Blacksburg

Christiansburg

Wednesday, May 29, 2024

www.ourvalley.org

USPS 016-490

\$1.00

Strategic Partners to lead town-gown-region collaboration effort

Area leaders forge partnership to discuss, build shared vision

Leaders from Blacksburg Christiansburg, County, Montgomery the New River Valley Regional Commission and Virginia Tech recently met in Blacksburg to discuss strategic opportunities to work together to advance and support the shared interests of the region.

What emerged from that meeting was an agreement to a one-year initiative that will explore opportunities to collaborate in the best interests of New River Valley. To facilitate this effort, the partners will engage with Strategic Partners, a global

B L A C K S B U R G strategic communications community engagement consulting firm headquartered in Washington, D.C., that helps communities translate challenges into opportunities for success.

In his February State of the University Address, Virginia Tech President Tim Sands highlighted Virginia Tech's ongoing commitment to work with local partners to develop an aligned approach to the region's shared aspirations and obstacles.

"We've made progress and are ready for the university, towns, county, and surrounding region to join and forge a path to

for all," Sands said. "I look forward to a productive dialogue that helps us better understand our needs and develop a plan to address our shared goals."

"As always, the town's primary concern is for its residents' quality of life," said Blacksburg Mayor Leslie Hager-Smith. "We look forward to any process that will help to advance that priority and that will enhance relations with our partners on the university

Quality of life for all residents, especially when

See Collaboration,



Since 1991, the Summer Arts Festival, a joint effort by Virginia Tech and the Town of Blacksburg, has offered an array of arts and cultural events throughout the summer, including theatre productions, gallery exhibits, outdoor concerts, classic movies, and other special performances.

Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library launches 2024 Summer Reading Program

Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library (MFRL) is excited to announce the 2024 "Adventure Begins at Your Library" Summer Reading Program, a thrilling journey for all ages beginning June 1 through July 27. This year's program promises a summer filled with captivating reads, exciting events, and engaging activities designed to inspire a lifelong love of reading.

Program Highlights:

Kick-Off Event: Join us June 1 at the Blacksburg Library for our grand kick-off celebration. Festivities will include face painting, bubbles, and a sweet treat.

Hamlet The Shepherd Shakespeare Company presents the never-before-heard tale of Hamlet's adventures amongst the pirates of the North Sea. Recommended for ages four and up.

Larsens' Amazing World of Reptiles: Reptile experts Scott and Kim Larsen will share stories and interesting facts about their dazzling array of lizards, frogs, turtles, and snakes - then invite you to meet the reptiles up close and

personal. Caution: holding, petting, and greeting reptiles eye-to-eye may occur. For all ages.

Mountain Flat Stanley: The presents Musical: The Mill Mountain Theater is bringing their traveling production of Flat Stanley: The Musical to our library. Join Stanley, a flat but fearless adventurer, on a whirlwind journey from Hollywood to Paris and beyond.

For adults: There are a variety of programs including "Speed Friending," Summer Foraging Workshops, Pressed Bookmarks, an Author Talk by Rick Van Noy, Paint Your Partner,

Weekly events: Enjoy a variety of weekly events across all MFRL branches. From storytime and craft sessions for kids to book clubs and author talks for adults, there's something for everyone.

Reading challenges: Participants of all ages can join reading challenges tailored to their age group, from toddlers to adults. Complete challenges to earn badges, prizes, and entries into grand prize

Finale - All ages are invited to join in at the Summer Reading Finale Saturday, July 27 from 2 – 4p.m. at the Blacksburg Library for a Silent Disco.

How to participate:

Register: Sign up for the Summer Reading Program starting June 1 at any MFRL branch or online at https://mfrl.beanstack.org/

Read and complete activities: Track your progress using our online platform or by picking up a reading log at your local library.

Engage: Attend events, participate in challenges, and take on Adventures this summer!

Why Join?

Summer reading programs are proven to prevent the "summer slide" in academic skills, provide opportunities for family bonding, and create positive, enjoyable experiences with books and learning. The "Adventure Begins at Your Library" program offers a unique chance to explore the outdoors, read more, and embark on a literary adventure right in your community.

See Library, page 8

Radio field day near Audie Murphy site set for Saturday

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

The New River Valley Radio Club and other ham radio operators are a link to the world we sometimes seem to forget.

Current estimates are that there are three million amateur radio operator active worldwide.

The whole idea of ham radio is the use of the radio frequency spectrum for purposes non-commercial exchange of messages, wireless experimentation, self-training, private recreation, sport, contesting, and yes, emergency communications.

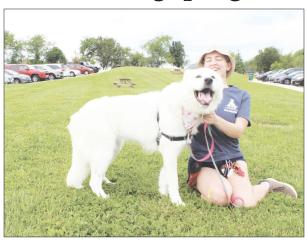
This Saturday, June 1, the local group, which boasts close to 40 members, will hold a special event in honor of Audie Murphy, 10 a.m. -

Murphy was the most decorated US soldier in World War II and died in a plane crash on Brush Mountain, near New Castle, Va. on May 28, 1971. This field day marks the 53rd year of his passing, and brings awareness to his life as a soldier, actor, and American hero.

According to online records, he received every military combat award for valor available from the United States Army, as well as French and Belgian awards for heroism. Murphy received the Medal of Honor for valor that he demonstrated at the age of 19 for singlehandedly holding off a company of German soldiers for an hour at the Colmar Pocket in

See Murphy, page 8

Christiansburg Springs into Summer at Huckleberry Park



Montgomery County Animal Care and Adoption Center, attends Christiansburg's Spring into Summer event.

Angelica Ramos

Contributing writer

CHRISTIANSBURG- Christiansburg celebrated the beginning of summer with a plaque unveiling and the Spring into Summer event.

Christiansburg Parks and Recreation Department along with Mayor Mike Barber and other community affiliates, hosted the Spring into Summer Event this past Thursday, May 23, 2024 at the new Huckleberry Park. The festivities opened with a speech by Parks and Recreation Director Brad Epperley, a presentation of

See Huckleberry, page 8



Adoptable pup Chicken Wing, with a volunteer from Community members enjoy Frozen treats from Aloha Eddie's at the Huckleberry Park event.



PHOTOS BY ANGELICA RAMOS

Hilltop Yoga is enjoyed by attendees of the Spring into Summer event at Huckleberry Park.

Audie Murphy

Monument at the site of the Virginia plane crash, which killed Audie Murphy.

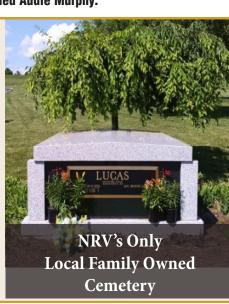


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aburnette@memorialgardensnrv.com



PCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, May 29:

Little Critters Petting Zoo

Blacksburg Farmers Market

At the Christiansburg Library; 10 a.m. – noon. Little Critters Petting Zoo will be here with all sorts of fun animals. This event is outside, keep an eye out for weather cancellations.

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.

Friday, May 31:

Radford Summer Reading Kick-off Party

At Radford Public Library; noon - 3 p.m. Summer Reading is here. Join us for an all-ages Kick-Off Party and get registered for the Summer Reading Program. We will have a special cake to celebrate and goody bags for the first 50 people who register, and games will also be out to play. This year's theme is Adventure Begins at Your Library - we can't wait to adventure with you.

Meadowbrook Summer Reading Kick-off Event Join Meadowbrook Library, Shawsville, in the courtyard to kickstart summer reading. The Salvation Army will be serving free hot dogs during this event, while supplies last. Schedule of events: 5- 6 p.m. Stop by the signup table to get registered for the Summer Reading Program, then kids can participate in a fun activity with a book adventure theme; 6 -7 p.m. All ages are invited to play Bingo in the courtyard. In case of rain, event will be held inside the Carilion Community

Saturday, June 1:

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.

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.

Sunday, June 2:

Books & Brews

Join The Radford Public Library at Long Way Brewing for a discussion on the book "Breaking and Entering." The book discussion is informal and relaxed just have a talk with your tablemates! Copies of the book are available for checkout. Advance copies are given to those who attend book club and 10% discount is given to book club participants for LWB drinks.

Tuesday, June 4:

Coffee Club for Adults (age 50+)

Cultivate community by making new friends at Radford Public Library; 10- 11 a.m. Adults 50+ years are encouraged to come out and enjoy coffee and baked goods together. This informal gathering will be hosted by RPL staff member Monika. Please join us, get connected over coffee, and share your stories in this informal gathering - it's all grounds for a good time! (We'll also have tea and other beverages).

