



Regional consortium awarded federal Tech Hubs Strategy Development Grant

NEW RIVER VALLEY – A consortium led by the New River Valley Regional Commission has been selected for a highly competitive \$500,000 federal Tech Hubs Strategy Development Grant.

“This is exciting news and a testament to our region’s burgeoning prowess in additive manufacturing and applied materials,” said Kevin Byrd, executive director of the New River Valley Regional Commission. “This award will accelerate our work to help small- and medium-sized manufacturers adopt and implement these new technologies, grow their business, and create jobs at all skill levels.”

The U.S. Economic Development Administration received more than 400 applications for the Tech Hubs Program. It was created as part of the CHIPS and Science Act of 2022 to drive innovation by strengthening a region’s capacity to manufacture, commercialize, and deploy critical technologies.

On Monday, the EDA announced it has designated 31 Tech Hubs and awarded 29 Strategy Development Grants in Phase 1 of the program. Tech Hub designees are eligible to apply for a handful of \$40 million to \$70 million implementation grants that will be awarded in Phase 2.

The New River Valley-based proposal centers on a set of world class technology assets that includes Virginia Tech and MELD Manufacturing Corporation, maker of large scale, metal 3D printers. It heavily leverages the Virginia Tech College of Engineering’s Advanced Manufacturing Team, led by Professor Chris Williams. This team, composed of 15 faculty from across the college, conducts research and education around advanced manufacturing technologies, such as additive manufacturing and advanced materials.

“This is another step toward our goal

of creating a globally competitive hub of excellence in this technology area, which is critical for our national competitiveness and security” said Williams, the L.S. Randolph Professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering. “I see this opportunity as yet another way in which we strive to fulfill Virginia Tech’s land-grant mission.”

The Strategy Development Grant provides the consortium, which includes more than 15 partners, with critical resources to work together to refine its strategy and position for future funding opportunities, Byrd said.

The CHIPS and Science Act authorized the Tech Hubs Program at \$10 billion; EDA has so far received \$500 million – 5 percent – of the authorized dollars. If additional funding is appropriated by Congress, the EDA could offer additional implementation grants beyond Phase 2. Strategy Development Award consortiums are invited by the EDA to apply for future application rounds.

Byrd said he believes the unique technology and skills across the geographic footprint of the consortium – including multiple partners in the Danville area – helped it earn designation as an inaugural Tech Hubs Strategy Development Consortium. He also credited bipartisan support from Virginia’s congressional delegation. The grant application included a joint letter of support signed by U.S. Sens. Mark Warner and Tim Kaine, along with U.S. Reps. Morgan Griffith and Rob Wittman.

Nanci Hardwick, CEO of MELD Manufacturing, said additive manufacturing is a growing industry that offers the region a chance to distinguish itself.

“Large scale additive manufacturing

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PHOTO BY THOMAS STONE

Janet Abbate is a professor of science, technology, and society at Virginia Tech.

What is success for AI? Professor to discuss topic during Capitol Hill briefing

Many believe that artificial intelligence (AI) tools have hit a home run, especially the popular ChatGPT application. Or have they?

This week on a national stage, a Virginia Tech professor known for her research on the history and culture of computing and the internet will challenge how society defines the success and failure of AI.

Janet Abbate, an Arlington-based professor of science, technology, and society, will speak during a congressional briefing on Capitol Hill on Friday to discuss historical perspectives on the challenges posed by AI. The briefing, hosted by the American Historical Association, will include Abbate and faculty from Princeton University, Columbia University, and the University of Minnesota.

“When we automate something done by human intelligence, we are defining what intelligence is,” said Abbate, who has written two books, “Inventing the Internet” and “Recoding Gender: Women’s Changing Participation in Computing.”

“There is this narrow idea of what’s

being included in intelligence,” she said. “That’s fine if you want to be a computer that plays chess, but now we have AI doing things that are very social. We have not included social intelligence in there.”

Abbate said she hopes legislators will consider some of her questions as they set policies for the nation.

“These foundational questions that should be asked at the beginning don’t get asked at all,” she said.

Abbate will discuss the following points:

AI lacks moral reasoning and social intelligence.

“We cannot automate moral reasoning or an ethic of care,” Abbate said.

Meanwhile, social intelligence comes when people live in a society where people’s actions have consequences for others.

“AI has prioritized socially disconnected forms of intelligence that may not be appropriate for current uses of AI that are meant to occur within

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Great Road Encampment engages visitors with 18th century reenactors, demonstrations, and authentic fare

Lori Graham
Contributing writer

The Great Road Encampment in eastern Montgomery County’s Elliston community provided visitors the distinct opportunity to take a step back in time to the 18th century during the two-day event, Saturday Oct. 21 and Sunday, Oct. 22.

It was a time residents of the southwest Virginia region were preparing to revolt and gain independence from England’s rule during the Revolutionary War.

The Great Road was the main thoroughfare going west to the frontier and was traveled by many great historical figures and prominent political figures

such as George Washington, Daniel Boone, Andrew Lewis, and the Ingles and Draper families.

Previously, the event was held in August, but the organizers and event demonstrators voted to move the date to October to take advantage of the cooler temperatures.

Janice and Hunter Hensley own Windhill Woolens and are wool spinners and weavers as well as wood art workers.

“We still get the fleece directly from the sheep, we don’t own sheep anymore, but we did for 27 years,” Janice Hensley said. “We take it straight through, as close as we know how, as the way it was done

See Demonstrations, page 2



Janice and Hunter Hensley have over four decades of experience in wool production.



Mark Bradbury holds a buffalo horn while demonstrating the process called scrimshaw, or scratching.



Justin Diprosperis demonstrates a mix of Native American and European clothing of the 18th century.

Radford University unveils new brand identity, embracing tradition and innovation



PHOTO COURTESY OF RADFORD UNIVERSITY

John Stinson, a Radford University student from Bland County, shows off the new logo

RADFORD - Radford University has unveiled a new brand identity.

The newly revealed Radford University logo includes “a prominent ‘R’ paired with the iconic Radford red color, visually represents our rich history and forward-thinking spirit,” according to a statement by the university.

“The university’s brand identity and visual marks are a representation of who we are as a university and have been thoughtfully created to encapsulate the essence of Radford University and our enduring legacy of academic excellence,”

according to Radford University. “The brand will be implemented in phases beginning in fall 2023.”

“To solidify Radford University’s standing as a premier, student-focused institution, we have sought to define our distinctive role as a university, tell our story more effectively and embrace the characteristics that make the Radford experience unique,” said Bret Danilowicz, Radford University’s president. “The new visual marks and accompanying brand pillars allow us to better communicate and market Radford to the Commonwealth of Virginia, and beyond, and effectively connects the university’s past, future, place, and people in an appealing way.”

The university describes the new logo as an attempt to incorporate history and location to better market Radford:

“The new Radford University logo is a visual narrative creatively designed to communicate the university’s history, picturesque location and the resilient spirit of our students. A bold ‘R,’ set alongside the year of Radford’s founding, 1910, is a reminder of our rich heritage. The iconic Blue Ridge Mountains are elegantly portrayed, paying homage to Radford’s stunning natural surroundings. Nestled within the mountains is a wayfinding

symbol that embodies the exploratory character of Radford students and the transformative experiences the university delivers. The elements are contained in a shield that represents the strength of our tight-knit community and the academic excellence that we provide. The simplicity and prestige of the university’s new visual marks are strategically chosen for Radford University. An updated color palette, with names that reflect our legacy and provenance, is also part of the new identity system.”

Vice President of Economic Development and Corporate Education Angela Joyner, who, according to RU, has an extensive background in large-scale branding, led the rebranding efforts in partnership with an internal cross-functional team and VisionPoint Marketing, “with input and feedback from more than 3,000 students, faculty, staff, alumni and community members,” over the past year-plus.

“The purpose of this endeavor was to celebrate who we are as a community and elevate the university’s brand,” Joyner said. “It was also an opportunity to tell our story with one voice in a way that honors our past and invites new generations of Highlanders who will join us in the future. The university’s brand

pillars, visual elements and creative campaign tell a compelling story that is unique and authentic to Radford University. I am honored to have been a part of this collaborative experience and work with such an amazing community on this important project.”

Also, five new brand pillars will “focus on the essence of Radford University, what we offer and the characteristics that make us distinct. The new brand platform will inform our messaging experiences in the future. A new creative campaign will be released later this fall, and a new website will launch in 2024.”

University officials say the new branding captures what makes Radford unique.

“With the new look, Radford’s brand conveys a sense of confidence and a human touch with its messaging and creative presence,” the statement reads. “Our brand story captures who we are as a university and highlights what makes us unique. Radford University is thrilled to introduce this new brand, which celebrates who we are and represents our commitment to both honoring our legacy and continuing to forge new paths in the future.”

News Messenger staff report

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, Oct. 25:

CommUNITY Yoga for Self-Care for Adults

At the Radford Public Library; 5:45 p.m. Join Kelly McCoy of The Whole You for an all-level yoga class for adults. Learn poses to help strengthen and lengthen your muscles as well as some breathing and mediation techniques to help calm the nervous system. This class is FREE to the public and is funded by grant money through the Virginia Department of Health.

Thursday, Oct. 26:

Town of Blacksburg administrative offices closure

All Town of Blacksburg administrative offices will close at 2 p.m. due to the Virginia Tech vs. Syracuse football game.

Saturday, Oct. 28:

Blues, Brews & BBQ

At St. Luke & Odd Fellows Hall; 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. The Blacksburg Museum and Cultural Foundation's 9th Annual Blues, Brews & BBQ. The event is free, though a \$10 donation is encouraged. Music by JoJo Stockton, Lady D & Mi\$\$ion, and Isaac Hadden. Food and brews from Feast and Company, Papa's Box, and Blue Ridge Beverage will be for sale. They need volunteers to assist with beer pouring, ticket sales, and more during the event. Please email info@blacksburghistory.org if interested and they can figure out a spot just for you!

