



## Early voting underway, as candidates continue to campaign for local elections

**Lori Graham**  
Contributing writer

The series of candidate forums hosted by the NAACP and League of Women Voters for Montgomery County elections continued Thursday, September 21 with Tiffany Couch and Cody Rush competing for Clerk of Court, Mary Weaver for Treasurer, and Tara Cochran Vance and Brenda Winkle opposing for Commissioner of Revenue.

The five candidates running for elected offices shared their experience and skills along with their priorities and plans for their potential positions serving the citizens of Montgomery County.

Winkle has over 23 years of experience in the Commissioner's office, beginning her career there as a tax technician.

"I'm over the tax relief program and have been since, I guess, the last 12 1/2 years," Winkle said. "I love tax relief. That's my favorite part. Taking care of the elderly and disabled and the veterans."

Vance shared her management and leadership experience, as well as her background in database and financial management skills.

"With my financial background, I am the candidate that can work with the Director of Budget Management to ensure we can provide the Board of Supervisors with the best data for decision-making and be able to present options to keep our tax rates as low as possible," Vance said.

The Clerk of Court candidate Rush discussed his skills and experience in information technology and how it relates to the office with their programming systems as well as his background in leadership as a major in the military.

"I am comfortable implementing emerging technologies to better serve our citizens," Rush said. "The Clerk's office is responsible for over 800 duties and responsibilities found in the Virginia code. I understand that leaders of organizations are hired to build teams and empower them to accomplish their mission through organized planning, training, and resources."

Couch serves as the current interim Clerk of Court, where they provide technology that she said they are "lucky to have...because they make the lives of our citizens a lot easier whenever they come into our office to find our very important records from 1773 to today."

Staying up-to-date with emerging technology, strong relationships between the administrative offices and elected officials in the County, and accountability were some of the top priorities mentioned by the candidates.

Small businesses feeling underrepresented and overtaxed is something Vance wants to address and improve if selected as Commissioner of Revenue.

See Elections, page 3



PHOTO COURTESY OF RICK JOHNSON

Rick Johnson is running for Blacksburg Town Council as a write-in candidate.

## Write-in for Blacksburg Town Council says he's "running as a servant to citizens"

**Lori Graham**  
Contributing writer

BLACKSBURG - Rick Johnson, a Blacksburg resident for 30 years, hopes to bring a new voice to the Blacksburg Town Council that is of collaboration and compromise, especially when addressing the concerns of the Blacksburg citizens.

Blacksburg citizens previously have addressed the Council about the often-slow process for acquiring building or business permits. Johnson commented that the Council provides policy and oversight to the Town Manager and staff, but the Town Council does also hold influence on the processes that can make

permits more efficient.

"Some of that is bringing the fact that citizens are concerned about it, and some of it is really direct conversation with the Town Manager," Johnson said. "Recognize the problem, talk about it, find a solution, involve citizens."

As Virginia Tech University and Montgomery County continues to see growth in the area, bringing on the need for more housing options, developments in residential areas have also been met with some opposition from Blacksburg residents in the past. However, Johnson says it is less a case of

See Council, page 3

## Record turnout for 50th Anniversary Kiwanis Wilderness Trail Festival



Live music entertained the crowd throughout the day at the Kiwanis Club's Wilderness Festival.



The Aquatic Center's Pirate, seen here with Kiwanis Member Toby Akers, makes an appearance at the festival.

CHRISTIANSBURG - Main Street in downtown Christiansburg was flooded with thousands of people Saturday, Sept. 16, for the 50th Anniversary Kiwanis Wilderness Trail Festival.

Attendees came to shop at the arts and craft booths, experience the heritage trade and skill performers demonstrating their skills, enjoy the live entertainment, take part in the children's area, observe the antique and classic cars and consume the delicious food.

A record number of arts and crafts vendors displayed and sold their hand-crafted products to a large number of shoppers. Many vendors reported record sales and expressed their intent to come back next year.

The children's area was busy all day with the children enjoying the inflatable bouncy house and slide, face-painting, the cork gun games, clown, Aquatic Centers' pirate, and the first responders' equipment.

The two entertainment stages, with local talent, drew large crowds as family, friends, and onlookers gathered to enjoy the various presentations by the performers.

People lined up to purchase delicious food from the vendors. There were 10 food vendors offering a large variety of food options.

Many people participated in the silent auction and the raffles conducted by the Kiwanis Club.

This event is the largest fundraiser for the Kiwanis Club of Christiansburg and 100% of the proceeds go back into the local community with most going to children in need of support.

Kiwanis is a global organization of members, clubs, and partners who are dedicated to changing the world, one child at a time. The Kiwanis Club of Christiansburg has provided services to the local community since its charter was granted in 1949.

Submitted by Ernie Wade

## Free community clothing swap set for Sept. 30

BLACKSBURG - As you begin to bring out your cozy sweaters and pack up your summer clothes, take the time to set aside anything you didn't wear this year for Blacksburg Library's Free Community Clothing Swap on Saturday, Sept. 30 beginning at 1 p.m.

A clothing swap is an event which participants can exchange gently used, clean clothing they no longer have a use for and find new items in return. Clothing should be in good shape and not in need of mending. Participants can bring items that they plan to swap to the event or drop them off at Blacksburg Library anytime the week before. Any items left over will be donated to a local charity.

"This is a great opportunity get rid of clothes you no longer wear," said Library Program Coordinator, Kerri Copus. "You'll be able to take home some fun new clothes while at the same time cleaning out your closet! The library strives to encourage sustainable living in our community. We've had a great response from our previous swaps. Folks enjoyed the experience and were pleased

with the variety of styles, name brands, and sizes available. We did get request for more men's and children's items, so please, bring what you can."

This event is free and open to all. Clothes are not for sale. We will accept gently used clothing, shoes, or accessories such as jewelry, belts, or scarves (please no undergarments, damaged items, beauty samples, etc.). Only bring items you think someone will want. If you cannot attend the day of but would like to donate items, feel free to bring them by the Blacksburg Library the week prior to the event.

The event is free and open to all, drop off items at any branch beginning Sept. 25 or bring them with you the day of the swap, which takes place 1- 3 p.m. You do not need to bring items to shop the swap. The Blacksburg Library is located at 200 Miller St. Blacksburg. Contact Kerri Copus at kcopus@mfrl.org or (540) 382-6969 ext. 215 with questions.

Submitted by the Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library

BLACKSBURG LIBRARY  
200 MILLER STREET

## FREE CLOTHING SWAP

WANT A NEW WARDROBE FOR FREE?  
BRING YOUR GENTLY USED CLEAN CLOTHES TO SWAP!

Drop off items the week before (or the day of!) and be ready to swap for new-to-you clothes!  
Nothing to swap? No problem! Come anyway!

**Saturday, September 30**  
**1:00 - 3:00 p.m.**

Contact: Kerri Copus at  
kcopus@mfrl.org or  
(540) 382-6969 ext. 215



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Wednesday, Sept. 27:

### Lunch and Learn: Your Solar Questions – Answered!

Co-presented by Town of Blacksburg's Sustainability Manager, Carol Davis and Sustainable Blacksburg, 'Lunch and Learn: Your Solar Questions – Answered!' will be held at the Blacksburg Library from 12 – 1 p.m. If you have ever wondered about getting solar, but weren't sure where to start, this session is for you! Hear from a panel of local solar homeowners and experts who can answer questions such as: Is my house/yard right for solar? What does it cost? Will solar help me save money? What if my HOA has restrictions on solar? What kind of maintenance does solar require? Grid-tied vs. off-grid solar – how are they different? How can I take advantage of the federal tax credit for solar? Can't attend in person? Register to participate via Zoom at <https://tinyurl.com/SBsolarQs>

### 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.

## Saturday, Sept. 30:

### Clothing Swap

At the Blacksburg Library; 1 – 3 p.m. Want a new wardrobe for free? Bring your gently used clothes to swap! Drop off items the week before the swap (or the day of) and be ready to swap for new-to-you clothes! Please make sure items are clean, wearable, and in good condition. We accept only gently used clothing and accessories. Please no undergarments, beauty samples, homegoods, etc. You do not have to bring items to swap, if you need something, please come and see what is available! There will be the opportunity to try things on - feel free to wear layers and utilize our public restrooms. This event is free and open to all ages and communities. Leftover items will be donated.

### SWVA Wildlife Center: Animal Ambassadors

At the Meadowbrook Library; 1- 2 p.m. Southwest Virginia's Wildlife Center will bring some of their animal ambassadors and provide information about the wild animals living all around us. This event is sponsored by Shawsville Ruritan Club.

### Family Movie Matinee: Sharkboy & Lavagirl

At the Radford Public Library; 11 a.m. Come see "The Adventures of Sharkboy and Lavagirl" on the library's big projection screen! Rated PG; 93 minutes.

