN OF VINTON NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

The Town Council of the Town of Vinton, Virginia, hereby gives notice of two public hearings to be held on Tuesday, October 3, at 6:00 p.m. The purpose of the public hearing is to

### Legals - Town of Vinton

receive public comments concerning the proposed granting of a Lease to ANBAJA Enterprises, Inc. (Twin Creeks Brewing Company) for a portion of a 10’ wide public alley located to the rear of 109 and 111 South Pollard Street. The Town will provide a real estate lease agreement for one (1) year and provide for up to four (4) additional one-year renewals. A complete copy of the proposed Leases and additional information concerning this public meeting is available in the Town Manager’s Office, located in the Vinton Municipal Building, (540) 983-0607. Persons requiring special assistance to attend and participate at this public meeting should contact the Town Manager’s office at (540) 983-0607.

Antonia Arias-Magallon Town Clerk

#### Services Needed Salem Area



#### ADVERTISEMENT FOR SNOW REMOVAL EQUIPMENT SERVICES WITH OPERATOR SIGNUP

The Virginia Department of Transportation invites heavy

#### Services Needed Salem Area

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

#### Services Needed Salem Area

eligible for a mobilization bonus. See the EVA posting for additional information, including contract requirements. Questions can be directed to the Salem Residency from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Monday – Friday. Phone: 540-387-5497. Email: [SalemDistrictSnow@vdot.virginia.gov](mailto: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,

#### Services Needed Christiansburg Area

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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# MONTGOMERY SPORTS

## From the gridiron: Blacksburg's new streak extended, Christiansburg, Radford still unbeaten

**Marty Gordon**  
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Blacksburg High School has a new streak after winning their second straight contest this past Friday over Rockbridge County.

The Bruins picked up a 38-20 victory. Also, Christiansburg took a win (42-33) in a slugfest with Cave Spring.

Radford also remained unbeaten with a win over Galax. QB Landen Clark was 13 of 18 for 283 yards through the air and rushed the ball eight for 135 in totaling seven touchdowns in a 56-19 win.

Max Kanipe caught one TD pass and finished with 182 yards on five catches for the Radford, who is now 4-0. Couper Doyle had to two scores in the air from Clark.

Meanwhile in Riner, Auburn brought the Golden Helmet back with a 31-16 win over cross-county rival Eastern Montgomery. Austin Stump ran for 211 yards and two touchdowns on 32 carries for Auburn, and Brody Hensel had a rushing touchdown and 40 receiving yards on four catches.

Sidenote from the Christiansburg-Cave Spring game on Friday night. A former CHS player and alum, Spencer Linkous, was the linebacker coach on the

Cave sideline. Area top five: No change here as Christiansburg remains #1 with Salem #2, followed by Radford, Glenvar and Narrows.

Players of week: An outstanding Friday night across the area means there is a crowded player of the week room. First, Austin Stump continues a good year in Auburn with over 200 yards rushing and two scores in a win over Eastern Montgomery.

Radford's Landen Clark was outstanding in a win over Galax, accounting for seven touchdowns. Tanner Evans rolled to 21 carries for 221 yards four touchdowns in Christiansburg's win over Cave Spring.

Games this week: Christiansburg at Pulaski Princeton West Virginia rallied to beat Pulaski 49-40 this past week.

Trevor Gallimore ran for 214 yards on 33 carries and scored five scores. QB Bryant Nottingham rushed for 47 and threw for another 126 yards.

Prediction: Christiansburg 32, Pulaski 24. Blacksburg at Cave Spring

Cave left everything on the field in a loss this past week to Christiansburg, which leaves them 1-3 on the season. Cave Spring's Jackson Steffen rushed 28 times for 192 yards in the loss with five scores as the

Knights fell to 1-3. Prediction: Cave Spring 33, Blacksburg 14. Alleghany at Radford

Alleghany is coming off a 49-10 win over Greenbriar East (WVa.) as Purcel Turner scored four touchdowns as the team moved to 4-0 on the season. Dez Jordan also throw a touchdown pass to Xavier Hayslett and rushed 71 yards for another.

Prediction: Radford 34, Alleghany 28.

