

News Messenger

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Blacksburg

Christiansburg

Wednesday, May 15, 2024

www.ourvalley.org

USPS 016-490

\$1.00

Blacksburg Middle School FBLA heading to national competition

BLACKSBURG - Last fall, a representative from the Montgomery County Christmas Store had the opportunity to speak to the Future Business Leaders of America at Blacksburg Middle School about the store.

As a result of that talk, the group decided to do their community service project with the Christmas Store and one of the students presented the project at state competition and placed first, qualifying to go to the national competition to compete. Now, the group is hoping the community will donate funds to get the team to the competition.

The Future Business Leaders of America is a student organization that is thriving at Blacksburg Middle School. The mission of FBLA is to inspire and prepare "students to become community-

minded business leaders in a global society, through relevant career preparation and leadership experiences" according to the FBLA website.

At the middle school level, the organization introduces students to the world of business by exploring careers and business principles with real-world activities.

The FBLA chapter at Blacksburg Middle School was chartered in 2017 with about 20 students. In 2019, Lorraine Hedgepeth, a Business and Information Technology teacher, became a co-advisor. Under her capable leadership, the group has grown to about 60 sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students. The entire chapter meets two times a month on every other Thursday after school. Because the group is run by students, officers meet two times a month to plan for meetings.

The first meeting of the month is a business meeting and the second meeting is for guest speakers, community service, or other activities.

Every year, the FBLA students choose a project to do for community service. This year, Sadie Zhang, Vice-President, did some research and suggested helping those who are hungry. Food insecurity is a serious issue in our area so there were many opportunities to help with this need.

In their first meeting in September, the chapter decided to work with the Montgomery County Christmas Store. After MCCS spoke to the group, using visual aids to describe the mission of the Christmas Store and to emphasize the need to help low-income families



PHOTO BY LORRAINE HEDGEPEETH

Members of FBLA 2023-2024 school year.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MCCS

XiXi Liu (center) gives Terri Lynn Howard a thank you note for financial support to nationals competition. Lorraine Hedgepeth is the FBLA advisor.

See FBLA, page 8



Dr. Cathy Callahan, MD, MHP



Katelyn Cantrell, DDS



Melisa Loving, APRN, FNP-C

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE CHCNRV

Community Health Center of the New River Valley adds three practitioners

The Community Health Center of the New River Valley (CHCNRV) has added three members to its medical and dental staff.

Dr. Cathy Callahan, MD, MHP, returns to the CHCNRV to provide part-time GYN care and medication-assisted treatment at our Christiansburg site. Callahan most recently served as Chair of the Clinical Sciences Department at the Via College of Osteopathic Medicine in Blacksburg.

Her impressive credentials include

being the founding medical director, physician, and a board member at CHCNRV, chair of the Department of Obstetrics, and associate dean of postgraduate affairs at VCOM.

Callahan earned her MD and MPH from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and was a resident at Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester. She is a fellow of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology. She has been certified by the Virginia Board of Medicine and the American

Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology since 2005.

Melisa Loving, APRN, FNP-C, is a Family Nurse Practitioner who strives to provide evidence-based, patient-centered care to people of all ages. FNP Loving has over a decade of experience as a Registered Nurse and Family Nurse Practitioner.

After earning her bachelor's degree from the University of

See Practitioners, page 4

Kiwanis Club gearing up for fundraising golf tournament

Following a very successful Brunswick Stew sale, the Kiwanis Club of Montgomery County-Blacksburg is hosting its 22nd Annual Golf Tournament on Saturday June 1 at Auburn Hills Country Club, Riner.

To support its signature fundraiser, the club is looking for players and teams as well as sponsors.

The hole sponsorship levels are as follows: \$100 - Single hole sponsor; \$200 - nine-hole sponsor; \$300 - 18-hole sponsor; \$500 or greater- Event Sponsor. The higher the sponsorship level the more visibility / publicity for your business.

The tournament starts with a 9 a.m. tee-off with a shotgun start and consists of four person Captain's Choice. The cost is \$100 per player and \$400 per team and lunch and prizes are provided.

For player registration forms or further details on how you can support/ sponsor this event, please contact Miranda Layne at 540-392-0657 or mlayne@moog.com. Sponsors should provide sponsor name, dollar level, and details/artwork for signage and publications.

Team captains should submit player names, addresses, phone number and email addresses to Missy Wickline at mwickline@moog.com.

The club appreciates the support shown by event and multi hole sponsors for the 2023 tournament including: MOOG, Green Valley Builders, Poly Scientific Employees Federal Credit

Union, Smart Yards, McCoy Funeral Home, InMotion, and Edward Jones- Trevor Gray and Meghan Kuczarski. Single hole sponsors were Blacksburg True Value Hardware, Brown Insurance, State Farm Chris Turman, National Bank of Blacksburg, Clinton's Transfer & Storage, Electrical Supply, Macados, East Main Rides, Shear Artistry, Budget Blinds, M & M Tire & Auto, Mike Eggleston with Coldwell Banker Townside Realtors, and several anonymous donors.

Money raised from the golf tournament is used for service activities including food pantries and classroom support for pre-k students at two schools, ID kits for newborn and young children, books for pre-schoolers in 10 classes, Social Services child abuse and foster care, Montgomery County Christmas Store, BSA Scouting, Boys & Girls State, Boys & Girls Club, Salvation Army, Micah's Backpack, NRV Cares, MCEAP, Montgomery Public Schools, Sleep in Heavenly Peace, Luggage of Love, Women's Resource Center and the NRCC ACCE program.

We greatly appreciate any support to help Kiwanis improve the world one child one community at a time.

Jerry Jones
Treasurer & PR Chair
Kiwanis Club of
Montgomery County-
Blacksburg



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE KIWANIS CLUB

Golfers head out to the course during the 2023 Kiwanis Club of Montgomery County-Blacksburg Annual Golf Tournament.

Blacksburg Books holds Second Annual Book Swap



Blacksburg Books hosts a Book Swap for the second time at the Blacksburg Farmers Market.

Angelica Ramos

Contributing writer

BLACKSBURG- Blacksburg Books hosted a Book Swap at the May 8, 2024 Blacksburg Farmers Market in support of the Virginia Tech Prison Book Project.

May 8, 2024 was the second annual Book Swap Event at the Blacksburg Farmers Market with Blacksburg Books. Blacksburg Books chooses an organization to donate their proceeds to every year. This year they chose to support the Virginia Tech Prison Book Project, an organization they are passionate about and work with often.

"We chose the VT Prison Book Project because it's a cause that we feel passionate about," Ellen Woodall from Blacksburg Books said. "Providing books to people incarcerated in area prisons provides companionship,



PHOTOS BY ANGELICA RAMOS

This year's Book Swap theme was Gardening and Farming.