Fundraising Pancake Breakfast

The Kiwanis Club of Montgomery County-Blacksburg is sponsoring a pancake and sausage breakfast, 8 to 11 a.m. in the Blacksburg United Methodist Church's Whisner Building. BUMC has a parking lot on the corner of Penn and Lee Streets. Cost is \$8 per person and tickets can be purchased at the door.

Thursday, Nov. 2:

American Legion meeting

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

Friday, Nov. 3 and Saturday, Nov. 4:

Book Sale

There will be a book sale at the Radford Public Library; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Along with our regular items,

there will be an abundance of children's, science fiction, fantasy, young adult, and Christmas items for sale. Come and get a bargain and support the Radford Public Library.

Friday, Nov. 3 – Sunday, Nov. 5:

New River Stage presents "Last Word on Jesse James"

New River Stage (NRS) announces their fall production of Last Word on Jesse James. Performance location is Proclamation Theatre at Knights of Columbus Hall in Christiansburg. Proceeds benefit New River Community Action's To Our House program. The play depicts the famed outlaw through the eyes of a story telling Mississippi River fisher. Living on the streets, telling big fish tales, the fisher becomes an internet celebrity who attracts people from all over meet them person. Tickets are available at proclamationtheatre.com.

Saturday, Nov. 4 and Sunday, Nov. 5:

Women with a Vision Bible Study's Holiday Bazaar

At First Baptist Church, 555 West Rock Rd., Radford. Saturday 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. and Sunday 12:30 – 3 p.m. Hot dogs, baked goods, coffee mugs, aprons, stockings, estate jewelry, cards, unique gifts, decorations, much more.

Wednesday, Nov. 8:

MCCC hosts Buy Local showcase

The Montgomery Chamber of Commerce is hosting a Buy Local Showcase, 3:45 – 6 p.m. at the Inn at Virginia Tech. How important is it that you buy local this holiday season? Shopping local supports area businesses, their employees, our schools, and services. Showcase will include over 75 local businesses. Door prizes and raffles every 15 minutes. Event exclusive discounts and deals. Great place for holiday shopping and free to attend.

Monday, Nov. 13:

Radford City Council meeting

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

Montgomery County Board of Supervisors meeting

Public meetings are the second and fourth Monday of

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

Tuesday, Nov. 14:

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, Nov. 16:

Sons of Confederate Veterans meeting

The Sons of Confederate Veterans, Stuart Horse Artillery Camp 1784 will meet at 7 p.m. at Aly's Family Italian Restaurant on 3204 Riner Rd. Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) are also invited to attend. Member Johnathan McPeak will give a talk on the Battle of Cloyd's Mountain. For further information, please call 540-320-4315 or 540-239-9864.

On-going:

Call for participants: 2023 Blacksburg Annual Holiday Parade

Citizens are invited to participate in Blacksburg's annual Holiday Parade, organized by Blacksburg Parks and Recreation. This year's theme is "Miracle on Main Street". Parade entries may be floats, bicycles, wagons, marchers, walkers, antique/classic cars, Jeeps, trucks, scout groups, bands, sports teams and more. The parade will be held on Friday, Dec. 1 at 7 p.m. In the event of inclement weather, the parade will be rescheduled to Saturday, Dec. 2. For more information on how to get involved, contact David Goodman, Community Programs Supervisor at degoodman@blacksburg.gov or 540.443.1106.

Free GED classes

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

PETS OF THE WEEK

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

Stella Bell is an older dog with pep in her step. She is energetic and friendly and enjoys meeting people as well as other dogs. Stella Bell knows how to "sit" and loves yummy treats. Stop by the Animal Care and Adoption Center to see how pawsome she is



Good boy Chewy is ready to head home! He's a sweet, happy dog who enjoys hanging out with humans. He is eager to please and may need training to learn some basic commands and doggie manners.

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is critical to supply production parts for industries such as semiconductor equipment manufacturing, the machines that make chips, as well as aerospace, space, and shipbuilding," she said. "We need to expand our capability to deliver these parts as fast as we can and this grant will allow us to bring together key partners to develop a plan for growth that benefits the community."

The regional collaboration behind the Tech Hubs consortium's proposal builds off a federal Build Back Better proposal led by Virginia Tech last year.

John Provo, executive director of Virginia Tech's Center for Economic and Community Engagement, said the strategy development endorsement from the EDA reflects the momentum of the region and validates the focus in additive manufacturing

"It's a testament to the dedication and collaboration within our community," he said. "With this award, we'll be able to

strengthen our region's position in the tech industry."

Consortium members include: Hollingsworth & Vose, which operates a Floyd County location and makes advanced materials; Radford University; New River Community College; MELD PrintWorks, a spinoff of MELD Manufacturing; Fastech, a Danville-based 3D metal printing and engineering firm; Volvo Trucks in Dublin; the Virginia Manufacturers Association; the Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center; the Verge alliance; the New River/Mount Rogers Workforce Development Board; Onward New River Valley; the Southern Virginia Regional Alliance; and the Danville-based Institute for Advanced Learning and Research. The counties of Floyd, Giles, Montgomery, and Pulaski and the cities of Danville and Radford are members too.

New River Valley District Commission

AI from page 1

or take the place of interpersonal social interactions," she said.

What it means for AI to replace or become equivalent to a human being.

AI produces an expected or stereotyped version of a human being.

"Part of the success of AI in imitating or replacing a human being is that we see what we want or expect to see and respond to conversation cues with our social instincts," Abbate said. "We fill in the blanks and in doing so, we exaggerate the computer's intelligence."

What it means for AI to solve a problem.

It is important that AI tools have a defined criteria for success, she said. For instance, if AI needs to be trained, who decides what the correct labels are?

Failure also needs a criteria. "Should we allow things that steal people's intellectual property? Or are used to harass or for identity theft?" Abbate said. "Failure is not the absence of success. We have a lot of things that are market successes and societal failures. This is where policy comes in."

Jenny Kincaid Boone for Virginia Tech

Demonstrations from page 1

historically."

The Hensleys can also be found at other local historical arts and crafts events in the region, such as a recent event at the Floyd Fine Arts Center, where they share their expertise and historical knowledge on wool products.

"There were no mills in this country until the revolution was well underway, no mills, you bought all your wool from England or somewhere else," Janice Hensley said. "England controlled all the wool. You made your own clothes, or you bought theirs. Unless you own sheep, and you could weave and spin and so on, you bought blankets from Britain and that's all there was to it."

By the time of the Revolutionary War, Hensley said, there were few people who knew how to process wool into clothing, blankets, and other necessary items.

"The Wool Act was 1699. From that time on, it was against the law to do anything with your wool except for yourself. Somebody like me would not have been permitted," Hensley said. "It was wool in any form, doesn't matter what, even your sheep. The British brought your sheep, so folks would hide their sheep over the hill if they got wind that they were coming to check. You had to sell your sheep to them unless it was family."

Scrimp in Time, owned by Mark Bradbury, showcases the artful tradition of scrimshaw, or the scrolling, engraving, and carving of an animal horn.

Bradbury sat outside his tent at the encampment, demonstrating the art of taking a buffalo or ram horn from a rough exterior to a smooth finish. He then will scroll an intricate design on the outside of the horn's exterior, often using Gaelic symbols and words from Ireland.

"The horn is made of the same substance as your fingernails, carotene. So, all I'm doing is being a manicurist of the horn," Bradbury said. "It is growing from the skull out, the same as your fingernails, so I will go with the grain. Then it starts to smooth out."

The horns were originally used for carrying gun powder, but Bradbury now makes flasks with the various horns. Another use of the horns are making them into shot glasses, which are unbreakable.

"In the 18th century, everything had to have a container of some sort," Bradbury said. "These were very popular in your taverns, as well as jack ware. Ceramic and pottery was very expensive

and also broke when a drunk dropped it."

Bradbury, like many of the other demonstrators and traditional art crafters, complete the process themselves as closely to the historical production as possible.

Justin DiProsperis is a Native American reenactor as well as a descendant of the Monacan tribe, an inland group of Virginia. Fully dressed in 18th century period clothing, which is a blending of Native American and European materials. DiProsperis explained how quickly the traditions of the native people were overtaken by those of the Europeans.

"The last time that we were really living our old way and in our old towns, the Colonials came upon one of our last towns in Madison Heights, just on the other side of Lynchburg. That was 1741, and about 10-15 years later, the town disappeared."

Diseases such as smallpox and cholera, some introduced to the area by Europeans, were difficult for the Native Americans to overcome and devastated their communities. New materials such as steel and cotton were also integrated into the Native American tribes and trade became a lucrative way for Europeans to also acquire animal hides, pottery and other products from the natives.

Steel was introduced to the native people and replaced their weapons of stone, DiProsperis said. Native Americans would trade animal skins and pelts, especially beaver as they were almost extinct in Europe by this period, in exchange for steel weapons, pots, and garden tools. The use of these new tools replaced their bone- and clay-made materials.

"Which is the destruction of the culture. Once we have these steel knives, we stop making the stone knives and stone axes. Once we stop making them, then we forget how to do that and you can't pass that on to your children" DiProsperis said. "Not just simply through warfare, through bigotry, and through disease, but also in what we do."

More information about the Great Road Encampment event can be acquired from organizer Henry Bryant, at greatroadencampment@gmail.com. Bryant is also an 18th-century reenactor as well as a leather worker and owner of Fort Vause Outfitters in the Elliston community on Big Spring Drive.

