



Sports/page A8
REGIONAL CHAMPS!
 RC Netters On Their
 Way To State Tournament

Feature/page A4
MUSIC, NOT CANDY
ON MENU AT SVU
 Read What Halloween
 On The Hill Is All About



The News-Gazette



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Campus Locked Down After Threat

By ANNELIESE SCHNEIDER

Students and staff at Washington and Lee University were under a shelter-in-place order for nearly four hours last Wednesday while police swept the school, following a potential threat to campus.

"This afternoon Washington and Lee received notice of a possible threat of violence on campus, prompting the university to issue a shelter-in-place order while law enforcement conducted a comprehensive search of campus as a precaution," wrote Sidney Evans, vice president of student affairs, in a letter released late Wednesday evening.

"There was no violent incident, and no active threat was found by law enforcement during their investigation."

The shelter-in-place order was issued at 3:45 and not lifted until 7:23. During that period, local, regional and state police searched the school.

The shelter-in-place order covered both the undergraduate and law schools at W&L.

While Virginia Military Institute notified its cadets as the situation progressed, the school did not go into lockdown, according to Col

See **Threat**, page 14



CREW MEMBERS of the 1950 Norfolk & Western engine, the 611, "talk shop" after the train pulled into Victoria Station in Goshen following the final excursion of the fall Sunday night. The engine headed back to the Virginia Museum of Transportation on Tuesday. (Mary Woodson photo)

The Final Whistle

The 611 Concludes Its First Goshen Excursions

By DARRYL WOODSON

In the fast approaching darkness of the first evening of the time change, several photographers and local residents gathered in the heart of Goshen to watch the 611-pulled excursion train return from Staunton for the final time this first season.

On the north side of the tracks, a man asked one of the photographers, was the train coming this way? Then he got his wife and an excited young boy, who had not seen the train before, out of the car to come watch as the train's whistle could be heard in the distance.

On the other side of the tracks, a photographer from Blacksburg with multiple lenses and a tripod got ready to shoot the

train as it passed the old Goshen depot. He took time out, though, to show a really good photo he had taken of the 611 pulling the North Mountain grade north of Craigsville two weeks before, complete with voluminous black smoke pouring from the stack amid brightly colored fall trees.

Most of the colored leaves were gone now, and so was the sun for the day.

Then you heard the train coming around the bend, and the red and black diesels of the Buckingham Branch pulled the excursion train past the depot. Passengers, particularly the children, waved from inside the long line of lighted coaches. Then the 611 brought up the rear, in reverse. The train went down the tracks

past Goshen, where in a few minutes, the diesels would unhook from the train and the 611 would then pull the train forward down to Victoria Station.

At Victoria Station, two members of the Goshen Volunteer Fire Department were busy setting up two spotlights near where the passengers of the center cars would disembark. Large lights were already in place on either end of the station.

Minutes later, the single headlight of the 611 steam engine could be seen in the distance, slowly, very slowly, making its way along the plain south of the old Stillwater plant along the spur track and then the siding to the graveled area with tents that serve as Victoria Station.

See **Whistle**, page 2

County: Please Take Internet Survey

By ED SMITH

"Please take time to help us help you."

That's a plea from Spencer Suter, Rockbridge County administrator, to county residents who are lacking in access to quality, high-speed internet service from their home or business. Suter is strongly encouraging such folks to participate in a survey and testing that will substantiate this absence of, or poor quality access to, broadband.

County enacts ban on outdoor burning. See page A14.

This past Wednesday, Nov. 1, the Virginia Office of Broadband launched a process to ensure that all locations throughout the state that are without high-speed internet access are included in the upcoming Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) Program.

"To make sure that all Rockbridge County residents without broadband access are included

See **Survey**, page 14

BV Seeks New Grant For Wilson Center

By ED SMITH

Buena Vista is applying for a \$930,000 Industrial Revitalization Funds grant to go toward construction of Mountain Gateway Community College's Wilson Workforce Center.

City Council this past Thursday authorized City Manager Jason Tyree to apply for the grant after hearing an update on the project from Tom Roberts, the city's director of community and economic development.

Roberts told Council that the city was unsuccessful. See **Grant**, page B9

MSL Takes Comments On Courthouse Square

Veterans Suggest Moving Cannon

By JOSEPH HANEY

Several members of the community took time out of their afternoon last Thursday to hear a presentation on the history of the old Rockbridge County Courthouse and Courthouse Square before offering some suggestions on how to improve the latter.

Jesse Lyons, the project manager for the Court-

house Square project, opened the meeting, noting that an advisory committee had been formed to offer some input into the project, consisting of adjacent property owners and representatives of various groups within the city and Rockbridge County, including the VFW and the Blue Ridge Garden Club.

"We decided it would be very important to get as much input as possible from various folks," he said. "Everyone's been

See **MSL**, page 2



On Election Day

Tyson Cooper (center), who was running unopposed for Buena Vista mayor, was among the candidates greeting voters as they entered the Municipal Building to vote Tuesday. Because of an early deadline and the uncertainty of when results would be available, The News-Gazette did not attempt to provide election results in today's issue. The results will be posted online at www.thenews-gazette.com and appear in next week's issue. (Anneliese Schneider photo)

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ARNE GLAESER (left) and Megan Newman (right) fill out surveys to provide suggestions for what improvements could be made to Courthouse Square in Lexington, following a presentation by Main Street Lexington on Thursday afternoon. (Joseph Haney photo)

MSL

continued from page 1

very supportive and we really appreciate it. It's been nice to find the partnership, and the property owners have been very interested in an improvement of some kind."

Rebecca Logan, executive director for Main Street Lexington, which is overseeing the project, told The News-Gazette that the goal was to get as much input as possible, not just from residents of Lexington, but from county residents as well.

"It's a community space. It's the county seat, so we want to be mindful that the community has enough input and opportunities for input," she said. "It's not just a Lexington city thing. We're very mindful of that."

"We don't really know yet exactly what that's going to look like, which is why we wanted to get the community involved so that we get some input from everybody and it's not just us making decisions in the dark," she added.

Following Lyons' opening remarks, local landscape architect Arthur Bartenstein gave a presentation on the history of the courthouse and showed examples of what other localities had done with their old courthouse buildings to offer possible ideas for what could happen in Lexington.

Prior to the new courthouse being built in 2009 on the corner of Nelson and Randolph streets, a county courthouse had stood at the intersection of Main and Washington streets since the late 1700s. The 1797 building was the town's third courthouse since being founded in 1777 as the county seat for Rockbridge County. Two or three times a month, members of the community would gather in Lexington for Court Day, which offered a chance for people to socialize, conduct business or even watch the proceedings in the courthouse. In the 1890s, a fourth courthouse was built, this one designed by William McDowell. That building, which still sits on the intersection of Washington Street and Main Street, served as the Lex-

ington-Rockbridge County courthouse until the new one was built.

Most of the people in attendance offered written suggestions for improvements to the square following the presentation. Bob Hopkins, a member of both the VFW and the local George C. Marshall chapter of the Military Officers Association of America, proposed one suggestion during the meeting – moving the World War I cannon, which currently sits on the northern end of the courthouse square, to behind the Veteran's Memorial on Main Street. Prior to the construction of the memorial in 2000, the cannon served as the war memorial. In its current location, Hopkins noted, the cannon "doesn't get appreciated much at all."

"It was brought here to honor Rockbridge County veterans from World War I and stood as the main thing in the veteran's memorial for another 80 years," he said, "and it would be altogether fitting and proper for it to be removed from its current location and put on the backside of the Veteran's Memorial we have today. That would be ideal." He added that the local veterans' organizations would be willing to help pay for all or part of the cost of moving the cannon.

Hopkins also expressed concern that the memorial wasn't being as well maintained as it could be. Unlike the rest of Courthouse Square, the Veteran's Memorial is owned by Rockbridge County, not the city of Lexington. Hopkins suggested that the county either transfer ownership of the memorial to the city, or work out an agreement with the city to ensure that the memorial is maintained. Lyons told Hopkins that the issue had been raised with the county, though no action has been taken at this time.

Members of the community who would like to offer input on the project going forward will soon be able to do so through the Main Street Lexington website (www.mainstreetlexington.org) until Dec. 1.



DURING HIS PRESENTATION on the history of the Rockbridge County Courthouse, local landscape architect Arthur Bartenstein shows photographs of what Courthouse Square looked like in the 1970s and how it looks today. (Joseph Haney photo)

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BUCKINGHAM BRANCH diesel engines pull the Goshen-based excursion train back to the town at dusk on Sunday, the final day of the 611-pulled fall excursions. The 611 engine, on its return trips from Staunton, could be found at the rear of the train. (Darryl Woodson photo)

Whistle

continued from page 1

Eventually, the engine came to a halt near the end of the siding, its light shining on the trees in front of it. As volunteers began disembarking the passengers, crew members began tackling a host of chores necessary to shut down the historic steam engine for the night, including removing the ashes from the coal that had been burned.

Many of the passengers made their way to the front of the train to take photos of the 611 and its crew in action, even though it was completely dark, except for the floodlights and then the headlights of a Goshen Volunteer Fire Department truck brought over to shine more light on the crew's work.

Will Harris, the man most responsible for this fall's Goshen-based excursions, and his wife, Janie, also made their way to the front of the train. Some of his family members gave him a hug.

Among the others who could be seen in the dim light was Scott Lindsay, the chief mechanical officer for the 611 who has been with the steam engine since 1982 when it was brought back to life for the first time for main-line excursions in the 1980s. He and others led the ef-

fort to have the engine restored again in 2014, which led to several seasons of excursions in Virginia, then to the Strasburg Railroad for three years and then here to Goshen.

Twenty or so minutes after the 611 had pulled into the station, at about 6:10 or 6:11, dozens of people still stood around the engine taking photos, and taking it all in.

A crew member made several long pulls on the whistle, much longer than usual, similar to the grand finale at a Fourth of July fireworks show, and the small crowd knew what that meant.

As the last sounds ceased, many in the crowd applauded.

The next day, Monday, in an interview with News-Gazette reporter Joseph Haney (which you will read about in a wrap-up story next week), Harris said arrangements had been made for the 611 and several of the historic passenger cars to head back to the Virginia Museum of Transportation the next day.

He said, though, he was pretty certain that the 611 and the passenger cars would be back in Goshen next year for more excursions.



THE HISTORIC Norfolk & Western Class J No. 611 steam engine ever so slowly pulls its passenger cars into Victoria Station after darkness fell on Sunday evening. (Darryl Woodson photo)

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OBITUARIES



MARY BUCHANAN

Mary Brooks Buchanan, a longtime resident of Lexington, died on Nov. 2, 2023, in Williamsburg.

She was born on Feb. 22, 1928, the younger daughter of Charles Knight Brooks and Elizabeth Bump Brooks. Mary grew up in Monroe, New York, among her extended paternal family and graduated from Duke University in 1949.

In 1950 Mary married William J “Buck” Buchanan and became a dedicated wife, mother, and community volunteer. She ably raised four daughters while relocating frequently in support of Bill’s U.S. Army career. They enjoyed his final assignment the most when “The Colonel” was commandant of cadets at Virginia Military Institute in Lexington during 1972-77.

They retired in Lexington where Mary frequently and graciously hosted her family and friends, including Bill’s VMI 1950B classmates — brother rats. Mary moved to Patriots Colony in Williamsburg several years after Bill’s death in 2002, where her skill at bridge came in handy.

Mary is survived by her four daughters and their husbands — Kathryn and Paul Peterson, Elizabeth “Tigger” and Barry Hughes, Susan and Grant Wesley, and Jamie Buchanan and Carlton Ranson; as well as her grandchildren — Jesse Hughes, Kari Peterson, Cory Hughes, Lara (and Nate) Jebsen, William Wesley, and Samuel (and Krista) Wesley — and 13 great-grandchildren. Her grandchildren remember their Nana for summer swims, “healthy food” and her uninhibited laughter on big scary rollercoasters.

Mary’s daughters are very grateful for the love and compassion from Patriots Colony residents and staff who became her family too. In lieu of flowers, Mary would have appreciated contributions to the Col. William J Buchanan Scholarship Fund of VMI.

Mary will be buried beside Bill in Lexington’s Oak Grove Cemetery. A graveside family service will be held at a later date. *N-G*

ROBERT “BUCK” MAYO

Robert Lewis “Buck” Mayo, 99, of Buena Vista passed away Tuesday, Oct. 31, 2023.

He was born Feb. 21, 1924, in Rockbridge County, the son of Otho Mayo and Addie Simms Mayo.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Della Sorrells Mayo; two sisters; and one brother.

Surviving are his sons, Lewis W. Mayo (Diane) and Richard D. Mayo (Amy); five grandchildren; two step-grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and four great-great-grandchildren.

A funeral will be conducted at 11 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 4, at Bolling, Grose & Lotts Funeral Chapel by Pastor Ralph Coleman. Burial will follow at Rockbridge Memorial Gardens.

Family will receive friends from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 3, at Bolling, Grose and Lotts Funeral Home.

Arrangements are being handled by Bolling, Grose, & Lotts Funeral Home and Cremation Services. *N-G*



JAKE SHAFER

George “Jake” Wilson Shafer Sr., 82, of Natural Bridge, passed away Thursday, Nov. 2, 2023.

He was preceded in death by his parents, George and Dollie Shafer; sister, Mary “Tottsie” Thompson; and daughter, Regina Shafer Jones.

He retired from Robertson Fowler with 55 years of service and then at Randy Hostetter Excavating for several years.

He is survived by his sons, George Jr., Stevie and Kenny Shafer; grandchildren, Erica, Jared and Jacob Shafer; great-granddaughter, Paisley Shafer; special friends, Danny Bryant, his racetrack buddy; Shelia Southers and Brenda St. Claire, for help in caring for him. Special thanks to the Hospice ladies from Lexington.

A tribute to Jake’s life and love for the Natural Bridge Speedway will be held at Friday night’s race, Nov. 10.

Online condolences may be made at www.botetourtfuneralhome.com or (540) 254-3000. *N-G*

GENE McDANIEL

Arthur Eugene “Gene” McDaniel, 74, of Eagle Rock passed away on Tuesday, Oct. 24, 2023.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Henry and Edith McDaniel, and brother, John Cleveland McDaniel.

He is survived by his wife, Sue Ann Simpson McDaniel; daughter, Stephanie Suzanne McDaniel Southers and husband, Gary; sister and brother-in-law, Doris and Stanley; numerous nieces and nephews; and in-law family, Charles and Barbara Fridley, Jerry and Sandra Nicely, Gary and Gail Simpson, and Robert and Chloe Simpson.

It was his wish that there be no services; however, online condolences may be made at www.botetourtfuneralhome.com. *N-G*

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ROCKBRIDGE EPILOGUE



PUPILS AT A RCTS program in March 1954 show the gamut of reactions. (Photo from the Rockbridge County News)

Legendary Performance Series Recalled

There was a time, 40 years ago or more, when if you wanted to hear the Boys Choir of Harlem, you had to go to the Church of the Intercession in New York City. To see Dizzy Gillespie blow his famous trumpet, you would line up with other jazz fans at Fat Tuesday in the East Village. Beverly Sills? The Metropolitan Opera.

Or, if you were in Rockbridge, you could see each of them and countless other performing artists with household names in the Virginia Military Institute’s fieldhouse, thanks to an improbable organization called the Rockbridge Concert-Theater Series, RCTS.

Founded in 1945 by the legendary Mary Monroe Penick, music director for Lexington’s schools and the Presbyterian Church, and soon joined by Col. Fitzgerald H. “Pinky” Barksdale, executive officer at VMI, the series brought entertainment to Rockbridge that most communities a hundred times the size of Rockbridge seldom saw.

And none of the RCTS’s guests were more popular, nor more enthusiastic about returning year after year, than the musicians of the National Symphony Orchestra. In one pre-Interstate November, they even arranged their own schedules so they could vote and then bump their way down U.S. 11 to Lexington in time to make their performance.

The orchestra’s Lexington trademark was the magical “Peter and the Wolf,” written in 1936 by Sergei Prokofiev. As many as 4,000 children at a time packed the VMI fieldhouse to hear the “symphonic fairy tale for children.” Most of them marched there from local schools or rode in from schools in neighboring counties.

The story of the RCTS, “The Day the Orchestra Came to Town,” is told by two of those former children in the latest “Rockbridge Epilogue.” The co-authors are Suzanne Barksdale Rice, daughter of Col. Barksdale, and Anne Drake McClung, daughter of George Francis Drake, professor of French at Washington and Lee University, who was the customary narrator of “Peter and the Wolf.”

The authors recount the founding of RCTS and its growth as it attracted the biggest-name performers of serious music and stage plays. And they interview almost a dozen area residents who vividly recall attending RCTS performances, mainly of “Peter and the Wolf.”