See Books, page 3

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, May 15:

Blacksburg Farmers Market

At Market Square Park, 100 Draper Rd SW, Blacksburg; 2 – 6 p.m. The Blacksburg Farmers Market is a local, family-friendly gathering place in downtown Blacksburg featuring farmers of locally grown produce and meats, alongside artisans of baked goods and handmade crafts. For more information, visit <http://blacksburgfarmersmarket.com>.

Thursday, May 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, 3204 Riner Rd. Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy are also invited to attend. Tiffany Lloyd will do a presentation on the Sam Davis Youth Camp. For further information, please call 540-320-4315 or 540-239-9864.

Celebrate Bike to Work Day

Hop on your bike for your morning commute and take part in National Bike to Work Day! Join event sponsors from 7:30 – 9 a.m. for fun and refreshments at the tent located on Draper Road in downtown Blacksburg before you head to work. Program sponsored by the Town of Blacksburg, NRV Regional Commission, Ride Solutions, the New River Valley Bicycle Association (NRVBA) and Sustainable Transportation at Virginia Tech. May is National Bike Month. Everyone who tracks at least one bike trip to work via the ConnectingVA app (connectingva.agilemile.com) can enter to win an electric bike and helmet. Questions? Visit ridesolutions.org or call 540.639.9313.

Saturday, May 18:

Radford Summer Concert series

Ryan Perry (country music) will perform on the grounds of Glencoe Mansion; 7 – 9 p.m. Gates open at 6 p.m. Ticket \$5 for adults. Kids 12 and under are free. Food trucks and beverages. Bring a lawn chair or blanket to sit on.

Blacksburg Farmers Market

At Market Square Park, 100 Draper Rd SW, Blacksburg; 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. The Blacksburg Farmers Market is a local, family-friendly gathering place in downtown Blacksburg featuring farmers of locally grown produce and meats, alongside artisans of baked goods and handmade crafts. For more information, visit <http://blacksburgfarmersmarket.com>.

com.

Radford Farmer's Market

Every Saturday through October; 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. on the grounds of Glencoe Mansion, 600 Unruh Dr. Visit weekly for an ever-changing supply of homemade goodies, crafts, plants, meats, produce, and more.

Tuesday, May 21:

TRIAD/S.A.L.T. meeting

TRIAD/S.A.L.T. is a cooperative effort of law enforcement agencies (police/sheriffs), senior citizens, and senior organization, focused on reducing crimes against our most vulnerable citizens: our seniors. The speaker for the May TRIAD meeting will be Pam Wade from Christian Travel. She will be talking about safety concerns in regard to traveling and the best options for seniors who are ready to see the world. TRIAD meets the third Tuesday of each month at the Christiansburg Recreation Center at 1:30 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

Thursday, May 23:

Spring into Summer Event

Join the Town of Christiansburg at Christiansburg Huckleberry Park for the park's plaque unveiling at 11 a.m., and a full day of free activities, including: petting zoo, warrior challenge course contest, guided telescope stargazing, ultimate frisbee, 40-yard dash contest, yoga, bingo, dog training demo, fitness programs and horticulture walking tour. Be sure to check the Facebook event discussion regularly for updates: <https://www.facebook.com/events/4004717339799280/>.

Beach Bash

Join the Christiansburg Aquatic Center at 5:30 p.m. for an evening of music, food, games and swimming. The Beach Bash is a kid friendly event that will feature mermaids, a pirate, corn hole, pirate coin toss and raffles to win membership giveaways. Live music on the patio by Last Chance Duo, also compete in a limbo contest to win prizes. Tickets are now available for purchase with a limited number being sold. Each ticket is \$12 per person (for ages three and up) and will include a meal and drink provided by Simple Fixins. To purchase tickets, visit capool.com or call 540-381-7665.

Sunday, May 26:

Vintage Market

At Market Square Park, 100 Draper Rd SW, Blacksburg; 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. The market is made up of a carefully chosen group of vendors selling a wide selection of quality vintage items, upcycled crafts, and occasional antiques. For more information, visit blacksburgfarmersmarket.com/vintage-market/

Monday, May 27:

No Radford City Council meeting

Due to Memorial Day, the Radford City Council will NOT hold its regularly scheduled meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 10.

Tuesday, May 28:

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 St.). 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.

Montgomery County Board of Supervisors meeting

Due to the Memorial Day holiday, the BOS will meet Tuesday, May 28. Public meetings are normally held 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.

On-going:

Route 460 Business Corridor Bicycle, Pedestrian and Transit Study

The New River Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization is seeking input for the Route 460 Business Corridor Bicycle, Pedestrian, and Transit Study. The study will look at the segment of the corridor, from Industrial Park Road in Blacksburg to the Uptown Christiansburg Mall, for bicycle, pedestrian, and transit improvements. Materials are posted online at www.newrivervalleympo.org and will be available for comment until May 9 at 5 p.m.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF AN APPLICATION BY APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY, FOR APPROVAL OF A PROPOSED UPDATE TO THE RATES, TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF A UNIVERSAL SERVICE FEE TO BE PAID BY RETAIL CUSTOMERS TO FUND THE PIPP CASE NO. PUR-2020-00117

On April 12, 2024, Appalachian Power Company ("APCo" or "Company") filed an application ("Application") with the State Corporation Commission ("Commission") requesting approval of an updated Universal Service Fee ("USF") to fund the Percentage of Income Payment Program ("PIPP") of \$0.00132 per kilowatt-hour ("kWh") effective June 1, 2024.

The PIPP was established as part of the 2020 Virginia Clean Economy Act as a mechanism designed to limit the electric utility payments of persons or households participating in certain, specified public assistance programs, based upon a percentage of their income, for customers of Virginia Electric and Power Company and APCo. The General Assembly further addressed the PIPP, its funding, and implementation, as part of the 2021 legislative session with the passage of Chapter 308 of the 2021 Virginia Acts of Assembly, Special Session I.

The Commission issued an Order on July 29, 2021 ("July 2021 Order") directing, among other things, that (i) APCo begin collecting the USF from statutorily designated customers to fund the estimated start-up costs that the Department of Social Services ("DSS") needed to establish the PIPP; (ii) calculate a USF on a per kilowatt hour basis to recover \$0.6 million on an annual basis, file tariffs reflecting such fee with the Commission; (iii) begin making payments to the state treasury to enable DSS to undertake the actions necessary to establish the PIPP, and (iv) defer its PIPP administrative costs and seek their recovery at a later date. The USF established in the July 2021 Order was directed to be effective on service rendered on and after September 1, 2021, and to remain in place until further order of the Commission. Additionally, the July 2021 Order required the Company to submit certain reporting and filing requirements within 60 days ("60-day Report") after the DSS rules or guidelines are promulgated. On September 9, 2021, the Commission issued an Order on Motion granting APCo's request to have the effective date for USF implementation delayed until September 7, 2021.