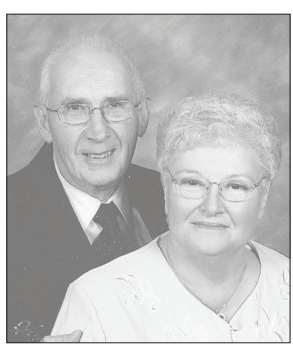
OBITUARIES

Boyd, Charlotte Akers

Charlotte Akers Boyd, 83, of Radford, passed away Thursday, Oct. 19, 2023.

She was a member of Fairlawn Grace Brethren Church and retired from Burlington Mills as a weaver. She was preceded in death by her parents, James and Russell Akers; husband, Dale McNair Boyd; and brothers, Ralph, Bill, Edgar, and Edward Akers.

Survivors include her sons, Ricky Dale Boyd and Vickie, Timothy Michael Boyd and Ruth, and Phillip Lee Boyd and Laura; grandchildren,



Lanie, Jesse (Ana), Lily and Eva; great grandchildren, Michael, Colt and Hazel; and many other relatives and friends.

The family will receive friends 11 a.m. until 12

p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 25, 2023 at Fairlawn Grace Brethren Church. Funeral services will begin at 12 p.m. with Pastor Cameron Mitchell officiating. Interment will follow in Sunrise Burial Park.

In lieu of flowers, please consider contributions to Alzheimer's Association, Central and Western Virginia Chapter, 355 Rio Road West Suite 102, Charlottesville, VA 22901.

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

Richardson, Brenda O'Dell

On the 21st of October, in the year of our lord 2023, the angels accompanied Brenda O'Dell Richardson to be with our lord and savior Jesus Christ.

To say she'll be missed is an understatement. Born to Robert Franklin Linkous and Jane Maxine Barnett in 1961, Brenda was the youngest of four siblings: sister Judy Ferguson, brother Roger Linkous, and sister Teresa Wetzal.

She is survived by her children, sons Scott and William, and daughter, Katie; and her remarkable grandchildren, Noah, Kaleigha, Natasha, Madison, Dominic, Jordan, Grant and Genevieve.

She is loved by her amazing nieces and nephews including a very special maternal relationship — Natasha Furrow.

Brenda's, "Nana" to



many, infectious love touched innumerable souls, to include the many colleagues and students she loved and admired during her 28-year tenure as part of the Virginia Tech community.

She was devastated, not by the news of cancer, but by the news that her health issues would require her to discontinue her employment with the people that made her excited to go to work each morning.

Brenda battled lung, brain, and adrenal cancer for many years. Most, if not all, knew her bravery, steadfast courage, warrior-like mentality, and willingness to take on the world's challenges. Not only was she brave, she also kept a smile on her face throughout the darkest moments.

With each passing day, we all miss the sound of her infectious laughter and quick wit. Brenda had an uncanny ability to brighten up the room with her beautiful charisma and charm.

She is profoundly missed. Join us in celebrating the life of Brenda Richardson, on Wednesday, Oct. 25 at McCoy Funeral Home. Visitation starts at 1 p.m. with services to follow by Elder L. Carter and Pastor Rebekah K. Brodrecht.

Bishop, Bob "Zipper"

Bob "Zipper" Bishop, 78, of Pulaski, passed away Friday, Oct. 20, 2023. He retired from L.H. Corp as a machinist. Zipper was preceded in death by his parents, Waddie Bishop and Clydia Roop Altizer; brothers, Richard and Waddie, Jr.; and sister, Frances.

Survivors include his wife, Robalene Litchford Bishop; sons, Michael Bishop and Shannon Bishop (Sabrina); grandchildren, Kelsey, Samantha (Torib),



Sidney, and Dakota; great grandchildren, Luke and Zoe; special caregivers, Kendra Barrett, Carnida

Barker, and Angie Akers; and many other relatives and friends.

The family received friends Tuesday, Oct. 24, 2023, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services followed with Pastor Perry Slaughter officiating. Interment followed in Roselawn Memorial Gardens in Christiansburg.

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

Altizer, Lawrence Eugene

Lawrence Eugene Altizer, of Fairlawn, went to his heavenly home on Saturday, Oct. 21, 2023.

He was born on March 19, 1942, in Floyd County to Vada Altizer and Annie Sowers Altizer. He was a wonderful husband, father, grandfather, and friend. Lawrence retired from Lynchburg Foundry with 40 years of service.

He was preceded in death by his mother and father; sister and brother-in-law, Betty and Edgar Duncan; sisters-in-law, Arlene Altizer, Jean Altizer and Shirley Altizer; and brother, Edward Altizer.

He is survived by his loving wife of 41 years, Martha "Martie" Altizer; son, David Lawrence Altizer;



Eva Marie Altizer; six grandchildren, Natasha Altizer Crooks, David Altizer, Jr., Nicholas Harding, Chase Staggs, Evan Staggs, and Ellie Staggs; 5 great grandchildren, Skyler Altizer, Kevin Crooks, Chase Crooks, Xavier Altizer, and Logan Altizer; brothers, Tazewell Altizer, Tommy Altizer, and

Teddy Altizer; brother and sister-in-law, Philip and Norma Altizer; sister and brother-in-law, Rosie and Gene Altizer; sisters, Ruth Moran and Bernice Akers; his little buddy, "Scooter"; special sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Jo and Butch Proco; and many other relatives and friends.

A celebration of life service will be held at 1 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 25, 2023, at Roselawn Memorial Gardens in Christiansburg. Please wear jeans.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to the Fairlawn Fire and Rescue.

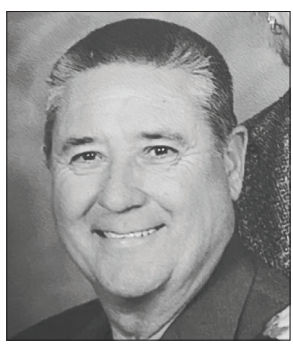
The Altizer family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford.

Long, Tyrone "Tony" Gordon

Tyrone "Tony" Gordon Long, 84, of Pulaski County, passed away Saturday, Oct. 21, 2023. Tony was a founding member of Fairlawn Church of God and served his country in the U. S. Army. He was owner and operator of North Radford Septic Tank.

Tony was preceded in death by his parents, James Long and Mary B. Greene; stepfather, Tudor C. Greene; his loving wife, Eleanor Ann McRoberts Long; daughter, Lorna Shumate; granddaughter, Angel Creed; and sister, Mary Kate Kidd.

Survivors include his children, James "Jimmy" Long of Radford, Connie Creed (Kenny) of Blacksburg, Susan Ramsey (Greg) of Raleigh, N.C., and Dana Scott of Blacksburg; son-in-law, Ron Dellinger of Roanoke; grandchildren, Carl Powers (Tara), Brad Powers (Maureen), Jason Powers (Elizabeth),



Michelle Lawrence, Jamie Thornton (Zach), Carrie Eaves, Ty Ramsey, Walker Ramsey, Joshua Scott (Denise), and Rebecca Scott; great grandchildren, Kourtney, Cody, Keegan and Luka Powers, William Whitlock, Kaitlyn Lawrence, Calli, Chloe, Kendall and Jack Thornton, and Taylor and Kaylee Lester; brother, William Greene (Betty); and many other relatives and friends.

The family will receive friends from 5 until 7 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 27 at the Fairlawn Church of God. Funeral services

will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 28, 2023, with Pastor Marcus Harrison officiating. Entombment will follow in Highland Memory Gardens Mausoleum in Dublin.

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

Monthly craft and vendor venue has unique gifts, baked goods, and stocking stuffers for the holidays

Lori Graham
Contributing writer

CHRISTIANSBURG - Do you have that special family member or friend that is difficult to buy for? Do you need a tasty home-baked dessert for the office or family party? Are you needing to restock lotion or makeup for the fall gatherings or as stocking stuffers?

Uptown Christiansburg, formerly known as the New River Valley Mall, has you covered with the monthly craft and vendor direct sale show.

Small business vendors and crafters can be found indoors at Uptown Christiansburg with a wide variety and selection of items. Wood crafts, crystal and mineral items, baked goods, Mary Kay and Avon products, soaps and lotions,

and crocheted products are just some of the many items available for purchase.

Two Girls and a Rock,

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FISH DAY

 It's Time to Stock Your Pond!

DELIVERY WILL BE:
Thursday, Nov. 9th

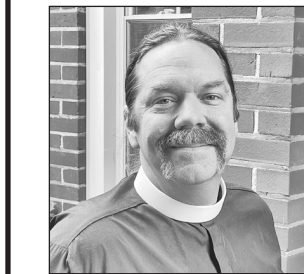
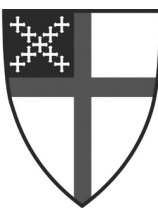
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Wytheville 12:30-1:15
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First Year of
William Yagel's
Ministry
in Radford**

"Be doers of the Word"
James 1:22

Legal Notice

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF AN APPLICATION BY APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY TO DECREASE ITS FUEL FACTOR PURSUANT TO § 56-249.6 OF THE CODE OF VIRGINIA CASE NO. PUR-2023-00156

Appalachian Power Company ("APCo") has filed an application seeking to decrease its fuel factor from the current factor of 4.319 cents per kilowatt-hour ("¢/kWh") to 4.139¢/kWh, effective for usage on and after November 1, 2023, which will result in an annual net decrease in revenue of approximately \$25 million.

To mitigate the impact of a fuel cost under-recovery position, APCo is proposing to recover its deferred fuel balance as of October 31, 2023, over two years. If the Company does not recover this balance over a two-year period, the current fuel factor of 4.319¢/kWh would increase to 5.130¢/kWh, which would result in an annual net increase in revenue of approximately \$111,765,155.