## Monday, Oct. 9:

### Radford City Council meeting

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

### Montgomery County Board of Supervisors meeting

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

## Tuesday, Oct. 10:

### 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.

## Thursday, Oct. 19:

### Blood Drive

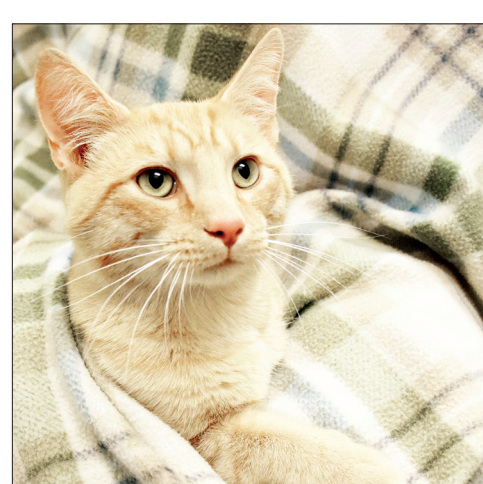
The New River Health District will be hosting a blood drive on in the Community Room at the Montgomery Co. Health Department from 10 a.m.- 2 p.m. We have set a goal of having 20 donors for the day and need your assistance. Donors of all blood types are urgently needed now to ensure patients at hospitals 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:

## 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.

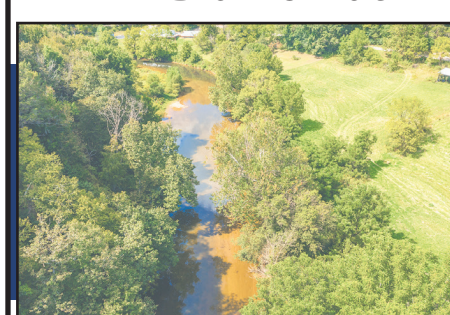
*Little Kahuna will have you at "meow!" He is a sweet and friendly boy ready to go home to a loving family. He is confident, full of love, and enjoys lots of furry cuddles. Little Kahuna is FIV positive.*



*Meet Sonny! He is full of energy and ready for adventure. Sonny enjoys exploring his surroundings and has an independent spirit. Sonny pawsitively loves treats. Stop by the Animal Care and Adoption center to meet him!*

## ONLINE AUCTION

Ends Thursday, October 26th at 3 PM  
Recreational Lots for Sale on the Little River  
TBD Laurel Ridge Mill Rd., Riner, VA 24149  
Bid Now at [VAAuctionPro.com](http://VAAuctionPro.com)



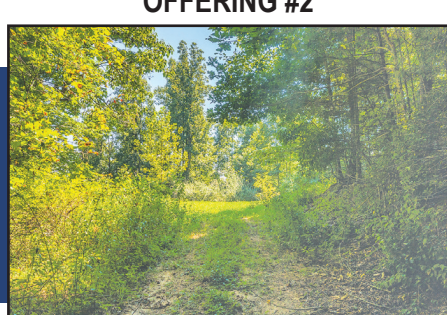
OFFERING #1



OFFERING #2



OFFERING #3



OFFERING #4

Discover the perfect blend of nature and tranquility in these 4 tracts of land that are being sold at auction. Located in a prime location near Floyd, Riner, Christiansburg, Blacksburg, and Radford VA, these properties offer the best of both worlds, the serenity of wooded land and a riverfront haven with easy access to the essential amenities.

### OFFERING #1 – +/- 6.015 ac

This 6.015 acre cleared lot would be a prime building spot, especially for a recreational getaway. Property has been perked and awaits your new home! It features 600+ ft of frontage on the Little River. With easy access to the river, you can enjoy all the kayaking, fishing, and swimming you wish! Property also has +/- 735 ft of frontage on Laurel Ridge Mill Rd.

### OFFERING #2 – +/- 5.44 ac

This 5.44 acre cleared lot would be a prime building spot. Property has been perked and awaits your new home or recreational getaway! It features 500+ ft of frontage on the Little River. With easy access to the river, you can enjoy all the kayaking, fishing, and swimming you wish! It also has +/- 507 ft of frontage on Laurel Ridge Mill Rd.

### OFFERING #3 – +/- 17.727 ac

This 17.727 ac property boasts abundant woodland, which creates a serene and private environment. There are several building spots and the surrounding views of the countryside are unbeatable! Property would be ideal for the construction of your new home.

### OFFERING #4 – +/- 17.614 ac

This 17.614 ac property boasts abundant woodland, which creates a serene and private environment. There is a small creek meandering throughout the property. The woodland ensures privacy and seclusion. Property holds several building spots and the surrounding views of the countryside are unbeatable! Property would be ideal for the construction of your new home. There is over +/- 771 ft of frontage on Laurel Ridge Mill Rd.

**Terms:** 10% Buyer's Premium will be added to final high bid to arrive at contract price. Earnest Money Deposit of \$10,000 per offering required on the day of the sale. Close on or before November 27th, 2023. Subject to seller confirmation. Property sold as is, where is with any and all faults. Buyer is expected to complete their own due diligence. Tracts are being offered individually and if bidder wishes to purchase multiple tracts, bidder will need to be the high/ winning bidder on both offerings. Please note that during the last two minutes of bidding, if a new bid is placed, the clock is automatically extended an additional two minutes. Be sure to register to bid early to ensure you receive notifications regarding any changes to the Auction, Bidder Packet, and/or Pre-Auction offers received. Download Bidder Information Pack for complete terms and conditions, property information, purchase contract and maps at [VAAuctionPro.com](http://VAAuctionPro.com).

**CONTACT – Auctioneer Matt Gallimore at 540-239-2585 or email [gallimore.matt@gmail.com](mailto:gallimore.matt@gmail.com). You can also contact Realtor Boogie DeHart at 276-952-5061 or email [booied@yahoo.com](mailto:booied@yahoo.com)**

102 S. Locust Street,  
Floyd, VA 24091  
(540) 745-2005  
[VAAuctionPro.com](http://VAAuctionPro.com)  
Lic# 2907004059



**Blue Ridge Land & Auction Co., Inc.**



## Elections from page 1

Opponent for Commissioner of Revenue Winkle wants to continue meeting with the needs of the local citizens while also maintaining strong relationships with the other county and local town offices.

Couch shared with the audience a passion for maintaining and preserving documents kept in the County office, Clerk of Courts, while her opponent Rush is running a campaign of accountability and transparency.

Up-to-date technology to meet the customers' needs as well as the office of Treasurer was Weaver's top priorities.

"I want to make sure we address the technology needs as we upgrade our software and that we provide the most convenient options for our citizens to conduct business within the Treasurer's office," Weaver said. Implementing and leading programs in the county is an important part of the duties and responsibilities of elected officials serving Montgomery County as well.

In response to an audience member's question about which programs candidates have implemented or that they would implement if elected, Rush proposed a ceremony for swearing in law enforcement with their colleagues and families present "to show them the respect that they deserve."

Couch responded that the current office does provide these services already, adding that she has been on ride-a longs with law enforcement officers to "see what it's like for them on a daily basis."

A program Couch has implemented is an online marriage license application that provides an option for Spanish-speaking individuals. Additionally, the

office is working on renewals for concealed handgun permits.

Online programs for citizens to pay bills was also a program that Weaver had been involved with in her time in the Treasurer's office.

Private companies make cost-savings a top priority according to Vance. Digital storage in the Munis system would be a preferable option for the Commissioner of Revenue. Vance's opponent, Winkle, wishes to improve upon the deed program.

Currently, the county elected officials work with not only Montgomery County but also the elected officials and offices in the towns of Blacksburg and Christiansburg.

Candidates responded to how they would maintain these relationships to manage their offices efficiently.

Vance thought that a quarterly meeting would be a good opportunity for officials in the various county and town administration offices, which could discuss areas that could be improved upon.

Rush's candidacy proposes strengthening bipartisan relationships with elected officials as a top priority.

"I would like to establish a relationship with our school board" Couch said. "I'd like to start the tours of our records room and workshops on knowing how to find these documents from your own family records."

The next candidate forum will happen on Sept. 28 at the Montgomery County Government Building, 755 Roanoke St., Christiansburg starting at 7 p.m. The candidates for Montgomery County's Commonwealth Attorney and Sheriff will be available to answer questions.

## Council from page 1

"not in my backyard".

"They're saying yes, right here in my neighborhood, but not a five-story apartment building," Johnson said. "Let's compromise. Let's do multi-family, which is what people want to do with affordable housing, whether its rental or purchase."

Johnson said that it might mean a few less units than maybe proposed but everyone will win if a compromise is made. When citizens feel that a decision may have already been made before considering peoples' input, they begin to feel that coming to meetings and expressing their views is futile.

"So, they don't want to participate," Johnson said. "I think the fact that there's only two ballot candidates for three spots is a sign, you know. A sign for Blacksburg for sure about what's going on and what people think, you know, about Blacksburg and Town Council."

Johnson is running as an Independent for Blacksburg Town Council. Previously he served as Director of Housing and Dining Services at Virginia Tech University for 17 years, and Associate Vice President for Student Affairs at Duke University where he retired in 2017. Johnson has also served on the Montgomery County School Board.

"Let's work together with the citizens," Johnson said. "That is where I think I can make the biggest difference."

Johnson will attend the Oct. 5 Candidate Forum hosted by the NAACP and League of Women Voters at Blacksburg Council Chamber, 300 South Main St., Blacksburg. Incumbents Jerry Ford, Jr. and Michael Sutphin, along with an additional write-in, Liam Watson, round out the four individuals competing for three seats in the race for Town Council. Blacksburg Council member John Bush will not be seeking re-election, leaving a seat open.

More information about Rick Johnson and his campaign for Blacksburg Town Council can be found on his website at <https://www.rickjohnson2023.com/>.

## Look out for others during Bicyclist and Pedestrian Awareness Month

BLACKSBURG—As Bicyclist and Pedestrian Awareness Month approaches, every road user should be mindful of an alarming uptick in nationwide fatalities involving walkers and bikers.

Transportation planners and officials learned more details at September's DRIVE SMART Virginia Distracted Driving Summit in Blacksburg. Virginia Farm Bureau was among the event's sponsors.

Senior transportation planner Michael Farrell is bicycle and pedestrian coordinator for the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments' Street Smart program. He promotes safety campaigns in the densely populated D.C. region, which includes several Northern Virginia counties.

Pedestrian fatalities have risen post-COVID 19, hitting a 40-year high in 2021 across the U.S. Then, drivers struck and killed 3,434 pedestrians in just the first six months of 2022, up 5% from the same period in 2021.

"Our own region is no exception," Farrell said. "We had an increase of pedestrian and bicyclist fatalities in 2022 that was 37% over 2021, which basically wipes out 20 years' worth of progress reducing these fatalities."

DSV's 2022 annual report showed 171 pedestrians and 11 bicyclists were killed on Virginia roadways. Additionally, 529 cyclists and 1,390 pedestrians were injured.

Regional police departments increased enforcement last spring, ticketing drivers, pedestrians and bicyclists who

break traffic safety laws. Fines range from \$40 to \$500.

One resounding message for non-motorists—be safe, be seen. Bike lights help.

"And wear something reflective, especially in the fall, because that's when we have the most pedestrian crashes, in October and November, when the weather is better for walking," Farrell explained.

The following are safety tips from BeStreetSmart.net:

When driving:

Avoid distractions, and stop for pedestrians at crosswalks.

Be cautious when passing buses or stopped vehicles.

When turning, yield to walkers and cyclists, and look for bikes before opening your door.

Be especially careful if you drive a large vehicle with blind spots.

When walking:

Cross the street at the corner, and use marked crosswalks when available.

Use the push-buttons, and wait for the crossing signal. Look left, right and left again before crossing.

Be aware of blind spots around trucks and buses.

Avoid using your cell phone while crossing the street.