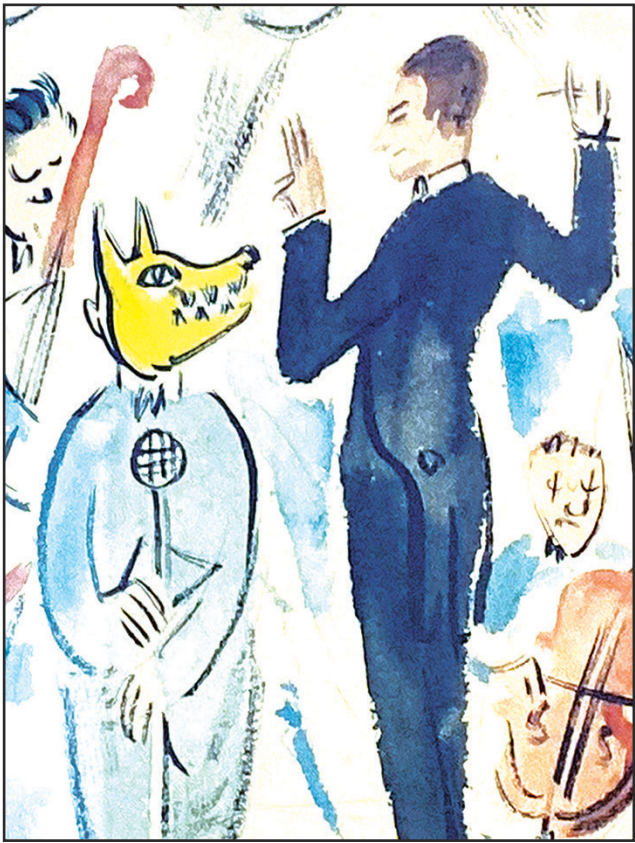
Among the article’s illustrations is a fanciful painting by the late Marion Montague Junkin, well-known artist and founder of W&L’s art department, showing Professor Drake on stage in costume as the wolf, with Howard Mitchell, conductor of the symphony



MARY MONROE Penick, founder of the Rockbridge Concert-Theater Series, which brought the best-known names in serious musical and stage entertainment to Lexington for 48 years, shown here in a 1973 photograph for the Hollins College alumnae magazine.

orchestra, and a dozen of its instrumentalists.

“The Day the Orchestra Came to Town” can be read without charge at www.HistoricRockbridge.org. It is the 43rd in the six-year-old series that publishes interesting and important articles of Rockbridge history that do not appear in print elsewhere.



GEORGE FRANCIS DRAKE, in costume as Peter, the wolf’s nemesis, and Howard Mitchell, conductor of the National Symphony Orchestra, are shown in this excerpt from a larger painting by Marion Junkin, Washington and Lee University professor of fine arts. “Peter and the Wolf” was the orchestra’s signature performance for many years in its annual visits to Lexington, sponsored by the Rockbridge Concert-Theater Series. (Courtesy of Anne Drake McClung)



TERESA STICH-RANDALL chats with Col. F. H. Barksdale in VMI’s Jackson Hall in 1963, before a performance sponsored by the Rockbridge- Concert-Theater Series. Barksdale was a leader of the series for most of its nearly five-decade run. Stich-Randall first sang here as Fiordiligi in Mozart’s “Cosi Fan Tutte” in 1959 — 12 years before she made her debut in that same role on the stage of the Metropolitan Opera in New York.



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The News-Gazette



VIOLIN DUO Charlotte Cabiness and McKatie Sorensen play “Halloween Night” during the Halloween on the Hill event at Southern Virginia University last Tuesday. (Sarah Hughes photo)

Halloween Takes A Musical Twist At SVU

*Halloween On The Hill
A New Tradition*
By SARAH BUNKER

Halloween is usually a time for trick-or-treating or watching scary movies, but at Southern Virginia University, Halloween is the time for Halloween on the Hill.

Halloween on the Hill is a multifaceted music concert involving as many groups on campus as possible. Hosted by the instrumental chamber music program, students, faculty and community members gather together to listen to good music and have a fun time.

This year was the fourth year of Halloween on the Hill and it took place on Halloween night. The concert’s director, Megan Mason, dressed up as Miss Frizzle from “The Magic School Bus” and magically transported the MC of the show, student body President Benjamin Whitted, into a TV.

From that point on, the concert included a mix of videos of the MC intermingled with performances by instrumental chamber duos and trios, music industry bands, the orchestra, and Accolade (the school’s a cappella group), as well as a dance skit performed by the faculty. In addition, the night featured several videos drawn and compiled by the art program, several Charlie Brown-inspired videos produced by the theater department, and three cameo videos by well-known actors Dulé Hill (“Psyche”), Kimberly J. Brown (“Halloweentown”), and David Henrie (“Wizards of Waverly Place”). Around 350 people attended the concert.



ELLA FOUTZ sings “Autumn Leaves” with a jazz group during Halloween on the Hill. (Sarah Hughes photo)

Assistant director Annal- yce Lueck, a student at SVU and the teacher’s assistant for Mason, explained why so many groups on campus were involved in the event.

“The idea was to pull as many people together to have it be a diverse kind of concert,” she said.

Much of her responsibility involved emailing to get people together, a difficult task considering that the concert featured the art and theater programs, student government, the student life group, and even a faculty skit, which has become a staple in the concert. Past years have also featured a short story from the writing department.

The concert is also a prime time to feature some of the smaller music groups on campus, such as bands in the music industry program, piano students, Accolade,

and instrumental chamber ensembles, to a larger audience.

Lueck also performed as a violinist in a piano trio as one of the chamber music ensembles, and she explained that Halloween on the Hill is one of their biggest concerts in the fall semester.

In fact, she enjoys performing in this concert in particular because of the creative freedom the musicians are allowed, specifically “having the creative freedom to be as expressive with ourselves as we are with our music.”

Such creativity could be seen in this year’s concert when the pianist in Lueck’s music trio was wheeled in on a table as Frankenstein before lumbering to the piano to perform “Franck.”

This fun concert was Mason’s creation, and it was established with three main

ideas behind it: feature parts of the music program that don’t get featured campus- wide, collaborate with different parts of campus, and enjoy a fun event that both kids and college students can come to.

So she settled on a concert around Halloween. She explained, “I think there’s so much room for fun on Halloween, that we really weren’t taking advantage of it.”

The first concert was held in 2019, and a digital version was aired the following year due COVID-19. There was not a Halloween on the Hill in 2021 because of the school’s production of the musical “Into the Woods,” but it resumed in 2022. And it will continue to go. Mason explained that she already has some ideas for future years.

Early Educator Program Expands Into Rockbridge

Training Offered To Participants

The Virginia Early Childhood Foundation (VECF) has expanded its Early Educator Fast Track initiative (Fast Track) into Ready Region West to address the ongoing child care staffing shortage impacting parents and employers in Hot Springs, Lexington, Roanoke and Rocky Mount.

According to a press release from the Foundation, a recent workforce survey in Virginia found that almost half of early care and education directors find recruitment and retention of teachers very difficult, with over 50% turning families away because they are unable to staff classrooms and serve as many children as usual. Fast Track seeks to increase child care capacity by addressing staffing shortages so more families are able to access this important workforce support.

The initiative connects early childhood education programs with newly trained early childhood educators. Fast Track trainees who enroll in the program will be paid a competitive wage (\$16 per hour in this region) and receive four weeks of paid online and on-site training and guaranteed job placement, with bonuses at six months and one year of employment.

“We’re experiencing a critical teacher shortage, and the need has never been greater

for early childhood educators,” said Kathy Glazer, president of the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation. “We encourage residents of Hot Springs, Lexington, Roanoke and Rocky Mount and those who live within a commuting distance of these areas to apply for the training program and benefit from a meaningful career.”

To be eligible for the Early Educator Fast Track program, applicants must have a high school diploma or equivalent, have English proficiency, pass required background checks and be eligible for employment in the U.S.

Participants will commit to one year of employment at one of the participating centers. Applicants may have experience or be brand-new to early childhood education, but those already employed at a child care site are not eligible. To date, the program has helped train and place dozens of individuals into assistant teacher roles in child care programs around Virginia. Due to Fast Track hires, these programs have documented their ability to reopen closed classrooms, expand classrooms, and/or serve more children and families, said a spokesman.

Those interested in taking part in the program should visit <http://www.vecf.org/fast-trackjobs> to complete a brief interest form.

To learn more about the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation, visit www.vecf.org.

ARNOLDS VALLEY
Karyn Gardner, (540) 228-2176, (540) 655-3646
karyn.gardner1985@gmail.com

The Glasgow Rescue Squad is hosting a cakewalk on Nov. 11 at 6 p.m. Any and all cakes and donations are welcome.

The Thunder BRidge Community Arts and Culture Center in Arnolds Valley will be hosting an open house event on Saturday, Nov. 11, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Twelve resident artist studios will be open to the public for touring. In addition, at least 10 guest artists will be sharing their work. Food and drinks will be available, with music in the late afternoon by The Honey Dewdrops and Jordy Gibbons. Thunder BRidge is located at 1425 Arnolds Valley Road in Natural Bridge Station, site of the former Natural Bridge Juvenile Corrections Center.

Sending birthday wishes to Faith Baptist members Donnie Mayo, Rachel Falls and Rodney Thomas as well as to St. John’s Episcopal Church member Martha Ramer. Happy anniversary to Rodney and Cindy Thomas.

Faith Baptist Church will be having a men’s prayer breakfast this morning at 8. The church will also be having Ladies Fellowship on Nov. 13, a Ladies Circle meeting on Nov. 14 at 6 p.m. and a clothes closet coming up on Nov. 18 from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

Many thanks to Dave VanOsten for leading a morning prayer service this past Sunday at St. John’s Episcopal Church. Thanks also to Bert Buford for providing music for the service and to Jason Hickman for hosting coffee hour.

Any church or community news or happenings, birthdays, anniversaries and the like you want listed? Please don’t hesitate to let me know.



Parading On Halloween
All types of characters could be seen during Waddell Elementary School’s annual Halloween parade on Halloween



Day. The students paraded along the sidewalks of neighboring streets, likely bringing joy to all who saw them. (photos courtesy of Waddell Elementary)



GOVERNMENT NOTICES

CITY OF LEXINGTON NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

APPLICATION OF MAXMARK HOMES LLC AND WEATHERBURN HOLDINGS LLC PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE WEATHERBURN PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT LOCATED AT THE INTERSECTION OF THORN-HILL ROAD AND CHAMBERLAIN LOOP IN LEXINGTON, VIRGINIA.

A public hearing will be conducted by the Lexington Planning Commission at a meeting to begin at **5:00 P.M. on Thursday, November 9, 2023** in the first floor meeting room of the Rockbridge County Administrative Offices, 150 South Main Street, to allow persons to appear and present their views in response to an application by MaxMark Homes LLC and Weatherburn Holdings LLC. Application number PUD 2023-02 is a request to amend the Weatherburn Planned Unit Development to return Lot #21 to the PUD lot configuration as it existed prior to the most recent modification request dated June 19, 2023 and approved by City Council on August 23, 2023. The parcels subject to this request are TM# 39-1-1-20, TM# 39-1-1-21, TM# 39-1-1-22, and the adjacent open space (TM# 39-1-6).

A copy of the application, case number PUD 2023-02, is available for public review and examination between 8:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. in the Planning and Development Department located on the second floor of Lexington City Hall, 300 East Washington Street.

Arne Glaeser
Director of Planning and Development
aglaeser@lexingtonva.gov

CITY OF LEXINGTON NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TO REVIEW A PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CITY OF LEXINGTON ZONING ORDINANCE

A public hearing will be conducted by the Lexington City Council at **7:00 P.M. on Thursday, November 16, 2023** in the first floor meeting room of the Rockbridge County Administrative Offices, 150 South Main Street, to allow persons to appear and present their views in response to a proposal to amend the Zoning Ordinance to allow accessory dwelling units in Lexington’s residential zoning districts. The proposal is to amend Article III to add Accessory Dwelling Unit – Detached as a conditional use in the R-1, R-2, R-M, and R-LC zoning districts; to amend Article IV to add lot requirements for accessory dwelling units; to amend Article XI to add use and design standards for accessory dwelling units; and to amend Article XX to delete the definition for accessory apartment, to amend the definition for building accessory and to add definitions for accessory dwelling unit – attached and accessory dwelling unit – detached.

A copy of the draft Zoning Ordinance Amendment, case number ZOA 2023-01, is available for public review and examination between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. in the Planning and Development Department located on the second floor of Lexington City Hall, 300 East Washington Street.

Arne Glaeser, Director of Planning and Development

ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given per Section 15.2-2204 of the Code of Virginia and Section 808 of the County of Rockbridge Land Development Regulations (the Regulations) that a public hearing will be held by the Rockbridge County Board of Supervisors on **Tuesday, November 14, 2023**, at or after 6:00 p.m. in the Board of Supervisors Meeting Room in the County Administration Building, 150 South Main Street, Lexington, Virginia 24450 to consider the following application:

1) John E. and Alexandra L. Byers, 499 South River Road, Buena Vista, Virginia 24416 have made an application for a Special Exception Permit for the construction of an accessory structure in Zone AE Hatched (Floodway) in the Special Flood Hazard Area. The properties are located on the north side of South River Road (Route 608) approximately 0.1 2 miles west of the intersection of South River Road (Route 608) and Old Buena Vista Road (Route 631). The properties are owned by John E. and Alexandra L. Byers (above address) and are further identified as tax map numbers 77-3-3A, 77-3-3B, 77-3-3C, and 77-3-3D1. The properties are located in the Agricultural and General Uses (A-2) Zoning District and are within the Flood Hazard [Overlay] District (FH-1). Per section 608.11-2(1) of the Regulations, structures accessory to residential uses in Zone AE Hatched (Floodway) of the Special Flood Hazard Area is a use by Special Exception in the FH-1 Overlay District. The properties are located in the South River Magisterial District

Information on this application is available in the Rockbridge County Office of Community Development, 150 South Main Street, Lexington, Virginia, by phone at 540-464-9662 or by email at cslaydon@rockbridge-countyva.gov

GOVERNMENT BRIEFS

Buena Vista ARPA Funds Appropriated

Buena Vista City Council this past Thursday approved spending \$273,000 in American Rescue Plan Act funds for three different projects.

ARPA funds are being used to replace the roof on the Municipal Building at a cost of \$205,000. A new electronic door lock system is being installed in the Municipal Building at a cost of \$8,000. And, at a cost of \$60,000, the roof of the control building of the wastewater treatment plant is being replaced.

Also, Council approved using \$4,444 from opioids litigation settlement funds for unplanned plumbing and electrical expenditures for the Hope House, the house Rockbridge Recovery is renovating to be temporary residences for recovering addicts.

City Manager’s Contract Extended

Jason Tyree, Buena Vista’s city manager the past two years, will likely remain in this post for at least another three years.

A new contract that would keep Tyree on the job in Buena Vista through the end of 2027 was approved by City Council on Thursday. The contract also includes an

option for an additional four years, through 2031.

A native of Amherst County and former Buchanan town manager, Tyree began work as Buena Vista city manager in March of 2021.

Huffman, Wheeler Are Recognized

Mary Lee Huffman and Dawn Wheeler, who recently retired as, respectively, treasurer and clerk of council for the city of Buena Vista, were recognized for their service to the city in proclamations adopted by City Council this past Thursday.

Huffman worked in the treasurer’s office for a total of 36 years. She was deputy treasurer for 24 years before being elected treasurer in 2017. During her tenure, Huffman “faithfully fulfilled the duties of treasurer with the highest integrity and has always been pleasant and helpful to the citizens of Buena Vista and all those around her,” states the proclamation.

Mayor Bill Fitzgerald recalled that he knew Huffman from back when the two were in elementary school together. “She was just as cheerful then as she is now,” he remarked, telling her, “You brighten up the days of a lot of people.”

Wheeler served as council clerk and assistant to the city manager for 13 years. She “faithfully and diligently provided a professional link between the citizens of Buena Vista, the City Council and the various agencies and boards for the city of Buena Vista,” according to the proclamation.

Fitzgerald said Wheeler “really helped me” when he was first elected mayor. “I would have really struggled if it wasn’t for her. She’s a wonderful woman to work with.”

PUD First Reading Held

Gunner Beverly has plans to build a single-family home on a 33-acre site off of Beverly Hollow Road at the south end of Buena Vista.

The first reading of an ordinance was held Thursday by City Council that would allow a planned unit development for the house to be built on a high point of the wooded, sloped property. A new driveway approximately 2,000 feet in length is

to be constructed. More than 10,000 square feet of land is to be disturbed.

The city has reviewed and approved an erosion and sediment control plan. The home is to have a well and a septic system. Beverly Hollow Road is a private road that is maintained by several home owners.

The Planning Commission recommended approval of the PUD at its Oct. 10 meeting.

Miller Appointed To City’s EDA

Buena Vista City Council tapped Jerry Miller to serve on the city’s Economic Development Authority. He replaces Marolyn Cash, who recently stepped down.