According to APCo, the total proposed fuel factor would decrease the average monthly bill of a residential customer using 1,000 kWh of electricity per month by \$1.80. Without the Company's proposed two-year mitigation, the monthly bill of a residential customer using 1,000 kWh of electricity would increase by \$8.11.

A Hearing Examiner appointed by the Commission will hold a telephonic hearing in this case on January 17, 2024, at 10 a.m., for the receipt of public witness testimony.

An evidentiary hearing will also be held on January 17, 2024, at 10 a.m., or at the conclusion of the public witness portion of the hearing, whichever is later, in the Commission's second floor courtroom located in the Tyler Building, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, to receive the testimony and evidence of the Company, any respondents, and Commission Staff.

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

On September 14, 2023, Appalachian Power Company ("APCo" or "Company") filed with the State Corporation Commission ("Commission") an application ("Application") pursuant to § 56-249.6 of the Code of Virginia ("Code") seeking a decrease in its fuel factor. The Company proposes to decrease the current fuel factor of 4.319 cents per kilowatt-hour ("¢/kWh") to 4.139¢/kWh, effective for service rendered November 1, 2023, through October 31, 2024 ("Fuel Year"), which is an annual net decrease in revenue of approximately \$25 million. The Company states that to mitigate the impact of a fuel cost under-recovery position, APCo is proposing to recover its deferred fuel balance as of October 31, 2023, over two years. If the Company does not recover this balance over a two-year period, the current fuel factor of 4.319¢/kWh would increase to 5.130¢/kWh, which is an annual net increase in revenue of approximately \$111,765,155.

The Company's proposed fuel factor consists of both an in-period component and a prior period component. APCo's proposed in-period component is designed to recover its estimated Virginia jurisdictional fuel expenses during the Fuel Year of approximately \$433,839,311, which includes non-incremental costs associated with APCo's wind contracts; a credit for 75% of projected Off System Sales margins; PJM Interconnection, L.L.C. ("PJM"), Load Serving Entity transmission losses; PJM congestion charges; 100% of incremental transmission line loss margins; and Financial Transmission Right revenues. The Company proposes an in-period factor component of 3.148¢/kWh.

The prior-period component is a true-up component designed to recover from customers over a two-year period an estimated under-recovered deferred fuel balance as of October 31, 2023, of \$273,125,395, or \$136,562,698 per year. The Company states that it divided the per-year amount by the projected Virginia jurisdictional energy sales for the Fuel Year to obtain the prior period under-recovery component of 0.991¢/kWh. Without APCo's proposed two-year mitigation, the Company indicates that the prior period under-recovery component would increase to 1.982¢/kWh.

APCo maintains that its proposed fuel factor would decrease the monthly bill of a residential customer using 1,000 kWh of electricity by \$1.80, from \$161.77 to \$159.97. Without the Company's proposed two-year mitigation, and a resulting fuel factor of 5.130¢/kWh, the monthly bill of a residential customer using 1,000 kWh of electricity would increase by \$8.11, from \$161.77 to \$169.88.

The Commission entered an Order Establishing 2023-2024 Fuel Factor Proceeding ("Order") that, among other things, directed the Company to place its proposed fuel factor decrease into effect on an interim basis for service rendered on and after November 1, 2023. The Order further scheduled public hearings on APCo's Application. A hearing for the receipt of testimony from public witnesses on the Company's Application shall be convened telephonically at 10 a.m. on January 17, 2024, with no public witness present in the Commission's courtroom. On or before January 10, 2024, any person desiring to offer testimony as a public witness shall provide to the Commission (a) your name, and (b) the telephone number that you wish the Commission to call during the hearing to receive your testimony. This information may be provided to the Commission in three ways: (i) by filling out a form on the Commission's website at scc.virginia.gov/pages/Webcasting; (ii) by completing and emailing the PDF version of this form to SCCInfo@scc.virginia.gov; or (iii) by calling (804) 371-9141. This public witness hearing will be webcast at scc.virginia.gov/pages/Webcasting.

Beginning at 10 a.m. on January 17, 2024, the Hearing Examiner will telephone sequentially each person who has signed up to testify as provided above.

On January 17, 2024, at 10 a.m., or at the conclusion of the public witness portion of the hearing, whichever is later, in the Commission's second floor courtroom located in the Tyler Building, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, the Hearing Examiner will convene a hearing to receive testimony and evidence related to the Application from the Company, any respondents, and the Commission Staff.

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

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

On or before January 10, 2024, any interested person may file comments on the Application by following the instructions on the Commission's website: scc.virginia.gov/casecomments/Submit-Public-Comments. Those unable, as a practical matter, to submit comments electronically may file such comments by U.S. mail 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-2023-00156.

On or before December 1, 2023, any person or entity wishing to participate as a respondent in this proceeding may do so by filing a notice of participation at scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling. Those unable, as a practical matter, to file a notice of participation electronically may file such notice by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the Commission at the address listed above. Such notice of participation shall include the email addresses of such parties or their counsel, if available. The respondent simultaneously shall serve a copy of the notice of participation on counsel to the Company. Pursuant to 5 VAC 5-20-80 B, Participation as a respondent, of the Rules of Practice 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-2023-00156.

On or before December 13, 2023, each respondent may file with the Clerk of the Commission any testimony and exhibits by which the respondent expects to establish its case. Any respondent unable, as a practical matter, to file testimony and exhibits electronically may file such by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the Commission at the address listed above. Each witness's testimony shall include a summary not to exceed one page. All testimony and exhibits shall be served on the Commission's Staff, the Company, and all other respondents simultaneous with its filing. In all filings, respondents shall comply with the 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-2023-00156.

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, all filings shall comply fully with the requirements of 5 VAC 5-20-150, Copies and format, of the Rules of Practice.

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

APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I would like to endorse and highly recommend Tiffany Couch for Clerk of Circuit Court. She has worked hard to learn all areas and responsibilities of the Clerk's office. She has also earned her Master Deputy Clerk Certification. She epitomizes the counties work ethic. Her genuine interest in people and their needs and concerns and her attempt to always go the extra mile to find a positive solution to every problem is an inspiration to all county employees and citizens.

Tiffany is competent and well qualified for the position. She has shown a great deal of intelligence, common sense and fortitude in discharging her responsibilities. She is mature and confident in her abilities

As former Chief of Police of the Blacksburg Police Department, and a former member of the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors, I believe I know good people when I come in contact with them, and Tiffany is a good person. As one of the two county Marriage Officiants, I work very closely with the clerk's office.

She has performed admirably as Clerk and has earned an opportunity to serve a full term. I encourage you to vote for a well-qualified and trained individual with the experience. That is Tiffany Couch for Clerk of Circuit Court.

*William H. Brown
Blacksburg*

Dear Editor,

For the sake of our schools, our communities, health care, child care, etc., please vote for those of the following candidates who are on your ballot: Lily Franklin, Trish White-Boyd, Robert Beckman, April DeMotts, Anthony Graftsky, Derek Kitts, Derek Rountree, Penny Franklin, Edward Gitre, and Liam Watson (write-in candidate for Blacksburg Town Council).

*Ray Plaut (Mr. Ray)
Blacksburg*

Dear Editor,

A Brief History of Montgomery County's Clerk's Office

My name is Diana Vaught, and I served in the Montgomery County Circuit Court Clerk's Office for 32 years and three months. I served under three elected Clerks, first hired by Tommy Myers while in high school, and worked my way up to serve as the Chief Deputy. After the last election for Clerk in 2015, I was not reappointed by our former Clerk, Erica Connor, four months away from full retirement eligibility. I have the unique privilege of understanding the history and inner workings of our Clerk's office. Some partisans in the community say that Cody Rush

isn't "experienced" enough to serve as Clerk because he hasn't worked in the office previously. If you know the history of our Clerk's office, this thought process couldn't be further from the truth. Since at least 1968, no elected Clerk of Court has worked in the office before their election. Tommy Myers was a State Trooper and insurance salesman (three terms), Allan Burke was a State Trooper and Army Helicopter Pilot (two terms), and even Erica Connor never served a day in the Circuit Court Clerk's Office before her election (two terms). All three earned the citizens' trust at the ballot box. While I cannot say this about our most recently appointed Clerk, the essential quality of Myers and Burke was their ability to lead

the office and communicate with the public. I cannot stress enough how much leadership matters for this position. Like Myers and Burke, Cody Rush has a diverse leadership resume. He served over a decade on Active Duty, leading soldiers overseas and at home. Cody seeks out information and builds strong relationships with others. He is well-educated, active in our community's civic organizations, and a role model for the next generation of citizens. I have proudly cast my vote early for Cody Rush to be the next elected Clerk of Court for Montgomery County and urge others to do the same.

*Diana Vaught
Blacksburg*

Dear Editor,

I support Lindsay Rich for District E Montgomery County School Board. She is my wife, and a wonderful mother of five beautiful children, one at Prices Fork Elementary School, one at Blacksburg Middle School, and Two Blacksburg High-Schoolers. Our oldest is attending New River Community College in the AACE program. We have lived in Montgomery County since 2003, during which time my wife has poured her heart and soul into our family and the community. She has dedicated years of her life being a caregiver for disabled. She was a longtime volunteer for a local food bank. She currently serves on the PTA at both Prices Fork Elementary School and Blacksburg High School and additionally volunteers to help with "Family Dinner" for the Blacksburg Football

Team. Having children at all levels of Montgomery County Schools gives my wife a front seat and a vested interest in the school system. Who better to help lead that school system than a mother of children directly impacted by the policies implemented.

On October 18, 2023, Randi S. Lemmon wrote a letter to the editor to which I would like to respond, providing greater context to potentially misleading statements.