On July 14, 2023, the Commission issued an Order which, in part, found that DSS published PIPP guidelines on its website on June 26, 2023, and directed APCo to file its initial 60-day Report by August 25, 2023. APCo filed its 60-day Report on August 25, 2023.

In its current Application, APCo seeks to increase the USF on June 1, 2024, to build the PIPP fund prior to implementation and ensure the program will be properly funded for participants in the future without risk of underfunding while remaining under the statutory cap. APCo states that the current USF is \$0.0000407/kWh, and that the Company is requesting to increase the USF to \$0.00132/kWh to collect its proposed revenue requirement from Virginia jurisdictional customers. The Company states that the increase is intended to recover a revenue requirement of \$19,252,260.69 from Virginia Jurisdictional customers. According to APCo, the monthly bill of a typical residential customer using 1,000 kWh per month will increase \$1.28 if the Application is approved.

Additionally, APCo asks for expedited approval of the increased USF by May 15, 2024, and authority to implement new rates effective June 1, 2024. Further, APCo seeks clarification on whether participation in energy efficiency and weatherization programs is optional for PIPP customers and the effect this has on customer participation in the program and APCo reporting requirements. According to APCo, it was determined in a prior Commission order in this proceeding that participation in weatherization and energy efficiency programs is a requirement for customers to participate in the PIPP program, while DSS subsequently has determined that "[f]ailure to have the audit completed or to install the additional energy efficiency measures will not impact PIPP eligibility."

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

The Commission entered an Order for Notice and Comment that, among other things, directed the Company to provide notice to the public and provided interested persons an opportunity to comment on the Company's Application, to file a notice of participation and to request a hearing in this matter. Regarding the Company's request for approval to implement the proposed increase to the USF by June 1, 2024 through an Order entered on or before May 15, 2024, the Commission established an expedited procedural schedule, but found that given the timing of the filing of the Application and issues to be considered arising from the proposed USF increase, that a proper review of the Application, with notice to customers and interested parties, cannot be accomplished in the time requested by the Company.

Pursuant to 5 VAC 5-20-140, *Filing and service*, of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure ("Rules of Practice"), the Commission has directed that service on parties and the Commission's Staff in this matter shall be accomplished by electronic means. Please refer to the Commission's Order for Notice and Comment for further instructions concerning Confidential or Extraordinarily Sensitive Information.

An electronic copy of the Company's Application may be obtained by submitting a written request to counsel for the Company: James G. Ritter, Esquire, American Electric Power Service Corporation, 1051 East Cary Street, Suite 1100, Richmond, Virginia 23219, or jritter@aep.com.

On or before June 5, 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-2020-00117.


On or before June 5, 2024, 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 at the address listed above. Such notice of participation shall include the email addresses of such parties or their counsel, if available. The respondent shall send a copy of the notice of participation to counsel for the Company. Pursuant to 5 VAC 5-20-80 B, *Participation as a respondent*, of the 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-2020-00117.

On or before June 5, 2024, any interested person may file a written request for a hearing by filing such a request at scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling. Those unable, as a practical matter, to file a request for hearing electronically may file such at the address listed above. Requests for hearing shall include the email addresses of such parties or their counsel, if available. A copy thereof also must be sent to counsel for the Company. Requests for a hearing shall include: (i) a precise statement of the filing party's interest in the proceeding; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent then known; (iii) a statement of the legal basis for such action; and (iv) a precise statement why a hearing should be conducted in this matter. All requests for a hearing shall refer to Case No. PUR-2020-00117.

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

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

APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY



COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY
Mary M. Weaver, Treasurer
 755 Roanoke Street, Suite 1B
 Christiansburg, VA 24073-3169
 540-382-5723 • montva.com/treasurer

Pursuant to Section 58.1-3911 of the Code of Virginia, 2024-A Real Estate Tax Legal Notice

DUE DATE: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5, 2024

2024-A Real Estate Tax (first installment) statements have been mailed. If you have not received your statement, please call 540-382-5723. A 10% penalty will be charged if not paid by Wednesday, June 5, 2024. Interest will be charged at the rate of 10% per year beginning July 1, 2024.

CREDIT/DEBIT CARDS AND eCHECK ARE ACCEPTED

Pay online at <https://selfservice.montva.com>



A SERVICE FEE WILL APPLY:

- Debit and Credit Card: 2.35%, with minimum fee of \$2.00
- eCheck: \$1.00 flat fee per payment

24-hour Treasurer's Office Drop Box is located at the Chinquapin Trail entrance of the County Government Center. Payments are considered on-time if they are deposited by midnight of the due date.

Do not put cash in the drop box.

A \$50 fee will be charged on all returned checks.

PAYMENT MUST BE POSTMARKED BY DUE DATE: JUNE 5, 2024

All Positions Available, SALE REP, ACCOUNTANT and MANY MORE

- Bookkeeper • Cashier • Payroll
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- Finance • Business • Marketing
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As part of our expansion program, our company is looking for part time Work from home Account Manager and sales representatives, it pays \$1700 monthly plus benefits and takes only little of your time. Please contact us for more details. Requirements - Should be computer literate. 2-3 hours access to the internet weekly. Must be over 24yrs of age. Must be Efficient and Dedicated. If you are interested and need more information, contact: Kenneth.bbraun.com@outlook.com for more details.

OBITUARIES

Shirah, Janice Lee Shelburne

Janice Lee Shelburne Shirah, 82, of Radford, passed away peacefully at her home Thursday, May 9, 2024.

She was preceded in death by her husband Gay Shirah; and her parents, Grover Lee and Gladys Kenley Shelburne.

Survivors left to cherish her sweet memory include her children and their spouses, Clifford Shirah (Donna), Randall Shirah, Rebecca Thompson (Mel) and Melissa Shirah; grandchildren Lee Shirah (Katherine),



Dustin Shirah, Mackenzie Hale (Chase), Holley Blackburn (Ben), Cade Shirah, and Wayne Lucado; seven great-grandchildren; brothers Rudy Shelburne and Don Shelburne (Shelia); sister

Joyce Reese (Dennis); special nephew, Derick Adkins; and numerous other family members and friends.