NOTICE

CITY OF LEXINGTON TAXPAYERS REAL ESTATE TAXES AND PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXES ARE DUE BY DECEMBER 5, 2023

**Penalty and interest rate of
10% will be added to all unpaid taxes
on December 6, 2023**

**It is the obligation of the taxpayer to see that
the proper tax bill is received and paid on time.**

**Treasurer, City of Lexington
300 E. Washington St. · Lexington, VA
Telephone: 540-462-3707
Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
PAYMENT DROP BOX AT REAR OF BUILDING**

Legal Notice

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF AN APPLICATION BY VIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER COMPANY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PILOT PROGRAM FOR ELECTRIC POWER STORAGE BATTERIES AND FOR CERTIFICATION OF A PROPOSED BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM CASE NO. PUR-2023-00162

On September 18, 2023, Virginia Electric and Power Company d/b/a Dominion Energy Virginia (“Dominion” or “Company”) filed with the State Corporation Commission (“Commission”) an application (“Application”) to participate in the pilot program for electric power storage batteries (“Pilot Program”) pursuant to § 56-585.1:6 of the Code of Virginia (“Code”), the Commission’s Guidelines Regarding Electric Power Storage Battery Pilot Programs and Rule 80 A of the Commission’s Rules of Practice and Procedure (“Rules of Practice”). Through the Application, the Company presents three battery energy storage systems (“BESS”) projects (designated BESS-4: Evaluation of Two Co-Located Nonlithium-Ion Technologies; BESS-5: Outage Mitigation and Grid Support Through a Microgrid Capable BESS; and BESS-6: Long Duration Energy Storage in a Behind-the-Meter Application) for deployment as part of the Pilot Program. Dominion requests the Commission issue an order granting permission to participate in the Pilot Program by March 31, 2024.

The Application states that the Grid Transformation and Security Act of 2018 (“GTSA”), among other things, directed the Commission to establish the Pilot Program, a program under which the Company must submit proposals to deploy electric power storage batteries. The GTSA established permissible objectives of the Pilot Program; established a five-year duration for the Pilot Program; set the size of the Pilot Program; and provided for recovery of the Company’s reasonable and prudent costs incurred under the Pilot Program through base rates.

Through BESS-4, the Company proposes to install an 8.94 megawatt (“MW”) BESS-4 pilot facility comprised of two nonlithium-ion technologies. The Company states that BESS-4 seeks to accomplish the following statutory objectives: (ii) improve integration of renewable resources; and (iv) reduce the need for additional generation during times of peak demand. The projected cost for BESS-4 is approximately \$70.6 million.

Through BESS-5, the Company proposes to install a 1.9 MW / 3.8 megawatt-hours (“MWh”) alternating current (“AC”)–coupled BESS. The Company states that BESS-5 seeks to accomplish the following statutory objectives: (i) improved reliability of electrical transmission or distribution systems; (ii) improved integration of different types of renewable resources; (iii) deferred investment in generation, transmission, or distribution of electricity; and (iv) reduced need for additional generation of electricity during times of peak demand. The projected cost for BESS-5 is approximately \$6 million.

Through BESS-6, the Company proposes to install a 1.5 MW / 15 MWh AC–coupled BESS. The Company states that BESS-6 seeks to accomplish the following statutory objectives: (i) improved reliability of electrical transmission or distribution systems; (iv) reduced need for additional generation of electricity during times of peak demand; and (v) connection to the facilities of a customer receiving distribution service from the utility. The projected cost for BESS-6 is approximately \$14.4 million.

To the extent required by the Commission, the Company also requests a certificate of public convenience and necessity to construct and operate BESS-4 as a generation asset at the Company’s Darbytown Power Station, pursuant to Code § 56-580 D and the Commission’s Filing Requirements in Support of Applications for Authority to Construct and Operate an Electric Generating Facility. The Company states it is installing BESS-5 and BESS-6 to address ordinary distribution grid operational issues and considers these improvements to be “ordinary . . . improvements in the usual course of business” under Code § 56-265.2 A 1.

Interested persons are encouraged to review the Application and supporting documents for the details of these and other proposals.

The Commission entered an Order for Notice and Hearing in this proceeding that, among other things, scheduled public hearings on the Company’s Application. On January 24, 2024, at 10 a.m., the Hearing Examiner assigned to this case will hold a telephonic hearing, for the purpose of receiving the testimony of public witnesses. On or before January 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 filing out a form on the Commission’s website at scc.virginia.gov/pages/Webcasting; (ii) by completing and emailing the PDF version of this form to SCCInfo@scc.virginia.gov; or (iii) by calling (804) 371-9141. This public witness hearing will be webcast at scc.virginia.gov/pages/Webcasting.

Beginning at 10 a.m. on January 24, 2024, the Hearing Examiner will telephone sequentially each person who has signed up to testify as provided above.

On January 24, 2024, at 10 a.m., or at the conclusion of the public witness portion of the hearing, whichever is later, in the Commission’s second floor courtroom located in the Tyler Building, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, the Hearing Examiner will convene a hearing to receive testimony and evidence related to the Application from the Company, any respondents, and the Commission’s 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 required electronic service on parties to this proceeding.

An electronic copy of the public version of the Company’s Application may be obtained by submitting a written request to counsel for the Company: Jontille D. Ray, Esquire, McGuireWoods LLP, Gateway Plaza, 800 East Canal Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, or jray@mcguirewoods.com. Interested persons also may download unofficial copies of the public version of the Application and other documents filed in this case from the Commission’s website: scc.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information.

On or before January 17, 2024, any interested person may submit comments on the Application 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 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 such comments shall refer to Case No. PUR-2023-00162.

On or before December 7, 2023, any person or entity wishing to participate as a respondent in this proceeding may do so by filing a notice of participation at scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling. Those unable, as a practical matter, to file a notice of participation electronically may file such notice at the address listed above. Such notice of participation shall include the email addresses of such parties or their counsel, if available. The respondent simultaneously shall serve a copy of the notice of participation on counsel to the Company. Pursuant to 5 VAC 5-20-80 B, *Participation as a respondent*, of the Commission’s Rules of Practice and Procedure (“Rules of Practice”), any notice of participation shall set forth: (i) a precise statement of the interest of the respondent; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent then known; and (iii) the factual and legal basis for the action. Any organization, corporation, or government body participating as a respondent must be represented by counsel as required by 5 VAC 5-20-30, *Counsel*, of the Rules of Practice. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2023-00162. 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 December 21, 2023, 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 served on the Staff, the Company, and all other respondents simultaneous with its filing. In all filings, respondents shall comply with the Rules of Practice, as modified herein, including, but not limited to: 5 VAC 5-20-140, *Filing and service*, and 5 VAC 5-20-240, *Prepared testimony and exhibits*. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2023-00162.

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 public version of the Company’s Application, 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.

VIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER COMPANY

Editorial

Broadband’s Elusive Last Miles

“Broadband’s last mile is always the most expensive,” said Del. Terry Austin at the Oct. 25 candidates forum held by the chamber of commerce. “It can cost up to \$40,000 per household to get the last mile. It’s made it practically unaffordable for a lot of localities.”

Rockbridge County is one of those localities that can’t afford to complete the connection to the relatively small number of households and businesses still lacking in access to high-speed internet without substantial financial assistance from the federal or state governments.

Rockbridge County, Lexington and Buena Vista were very successful, early on, in securing tens of millions of dollars from federal and state grant sources to get much of the Rockbridge area connected to high-speed internet service. We were, in fact, a model for other localities to follow in achieving high-speed connections with the creation of the Rockbridge Area Network Authority. However, those successes have slowed in the last couple of years as we’ve tried to complete the elusive last miles of connectivity.

Two years ago, Rockbridge County was unsuccessful when it applied for a local share of the \$700 million that Virginia was divvying up among the state’s localities through the Virginia Telecommunications Initiative for bringing connectivity to the more remote parts of the commonwealth. This past year the county failed to secure any of a much smaller pool of VATI funding – \$55 million – allotted for last mile connectivity. The county is likely facing long odds of snagging any of this year’s allotment of VATI funding, which is now down to \$42 million.

Fortunately, there is another source of funding available. The federal Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) program is distributing \$42.45 billion throughout the country to expand high-speed internet access by funding planning, infrastructure deployment and adoption programs. Virginia is slated to get \$1.5 billion of this funding. At the chamber’s

recent candidates forum, all six candidates vying for three Rockbridge area seats in the General Assembly promised to do what they can to assure the Rockbridge area secures its fair share of the funding.

“Broadband,” said Del. Ellen Campbell, “is not a luxury.” All the candidates pointed out that broadband is needed for tele-work, e-commerce, small businesses, education and tele-health care. “Here in rural areas we can’t be left out,” said Campbell. “We need to make sure we get the funding and that it’s used as rapidly as possible.”

Jade Harris, candidate for the state Senate, said, “We need to be fighting hard to ensure that that money comes to our district – not just [Northern Virginia] and not just Hampton Roads.” Once the last-mile connections are made, Harris added, “We’ve got to make sure people can afford broadband in the first place.” That is, federal programs have to be tapped to

ensure that lower-income residents have the means to gain access to these broadband connections.

In addition to having such advocates in Richmond, those residents who are currently left out in the digital divide need to advocate for themselves. A way to do this is to participate in a survey in which state officials are attempting to ascertain where high-speed internet access is lacking or altogether absent. To find out how to participate in this survey, see the story on today’s front page.

“Broadband is this generation’s infrastructure project,” said Randall Wolf, candidate for delegate, at the recent candidates forum. He compared it to the railroads in the late 19th century and electricity in the 1930s. Broadband is an essential component of modern life, and we must do everything we can to secure those last miles of connectivity.



OUT OF THE PAST

50 Years Ago
Nov. 7, 1973

Mills E. Godwin, the apparent winner in the Virginia governor’s race by only a few percentage points, carried Lexington, but opponent Henry Howell carried Rockbridge and Buena Vista.

The United Virginia Bank on Main Street in Lexington planned a remodel of its exterior to fit in with the city’s historic character.

The Rev. Douglas C. Chase, pastor of Lexington Presbyterian Church, announced his resignation to the church session. He planned to accept a call to the Presbyterian Church in Fredericksburg.

20 Years Ago
Nov. 12, 2003

Rockbridge County and the city of Lexington were in final negotiations to buy the Kappa Alpha property on Main Street in order to build a courts complex.

Local preservationists were trying to keep Virginia Military Institute from demolishing the post surgeon’s residence behind Crozet Hall. The dwelling had been designed by renowned Lexington architect William G. McDowell.

Robert and Evelyn Snider of Raphine celebrated their 70th anniversary at New Mount Olive Lutheran Church in Fairfield.

QUID DE COGITATIONE?
GLENN ROSE

‘The G.O.P.’

The Republican Party was founded in 1854 by former Whig Party members to oppose the expansion of slavery.

In the 1870s politicians and newspapers began referring to it as the “grand old party” for preserving the Union during the Civil War.

In 1874 the Republican Party of Minnesota pledged, “The grand old party that saved the country is still true to the principles that gave it birth.”

Since Abraham Lincoln served as the first Republican president, 19 Republicans have collectively won 24 presidential elections.

Not all are as noteworthy as Lincoln whose election

sparked secession in the deep south and whose perseverance saved the Union.

He brought Emancipation. There have been other Republican presidents who fostered policies that have advanced our American dream and protected our democracy.

Republican Teddy Roosevelt sent “The Great White Fleet,” 16 United States Navy battleships, to circumnavigate the world in 1907. Roosevelt demonstrated there was a new power to be reckoned with in the new century, a democratic power elected by deeply principled people. America would show these bona fides in two World Wars and one Cold War and establish itself as a bulwark against tyranny.

Roosevelt set aside government lands as public parks to preserve the great beauty of America.

Republican Dwight Eisenhower defeated one dictatorship as a general and, as president, drew a line on another that would mark where our country stood for the next 37 years.

Eisenhower envisioned the national network of highways that became our interstate system.

Republican Ronald Reagan led the Free World in facing down Soviet Russia. His affable style won the confidence of the enlightened leader of Russia, Mikhail Gorbachev, to trust that this principled man leading a country of principled citizens was no threat to the Russian people despite past propaganda to the contrary.

The Berlin Wall fell. This same collegial style and mutual respect made Reagan’s work with political opponent “Tip” O’Neill, Democratic Speaker of the House, successful in building compromises.

One hundred years after the Minnesota Republicans’ pledge, the country was embroiled in the Watergate scandal. A Republican president was accused of trying to cover up a break-in at Democratic Party headquarters. After months of denial by Richard Nixon, self-made audio tapes revealed that he had indeed been involved in such an endeavor.

With talks of impeachment in the House of Representatives and conviction in the Senate, on Aug. 7, 1974, Sen. Barry Goldwater, House Mi-

nority Leader John Rhodes, and Senate Minority Leader Hugh Scott - all Republicans, too – went to The White House.

Nixon believed there were 30 senators who would back him. “Mr. Conservative” Barry Goldwater is reported to have said his count was four, and he (Goldwater) “was not one.”

Nixon announced his resignation the following night.

We should note the Republican Party’s praiseworthy role in the Watergate investigation. In 1973 the Senate voted 77-0 for what became the Senate Watergate Committee. A year later the House voted 410-4 to authorize an impeachment investigation.

Notable because: Less than two years earlier Nixon had won his reelection with 60%+ of the vote, carrying 49 states.

Nixon was not the subject of 91 criminal counts stemming from four criminal cases.

Nixon never tried to blackmail a foreign government for dirt on an opponent.

Nixon never kept from the American public a discussion he had with the leader of an

adversarial country he also had a business interest in.

Nixon was not on tape bragging about his entitlement to grope women.

Nixon didn’t take boxes of classified documents he was no longer entitled to and show them off to unvetted gawkers, like a fifth grader at recess with a “Playboy” centerfold.

The only stain on Nixon was the attempt to cover up a break-in at the Watergate,

Nixon could be lauded for normalizing relations with China, but that did not absolve him of abusing the awesome power of the presidency he was entrusted with.

The Republicans of the day were principled enough to accept that he was no longer suitable to serve as the leader of our democracy.

Nixon did not decide to continue denial of the truth and call out his supporters to storm the Capitol in defense of his presidency.

That pledge of 1874 endured.

Today’s Republican Party is no longer “grand,” “old,” or even a “party.” A mere handful of self-serving toadies, anxious to maintain their spot at the trough, have taken

control of it. Gone are people of principle like Liz Cheney, Denver Riggleman, Adam Kinzinger, Jeff Flake, and soon Mitt Romney, all either purged or leaving in disgust.

Gone are leaders with the stature of John Warner, Linwood Holton, and John Dalton.

John McCain was invidiously dismissed by the leader of what’s left of this “party” for being a prisoner of war, disparaging him with “I like people that weren’t captured.”

Perhaps this new potentate would have led a charge into the Hanoi Hilton, freeing those imprisoned “goldbricks” and defeating the North Vietnamese, if bone spurs hadn’t robbed of us of his military service.

This “jefe” would do to our country what he’s done to the Republican Party – create a cult of personality, loyal to an individual and not principles, by purging the opposition and inserting his sycophants in positions of power.

History shows whom these governments really serve.

Republicans have been too important to our country’s success to now abandon that pledge of 1874.

The News-Gazette

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SUBMITTING NEWS AND ADS

The News-Gazette welcomes news items and letters to the editor. The deadline for news and sports items is 4 p.m. Friday. For church items and letters to the editor, the deadline is 1 p.m. Monday. For classified ads, the deadline is 10 am. Tuesday. For display advertising, the deadlines are 3 p.m. Friday for Lifestyle section; 1 p.m. Monday for proof ads; and 4 p.m. Monday for all other ads.

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LETTERS

Women Should Go On Strike Until ‘Dangers Eliminated’

Nov. 6, 2023
Editor, The News-Gazette:

No one would buy a house insulated with asbestos, drink contaminated water or drive an unsafe car. They would strike until those dangers were eliminated.

I propose women go on reproductive and conjugal strike until their physical safety is protected in pregnancy (respect for life). Since women are the only ones who “do the work” and are put at risk in pregnancy and birth and handle most of the work of childrearing, they should have the assurance that their children won’t be killed at school or anywhere by guns. As of Oct. 26, at least 35,275 were killed by guns this year, almost 118 each day, including 1,157 teens and 246 children.

They should strike until health care policies are revised to suit their safety needs, until the 2nd Amendment is interpreted to reflect what the founders intended (“a well-regulated militia”), until sane gun safety laws are in place, which includes banning military weapons.

JOE PETITE
Rockbridge County

‘Commit To Candidates Of Law And Decency’

Oct. 16, 2023
Editor, The News-Gazette:

“Losers” and “Suckers,” those are what Americans who fought and died for this country are — in the words of Donald Trump. Early reports of his contempt for those who served have now been thoroughly verified, including by Trump’s former chief of staff, retired Marine Gen. John Kelly.

As a military historian, I was proud of the thousands of my students at VMI, West Point, the Air War College, and elsewhere who wore the uniform of our country, as did many of my other friends and relatives over the decades. The country music song says it so poetically, so accurately, “All gave some; some gave all”.

And what of Cadet Bonespurs, the very personification of malignancy? He recently dismissed General Kelly as a “lowlife.” Of course, Trump’s viciousness and dishonesty are central to his character. But where is the indignation from the GOP? What has our own congressman, Ben Cline, had to say? Where is

their outrage following Trump’s public call to terminate the Constitution, our very bedrock as a democracy that they — and he — swore to uphold and defend?