1. My wife is not "now seeming to be disavowing any previous association with the Mom's for Liberty group." She has never been a part of the group. This has always been misinformation spread by my wife's critics. However, we do know mothers who are part of the local

See Rich, page 8

Dear Editor,

This election cycle I will be voting Derek Rountree for School Board, because masking is not the issue, and books are not the issue, and truly it was never about the bathrooms, just as it was never about the water fountains.

At stake is a Board that applies consistent, lawful, stable, and just oversight; creating the right environment to enhance learning and retain teachers and improve excellence in our schools (which rank in the top-10 statewide). Our kids need exposure to this wide world of opinions, perspectives, ideas, and cultures. Teachers, librarians and the support staff of MCPS are trained professionals and I trust them with my children. Montgomery county is blessed with many of these attributes inherently, yet some would have our community divide and play a false game of rural vs. city or southern vs "California" populist gam. School Boards need to practice engagement - from parents to staff to teachers and the community. Mr. Rountree has proven over and over that he listens to all points of view and cares enough to make things better. He has written thoughtful (and really, really, long posts) about everything from first floor safety and active shooters, to teacher pay, mental health, teaching history the way it happened, and budgets for infrastructure. He thinks deeply and critically about all of the issues that face our schools and he has not been afraid to answer or solicit advice from his constituents through a considerable effort.

Derek is the right candidate for

the job because he is sound and well-reasoned. Even though I ultimately disagree with some of his decisions, the logic behind his choices takes all sides into account. He advocates and pursues the best education for students and not just the status quo. He is open to, and encourages, challenging materials and subject matter like books, and listens to concerns about at-risk students. His approach is a sound blueprint for how to participate on a board; how to make tough decisions; how to gather input on concerns, fears, and hopes; and how to engage stakeholders like throughout the broader community.

For whatever reason, some candidates are about disruption for the sake of disruption; Lindsay Rich and Mark Mear have made crystal clear the motive behind their school board races and continue to both align and court the more extremist segments of political parties. Both of them have sought to make their platforms about culture-war issues and residents who do not share their values and beliefs. Both have left a trail of vicious comments in online forums and alarming reporting from local news organizations. Both have taken money from political groups associated with very aggressive agendas (despite VA having a non-partisan law about party alignment).

As to experience, Lindsay admits to having nearly zero public schooling experience herself, and only recently enrolled her children in public school after homeschooling for most of their education. During her campaign she has blocked constituents from her campaign pages and refused to

answer questions unless candidates show up in person - even then she only parrots back questions as answers. Counter to this there is significant history with Mark Mear who in my view disqualified himself with his behavior during his tenure as Superintendent. A divided board's arrival at a unanimous vote to dismiss him says everything we might need to know.

Mark and Lindsay have affirmed that, if elected, they will vote to roll back measures carefully selected by the previous board that ensure compliance with the Grimm Decision, this would expose our school system to lawsuits where Grimm would be used as precedent. Both say in public that they support Youngkin's policies, but indicate a belief that those same policies do not go far enough. If they are elected and follow through with these endeavors, our school system will be hit with expensive lawsuits, and taxpayers will foot the bill.

I am a small business owner in the NRV. I have voted Republican, Independent, and Democratic. In order to retain workers and attract new ones to the area, to rebuild economic capacity lost, we need to maintain a solid school system - we need stable, competent leadership. We do not need Mark or Lindsay on the school board, just like we didn't need Marie March or the dysfunction playing out at the federal level in the House - we don't want disruption for the sake of disruption. Please think about the turmoil that Roanoke County or Radford has seen this past year; vote for stability.

Elliot McAllister

News Messenger

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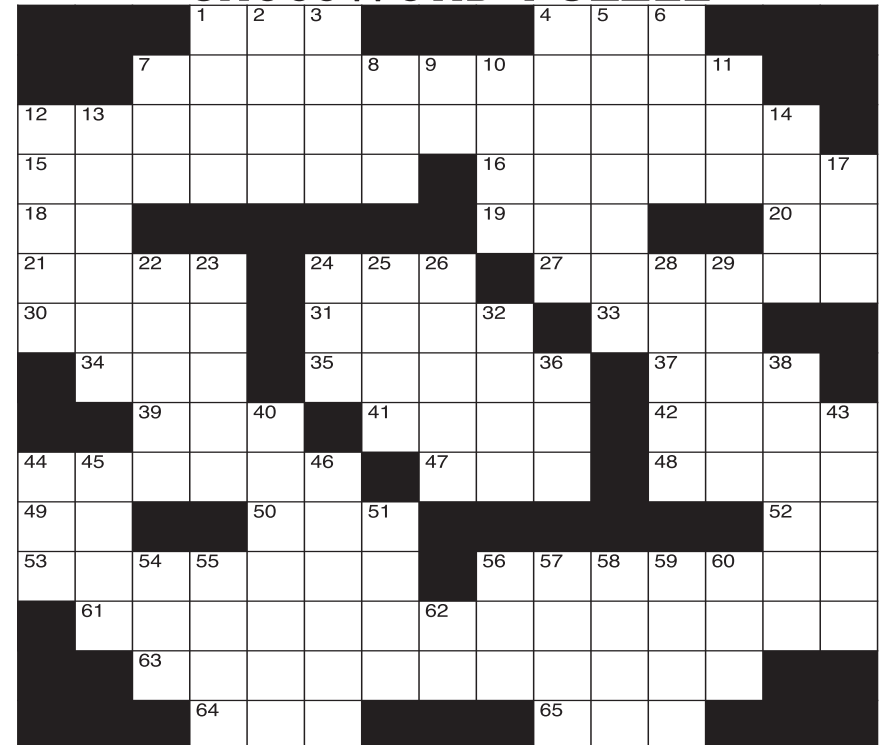
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The News Messenger is a newspaper of, by and for the people of Montgomery County. We encourage letters from our readers on topics of general interest to the community and responses to our articles and columns. Letters must be signed and have a telephone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

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| 1. Unhappy | 41. Matchstick games | 4. The capacity of a physical system to do work | 28. Renters have one |
| 4. Clairvoyance | 42. Thick piece of something | 5. People of the wild | 29. Tubular steel column |
| 7. One who works under you | 44. A state that precedes vomiting | 6. Parent-teacher groups | 32. Database management system |
| 12. What happens there stays there | 47. Burned item residue | 7. Midway between south and southeast | 36. Similar |
| 15. Not ingested | 48. Jaguarundi | 8. Moved quickly on foot | 38. Providing no shelter or sustenance |
| 16. Got the picture | 49. Anno Domini (in the year of Our Lord) | 9. Handheld Nintendo console | 40. Death |
| 18. One thousandth of a gram | 50. The home of "60 Minutes" | 10. "Top of the Stairs" playwright | 43. What a sheep did |
| 19. Breakfast item | 52. Dorm official | 11. Electronic data processing | 44. Midcentury Asian battle-ground |
| 21. Tall deciduous trees | 53. Give cards incorrectly | 12. "Dog Day Afternoon" | 45. Horizontal passage into a mine |
| 24. Safe keeping receipt | 56. One who is learning the job | 13. Leaned | 46. Mortified |
| 27. Cowardly | 61. Popular R.L. Stevenson novel | 14. About aviation | 51. Improper word |
| 30. Pueblo people of New Mexico | 63. Attentively | 17. Mountain is a popular type | 54. No seats available |
| 31. Herring-like fish | 64. CNN's founder | 22. Lake along Zambia and Congo border | 55. Financial obligation |
| 33. A very large body of water | 65. Criticize | 23. Heroic tales | 56. It can be hot or iced |
| 34. Angle (abbr.) | CLUES DOWN | 24. Soviet Socialist Republic | 57. Tough outer skin of a fruit |
| 35. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation | 1. Fijian capital | 25. "Star Trek" villain | 58. Spumante (Italian wine) |
| 37. White clerical vestment | 2. Assist | 26. Hand gesture popular on social media | 59. Misfortunes |
| 39. Cool! | 3. Elected lord in Venice | | 60. Negative |
| | | | 62. Camper |



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Events

Ridgewood Baptist Church Christmas Craft Show
Saturday, October 28th
9 AM to 3 PM
703 Hemlock Road
Roanoke 24017
Contact: MJ Kanode
540-355-5521

Yard Sales - Botetourt County

INDOOR YARD SALE

The Church of the Transfiguration and St Mark's Episcopal Church will be having an Indoor Yard Sale on Saturday, Oct 28th from 8 am - 1pm at 7624 Roanoke Road, Fincastle. Holiday items, household goods, books, furniture and more.

Auctions

AUCTION Saturday, October 28, 2023

10 AM
Partial Estate for Pearl Anderson
309 Holcombe Ave
New Castle VA 24127
These items and more available:

Cedar Lined wardrobe, kitchen appliances, brick a brack, bookshelves, chest of drawers, washer, dryer, night stand, dining table and chairs, dishes, electric heater, blanket chest, Cub Cadet rear tine tiller, cabinets, file cabinet, Christmas items.

No Buyers Premium
Cash or Local Check
accepted payment
Auctioneer:
Wanda F. Looney
Lic#2544

PUBLIC NOTICE

The contents of the listed unit will be sold at Public Auction October 27, 2023 at 11am at 1st Security Self Storage 5 Midway Plaza Dr. Christiansburg, VA. D020 D025 1st Security reserves the right to refuse any bid. Terms: CASH OR CREDIT CARD AT SALE.