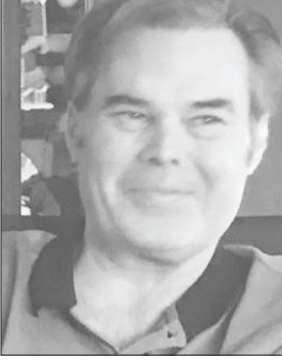
The family will receive friends 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. Saturday, May 18, 2024, at the Laurel Hill Church of Christ in Radford. Funeral services will begin at 12 p.m. with Blake Griffith officiating. Burial will follow in Laurel Hill Church of Christ Cemetery in Radford.

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

Long, Darel Lynwood

Darel Lynwood Long, of Blacksburg, passed away Friday, May 10, 2024, at Roanoke Memorial Hospital.

He was born Sept. 28, 1966, to the late Drexil Long and Phyllis Thomas Long. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his grandparents, Roy and Marie Long, Frederick and Sarah Thomas, and



his beloved pet "Jen." Darel graduated from Blacksburg High School Class of 1984. He is survived by his brother, David W. Long (Jill), and nephew, Tanner Long.

Graveside services will be held Friday, May 24, 2024, at Westview Cemetery, Blacksburg at 11 a.m. with Pastor Kevin Albert officiating.

Smith, Sherrie Williams

Sherrie Williams Smith, 62, of Blacksburg, passed away surrounded by family May 11, 2024.

Born April 9, 1962 in Giles County, Sherrie was the daughter of William Andrew (W.A.) Williams Jr., and Anida Buckland Williams. Sherrie approached life with a sense of humility, selflessness, kindness and love. She found great joy in simplicity and making a difference in the lives of others. Most dear to her was her family, especially her grandchildren. You could otherwise find her in her flip flops, walking the streets of Williamsburg, shopping for antiques or treasures at the flea market, adding her special touch to any room, in her flower garden, sipping a cup of hot tea, or cuddled up with a warm blanket. She graduated from Giles High School and spent more than 30 years in healthcare at Virginia Tech and Carilion Clinic. Sherrie is reunited in glories of Heaven with her father, W.A. Williams; brothers Barry Williams and Robert Frazier; grandmother Alma Louise Songer Dowdy and step-grandfather Roscoe Dowdy; grandfather William Andrew "John" Williams, Sr.; father in-



law Carmon Smith; and in-laws Terri Smith and Frankie Green.

Sherrie will be deeply missed, but cherished, as her memory lives on in the hearts of her husband, Michael A. Smith (of 45 years); her children Crystal Graham (Travis) and Andrew Smith (Grace); her grandchildren Grady and Maddie Smith; mother Anida Williams; brother James "Bo" Frazier (Trisha); mother-in-law Charlotte Smith; sister-in-law Joan Green and brother-in-laws Steve Smith and Ridge Smith (Toni); special aunt Betty Jo Reynolds and cousins Kim Meadows and Lisa Shires; and her extended family. The family would like to extend a special thank you to Good Samaritan Hospice. Funeral services will be conducted Thursday, May 16, 2024, at 2 p.m. in the McCoy Funeral

Home Chapel with the Rev. Dewey O. Weaver, Jr., and Rev. Keith Weaver officiating. Interment will follow in the Clover Hollow Cemetery in Newport.

The family will receive friends from 12- 2 p.m. before the service. In lieu of flowers please consider a donation, in memory of Sherrie Smith, to Good Samaritan Hospice, Gospel Light Baptist Church (Christiansburg, VA), the American Cancer Society, or another non-profit of your choice. "There is nothing more beautiful than someone who goes out of their way to make life beautiful for others." - Mandy Hale

Books

from page 1

knowledge, skills, and a positive activity when behind bars. We believe everyone has a right to improve themselves, and that books are a direct path to that. We work with the prison project on a regular basis - we always have a shelf of prisoner requests set up in the store so that customers can select a book to purchase and donate. We've gotten hundreds of books to incarcerated people in Appalachia and we're extremely proud of that."

The Book Swap is an event where community members are encouraged to bring a book and take a book from the table; swap and trade. It is completely free to swap books, but Blacksburg Books does accept donations. If a resident did not bring a book to swap, they are encouraged to donate any amount they like, via cash of Venmo, and take a book home with them. Donating is optional.

Each annual Book Swap has a theme. This year's theme was Gardening and Farming, so when residents perused the tables, every book fell into those categories, from books on Bonsais and their history to how to make your home garden produce a fuller harvest to specific plants' histories and genealogies.

"We try to host events that have a broad appeal," Woodall said, "For example, with the book swap we had books about creating a homestead, vegetable gardening, and landscaping, but also container gardening, cooking with fresh ingredients, and caring for houseplants - so whether you live on a farm or in a dorm, there's something for

you. And we make sure that all of our events are free and open to everybody!"

Community members had a variety of literature to choose from at this event. With residents swapping books, there were books from many genres and topics, including Astronomy and Art.

"We plan to continue it [The Book Swap] for as many years as we're around," Woodall said, "I think the most interesting thing is seeing the delight that people take in finding the perfect book for them among the books that other people have donated or swapped out. The idea that someone can enjoy a book and then pass it along to someone else is the most delightful form of recycling. I love to see books circulating through the community, giving knowledge and then being passed on."

Blacksburg Books is a staple in the community and tries to host events throughout the year that not only support their community but bring new faces into Blacksburg. Blacksburg Books tries to host events on a weekly basis from having authors speak and read, to having Open Mic Nights and other events for residents to enjoy.

"Our goal since the beginning was to be IN Blacksburg and FOR Blacksburg, so we try to engage with other businesses and organizations as much as possible," Woodall said, "Blacksburg always has really great stuff going on - cool shops, great charities, unique experiences - and if we can support those or call attention to them, then that's something we definitely want to do."

Join the Animal Care and Adoption Center for Purricane Prep Party

Please join the Animal Care and Adoption Center (ACAC) this Saturday, May 18, noon to 3 p.m., for a Purricane Prep Party.

Purricane season - also known as kitten season - is right around the corner in Montgomery County. In order to prepare for the flood of tiny felines, the ACAC is taking action and asking the community to help.

On Saturday, May 18, stop by the prep party to participate in the festivities, including a visit from The National

Weather Service in Blacksburg. Please bring supplies to help care for the kittens that typically arrive at the Center during purricane season.

Needed supplies include: Health and nutrition needs: Kitten formula (kitten milk replacer) powder; Purina Kitten Chow (yellow bag); "pate" style wet adult or kitten food (Friskies or any brand); double-sided food bowls; small

See Purricane, page 8


It's not just what your legacy will be, it's where.

.....

Every life story deserves the perfect setting...