Wednesday, June 5:

Market Square Jam

Blacksburg's Market Square Jam is an official Crooked Road affiliated venue that provides fun and entertainment on Wednesday evenings, June through September. The Jam takes place at Market Square Park from 7-9 p.m. Host Band: The Jug Busters (Russ Boyd). For more information and a list of hosts, please visit blacksburg.gov/marketsquarejam.

Thursday, June 6:

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., Radford. For further information, please call 540-250-2283 or 540-239-9864.

Friday, June 7:

Friday night outdoor concert

Featuring: The Blacksburg Community Band. The summer of 2024 lineup of outdoor concerts offers six bands throughout June and July. Live music will take place Friday evenings on Henderson Lawn at the corner of Main Street and College Avenue, from 6-7:30 p.m. In case of inclement weather, the event will be canceled.

Saturday, June 8:

Rockin' Main Street Concert

The Town of Christiansburg is hosting Rockin' Main Street, a fun-for-all event with live music from two exciting artists on East Main St. Start the evening off with country music singer/songwriter, Drew Pace taking the stage at 5 p.m. At 7 p.m., country/Americana act, Lyn Avenue will perform. Lyn Avenue brings catchy, compelling stories driven by rich vocals, electrifying leads, and boot stomping rhythms. Beer, wine, and food trucks will be available at the event. Attendees are encouraged to bring lawn chairs to sit watch the live music. Be sure to bring your IDs if you plan to purchase beer or wine.

See **Events**, page 3

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF A PETITION BY APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF ITS 2024 RENEWABLE PORTFOLIO STANDARD (RPS) PLAN UNDER § 56-585.5 OF THE CODE OF VIRGINIA AND RELATED REQUESTS **CASE NO. PUR-2024-00020**

During its 2020 Session, the Virginia General Assembly enacted Chapters 1193 (HB 1526) and 1194 (SB 851) of the 2020 Virginia Acts of Assembly. These duplicate Acts of Assembly, known as the Virginia Clean Economy Act ("VCEA"), became effective on July 1, 2020. The VCEA, inter alia, establishes a mandatory renewable energy portfolio standard ("RPS") for Appalachian Power Company ("APCo" or "Company") in § 56-585.5 of the Code of Virginia ("Code"). Subdivision D 4 of Code § 56-585.5 requires APCo to submit annually to the State Corporation Commission ("Commission") plans and petitions for approval of new solar and onshore wind generation capacity ("RPS Filing"). The RPS Filing must also include the Company's plan to meet the energy storage project targets of Code § 56-585.5 E. The Commission must determine whether the RPS Filing is reasonable and prudent, giving due consideration to the following factors: (i) the RPS and carbon dioxide reduction requirements in Code § 56-585.5; (ii) the promotion of new renewable generation and energy storage resources within the Commonwealth, and associated economic the promotion of new renewable generation and energy storage resources within the Commonwealth, and associated economic development; and (iii) fuel savings projected to be achieved by the plan. The Commission's final order regarding any RPS Filing is required by Code § 56-585.5 D 4 to be entered by the Commission not more than six months after the date of such filing.

On April 25, 2024, APCo filed its annual RPS Filing to the Commission ("2024 RPS Filing" or "Petition"). In its 2024 RPS Filing, APCo requests that the Commission:

- Approve the Company's annual plan for the development of new solar, wind, and energy storage resources pursuant to Code § 56-585.5 D 4 ("2024 RPS Plan");
- Approve a revenue requirement of \$16,503,258 for the rate year of November 1, 2024 through October 31, 2025 ("Rate Year") to be recovered through the mechanisms and methodology previously approved by the Commission
- (iii) Approve Rider VCEA Net of Benefits Cost Rider ("Rider NBC"); and (iv) Approve the Company's request to be relieved of the requirement to conduct a retirement analysis of Mountaineer
- and Amos in future VCEA filings.

The Company states that to meet the requirements of the VCEA, its 2024 RPS Plan includes multiple scenarios to help inform future requests for proposals for renewable and storage resources, and that "[a]ll scenarios meet both the RPS goals (Subsection C), Virginia-domiciled renewable generator requirements (Subsection D), and the energy storage requirements (Subsection E)." APCo states that the 2024 RPS Plan confines to support a balanced and diverse portfolio of resources consisting of solar, wind, and market renewable energy certificate ("REC") purchases.

APCo states that in developing the 2024 RPS Plan, the Company ran multiple portfolio optimizations with different resources available. The Company further states that each of the portfolios modeled for this RPS analysis was least cost, VCEA compliant, and demonstrated an optimal selection of diverse resources. According to APCo, its action plan under the 2024 RPS Plan is to:

- Issue requests for proposals for onshore wind, solar, and energy storage resources;
- · Pursue lowest cost compliance options consistent with the allocation percentages for construction or purchase described in Subsection D of Code § 56-585.5; and
- Make market REC purchases when advantageous.

Additionally, APCo states that it has an application pending before the Commission for approval to construct and operate a battery energy storage system, the Glade-Whitetop Project, which the Company states is in compliance with the VCEA and the interim targets established by the Commission's Regulations Governing the Deployment of Energy Storage. APCo seeks approval to recover the Rate Year revenue requirement, through the RPS rate adjustment clauses ("RACs"), of \$16,503,258. The Company states that this revenue requirement consists of: (1) the under-recovery of costs through December 2023 in the amount of \$7,042,124; (2) the Bridge Period credit of \$9,812,605 for the period January 2024 through October 2024; and (3) the VCEA Rate Year revenue requirement of \$19,273,739.

APCo included in the revenue requirement a request to recover \$1,008,260 in costs associated with two solar facilities (Firefly and Bedington) that the Commission approved in its Final Order in the Company's 2021 RPS proceeding, but that were canceled shortly thereafter. The Company represents that: (i) these costs include engineering and legal costs associated with developing the purchase-sale agreements and evaluating the site, interconnection requirement assessments, and technology performance estimates; and (ii) the Company abandoned each project for reasons beyond its control, including the rapidly escalating costs of

APCo states that the cost allocation methodologies and mechanisms used in this Petition are those approved by the Commission in the RPS Cost Allocation Order, which are as follows:

- (1) A.5 RPS RAC to recover \$13,880,179, the non-energy, non-ancillary services, non-capacity costs for all owned facilities, power purchase agreements ("PPA"), and REC purchases;
- (2) A.5 RPS-PCAP RAC to recover \$1,427,767, the costs of the capacity purchased through PPAs; and
- (3) A.6 RPS RAC to recover \$1,195,313, the costs of capacity and energy from facilities owned by the Company.
- APCo estimates that the bill impact of the 2024 RPS Filing on a residential customer using 1,000 kilowatt-hours per month would be an increase of \$0.05, or 0.03% compared to rates in effect on March 31, 2024.

In this 2024 RPS Filing, APCo proposes a new additional rider, Rider NBC, which will apply to a subset of the Company's

The Company asserts that because shopping customers are not subject to the fuel factor, the energy component of PPAs, which are the VCEA costs that are assigned to the fuel factor under the approved cost recovery framework, cannot therefore be collected from shopping customers. The Company proposes a single rate mechanism, Rider NBC, to be trued-up annually that both collects the energy component of VCEA PPA riders and returns the energy benefits of the VCEA resources whose costs are collected through the Company's three VCEA RACs.

Relief from the Requirement to Model Retirement of Amos and Mountaineer

APCo states that, pursuant to prior Commission directive, the Company again modeled a portfolio sensitivity to evaluate the customer impacts of potential early retirement of the Amos and Mountaineer facilities. The Company represents that, in this analysis, all four units at these facilities were modeled as individual generators available for economic retirement selection, and that all assumptions and inputs used were the same as those used for modeling the least-cost plan for achieving RPS Program compliance and the proposed plan for achieving RPS Program compliance.

The Company asserts that under this analysis, the model selected all the Amos and Mountaineer units to continue operations until 2040 as part of the least cost plans. According to APCo, this result reflects the Company's assumption that both units will run through 2040, consistent with orders from the Commission and the Public Service Commission of West Virginia. Consequently, the Company requests that it be relieved of the requirement to conduct this analysis in future VCEA filings.