When biking:

Never ride against traffic. Stay in a straight line at least 3 feet from parked cars.

Use hand signals to communicate with motorists.

Wear a helmet, and use lights at night and when visibility is poor.

*Submitted by Virginia Farm Bureau*

## Legal Notice

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF A PETITION BY  
APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY  
FOR APPROVAL OF A MODIFICATION TO ITS  
RATE ADJUSTMENT CLAUSE, BC-RAC, PURSUANT  
TO §§ 56-585.1 A 6 AND 56-585.1:9 OF THE  
CODE OF VIRGINIA  
CASE NO. PUR-2023-00102

· Appalachian Power Company ("APCo") has applied for approval to revise its rate adjustment clause, BC-RAC.

· In this case, APCo has asked the State Corporation Commission ("Commission") to approve the BC-RAC for the rate year beginning February 1, 2024, and ending January 31, 2025 ("2024 Rate Year").

· For the 2024 Rate Year, APCo requests a revenue requirement of \$6.75 million, which would increase the bill of a residential customer using 1,000 kilowatt hours of electricity per month by \$0.92.

· A Hearing Examiner appointed by the Commission will hold a telephonic hearing in this case on December 13, 2023, at 10 a.m., for the receipt of public witness testimony.

· An evidentiary hearing will also be held on December 13, 2023, 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, to receive the testimony and evidence of the Company, any respondents, and Staff.

· Further information about this case is available on the SCC website at: [scc.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information](http://scc.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information).

On August 25, 2023, Appalachian Power Company ("APCo" or "Company") filed a petition ("Petition") with the State Corporation Commission ("Commission"), pursuant to § 56-585.1 A 6 and § 56-585.1:9 of the Code of Virginia, seeking to approve to revise its existing Broadband Capacity Rate Adjustment Clause, the BC-RAC, to reflect the actual costs of providing broadband capacity under the Company's existing broadband projects in Grayson County and Bland and Montgomery Counties, respectively, as well as the projected costs associated with its broadband project in Patrick, Henry, and Franklin Counties.

Through its Petition, APCo requests approval of an annual revenue requirement of approximately \$6.75 million through its existing BC-RAC to be in effect during the rate year beginning February 1, 2024, and ending January 31, 2025. The Company states that the annual revenue requirement is related to all three broadband projects and is composed of three elements: a combined forecast revenue component of \$5.76 million; a true-up revenue component credit of \$3.84 million; and a bridge period revenue component of \$4.83 million. The Company states that implementation of the revised BC-RAC, as proposed, will result in an increase of \$0.92, or 0.6%, on the monthly bill of a residential customer using 1,000 kilowatt hours per month.

Interested persons are encouraged to review APCo's Petition and supporting 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 Petition and supporting documents and thus may adopt rates that differ from those appearing in the Company's Petition and supporting documents.

The Commission entered an Order for Notice and Hearing in this proceeding that, among other things, scheduled a public hearing on APCo's Petition. On December 13, 2023, 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. On or before December 6, 2023, any person desiring to offer testimony as a public witness shall provide to the Commission (a) your name, and (b) the telephone number that you wish the Hearing Examiner 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](http://scc.virginia.gov/pages/Webcasting); (ii) by completing and emailing the PDF version of this form to [SCCInfo@scc.virginia.gov](mailto:SCCInfo@scc.virginia.gov); or (iii) by calling (804) 371-9141. This public witness hearing will be webcast at [scc.virginia.gov/pages/Webcasting](http://scc.virginia.gov/pages/Webcasting).

Beginning at 10 a.m. on December 13, 2023, the Hearing Examiner will telephone sequentially each person who has signed up to testify as provided above.

On December 13, 2023, 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 Petition 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 has required electronic service on parties to this proceeding.

An electronic copy of the public version of the Company's Petition may be obtained by submitting a written request to counsel for the Company: James G. Ritter, Esquire, American Electric Power Service Corporation, 3 James Center, 1051 East Cary Street, Suite 1100, Richmond, Virginia 23219, or [jritter@aep.com](mailto:jritter@aep.com). Interested persons also may download unofficial copies from the Commission's website: [scc.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information](http://scc.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information).

On or before December 6, 2023, any interested person may submit comments on the Petition electronically by following the instructions on the Commission's website: [scc.virginia.gov/casecomments/Submit-Public-Comments](http://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 to the Clerk of the State Corporation Commission, c/o Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2118. All comments shall refer to Case No. PUR-2023-00102.

On or before November 1, 2023, any person or entity wishing to participate as a respondent in this proceeding may do so by filing a notice of participation with the Clerk of the Commission at: [scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling](http://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, if available. A copy of the notice of participation as a respondent also must be sent to counsel for 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-2023-00102.

On or before November 8, 2023, each respondent may file with the Clerk of the Commission, at [scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling](http://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 Staff, the Company, and all other respondents. In all filings, the respondent shall comply with the Rules of Practice, including 5 VAC 5-20-140, *Filing and service*, and 5 VAC 5-20-240, *Prepared testimony and exhibits*. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2023-00102.

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 Commission's Rules of Practice, the public version of the Company's Petition, 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](http://scc.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information).

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# OPINION

## Grandchildren are an adorable blessing of life

Evans "Buddy" King

Columnist

One of the best weeks of the year for me is the time in late July when my daughters and their husbands and kids and other family members and friends gather at the beach. I haven't strayed very far from my Christiansburg roots, vacationing about 45 minutes north of Myrtle Beach, the mandatory spot for southwest Virginians of my childhood.

We now stay at Sunset Beach, just over the state line from Myrtle, the southernmost beach in North Carolina and a quiet, family place with no high rises and little commerce. It is the perfect place to observe my grandkids at play. My daughters grew up going there.

I was an only child, and while I loved my cousins Joe and Bobby dearly and became very close to them as adults, they were 13 and 7 years older than me, respectively, and I missed the sibling thing and the thrill of out of town cousins. So nothing pleases me more than settling into a big beach house for a week or two of watching the mayhem. While I joke about the chaos - my out-of-office email response this past year was, "I am in a beach house with six kids 11 and under; I not only welcome interruptions, I pray for them"- the time is special.

So, I thought it might be fun to write a short piece on each of the five (number six referred to above is Sidney, friend of daughter Beth's oldest who always accompanies us). To be trite, but truthful, this past year might be THE year I would freeze them in time. Teenage years approach.

First, Maggie, age 11, the oldest of the group I refer to as the "3 M's" - Maggie, Molly, and Max. She was lovingly named by my older daughter Beth after my aunt, Margaret "Maggie" Weaver, the epitome of the old maid school teacher who taught English and government to a couple of generations of Christiansburgers. It is impossible to express how much it would mean to Aunt Maggie to know that Beth named her first child after her.

Maggie is a beautiful, athletic and intelligent (expect no objectivity here!) young girl, who loves swimming and diving and gymnastics. She is also the classic oldest child, often preferring to try to

sit in on adult conversations while her siblings and cousins couldn't care less. In my habit of trying to come up with a few words or phrases to sum up a person's essence, I would say Maggie is "artistic and thoughtful".

Next, is six-year-old Molly, the middle child of Beth's three. Molly Eloise. It may be impossible to find just a few words to capture Molly and her personality. Clever and shrewd come to mind. At moments I might use the word "Machiavellian" - defined in its best usage as "cunning and shrewd." In kindergarten last year, when other kids were misbehaving, Molly would look at the teacher and roll her eyes and shrug her shoulders, as if to say, "I don't know what's wrong with them." Her gymnastics coach said she is a very good gymnast, in large part because she is so good at listening and at following instructions.

While these talents are a sign of maturity, and hopefully will serve her well in life, Molly currently prefers to use her shrewdness to bedevil her brother and sister and parents. Add to this that she is cute beyond belief and you might begin to understand Molly. Surprisingly, her teachers say she is shy and well behaved at school, traits not observed at home.

Next in birth order is five-year-old Henry, daughter Laura's oldest and as tall and handsome as you can get at his age. He is off the charts in height and head size (of the five grandkids, only Maggie does not have the "King head", which resembles one of the balloon characters in the Macy's Day Parade). Henry also is in constant motion, preferring to run everywhere he goes and seeming to have a boundless supply of energy. And solicitousness - while he had a little period of resentment when sister Virginia first arrived, he now dotes on her and if they are not together, he usually asks whichever parent he is with "is Virginia okay?" They have their moments, but Virginia is blessed to have a big brother like H.

Energetic and sincere are the words I would use to describe Henry at this point in time. He has already run a 1-K with his mom and he seems to be following in his dad's footsteps, whose mother used to send out of the house to run laps to burn off energy. And he loves his sister and his pets.

Max, the thirrd of the 3 M's - four-year old Maxwell Evans, aka Max. Yes, the standard bearer

of the "Evans Legacy". The fifth family member carrying the name. My cousin Joe had "Bruce Evans" and cousin Bobby had "Robert Evans", each to honor my Dad. While there are no Kings to survive me, there a lot of "Evanses" out there and Max joins the legacy.

To picture Max, think of the old comic strip "Dennis the Menace" - he not only is the towhead pictured in the newspapers and television for the last 60 years, but he has the propensity for trouble. Based on my experiences though, his troubles come not from any maliciousness on his part but rather a very strong sense of "happy go luckiness". Just as you would hope all kids would have, Max's essence is a state of happiness and "don't give a damn." But with more of a temper than his sisters.

The quintessential story of the 3 M's comes from last year when all three were in the same school for probably the only time that will ever happen. Max's preschool teacher overheard "Maxie Boy", as Molly calls him, say to a classmate, "I have two older sisters, one is tall and nice, the other is short and mean!" About sums it up.

Last is three-year-old Virginia, Henry's companion and often partner in crime. She is a dead ringer for her mom and you can't help but smile when you look at her. V's face usually has a sly smile, timid but devilish. Beautiful and impish.

Like Maggie reminds me of Beth when I see her, Virginia reminds me of Laura. Virginia also seems to have established herself as the leader of the household, not displaying Henry's laidback personality. Leader is the word I would use to sum up V. And she may have a little of Molly in her.

One thing I remember from the early days with my older cousins was wearing their "hand me downs." Argyle sweaters which had fallen out of popularity, for instance. Virginia loves getting Molly's old clothes, often telling her mom that she wants to wear something because "it was Molly's". And Max gets Henry's stuff, which H seems to outgrow at alarming frequency. Brings back memories.