Galax at Auburn Galax is 1-3 after losses to Graham (42-13), Glenvar (39-21) and Radford (56-19). Their lone win came over Carroll County (21-13). Shane Allen enters his fourth season as head coach coming off 7-4 season with a loss in the Region 1C semifinals.

Previously, Galax had a string of seven straight regional titles as well as three consecutive state title game berths.

Prediction: Galax 40, Auburn 14.

Eastern Montgomery at Ft. Chiswell The Fort is 2-1 after a 44-34 loss to Tazwell this past Friday night. The Pioneers have given up 68 points to opponents while also scoring 68 so far this season.

Prediction: Eastern Montgomery 16, Ft. Chiswell 12.

## Auburn wins battle of Golden Helmet



Auburn's Austin Stump has three Eastern Montgomery defenders trying to bring him down in Friday night's contest. Stump ran for 211 yards and two touchdowns on 32 carries.



PHOTOS BY ASHLEY AKERS Eastern Montgomery's Parker Wanner catches the ball for the first score of the game, but Auburn would pick up the 31-16 win to bring the Golden Helmet back to Riner. The Golden Helmet is a symbolic trophy between the two Montgomery County rivals.

## Blacksburg wins second game in a row



Blacksburg's Xavier Price hauls in an Ethan Karpa pass and would score against Rockbridge County. With seven different players scoring to start off the game, Blacksburg used a big first half to take a 38-20 home win over the Rockbridge County Wildcats.



PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING Blacksburg's James Rich sacks Rockbridge County quarterback Jayden Layman for a safety during Friday's game. The win was the second in a row for Blacksburg.

## From the Sidelines: Five things learned about Hokies

**Marty Gordon**  
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

The Virginia Tech Hokies saw a game slip through their fingers this past weekend at Rutgers, and it left onlookers scratching their heads about this year's team. Many questions are hanging on the bulletin board.

The Hokies are still looking for a leader under center. Wells was out this week, despite the fact he took warm-ups before the game. Baylor-transfer Kyron Drones provided a spark going 19 of 32 with a touchdown and interception.

Drones was also playing behind an offensive line that has not been able to protect any of the Tech signal callers. For now, he could be the answer.

The running game really does not exist. The Hokies did generate 129 yards on the ground against Rutgers, but 74 of it was from Drones, who carried the rock 22 times. It's nice to have a QB who can run with the ball.

You just hope he is not your team leader each ball game.

Malachi Thompson and Bhayshul Tuten combined for 57 scattered in the game. Tuten did cross the goal line once, but what has been seen so far in 2023 is not getting the job done. Fans might see several wide receivers taking snaps in sweeps and reverses. This will depend on several of those players also healthy as the season progresses.

Defense has more holes than Swiss cheese. With Head Coach Brent Pry being a defensive guru, this could be the easiest to work out. He just might have to dig deep into the closet in playing a lot of youngsters who will have to grow up faster than he might want them to. At least five top defensive players sat out the game with injuries, and another three on the defensive side were knocked out of the game.

Depth will be the key as the



PHOTO BY KYMN DAVIDSON-HAMLEY Donovan Richardson (left) and KJ Jones (right) take down Cave Spring's featured running back Jackson Steffen. Christiansburg recorded the 42-33 win to move to 4-0 on the season.

## Christiansburg beats Cave Spring to remain unbeaten

See Hokies, page 10

See Unbeaten, page 10

# Unbeaten from page 9



PHOTO BY KYMN DAVIDSON-HAMLEY

**Brody Blount (center) and Izaiah Cotto disrupt Cave Spring receiver from catching a critical pass near the end zone in Friday's game.**

# Hokies from page 9

Hokies move forward with hopes some of those injured will have to get healthy soon.

Play calling depends on personnel. So far, the offense has not been exciting or glamorous. Pry and his staff will have to dig deep into the play book and find something, anything which can work.

He will be quick to point out all of this does depend on who is on the field. Many of those so-called playmakers are nursing injuries.

Depth is a question. The other

need for this team, with all of these injuries is a depth chart full of youngsters, is to find some young players that can shine at this level. Defense could see a lot of those players in the lineup with them growing up quicker than expected or will they.