The foregoing is not an exhaustive list of all the proposals contained in the Company's Petition. Interested persons are encouraged to review the Company's Petition and supporting documents for the details of these and other proposals

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

The Commission entered an Order for Notice and Hearing in this proceeding that, among other things, scheduled public hearings on APCo's 2024 RPS Filing. On July 25, 2024, at 10 a.m., a Hearing Examiner appointed by the Commission will hold a telephonic hearing for the purpose of receiving the testimony of public witnesses. On or before July 17, 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 July 25, 2024, the Hearing Examiner will telephone sequentially each person who has signed up to

On July 25, 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 Company's 2024 RPS Filing from the Company, any respondents, and 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 requires electronic service on parties to this

An electronic copy of the Company's 2024 RPS Filing 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 <u>iritter@aep.com</u>. Interested persons also may download unofficial copies from the Commission's website: scc.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information.

On or before June 27, 2024, any interested 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 State Corporation Commission, c/o Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2118. 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 to the Company. Pursuant to 5 VAC 5-20-80 B, Participation as a respondent, of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure ("Rules of Practice"), any notice of participation shall set forth: (i) a precise statement of the interest of the respondent; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent then known; and (iii) the factual and legal basis for the action. Any organization, corporation, or government body participating as a respondent must be represented by counsel as required by 5 VAC 5-20-30, *Counsel*, of the Rules of Practice. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2024-00020. For additional information about participation as a respondent, any person or entity should obtain a copy of the Commission's Order for Notice and Hearing. On or before June 27, 2024, each respondent may file with the Clerk of the Commission, at scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling, any

testimony and exhibits by which the respondent expects to establish its case. Any respondent unable, as a practical matter, to file testimony and exhibits electronically may file such by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the Commission at the address listed above. Each witness's testimony shall include a summary not to exceed one page. All testimony and exhibits shall be sent to Staff, the Company, and all other respondents simultaneous with its filing. In all filings, respondents shall comply with the Rules of Practice, as modified by the Commission's Order for Notice and Hearing, 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-2024-00020. On or before July 17, 2024, any interested person or entity may submit comments on the 2024 RPS Filing by following the

instructions found on the Commission's website: scc.virginia.gov/casecomments/Submit-Public-Comments. Those unable, as a practical matter, to submit comments electronically may file such comments with the Clerk of the Commission at the address listed above. All such comments shall refer to Case No. PUR-2024-00020. Any documents filed in paper form with the Office of the Clerk of the Commission in this docket may use both sides of the paper. In all other respects, except as modified by the Commission's Order for Notice and Hearing, all filings shall comply fully with the

requirements of 5 VAC 5-20-150, Copies and format, of the Rules of Practice. The Company's 2024 RPS Filing, the Commission's Rules of Practice, the Commission's Order for Notice and Hearing, and

other documents filed in the case may be viewed at: scc.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information. **APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY**

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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.

UBITUARIES

Albert, Clara Gertrude Slusser

Clara Gertrude (Trudy) Slusser Albert was born in Coal Bank Hollow, Blacksburg Oct. 7, 1930.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Juel Albert, Sr., of 54 married years; parents Pat and Annie Slusser; brothers Paul, Joe, Erno, Johnny, and Dennis Slusser; and many family members. She is survived by her beloved son, Juel Albert Jr. (Angie); granddaughters Tiffany Albert and Crystal Boyle (Jason); great-grandchildren Justyna, Wyatt, Luke, Tanner, Riley, Dawson, and Layla; and greatgreat-granddaughter Selene, all of Blacksburg; little sister Maggie, family Terry and Carl Davis, and lifelong friend Lenore.

Trudy spent 45 years working downtown as a banker. She never met a stranger and was always known for her friendly wave from the downtown picture bank window. Her ability to make people feel



comfortable and conduct business in all manners was amazing. She was confident in giving student loans as well as start-up business loans, some even honored by a handshake and a promise.

Being a coal miner's daughter, she was also heavily involved in the local chapter of The Coal Miners Association. She was also a member of the Heritage Foundation and the American Heart Association. She was a familiar face in her retirement years working Custom Catering

during the Virginia Tech Sportsclub luncheons and many other events.

greatest Trudy's accomplishment was by far her family. Growing up in a strong family, her love of life was home and making sure everyone was fed and cared for. Gardening, making Sunday meals, working in her flower beds, crocheting, canning tomatoes, snapping beans, picking wild strawberries up on the hill, and listening to bluegrass were her favorite pastimes. She was also one of the alltime best flat footers in town.

The family will honor her with a celebration of life at her favorite place on the New River in late summer. All donations can be considered for the Albert Family Cemetery at her home place. C/O Juel Albert Jr. 4829 Whitethorne Rd. Blacksburg Va, 24060.

Dowdy, Genevia Fisher

Genevia Fisher Dowdy, 58, of Radford, died Friday, May 24, 2024, at her home.

She born in Montgomery County Dec. 3, 1965 to the late Oren Wayne and Ellen Collins Fisher.

She worked at Virginia Tech for over 34 years.

She is survived by her husband of 41 years, Frankie D. Sons Dusty Dowdy; Fisher (Brittany) and Eric Paul Fisher (Paulina);



daughter, Jessica Fisher; adopted son, grandchildren; seven

great-grandson; sister, Geraldine Sawyers (Eddie); and special sisterin-law, Della King.

A funeral service will be held Wednesday, May 29, 2024, at 11 a.m. in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Neal Turner officiating. Interment will follow at Roselawn Memorial Gardens, Christiansburg. The family will receive friends 10- 11 a.m. prior to the service.

Reed, Joseph

Joseph "Joe" Reed, 80, of Christiansburg, died May 23, 2024, at his home.

Joe was a lifelong auto mechanic, who owned Cambria Auto Repair. He is preceded in death by his mother and stepfather, Idabell and Roy Richards, father, Claron O. Reed, sister, Lilly Ellen Hinkley, and stepson, Ronnie Farmer.

Left to cherish his memory are his wife of 49 years, Carol Reed; daughters and sons-inlaw, Sarah and Jason



Egan, and Shelia and Ralph Collins; son and daughter-in-law, Jeff and Tabatha Dulaney; grandchildren,

Egan, Bryanna Egan, Casi Dulaney, Jeffrey Dulaney, and Jarrid Dulaney; (Caitlyn) brother, Kenny Richards and wife Ramona; sister, Bobbie Ogle; numerous nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, May 28, 2024 in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel, with Pastor Doug Reed officiating. Interment followed in Sunset cemetery. The family Sunset received friends before the

Quackenbush, Connie Marie

Quackenbush, of Elliston, passed Friday, May 24, 2024, at Lewis Gale Medical Center.

She was born in New York Nov. 18, 1946, to the late Robert Stanton and Veronica Dunkley Batease. Connie loved

Connie Marie traveling all over the daughter, country with her husband Fred on their motorcycle. She was a talented artist and loved spending her time with family and friends.

She is survived by her husband Frederick Quackenbush;

Richard Higgins; son, Quackenbush; and Amber, grandchildren, Makayla, and Owen, Layla. Graveside services will be conducted Friday, May 31, 2024, at 11 a.m. in the Sunset Cemetery, Christiansburg.

McConnell, Jr., Harry Willis

Harry Willis "Chopper" McConnell, Jr., 77, of Fairlawn, was surrounded by family members as he departed this earth and entered Heaven's gates the

evening of May 21, 2024. Chopper was born in Saltville, Va. Aug. 17, 1046 to Buby McConnell 1946 to Ruby McConnell and the late Harry Willis McConnell. He graduated from Damascus High School and went on to serve as a Radioman in the United States Navy. While stationed in Norfolk, Virginia Chopper met his beautiful bride, Linda. In 1976, they settled in Fairlawn, where they raised their two children and enjoyed life together

in the New River Valley. In southwest Virginia, he loved sharing meals, and movies with his beloved Linda, fishing with Jeff and his grandchildren, gardening with Terri, and golfing or hunting with friends. Chopper worked years for RDAISA at Radford Army Ammunition Plant and retired from the workforce in 2001. Multiple people have referred to Chopper as the most intelligent man they have ever met. His family members know him as the nicest, most considerate man they have ever known. The old saying of "he'll give you the shirt right off of his back" was

coined for Chopper. For the next 23 years he basked

his grandbabies, enjoyed

spoiled

retirement,



traveling the world, relished trips to visit his mother and family in both Richmond and Damascus, evenings on the carport with his hummingbirds, sneaking snacks to his granddogs and neighborhood pets, talks with his neighbors, listening to music, and most of all just spending time with family.