Legals - Botetourt County

VIRGINIA:

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE COUNTY OF BOTETOURT

COUNTY OF BOTETOURT, VIRGINIA, a Political Subdivision Of the Commonwealth Of Virginia, Complainant, v. MARILYN LEIDECKER AKA MARILYN L. LEIDECKER, Respondent.
Case No. CL23-359

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

The object of this suit is to enforce the lien of the Complainant, County of Botetourt, Virginia, for delinquent real estate taxes against certain real property located in the County of Botetourt, Virginia, described as follows:

Tax Map No. 86-31
Account No. 25712

All that certain lot or parcel of land, with all appurtenances thereunto belonging, lying and being in the County of Botetourt, Virginia, and being more particularly described as follows: Tract A, consisting of 1.00 acre, more or less, as shown on plat of survey prepared by Charles R. McMurry, CLS, dated September 12, 1990, and recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Botetourt County, Virginia, in Plat Book 13, Page 170. There is further conveyed unto parties of the second, all rights in the "Cesspool" and drain lines for septic system purposes along with an easement to repair and maintain the same reserved in a deed to the adjacent property dated November 21, 1951 and recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Botetourt County, Virginia, in Deed Book 105, Page 143. And being the same property conveyed to Alan J. Leidecker and Marilyn Leidecker, husband and wife, as tenants by the entirety with the right of survivorship as at common law, from Ann Gladwell by Deed dated September 24, 2004, and recorded September 28, 2004 in the Circuit Court Clerk's Office of Botetourt County, Virginia, as Instrument 040006803. This description is made subject to all easements, conditions, agreements,

Legals - Botetourt County

restrictions, and reservations of record which affect the property herein described.

IT APPEARING that an Affidavit has been made and filed stating that due diligence has been used, without effect, to ascertain the identity and location of certain parties to be served, that the last known address for the Respondents herein are as follows: Marilyn Leidecker aka Marilyn L. Leidecker, whose last known address is 4704 Showalter Road NW, Roanoke, VA 24017; and that any officers, heirs, devisees, and successors in title of the Respondent named here in are made parties Respondent to this action individually and/or by the general description of Parties Unknown, it is hereby **ORDERED** that the parties herein and all Parties Unknown and/or whose location cannot be ascertained appear on or before **November 30, 2023** in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of the County of Botetourt, Virginia, and do what may be necessary to protect their interests in this cause.

Entered on the 12th day of October, 2023.
Sherry L. Perry, Deputy Clerk.

I Ask For This:
Seth R. Konopasek, Esq. (VSB No. 97065)
John A. Rife, Esq. (VSB No. 45805)
Jeffrey A. Scharf, Esq. (VSB No. 30591)

Mark K. Ames, Esq. (VSB No. 27409)
Andrew M. Neville, Esq. (VSB No. 86372)
Paul L. LaBarr, Esq. (VSB No. 91609)
Gregory L. Haynes, Esq. (VSB No. 37158)
Garrett W. Patton, Esq. (VSB No. 98345)
Taxing Authority Consulting Services, PC
P.O. Box 31800 Henrico, Virginia 23294-1800
Phone: (804)864-0080
Facsimile: (804)545-2378
TACS No.: 851479

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BOTETOURT COUNTY IN RE: ESATE OF DONALD G. STITH, DECEASED NOTICE

Having been requested to do so by Philip Argbight, co-executor of the estate of Donald G. Stith, Deceased, and in accordance with Section 64.2-550 of the 1950 Code of Virginia, as amended, all creditors of Donald G. Stith and all persons in any way interested in his estate are hereby notified that I have fixed the 22nd day of November, 2023 at 10 o'clock a.m., at my office at 13 South Roanoke Street, Fincastle, Virginia as the time and place for determining an account of the debts and demands against said Donald G. Stith or his estate, the priorities among them, and the names of the persons to whom they are due. All creditors of Donald G. Stith, deceased, and persons interested in his estate should appear at the time and place named, or any other time or place to which the proceedings may be adjourned, and protect their interest. Given under my hand this the 23rd day of October, 2023.
Malcolm McL. Doubles
Commissioner of Accounts

Legals - City of Radford

Order of Publication

Commonwealth of Virginia
VA Code §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316, -317, 20-104
Case No. **CL23007009-00**
RADFORD CITY Circuit Court, 619 SECOND STREET, RADFORD, VA 24141
Commonwealth of Virginia,
in re
CHRISTINA NICOLE HAMBLIN v.
RONALD GLENN HAMBLIN
The object of this suit is to: **OBTAIN DIVORCE**. It is **ORDERED** that RONALD GLENN HAMBLIN appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before **DECEMBER 13, 2023**, **OCTOBER 13, 2023**
MELISSA WHITE,
DEPUTY CLERK

ABC NOTICE

VISTARA LLC, trading as **EASY DAY #2, 1123 FAIRFAX STREET, RADFORD CITY, RADFORD, VA 24141-5342**

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE

Legals - City of Radford

CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Convenience Grocery Store license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

Jyoti Sansoa, MEMBER.

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.

Legals - Craig County

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE 13978 Potts Creek Road, Paint Bank, Virginia 24131
Tax Map/Parcel Identification Nos. 20 A 10, 20 A 11, 20 A 11B, 20 A 12 CRAIG COUNTY, VA

In execution of a credit line deed of trust dated September 14, 2017 (the "Deed of Trust"), recorded in the Office of the Circuit Court of Craig County, Virginia, as Instrument No. 170000518 (Book 206, Page 101), the undersigned substitute Trustees, any or all of whom may act, will offer for sale in front of the Craig County Courthouse, 182 Main Street, New Castle, Virginia, on November 4, 2023, at 10:00 o'clock a.m., property located at or near 13978 Potts Creek Road, Paint Bank, Craig County, Virginia, which property is more particularly described as follows:
All those three (3) certain tracts or parcels of real property, situate in Craig County, Virginia, containing 164.314 acres, more or less, and being comprised of Parcel A, containing 67.836 acres, more or less, Parcel B, 21.25 acres, more or less, and Parcel C, 75.328 acres, more or less, as more particularly shown upon that certain J. Brad Smith, LS, survey of said Tracts, dated May-June 2015 and of record in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Craig County, Virginia, in Deed Book 198, at pages 478 and 479, and further being Parcels I, II, and III conveyed unto Judith Smith Bess by Karen Smith Denny, et ux., by Deed dated December 15, 2015, and of record in Craig County Deed Book 198, at page 482.

Parcel C subsequently was subdivided into Tax Map Nos. 20 A 11 and 20 A 11B. These two tracts will be sold as one (1) parcel. This sale is subject to all liens, easements, restrictions, conditions, and reservations of record affecting the title to the property hereinabove described, to the extent any of them have priority over the lien of the Deed of Trust.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SALE:

1. **AUCTION:** Substitute Trustee has employed The Counts Realty & Auction Group ("Auction Company"). The successful bidder will be required to execute a Memorandum of Trustee's Sale outlining additional terms of sale and settlement that will be available for review prior to the announcement of sale. Settlement within thirty (30) days of sale.
2. **DEPOSIT:** A bidder's deposit of \$15,000.00 per tract in certified funds (cash, cashier's or certified check made payable to Spilman Thomas & Battle, PLLC) required.
3. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Announcements made on day of sale take precedence over all prior communications, both verbal and written, concerning the sale or the property.
4. **BUYER'S PREMIUM:** A 10% buyer's premium will be in effect on day of sale that is added to the high bid amount to determine the contract sales price.
5. **"AS-IS", "WHERE-IS":** The property is being sold "AS-IS", "WHERE-IS". Potential buyers must perform such independent investigations with respect to the property as they deem necessary.
6. **ADVERTISEMENTS:** All information provided by Auction Company and Substitute Trustee is deemed reliable but is not warranted. Information contained in the brochure and any advertisements by Auction Company are subject to verification by all parties relying on it. No liability for its accuracy, error or omission is assumed by Auction Company or Substitute Trustee.
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8. **BID INCREMENTS:** Auction Company reserves the right to set bid increments and to establish the bid sequences for the order of the sale and/or to change both. Lienholders reserve the right to bid at the sale.
9. **LINES ON**

Legals - Craig County

PHOTOGRAPHS: Any property lines drawn on the marketing materials are not exact. Refer to the title documents found in the land records for the actual property lines.

Employees, directors and officers of Farm Credit of the Virginias, ACA, and their immediate family and companies in which they have an interest are not eligible under federal regulations to purchase this property at foreclosure.

Bryson J. Hunter, Peter M. Pearl, and Brian H. Richardson, Substitute Trustees

For Information Contact:
Bryson J. Hunter
bhunter@spilmanlaw.com
Spilman Thomas & Battle, PLLC
P.O. Box 90
Roanoke, Virginia 24002
540-512-1800 Telephone

Legals - Montgomery County

Trustee's Sale

1551 Fire Tower Road, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073

(Parcel ID: 006374)

Default has been made in the terms of a certain Deed of Trust dated April 8, 2022, in the original principal amount of \$201,188.00 and recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of the County of Montgomery, Virginia in Instrument No. 2022002914, the undersigned Substitute Trustees will sell at public auction on December 1, 2023, at 1:00 pm, in front of the building housing the Montgomery County Circuit Court, 55 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073, the property beginning at an iron rod set located on the west line of State Route No. 600, thence with State Route No. 600, s. 10 deg. 00' 12" e 138.98 feet to an iron pipe; thence s. 80 deg. 43' 48" w. 199.82 feet to an iron rod set; thence n. 10 deg. 13' 41" w. 137.88 feet to an iron rod set by a post; thence n. 80 deg. 24' 48" e. 200.35 feet to the point of beginning; and containing all the land of an un-numbered lot on State Route No. 600, as shown by a plat of survey of land entitled, physical survey of an un-numbered lot on state route number 600 in Montgomery County, Virginia, dated January 31, 1989, of record in the aforesaid Clerk's office in deed book 639, page 83. Sale is subject to all prior liens, easements, restrictions, covenants, and conditions, if any, of record, or other matters which would be disclosed by an accurate survey or inspection of the premises. TERMS: CASH. A deposit of \$20,000.00 or 10% of the sale price, whichever is lower, will be required of the successful bidder at time of sale. Prior to the sale, interested bidders will be required to register with and must present a bid deposit which may be held during the sale by the trustee. The bid deposit must be certified funds and/or cash, but no more than \$9,900.00 of cash will be accepted. The successful bidder's deposit will be retained at the sale and applied to the sale price. If held by the trustee, all other bid deposits will be returned to the unsuccessful bidders. Settlement is to be made within 15 calendar days. The successful bidder will be responsible for obtaining possession of the property, and for all costs and fees related to recording the Trustee's Deed, including the grantors tax. The successful bidder will be required to execute a Memorandum of Trustee's Sale, available for review on the Foreclosure Sales page of www.glasserlaw.com, outlining additional terms of sale and settlement. A Trustee's Deed will be prepared by Trustee's attorney at high bidder's expense. This is a communication from a debt collector, Glasser and Glasser, P.L.C. on behalf of Atlantic Trustee Services, L.L.C., and/or Auction.com, VA, LLC, Substitute Trustees, Crown Center Building, Suite 600, 580 East Main Street, Norfolk, VA 23510, File No. 232844-01, Tel: (757) 321-6465, between 10:00 a.m. & 12:00 noon only.