The five are healthy, happy (most of the time), and harmonious (some of the time). All you could ask for. Truly blessed to have them in my life.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

If you know Bob Beckman, 2023 candidate for Virginia State Senate from District 5, then you know his honesty, his genuine concern for the good of others, and his deep ethic of service. If you haven't met him yet, let me introduce you.

Bob retired from the US Foreign Service with years of experience planning and managing economic development projects and programs. Since Bob and his wife moved to Blacksburg in 2008, he has worked for broadband expansion and passenger

train service to Christiansburg. He served as a citizen member of the New River Valley Regional Planning Commission, so he has experienced, both internationally and locally, the community effort that we call government. Bob now hopes to work in the state senate for our communities here in Southwest Virginia.

The most urgent needs Bob sees for District 5 include changing state allocation rules to bring more of our tax money back home to our schools, expanding vocational, trade, and licensing programs so more of

our own people are prepared for the good jobs that are already right here, supporting essential workers with good health protection and wages that keep ahead of real costs, and good broadband for everyone.

I hope we will elect him to work for us. Early voting started September 22! Find more at Beckman4Senate.com.

Best to all my good neighbors in District 5,

Cheryl W. Ruggiero  
Blacksburg

## News Messenger

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USPS 016-490 Online: www.ourvalley.org

Michael Showell, *Publisher*

Heather Bell, *Editor*

communitynews@ourvalley.org

Aila Boyd, *Executive Editor*

aboyd@ourvalley.org

Wendi Craig, *Advertising Consultant*

advertise@ourvalley.org

Give us your view:

editor@ourvalley.org

The News Messenger is a newspaper of, by and for the people of Montgomery County. We encourage letters from our readers on topics of general interest to the community and responses to our articles and columns. Letters must be signed and have a telephone number where you can be reached for verification. All letters will be 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 fall in the last week

Average gasoline prices in Virginia have fallen 3.4 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.55/g today, according to GasBuddy's survey of 4,081 stations in Virginia. Prices in Virginia are 7.4 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 21.9 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 \$3.09/g yesterday while the most expensive was \$4.49/g, a difference of \$1.40/g. The lowest price in the state yesterday was \$3.09/g while the highest was \$4.49/g, a difference of \$1.40/g.

The national average price of gasoline has fallen 3.1 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.80/g today. The national average is up 1.3 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 13.6 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.

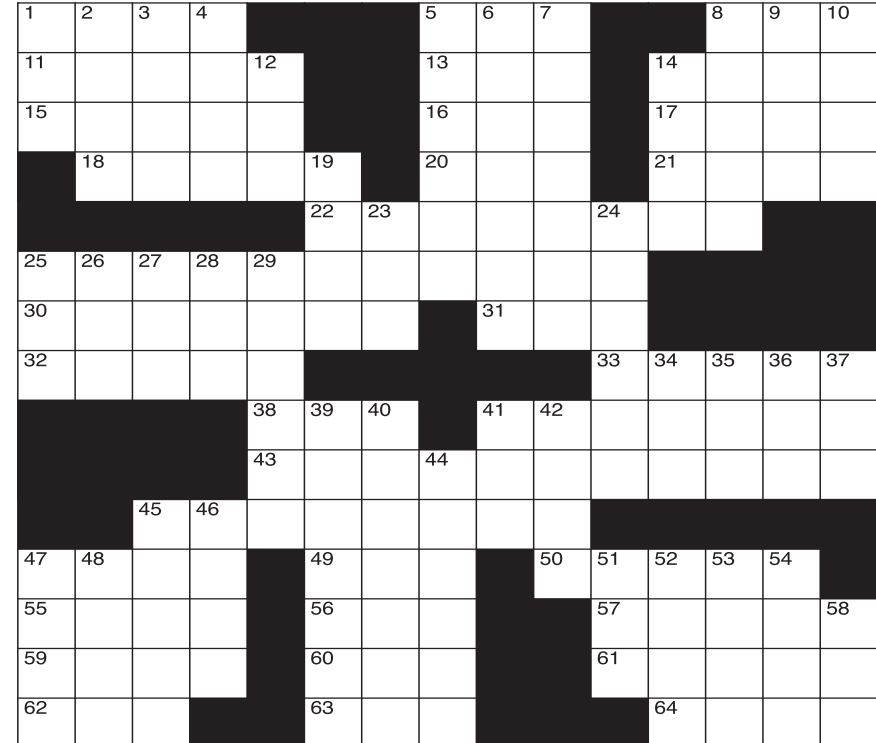
Historical gasoline prices in Virginia and the national average going back ten years:

September 25, 2022: \$3.33/g (U.S. Average: \$3.67/g)

September 25, 2021: \$3.00/g (U.S. Average: \$3.19/g)

See Gas, page 6

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- CLUES ACROSS**
- Fall down
  - Gas usage measurement
  - Golf score
  - A superior grade of black tea
  - Wrath
  - Eating house
  - Delay leaving a place
  - People now inhabiting Myanmar
  - Canadian flyers
  - Walks back and forth
  - Frequently
  - Humans have two
  - Surrounds with armed forces
  - Made proper
  - Medical buildings
  - Patty Hearst's captors
  - Hits with a drop shot
  - Italy's PM 1919-20
  - Promotions
  - En \_\_: incidentally
  - Queens baseball team
  - Commoner
  - Expenses in insurance world (abbr.)
  - Payroll firm
  - Broadway actress
  - Daisy
  - Skipper butterflies
  - Hint
  - Daniel \_\_, French composer
  - English children's author Blyton
  - Midway between east and southeast
  - Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
  - Patriotic women's group
  - The woman
  - Tall, slender-leaved plant
- CLUES DOWN**
- Parts per thousand (abbr.)
  - Jump
  - Eaten as a vegetable
  - Residual paresis after anesthesia
  - Brunchtime staple
  - Makes money off of
  - Refined
  - Nocturnal S. American rodents
  - From a distance
  - Officials
  - It helps you see
  - Central Canadian indigenous person
  - Invests in little enterprises
  - They help in tough situations
  - Industrial port in Poland
  - Type of screen
  - Peyton's little brother
  - Alcoholic beverage
  - Newspapers need it
  - Herbal tea
  - Distinctive practice
  - Exercise system \_\_-bo
  - Explosive
  - Belonging to a thing
  - Presidential candidates engage in them
  - Of the Swedes
  - Meadow-grass
  - "Rule, Britannia" composer
  - Hooray!
  - Greek city
  - One way to do it by example
  - Imitated
  - "Game of Thrones" actress
  - Headley
  - Swiss river
  - Drought-resistant plant
  - A French abbot
  - One point east of northeast
  - Get free of

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# OBITUARIES

## Dye, Jacquelyn Ann

Jacquelyn Ann (Fore) Dye, 62, of Chelsea, Ala., formerly of Blacksburg, passed away Sept. 6, 2023, after a courageous battle with ovarian cancer.

She was affectionately known, as Jackie, Mom, or Grammy to those who knew and loved her. Jackie was born in Marion, Ill. on Oct. 30, 1960, and was the daughter of John R. and Elizabeth Fore. She graduated from Blacksburg High School in 1978 and received her Bachelor of Science degree with honors from Middle Tennessee State University in 1982. Jackie married Michael Dye on June 13, 1981, and later had two daughters, Jessica and Lauren.

Jackie had a varied career path and worked in recreational programming and aquatics for the Chattanooga Metropolitan YMCA, the City of Guntersville, and the Cleveland Family YMCA. She loved mentoring employees and later obtained her Human Resource Management Certification. Here she found her passion and worked at Encompass Health, climbing the career ladder to become the Associate Director of Employee Relations.

Jackie was an accomplished athlete. She ran multiple marathons including the 100th Boston Marathon and traveled to Dublin,



Ireland to complete a race on her 40th birthday. Her running and swimming accomplishments led to triathlon events, including the Chattanooga Waterfront Triathlon, and she eventually competed in team triathlon, including one with her daughters with the team aptly named Dye Tri'n. Jackie and Mike participated in multiple long distance bike races, including the 3 States 3 Mountains Race in Chattanooga. Jackie's further athletic accomplishments included adventure racing with orienteering, rappelling, mountain bike riding, hiking, and canoeing, and she even competed in an all-women's event, the Buff Betty.

Jackie had many hobbies including traveling, gardening, and cooking, but most of all she enjoyed being a generous hostess and loved being surrounded by family and friends. She was known for throwing

a lovely neighborhood Christmas dinner, sitting down for long card games with family, and enjoying a meal and a glass of wine with anyone who would join her. In each of her pursuits, Jackie tackled life with a hard work ethic, discipline, faith, and love and always put family first.

Jackie is survived by her spouse of 42 years, Mike Dye; her daughters and sons-in-law Jessica and Jeff Crowe and Lauren and Eric Varnell; her grandchildren Ian and Levi Crowe and Addison Varnell; her brothers and sisters Mark (Judy) Fore, Barbara Fore, Gary (Gerry Brennan) Fore, Lisa (Joe) Meek, and Mary (Steve) Johnson; several nieces and nephews; multiple beloved cousins; and close friends.

A Celebration of Life ceremony will be held on Saturday, Oct. 28, 2023, at 2 p.m. at McCoy Funeral Home Chapel in Blacksburg. The family will receive friends from 1:30 - 2 p.m. prior to the service.

In lieu of flowers, the family has asked that any memorial contributions be made to the Laura Crandall Brown Foundation, 410 Lorna Road, Hoover, Alabama 35216 (www.thinkoflaura.org), or to an organization of your choice that you feel would best honor Jackie.

## Scott, Donna Merrix

Donna Merrix Scott, 72, of McCoy, died Thursday, Sept. 21, 2023, at Heritage Hall. She was born in Giles County, Va. on July 12, 1951, to the late Doyle Lee and Mamie Collins Merrix.

She is survived by her husband, Alex Scott, son, David Scott (Dawn Brown), sister and brother-in-law, Linda and Leroy Smith; brother, David Merrix; grandchild, Morgan Scott; mother-in-



law, Faye Scott; numerous nieces and nephews; special friends, Dreama

Price, Debbie and Bernard Duncan, Sarah Jane Kenley, and many other friends.