He is survived by his wife of 57 years Linda, of Oceana, W.Va.; mother "Granny Ruby," 104

Va., daughter and son-in-Terri and Shannon Wohlford of Radford, Va., son and daughter-in-law Jeff and Susan McConnell of Richmond; sister and brother-in-law Brenda and Curt Smith of Damascus; brother and sister-inlaw Tommy and Audrey McConnell of Damascus; grandchildren Grace Wohlford of Richmond, William and Michael, Hampton of Radford, and Reilly and Tyler McConnell of Richmond.

Funeral services will be conducted at noon Friday, May 31, 2024 at the Virginia Southwest Veterans Cemetery Dublin, Virginia. Donations can be made to the American Liver Foundation to help find a cure for NASH.

ETS 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.

Twiddlebug is a young, energetic pup who's ready to find her furever home. She enjoys romping around and happily playing with squeaky toys. She can be a little nervous at times, but some human love and guidance would help her gain confidence.





Whisper seems to live up to her name. She's a generally quiet, calm dog who needs a future home without other pets. Whisper tends to prefer human interaction. She also does well on leash walks. Stop by the Animal Care and Adoption Center to meet her.

Events from page 2

Red Cross blood drive

At St. Thomas Episcopal Church,103 E. Main St., Christiansburg; 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Appointments: https://www. redcrossblood.org.

Fish Fry

Mount Tabor Ruritan Club will hold its June Fish Fry, 5 - 7 p.m. at Slusser's Chapel Picnic Shelter, 1543 Mount Tabor Rd, Blacksburg. Serving fish, fries and slaw; homemade desserts; and beverages. Adults-\$12, children under 12- \$6, children under three-free and carry-outs-\$12. This month, the Blacksburg Community Band will be playing. Held rain or shine. Call or text 540-449-6178 for further information. On Facebook at MtTaborRuritan.

Sunday, June 9:

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-

Monday, June 10:

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 Citizens are invited to attend and allowed to speak at each meeting. See the agenda at www.radfordva.gov.

Montgomery County Board of Supervisors meeting

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.

Tuesday, June 11:

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

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.

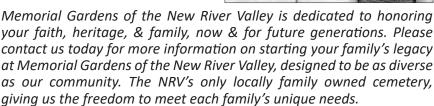
Saturday, June 15:

Pilot Community yard sale

At the Pilot Community Center, 4449 Brush Creek Rd., Pilot, Va.; 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Event is free and open to the public. Renting a space is \$10. Bring your own tables and canopy. To reserve your space: 540-257-3336 or ali5jn@

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

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MEMORIAL GARDENS of the NEW RIVER VALL 2551 North Main Street, Blacksburg

(540) 552-7800 • www.memorialgardensnrv.com aburnette@memorialgardensnrv.com

2024 Real Estate Taxes Due: June 5, 2024

Town of Blacksburg Real Estate Tax invoices for the first installment of 2024 have been mailed and are due by Wednesday, June 5, 2024. If you have not yet received a tax statement, call the Department of Financial Services at 540.961.1105.

Payment may be mailed, made in person or placed in the drop box at 300 South Main Street, Blacksburg, paid by phone with a credit card or paid online at www.Blacksburg.gov/payments. Visa, MasterCard and Discover are accepted.

A 10% penalty will be charged if not paid by June 5, 2024. Interest will be charged at the rate of 10% per year beginning July 1, 2024.

Lessons from summer jobs stick for a lifetime

It's that time of year when high school and college kids begin summer jobs - or at least they did when I was that age. Like everything else, this has probably changed quite a bit since then. My daughters, for instance, had infinitely more glamorous and interesting jobs while they were in college a few years ago - such as working summer camps for the National Cheerleader Association and trolling the Gulf Coast for hammerhead sharks for a marine lab. Summers in Sarasota or on various college campuses somehow sound better than my summers on the banks of Crab Creek.

I worked six summers during my high school and college years - the first two as a school janitor, washing windows and scrubbing floors, and the last four for C.W. Poff and Son, doing maintenance and unskilled (extremely unskilled - I took the term to a new level) construction. I am sure there are floors in townhouses in Blacksburg that still squeak because I had trouble finding the studs when I was putting down sub-flooring. Thankfully, Mr. Poff and my great (seriously) boss Elmer Underwood were patient and found ways to use me in a manner that maximized my skills - I did a lot of toting of stuff in other words. Blocks, lumber, carpet, appliances, tools, etc. I wasn't much help with these things when I got them where they were supposed to go, but I was darn good at getting them there.

During my college years I think my father would have preferred that I find jobs that might have meshed better with my future career plans - becoming a lawyer or a writer. In fact, I am sure he would have helped me find jobs around Christiansburg where I would have had that type of experience - plus air-conditioning! But there were a couple of problems - first, it being the 70s, I didn't cut my hair, so I looked more the part of stage crew for the Grateful Dead than an office clerk or mail room kid. Secondly, I more or less craved physical activity then and did not see myself as wearing a tie or nice clothes to work. I look back at my pictures from that time and I am grateful (and lucky not to be dead) that my folks let me stay in their house. It was a true sign of how wonderful they were as parents.

To say my summer jobs were not educational or beneficial to my future would be a grave misstatement, however. I learned the benefit of hard work and dependability. Despite my heavy summertime "social"



Evans "Buddy"

Columnist

and softball schedules I showed up every day and on time (right Elmer?). I also learned that the value of each person's life is the same. Whether you are the president of the bank or the guy who cleans the toilets, your hopes and feelings are essentially the same. Some may do more with what they are given and some may do less, and some may not be given enough, but the value of each life is the same. Except for the grace of God (or some other cosmic force if you prefer), I could just as easily have been born into the body of a Haitian child with a nine-month life expectancy as where I was born - into a great family and in a wonderful community in almost certainly the greatest country in the history of civilization and arguably in its greatest era. Damn lucky. One of my favorite quotes (Barry Switzer) sums this thought up -"lots of folks are born on third base and go through life thinking they have hit a triple." I know I was born on

So, my summer jobs were extremely beneficial in molding my character - I learned a strong work ethic (reinforced by my father) and I learned to respect people, regardless of status. Plus, and to get back to my bent, which is to tell funny stories, I learned many great "lines" from my co-workers (term my girls and other young folks use - we said "people we work with").

To give a little more context, during my college summers, I got to work with two of my best friends ever - Greg, who worked on the same job sites with me every day and also resembled stage crew for the Dead, and Bob, who worked at a higher level since his dad and brother owned the company, learning the family business (someday I'll tell the story of when Bob and I managed to "clip" the overhanging roof of the Dari-Delite with a cement mixer). One of the first things I learned from our crew - most

of whom were 20-30 years older than Greg and me - was the importance of finding a "good hiding place". This was a spot where Junior or Elmer or whomever you were working for that day couldn't find you for a few minutes - this allowed us to "give Charlie (Mr. Poff) a little time." This would give you time to "collect yourself;" i.e., doze for five minutes. As I recall the backstairs of Building 6 were good for this.

I also remember that Greg and I learned things about domestic life and marriage that have carried us far. We often heard our co-workers utter sayings like, "being married makes a man work many a day when he don't feel like it." This helped lay the foundation for our futures.

I also remember falling for the same line every Saturday morning - we got overtime on Saturdays if we came in and helped the carpet layers unload and carry the big rolls of carpet into the townhouses we were building. Often, we came in at 7 a.m. with two or three hours of sleep, tops, looking for the extra dollars. Our crew would be sitting around, recovering from the night before, waiting for the carpet guys. Then Glen would say, "I feel so much better since I quit drinking." Every time I would ask, being one of the few conversational guys there and recognizing that Glen needed a straight man, "when did you quit drinking Glen?" and every time Glen would look at his watch and say "oh, about two hours ago." This proved our co-worker Dewey's point that 'people are stranger than anybody.'