Order of Publication

Commonwealth of Virginia
VA Code §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316, 20-104

Case
No. 121**CL2300149600**
MONTGOMERY COUNTY Circuit Court, 55 EAST MAIN STREET, SUITE 1, CHRISTIANSBURG, VA 24073 Commonwealth of Virginia, *in re* WAYMON RODNEY PACK v. GAIL WILLIAMS, et al.

The object of the complaint in the above styled case is to quiet the title via adverse possession to that certain parcel identified as 492 Piney Woods Rd., Riner, VA

Legals - Montgomery County

24149 (Montgomery County Tax Map #s 127-A-72), Located in Montgomery County, Virginia.

It is **ORDERED** that any of the following persons shall appear at the above named Court and take such action as he/she deem necessary to protect his/her interests on or before November 17, 2023.

-Gail Williams
-LaShavio Diggs
-Robert Beale, Jr.
-Raymond Beale
-Barbara Ann Beale
-Freddie Hart, Jr.
-Any Descendant of Alvia Ellen Pack Jones, deceased

Any person desiring a copy of the Complaint, Survey, or any additional information should contact Ryan L. Pry, counsel for plaintiffs, at P.O. Box 3785, Radford, VA 24143, or at 540-838-2233 prior to the above date. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this ORDER OF PUBLICATION be published once a week for four successive weeks in the Christiansburg News Messenger, a newspaper of general circulation in Montgomery County, Virginia. Entered this 2nd day of October, 2023. By K. Mike Fleenor, Jr. Judge I ask for this Ryan L. Pry (VSB#74181) RYAN L. PRY PC P.O. Box 3785 RADFORD VA 24143 (540)838-2233 Ryan@PryLawOffice.com Counsel for plaintiff

Order of Publication

Commonwealth of Virginia
VA Code §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316, 20-104

Case No. **CL23-1004**
MONTGOMERY COUNTY Circuit Court, 55 EAST MAIN STREET, SUITE 1, CHRISTIANSBURG, VA 24073 Commonwealth of Virginia, *in re* THE ESTATE OF CHARLES F. BOWLES. KIMBERLY REED, Plaintiff v. NELVA KOSTRIC Defendant

THIS DAY came Justin Steele, Counsel for Plaintiff, Kimberly Reed, and filed a complaint to probate will for the Estate of Charles F. Bowles and a motion for entry of a default judgement and for other relief, and a hearing will be held in this Court, 55 East Main Street, Suite 1 Christiansburg VA 24073, on Dec 6th, 2023 at 10:00 AM or as soon after as may be heard. NOW, THEREFORE, it is ORDERED that all defendants, unknown heirs and others interested in said Estate appear at the hearing and be heard why the petition and motion for default judgement should not be granted.

The Clerk shall send a copy of this order to the *Christiansburg News Messenger* to be published once a week for four consecutive weeks. Enter the 11th day of October 2023.

Robert M. D. Turk, Judge
I ask for this:
Justin A. Steele III (VSB No. 94358)

THE LAW OFFICE OF JAMES STEELE PLLC
304 Brambleton Ave.
Roanoke, VA 24015
Tel: (540) 339-7775
Fax: (540) 492-42544

Legals - Roanoke County

ATTENTION DISABLED VETERANS

58.1-3219-5
Code of Virginia

Pursuant to subdivision (a) of section 6-A of Article X of the Constitution of Virginia, and for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2011, the General Assembly hereby exempts from taxation the real property, including the joint real property of married individuals, of any veteran who has been rated by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs or its successor agency pursuant to federal law to have a 100 percent service-connected, permanent, and total disability, and who occupies the real property as his principal place of residence.

I have encountered some Veterans that was unaware of this exemption. I commend the State Legislatures for adopting the Real Property exemption for our Veterans. Please contact my office if you have any questions. Nancy Horn
Commissioner of the Revenue
County of Roanoke
540-772-2046

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MONTGOMERY SPORTS

From the Gridiron: Christiansburg punched in mouth, Radford still unscathed on the season

Marty Gordon

NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Radford High School has locked down at least two home games for the upcoming Region C playoffs and can lock down the home field advantage throughout the playoffs with a win this week at Carroll County.

Christiansburg High School will have at least one home game for the Class 3 Region D competition. With its loss to Patrick Henry this past week and a win by William Byrd over Lord Botetourt, the Blue Demons will be relegated to the number three or possible number four spot. Magna Vista currently controls the regional brackets, remaining unbeaten and two points above the second place team.

A loss to Salem this Friday night could push Christiansburg down another notch as they will be scoreboard watching to see what Lord Botetourt, who is currently fourth in the points, might move by them.

So, there are a lot of ways it could fall but Christiansburg and Radford will be the area's only playoff contenders later this month.

The scoreboard watching could be even more important as both of the schools might have to face opponents from earlier this season.

Radford sets on top of 2C with Greta in a distant second. If the playoffs opened this week, Radford would host a 3-4 Dan River squad. Three Rivers District foe James River is a close ninth. Floyd is sixth and Glenvar is third.

Over in 3D, Christiansburg would see a familiar foe in Pulaski or Abingdon. Christiansburg's trip to Salem is one Coach Alex

Wilkins has had circled on the calendar since last season when they fell in a close game.

The Blue Demons will have an off week after the Salem contest to prepare for the playoffs.

The Region 2C is also interesting heading into the final two weeks.

Despite their 2-6 record, Auburn is one spot out of the Top Eight, which make the regional playoffs. Auburn trails Giles 13.7 to 11.71. The 10th place team is 2-5 Eastern Montgomery. Giles (2-6) has games left with Bluefield and Ft. Chiswell.

Player of week: Talen Mower was seven of 19 for 151 yards for Auburn in a loss this past Friday night, but he showed leadership skills in throwing for two touchdowns.

Area top five: 1) Radford, 2) Salem, 3) Christiansburg, 4) Narrows, 5) Glenvar.

This week's schedule: Twin Valley at Eastern Montgomery

Twin Valley is 2-7 and has been outscored 337 to 114 this season. They have beaten Bland and Phelps Ky. A common opponent for EM and TV includes Craig County, who has beaten both programs.

Eastern Montgomery ran into Pioneer District leader Narrows last week in a 60-8 loss. Gage Akers did rush for 41 yards on 17 carries with a touchdown for the (2-6) Mustangs.

Prediction: Eastern Montgomery 27, Twin Valley 20.

Christiansburg at Salem
Christiansburg travels to Salem in a big River Ridge battle. Just three weeks ago, Christiansburg had a higher hope for victory with one of the area's top quarterbacks in Tanner Evans, but he suffered a knee injury two weeks

ago turning the school's offense to one-dimensional with heavy on the run.

Salem has been Salem this season. The program assumes they will be a playoff team, and this year, the Spartans show nothing new, only losing to Liberty Christian 21-14 on September 25. Since then, they have dominated the competition including 62-14 over Northside, 51-0 Hidden Valley and last week, 51-3 over Cave Spring. They have outscored their opponents 332 to 79 this season.

Prediction: Salem 38, Christiansburg 24.

Blacksburg at Patrick Henry

Blacksburg fell to 2-6 in a loss to Hidden Valley, and this week is a harder task. Region 5D Patrick Henry (7-1) welcomes them to town after slide by Christiansburg. Blacksburg has been outscored 360 to 165 this season.

Prediction: PH 40, Blacksburg 7.

Radford at Carroll County

Carroll County has struggled this season with a 2-6 record with the latest being a 20-6 loss to Floyd.

Prediction: Radford 48, Carroll County 12.

Auburn at Eastside

Eastside (4-4) is one of those deep southwest Virginia trips that takes a lot out of a team from the New River Valley. The road trip is two hours and 50 minutes, and close to 150 miles.

Eastside has beaten Hurley, Riverview, Thomas Walker and J.I. Burton, and their losses have come by an average of seven points.

Auburn is coming off a 49-13 loss to unbeaten Grayson County.
Prediction: Auburn 27, Eastside 20.



Blacksburg wide receiver Xavier Price picks up a few additional yards after catching a pass from QB Ethan Karpa. Hidden Valley visited Blacksburg for Homecoming night and would come away with a 30-6 victory.

Hidden Valley downs Blacksburg



Blacksburg's Logan Pannell celebrates a Hidden Valley fumble recovery during the first half of Friday's game.

PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING

Five things learned this high school football season

Marty Gordon

NRVsports@ourvalley.org

The high school football season is quickly coming to a close with just three weeks left to the postseason, and there are several things we have learned this go around.