Do these self-proclaimed patriots really have no more backbone than a chocolate éclair, to quote Teddy Roosevelt? Do the American people care so little for this great country that they will continue to return to office “leaders” whose only ambition is power and self-aggrandizement?

Anger such as I feel at age 80 is unhealthy. What can I do, ask some dear to me? Vote? Sure, but is that all? Well, I can urge you, if you’re of like mind, to sound the alarm. You have address books; you are able to reach where I cannot. On the other hand, if you intend to vote for Trump and his minions, please rethink your position and commit instead to candidates of law and decency.

MALCOLM MUIR JR.
Lexington

Locks Missing On Some Doors At W&L Law

Nov. 1, 2023
Editor, The News-Gazette:

I’m sitting in the law school parking lot as my friends wait for the all-clear. Group messages are pinging around with rumor shreds and a healthy mix of gallows humor to keep spirits up as they sit with heads held low in their unlit classrooms.

These students come from all over the country. It is hard to think of a more succinct indictment of the gun violence epidemic than the fact that each of these law students likely has a “hometown shooter” story of their own.

Among the messages sent are photos of their classroom doors. For some of my friends, their fears are especially heightened - and rightfully so. Belts are now being used to secure doors with no locks, a pitiful symbol of how fragile the situation really is.

As pictures of these makeshift security measures make their rounds on WhatsApp, the gallows humor turns to a call for the guillotine. Students become more upset at the idea that - should this shelter-in-place order turn into a worst-case scenario - the administration of Washington and Lee refused to do the bare minimum to protect their student’s lives - put locks on the doors.

Another notification blips across my screen. Photos of armed officers entering a classroom mean the building is finally being scanned room by room. The students take great pleasure in informing them that there was no lock on the door. The responders risking their lives to enter a pos-

sible active shooter situation stare bewildered that a room like this could have no lock.

Meanwhile, I wait outside. I feel helpless as my friends virtually huddle under their desks through WhatsApp notifications. But that’s what this community does. They support each other. They share laughter every day and home-cooked meals every night. It’s the reason my partner and I moved 17 hours to Lexington from southeast Texas (not far from Santa Fe, mind you). At W&L, everyone wants the same thing but is unwilling to take it from each other. A law school with this kind of culture should be protected at all costs.

It is a shame that the administration doesn’t agree.

CHRISTIAN MADISON
Lexington

‘Jesus’ Return Is Rapidly Approaching’

Nov. 1, 2023
Editor, The News-Gazette:

Jesus’ return is rapidly approaching as the Bible prophesizes. Evidence is the USA’s decline as a super power in prestige, military and economic strength, and morals, life, liberty, freedom of speech and sanctity of life. Most important, is the lost belief in God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit; the Three In One! Second, is growth as children of God who created everyone and those to come before Jesus arrives and brings people He has saved to Heaven! The rest who are alive and remain will die and the Devil will have no one to tempt for a 1,000 years.

When those years are completed, the saved will accompany God in the New Jerusalem from Heaven to Earth. All who were left dead on earth will rise to life and the Devil will persuade them to battle against God for the New Jerusalem and Earth. But, they will lose and die by fire, totally consumed, to exist no more. The Earth will also be consumed all the way to the Mantel and the atmosphere cleansed from the evil mankind has done to God’s creation!

God will restore Earth’s former beauty and purity, the new Garden of Eden, and place the New Jerusalem, on the New Earth, for a New Beginning. We will live there with no more pain or sorrow and the past things will be remembered no more. We will eat from trees, especially the Tree of Life, and drink from the River of Life with no waste of any kind. And, most of all, we will commune with the Three In One and our saved families and friends, for eternity! Amen!

Where do you want to end up?
BRADFORD PRICE
Buena Vista

HIGH BRIDGE

Esther Pennington, 291-2629

Linda Trumbo was the guest speaker last Sunday at High Bridge Presbyterian Church. Next Sunday, Nov. 12, guest speaker will be the Rev. Pam Clabaugh. There will also be a congregational meeting to elect church officers, class of 2026. During the service, the church will receive the noisy can and food pantry offerings. Donna Lotts will lead children’s church. Also, don’t forget the chili cook-off to be held at the church fellowship hall after church service. Members will be competing for the championship trophy for the best tasting chili. Also, sides are welcomed (cornbread, deserts). Just to let you know, John McCoy was the trophy winner last year.

Weekday Religious Education wants to thanks everyone that came out to support the themed basket bingo on Nov. 4. To date, \$1,100 has been raised.

Brenda and Jane Shafer, Cathy Ayers, Sandy Watts recently returned from a six-day Abbott bus tour mystery trip where they toured places of interest in the state of Georgia.

Mark your calendars for the Veterans Day cakewalk on Saturday, Nov. 11, at 6 p.m. at the Glasgow First Aid building. Proceeds will benefit the Glasgow Life Saving Crew. Baked goods are needed and appreciated. Contact (540) 460-3352 if you need information.

Congratulations to Chelsea Henderson and T.J. Maiden of Salem who were married Saturday, Nov. 4. Chelsea is the granddaughter of Lloyd and Esther Pennington who attended the wedding at The Eighty Four venue in Riner. Several of Lloyd and Esther’s nieces and nephews attended as well as Mark, Annie and Max Pennington.

The Natural Bridge/Glasgow food pantry will be open Saturday, Nov. 11, from 9 to 11 a.m.

MURAT

Evelyn Ayres

Kate Gordon will talk about the new rural outreach program of the Rockbridge Community Table organization at the adult forum at Oxford Presbyterian Church on Sunday morning, Nov. 12, at 10.

The Rockbridge Community Table will serve a free dinner at the Palmer Community Center on Wednesday, Nov. 15, from 6 to 7 p.m.

First Fruits & Stewardship Sunday will be observed at Oxford Church on Sunday, Nov. 19.

TIMELY TOPICS

By Tom Stanley,
Extension agent

Feeding Strategies With Drought

Last week’s hard freeze brought an end to any hopes that a drought-breaking rain could yet yield some fall grazing. At this writing there is no significant rain in the forecast for our region but even if Rockbridge were to receive significant rain, it would have to be followed by a very unusual spate of warm temperatures to produce an amount of grazeable grass sufficient to address the current shortage.

So, a many folks with grazing livestock or horses are facing limited inventories of hay. For folks short on hay, it may be impossible to find hay to buy or the hay available may be very expensive. Now is an important moment to remember our livestock and horses do not have to be presented with all the hay they can eat. These animals have a fiber requirement but they do not require ad libitum (as much as desired) quantities. Ruminants and horses need some long fiber (as opposed to pelleted feed) to stimulate normal digestive function.

So, many folks will give their livestock “only the hay they will clean-up.” This will most likely lead to a considerable shortfall in calories and protein the livestock need to sustain themselves. Purchased feed is expensive but now is the time to begin feeding alternative feeds to



stretch those limited hay supplies through the winter.

Contact the Rockbridge Extension Office at (540) 463-4734 for free assistance in determining the right combination of feeds that maximizes the utilization of hay and ensures livestock needs are met specific to your animals and circumstances.

Drone Mapping Workshop

Two-day virtual workshops are scheduled to take place on the Virginia Tech campus that will prepare participants with the knowledge necessary to take the FAA Remote Knowledge Aircraft Test (aka Part 107). Participants are provided with an overview of federal regulations and best flight operational strategies and safety.

This training has been utilized by educators, state and federal agency employees, and the private sector (engineers, realtors, and others). This workshop is an excellent resource for individuals considering using drones to support business applications or for managers who want to make decisions regarding drone data collection options.

A limited number of discounted registrations are available for full-time high school teachers.

The workshop will be held twice in order to accommodate more participants. The first workshop will take place Dec. 14-15, and the second offering will be Jan. 4-5. More information about the workshop and on-line registrations is available at <https://viriniaview.cnre.vt.edu/workshops-events/>.

Kiwanis Plan Meeting Here

The Kiwanis are planning to return to the Rockbridge area. An informational meeting about the organization and starting a local club will be held on Thursday, Nov. 16, at 6:30 p.m. at the local YMCA next to Tractor Supply.

Founded in 1915, Kiwanis International is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to improving the lives of children.

The Kiwanis family of organizations includes its Service Leadership Programs. These programs are Circle K International at the college level; Key Club for high school; Builders Club for middle school; K-Kids at the elementary school level; and Aktion Club for adults living with disabilities.

For more information, send an email to jcs.kiwanis@gmail.com or call (804) 466-1625.

GLASGOW

Carolyn Bradley, 258-2720

The WRE bingo fundraiser was a huge success this past weekend. They raised about \$1,800.00. The Bandit Elite Girls Youth Basketball fundraiser had a good day as well on Saturday. This correspondent attended and the pulled pork meal was good and the service great.

The Glasgow Lifesaving and First Aid Crew will sponsor a Veteran’s Day cakewalk on Saturday, Nov. 11, at 6 p.m. at the squad building, 710 McCulloch St. Cakes and baked goods are needed, and appreciated. Contact them at (540) 460-3352 for more information.

A large crowd attended the trunk or treat event at Locher Pavilion and the town reported they collected and donated 375 pounds of nonperishable food items to the local food pantry because of the generous donations of the community.

Got questions



Subscribe to
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Call 463-3113.

Remember To Recycle

In Memory of Carl Deacon SR
Veteran’s Day - November 11, 2023



Dad, this is the first Veteran’s Day you won’t be with me. I want to thank you for your service in the United States Marines and the Army National Guards. You stood for what you believed in and that gives me a better understanding of what you and so many others have sacrificed for our freedom. It’s an honor to look up to Heaven and say thank God for my dad, of whom I’m quite proud of.

Love and Miss you Dad,
Carl JR

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RC Netters *Aim For State*

Wildcats Dominant In Regional Run

By JONATHAN SCHWAB AND RYAN RAICHT

Continuing its impressive postseason run, the Rockbridge County High School volleyball team won the Region 3C championship by earning a 3-0 home win over Rustburg in the finals on Saturday afternoon in Lexington.

With the 25-16, 25-21, 25-18 victory, their 23rd in a row, the Wildcats (27-1) won their third regional title in program history and their first in five years. Last week, RC won the Valley District tournament.

RC and Rustburg (19-6) will both advance to the Class 3 state quarterfinals, which will take place on Saturday, with the Wildcats playing at home against the runner-up of the Region 3D tournament. For the time and opponent, visit www.thenews-gazette.com.

The Wildcats won regional titles in 2017 and 2018 and lost to Hidden Valley in the state quarterfinals both years, the furthest the Wildcats have advanced in the postseason.

Saturday's win was a special victory for RC's five seniors, who were freshmen when the Wildcats lost to Rustburg in the regional finals in the spring of 2021, a season postponed from the fall of 2020 due to COVID-19. Rustburg then went on to win back-to-back titles.

Reflecting on the win, RC senior hitter Sophie Vaught, who was a freshman on the Region 3C runner-up team in 2021, said, "Freshman year, we played this [match] against this team, and it didn't go our way, so it was really special to do it again and win this time. Especially, to sweep them was really awesome."

The other seniors sharing the experience with Vaught were Maddie Dahl, McKenzie Burch and Nala Shearer. Senior Sophia Perlozzo wasn't on the varsity team then, but she joined as a sophomore in the fall. After celebrating the win, Burch said, "To come back and basically have a repeat of my freshman year, same thing, just on our side this time, there's no other feeling like it."

"I feel like everyone came out wanting to win," added Burch. "All the sophomores and freshmen, everyone stepped up and did their part. The bench, the players on the court."

Burch's older sister, Hannah, a 2018 RC graduate, was on the 2017 team that won the first regional title in program history, with Hannah being named Region 3C player of the year. On Saturday, Hannah and other members of the Burch family were watching from the bleachers.

The Wildcats, the top seed in the regional tournament, got off to a fast start on Saturday, playing aggressively to take a 9-3 lead in the first set and then increasing it to double digits briefly.

Addressing the significance of the fast start, second-year RC head coach Kassidy Beagan said, "I think that first set again was very important to come out and send a clear message." Beagan said her players "knew that coming out, and I think they really wanted to do that, and they did a good job executing."

See **Volleyball**, page A10



AT TOP AND ABOVE, Full of joy, the Wildcats cherish the moment after winning the Region 3C title by defeating Rustburg 3-0. AT LEFT, RC athletic director Adam Haynes presents the RC senior volleyball players with the Region 3C championship trophy. The seniors are (from left) McKenzie Burch, Nala Shearer, Maddie Dahl, Sophia Perlozzo and Sophie Vaught. (Stephanie Mikels Blevins photos)



THE RC players gather around the trophy as RC head coach Kassidy Beagan applauds them for winning the Region 3C title. (Stephanie Mikels Blevins photo)

Congratulations

RCHS



Girls Volleyball Team



*Region
Champs,
District
Champs,
& District
Tournament
Champs*

**Good Luck
in the
State
Tournament!**



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The News-Gazette



RC FRESHMAN Ava Crocker collects one of her seven digs while teammates Maddie Dahl (center) and Nala Shearer (back) watch during the semifinals. (Stephanie Mikels Blevins photo)



WILDCAT SOPHOMORE Jada Hamilton spikes the ball. (Stephanie Mikels Blevins photo)



RC SENIOR Maddie Dahl taps the ball over the net while teammate Jada Hamilton leaps beside her. (Stephanie Mikels Blevins photo)

Volleyball

continued from page A8
Seventh-seeded Rustburg trailed 14-8 in the second set before going on a 6-0 run to tie it. The Red Devils briefly took the lead before the Wildcats went up 19-18, and RC wouldn't trail again in the set, winning the final four points, three on Rebekah Allen's serve. Dahl finished the set with a kill.

In the third set, Rustburg took an 8-6 lead, and the match was close much of the way before the Wildcats went on a 4-0 run to go up 15-12. RC stayed ahead the rest of the way, getting kills from Dahl, Vaught and Burch to finish the match.

Vaught led the Wildcats with 13 kills and had two blocks, while Burch paced RC with 32 assists and added 10 digs. Shearer collected a team-high 26 digs, while Dahl led RC with eight blocks and had nine kills and 14 digs. Also stepping up for the Wildcats were Perlozzo with nine kills and three digs, Jada Hamilton with five kills and five blocks, Mackenzie McCormick with five blocks and three kills, Rebekah Allen with a team-high five aces and eight digs, and Ava Crocker with six digs.

Leading Rustburg was Nahla Bigham with 10 kills and three blocks, while Sophie Coles had nine kills and nine digs. Emma Blankinship dished out a team-high 26 assists, and Tyleigh Abbott led Rustburg with 20 digs and three aces.

Proud of her team, Vaught said, "Our defense was incredible the whole game. Nothing was hitting the floor. We came out really aggressive and came out swinging and killing the ball."

Commenting on the significance of RC winning the regional title, Beagan said, "It means a lot. I attribute it to the girls. They work really hard, and they listen, especially behind their serving line. They just do a great job of serving where I tell them to."

Beagan said the Red Devils were tough because "they have a really good serving team as well, and I think that was our struggle point, our serve-receive with their good servers." Beagan said her players aren't used to getting so many tough balls over and over again, but the Wildcats stepped in to return them and earn the win.

The RC coach added that, when her players fall behind, "They do a really good job of coming back, no matter what. I have faith in them in their comeback game."

RC 3, SHS 0

For the first time in five years, the Wildcats punched their ticket to the Class 3 state tournament with a 3-0 home win over Spotswood in the Region 3C semifinals on Thursday night in Lexington.

With the 25-12, 25-14, 25-20 victory, the Wildcats beat Spotswood (18-8) for the fourth time in four meetings this year, which included a 3-1 win the previous week in the Valley District semifinals. Last year, Spotswood ended the Wildcats' season by beating RC 3-2 in the Region 3C quarterfinals.

In Thursday night's showdown, fueled by the energy of the home fans, the Wildcats jumped out to a 6-0 lead in the first set, winning five points on Shearer's serve. The Trailblazers cut the lead to 13-9, but RC then went on a 7-1 run to pull away.

"I think the key factor was what we did in the first set," said Beagan. "The past few matches, we haven't done a good job coming out in the first set. That was our main goal, and [my players] did a really good job executing that. We worked on that a lot."

Spotswood took a 7-4 lead in the second set, but the Wildcats won the next three points to tie it. With strong hitting and blocking, the Wildcats gradually pulled away from a close set.

The third set was close the whole way, with the Blazers serving and hitting well to take a 10-5 lead early. RC won the next four points to cut the lead to one, with Dahl making two kills for the Wildcats. RC took its first lead of the set by going up 17-16 on an ace by Allen.

The Blazers tied the set 20-20 on a block by Josephine Robertson, but the Wildcats responded with kills from Dahl and Perlozzo. With Dahl serving, the Wildcats closed out the match, not allowing Spotswood to get another point.

Celebrating her birthday, Dahl led the Wildcats with 14 kills and six blocks while recording 11 digs and two aces. After the match, Dahl said "the energy on the court" really helped the Wildcats. "When the gym is loud, the team gets loud," she said. "Just seeing us all come together for the same goal is really fulfilling."