The stories about Elmer are legion. He was a Christian man and exceedingly kind. In fact, too kind at times. Our primary worksite was at Golden Gate Apartments and Carriage Hill Townhouses, and Elmer managed the units that had been completed and were being rented. His kindness was often on display when a couple of co-eds from Tech (one of the few job perks we had, perhaps the only), who lived in Unit 321, say, had avocado appliances and would want copper tone which were always 10 units away. To this day I can hear Elmer say, "no problem, I'll have Greg and Buddy make that switch." This involved refrigerator, dishwasher, stove and occasionally washer and dryer. It would have been easier for Greg and me to move the girls' entire apartment contents than to make

See **Lessons**, page 8

News Messenger

Established 1869 (540) 389-9355

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Give us your view:

editor@ourvalley.org

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

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Delegate makes his case for his party's platform, candidates

Delegate

Every year brings a new election season in Virginia, and 2024 is no different. Soon, Virginia Democrats and Republicans will be holding primary elections to determine party nominees for the House of Representatives, with Republicans also holding a primary election for the United States Senate seat currently held by Senator Tim Kaine. This is in addition to November's general election, in which we will choose not only our members of Congress, but also the President of the United States. It seems like with each election, we're told that "it's the most important one in recent memory." While each election is certainly important in its own right, the 2024 election will no doubt have a large impact on domestic policies - especially as it relates to the economy – in the years to come. Despite the rhetoric from the

White House and congressional Democrats, inflation really hasn't gone anywhere. Recent reports show prices for commodities have risen – on average -

20% since February of 2020, according to the bureau of labor statistics. What it amounts to is a decade-worth of inflation in just three years. The March inflation



3.5%, up from 3.2% in February of this year. Grocery prices climbed 1% month over month, and gasoline increased 1.3% month over month. Even as inflation slows, it is not the same thing as deflation. Prices remain high - they are simply rising at a slower rate. Anyone who buys groceries, gas, or pays their electric bill knows what a large problem this has become. And unfortunately, national Democrats have no plan or sense of urgency to solve it. primaries Presidential

appear to be heading toward a straightforward general rematch between President Joe Biden and former President Donald Trump. In Virginia, we must also decide whether to continue with President Biden's economic policies in the U.S. Senate through Senator Tim Kaine. Considering that - according to FiveThirtyEight politics - Senator Kaine votes with President Biden 97% of the time, we can assume that a vote for Tim

Kaine is a vote for the continuation of economic policies that are putting the average American family in debt. As such, I would encourage you to learn more about the five Republicans who are vying to defeat Senator Kaine and return a Republican to the U.S. Senate for the first time since 2009. These candidates are: Hung Cao, Jonathan Emord, Eddie Garcia, Scott Parkinson, and Chuck Smith.

I believe any of these candidates would fight for common sense policies that would bring inflation under control, and I hope you'll take the time to learn more about each in advance of the U.S. Senate primary election on June 18. We can't afford more of the same Biden-omics, and the road back to sound fiscal policy starts in Virginia.

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 DelJBallard@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.

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55. NFL signal caller Matt

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Seeking Peaceful 'Home" to Rent. Respectful, Responsible, and Mature; Salem, Glenvar, Raleigh Court areas Prefer cozy house but all options considered; Scott 804.869.4901

Yard Sales -**Fairlawn**

Yard Sale Heron's Landing Community wide yard sale

Fairlawn June 1st 7am to 2 pm Both entrances- River Course and Heron's Landing Drive Rain Date June 8th

Yard Sales - Craig County

Church Yard Sale Saturday June 1st

8am to 3pm Lighthouse Baptist Church 852 Paint Bank Road

Breakfast, Lunch, and **Baked Goods**

Yard Sales -Radford City Morgan's Chapel

Church Yard Sale Saturday, June 1st

8am to 2pm There will also be a bake sale which will include hotdogs with homemade chili 6540 New River Rd, Radford Behind old C & L Campers

RAIN OR SHINE Help Wanted -

General **HELP WANTED**

Part-time Minister at Snowville Christian Church Disciples of Christ For more information email: office@snowvillechristianch urch com or call 540.320.1194

Help Wanted

WANTED

Models needed for life drawing class, male and female, \$65 for 3 hour session. Call David (Do not text) 540-473-3713

Subcontractors Needed

MBE/WBE **Subcontractors** and Suppliers **Ulliman Schutte** Construction, LLC, Blacksburg, VA

quotes from qualified MBE/WBE subcontractors and suppliers for the Christiansburg Biosolids Management Facilities and Headworks Improvements Project. Christiansburg VA bidding on June 20, 2024.

is interested in receiving

Opportunities are available for Specifications Divisions

Subcontractors Needed

1 thru 46. Please Fax quotes to 703-434-3714. Contact Phone: 540-521-5276. Ulliman Schutte Construction, LLC 1700 Kraft Drive, Suite 2250 Blacksburg, VA 24060 www.ullimanschutte.com **Equal Opportunity Employer**

Legals - Botetourt County

NOTICE OF

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE SALE 25 Tinkerview Drive, Cloverdale, VA 24077 By virtue of the power and

authority contained in a Deed of Trust dated April 26, 2002 and recorded April 29, 2002 in Instrument Number 0203089 in the Clerk's Office for the **Botetourt County Virginia** Circuit Court, Virginia, securing a loan which was originally

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE, Commonwealth Trustees, LLC will offer for sale at public auction at the Botetourt

\$54,800.00. The appointed

County Circuit courthouse steps located at 1 W Main Street. Fincastle. VA 24090-June 27, 2024 at 2:30 PM

improved real property, with an abbreviated legal description of the following described property, to wit: LOCATED IN THE COUNTY OF BOTETOURT, VIRGINIA: BEING UNIT A-2, PHASE I,

ACCORDING TO THE PLAT SHOWING PHASE I SUBDIVISION OF **TINKERVIEW TOWNHOUSE** PROPERTY, BLUE RIDGE MAGISTERIALDISTRICT. DATED DECEMBER 1.

1985, PREPARED BYWEEKS, HUBBELL, MCGHEE, P.C. CERTIFIED LAND SURVEYORS, OF RECORD IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE OF THE CIRCUIT

1984, REVISED APRIL 2.

COUNTY OF BOTETOURT, VIRGINIA IN PLAT BOOK 11, PAGES 60-62; AND as more fully described in the aforesaid Deed of Trust.

TERMS OF SALE: The

COURT FOR THE

property will be sold "AS IS." WITHOUT REPRESENTATION OR WARRANTY OF ANY KIND AND SUBJECT TO conditions, restrictions, reservations, easements, rights of way, and all other matters of record taking priority over the Deed of Trust to be announced at the time of sale. A deposit of \$20,000 or 10% of the sale price, whichever is lower, will be required at the

time of sale, in the form of certified check, cashier's check or money order by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price, with interest at the rate contained in the Deed of

Trust Note from the date of

sale to the date said funds

are received in the office of the SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE, will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale. In the event of default by the successful bidder, the entire deposit shall be forfeited and applied to the costs and expenses of sale and Substitute Trustee's fee. All other

ESTATE Auction

Saturday June 1st

26 Round Hill Drive, Radford

Legals - Botetourt County public charges or

assessments, including water/sewer charges, whether incurred prior to or after the sale, and all other costs incident to settlement to be paid by the purchaser. In the event taxes, any other public charges have been advanced, a credit will be due to the seller, to be adjusted from the date of sale at the time of settlement. Purchaser agrees to pay the seller's attorneys at settlement, a fee of \$470.00 for review of the settlement documents. Additional terms will be announced at the time of

execute and deliver to the Substitute Trustees a memorandum or contract of the sale at the conclusion of bidding

sale and the successful

bidder will be required to

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT Rosenberg & Associates, LLC(Attorney for the Secured Party) 4340 East West Highway Suite 600Bethesda, MD 20814 301-907-8000 www.rosenberg-assoc.com

TRUSTEE SALE OF 1131 2nd Street,

Blue Ridge, VA

24064

In execution of the Deed of Trust dated November 30. 2017, in the original principal amount of \$148,265.00, recorded as Inst. 170004619, assigned as Inst. 200000435, in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court for the County of Botetourt, Virginia, default having occurred in the payment of the indebtedness thereby secured and at the request of the holder of the note, the undersigned, as Substitute Trustees, either of whom may act, will sell at public auction at the front entrance of the Circuit Court for the County of Botetourt on June 17, 2024, at 12:00 noon, the property located at the above address and

TERMS: CASH. PROPERTY SOLD AS IS WITH SPECIAL WARRANTY OF TITLE. A deposit of \$13,000.00 or 10% of the successful bid amount (whichever is lower) will be required immediately of the successful bidder, in cashier's check or certified funds only payable to or signed over to

described as Lot 5, Block 7,

Section 5, Blue Ridge

Heights, County of

Botetourt.