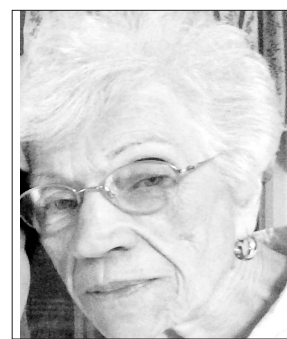
A graveside service was conducted Sunday, Sept. 24, 2023, at 2:30 p.m. in the McCoy Family Cemetery. The family received friends prior to the service Sunday at the McCoy Funeral Home, 150 Country Club Drive SW, Blacksburg.

## Viar, Nancy Davis

Beloved mother, grandmother and great grandmother, Nancy Davis Viar, 84, of Dublin, passed away Thursday, Sept. 21, 2023.

She retired from the housekeeping department at Carilion NRV Hospital. She was preceded in death by her parents, Dave and Mary Davis; husband, Douglas William Viar; daughter, Jeanett Viar; siblings, June, Earnest, Harry, Jim, Thelma, Jane Davis McDaniel and Bruce.

Survivors include her daughter and son-in-law, Theresa V. and Larry Morris; son, Randy Viar; grandchildren, Crystal O'Dell (Joshua), Melody Fawn Goodman, Trent Viar, Randall Morris, Mandy Morris, and



Chris Morris; great grandchildren, Noah Austin O'Dell, Isaiah "Tootie" O'Dell, Griffen O'Dell, Devin Goodman, Madison Moulton (Jackson), Olivia Viar, Alex Viar, Sienna Viar; great great grandsons, James Moulton and Nate Viar; brothers, Doug Davis and George Marshall Davis; special friends, Linda Cox,

Pauline Harris, and Danielle; special neighbor, Freddie Lee Collins and Sam; and many other relatives and friends.

The family would like to thank all the doctors and staff and Lewis-Gale Medical Center in Salem.

The family received friends Tuesday, Sept. 26, 2023, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services followed with Pastor Danny Newman officiating. Interment followed in Highland Memory Gardens in Dublin. A meal will follow in the West Radford Church of God fellowship hall.

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

## Meredith, Susan Mays

Susan Mays Meredith, 75, of Blacksburg, peacefully passed Monday, Sept. 18, 2023.

She was born Feb. 5, 1948 in Richmond. She was preceded in death by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Vernon L. Mays. She is survived by her husband of 54 years, Dr. Joseph W. Meredith; three daughters, Andrea Yeager, Katherine James (Brian), Sarah Bono (Bobby); brother, Vernon Mays Jr. and sister Betty Jurgens;



and nine grandchildren. A Celebration of Life service will be held at

McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg, Virginia Sunday, Oct. 1, 2023 at 3 p.m. The family will be receiving guests after the service. Interment will be private at Memorial Gardens of the New River Valley.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to the Renaissance Music Academy designated for the New Building Fund or the Joe Meredith Scholarship fund at www.rmahome.com.



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF FOODLION FEEDS

It's that time of the year when fans pack the bleachers, wear their college colors and wave rally flags in the air to celebrate touchdowns and quarterback sacks. For Food Lion Feeds, football is the official kickoff to our fifth-season Sack to Give Back program. This fall, the campaign will bring together a record 36 colleges and universities to help nourish neighbors experiencing hunger, including Virginia Tech.

## Sack to Give Back Program kicks off Hunger Action Month efforts

The fifth season of Food Lion Feeds' Sack to Give Back program will bring together a record 36 colleges and universities to help nourish neighbors experiencing hunger.

Through this collaborative and proactive approach to tackle food insecurity, Food Lion Feeds will provide 1,000 meals (up to 30,000 meals per school) for every quarterback sack made by the participating institution. The effort benefits Feeding America®, the nation's largest hunger-relief organization, and local partner food banks throughout Food Lion's 10-state operating area. Food Lion Feeds was founded in 2014 by Food Lion to address food insecurity in the towns and cities it serves.

The Sack to Give Back program also kicks off in September to align with Hunger Action Month, a time when Food Lion Feeds deepens its extensive existing relationship with Feeding America®. The partnership highlights the impact food can have on a person's life and inspires action to end hunger within their communities. Since 2019, the Sack to Give Back campaign has resulted in more than 2.1 million meals\* provided to local partner food banks across Food Lion's 10-state footprint.

In 2023, Food Lion Feeds' Sack to Give Back program has expanded from 33 to 36 teams across Delaware, Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia. The unique program will benefit 19 Feeding America local partner food banks serving

communities where each school is located. With Week 3 of the 2023 college football season officially in the books, the participating colleges have already recorded 206 quarterback sacks, equivalent to 206,000 meals.

"At Food Lion, we are committed to creating a winning game plan to nourish our neighbors," said Kevin Durkee, Manager, Food Lion Feeds, Food Lion. "By partnering with student-athletes and their communities, we increase awareness and support to address food insecurity in the towns and cities we serve. Together, we can tackle hunger."

The Sack to Give Back campaign is one of many efforts Food Lion Feeds leads during Hunger Action Month. In addition to this campaign, Food Lion Feeds will remodel and stock the shelves of nearly 30 food pantries across its 10-state operating area through its annual event, The Great Pantry Makeover. During this 30-day effort, Food Lion associates volunteer for activities such as painting and cleaning pantries to installing shelving, freezers, coolers and other equipment to expand the capacity for fresh fruits, vegetables and other products. Additionally, in partnership with customers, Food Lion will help provide meals to neighbors experiencing hunger through its annual Food Lion Feeds Apple Bag campaign from Sept. 13 - Oct. 3. The Apple Bag campaign benefits Feeding America and local partner member food banks.

Submitted by Foodlion Feeds

## NRVRC seeks Hazard Mitigation Plan input



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF NRVRC

When a major natural event strikes, it is often described as a natural disaster.

Natural disasters and their aftermath have long affected humans and the built environment. Pre-disaster hazard mitigation is about preventing or minimizing the physical, financial, and human impacts of natural disasters; the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) describes hazard mitigation as "sustained actions taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk from hazards and their effects."

Identifying the region's likely hazards, assessing their impact, and determining what can be done to reduce or eliminate the risk they pose to people and property: this planning process will meet these goals and compile a plan for the New River Valley to implement policies, programs and projects that will build its resilience to disasters.

The New River Valley Regional

Commission will work with locality staff, state and federal agencies, and stakeholders across the region over the coming months to complete the work and publish a plan that identifies the hazards, their risks, the region's vulnerability and the strategies to minimize these vulnerabilities. Input from all participants will contribute to the success of the planning process and build partnerships for future success.

Your contribution is valuable to the process, so please continue to participate in the process in the ways that best fit your availability. The site will be updated at least monthly with new information from our working groups, surveys, and requests for feedback as well as plans for in-person events.

For more information: <https://www.engagenrv.org/hazard-mitigation-plan>.

New River Valley Regional Commission

## AARP Virginia Fraud Alert: Celebrity Impostor Scams

This October is National Cyber Security month and AARP is focused on shining a light on the most prevalent online scams including celebrity impostors. Stars like Bruce Springsteen, Trace Adkins and Oprah Winfrey are among thousands of celebrities whose personas have been used by scammers online to solicit money from fans.

These days, celebrities share career news, personal views, even travel videos on social media and interact with fans in comment threads. Criminal scammers take advantage of that by trying to convince fans that they have special direct access to that celebrity online. The way it works is a fan will get a direct message out of the blue from a favorite musician, actor or athlete. They will send out tens of thousands of these messages knowing

that while most people will be skeptical — it only takes one person who is excited to make money.

While the ask might vary between money for charity or an investment opportunity or limited access event and even love, it is always a scam. Remember, never share your personal information with or send money to someone you don't know and have only communicated with online, no matter how supposedly famous they are.

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

Visit the AARP Fraud Watch Network at [www.aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork](http://www.aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork) or call the AARP Fraud Watch Helpline at 1-877-908-3360.

Submitted by AARP





James Ivory

PHOTO COURTESY OF VIRGINIA TECH

## Ongoing actor, writer strikes will cause major disruptions for television shows and movies

The Writers Guild of America strike has lasted more than four months now, with the actors guild strike coming up on two months of the same. As the concurrent strikes have grown longer and longer, the repercussions on television shows and movies have become more and more prominent for audiences.

"Most of the immediate effects of the writers' strike in May and even the actors' strike in July did not affect availability of programming," said James Ivory, a Virginia Tech media technology expert. Ivory answered questions about what the consequences of the ongoing strike could be for viewers, producers, actors and writers — and for those who appear to defy the strikes.

**Q:** What are the direct effects of the ongoing strike on programming?

"Reports attribute several major film releases underperforming at the box office to lack of visible promotion from actors, and announcements that eagerly anticipated film and television releases will have delayed or yet-unknown release dates are getting fans' attention. Scripted series for the traditional 2023-2024 broadcast television season have also been heavily disrupted at this point."

**Q:** Why hasn't an agreement been reached?

"It is a tough spot for all. The writers and actors can point to stagnant wages over the years and dwindling roles because of trends in production processes such as fewer episodes per season for some programming. There are also looming worries about misuse of artificial intelligence to trim writers' and actors' paid time on duty. Meanwhile, production companies are dealing with a lot of red ink in streaming revenues — even the giant services are struggling to make profits. The duration of the

strike even under immense financial strain for all involved tells us how thin the margins are when trying to find a fair way to divide up revenues in the streaming era."

**Q:** Why has controversy enveloped Drew Barrymore's decision to resume her talk show

"Some details in the nature of the contract that Drew Barrymore's program has with the actors guild support a claim that technically, she is not breaking the actor's strike, though not everyone agrees. She is under heavy criticism for breaking the spirit of it at the very least by resuming during the strikes. Her program will be picketed, and Barrymore was uninvited from a scheduled role to host the National Book Awards."

**Q:** How are the writers and actors faring as the strikes continue?

"While audiences are only really starting to feel the strike, writers and actors have been hit hard in the wallets for a long time. The vast majority of these strikers were not making exorbitant sums of money before the strike, so they have been doing it especially tough without income. Let's hope the strike can be resolved and that a broadly sustainable economic model for a streaming-dominated media landscape can be found."

James Ivory is a professor in the Virginia Tech Department of English. His primary research interests deal with social and psychological dimensions of new media and communication technologies, with a focus on the content and effects of technological features of new entertainment media, such as video games. His expertise has been cited in *The Washington Post* and *USA Today*.