Burch paced RC with 33 assists and added six digs, while Shearer led the Wildcats with 22 digs and had four assists. Vaught contributed 10 kills and three digs, while Perlozzo added nine kills. Allen led RC with three aces and had four digs, and Ava Crocker chipped in seven digs and two aces.

Dani Kunkle led Spotswood with nine kills and 14 digs, Raygan Wade dished out 22 assists, and Ava Helfgott collected 12 digs. Adding four kills each were Robertson and Claire Shaffer.

Spotswood head coach Jim Roth said the Wildcats were challenging because "they don't miss a lot of balls, and they hit them hard. They hit a lot of spots on the court. We had to cover a lot of the court tonight."

Beagan said the Blazers were serving tough against RC, so the Wildcats had to work to adjust to that.

Dahl said that playing Spotswood is tough because the Wildcats know a lot of the



WILDCAT SENIOR libero Nala Shearer hustles to keep the ball in play during the finals as teammates Sophie Vaught (left) and McKenzie Burch (center) watch from the floor. Shearer recorded 26 digs. (Stephanie Mikels Blevins photo)

players, competing with them in club volleyball. "It's so personal playing Spotswood," she said. "All of our friends are on this team. We know them, inside and out. We play them so many times."

She added that making the state tournament is "a full-circle moment for the senior class. It's super, super exciting. There's a lot of hope for this team."

RC 3, ER 1

On Halloween night, the Wildcats bounced back after losing the first set to earn a 3-1 home win over East Rockingham in the Region 3C quarterfinals on Tuesday of last week in Lexington.

In their fourth meeting of the year, the Wildcats prevailed with a 22-25, 25-16, 25-14, 25-9 victory. RC won all four meetings, previously capturing a 3-1 home win over East Rockingham (17-10)

in the Valley District finals five days earlier.

Beagan knows that defeating a team twice or three times is hard, but winning four times is even harder, she said. She credited her staff's coaching adjustments as the key to RC's success. "We needed to change up our defense a little bit, make adjustments to their hitters, and make sure that our block was set," said Beagan. "And I think they did a really good job executing."

The Wildcats dropped the first set of the night, with neither team leading by more than two points in a thrilling opening frame.

"I think we're having a strange start off in that first set, but we just have to have some time to settle in," said Beagan.

The Wildcats settled in indeed, taking the next three sets. RC seemed to get better as the night went on. The Wildcats opened up the final

set on a 10-1 run, a deflating blow for the Eagles.

After notching her 2,000th assist in their previous matchup with East Rock, Burch was an anchor for the Wildcats, contributing 33 of the team's 36 assists. Burch also tallied 15 digs.

Dahl and Perlozzo led Rockbridge County's offensive production, with each totaling 11 kills. Dahl was stellar defensively with six blocks and 17 digs. Perlozzo had success behind the server's line with three aces, and Shearer added 25 digs and three aces.

The Wildcats are not taking these matches lightly, but Beagan stressed the importance of keeping a normal routine for her girls. "We prepare the same way," she said. "We still have the girls watch film at home and then we break it down here. We pretty much are going through the same schedule," she said.



RC SENIOR McKenzie Burch (8) collects a dig while junior teammate Rebekah Allen (7) stays in position during the quarterfinals. (Stephanie Mikels Blevins photo)



LEAPING TO spike the ball is RC sophomore Mackenzie McCormick as teammates Sophie Vaught (9) and Nala Shearer (right) watch. (Stephanie Mikels Blevins photo)



RC SENIOR Sophia Perlozzo spikes the ball over the net. Perlozzo had 11 kills in the quarterfinals. (Stephanie Mikels Blevins photo)



PM JUNIOR running back Jackson Brockenbrough takes the ball down the field as Eastern Montgomery’s Cameron Gray (84) and another Mustang attempt to tackle him. Brockenbrough rushed for 113 yards and two touchdowns on 19 carries. (Ronnie Coffey photo)



FIGHTING BLUE sophomore quarterback Nathan Glass looks for a receiver as teammates block for him. Glass completed 4-of-10 passes for 98 yards and two TDs, and he set the single-season school record for passing TDs with his 15th this season. (Ronnie Coffey photo)

Blues Round Up Mustangs, 34-14

Glass Sets Single-Season PM Mark For TD Passes

BY CLAIRE HAMLET

The Parry McCluer High School football team finished the regular season with a 34-14 road win over Pioneer District rival Eastern Montgomery in an action-packed game on Friday night in Ellison.

Following the victory, the Fighting Blues (6-4 overall, 2-2 district) learned they would enter the Region 1C tournament this Friday as the sixth seed and will travel to Wytheville to face third-seeded George Wythe (7-3). Kickoff for the Region 1C quarterfinal matchup is set for 7 p.m.

Last Friday’s offensive spotlight belonged to the Blues. Junior running back Jackson Brockenbrough was a force to be reckoned with, amassing 113 rushing yards on 19 carries and finding the end zone twice. Brockenbrough’s ability to find openings in the opposing defense was pivotal in his scoring touchdowns and securing the win for the Blues.

Brockenbrough opened the scoring with a 10-yard TD run in the first quarter, giving Parry McCluer a 7-0 lead with Aaron Pruett’s successful extra-point kick.

PM head coach Jeremiah Brockenbrough said the team arrived on the field with a chip on their shoulder, following the Blues’ 55-0 home loss a week earlier to Bath County, which was undefeated until a 47-19 loss to Narrows in the Pioneer District championship game on Friday. “We were out to prove some people wrong,” said Coach Brockenbrough.

The Blues’ sophomore quarterback, Nathan Glass, completed 4-of-10 passes for 98 yards and two crucial TDs. His connection with wide receiver JJ Jones in the fourth quarter was particularly noteworthy, as the duo produced a 58-yard touchdown connection. Jones, who rushed for 53 yards on four carries and caught two passes for 68 yards, demonstrated versatility by making key plays on defense as well, grabbing two interceptions.

With that TD pass, Glass broke the single-season school record for passing TDs. Glass completed 15 passing TDs this season. Previously, the record was 14 by Joe Wheeler in the late 1950s.

In the second quarter, PM extended its lead over the Mustangs (3-7, 1-3) to 13-0 as Landon Catlett hauled in a 15-yard pass from Glass. The extra-point kick attempt failed, leaving the score at 13-0 going into halftime.

Led by performances from Jones and Jacob Shafer, PM’s defense played a critical role in stifling EM’s offense. Shafer’s fumble return for a TD in the third quarter showed the Blues’ ability to capitalize on turnovers.

The PM defense also demonstrated the team’s ability to contain the run game and disrupt the opposing offense’s rhythm. Tackles for loss and forced fumbles were key for the Blues’ defense. Shaiden Ratcliffe led the Blues with 14 tackles, Shafer was credited with 12 tackles, Parker Snider assisted on 11 tackles.

In the third quarter, Jackson Brockenbrough ran for a 15-yard TD, and Pruett’s PAT extended PM’s lead to 21-0.

Shafer then returned a Mustang fumble for a 3-yard TD. The extra-point kick attempt was blocked, but PM led 27-0.

The Mustangs managed to break PM’s defensive stronghold when Xavier Brown scored on a 1-yard rushing TD later in the third quarter. EM’s two-point conversion attempt failed, leaving the score at 27-6.

In the fourth quarter, Glass connected with Jones for a 58-yard TD, and Pruett’s PAT extended PM’s lead to 34-6.

Pruett’s contributions were vital, as he converted 3-of-4 PATs, and he also showcased his versatility by rushing for 57 yards on seven carries.

EM managed to add one more TD when Brown caught a 9-yard pass from Chase Bierman. A two-point conversion run by Cameron Gray cut PM’s lead to 34-14, concluding the scoring for the night.

Looking ahead to the matchup on Friday with George Wythe, Brockenbrough said the Blues hope to control the clock and focus on putting points on the scoreboard. “We’re prepared to keep doing what we’ve been doing,” he said.



PM SENIOR running back JJ Jones leaps to beat EM’s Cade Bell to the ball as PM senior tight end Landon Catlett watches. Jones caught a 58-yard TD pass and made two interceptions. (Ronnie Coffey photo)

PM	7	6	14	7	34
EM	0	0	6	8	14
First Quarter					
PM – Jackson Brockenbrough 10 run (Pruett kick)					
Second Quarter					
PM – Catlett 15 pass from Glass (pass failed)					
Third Quarter					
PM – Jackson Brockenbrough 15 run (Pruett run)					
PM – Shafer 3 fumble return (kick blocked)					
EM – Brown 1 run (run failed)					
Fourth Quarter					
PM – Jones 58 pass from Glass (Pruett kick)					
EM – Brown 9 pass from Bierman (Gray run)					
		PM	EM		
First downs		17	13		
Rushes-yards		33-221	47-203		
Passing yards		98	29		
Comp-Att-Int		4-10-0	4-9-2		
Fumbles-lost		2-2	3-2		
Penalties-yards		5-45	10-95		
Time of possession		16:31	31:29		
INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS (not available for EM)					
RUSHING – PM, Jackson Brockenbrough 19-113, Pruett 7-57, Jones 4-53, Team 3-(-2).					
PASSING – PM, Glass 4-10-0 98.					
RECEIVING – PM, Jones 2-68, Catlett 1-15, Pruett 1-15.					

PREDICTION

Parry McCluer (6-4) at George Wythe (7-3)

WHEN: 7 p.m. on Thursday
WHERE: George Wythe High School in Wytheville
MATCHUP: No. 6 Parry McCluer at No. 3 George Wythe in the Region 1C quarterfinals

SCOUTING THE MAROONS: In a rematch of last year’s Region 1C quarterfinals, George Wythe hopes to have a similar result. As the second seed last year, the Maroons beat the seventh-seeded Fighting Blues 41-22 in Wytheville. GW was one of three teams to lead the Mountain Empire District this year, going 4-1, as did Galax and Grayson County. Against the Blues last year, the Maroons used their running game to jump out to a 15-0 lead after the first quarter and extended their lead to 29-6 by halftime. GW graduated several of its strong runners, but the Maroons still have senior quarterback Tandom Smith, who rushed for 69 yards and passed for 80 yards and a TD against PM last year. The Blues will also want to focus their defense on running back Laden Houston, who scored two TDs in that game.

SCOUTING THE BLUES: The Blues are coming off a comfortable 34-14 win over Eastern Montgomery, but they’ll have their hands full against GW. In order to pull

off the upset, they’ll need their running game to work successfully, and another strong passing game from quarterback Nathan Glass would help. PM’s offensive line will need to make room for Jackson Brockenbrough and JJ Jones to run the ball, and the Blues will want a big game from their defense.

THE NEWS-GAZETTE’S PICK: The Blues have looked strong at times this season, but they’ve struggled when they’ve faced adversity. We see them giving the Maroons a challenge, but GW’s offense will be tough to contain. We see the Maroons dealing the Blues a 35-21 loss.

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RC JUNIOR running back Gabriel Wade scores a touchdown on a 2-yard run as William Monroe's Ryan Mannion pulls him down in the end zone. It was the lone TD of the night for the Wildcats. Wade rushed for 127 yards on 23 carries. (Stephanie Mikels Blevins photo)



WILDCAT JUNIOR wide receiver JP Welsh makes a catch as teammate Simon Emore (2) runs down the field. (Stephanie Mikels Blevins photo)

WM Rolls Over RC

Wildcats Conclude Winless Season

By STEFANIE CHIGULURI

The Rockbridge County high School football concluded its season winless, suffering a 42-6 road loss to Valley District foe William Monroe on Friday night in Stanardsville.

Although the Wildcats (0-10 overall, 0-6 district) have become accustomed to lopsided losses, second-year RC head coach Martin Cox has not let the scores overshadow the positives he's seen from his team.

"Despite the final score, there were bright spots in that final game," he said.

Cox said junior running back Gabriel Wade finished on a good note. He rushed for 127 yards on 23 carries. Cox also credited freshmen Elijah Sorrells and Patrick Looney for stepping up and making an impact in their first varsity game.

Wade was the lone scorer for RC. After the Dragons (5-5, 3-3) led 14-0 after the first

quarter. Wade shoved his way down the field for a big gain, bringing the 'Cats to the WM 26-yard line with 6:49 left in the first half.

Wade took a few more hand-offs, eventually setting RC up for first-and-goal. He found his way into the end zone from the 2-yard-line for the TD with 3:29 to go in the half to cut WM's lead to 14-6. The 'Cats went for two, but were unable to convert a pass play.

This was the final game for RC's nine seniors: Simon Emore, Caden Culp, Stephen Wells, Josiah Saunders, Caiden Cavazos, Ryan Maxwell, Benjamin Pitsenbarger, John Lindberg and Daniel Grimm.

Only three of the nine seniors had played significant minutes before this season. Cox said he was disappointed for them and wished they could have had a better season, but was grateful for their time on the field.

"It's tough," said Cox. "It wasn't an easy season, but they stuck in there. I have nothing but good things to say about those seniors, just proud of them."

The Dragons shut down the RC run game while producing an impressive rushing offense of their own.

D'markus Pritchett took the ball for a short carry into the end zone for the Dragons first TD with 5:48 left in the first quarter. Quarterback Davien Griffieth produced the next TD, juking through a gap in the 'Cats defense to break down the field and into the end zone.

Following the Wildcats' lone score in the second quarater, Griffieth returned the kick-off to the RC 38-yard line. Preston Hollingsworth took it from there, carrying the ball down the right sideline into the end zone. With 3:11 in the half, Dragons led 21-6.

The Dragons continued to find openings in the 'Cats de-



WILLIAM MONROE'S Raekwon Brock runs with the ball as Wildcats Aiden Meyers(36), Brady Edwards (76) and Caiden Cavazos (right) approach to try to stop him. (Stephanie Mikels Blevins photo)

fense to gain yardage. To start the second half, ground gainers by Jackson Wood moved the ball steadily downfield. The drive culminated with a Wood rushing TD to put the Dragons up, 28-6.

Wood found pay dirt again on the Dragons' next possession. He swept around the left sideline 40 yards to put up another six, leaving RC trailing 35-6 with 7:06 to go in the third quarter.

The 'Cats had a nice opportunity at the end of the quarter, making it all the way to the Dragons' 15-yard line, but they were unable to convert a fourth-and-10 play.

The Dragons took over from there. Griffieth set WM up well with a big carry that advanced the ball to the home team's 41-yard-line at the end of the third quarter. And it was Griffieth again who

darted down the left sideline for the final TD of the night.

Reflecting on the disappointing season, Cox said he hopes another year of mental and physical maturity from his younger players will be beneficial in 2024. "We'll have to take a little more time and start evaluating this season a little more intricately, seeing what works and what didn't, and get ready for next year," he said.

RC's Spangler, Ludtke Advance To State XC Meet

By JONATHAN SCHWAB

Rockbridge County High School freshman Preston Spangler and senior Deena Ludtke advanced to the Class 3 state cross country meet, with Spangler placing fifth in the boys' race and Ludtke finishing 10th in the girls' race at the Region 3C meet last Wednesday at the Pleasant Grove course in Palmyra.

The RC girls ended the team portion of their season, despite having several runners finish in personal-record times, placing sixth of nine teams.

RC head coach Julie Tisone said that Region 3C is "a tough region which will closely reflect how states turn out."

Proud of Spangler and Ludtke, Tisone said, "Deena and Preston ran great races."

The top three teams and the top five individuals outside of those teams advanced to the state meet.

In the boys' race, Spangler, the lone regional qualifier for the RC boys, completed the hilly 5-kilometer course in 16 minutes, 50 seconds. He was the top freshman finisher and earned all-region honors by placing in the top 15.

Monticello's Basil Mathes won the race in 15:51, while Broadway's Tristan Yoder placed second of 85 runners in 16:27.1.

Alleghany's Kiera Lowman won the girls' race in 18:31.5, while Monticello's Ryan Davidson placed second of 72 harriers in 18:47.2. Ludtke finished in 19:28.4, about 1:22 faster than her time on the course last year.

The RC girls' second finisher was senior Nicole Black, who completed her high school cross country career by placing 25th in 21:28.3, about five seconds faster than her time last year. RC junior Brooke Eichelberger finished 29th in 21:59.6, more than a minute faster than her time last year, and sophomore Dorothy Lewis came in 30th in 21:59.9, about 15 seconds faster than her time last year.

Wildcats following Lewis were freshman Anna Nye (34th, 22:47.5) and sophomores Kate Holston (44th, 23:37.4) and Cassandra Silver (65th, 26:42).

Spotswood won the girls' race with 44 points, Western Albemarle placed second with 64 points, and Alleghany (88) finished third. Rounding out

the top seven were host Fluvanna County (110), Wilson Memorial (113), RC (118) and Turner Ashby (183).

"The girls team ran well," said Tisone, with some of the Wildcats running their best race of the season, but other teams were faster.

Tisone said it was "a fun race" for the girls who finished their season. "We are all super happy with our season."

Monticello (47) won the boys' race, Waynesboro (67) placed second of 11 teams, and Broadway (100) finished third. Completing the top five were Fluvanna County (101) and Western Albemarle (103).