"DOLANREID PLLC. TRUSTEE", balance due within 15 days from date of sale. No personal checks accepted. Sale is subject to post sale confirmation and audit of the status of the loan including, but not limited to, determination of whether the borrower filed for and obtained bankruptcy protection, entered into any repayment agreement, reinstated or paid off the loan prior to the sale. In any such event, or if trustee is unable to

complete the sale, or if it is set aside or not fully completed for any reason except purchaser's default, the sale shall be null and void, and the purchaser's sole remedy, in law or equity, shall be the return of the deposit without interest.

Legals - Botetourt County

Upon purchaser's default, the deposit shall be forfeited and the property resold at the risk and costs of the defaulting purchaser. Sale is subject to all prior liens, easements, restrictions. covenants, reservations and conditions, if any, of record, as well as inchoate liens and any other matters which would be disclosed by an accurate survey or inspection of the premises

Real estate taxes will be

adjusted to the date of sale.

All costs of conveyance,

deed, examination of title. recording charges, grantor's tax and possession will be at the expense of the purchaser. All risks of casualty immediately pass to the successful bidder. Time is of the essence. Winning bidder must sign a memorandum of sale immediately upon completion of sale Additional terms may be announced at the time of sale. Trustee's affidavit and a copy of the notice of sale available at the foreclosure sale. The opening bid is not announced until the sale Current sale status available at

les. THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR. ANY INFORMATION **OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE**

dolanreid.com/foreclosuresa

For Information Contact: DolanReid PLLC and G. Benny Moore, Substitute Trustee(s) 12610 Patrick Henry Dr., Ste. D, Newport News, VA

23602; (757) 320-0255 Publish On: May 29 and June 5, 2024 DOLANREID PLLC Attorneys and Counselors at Law 12610 Patrick Henry Drive,

Ste. D Newport News, VA 23602 Telephone: 757-320-0255 | Fax: 757-687-0741

Legals - City of Radford

PUBLIC NOTICE

BOARD OF EQUIALIZATION FOR THE CITY OF **RADFORD** Public notice is hereby

given that the Board of Equalization for the City of Radford will meet on the days hereafter listed for the purpose of hearing complaints of inequalities including errors in acreage.

Upon hearing such complaints, either oral or written, the Board will give consideration AND INCREASE, DECREASE,

OR AFFIRM such real estate assessments. Before a change is granted, the taxpayer or agent must provide substantial evidence that the property is not uniform with other similar properties or prove that the property is assessed in excess of its fair market value.

ALL HEARINGS WILL BE SCHEDULED BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

You must make an appointment to appear before the Board of Equalization. Appointments will be scheduled every 15 minutes to minimize waiting To make an appointment to appear before the Board of Equalization, please call 731-3613, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Meetings of the Board to hear objections will be held at the Radford Municipal Building, 619 Second Street or the Radford Public Safety Building, 10 Robertson Street. The dates and times

> Monday, **Commercial Real Estate**

are as follows:

Legals - City of Radford

September 16.2024 9:00AM -12:00PM Tuesday,

September17,2024 2:00PM-7:00PM Monday, September 23,2024

9:00AM-12:00PM 2:00PM-7:00PM By order of the City of

Radford Board of Equalization, this notice is in compliance with Section 58.1-3378 of the Code of Virginia.

Legals - City of Salem

Contracting
8. Salem, Virginia

Contracting, Inc. has been selected by Roanoke City **Public Schools to** be the General Contractor for their newest project, **Preston Park Elementary School.** We are looking to give

qualified subcontractors the opportunity to bid this project. All plans, specifications, and bid documents can be found on G&H Contracting's website at www.ghcontracting.com. Under the subcontractor tab, scroll down the page to Preston Park Elementary School. From there click on the project and it should allow you to download the bid documents. Please note this project bids June 6, 2024, at 2:00pm, and all bids must

Eddie Herron at eherron@ghcontracting.co m. For more information. please refer to our website, or call our office at 540-387-5059 and ask for Riley Kennedy.

be submitted electronically

Legals -Montgomery County

RESOLUTION

SETTING RATE SCHEDULE AND AUTHORIZING **PUBLIC HEARING**

PROPOSED RESOLUTION: BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montgomery County Public Service Authority does hereby agree to set the following proposed preliminary schedule fixing and classifying rates, fees, and charges for water and sewer service:

WATER RATE

Proposed 9.99% Increase From: \$13.11 to \$14.42 per 1,000 gallons

SEWER RATE

Proposed 1.44% Increase From: \$10.40 to \$10.55 per 1,000 gallons BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, by the Montgomery County Public Service Authority, that the Public Service Authority hereby authorizes the Director to advertise a public hearing in accordance with Section 15.2-5136G of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended to be held on June 05, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. in the Montgomery County Government Center 755 Roanoke Street Board Room, in order to receive citizen comments on the preliminary schedule

fixing and classifying rates,

fees and charges for water

and sewer service

Montgomery County

Legals -

Notice of Public Hearing Town of Blacksburg **Planning** Commission Tuesday, June 4, 2024

the Planning Commission of the Town of Blacksburg will conduct the following public hearings on Tuesday, June 4, 2024 during its meeting beginning at 6:30 PM in the Roger E. Hedgepeth

Notice is hereby given that

Council Chamber, 300 South Main St, Blacksburg, VA on the following item:

RZN-24-1/ORD 2051-Request for an amendment to previous rezoning RZN 19-0002/ORD 1895 on 33.87 acres at the former Old Blacksburg High School site at 520 Patrick Henry Drive (Tax Map Numbers: 227-A 4, 227-A 4C and 227-A 4D) by Balzer and Associates (applicant) for HS Development LLC and

the Town of Blacksburg (property owners). Requested amendment applies to an 11.15 acre portion of the 33.87 site. The request alters unit mix. layout, density and circulation on the site, and also includes changes to

the proffer statement. A maximum of 73 townhomes is proposed (6.6 units per acre); this is a reduction from 100 townhomes previously approved by RZN 19-0002/ORD 1895 The maximum number of bedrooms proposed is 284 (approximately 26 bedrooms per acre), which is less than the 30 bedroom-per-acre density approved in RZN 19-

Future Land Use Designation for this parcel is Medium Density Residential, which allows up to 10 units per acre, or up to 20 bedrooms per acre for multifamily use, whichever is less. This proposed density represents an increase over the residential density envisioned in the future land use designation.

CUP-24-1-Conditional Use

Permit Request for a drive-

0002/ORD 1895. The

in restaurant in the GC-General Commercial zoning district on 1.02 acres at 1421 South Main Street (Tax Map Nos. 287-22 1-5 & 287-22 102-105) by Balzer and Associates, LLC ant) for Blacks Square, LLC (owner). This is a request for a drivethru coffee shop for Seven Brew Coffee. There will be no exterior speaker boards, internal seating, or customer parking proposed on the site. The proposed site will contain two structures for the main coffee stand and a freezer building with three wraparound drive-thru lanes. Two entrances will be from the existing Blacksburg Square shopping center parking lot, with one entrance off of Ardmore Street. The existing single family home and driveway at 1421 South

Main Street will be demolished. The Future Land Use (FLU) is Commercial and Mixed Use

Legals -

Montgomery

County

ROW-24-1/ORD 2055-Request to vacate approximately 111,464 square feet of unbuilt rightof-way at the end of Progress Street by James Taylor of Balzer & Associates (applicant) on behalf of S & S Construction, LLC and CC & B Development, LLC

(property owners). This request will vacate approximately 114,464 square feet (2.63 acres) of Town-owned Right-of-Way at the end of Progress Street NW (adjacent to Tax Parcels 166-A 4C; 166-17 B; 166-17 A; 166-10 A & 166-10 B) known as future Progress Street. The future Progress Street ROW is

current unbuilt. The application also includes dedication of approximately 138,158 square feet of rightof-way to accommodate realignment of the future roadway. The request also includes vacation of several utility easements, access easements, and a trail easement. The process will include dedication of a new public utility easement and a new greenway easement The existing trail would be relocated as part of subdivision of the adjacent

AFD-24-1/ORD 2052-Withdrawal of 3.036 acres of land from the Agricultural and Forestal District at 701 Bishop Road (Tax Map No. 137-T-A-1, Parcel # 006339) by James and Carol Burger (property owner). Request to withdraw 3.036

tax parcels.

of Blacksburg Agricultural and Forestal District (AFD) at 701 Bishop Road by James and Carol Burger. A minor subdivision application (SUB 23-0006) for the creation of three (3) parcels is currently under review by the Planning and

Engineering Departments.

acres of land from the Town

Persons affected by or interested in the rezoning or right-of-way vacation requests, the conditional use permit request or Agricultural and Forestal District withdrawal may appear and present their views. After hearing, the Planning Commission may take action. Copies of the requests and all related items may be found online

at www.blacksburg.gov/public hearings or reviewed in person at the Blacksburg Planning and Building Department, 400 South Main Street, Blacksburg, Virginia. You may also call the office at (540) 443-1300 for more information. Individuals with disabilities

who require special assistance to attend and participate in the public hearing on the above should contact the Planning & Building Department at (540) 443-1300, or (540)-443-1000-TDD.