Mike Allen for Virginia Tech

## Coal country is Elk watch country



PHOTO BY SOUTHERN GAP ADVENTURES

**Herd of elk graze on reclaimed coal mining sites in the Elk Management Zone.**

Elk viewing season is kicking off and many folks will have the opportunity to experience Virginia's elk through attending an in-person tour, visiting to the wildlife viewing shelters at Southern Gap, or watching the elk cam.

The elk are very charismatic this time of year; I hope that everyone appreciates their fall beauty and boldness.

It's been more than a decade since elk restoration started in the commonwealth, and the population is thriving. As you marvel at these impressive animals, be sure to also pay attention to the landscape they inhabit. The land is just as special as the elk themselves and follows a very similar story.

Coal country in southwest Virginia is elk country. All of the elk habitat and viewing areas are located on reclaimed mine land. In fact, the entire Elk Management Zone (Buchanan, Dickenson, and Wise counties) has traditionally been driven by coal mining. And without mining, we would not have a place for elk to roam.

First, we need to cover some basics on coal mining. Coal seams are located underground, and mining companies can get to them either through deep mining (bottom-up) or surface mining (top-down). The latter includes methods such as strip mining and mountain-top removal, both of which lead to the creation of relatively flat, open land. The process involves removing everything above the coal seam in order to expose it. Once all the marketable coal has been extracted from the site, reclamation begins. As required by law, mining companies must have an approved post-mine land use in place and put up bond money before they break ground on a site. In order to receive the bond money back, they must complete the work required to achieve that approved use. To reclaim sites for wildlife, soil must be replenished and plants must be sowed. Unfortunately, invasive plant species, such as sericea lespedeza and autumn olive, were historically a top choice because of their ability to prolifically grow and reproduce.

Elk are herbivores that spend a lot of time grazing on grasses and forbs in fields and other open areas. Elk also need forested areas for food and cover. The Elk Management Zone is predominantly forested with steep topography. But surface coal mining paved the way for conversion to and maintenance of grasslands and fields for elk and other wildlife among those forested lands. Mining is the only way that open habitats could be created at such a vast scale. The Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR), together with our partners—Southwest Virginia Sportsmen, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, and The Nature Conservancy—have been improving habitat conditions on reclaimed mine land for elk and other wildlife through mowing, herbicide application, planting, and mechanically removing invasive plant species. This not only has benefited elk, but also many

other early successional/grassland wildlife species that are on the decline throughout North America. Species such as eastern meadowlark, northern harrier, woodcock, and eastern box turtle are observed on the areas managed for elk.

There is nothing about the field-forest mosaic that is unnatural. The pre-colonial landscape in what is now the eastern United States was drastically different from the large expanses of mature forest we see today. Woodlands, savannas, meadows, and prairies were extensive and supported significant numbers of elk and bison, both of which need grasses to survive. Regular disturbance is necessary to maintain grassland and early succession so that woody plants are suppressed, thus delaying the progression towards a forested landscape. Contrary to popular belief, Native Americans in eastern North America had a significant impact on the landscape through intentional clearing of trees, burning, and creation of farmland. They set controlled fires to improve vegetation quality, open the forest, and attract animals such as bison, elk, and deer for better hunting. They also burned along trails to improve ease of travel and limit the ability of predators (both animal and human) to hide and ambush them. In addition to intentional fires, natural lightning-sparked fires accomplished the same purposes. Native grazers, like elk and bison, helped to maintain grasslands and promote grass and forb diversity. All of these things combined to make the eastern United States a much more open and diverse landscape than it is today.

In 2023, our landscape looks vastly different than when elk first roamed here. Development and agriculture take up a vast amount of space. The lack of native grazer wildlife, emphasis on fire suppression, and the decline in logging over the past few decades, especially on federal public lands, has combined to create broad expanses of homogenous, mature forest. Thankfully, surface coal mines in the Appalachian Plateau of Virginia have enabled grasslands and early succession to experience a regional resurgence. And the restoration of a native landscape and native megafauna have come with it.

We make it a point to highlight to our elk tour participants that they are experiencing the fruits of mine reclamation labor. We typically receive surprised and unbelieving looks because images of active mining, and not reclamation, are what most folks associate with coal mining. It is important to understand that coal mining does not destroy land beyond repair. As a wildlife biologist, I am trained to always see the potential in a property and to make the most of what is available. And with our army of volunteers, landowners, and conservation organizations, the potential for the land and elk in southwest Virginia is sky-high.

Jackie Rosenberger, DWR, Elk Project Manager

## Gas

from page 4

September 25, 2020: \$2.09/g (U.S. Average: \$2.19/g)  
 September 25, 2019: \$2.40/g (U.S. Average: \$2.66/g)  
 September 25, 2018: \$2.62/g (U.S. Average: \$2.86/g)  
 September 25, 2017: \$2.46/g (U.S. Average: \$2.55/g)  
 September 25, 2016: \$2.10/g (U.S. Average: \$2.20/g)  
 September 25, 2015: \$2.03/g (U.S. Average: \$2.29/g)  
 September 25, 2014: \$3.13/g (U.S. Average: \$3.34/g)  
 September 25, 2013: \$3.20/g (U.S. Average: \$3.43/g)

Neighboring areas and their current gas prices:  
 Roanoke- \$3.51/g, down 1.7 cents per gallon from last week's \$3.53/g.

Richmond- \$3.52/g, down 3.3 cents per gallon from last week's \$3.56/g.

West Virginia- \$3.59/g, down 3.5 cents per gallon from last week's \$3.63/g.

"It's been a mostly quiet week for the national average price of gasoline, with most states seeing gas prices cool off. But, new and continued refinery issues in some regions have had an oversized effect on gas prices in some states, especially in Southern California, Arizona and Nevada," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy. "While most states are likely to continue seeing gasoline prices fall in the week ahead, any new refinery issues as others begin maintenance could be problematic. For diesel prices, however, the opposite is playing out, with prices that continue to rise as demand for diesel strengthens. Overall, the largest issues impacting gas prices remain refinery disruptions, but also the price of oil, which has held around \$90 per barrel as Saudi Arabia and Russia maintain significant production cuts."

Submitted by GasBuddy

## Radford University hosts Paul Frets: An Autumn Retrospective

Radford University is hosting a new exhibition, coming to Radford University Art Museum's Covington Gallery, featuring art professor emeritus and Radford resident Paul Frets.

Paul Frets: An Autumn Retrospective, will be open to the public beginning with a free reception Wednesday, Oct. 4, 5 – 7 p.m.

Frets taught at Radford University for over 30 years, starting in 1964. According to Radford University, "Frets made art with elite artist Elaine de Kooning, (wife of Willem de Kooning) in the late 1960s as her personal assistant in New York, after being awarded a fellowship from Carnegie Mellon. Frets is a beloved Professor Emeritus who helped shape the Visual Arts program at Radford University. He is 88 years old and still painting in his studio in Radford."

Frets played an instrumental role in the development of Radford's art program during the time the university was transferring to a co-ed institution. He was instrumental in the formation of the campus art gallery in the former Porterfield Hall.

The show will be open to the public from Oct. 4 through Dec. 2 at Radford University Art Museum's Covington Center Gallery. Regular gallery hours are Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Saturday noon – 4 p.m.

Radford News Journal staff report



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF RADFORD UNIVERSITY

The work of Paul Frets will be on display at Radford University beginning Oct. 4.



# Marketplace

THE FINCASTLE HERALD

The Vinton Messenger

THE NEW CASTLE RECORD

SALEM TIMES REGISTER

News Messenger

RADFORD News Journal

### Yard Sales - Botetourt County

#### Estate Sale

Household Furnishings & Appliances, Antiques, Collectibles, Chinese Export Rose Medallion Porcelain, Agricultural Items, Ladders, Air Compressor, File Cabinets, Shelving, Office Supplies.

Can be viewed Friday, Saturday, & Sunday 10 am to 3 pm

Call for address Daleville in Botetourt Co. Call Jeff at 540-493-6593

### Help Wanted - General

**WANTED**

Models needed for life drawing class, male and female, \$60 for 3 hour session. Call David 540-473-3713

### Legals - Botetourt County

#### TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 164 KELSEY WAY, FINCASTLE, VA 24090.

In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated July 30, 2018, in the original principal amount of \$140,900.00 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Botetourt County, Virginia as Instrument No. 180002806. 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 30, 2023, at 1:45 PM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: ALL THAT LOT AND PREMISES LOCATED IN BOTETOURT COUNTY, VIRGINIA, AND DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT A FENCE POST ON MELODY LANE; THENCE WITH MELODY LANE SOUTH 82 DEGREES 06' 00" EAST 93.08 FEET TO A PIPE FOUND; THENCE WITH MELODY LANE ALONG A CURVE TO THE RIGHT 189.74 FEET THE CHORD OF WHICH IS SOUTH 72 DEGREES 28' 30" EAST 188.85 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE CONTINUING WITH MELODY LANE SOUTH 62 DEGREES 51' 00" EAST 65.00 FEET TO AN IRON PIN FOUND; THENCE LEAVING MELODY LANE SOUTH 27 DEGREES 09' 00" WEST 280.92 FEET TO AN IRON PIN FOUND; THENCE NORTH 65 DEGREES 16' 06" WEST 321.63 FEET TO AN IRON PIN FOUND; THENCE SOUTH 64 DEGREES 55' 20" WEST 634.00 FEET TO AN IRON PIN-FOUND; THENCE NORTH 18 DEGREES 00' 25" EAST 356.00 FEET TO AN IRON PIN FOUND; THENCE NORTH 81 DEGREES 09' 00" EAST 248.00 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE NORTH 70 DEGREES 58' 00" EAST 327.17 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING CONTAINING 5.00 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, AS SHOWN AS PARCEL 1, ON PLAT OF SURVEY DATED NOVEMBER 23, 1993, BY RONALD R. CLARK, L.S., A TRUE COPY OF WHICH IS RECORDED IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BOTETOURT COUNTY, VIRGINIA, IN DEED BOOK 449, PAGE 72. TOGETHER WITH A PERPETUAL RIGHT OF WAY AND EASEMENT OVER THE 50 FT. PRIVATE ROAD AND MELODY LANE FOR THE PURPOSE OF INGRESS AND EGRESS FROM THE LAND HEREIN CONVEYED TO STATE SECONDARY ROUTES NO. 630 AND NO. 638. LESS AND EXCEPTING THAT PARCEL CONTAINING 2.539 ACRES, CONVEYED TO ROBERT D. DYE AND DEIDRE E. MEADOR, BY DEED DATED DECEMBER 15, 2017 AND RECORDED DECEMBER 18, 2017, IN AFORESAID CLERK'S OFFICE AS INSTRUMENT NO. 170004879 AND AS SHOWN ON PLAT OF SURVEY OF RECORD IN THE AFORESAID CLERK'S OFFICE IN PLAT BOOK 61, PAGE 121. TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit of ten percent (10%) of the sale price or ten percent

### Legals - Botetourt County

(10%) of the original principal balance of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, in the form of cash or certified funds payable to the Substitute Trustee must be present at the time of the sale. The balance of the purchase price will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Purchaser's deposit may be forfeited to Trustee. Time is of the essence. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser may, if provided by the terms of the Trustee's Memorandum of Foreclosure Sale, be entitled to a \$50 cancellation fee from the Substitute Trustee, but shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. A form copy of the Trustee's memorandum of foreclosure sale and contract to purchase real property is available for viewing at www.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, 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-358737-2.