Auburn should finish the season despite not doing so for the past three. The school did not finish a game earlier in the season because of injuries and the lack of numbers, but since then has worked its way through the schedule and is on pace to finish the 2023 season. The question remains what the future holds for a school that has tallied a large amount of state titles in every sport except football.

The Auburn situation is at number five. The future could hold lots of questions about eight-on-eight football as Auburn is not the only school in the state of Virginia fighting the numbers game. The good thing is that middle school and recreation programs have shown there are younger numbers interested in football.

The number 4 mark proves offense is not a premium in the area. Several teams have scored over 60 points this season, while at least twice locals topped the 70 point mark.

At number 3, Christiansburg's Tanner Evans was shocking the world until a season-ending knee injury two weeks ago. Evans will finish with 1,193 yards on the ground on 117 carries with

22 scores. He was on pace for 1,800 yards depending how deep the Blue Demons finished in the postseason. Evans also threw for 787 yards on 50 of 84 attempts with 11 touchdowns.

At number 2, we have learned Radford quarterback Landon Clark is the real deal. After a junior season for the record books, he has continued it this season.

Clark has combined for over 2,000 yards on offense and is connected to 40 touchdowns. This includes throwing for over 1,700 yards and rushing for another 650. He should pass the 2,000-yard mark in the next week.

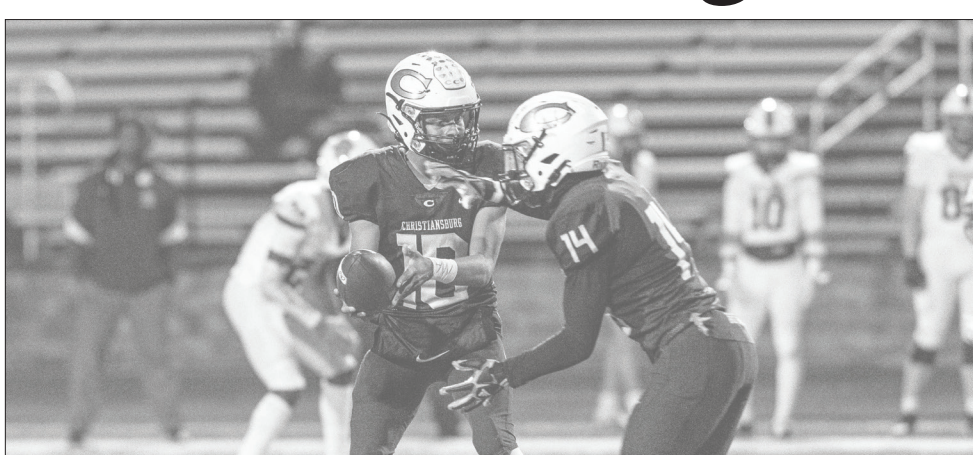
He has proven he can throw and run the ball, while playing a tough defensive back.

The top spot is nothing new, but more along a dominating program as Radford High School is proving they are one of the best programs in the southwest Virginia. This season, the Bobcats have taken the next step and is one of the top ones in the state of Virginia.

Radford is 27-6 since Michael Crist took over the program three years ago. Crist was 8-4 the first year and finished 10-2 last season. So far this year, the team is 9-0 and should finish the regular season unbeaten.

They have dominated the competition this season, outscoring opponents 417 to 81. A future playoff game with defending state champ, Riverheads, could be in the cards as a final four matchup for the ages.

Christiansburg falls to Patrick Henry



Christiansburg quarterback Izaiah Cotto (left) handoffs to running back Matt Annis, who had 17 carries for 91 yards with a touchdown.



QB Izaiah Cotto (front) runs through the end zone scoring for Christiansburg, getting their third and final score of the game. Cotto carried the ball 25 times for 96 yards with a touchdown.



JT Thompson (right) is in close pursuit of Patrick Henry's ball carrier late in the game Friday night, which Patrick Henry won 30- 21.

PHOTOS BY KYMN DAVIDSON-HAMLEY

Holidays from page 3

owned by Michelle Snyder and Adriana Wenger, sell crystals, jewelry, carvings, spheres and a variety of other keepsakes that are from mined or hand-selected minerals. The co-owner's passion for mining grew into the business when they found they were spending the majority of their time and money on rocks.

"We mainly do Facebook, but sometimes we come here and bring stuff for people who have made special requests," Snyder said.

The vendor and craft event occurs monthly but may not consistently be on the same weekend depending on other events going on.

Wenger said, "It used to be the first Saturday of every month, but sometimes they change it depending on the schedule, so next month we are here on the 18th [of November]."

Red's Wood Crafts, owned by Jason Hinkley, comes to Uptown Christiansburg from Pulaski where he works out of his garage making wood home décor. Some of these items that can be purchased are toilet paper holders, storage bins, candle lamp holders, and for the Christmas season, wooden tree designs.

Audrey Lynn Saunders and Brandon Saunders are the owners and bakers of Stairway to Leaven.

"We cook at our house all the time, and everybody always ordered birthday cakes from us," Audrey Saunders said.

After encouragement from their family and friends to start a small

business, they did, setting up at a local fall festival for the first time.

"We sold out the first day," Saunders said.

Their sign reads "how generations of recipes should taste" and they love having the occasional opportunity to bake together as a family, passing on the tradition of homemade food with their three sons.

When asked about her favorite selections, Saunders said "The chocolate chip cheesecake, which we have the mint chocolate chip cheesecake for the fall, and the pumpkin roll."

Stairway to Leaven will provide cakes, cupcakes, and other desserts for weddings, birthdays, anniversaries, and other celebrations. Their business can be found on Facebook.

Stephanie Swan is a Mary Kay Consultant and enjoys working with customers through Zoom tutorials or in person.

"We do Zoom classes on my Facebook page. My page is called Beauty Academy," Swan said. "I invite anybody who happens to be a customer or somebody who might be interested on how to apply makeup or proper skin care to start a routine. I also offer free pampering sessions, in-home, at their own home or mine. I throw parties and also do free gift wrapping for the holidays."

Mary Kay is not just for women, with an assortment of men's products available too. Swan displayed men's cologne and beard washes for purchase.

"Our beard wash is very affordable and lasts three months," Swan said.

Shoppers interested in supporting the small vendors and crafts venue should check the Uptown Christiansburg website at www.uptownchristiansburg.com for a full list of small businesses and schedule for the upcoming months. The next show will be on Nov. 18, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.



Audrey Lynn Saunders and Brandon Saunders carry on the tradition of baking with their business Stairway to Leaven.



Michelle Snyder and Adriana Wenger are the owners of Two Girls and a Rock, sharing their love of minerals with customers.

PHOTOS BY LORI GRAHAM

Rich from page 4

Mom's for Liberty group, and we can attest that they are wonderful women who are deeply concerned for their children and the future of our schools. We don't believe in demonizing individuals based solely on their participation in a political organization.

2. My wife does not support censoring or book banning. She is in support of the recently passed law which requires Virginia Schools to notify parents of sexually explicit material! We believe that parents are the best individuals to guide their children through life and talk to them about the content they consume. This is not "draconian", it is common sense.

3. My wife is not running a single position campaign. However, her support for Governor Glenn Youngkin's policy is the largest difference between her and Derek Roundtree. For that reason, a lot of focus has been placed on this position. Namely, she supports a bathroom policy where male's use the Boy's bathroom, female use the Girl's bathroom, and single use bathrooms are available for use by our transgender students who are uncomfortable using the bathroom of their biological gender. She does not support biological males competing in women's sports! Again, this is not draconian! It is a policy that works for everyone, not at the expense of each other! And we believe that our District E community and the Warm Hearth residents would agree! If Derek were elected, Governor Glenn Youngkin's educational policies will not be implemented.

Having said this, my wife is also a huge supporter of teachers! We have been so blessed both now and in the past by so many wonderful teachers! She would love to see teacher pay increased and supports reducing unnecessary paperwork, helping teachers to focus on what they do best, teach! My wife is a huge supporter of the other Montgomery County Staff, the bus drivers, administrative staff, and janitors to name a few. We are so appreciative of Darrell Shepard, Montgomery County District E Board of Supervisors, who drives our children on the bus every day! My wife will advocate for more athletic trainers at all sporting events! Most of our children are participating in school sports and we have been fortunate that when our children have been injured on the field, an athletic trainer was available! However, we have also witnessed athletic events and injuries without an athletic trainer present! These and many other positions can be found on her website at www.rich4schoolboard.com

4. My wife did not attend the League of Women Voters forum. She did express interest in the event, but never confirmed that she would be in attendance or provided the requested photo and information. For that reason, there was no need to let anyone know she would not be present.

Why did she not attend? One of our concerns is that our community seems to have lost its ability to have civil discourse and friendly debate over key issues and policy. I grew up honoring and respecting those who served in local government and the candidates who ran for these offices. My Grandfather was one of those individuals. While many disagreed with some of his opinions, he was a respected man within the community. This is how we are rearing our children. However, one quick peek at the Facebook groups, "Everything Blacksburg" and "Everyone Blacksburg" will quickly show that this respect must be a thing of the past. Individuals from our community, supporters of Derek Roundtree, have ganged together to bully and belittle my wife, Lindsay Rich. Their vitriol has well surpassed civil discourse! She has received threats, been called names, and even our children have been targeted. Based on this vitriol, the disingenuous "questions" and twisting of answers provided, and the vowed attendance and promised disruption by these loud few, it was decided that she would not attend the forum.

I do agree with Randi that it is our civic duty to care about how the children of our community are taught and how our school facilities and staff are supported! However, I would encourage Voting for Lindsay Rich for School Board District E. She represents common sense! She advocates for ALL the children! She is genuine about who she is and what she supports!

Daniel Rich
Montgomery County

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