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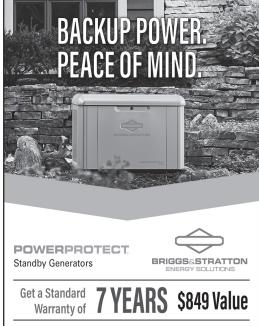
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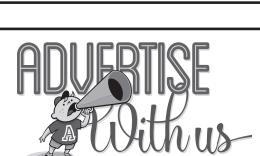
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Montgomery Sports

RU begins search for new softball coach

NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Radford University will need a new softball coach this coming season after the school announced on Saturday they would not renew the contract of head softball coach Alisa Tasler.

"I'd like to thank Coach Tasler for all the time and effort she put into the Radford softball program," said Director of Athletics Robert Lineburg. "We wish her the best in her future endeavors. Tasler has been RU's head coach the past three

seasons tallying a 59-86 overall record. She was initially hired in 2021 and became the 10th

coach in RU's history and came to the New River Valley with a lot of clout.

Previously, she had coached at Concord University

for 10 seasons, where she had an overall record of 247-228. Her accomplishments at Concord include: 18 players earning all-conference honors, 5 all-region selections, An All-American in 2015, and Second place in the MEC South in 2019. In 2019, she led the team to its most successful

season in program history. The Mountain Lions made their first NCAA tournament appearance and finished second in the MEC South with a program-record 38 wins. The program also made the NCĂA Tournament in 2015 where they would record their first-ever win in the national tournament with a 3-0 victory over West Chester.

Tasler also previously spent time as the head coach at Neosho Community College in Chanute, Kansas for six seasons before joining Concord. The Panthers won 54 percent of their games in the demanding Jayhawk Conference in her final two seasons, including a 2011 squad loaded with 14 freshmen. Tasler's program also experienced excellence in the classroom, earning several Academic All-Tasler also spent time as an assistant at Pittsburgh

State for three seasons, increasing the team's win total every year from 18, to 28, then 44. Pittsburgh State ranked second in the nation in team GPA over that span

A native of Newcastle, Oklahoma, Tasler played softball and basketball at Northern Oklahoma College. She set several school pitching records while helping the Northern Oklahoma College basketball team win backto-back conference championships.

A national search for Radford's next softball coach will begin immediately.

Blacksburg baseball advances to region finals



In a Region 4D semifinal game, Blacksburg pitcher Mason Underwood faced off with E.C. Glass' Tyler Ruhl in a pitchers' duel. Blacksburg would win 3-2 on a walk-off RBI hit in the bottom of the Seventh inning



Blacksburg's Major Marshall rounds third to score the game winning run on an RBI hit by Brice Abbott against E.C. Glass.



Blacksburg third baseman Avan Morris makes the tag against an E.C. Glass base



After hitting a game winning RBI in the bottom of the 7th, Blacksburg's Brice Abbott (center) and his teammates celebrate a 3-2 win over E.C. Glass to advance to the Region 4D final and also secure a spot in the state tournament.

SMU transfer brings talent to RU



Marty Gordon

NRV sports@ourvalley.org

Radford University has added another player via the transfer portal.

Basketball coach Darris Nichols has announced the addition of forward Xavier Foster. He will join the Highlanders for the 2024-25 season after attending Southern Methodist University.

"Xavier is a player with a lot of talent and we are excited to give him an opportunity to showcase it," said Nichols.

The Oskaloosa, Iowa native appeared

in four games with the Mustangs during the 2023-24 season. During his sophomore season at SMU, he played in 10 games, totaling four points and four rebounds.

Foster was named First Team All-State and was the 67th ranked player in the country by ESPN. Additionally, he was ranked 70th by 247sports and 64th by Rivals, making him a 4-star recruit. Foster will be joined by fellow

newcomers Jonas Sirtautas, Jarvis Moss, David Early, Zion Walker, Tony Felder, Brandon Maclin, Chace Davis and Isaiah Gaines.





PHOTO COURTESY OF RADFORD HIGH SCHOOL

Lydia Pratt (left) and Claire Fender are Region 2C Champions. The Radford pair

Weekly reports: Radford duo region doubles champs

Radford High School domination in state girls tennis play continued this past week.

In individual play, Lydia Pratt won the regional individual title and then teamed with Claire Fender to take the

doubles championship. Meanwhile both the girls and boys took team titles to advance to the state

semi-finals. Christiansburg softball advances

Top-seeded Christiansburg defeated Pulaski 3-0 on Friday as they continue to play in the Class 3 softball post-

season. To start things off Kadyn Camper

went yard and then did it again later to

finish with two homeruns.

Tyleigh Dillard would follow suit and knock one over the fence. Freshman Aubrey Davis had a triple and the other hit came from Addison Reasor. On the mound, Camper had 14 strikeouts with no walks and just two hits. Blacksburg soccer splits

One Blacksburg High School fell in

the region playoffs this past week, while one moves on. The Blacksburg boys' is out, while the girls' advanced. The Lady Bruins defeated Jefferson

Forest in the first sudden death overtime period 1-0 on Friday night. With the win, Blacksburg advances to the regional final on Tuesday, where they will host James Wood High

See Radford, page 8

Radford girls advance in regional play



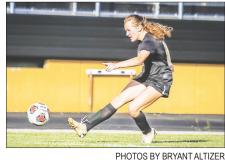
Thursday's win over Liberty.



Camille Hidalgo boots the ball downfield to get the Bobcats' offense going.



Lauren Owens passes to a teammate in Radford's 4-1 victory.



Kendall Carpenter fires the ball toward the goal in the Bobcats' regional playoff

had five saves. Blacksburg finishes 16-2-

scored three runs, Zac McGlothlin had two hits and four RBIs and Matthew Altizer had two hits and two RBIs. Graham Alley, Landen Marrs, Talan Mower and Brady Hale also added two runs batted in each.

Lessons from page 4 these switches. Often Greg and I would

say "Elmer, can't you make them learn to love avocado." But kind Elmer would

My all-time favorite story from these

summers involved one of my first weeks

at work. I was working in the "yard" at the main office site in Christiansburg

(Bob was probably watching this activity

from the AIR-CONDITIONED office - not that I was envious, Bob). It was

unseasonably warm for mid-June then

- 150 degrees (actually, probably only

90). I was asked to go to Blacksburg

with a regular yard laborer - a pine

knot of a man as they used to say. He

was probably 60 and weighed 130

pounds, strong but wearied by many

years of hard physical work. We were

tasked with driving to Blacksburg and

picking up a flatbed truck with about

30 large picture window frames on the

back. Somehow my co-worker decided that I should be the one to drive the

flatbed (tractor trailer size) back from

Blacksburg. This truck had something

called a split-shift axle (surely the work

of the devil himself). I never got the

truck out of first gear, not knowing that

always say he wanted "happy renters."

Auburn boys setup EM matchup The Auburn boys soccer team was

slated to play county-rival Eastern Montgomery Monday night with a trip to the state semis on the line. Auburn advanced after a 8-0 win over Narrows. Jared Bradley scored three goals and

had an assist in the match. The third and final goal set the AHS boys soccer single season goals record with 25 goals the Lewis and Clark Expedition of its time. Women with babies in strollers passed us. I think the foreman in the yard sent out a search party. But the real fun began when we

you should start out in second gear. A

trip that should have taken about 20 minutes became a day and a half. It was

got back to the yard. My friend to this point had said only two words to me all day - "you drive" - despite my constant chatter. We then spent the next four or five hours climbing on the back of the truck, edging the frames to the edge of the bed and then jumping down and coaxing the things off the truck. We would then carry them about 30 yards into a warehouse for storage. I continued to try to engage my friend in conversation about the topics of the day - but nary a word from him until we got down to one last frame on the back of

Excited by this prospect, I cleverly said "well, there's the last one." My friend looked and me and said, "wish we'd found that son of a [gun] earlier."