### ABC NOTICE

ANCHORAGE HOUSE 24066 LLC, trading as ANCHORAGE HOUSE, 19391 MAIN ST. BUCHANAN VA 24066.

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a BEER/WINE/MIXED BEVERAGES license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

SPRING WITT 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 or 800-552-3200.

### STATE OF VIRGINIA, BOTETOURT COUNTY

Court File No. 230000149

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to all persons having demands against HARRY T. EUBANK, JR., late of said County, Deceased, to present them to me, properly made out within the time prescribed by law, so as to show their character and amount; and all persons indebted to said deceased are required to make immediate payment to me. This 13 day of September, 2023

Attorney: Eugene M. Elliott, Jr  
Attorney of Law  
200 Franklin Rd, Suite 202  
Roanoke, Virginia 24011  
(540) 981-0164  
Executive: Janis E. Barrett  
505 Waverly Court  
Hinesville, Georgia 31313  
(912) 312-0251

### Legals - City of Salem

#### Notice is hereby given

to all interested persons that the City of Salem Planning Commission, at its regular meeting on October 11, 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,

### Legals - City of Salem

VIRGINIA:  
1. Consider the request of Bruce Maxey, property owner, for the issuance of a Special Exception permit to allow a 1,200 square foot detached garage on the property located at 1862 Murrell Avenue (Tax Map # 128-1-4).  
2. Consider the request of Crystal Lowery, property owner, for rezoning the property located at 1000 Blk Ohio Ave (Tax Map # 197-1-15) from HM Heavy Manufacturing District to RSF Residential Single Family District.

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; 8.01-316.20-104  
Case No. **CL23001417-00** MONTGOMERY COUNTY Circuit Court, 55 EAST MAIN STREET, SUITE 1, CHRISTIANSBURG, VA 24073 Commonwealth of Virginia, *in re* AMANDA COVEY, KYEMPER ELLINGTON ALLEN v. COMMONWEALTH  
The object of this suit is to: MINOR NAME CHANGE. It is ORDERED that SCOTT ALLEN appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before OCTOBER 30, 2023 AT 11 AM August 23, 2023  
K. MIKE FLEENOR, JR., JUDGE  
TIFFANY M. COUCH, CLERK

#### Order of Publication

Commonwealth of Virginia VA Code§§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316.20-104  
Case No. **CL23001416-00** MONTGOMERY COUNTY Circuit Court, 55 EAST MAIN STREET, SUITE 1, CHRISTIANSBURG, VA 24073 Commonwealth of Virginia, *in re* AMANDA COVEY, KYENDALL MAE MARRIE ALLEN v. COMMONWEALTH  
The object of this suit is to: MINOR NAME CHANGE. It is ORDERED that SCOTT ALLEN appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before OCTOBER 30, 2023, AT 11 AM.

AUGUST 23, 2023  
K. MIKE FLEENOR, JR. JUDGE  
TIFFANY M. COUCH, CLERK

#### ABC NOTICE

JHKP LLC, trading as Tru by Hilton Christiansburg, 55 Hampton Blvd NE, Christiansburg, Montgomery County, VA, 24073.

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Limited Hotel license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Emily Orndorf, General Manager

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 or 800-552-3200.

#### 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, CHRISTIANSBURG, VA 24073 Commonwealth of Virginia, *in re* NANNIE FAY LONG, THOMAS LONG AND EDWARD LONG v. NONE  
It is ORDERED that CATHY

### Legals - Montgomery County

HUGHES appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before  
OCTOBER 20, 2023 @8:30 AM.  
SEPTEMBER 19, 2023 ROBERT M.D. TURK, JUDGE  
TIFFANY M. COUCH, CLERK

#### TOWN OF BLACKSBURG - NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS BLACKSBURG TOWN COUNCIL will hold public hearings on Tuesday, October 10, 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 2035: An Ordinance Rezoning 1.10± Acres of Land at 1200 Block of Airport Road from R-4 Residential to Planned Residential Zoning. This is a request to rezone approximately 1.1 acres of land from R-4 Low Density Residential to Planned Residential zoning for the development of 11 income-restricted townhomes with 33 bedrooms total in the 1200-block of Airport Road. Upon sale, the lots will become part of the community land trust to ensure permanent affordability. Also included in the development is surface parking and outdoor recreation amenities. The Future Land Use Designation for this parcel is Medium-Density Residential, which allows up to 10 units per acre, or up to 20 bedrooms per acre for multifamily uses. The request to construct 11 units/33 bedrooms (10 units/acre or 30 bedrooms per acre) represents an increase in the allowable bedroom density above the Future Land Use density of 20 bedrooms per acre.

Ordinance 2033: An Ordinance Vacating Portion of Public Rights-of-Way Located at Airport Road. This request is related to Ordinance 2035. The request is to vacate approximately 0.22 acres of unbuilt Town-owned Right-of-Way, adjacent to land known as unbuilt Airport Drive and unbuilt Virginia Street. The land to be vacated would be included in the proposed Habitat for Humanity townhome development as driveway and rear yard space.

Ordinance 2036: An Ordinance Vacating a Portion of Public Right-of-Way Located at Rimrock Road. This is a request to vacate approximately 0.47 acres of Town-owned Right-of-Way known as Rimrock Drive from Research Center Drive to its termination at the Route 460 Bypass. The vacated property will be used as a private driveway to access the Blue Ridge Cancer Center.

Ordinance 2037: An Ordinance Vacating a Public Utility and Sidewalk Easement on Land Located at 2600 Research Center Drive. This request accompanies Ordinance 2036 and would vacate active public utility and sidewalk easements that currently exist adjacent to the Rimrock Drive Right-of-Way. The existing sidewalk will become private serving only this parcel and the existing fire hydrant will be removed. The ordinance will require these areas to be vacated prior to the approval of the site plan for the building and parking expansion.

CUP 23-0003: Conditional Use Permit Request for hotel use and additional height in the Downtown Commercial Zoning District at 501 South Main Street. This Conditional Use Permit request is for a hotel use and increased height above 60 feet in the Midtown Development at 501 South Main Street. The request is for a 144-room hotel in the Downtown Commercial (DC) zoning district. It is proposed to be located on the parcel known as Midtown DC parcel 2. The height of the hotel building is proposed to be a maximum of 75 feet.

A Hotel/Motel use is permitted as a Conditional

### Legals - Montgomery County

Use in the DC zoning district. The Future Land Use (FLU) is Downtown Commercial, and the proposed use is consistent with this designation.

All persons affected by or interested in the proposed items 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 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://plow4va.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 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

### Services Needed Christiansburg Area

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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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 to the Christiansburg Residency from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Monday – Friday. Phone: 540-381-7201. Email: SalemDistrictSnow@vdot.virginia.gov EEO/AA Employer

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# MONTGOMERY SPORTS

## Auburn lack of depth stops game, Radford, Christiansburg remain unbeaten

**Marty Gordon**  
NRV@sports@ourvalley.org

Questions remain this morning about the future of the Auburn High School football program after Friday's game with Galax was stopped after the first half. At the heart of the problem is the lack of players. Apparently, injuries in the first half led to the shutdown as the team did not have enough players to continue to play.

Auburn is 2-2 this season and has not completed an entire schedule in the past three years, all associated with the lack of numbers.

Radford High School remained flawless with a 49-22 victory over Alleghany in a battle of undefeated teams.

Landen Clark recorded a five-touchdown performance for the Bobcats (5-0), tallying two in the air on 13-of-24 passing with 274 yards, adding another two on the ground along with 145 yards on 12 carries and earning a 43-yard interception return touchdown.

Max Kanipe collected 126 receiving yards and two touchdowns on five receptions.

Tanner Evans rushed 18 times for 279 yards with four touchdowns as Christiansburg moves to 5-0 on the season with a 44-20 win over Pulaski County. Evans had scores of 31, 65, 32 and 79. Matt Annis added a 19-yard score for Christiansburg, rushing 13 times for 92 yards, and Isaiah Cotto had a touchdown, rushing seven times for 36 yards.

Players of the weeks: Continue the names of Evans and Clark as both seniors led their respective teams to 5-0 starts. Radford's Landen Clark had five touchdowns, and Christiansburg's Tanner Evans scored four touchdowns.

Evans is one of the best football players in the southwest Virginia, but he hopes to continue to play on the baseball diamond. Saturday, he announced a commitment to the University of Charleston to play his other sport as he hopes to play professional baseball one day.

This past spring, Evans was named to the Class 3 baseball first-team as an at-large player after posting a .435 batting average with 30 hits, three homeruns and 20 RBIs. He was also 5-3 on the mound with 69 K's and a 2.25 earned run average.

Evans was also named the 2022 all-county, all-city player of the year in football.

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

This week's games: Christiansburg at Riverheads

Riverheads is 3-1 after 37-0 win this past Friday over Wilson Memorial. The other two wins have come over Tazewell (35-7) and 28-13 over Ft. Defiance (28-13). Their lone loss came to Central-Woodstock 8-7 in the team's season opener.

The Gladiators have outscored opponents 107 to 28 this season.

Riverheads has a very rich playoff history after going

12-1 in 2022, beating George Wytche in the state title game and winning 10 championships including seven straight.