Pry will find out.

For now, the Hokies have to find their identity. The wins will be tough to come by, and the offense has to start scoring more points.

# RU announces new HOF class

Radford University Athletics has announced five new members that will be inducted into the Radford Athletics Hall of Fame in October. The Class of 2023 will include Eddie Butler (Baseball), Mickey Dean (Softball), Martin Sayer (Men's Tennis), Kristen Shifflett (Softball) and Anthony Walker (Men's Basketball).

The five-member class will be the 20th to be inducted into the Radford Athletics Hall of Fame. This year's induction ceremony will once again help kick off Homecoming Weekend festivities and will be held inside Kyle Hall on October 20. For more information on the Radford Athletics Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, click here.

## EDDIE BUTLER

Baseball | 2010-12

There is no disputing that Butler was one of the most talented players to ever don the Radford Baseball uniform. The righty was a two-time All-Big South selection and was voted as the Big South and VaSID Pitcher of the Year in 2012 after the school's single-season ERA record. He ranks second in program history for career wins (22), third for career shutouts (3), fourth for career strikeouts (232), seventh for career starts (43) and eighth for career ERA (3.84). Butler went on to become the first player in Big South history to be drafted in the first round of the Major League Baseball First Year Player Draft, going 46th overall to the Colorado Rockies.

## MICKEY DEAN

Head Softball Coach | 2007-12

In his six years at the helm of the Radford Softball program, Dean cemented himself as one of the greatest coaches ever to represent the Highlanders. His teams achieved an overall record of 241-116 (.675), including an 84-21 (.800) in the Big South Conference, making Radford the winningest program in the state of Virginia from 2006-09. He led Radford to four Big South regular season championships and a pair of Big South Tournament titles, claiming the program's first three NCAA Tournament victories as well. Dean earned four consecutive Big South Coach of the Year honors as a result. He is currently the Head Softball Coach at

Auburn University in the Southeastern Conference (SEC).

## MARTIN SAYER

Men's Tennis | 2005-09

Following his tragic passing, Martin Sayer will be inducted posthumously. The king of the court for four straight years, Sayer emerged as the most dominant player Radford has ever seen. With the most singles wins in program history (114) and the fourth-most doubles wins in program history (65), Sayer was a four-time Big South Player of the Year, four-time All-Big South player in both singles and doubles, and a four-time NCAA Tournament participant. He is one of just two Big South athletes to ever win the NCAA Individual Tournament, cementing his place on the 2000's Big South All-Decade Team as well.

## KRISTEN SHIFFLETT

Softball | 2008-11

A catalyst for Radford Softball's most successful era, Shifflett sits at the top of nearly every category in the program's record books. She is first in program history for career runs scored (179) and tied for first for doubles (53), as well as second in program history for career hits (246), home runs (41), slugging percentage (.563), total bases (436) and assists (497). A three-time First Team All-Big South selection and two-time Big South Tournament MVP, Shifflett's premier campaign came in 2010 when she was named Big South and VaSID Player of the Year and Big South Female Student-Athlete of the Year.

## ANTHONY WALKER

Men's Basketball | 1993-97

Walker was named Big South Freshman of the Year in his debut season as a Highlander and never looked back. A two-time All-Big South selection, he is one of just six players in program history to score 1,600 points and is sixth all-time with 14.7 points per game. He dished it out as well as he could score it, ranking second in program history with 510 career assists. Beyond that, Walker remains in the top-10 in Radford Men's Basketball history for career field goals made, 3-point FG made, 3-point FG percentage, free throws made, free throw percentage, steals, and games started.

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This offering boasts a remarkable 52.5 acre parcel of mostly wooded land. There is a small cleared section that fronts on Pandapas Pond Rd. Property has great visibility from Route 460. The wooded acreage provides privacy and tranquil environment. It adjoins the Jefferson National Forest. The property features a well, which provides suitability for various purposes, including potential commercial development or a secluded recreational retreat. There is a cellular tower on this offering. Refer to survey in Bidder Packet for exact location on easement to cell tower.

**CONTACT – Auctioneer Matt Gallimore at 540-239-2585 or email gallimore.matt@gmail.com.**  
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