Great life lessons.

<u>Radford</u>

School.

Claire Langlinais headed home a cross from Bella Garza for the win. Paige Miller recorded five saves to gather her 17th shutout of the season. Blacksburg improves to 17-0-2 on the

season and Jefferson Forest ends their season 17-2. Meanwhile Jefferson Forest (18-0)

took a 1-0 win over the Blacksburg boys. The lone goal came on a scramble in the penalty area in the 49th minute by Maxwell Reed.

Tyler Beck had four saves for Jefferson Forest, and Blacksburg's Simon Pratt 1 on the season. Auburn rolls in baseball Auburn (20-1) defeated Craig Co.

19-0 in the opening round of the Region C baseball tournament. Four pitchers combined to throw a five-inning nohitter with Josh Givens picking up the win throwing two innings with four strikeouts. The Eagles scored 11 runs in the first and six in the second to put the game away. Jared Lavergne had three hits and

Goalkeeper Coahan Gordon picked up another shutout as Auburn is now 12-4-1 on the season. EM alive in softball

Late last week, Eastern Montgomery defeated George Wythe Softball in a close game 3-2. The Mustangs took the lead for good when Alexis Artrip hit a three-run homer in the bottom of the fifth inning. Mary Miller was the winning pitcher.

With the win, Eastern Montgomery advances in region play.

Staff report

<u>Huckleberry</u> the new water-resistant wheelchairs, and

a plaque unveiling by Barber. Residents and community members were offered plenty of activities and recreational fun from 11 a.m. into the evening hours with the sun setting as residents played ultimate frisbee. Huckleberry Park was built in the fall

of 2023. The park sits on approximately 50 acres of land, including the popular Splash Pad where residents can be seen enjoying the water works all day long and the field complex where local sports groups come out to play and practice sports like soccer, frisbee, lacrosse, and hopefully a kickball team.

The water-resistant wheelchairs presented are part of Huckleberry Park's mission to provide an inclusive space for citizens to enjoy, giving everyone the opportunity to play and recreate regardless of ability. Epperley said accessibility and inclusivity are important, and the waterresistant wheelchairs are meant to be used in the splash pad area so that residents with disabilities do not have to risk water damage to their devices.

"In designing the park, we wanted a splash pad and the popularity of it has grown since the first day we opened," Epperley said. "With the splash pad, we also wanted to make sure we could provide the opportunity of enjoyment to individuals in mobility devices. Obviously, everyone deserves the opportunity to play in the splash pad and now, with these water-resistant devices, we are able to provide that opportunity to people for free. My hope is that with this inclusive play opportunity and equipment, it will allow everyone to enjoy this wonderful splash pad without

worry of water destruction to their own devices.'

The Spring into Summer event had so much for residents to enjoy, from food trucks like Wang's Food, Bull n Bones and Aloha Eddies to yoga atop the hill and bingo in the pavilion. There was sliced watermelon for all to enjoy and dogs from the Montgomery County Animal Care and Adoption Center for the community to meet and play with. Later in the evening, the fields were open for ultimate frisbee, soccer and kickball. If those events were not speaking to you, the splash pad, the green spaces, the playground and so much more were abuzz with activity and opportunities to play. With this being the first Spring into Summer event, Epperly said the department cannot wait to see how it grows over the years. There are hopes for a petting zoo next year, and they hope to continue to provide a mix of structured recreational events as well as passive recreation during Spring into Summer events in the future.

"We are building something that is much deeper than just recreation," Epperley said. "We are building an environment that is inclusive and one that we can strive to make it an everyday occurrence to provide opportunities for individuals of all abilities. When we started this journey of developing the park, we had a vision of what we wanted. We wanted a balance of active and passive recreation. We wanted inclusive play. We wanted a balance of athletic events and games. We wanted locations that families and organizations could come and fellowship."

The Christiansburg Parks and Recreation team next to new Huckleberry Park



community at Spring into Summer.

Library from page 1

For more information about the 2024 Summer Reading Program, event schedules, and registration details, visit our website at www.mfrl.org or contact your nearest MFRL branch.

Embark on your reading adventure today and discover where the journey at your library will take you! Thank you to the Friends of the Library and all of the community sponsors who have helped make this year's program possible.

For more information, contact Kerri Copus at kcopus@mfrl.org or call (540) 382-6969 ext. 215.

Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library

Murphy from page 1

in January 1945, before leading a successful counterattack while wounded and out of ammunition.

He died along with four others in heavy fog as his plane cut through the mountainous area of southwest Virginia. His plane crashed 14 nautical miles northwest of Roanoke at a spot now marked by a memorial along Brush Mountain near New Castle.

Organizers of the radio field day thought it fitting the two events could be linked together. The hillside of Brush

Mountain also presents itself as a great location for transmitting the radio frequencies where temporary antennas

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

will be set up along with several broadcast stations.

The idea of Ham radio is booming, spurred by COVID lockdowns. In the past three years, thousands of new ham operators were licensed to take to the airwaves. The National

Association for Amateur Radio (NAAR) says Amateur Radio is a popular hobby and service that brings people, electronics and communication together. People use ham radio to talk across town and even around the globe. Typically, any ham

operator must have a federal license to operate on public airwaves. Field days are held throughout the United States and Canada each year for a 24-hour period, where operators try to make contact with as many others as possible usually in remote locations.

area of Brush Mountain. The local group hopes people can learn both about ham radio but also Audre Murphy.

In this case, the remote

Murphy would embark

on a 21-year acting career

following his return from War. This included many business ventures including the trip that brought his plane to our

Reports were simple on that day in 1971, his private plane was dealing with rain, clouds, fog and zero visibility.

The twin engine Aero Commander 680 struck the side of the mountain. No one survived. Three years after the

crash, the Veterans of Foreign Wars placed a stone monument near the site of the crash, which can be approached by a short walk. Directions: From Blacksburg: Take Main

Street to Mount Tabor road (Rt. 624). Go 12 miles just past Rt. 650 turn left onto a gravel road (FS p188.1). Turn right at the top of Brush Mountain and continue for three miles.

The public can also observe the ham radio field day just down from the monument. For more information on the NRV Amateur Radio Club go https://www.n4nrv.

Collaboration

addressing pressing challenges as the region continues to grow and evolve, is at the forefront of working together. Virginia Tech and surrounding communities collaborate on a variety of local infrastructure interests, from transportation to solid waste. As a land-grant institution, the university is interconnected with the communities that it serves and partners in local efforts to enhance the region, such as passenger rail.

"The New River Valley Regional Commission is focused on the physical, social, and elements that create opportunities for our region, so I'm excited to be part of this joint visioning that reaches beyond infrastructure," said Executive Director Kevin Byrd of the New River Valley Regional Commission. "We have an opportunity to focus on our shared interests and the people in our communities at a time when the region is experiencing great momentum."

"The Town of Christiansburg welcomes the opportunity to engage in dialogue with Virginia Tech and our surrounding municipalities in order to help plan for our future needs in housing, retail, and transportation," said Christiansburg Mayor Mike Barber. 'We recognize the economic impact of Virginia Tech as many students, staff, and faculty continue to shop, dine, and live within Christiansburg. As the university grows, so do the demands on infrastructure, transportation, schools, and housing. This partnership affords us the opportunity to plan and grow our future together. Virginia Tech is

a major piece of our two towns and

county economy. This partnership

will encourage collaboration and partnership as an independent and

collective benefit.' As the initiative progresses, there will be opportunities for university and community leaders and residents of the New River Valley to reflect and provide feedback on ways the region is already thriving and identify ways to move

forward together.

"The New River Valley has a proven track record of coming together to productively address and solve issues our community faces," said Montgomery County Board of Supervisors Chair Mary Biggs. "The county welcomes this new strategic initiative and values the community partnerships necessary to identify opportunities for collaboration as we address our needs and celebrate our successes."

Sands also noted that joining forces and collaborating where it makes sense is a win for the region. "Together we can identify shared

challenges and develop solutions based on the unique strengths and perspectives we each bring to the table," said Sands. "We can also explore opportunities where our aspirations align and develop a shared vision to support mutually beneficial outcomes." With support from LINK Strategic

Partners, the initiative will seek to establish a robust and sustainable outreach community including facilitation and stakeholder engagement. The work with LINK is anticipated to take one year and be completed in spring 2025.

blacksburg.gov