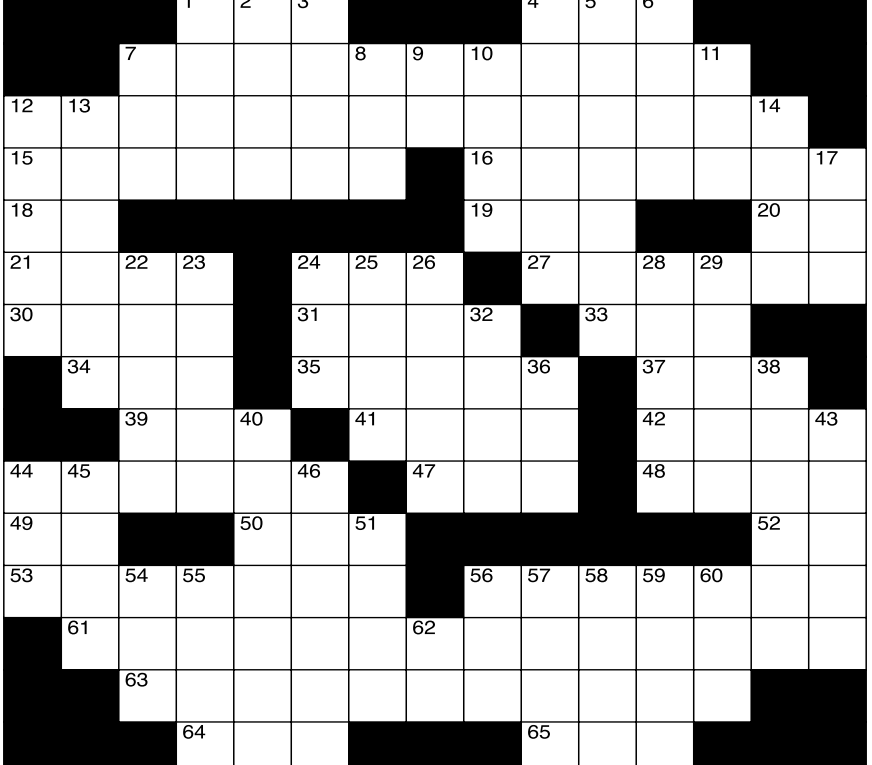


Memorial Gardens of the New River Valley is dedicated to honoring your faith, heritage, & family, now & for future generations. Please contact us today for more information on starting your family's legacy at Memorial Gardens of the New River Valley, designed to be as diverse as our community. The NRV's only locally family owned cemetery, giving us the freedom to meet each family's unique needs.



MEMORIAL GARDENS of the NEW RIVER VALLEY
 2551 North Main Street, Blacksburg
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CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. Small lump
 - 4. Helps little firms
 - 7. A way of performing
 - 12. Lawyers
 - 15. Stirred up
 - 16. Believed in
 - 18. The Bay State (abbr.)
 - 19. Makes computers
 - 20. Sodium
 - 21. As fast as can be done (abbr.)
 - 24. Institute legal proceedings against
 - 27. More compact
 - 30. Ethiopian river
 - 31. Quantitative fact
 - 33. No (Scottish)
 - 34. A concession of no great value
 - 35. Tony-winning actress Daisy
 - 37. More (Spanish)
 - 39. Russian space station
 - 41. Helicopter
 - 42. At the peak
 - 44. Makes ecstatically happy
 - 47. Excellent
 - 48. Material body
 - 49. The Golden State (abbr.)
 - 50. A unit of plane angle
 - 52. Argon
 - 53. Fancy
 - 56. Fried mixture of meat & spices
 - 61. How green plants use sunlight
 - 63. Without wills
 - 64. Unhappy
 - 65. Meat from a pig's leg
- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Mentor
 - 2. Lyric poems
 - 3. A dry cold north wind in Switzerland
 - 4. Trapped
 - 5. Used for road surfacing
 - 6. Cuckoos
 - 7. Prefix "away from"
 - 8. Seth McFarlane comedy
 - 9. Not out
 - 10. "The Simpsons" bus driver
 - 11. Popular HBO drama (abbr.)
 - 12. Acclaimed Indian physicist
 - 13. Removes
 - 14. One-name NBA player
 - 17. Revolutionary women
 - 22. Small
 - 23. Ground-dwelling songbird
 - 24. Midway between south and southeast
 - 25. American state
 - 26. Keen
 - 28. Khoikhoi peoples
 - 29. Int'l defense organization
 - 32. Samoan money
 - 36. A sign of assent
 - 38. One from Somalia
 - 40. Boat race
 - 43. Trims
 - 44. French coins
 - 45. Indigenous Scandinavian
 - 46. Flew alone
 - 51. Loch where a "monster" lives
 - 54. Japanese title
 - 55. Pros and
 - 56. Present in all living cells
 - 57. Something to scratch
 - 58. Branch of Islam
 - 59. Appear
 - 60. Former CIA
 - 62. Yukon Territory

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OPINION

May is Mental Health Month

Since 1949, Mental Health America and its affiliates across the country have led the observance of May as Mental Health Awareness Month by reaching millions through the media, local events, and screenings. It raises awareness of trauma and the impact it can have on the physical, emotional, and mental well-being of children, families, and communities. Cities and businesses across the country hold various events to support mental health and open up the lines of communication. Many websites provide ideas for businesses to support their employees during May and beyond.

According to the CDC, suicide rates in our country increased by 36% between 2000-2021. Suicide was responsible for 48,183 deaths in 2021 alone, which is about one death every 11 minutes. We know that many mental health disorders-including depression, bipolar disorder, borderline personality disorder, and PTSD-come with heightened risk of suicidal thoughts

or attempts. While seeking help for suicidal thoughts or behaviors is critical regardless of the cause, securing a specific diagnosis may help the individual receive treatment-especially ongoing treatment -that is best suited to their mental health needs.

Mental Health America says that up to 60% of people who die by suicide have major depression, and research suggests that the majority of suicides are related to a psychiatric condition. If you or someone you know is depressed, there are effective treatments available. Talking to your doctor is a fantastic first step, and you can also visit the National Alliance on Mental Illness to learn more about support groups that you might find helpful.

The Jason Foundation is another valuable resource. JFI is dedicated to the prevention of the "Silent Epidemic" of suicide through educational and awareness programs. On its website, you will learn about warning

signs and risk factors associated with people who may be struggling with mental health issues and suicidal ideation. JFI's website also has more information about finding a Jason Foundation location near you. We know that four out of five individuals considering suicide give some sign of their intentions, either verbally or behaviorally. In 80% of those considering suicide, we have an opportunity to recognize the warning signs and intervene. Take the time to educate yourselves on the warning signs and risk factors associated with suicide. This knowledge may help you save the life of a friend or loved one.