The Class 3 state meet will take place on Saturday at Green Hill Park in Salem, with the girls' race at 10:30 a.m. and the boys' race at 11:15 a.m. At last year's state meet, Ludtke placed 28th to lead the RC girls to a sixth-place finish.

Looking ahead to the state meet, Tisone said she hopes for a top 10 finish for Ludtke and a top 20 finish for Spangler, whom she's hoping will be the top freshman in the boys' race.



RC SENIOR Nicole Black approaches the finish line. Black was the Wildcats' second runner in the girls' race, placing 25th in 21:28.3. (Christy Black photo)



WILDCAT FRESHMAN Preston Spangler sprints to the finish line. Spangler placed fifth in the boys' race in 16:50, advancing to the Class 3 state meet. (Christy Black photo)

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THE PM boys celebrate with their trophy and medals after winning the Region 1C cross country meet.

PM Boys Reign Over Region

Chandler Brothers Go 1-2, Lee Advances For Girls

By JEFFREY TOMLIN

Led by individual winner Kovyk Chandler, the Parry McCluer High School boys cross country team won the Region 1C title on Monday of last week at Blacksburg High School, while PM sophomore girl Kyra Lee also advanced to the Class 1 state meet.

With four finishers in the top 10, the PM boys scored 45 points, while Eastern Montgomery placed second of six teams with 54 points, and Auburn (67) finished third. The Blues had beaten EM by one point for the Pioneer District title five days earlier at Glen Maury Park in Buena Vista.

The top three teams and the top five individuals outside of those teams advance to the state meet.

Chandler, a senior, completed the hilly 5-kilometer course in 16 minutes, 39.3 seconds to repeat as the regional champion. His younger brother, Kebryl, a freshman who won the Pioneer District title, placed second of 51 runners in 16:52.2. Eastern Montgomery's Spencer Sisson finished third in 17:14.4.

"To see Kovyk running that 16:40 pace and Kebryl running under 17 minutes, I was very impressed," said PM head coach Chris Poluikis.

PM's third finisher was sophomore Logan Wheelock, who placed seventh in 18:14.7, and sophomore teammate Josh Cooper (10th, 18:33.7) also earned all-region honors by placing in the top 15. Blues following Cooper were freshman Sam Carpenter (26th, 20:31) and sophomore Caden Mason (48th, 25:55).

Looking ahead to the state meet, with the PM boys taking a full team for the first time since they won the state title in the spring 2021 season, delayed from the previous fall due to COVID-19, Poluikis said, "We will have to run better than we did at districts and regions to win state as a team. I think we can. We are headed in the right direction, and we've had a good week of training."

In the girls' race, George Wythe's Emma Faulkner won in 20:25.8, leading her team to a win with 42 points. Auburn (49) placed second of five teams, and

Eastern Montgomery (66) finished third.

The Blues had just two runners, not the minimum number (five) required for a team score.

Lee led PM, placing seventh of 44 runners in 22:08.6 to earn a trip to the state meet for the second year in a row. Senior teammate Jasmine De Souza completed her high school cross country career by finishing 11th in 23:02. Impressed by Lee, Poluikis said, "This was one of her best races. To run 22 minutes on a tough course was great from her."

"This was a hilly course, and that isn't our strong suit," added Poluikis. "I think we have more of a speed-based team, and we do better on flat, faster courses like the one for the state meet."

The Class 1 state meet will take place on Saturday at Green Hill Park at Salem, with the girls' race at 1 p.m. and the boys' race following at 1:45 p.m. Last year, when the PM boys had three runners competing, Kovyk Chandler placed second at the state meet, and Lee finished 23rd in the girls' race.



THE SVU women's soccer team celebrates with its trophy after winning its first-ever USA South Conference Championship title, earning a 3-1 home win over Brevard College on Saturday at The Fields in Buena Vista. The Knights will prepare for the NCAA Division III tournament. (SVU photo)

COLLEGE ROUNDUP

SVU Women Win Title

In a historic victory, the Southern Virginia University women's soccer team secured its first-ever USA South Conference Championship title with a resounding 3-1 home over Brevard College at Saturday at The Fields in Buena Vista. The Knights (13-5-1 overall, 9-0-0 USA South) showcased their talent and determination throughout the match to achieve this significant milestone.

The game opened with a fierce battle, but it was Ellie Owen who broke the deadlock for SVU, scoring in the 45th minute. Owen was brilliantly assisted by Makinna Winterton, setting the tone for an impressive performance by the Knights.

Brevard (13-5-3, 5-2-2) responded with a goal of their own in the 60th minute, courtesy of Taylor Richardson, who was skillfully assisted by Tae Brown.

In the 71st minute, Winterton showcased her playmaking abilities to score a goal to put the Knights back on top. Claire Stephens provided an assist.

Maybel Harris added an exclamation point to the victory with a goal in the 74th minute, further securing SVU's dominance and completing the 3-1 scoreline.

SVU reached the finals by earning two shutout wins at home, defeating Salem College 3-0 in the first round on Tuesday of last week and beating Greensboro College 4-0 in the semifinals on Thursday.

The Knights will now turn their attention to the upcoming NCAA tournament, where they aim to continue their remarkable season and make a mark on the national stage. For updates, visit knightathletics.com.

VMI Overcomes ETSU, 31-24

Outscoring its opponent 17-0 in the fourth quarter and 24-14 in the second half, Virginia Military Institute pulled out a gritty gridiron road win Saturday over East Tennessee State University, 31-24.

The Keydets improved to 4-5 on the season, with an even 3-3 record in the Southern Confer-

ence, while ETSU drops to 2-7 overall and 1-5 in the SoCon.

The victory – which is the fourth all-time for VMI in Johnson City, Tenn. – gives VMI a four-win season for just the fourth time in the last 15 years.

VMI running back Hunter Rice rushed for 47 yards and three touchdowns on 15 carries, and Rashad Raymond led the Keydets with 67 rushing yards on 12 totes. VMI redshirt freshman quarterback

Collin Shannon completed 20-of-37 passes with one interception for 201 yards and one TD. The TD pass was a 12-yard toss to Ivan Thorpe in the fourth quarter.

"We fought really hard. I'm really proud of our perseverance and our leadership," said VMI head coach Danny Rocco. "It would have been easy to get down and feel sorry for ourselves but we opted not to do that. ... I thought it would be a competitive game and I'm proud of the way we fought and finished."

The Keydets will continue SoCon action at Furman (8-1, 6-0) on Saturday at 1 p.m. For VMI's schedule and updates, visit www.vmikeydets.com.

Eagles Soar Past Blues

PM Netters Made Big Strides In 2023 Season

By JEREMY S. FRANKLIN

The Parry McCluer High School volleyball team's season came to a close with a 3-0 loss to Class 1 heavyweight Auburn in the Region 1C quarterfinals in Riner on Monday of last week.

The Eagles, seeded second out of the Mountain Empire District, cruised to a 25-6, 25-9, 25-14 victory. Auburn (24-2), which has won each of the past four Class 1 state titles, is slated to face district rival Giles for the regional championship tonight.

Sydney Mahaffey recorded two kills, one block and three digs for the Fighting Blues (9-10), who were seeded third out of the Pioneer District. Logan Vest tallied five digs for PM, and Natalie Mohler finished with two assists and three digs.

Overall, the Blues struggled to match the level of play of such an established power.

"We knew going into Monday night's game that Auburn was going to be tough. They have a great program," PM head coach Jessie Moala said. "I think nerves got the best of our girls that night."

The loss ended a season of growth and progress for the

Blues. PM started off 1-7 overall, but all six of the Blues' non-district losses came against Class 3 schools – including two against a Rockbridge County team that won the Region 3C title on Saturday and is headed on to the Class 3 quarterfinals.

PM bounced back to win its final seven Pioneer regular-season matches, compiling an 8-2 district mark and landing in second place. The Blues fell to third-seeded Eastern Montgomery in the Pioneer semifinals before sweeping fourth-seeded Narrows in the consolation game.

"Our team really found their groove in district play," Moala said. "I think they became more confident in their abilities and in each other. A lot of things started to click."

Mahaffey put together an impressive senior campaign, totaling 160 kills, 160 digs and 40 aces en route to first team All-Pioneer honors. Joining her on the all-district first team was sophomore Kadence Zollman, who had a breakout debut season at the varsity level with 137 kills, 137 digs, 66 blocks and 43 aces.

Senior Tatyana Turner (153 digs, 53 aces) and Mohler (281

assists, 141 digs, 30 aces), a junior, were named to the all-district second team, and senior Savannah Lewis (35 aces) received honorable mention laurels.

In addition to the turnaround in PM's overall record, Moala believes that her team's numbers show how far the Blues progressed over the course of the season.

"The amount of growth each individual player showed was remarkable," the second-year head coach said. "When you compare our stats from last year to the stats from this season, the growth is astronomical."

Despite graduating Lewis, Mahaffey, Turner and Alexys Tobias, the Blues are optimistic that this trend will continue in 2024.

"We are still in the building phases, but my goal is to keep improving," Moala said. "Our girls are going to put in the effort in the offseason, and I'm confident this program will be even more successful as we continue to grow."

Ten Netters Named All-District

Ten local high school volleyball players – five from Rockbridge County and five from Parry McCluer – received all-district honors last week.

From RC, which went 12-0 in the district and won the regular-season title for the seventh consecutive season before winning the tournament, the five players named, all seniors, were hitters Maddie Dahl, Sophia Perlozzo and Sophie Vaught; setter McKenzie Burch and libero Nala Shearer. The Wildcats are coached by Kassidy Beagan.

From PM, which went 8-2 to finish second in the Pioneer District, senior outside hitter Sydney Mahaffey and sophomore middle hitter Kadence Zollman were named to the all-district first team. Fighting Blues selected to the all-district second team were senior hitter Tatyana Turner and junior setter Natalie Mohler, while senior right-side hitter Savannah Lewis received all-district honorable mention honors. The Blues are coached by Jessie Moala.

KERRS CREEK
Rachel Clark, (630) 607-9938 RevRachelClark@gmail.com

What a great weekend of renewal and fellowship at New Monmouth Presbyterian Church! The weekend's activities began with a chili and cornbread dinner (with pies for dessert) at the church pavilion on a beautiful Friday evening. We wrapped up the night with a campfire and singing.

Saturday commenced with a session led by Casey and Rachel Clark on the theme of renewal and being attentive to the work and leading of the Holy Spirit. On Saturday afternoon others from our Rockbridge community, as well as some folks from Roanoke and Northern Virginia, joined the folks at New Monmouth to hear from our special guest speaker, Karen Swallow Prior. She discussed themes from her new book, "The Evangelical Imagination," and challenged us to reflect on the stories and metaphors that are a part of our "social imaginary." The presentation was followed by a time of fellowship with milk and cookies in Duff Hall.

Sunday was Music Sunday and included the celebration of the Lord's Supper. We enjoyed special music from the adult choir, the children's choir, Teresa Thompson, Laura Hotinger, Dianne Swink, Fred and Alanna Conner, Tim Hodges, Brian Kave, and Calvin Clark. We had a lovely potluck lunch following the service.

Mark your calendar with some upcoming activities: Sunday, Nov. 12, is Stewardship Sunday when we will all be asked to prayerfully consider how God is calling each of us to contribute our time and talents to God's work through the church. Deb Jarrett is holding a Witness Service Committee meeting after the service. God's Circle of Fruit youth group will meet Sunday, Nov. 12, following the worship service. We will share a lunch immediately following worship service and then go visiting with some of our members. A big thank you to Jennie Gaines for providing potted begonias that we can deliver and share with these folks. All middle and high school students are welcome to attend. For more information, call Janeen at (540) 460-8147.

Sunday, Nov. 19, we will have a special Thanksgiving service at 5 pm. Our annual Advent wreath making will take place on Saturday, Dec. 2, at 2 p.m. The Clarks will host their open house on Sunday, Dec. 3, from 2 to 4 p.m. The choir will present their cantata on Sunday, Dec. 17.





ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY Sheriff's Deputy Sean Capps was seen with his explosives detecting dog, Gunner, on Main Street last Wednesday evening as part of the search effort following the threat to campus received by W&L. (Randall Wolf photo)

Threat

continued from page 1
William Wyatt, director of communications. “VMI was never locked down. We notified via email our cadets, faculty, and staff of the police activity at 4:26 p.m.,” he told The News-Gazette. “We updated them again at 4:39 p.m. after law enforcement advised there was ‘no active violence’ at W&L.”

In a letter released on Thursday, W&L’s president, William Dudley, said the threat was not specific or targeted.

“The directive to shelter in place was the result of an anonymous communication alleging a general threat to campus. The communication did not target a specific individual or location,” he wrote.

The letter continues: “At this time, we have no reason to think that the communication came from a member of the campus community or that it was related to a separate incident reported at Davidson Park involving fireworks, which were initially reported as possible gunfire.”

While Dudley did not specify the nature of the threat, at a Lexington City Council meeting Thursday night, City Manager Jim Halasz described the incident as a bomb threat.

“We all know that yesterday, we did have a bomb threat at the W&L campus. Numerous law enforcement agencies and units responded, the university had a shelter-in-place order, and after several hours of searching for bombs on campus, there were none found, luckily,” he told Council.

“Unfortunately, earlier in the afternoon there was also a report of shots fired on East Washington Street in the area of the fraternities in that area. And again, at that point in time, our regional law enforcement units, working as a team, came out to investigate based on protocols that are in place today. They were ready for action, if you will. Luckily, we found, again, there was no threat. It was probably some of our fraternity men using firecrackers, and other than the noise, no harm was done.

“But I think both of these incidents indicate the true demonstration of professionalism, cooperation and collaboration that exists between all of our local law enforcement agencies and that we’re well served by these resources as a community,” Halasz said.

Not all members of the W&L community, however, felt well served by the university’s response, as students at the university’s law school found themselves sheltering in place in classrooms that didn’t lock.

“We all got an alert, and then administrators came and started moving us into classrooms; I was in the library in an open area. We were in there for about two hours, and they swept the rooms. There were state police coming through with their ARs, and they said, ‘You guys should really lock the doors,’ and we couldn’t lock them,” said Anika Maan, a law student.



A LAW ENFORCEMENT officer checks on a W&L law school classroom during last Wednesday search of school buildings. (Winni Zhang photo)

“That’s a huge problem in lockdowns. Students had to put belts around the doors, but you could still open them. These are the classrooms, and the mock trial room, these are the rooms that students sit and learn in,” she said. “At what point do you make the decision, yes I know it’s expensive, but it’s a safety issue, especially in this day and age.”

The concern about doors on some law school classrooms not having locks on them was also raised in a letter to the editor this week. The student newspaper Ring-tum Phi also reported concerns from undergraduate students about rooms that could not be locked.

A spokeswoman for the university could not be reached for a response about those concerns.

Since its investigation into the incident is ongoing, the Lexington Police Department referred all questions about the incident to the W&L communications office.

In his Thursday letter, Dudley wrote, “As law enforcement is continuing its investigation, the university will not be sharing additional details about this matter.”

He continued, “I can assure you that we take all safety concerns very seriously. We work closely with our local, regional, and state law enforcement partners to monitor and investigate potential threats and communicate relevant information to our community, and we are grateful for their swift response.”



PHOTOS such as this of a belt used to try to keep doors from being opened were circulated last week by law school students upset that some classroom doors could not be locked. (Winni Zhang photo)

Survey

continued from page 1
in this BEAD initiative, we need your help,” declared Suter, noting that the survey and testing process is underway and will be completed by Friday, Nov. 24.

“Through our previous research and grant applications, we have a strong understanding of the areas that lack fiber internet service. However, as we move forward, we must substantiate this knowledge with documented speed testing,” said Suter. “We face a limited time frame to accomplish this task.”

He continued: “We need to have as many folks respond as possible. The goal is to correct any erroneous information the state currently has regarding actual broadband connectivity – address by address.”

When the speed testing process was rolled out last week, there was a glitch in the system that may require early test participants to rerun the test. “Unfortunately, a component of the state’s system was malfunctioning over the weekend and most folks who ran a speed test received a result of ‘unknown,’” said Suter. “If this happened to you, please run the test again.”

In order for a result to be considered valid, the test must be run on three separate days from the same address between now and the Nov. 24 deadline, the county administrator emphasized.

“Given the short window, we had to get the word out as quickly as possible last week,” said Suter, explaining the reason for starting the process last week. And, he added, “We were and are keenly aware of the irony in

asking someone who has no internet connection, to complete an online form/survey. We were scratching our heads a bit on that as well. However, this is the process we must follow, and in such cases, there are two options.”

One option is to simply call Brandy Flint, executive director of the county’s office of economic development, at (540) 463-1473. Flint will enter your address, ask you a few questions and complete the survey for you. If, because she is busy fielding calls, you get a recording when you call, please leave your name, address and phone number, and she will get back to you, said Suter.

Friends or family with internet access can also do the same thing for people without internet access. Just have them go to www.connectingvirginia.com and complete the following steps: Click on “test your internet.” Enter the address that does not have an internet connection. Click the box that says, “I do not have internet service at this location” This will be followed by a brief survey – complete the questions and your response will be logged.