Riverhead's all-world running back Cayden Cook-Cash has missed two straight games with an injury after putting up some unbelievable numbers enroute to the 2022 contest.

He gained 1,879 yards rushing with 175 carries and 26 rushing touchdowns and rushed for 775 yards in four playoff games.

His is still listed as questionable for the Christiansburg game but expect him to play.

Prediction: Christiansburg 35, Riverheads 34.

Radford at Glenvar

Radford and Glenvar is the classic matchup for the area. Both are unbeaten and both are looking further down the road to the state playoffs. The winner of this contest should be the region's top seed.

Glenvar has beaten Galax, Liberty, Cave Spring and Hidden Valley and has outscored opponents 158 to 37.

Glenvar quarterback Brody Dawyot was 20 of 25 for 267 yards with a pair of scores in their last outing against HV. The sophomore signal caller also had 10 carries for 100 yards and three more scores in a 49-13 win.

Just a season ago, Glenvar downed Radford 37-34 on a touchdown at the end of the game. This should be another classic.

Prediction: Radford 27, Glenvar 24.

## Radford takes down Alleghany



Max Kanipe goes up high to catch a pass over a Cougars' defender. Kanipe collected 126 receiving yards and two touchdowns on five receptions.



William DeHart-Lewis scores a rushing touchdown to score the Bobcats' first points of the game. Radford High School remains with the 49-22 victory over Alleghany.



Brandon Thompson eyes the ball and catches it for a two-point conversion. The Bobcats prevailed in the battle of two undefeated teams.



Landen Clark races to the end zone for a 43-yard touchdown on a pass interception. On offense, he recorded five-touchdowns, tallying two in the air on 13-of-24 passing.

PHOTOS BY BRYANT ALTIZER



PHOTO COURTESY OF RU ATHLETICS

Martin Sayer (right), who was 36 and a tennis coach at Radford University and Virginia Tech, suddenly passed away this past June from an acute gastrointestinal hemorrhage, according to the medical examiner's office in Roanoke.

### Sayer spoke softly, carried big racquet

Last June, when Martin Sayer, the greatest Radford University tennis player ever, heard he was going into the school's Athletic Hall of Fame, one of his first calls was to his old coach.

"Martin doesn't exhibit excitement like most people," said Mike Anderson, the winningest tennis coach in RU history. "But I could hear it in his voice, this really meant something special to him. He has won so many honors and awards I guess it surprised me. He said Radford was his home. Those were his words. It was really the first place he settled after so much travel for tennis, and Radford was special to him."

A lot of people have that feeling about Radford, but for a Hong Kong native who was born in the United Kingdom and spent his summers traveling the globe to

play tennis, finding Radford University became a touchstone for the reserved Sayer.

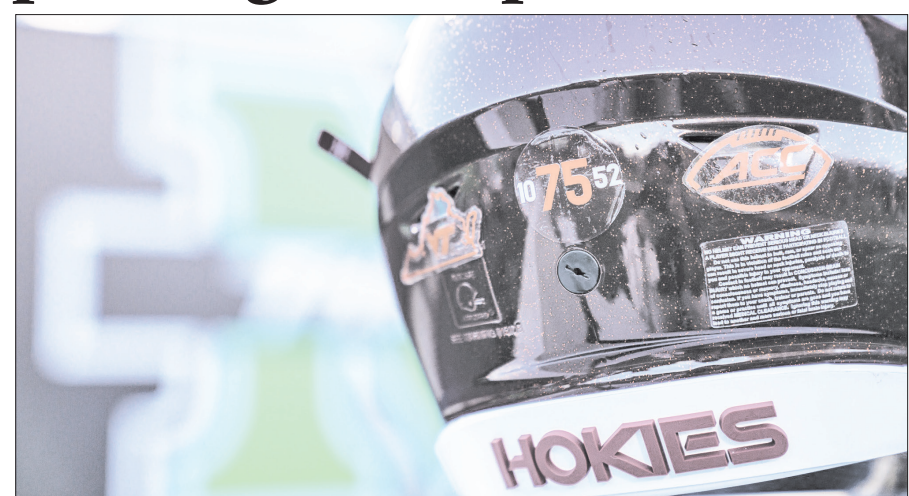
"Radford became a very special place to Martin," added long-time friend and Highlander teammate James Lloyd. "I think it says so much that Martin could have chosen any path, any career, and that he decided to settle in Radford. It suited his personality and he thrived. He had a special relationship with Coach (Anderson) and formed so many friendships there."

Sayer, who passed away in July at 36, carved out an amazing legacy as a player at RU from 2005-09, and then, briefly, as a coach before taking over the women's tennis program at Virginia Tech in 2016.

He was winning in life, too, raising

See Sayer, page 10

## VT honors former players, passengers of plane crash



PHOTOS COURTESY OF VT ATHLETICS

During pregame activities at this weekend's Marshall football game, Virginia Tech honored former Tech players Frank Loria and Rick Tolley, and all 75 passengers lost in the fatal Marshall athletics plane crash in 1970.



# Hole in one at Auburn Hills Golf Club



PHOTO COURTESY OF AUBURN HILLS GOLF CLUB

Auburn Middle School Golf Team Member Cody Fleet made a hole in one this past week on #7 at Auburn Hills Golf Course.

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his son Roger, with his wife, Ashley, in Christiansburg. He is also survived by his father and mother, Roger and Jenny, and siblings, Natalie, Matt and former RU netter Nicholas. And by so many others who remember Sayer's greatness on the court and his kindness and friendship everywhere.

"He was an introvert and softspoken but extremely inquisitive and liked being around campus meeting people," said Lloyd, who met Sayer on the international tennis circuit. "He was competitive, but he was such a great teammate. He was serious about his studies, and he loved the balance he had in his classes, with tennis and socially."

Sayer was a four-time Presidential Honor Roll selection at Radford, amazing when you consider he had dropped out of school as a 12-year-old to go into Hong Kong's national team tennis program. Full days of tennis and then on-line schoolwork afterward. His tennis talent cost him the life of a typical teenager, but he met the challenges and climbed the world junior rankings. He and Lloyd came as a package and changed Highlander tennis.

At Radford, Sayer won the most matches in school history. He won four consecutive Big South Conference Player of the Year honors, something no other Highlander has done. Going into the Radford University Athletics Hall of Fame, his achievements put him in the pantheon of the school's greatest alongside Dante Washington, Stephanie Howard and Chuck Tickle, Highlanders who achieved amazing acclaim.

Sayer had a 114-25 record in four seasons, all as RU's No. 1 seeded player. He was 24-1 in conference competition and was invited to the NCAA Singles Championship draw all four seasons, advancing to the round of 32 twice, and becoming just the second Big South athlete ever to win at the NCAA Individual Tournament, and he did it twice. He and partner Zack Watson also advanced to the NCAA Doubles Championships in 2009.

"He was a leader, he was the man," said Anderson. "He led by example, just head and shoulders above others during his career."

With Sayer on the team, Radford went 73-15 (24-1 in the Big South) and won three conference titles and made three NCAA Tournament appearances as a team. Moreover, he helped define the program's culture beyond the courts. "Our players held him in such high esteem, they always followed his example," Anderson recalled. "For example, we didn't wear our hats backward, no one on the team, and that was because Martin didn't do it. We opened doors for others; if we had our whole team in line at Subway and a couple came in, we let them go first, and that was Martin leading the way."

Anderson found Sayer in Hong Kong when the young player was 16, and the coach traveled overseas to see him play. A growth spurt had made the young tennis star somewhat gangly, but he was already a junior circuit sensation, and his potential was undeniable. Anderson establishing a relationship early meant a lot to Sayer, and once he got to Radford and other college coaches saw him, he was a target for covert recruiting pitches.

"Martin was so honest and so loyal, being contacted by dozens of major coaches

and he honored the handshake we had," said Anderson. "He never signed a Letter of Intent. It was just our handshake."

In Hong Kong, Sayer was known as "The Iceman" for his cool court demeanor. He never became rattled despite playing before hostile crowds in foreign countries in Davis Cup competition. "He was cool as a cucumber," said Anderson.

Sayer was at his best in the biggest matches – witness those Big South titles – and in major upsets of highly ranked players, often in fall tournaments. Major regional programs wouldn't schedule Radford during Sayer's tenure, not wanting to be upset by the upstart Highlanders or their tenaciously talented top seed.

"Martin always played his best on big stages: he had another gear he would go to," smiled Lloyd, who marveled at his friend's seemingly innate ability.

Sayer's value to teammates went beyond those victories and the respect the program commanded. Within the team, Sayer was somewhat of a "Coach Anderson Whisperer," according to doubles partner Watson. "Coach was very disciplined and all that and Martin and he were very close so Martin could always soften him up a little bit," laughed Watson. "Martin wasn't big into working out in the gym or running or even staying in great shape all the time."

Watson and the others loved playing on Anderson's multicultural squad that included players from Croatia, Serbia, Morocco, the UK, and obviously, Hong Kong. It was an eye-opener for the Timberville native. "To be honest, it was my favorite part of college," said Watson, now a nationally ranked professional croquet player and coach. "The cultural differences with people from all over the world and how they treated each other with such respect, yet, had so much fun, it was really an amazing part of my college experience."

Watson became Sayer's doubles partner early on when Lloyd was sick and couldn't play one day. "We were going up against these huge guys and it was my first time playing at No. 1," said Watson. "Martin made it so easy, and we just clicked. I had been doing terrible before that, but we just stayed together. Martin put Radford and all of us on the map in tennis."

Lloyd recalled a fall tournament early in their careers when he and best friend Sayer were on a collision course to meet in the semifinals. He won to advance but Sayer lost and then the next day, Lloyd easily bested the guy who had beaten Sayer. "I always remember how he handled that, with so much class," said Lloyd. "He was so genuinely happy for me and didn't dwell on his loss. That's how he was, always team first."

Now we all dwell on the loss of a truly great Highlander who continued coaching and advocating for tennis in his New River Valley home and beyond, setting high standards on and off the court that so many will remember. Honoring him at the Radford Hall of Fame induction on Oct. 20, will be bittersweet because Sayer won't be there with so many who loved him and so many more who cherished him and what he did for Radford. Rest in peace, Highlander.

Advantage Sayer.

*Mike Ashley, special to Radford University Athletics*

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