Submitted by Falon Mansfield, Division Director at The Jason Foundation

Written by Scott Knight, Education Specialist and Division Director at The Jason Foundation

Seven ways to build financial literacy in your children

Children often learn their first lessons about money from the adults they're closest to. Whether it's listening to parents discuss a purchase or watching them pay bills online, kids are observant and their relationship with money is often shaped by what surrounds them. If you are a parent looking to instill financial wisdom in your children, here are some ways to get started.

Set a good example. Kids often model what they



Josh Smith, CRPC

Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC

see. Be intentional about the example you're setting. Proactively discuss money with your children. Talk about what's important to you money-wise and use everyday moments to bring it to life such as bringing them along when you speak to a financial advisor or consider an expenditure.

Share knowledge. You can give your kids important life skills by building their foundation of financial knowledge. Shape good habits with simple lessons about how to track spending or saving up for something special. Why wait until they're on their own to talk about the value of good credit or to explain how compound interest can make savings grow? Talk about the rewards (and challenges) of delayed gratification and the perils of debt. As they get older, emphasize the importance of financial security and the value of professional guidance.

Encourage goal setting. Instill the habit of goal setting early. Discuss your own goals – such as paying for a family vacation or saving for a new car – and how you follow through on them. Encourage your children to set a goal or two of their own.

Reinforce the value of work. Children learn the

value of a dollar sooner when they are exposed to the effort that goes into earning each one. Consider whether you want to provide an allowance or pay them for helping with chores. When they start a part-time job, talk through the various ways they can allocate the money earned. It's human nature to be more careful when spending your own versus someone else's money.

Introduce the concept of budgeting. Budgeting doesn't have to be a negative concept. Having a spending plan can be empowering because you know exactly what money is going to meet each need and goal. Start explaining this concept early on. Kids should understand that you impose limits on your own spending, and why it's important to live within your means. For example, a trip to the grocery store can be an opportunity to share why you make the choices you do.

Model philanthropy. If giving back to the causes you care about is important to you as an investor, it can be impactful to show your children the power of giving. You might suggest they apply a save-spend-share philosophy toward their own money. The idea is to set aside a portion of their allowance or earnings for future wants or needs, spend another portion on today's wants or needs, and give a portion to causes they care about. Whether it's enacting a spending philosophy or having a conversation with your child about how you use your money to give back, passing down your philanthropic values can be a rewarding experience for both parties.

Be a resource. Most kids make a few financial mistakes as they mature into adults. Let them know they can turn to you for guidance. Encourage them to continue to build smart money habits and remind them they don't have to navigate their financial journey alone.

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

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

Delegate disagrees with pro-Palestinian protests



Delegate Jason Ballard

Virginia General Assembly

structures. To date, many of the campus protests that we have witnessed have refused to comply with these rules, setting up "encampments" and sometimes barricades.

The purpose of these "liberated zones" is simple – students plan to hold the area for ransom. Until their demands are met, they will prevent others from lawfully using the space. So far, in Virginia, those actions have been limited to public green spaces outdoors. At Columbia University and UCLA, entire buildings have been taken and sections of their campuses closed to Jews. There is no place for this behavior in a civilized society and it will not be tolerated. Governor Youngkin has made this clear, and our local law enforcement have handled these protests with professionalism.

It's important to remember how we got to this point. On Oct. 7, 2023, Hamas terrorists flooded into southern Israel and began killing and kidnapping anyone they could. By the time that the Israeli military could secure the area, more than 1,100 innocent people had been killed. Israel rightly responded and moved into Gaza to eliminate the ongoing threat that Hamas poses to Israel's survival.

Protestors at these college encampments are calling for the end of the Jewish state – the only homeland Jews have – and have told Jews on campus to "go back to Poland," or worse. Anti-Semitic bile may be protected speech, but we are not required to let it go unchallenged. There are those that seek nothing short of the expulsion of Jews from Israel, and in some cases, the expulsion of Jews from college campuses. Every student has a right to learn free from fear and intimidation, and Republicans will continue to work to ensure that they have it.

As the Delegate representing the 42nd House District in the Virginia General Assembly, your concerns are my greatest priority. If ever I may be of assistance to you and your family, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at DelJasonBallard@House.Virginia.Gov. You can also follow me on Twitter @JasonBallardVA or like my Facebook page, Jason Ballard for Delegate, to keep up to date with what I am doing in Richmond and in our community on your behalf.

Over the past couple of weeks, approximately 100 protestors have been arrested on Virginia college campuses as local law enforcement move in to retake public spaces being held for ransom by pro-Palestinian "encampments." Many Virginia Democrats have either remained silent, or in some cases, have sided with the protestors.

Democrats have framed the arrests and disruption of protests as the quashing of students' free speech rights. But in all reality, nothing could be further from the truth. Even the most horrendous speech is protected by the First Amendment, and protestors are free to express those ideas as long as they abide by the rules governing campus gatherings. Students are free to protest on campus as long as they comply with the rules for public assembly, which in most cases bans the use of tents and other semi-permanent

Practitioners

from page 1

Maryland, she received her BSN from WVU. She later completed the Master of Science Nursing, Family Nurse Practitioner Concentration program at West Virginia Wesleyan College. She comes to the Community Health Center from Mon Health Wedgewood Primary Care & Psychiatry in Morgantown, WV.

Katelyn Cantrell, DDS, joined the Community Health Center from Charlottesville, where she provided general dentistry services as an associate at a private practice. Her wide range of experience also includes working in free clinics and as part of a volunteer team providing dental care to underserved areas.

After graduating from UVA-Wise, she earned her dental degree from VCU and was a resident at the University of Virginia. Cantrell has a strong

leadership background as a volunteer and is a member of the American Dental Association.

"We are fortunate to add three exceptional practitioners to our team," Michelle Brauns, MS, APR, CEO of the CHCNRV, said. "Each of them brings a unique skill set to our staff and a strong commitment to community health."

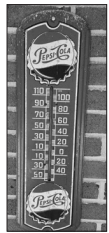
The Community Health Center of the New River Valley provides affordable and high-quality family medical, dental, behavioral, and preventive health care services to people of all ages, regardless of ability to pay. For more information about the Community Health Center's services and programs in Christiansburg, Dublin, Pearisburg, and Pulaski County High School, visit our website at www.chcnrv.org or call 540-381-0820.

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ABSOLUTE ESTATE AUCTION

SAT., MAY 18, 2024 – 10:00 AM
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Note: Potential buyers will have from May 7th until May 17th to conduct a lead-based paint contamination test if they so desire.