For those residents who have an internet connection but have slow or unreliable service, visit www.connectingvirginia.com and do the following: Click on “See Map” to find your address. In the search box, enter your address and press enter. The map should zoom to your address.

It should display as a point in one of four colors. Red is considered unserved (either no internet available or download/upload speeds of less than 25/3 Mb per

second). Blue is considered underserved (download/upload speeds between 25/3 and 100/20 Mb per second). Gray is served (download/upload speeds of 100/20 Mb per second or greater). Green is “planned to be served” (download / upload speeds of 100/20 Mb per second or greater) – with state/federal funding awarded to bring the service to your home in the future. Thus, for these purposes, they consider the address as “served” even though it may not be connected yet.

If you disagree with the state’s assessment of your home or business, follow the instructions to run a speed test. This may take several minutes, since the tool is using three separate speed testing services, to then average the results. Note that all the tests need to be run from the same location (from the same residence or business). While the survey notes that a wired connection is preferred, most homes and businesses utilize a wireless router, so most folks will need to choose the “wi-fi” connection option.

“I cannot stress enough how important it is to take these surveys and run these speed tests,” said Suter. “We need to ensure that state and federal funding is directed to where it is most needed. If you don’t have connection to the internet, they need to know what the barriers are, and whether it is due to lack of availability, cost to connect, or cost of monthly service. If you don’t have internet or it is slow, we need to let the state know by taking the survey/speed test. Please take time to help us help you.”

Lexington Adopts New Financial, Debt Policies

By JOSEPH HANEY

Lexington City Council last Thursday unanimously approved several amendments to the city’s financial and debt policies, including some recommended by Davenport & Company, a financial advisory group based in Richmond that is helping the city plan for financing future capital projects.

In the financial policy, the city is amending the minimum unassigned fund balance from 20 percent of general fund revenues to 40 percent at Davenport’s recommendation. Davenport also recommended amending the debt policy to set the tax-supported 10-year payout ratio at “no less than 50 percent.” A debt payout ratio is the rate at which the city retires its debt, with the policy meaning that the city will, to the best of its abilities, retire at least 50 percent of any debt

within 10 years of acquiring it.

“I think these are conservative policies for a reason,” Lexington City Manager Jim Halasz said in his report on the amendments. “We are in very strong financial condition right now. We do have a lot of potential projects that we will be participating in and there will be some significant debt issued in the near future ... [and] we want to plan for good financial management up to a fairly long horizon, if you will, maybe 10 to 15 years.

“I think they accomplish much of what you would like to see accomplished – and what our community would like to see accomplished – if we manage our financial resources today and in the future,” he added.

In response to a question from Council member David Sigler regarding the city’s ability to reassign some of

the unassigned funds if it would become beneficial to the city to do so, Halasz noted that the policy could be amended again in the future to reflect policies best suited to the city’s financial needs at that time.

Another amendment to the financial policy was in regard to the city schools’ ability to carry forward the contingency balance in the school operating fund with City Council’s approval. The policy had previously stated that the balance had to be \$75,000 or more before the schools could request to carry the funds over. The amendment removes the minimum requirement of \$75,000 and allows the schools to carry forward any balance it has in the fund, provided it is approved by Council.

Council member Leslie Straughan moved to approve the amendments, with Sigler providing the second.

All Open-air Burning Banned In Rockbridge

In light of the persistent dry conditions, Rockbridge County has initiated a ban on all open-air burning, effective this past Monday, Nov. 6.

According to a statement issued by Nathan Ramsey, county fire-rescue chief, this decision follows consultation with the departments of forestry at both the state and federal levels, and aims to ensure the safety of citizens and their properties, as well as to safeguard the well-being of the firefighters who combat uncontrolled fires.

Despite limited rainfall across certain parts of the county, the dry forests and

grasslands remain vulnerable to the rapid ignition and spread of wildfires, he said.

This open-air burn ban pertains to the ignition or maintaining an outdoor fire within the county. Examples include the burning of brush, grass, leaves, trash, debris or any other flammable material.

County officials will closely monitor weather conditions and will consider lifting the burn ban as soon as conditions improve.

For more information on fire safety, visit the Virginia Department of Forestry website at <http://www.dof.virginia.gov/fire/index.htm>.

Last month, the Rockbridge County Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution declaring a drought emergency and requesting assistance from state and federal agencies.

Dry conditions, meanwhile, can be found throughout much of the state. Gov. Glenn Youngkin declared a state of emergency Tuesday to assist firefighter response efforts on two wildfires. The fires — the Quaker Run Fire in Madison County and the Tuggles Gap fire in Patrick County — broke containment lines over the weekend.



Boosiness Downtown

Rain had been in the forecast for Halloween, but there wasn't a sprinkle in sight during the annual downtown trick-or-treating events in Buena Vista and Lexington. Children accompanied

by their families and friends not only collected candy in Lexington, but also acted as audiences to dances from performers at the Halestone Dance Studio, including the witches in the photo at top left. In Buena Vista there was face painting and games for the children to play. (Joann Ware and Stephanie Blevins Mikels photos)



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Rockbridge Symphony Starting New Season

Sensory-Friendly Concert In Lexington Nov. 18

The Rockbridge Symphony kicks off its 2023-24 season with a concert on Saturday, Nov. 18, at 5 p.m. at Lexington Presbyterian Church.

The concert will feature a wide selection of crowd favorites, including Brahms “Hungarian Dance numbers 5 and 6,” Grieg’s “Wedding Day at Troldhaugen,” and Mussorgsky’s “Great Gate of Kiev.”

Concertmaster and local Suzuki violin teacher Nonie Reesor will be featured as the guest soloist in Ravel’s “Tzigane,” a rhapsodic piece that premiered in London in 1924.

Encouraged by the success of last fall’s opening concert, this concert will again be “sensory-friendly” and performed in partnership with Rockbridge Area Community Services Board. The purpose of this partnership is to provide a safe and comfortable space for all audience members, including those with special sensory processing needs.

“Traditional symphony concerts can be challenging experiences for people who become uncomfortable or overwhelmed with loud sounds, bright lights, crowds, or having to sit quietly for a long period of time,” said Jack Bissett, president of the Rockbridge Symphony Steering Committee and percussionist.

He further explained, “A sensory-friendly atmosphere sends the message to all interested

concertgoers that they are welcome. We had heard some concern about it being disruptive for other audience members and musicians, but it really wasn’t at all. We heard great feedback from many people.”

Dr. Yi-Ping Chen, Rockbridge Symphony music director, added, “We are thrilled to have the companionship of Rockbridge Area Community Services to bring back the sensory-friendly concert this November. Besides providing a safe space for our audience to enjoy music in their own way, we are presenting pairings of two different composers’ perspectives on the same subject. We will also feature our beloved concertmaster, Nonie Reesor, as she shines with free-spirited flair in Ravel’s Tzigane.”

The ticket prices for the Nov. 18 concert are \$5 for students and \$10 for all others. Tickets can be purchased at the door with cash, through www.rockbridgesymphony.org, or at these downtown merchants: University Florist, Cheese to You, Artists in Cahoots, or Sugar Maple Trading Company. Doors will open at 4:30 p.m.

The Rockbridge Symphony plans two more concerts. A “Pops and Dance” concert will feature popular dance music songs and will encourage audience dancing on Feb. 24 at Washington and Lee University’s Wilson Hall. On May 4 at Lexington Presbyterian Church, the final concert will feature Tchaikovsky’s “Symphony No. 4.”



YI-PING CHEN

For Director, It’s All About Connecting

A major need of teenagers is to find a group where they fit in, and this need is perhaps more challenging to fulfill for a teen who has moved from half-way around the world.

As an immigrant moving from Taiwan to Canada at age 14, Yi-Ping Chen found “her people” in choir. The choir that Chen joined in Toronto provided a connection to her peers and reinforced the joy of making music together, which is the expressed theme of the Rockbridge Symphony: “Music Is Better Together!”

Chen discovered a love for group music at age 6 when she was enrolled in group piano lessons.

“The teacher made learning music so much fun with lots of different games,” but when she later switched to a different teacher, she lost motivation.

“In Asia, music was seen as something to show off and perform,” which was emphasized in her private lessons, but upon moving to her new Canadian city, “I remember why I loved music – to connect with others.”

According to Chen, the Rockbridge Symphony embodies this connectedness.

“My favorite orchestra culture is a community or youth symphony,” she said. “They all want to be there, no one is forcing them.”

She continued, “Sometimes a professional musician can start to feel that performing is simply their job and they cease to actively choose to be there. But community and youth orchestras have a culture of learning from others and little competition. Community orchestra musicians have a life outside of music – performing is a hat they wear but it is not their only hat, and not their only identity. You’re not just there to make music but also to make friends and have fun. The Rockbridge Symphony has this culture.”

A notable addition to the Rockbridge Symphony’s programming is the addition of sensory-friendly concerts. Chen has always been curious about music’s effect on mental health and at one time considered pursuing a career in music therapy. Chen was inspired by stories of musicians such as composer Robert Schumann.

“You can feel the effect of his bipolarity in his music and people accept his individuality there, but in his personal life, he struggled with acceptance,” she said. “Music can be a

great connector for people with mental health challenges.”

The first sensory-friendly concert was last fall – a collaboration with Rockbridge Area Community Services. Don Sherman of RACS suggested the idea of a concert that RACS clients could enjoy, and the idea took off.

Explaining the elements of a sensory-friendly concert, Chen explained, “Everyone is welcome to react to the music however they want – singing out loud, clapping, leaving the room if it becomes too overwhelming; it is a safe space for everyone, and it’s not just limited to people who can sit quietly with their hands folded in their laps.”

She added, “Some of the musicians were a bit nervous about it being mayhem, but it really wasn’t, and they want to do it again.”

Inclusion and collaboration drive Chen’s volunteer life and other professional roles as well. As a professor at James Madison University, she asked her fully enrolled conducting class how they felt they should shape the class to accommodate the large numbers and meet their educational needs.

“The students felt much more engaged in being asked to express their thoughts and problem-solve,” she said.

In her volunteer time, Chen is a founder of Caravanserai Music, a Staunton-based classical music chamber ensemble that provides access to classical music for the whole family through interactive concerts.

“We performed our first concert and then the pandemic hit,” she said.

Undeterred, the group pivoted and instead began making music education videos for parents and educators, which are available on their website.

“We work with middle and high school students and approach symphonic music from multiple angles,” she said. “For example, we encourage them to experiment with electronically incorporating parts of symphonic music into hip hop music.”

The spirit of meeting the audience’s interests shapes the Rockbridge Symphony concerts. “We think of the audience and want to build a program that is attractive to them instead of pushing music that they ‘should like.’ We want our concerts to be a dialogue and not a one-sided lecture,” she said.



Fall Festival At Glasgow Baptist

On the Saturday before Halloween, area youngsters headed over to the parking lot at Glasgow Baptist Church for a fall festival that included crafts, games, prizes, baked goods and candy. After the event, everyone was invited over to the Locher Pavilion for trunk-or-treating activities. (Carolyn Bradley photos)



Breaking News!

Our community dinners program has a new name!

Formerly Portable Area Community Table (PACT), we are now Rockbridge Connect and Nourish

Rockbridge CAN

Wednesdays 6:00 – 7:00 pm

November 8

Buena Vista Fire Dept.
2010 Sycamore St, Buena Vista

Catered by CHEFs Catering

November 22

Spottswood-Raphine Ruritan
797 Spottswood Rd, Steeles Tavern

Catered by Sweet Treats Bakery

November 15

Palmer Community Center
1230 Blue Grass Trail, Lexington

Catered by GloBowl Cafe

December 6

Rockbridge Baths Fire Dept.
5024 Maury River Rd, Rockbridge Baths

Catered by CHEFs Catering

Connect with your community and nourish your wellbeing

For a FREE ride to and from dinner, call Rockbridge Area Transportation System at 540-463-3346

Rockbridge CAN is brought to the community through grant funding and a partnership between RATS and Carilion



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wednesday, Nov. 8
4 p.m. - Talk and book signing, Wickliffe Walker, author of "Torrents As Yet Unknown," Kendal at Lexington.

Thursday, Nov. 9
11 a.m. to 2 p.m. - **Kitty-Care Holiday Fundraiser**, Ben Salem Community Building on Forge Road.
8 p.m. - Concert, **W&L University Jazz Ensemble + Voshein Magee Big Band**, Wilson Concert Hall; no tickets required.

Friday, Nov. 10
8 a.m. to 2 p.m. - **Kitty-Care Holiday Fundraiser**, Ben Salem Community Building.
5 to 7 p.m. - **Veterans Breakfast for Dinner**, veterans eat free, all others pay by donation, Natural Bridge Fire Department.

Saturday, Nov. 11
8 a.m. to noon - **Buena Vista Presbyterian Church's annual bazaar**.
8 a.m. to 1 p.m. - **Sam Houston Ruritan Club Fall Bazaar**, 1260 Valley Pike, Lexington.
8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. - **Holiday Xpress Bazaar**, sponsored by the Vesuvius Community Association, breakfast and lunch available, 53 Tye Pine Ave.
8 a.m. to 2 p.m. - **Kitty-Care Holiday Fundraiser**, Ben Salem Community Building on Forge Road.
8 a.m. to 1 p.m. - **The Women's Fellowship of the Stone Church of the Brethren's annual Christmas bazaar**, Buena Vista.

8:30 a.m. - **Rockbridge Bird Club's Birding at Boxerwood**, participants to meet at the Boxerwood parking lot; for more information, go to the club's Facebook page or send email to Wendy Richards, richardsw@wlu.edu
10 a.m. - **Veterans Day Ceremony** to honor all who have served or who are serving in all branches of the military, hosted by the Lexington Woman's Club in the sanctuary of Lexington Presbyterian Church, Main Street.
11 a.m. to 7 p.m. - **Thunder BRidge Open Studios at former Natural Bridge Correctional Center**, 1425 Arnolds Valley Road, Natural Bridge Station, with 13 resident and 11 guest artists, music by The Honeydew Drops and Jordy Gibbons, and Natty B's food truck.
5 p.m. - **Thanksgiving dinner**, \$15 for adults, \$8 for children, dinners available eat-in or carry out, Raphine Volunteer Fire Department.
6 p.m. - **Veterans Day cakewalk**, Glasgow First Aid building, 710 McCulloch St.; proceeds benefit Glasgow Life Saving Crew.
7:30 p.m. - Faculty recital, **"Strange Bedfellows,"** Wilson Concert Hall, Lenfest Center, W&L.

Monday, Nov. 13
6:30 p.m. - Presentation, **"Painting Birds: A Step-by-Step Process"** by local artist Lucinda Rowe, Piovano Room, Rockbridge Regional Library.
7:30 p.m. - Meeting, **Sounder Community Circle**, parish hall, Grace Episcopal Church.

Tuesday, Nov. 14
5 p.m. - **Annual meeting, Rockbridge Area Habitat for Humanity**, Brady Chapel, Lexington Presbyterian Church.
5:30 p.m. - Artist talk, Nestor Amando Gil to speak about his solo exhibition **"RASTROS (los que se hace al andar)"** ["TRACES (what you do when you walk)"], Keller Theater, Lenfest Center.
6:30 p.m. - Meeting, **Rockbridge Camera Club**, Piovano Room, Rockbridge Regional Library, Lexington.
7 p.m. - **An evening of short films by Arab and South Asian filmmakers**, followed by a post-screening discussion on identity, culture, community and pride, Stackhouse Theater, Elrod Commons, W&L.

Wednesday, Nov. 15
6:30 p.m. - **Mustaches for Kids Blue Ridge mid-month check-in** at Devils Backbone Outpost, Lexington; fundraiser for Blue Ridge CASA; for information, go to m4kblueridge.org.

Thursday, Nov. 16
2 p.m. - Author's talk, **Peter Farnham to discuss his new book "West Heads Home,"** Rockbridge Regional Library.

Saturday, Nov. 18
1 p.m. - **Cakewalk**, Buena Vista Volunteer Fire Department, all proceeds to purchase Thanksgiving food for Monacan families.
4 to 6 p.m. - **Annual Holiday Dinner**, sponsored by Old Providence Church Youth Group, consisting of turkey, country ham and all the trimmings; dinners must be preordered by calling the church office at (540) 377-2911; served either drive-thru/pick-up style or dining in at Old Providence A.R. Presbyterian Church in Spotswood; when placing orders, give name, phone number, number of diners, and whether it is dine-in or pick-up; cost is by donation.
5 p.m. - Fall concert, **Rockbridge Symphony**, a "sensory-friendly" concert, with a wide range of music and a quiet room for listening in a controlled-sound environment, Lexington Presbyterian Church; tickets available at University Florist, Cheese to You, Artists in Cahoots and Sugar Maple Trading Company; questions may be emailed to Rockbridge-symphony@gmail.com or by phone to (540) 460-1214.

Thursday, Nov. 30
Noon to 6 p.m. - **Holiday Open House**, VMI Museum.