Partial List of Personal Property to be sold at "Absolute Auction"

Antiques/Collectibles: Antique Barlow & Seelig Wringer washer, wooden sleigh, wooden apple crates, various size milk bottles, old bidder bottles, McCoy cookie jar, Lg. Raggedy Ann & Andy dolls, several dolls, vintage toys, Edward Moble antique squeaky toys, Nascar coffee tins, political button collection, antique planter (patented 1900), old Pepsi thermometer, baskets, glassware (Pink depression-Fireking-Amber-Pyrex), collection of mini setting hens, butter mold, sm. ceramic churn, several ceramic pieces, canning & jelly jars, gallon White House vinegar jugs, speckle wear pieces, china, pots/pans, seasonal decorations, wash tub, bushel baskets, sausage grinder, antique comic stands, antique chalk board, what knots, several TY beanie babies, sessions clock, sadd iron, wrought iron tea kettle, lamps, pictures, glass insulators, quilts/afghans, sewing material, crafting supplies, brass metal garden sprayer, walking canes, #5 crock, 2 wash boards, single tree, pony size double tree, old nail keg, antique shoe lasts, lots of cat collectibles, unopened geodes.

Furn./Household: 4 pc. wood bedroom suite, 1/2 bed, chest & dresser, wood/metal dining table w/4 chairs, oil lamps, curio cabinet, pine wardrobe, antique wooden rocker, corner hutch, straight back wooden chair, arm chair, sofa & chair, flat screen TV, elec. lift chair, 4 bar stools, charcoal grill.

Tools/Misc.: Lawn fertilize spreader, 6 wagon steel wheels, horse drawn turn plow, several plow points, garden layoff plow, scythe, elec. pole saw, elec. chain saw, yard/garden tools, carpenter/mechanic tools, vise, 15 ton railroad jack, floor creeper, wooden ladder, rods/reels, 12 gal. shop vac, fan, motorcycle helmet, bird cage, reptile habitat w/lamp & more!

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Inspection: Call our office anytime to see this lovely home. Personal property 1.5 hrs. prior to auction.

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Legals - City of Salem

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
 Notice is hereby given to all interested persons that the Board of Appeals (Building) of the City of Salem, Virginia will hold a public hearing, in accordance with the provisions of Section 18-38 Code of City of Salem, Virginia, on May 29, 2024, at 4:00pm in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 114 North Broad Street, in the City of Salem, Virginia. The purpose of the meeting and hearing shall be to determine if certain structures are dangerous to the inhabitants of the City and whether such structures should be ordered to be repaired or demolished. The structures are located as follows:

(1) Dilapidated accessory structure located at 702 Front Avenue, Salem, Virginia (Tax Map # 201 - 10 - 2)

All parties in interest at the public hearings will be given an opportunity to be heard, present evidence, and show cause why action by the City and Board to remedy a potentially dangerous situation should or should not be granted. For additional information, contact the Building Official's Office, 21 South

Legals - City of Salem

Bruffey Street, Salem, Virginia (Phone 375-3036).

THE BOARD OF BUILDING APPEALS OF THE CITY OF SALEM
 BY Troy D. Loving
 Troy D. Loving, Building Official

ABC NOTICE

HAMMER & STAIN SALEM LLC trading as HAMMER & STAIN ROANOKE, 901 S. Colorado Street, Roanoke County, Salem, VA. 24153.

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a RETAIL MARKETPLACE LICENSE to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

BARBARA WINFREY-ANTHONY, 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.

Legals - Montgomery County

Order of Publication

Commonwealth of Virginia VA Code §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316.20-104
 Case No. CL23001539-00 MONTGOMERY COUNTY Circuit Court, 55 EAST MAIN STREET, SUITE 1, CHRISTIANBURG, VA 24073 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re REBECCA LYNN AKERS BOYD v. TIMOTHY RALPH BOYD
 The object of this suit is to: DIVORCE. It is ORDERED that TIMOTHY RALPH BOYD appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before JUNE 26, 2024.
 April 22, 2024
 Robert M.D. Turk, JUDGE

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MONTGOMERY SPORTS

Millirons steps down at Auburn

Marty Gordon
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Auburn High School is advertising for a new boys' head basketball coach after Terry Millirons announced he was stepping down after 19 years on the sidelines.

Millirons led the team to another state championship game this past year and is 195-125 in 13 seasons in charge of the boy's program. He is also 81-57 after six years on the girls' side of the court.

In his time coaching the boys, Millirons captured seven Mt. Empire District regular season and tournament titles, four Region C championships including the last three in a row, and two state titles in 2020 and 2022.

Over those years, he was also privileged to coach both his sons.

This weekend, Millirons said the decision to step down was a tough one.

"This was my youngest son Nick's senior season, and he is heading off to UVA for college," he said. "My oldest son, Ethan, is still in college and playing basketball for East Stroudsburg the next two seasons. With both kids in college, I wanted to be able to

have the flexibility to go and see them when we wanted and to catch as many of Ethan's games as possible."

Coaching those two, according to Millirons, has been the most rewarding experience he has ever had.

"A lot of times you hear of that being a strain on the father/son relationship, but I will always look back at that as great times," he said. "It has helped that we have had so much success the last six seasons with one or both of them in the program. The state championship win in 2022 will always be special to me because they were both on the team."

He admits there is not really one thing that stands out in his memory on the sidelines.

"The thing you remember the most are all the fun times we had together," he said. "The teams hanging out at the house for pregame meals, trips to Orlando to play in the KSA Tournament and bus rides back after big wins."

He doesn't plan to change much of his life after coaching. He owns Hall's Garage Doors but knows he will have a little bit more time in the afternoons.



FILE PHOTO

Terry Millirons is retiring as the head boys' basketball coach at Auburn High School.

Weekly reports: Radford softball takes win over Floyd



Senior Addie Saunders scores to put the Bobcats up 3-1 in the fifth inning of a 5-2 win over Floyd.



Senior Kira Rollins blasts a home run to increase Radford's lead to 4-1.



PHOTOS BY BRIAN ALTIZER

Senior shortstop Kathryn Price throws to first for the out as Radford closes out the last home game of the season with a win over the Lady Buffs of Floyd County.

A home run from Radford High School senior Kira Rollins sealed the win for the Bobcats this past week in their final home game of the season.

Radford tied the game in the bottom of the second after Kathryn Price singled, stole second base, advanced to third on a wild pitch and scored on an error. Radford added two more runs in the bottom of the fifth with Kira Rollins solo homerun and

exceptional base running from Addie Saunders who stole both second and third on a wild pitch and scored on a sacrifice fly.

Quinn Burton finished seven innings for the win, only allowing five hits on the night.

Blacksburg claims win over Hidden Valley

This past Friday, Blacksburg held on for a 13-9 victory over Hidden Valley. Katey Mathena led the

way with four hits including a HR.

Maddie Williams and Brynn Ferguson followed up with three hits of their own. Evelyn Rhoads hit a home run as well. Aubrey Hudgins, Lindsey Polan and Natalie Green added two hits each. Evelyn Rhoads pitched 4 1/3 innings striking out seven.

Staff report



PHOTO COURTESY OF RU ATHLETICS

RU signs six transfers for women

Marty Gordon
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Just six months ago, at least seven players announced they were leaving the Radford University women's basketball team.

Now, the school is welcoming six transfers to its roster.

Coach Mike McGuire is welcoming transfers from St. Bonaventure, North Carolina A&T, Rider, Longwood and William and Mary.

Taylor Napper, a 6'0 forward transferring from St. Bonaventure; Laila Acox, a 6'0 forward transferring from North Carolina A&T; Makayla Firebaugh, a 5'10 guard transferring from Rider; Cate Carlson, a 5'10 forward transferring from William & Mary; Adriana Shipp-Davis, a 5'10 guard from Longwood; and Kirah Dandridge, a 5'10 guard from St. Bonaventure round out

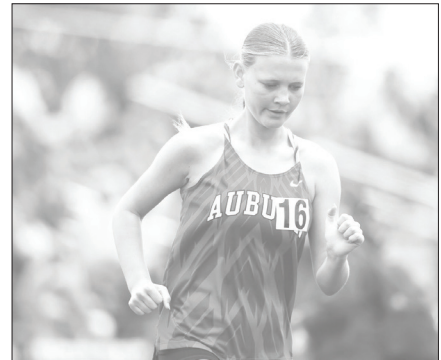
the six new Highlanders who will be making their red and white debuts next season.

"Overall, I am thrilled with the spring additions to our women's basketball program," said McGuire. "We had specific needs on our roster, and I believe our coaching staff did an outstanding job of identifying young ladies that will have the opportunity to impact our program on and off the court right away. We wanted experience, versatility, size, and scoring. We addressed those areas. We also have quite a few signees from the Commonwealth of Virginia, so it is great to have some in-state talent on our roster as well as one of the best players from South Carolina. We have talked to each one of our signees about what we are looking for, what we expect, and our expectation to be at Radford is exciting to say the least."

Area athletes compete at Blue Demon Invitational track meet



Eastern Montgomery's Spencer Sisson finished 11th in the 1600-meter race with a time of 4:42.16.



Auburn's Lucy George races in the 1600-meter event at the Blue Demon Invitational on Saturday, May 11.



Sand flies as Christiansburg freshman Adeline Daby competes in the triple jump at the Blue Demon Invitational.



Blacksburg's Mia Littlejohn won the high jump at Saturday's Blue Demon Invitational with a clearance of five feet, four inches. Littlejohn also won the 100-meter hurdles with a time of 15.08.



Blacksburg's Henry Strahm (center) leads Christiansburg's Noah Jones (left) and teammate Harrison Whitfield during the 1600-meter race at the Blue Demon Invitational.



PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING

Radford freshman Lily Hyatt won her heat in the 1600-meter event and placed ninth overall with a time of 6:01.24 at the Blue Demon Invitational.

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.

Dysus is a love bug! She enjoys nuzzling up to human hands and getting pets on her head and under her chin. Dysus is playful and curious, too. She could be your purrfect match!



Moon Pie is a classic, fun "wiggly butt" dog. She's a younger gal who loves to romp around and act silly. She also enjoys play time with rope toys and things that squeak. Stop by the Animal Care and Adoption Center to meet her.

Send community news and photos to communitynews@ourvalley.org

Purricane

stainless-steel food bowls; treats; kitten nursing bottles and replacement nipples; Miracle Nipples (mini and original); food scales (digital kitchen scale, weight in grams and ounces); digital thermometers; heating pads (three-settings heating pad without auto shut-off, e.g. Sunbeam light blue)
 Litter items: Non-clumping clay litter; "Yesterday's News" (or any brand) paper litter; litter scoops
 Comfort items: "Snuggle Kitty or Puppy" stuffed toy with heartbeat; fleece blankets; small cat beds; toys; piper cleaners
 Grooming products: Toothbrushes (inexpensive) used for grooming; flea combs
 Cleaning products: Bleach; liquid



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF ACAC
 laundry soap; Dawn "Ultra" dish soap (blue)
 Animal Care and Adoption Center



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FBLA

in Montgomery County, they decided to sponsor a school-wide food drive in October at the Middle School. They advertised the project, made signs, and set up collection boxes around the school.
 In November, they delivered the food to the Store, unloaded, sorted, inventoried, and stored it to be used in December during Store Week. Because the Food Department gives a basket of food to every eligible shopper along with a Christmas card with a gift certificate for meat, the students also collected and made cards for the 1100+ families who come during Store Week. Students were given a tour of the store so they could see all that is provided to help those in need in our community.
 In addition to supporting the MCCS on the hunger issue, the group also made sandwiches for a homeless shelter in Christiansburg and made treats for the Montgomery County Animal Shelter.

The FBLA has an Awards Competition between chapters in individual states. On March 8, 21 FBLA members traveled to Henrico, Virginia to participate in the State Competitive Events. This year, XiXi Liu, a sixth grader, placed first in her performance event, Community Service, at the State Leadership Conference. She created a presentation about the project the chapter did with the Christmas Store. Hedgepeth said that after her presentation, a judge came over and said, "XiXi did an excellent job as well as other members from our BMS chapter."
 XiXi qualified to compete at the National Leadership Conference (NLC) in Orlando, Florida this summer. Along with XiXi, 17 other students placed in the top four places and qualified to attend national competition. Because of conflicts, 11 members are attending the NLC this year.

With her guidance, students set up a delightful setting in the auditorium. Sadie Zhang, FBLA Vice-President, was a very capable mistress of ceremony and designed the program and menu. Scarlett Collins, FBLA reporter, prepared the photo montage describing the work of FBLA as part of the program. For a \$30 donation, guests enjoyed a tasty dinner from Outback. Tickets were purchased by 71 people. The students did all the work serving the meal, providing wonderful music from the stage and running the event.
 Hedgepeth took the opportunity at the event to thank all the businesses, volunteers, family, and friends who have helped the chapter this year.

Since it is so expensive to attend the conference, donations are being accepted at the middle school to help families attend the event. You can drop by the office to write a check or mail it to the school with FBLA on the memo line.
 Good luck to all of these energetic, talented students as they compete at the national level and represent Blacksburg Middle School.

Terri Lynn Howard,
 Montgomery County
 Christmas Store

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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