ONGOING EVENTS

Mondays
9 a.m. - Exercise class, led by Tommy Miller with Rockbridge Area YMCA, Bethesda Presbyterian Church, Rockbridge Baths.
9 a.m. to 3 p.m. - Food pantry, Stone Church of the Brethren, 2164 Forest Ave., Buena Vista; call 261-6946 to make appointment to pick up food; pantry open same hours Tuesday through Friday.
12:30 p.m. - Bridge Club of Lexington, open to all, Lexington Golf and Country Club; call ahead for a partner or further information, (540) 460-5474.
2:30 to 4:30 p.m. - RARA Neighborhood Grocery, in-person, 350 Spotswood Drive, Lexington."
6 p.m. - Dinner at The Community Table, Piovano building, Lexington.
6 p.m. - New Life Suppers, free dinners, at Life Chapel.

Tuesdays
9 a.m. to 2 p.m. - Visit by Virginia Department of Veterans Services benefits representative, at VFW Post 1499, second Tuesday of each month; by appointment only, call (434) 582-5102.
2 to 3 p.m. - Gospel Way pantry, drive-thru model, 109 Henry St., Lexington.
4 p.m. - Youth program, Pokesmon, Rockbridge Regional Library, Lexington.

Wednesdays
8-9 a.m. - Glasgow-Natural Bridge Men's Prayer Breakfast, every other Wednesday at Faith Baptist Church, 15 Faith Baptist Circle, Arnolds Valley Road, Natural Bridge Station, open to all and non-denominational, breakfast will be served; for more information, call Faith Baptist Church at (540) 291-2847.
8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. - Lexington Farmers Market, McCrums parking lot.
10 a.m. - Baby and toddler storytime, Rockbridge Regional Library; followed by preschool storytime at 10:30 a.m.
10:30 a.m. (first Wednesday of each month excluding July, August and December) - Greater Lexington Newcomers Club, Lexington Golf and Country Club, open to residents who have been here for less than five years; for more information, see www.lexvanewcomers.org.
Noon - Lunch at The Community Table, Piovano Building, Lexington.

2:30 to 4:30 p.m. - "RARA Neighborhood Grocery," in-person, 350 Spotswood Drive, Lexington."
4 p.m. - Youth program, Makers Club, ages 6 and up, Rockbridge Regional Library.
4 to 6 p.m. - Bridge To Hope Pantry, 906 Magnolia Ave., Buena Vista.
7 p.m. - Yoga class, led by Karen Stanley of Center of Gravity Yoga and Pilates Studio, Bethesda Presbyterian Church, Rockbridge Baths.

Thursdays
9 to noon - (every third Thursday) Natural Bridge/Glasgow food pantry.
10 a.m. - Baby and toddler storytime, Rockbridge Regional Library; followed by preschool storytime at 10:30 a.m.
2:30 to 4:30 p.m. - RARA Neighborhood Grocery, in-person, 350 Spotswood Drive, Lexington.
4 p.m. - Youth program, Improv Club, Rockbridge Regional Library.
6 p.m. - "Community Café on Magnolia," free meals offered by Bridge to Hope, 906 Magnolia Ave. (second Thursday of each month only)

Fridays
8:30 a.m. - Informal yoga, led by Lane Norris, Bethesda Presbyterian Church, Rockbridge Baths.
9 a.m. to 1 p.m. - Glasgow Farmers Market, avilion.

Saturdays
8 to 10 a.m. - Community Veteran Appreciation Breakfast, every third Saturday, free to veterans, \$5 for other adults and \$3 for kids meals, American Legion Post 126, Buena Vista.
9 to 11 a.m. (first, second and fourth Saturdays) - Natural Bridge/Glasgow pantry, 735 McCullough St., Glasgow.
9 to noon - (first and third Saturdays) Community Closet at Christ Episcopal Church, 2262 Walnut Ave., Buena Vista; call 461-1299 for more information.
9 a.m. to noon - Clothes closet at First Baptist Church, every third Saturday of the month; call 463-4854 for more information.
9 a.m. to 1 p.m. - Glasgow Farmers Market, pavilion.
9 a.m. to 1 p.m. - Fairfield Farmers Market, parking lot of Quality Fleet Maintenance, first and third Saturdays.
9:30 a.m. - (second Saturdays) Rockbridge Piecemakers Quilt Guild, Piovano building; call (540) 357-0608 or visit www.RPOG.org.

10 a.m. to noon - RARA Neighborhood Grocery, in-person, 350 Spotswood Drive, Lexington.
10 a.m. to noon (second Saturday of the month), Rockbridge Animal Alliance Pet Food Pantry at RARA, 350 Spotswood Drive, Lexington.
10 a.m. to 2 p.m. - AARP Tax Aide, free tax help, Maury River Senior Center, through April 15, by appointment, call (540) 460-4025.
11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. - Lexington Al-Anon Family Group, offering a weekly respite for those dealing with the effects of friends or family members with alcohol or other substance abuse disorders. Al-Anon, an anonymous fellowship, provides courage, strength, and hope for those living or who have lived with those kinds of issues and problems. Weekly hybrid meetings (in-person and Zoom) top floor of the Grace Episcopal Church. More details or other information available from lexingtonfamilygroup@gmail.com.

Editor's note: The above events are taking place every week in the Rockbridge area. If your group has restarted weekly activities, send us an email with the information, to editor@thenews-gazette.com.

COLLIERSTOWN
Deborah Potter McCormick, 463-7652

Speaking at the 11 a.m. worship service of the Collierstown Presbyterian Church on Sunday, Nov. 5, was Burr Datz. Lisa Knudson was the guest pianist for the service.

The Presbyterian Women of Collierstown Presbyterian Church would like to thank the community and all the patrons of their annual church dinner held Saturday, Nov. 4. A total of 1,002 country ham, turkey and fried oyster meals were served to patrons "dining in" and "taking out" throughout the day. The day's bazaar proceeds totaled \$2,408 and will be divided and donated to the Fellowship of Christian Athletes of Rockbridge and to Helping Hands, a food bank ministry of the Fairfield Presbyterian Church. Many former church members living outside the community attended and returned to help with the event as did friends of the church in the community. Funds from the dinner are used for community outreach and to minister locally and abroad.

The Night Circle of the Collierstown Presbyterian Church will hold its monthly meeting on Thursday, Nov. 9, in the fellowship hall at 7 p.m. A time of fellowship will begin at 6:30 p.m. followed by the Bible study. Frances Ruley will lead the study from I John 3:11-20 on the Christian virtue of "Love." For more information, call Debbie McCormick at (540) 460-1325. All are invited to join the group in person or on Facebook Live from the church's Facebook page at 7 p.m.

The Effinger Community Thanksgiving Service will be held at 5 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 19, at the Palmer Community Center. The event is sponsored by the Effinger Ruritan Club.

As December draws closer, the Palmer Community Center and the Effinger Ruritan Club invite residents and friends of the Bufalo and Effinger communities to its Christmas covered-dish dinner set for Sunday, Dec. 3, beginning at 5 p.m. A time of fellowship and the singing of favorite Christmas carols will follow the evening meal.

Information on community events and other seasonal activities will be shared again in this column next week. Please send information for inclusion in the Collierstown News to 28 Desmac Lane, Lexington, VA 24450, email mack53@centurylink.net or call (540) 463-7652.

VESUVIUS
Carolyn Terrell, (540) 649-3828/clt24431@yahoo.com

Happy birthday wishes are being sent to Kayla Phillips, Richard Powell, Ronnie Harvey, Brenda Goad, Lauren Cahall, Ramona Topping and Connie Groah.
Happy anniversary wishes to RT and Blake Fisk. Better health prayers for Joe Campbell, Julie Hamilton, Becky Hite, Elizabeth Arehart and John Earhart.

Sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Angie Frey.

This past Saturday I set up at a bazaar in Waynesboro at Shenandoah Heights Baptist Church. This was the largest one since I have been doing this each year. So much fun!

Old Providence A.R. Presbyterian Church, located at 1005 Spotswood Road, Spotswood, will hold a community holiday drive-thru or dine-in dinner on Saturday, Nov. 18. Call the church at (540) 377-2911. All dinners must be pre-ordered by Nov. 12.

On Saturday, Nov. 11, the Vesuvius Community Association will be holding their annual Vesuvius Xpress Bazaar from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. We have 11 vendors setting up this year. Come and start your Christmas shopping or add to it. Breakfast and lunch will be available. Veterans will receive a free dessert.

Please keep Israel in prayer.
To all the veterans, I send out a huge thank you! May God continue to bless you!



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Veterans Day Ceremony Indoors This Saturday

The Veterans Day ceremony in Lexington will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 11, in the sanctuary of the Lexington Presbyterian Church.

The keynote speaker will be retired Navy Commander Dennis Bussey, who will speak about his family’s years of service in the military and his father’s actions as a survivor of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Col. John Brodie and the Virginia Military Institute Glee Club will perform throughout the event, and Brodie will play “Taps” at the conclusion of the ceremony. The color guard from the Lexington Police Department will present the colors. The invocation will be delivered by retired Col. Scott Risser.

Mayor Frank Friedman and other invited political representatives will offer their comments on veterans and their service to the United States.

This is the third year the program has been organized by the Lexington Woman’s Club. The committee members are Mel Botulinski, Julie Goodrich, Ann Hopkins, Diana Hopkins, Anita James, Jan Lowry, Freda Scheuer and Liz Shupe with ex-officio members Shelley Undercoffer and Suzanne Williams.

This event was entrusted to the Lexington Woman’s Club because of its long record of service to the community beginning in 1911.

Raphine VFC Thanksgiving Dinner Slated For Saturday

The Raphine Volunteer Fire Company will hold its annual Thanksgiving dinner for the community this Saturday, Nov. 11, at the firehouse starting at 5 p.m. The dinner will include turkey, ham, mashed potatoes, gravy, dressing, green beans, coleslaw, roll, assorted desserts, and ice tea, coffee or lemonade.

The price is \$15 for an adult meal, \$8 for a children’s meals. Dinners will be available for dine-in at the firehouse or carry-out.

Garden Club Selling Yule Arrangements

The Lexington Garden Club is taking orders for holiday arrangements again this year.

The festive custom-designed centerpieces and table runners are crafted with fresh seasonal greens and holiday-themed decorations and require minimal care. All proceeds are used to support the club’s community projects, which include downtown hanging baskets, the memorial garden at Carilion Rockbridge Hospital, Boxerwood, Nature Camp and more.

Orders must be received by Dec. 1 and will be delivered (or arrangements made for Lexington pick-up if the order is from outside the city limits) on Dec. 5 or 7.

To order or for design and pricing information, contact any member of the Lexington Garden Club or Vickie Rappold, rvrappold@gmail.com, (908) 705-6272.



‘Strange Bedfellows’

Washington and Lee University will present the faculty recital “Strange Bedfellows: Unexpected Musical Duos” on Saturday, Nov. 11, at 7:30 p.m. in Wilson Concert Hall featuring (from left) Gregory Parker, baritone; Akiko Konishi, piano; Heather Dobbins, bassoon; and Christopher Dobbins, trombone. The program includes works by Ravel, Castérède, Sulek, Serocki and more. No tickets are required. For more information, visit online at <https://my.wlu.edu/lenfest-center/fall-faculty-recital-strange-bedfellows-unexpected-musical-duos>.

Glasgow Garden Club Honors Perkins

The Glasgow Garden Club honored Judith Perkins at the Natural Bridge Elementary School Honor Arch on Sunday, Oct. 8.

The arch is a designated space in the Master Gardeners youth garden project at the school. For the last 12 years (in two year increments) the Glasgow Garden Club has honored a member of the club or community for their contributions and dedication to their community. Beneficiaries are their club and local entities.

This year, Judith Perkins’ name was added to the arch with club members, her family and friends gathered to recognize her. A presentation with remarks from club member Elaine Massie, her pastor, Lucy J. Hughes, and cello music by Julia Goudimova was followed by a reception by Glasgow Garden Club members.



JUDITH PERKINS is shown with Valerie Vaughan, Glasgow Garden Club president, at the Honor Arch at the Natural Bridge Elementary School youth garden.

Habitat Plans Annual Meeting Next Tuesday

Rockbridge Area Habitat for Humanity will hold its annual meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 14, at 5 p.m. at Brady Chapel at Lexington Presbyterian Church on Main Street. The public is invited to attend.

The meeting will include annual reports from Board Chair Paul Gordon and Executive Director Lynne Johnson, as well as reports from the affiliate’s committees: Finance, Family Partnership, Repair, Building/Lands, and Development.

New officers will be installed, and the Golden Hammer will be presented to a longtime, dedicated volunteer.

FFA Fruit Fundraiser Underway

The Rockbridge County High School FFA is conducting a citrus fruit fundraiser through this Friday, Nov. 10.

To place an order, call the school at (540) 463-5555 or send an email to gwendolyn_gosney@rockbridge.k12.va.us.

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The Great Pumpkin Patch Investigation

On Halloween, the second-graders at Waddell Elementary School participated in The Great Pumpkin Patch Investigation. These detectives examined pumpkins using their powers of observation, math and science skills and their taste buds (to sample roasted pumpkin seeds). Organized by teacher Amanda White, and working with the Roots and Shoots Garden volunteers, the pumpkin patch investigation was a “howling” success. ABOVE, Lori Wood and Sue Shultis, Roots and Shoots volunteers, help the second-graders weigh and measure their pumpkins during the Great Pumpkin Patch Investigation. BELOW, Amanda White helps students dunk their pumpkins while volunteer Vieve Minor offers samples of different flavors of pumpkin seeds. (Mary Woodson photos)





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HONOR ROLLS

Central

The following students were named to the honor roll at Central Elementary School for the first nine weeks of the 2023-24 school year:

Second grade

All A's – Keirra Baul, Julia Bingham, Lilly-Ann Burke, Marliana Cabbage, Quinn Carrico, Brooke Cassilly, Ambrose Clark, Alexander Cunningham, Piper Falls, Brigham Gessell, Justin Graybill, Kynlee Hamm, Jair Huaraca Miranda, Everleigh Marston, Abby Mitchem, Caroline Nicely, Bentley Rogers, Ella Sisk, Jaxon Slusser, Parker Swink, Scarlett Wade, Charlotte Watts, Clay Wilkinson.

A/B – Soufiane Assaoui, Samuel Ayers, Karson Beverley, Celia Camden, Remington Cary, Alyssa Conner, Emma-Lyn Cooper, Raegan DePriest, Jacob Fox, Silas Groah, Jhett Hassler, Ava Heinz, Shyqawn Henderson, Sara Henry, Scout Hudson, Chloe Jiang, Lillian Johnson, William Kleinchester, Andrea Mackey, Ezequiel Martinez-Garcia, Ellis Miller, Oona Moore, Alexis Parker, Weston Patterson, David Patterson, Azalea Randolph, Rosalie Spears, Melanie Suranovich, MaryRuth Woodard.

Third grade

All A's – Elizabeth Barney, Evelyn Davidson, Josie Dixon, Nora Fallen, Scout Falls, Avery Goodbar, Adalyn Hall, William Kenny, Gwendolyn Lewis, Caitlin Mammarella, Kadence Mayo, Raegan Moore, Isabella Morales, Julia Nicely, Jason Noyce, Adeline Packer, Marion Packer, Arianna Sullen, Atticus Tharp.

A/B – Ella Becker, Jennings Brown, Sawyer Brunscheen, Tanner Deacon, Ava Defino, Westin Demers, Eva Escobar, Taydon Fitz-Sloan, Maycie Floyd, David Glick, Autumn Gordon, Madilyn Goulet, Morgen Harris, Justin Hartless,

Marssa Lee, Clayton Mauck, Avalon Miloser, Karolyn Montalvo-Santiago, Emma Moore, Winifred Poindexter, Paisley Pugh, Rosalie Smith, Allison Stemmer.

Josie Wilhelm, Cade Wilkin-son and Aiden Wines.

Fairfield

The following students were named to the honor roll at Fairfield Elementary School for the first nine weeks of the 2023-24 school year:

Second grade

All A's – Wyatt Arehart, Owen Brown, William Falls, Harley Groah, Ian Guashpa, Jack Hite, Allison Moore, Ryan Moore, Katelyn Myers, Abigail Newman, Elizavianna Powers, Clayland Reese, Hutson Sensabaugh, Trysten Smith, Isaiah Spinner, Onyx Wilmott.

A/B – Abigail Carter, Joaquin Escobar, Aurora Hazlett-Tyree, Remington Jackson, Tyler Perry, Laurel Redifer, Lauren Smith, Gabriel Wilson, Gunner Young, Grayson Young.

Third grade

All A's - Luca Beristain, Dante Breeden, Evelyn Howard, Melville Long, Forrest Paluszak, Brooklynne Ricker.

A/B – Reed Burner, Isabella Collins, Robert Howard, Jacob Kirby, Eli Mohler, Evah Nicely, Cameron Patterson, Connor Ricker, Charlotte Watkins, Isabelle Woodford.

Fourth grade

All A's – Abel Via.
A/B – Braelyn Ayer, Natalia Collins, Javier Echeverri, Kemper Mitchell, Haven Murphy, Vincent Riccioni, Delilah Smith, Chasidy Wade.

Fifth grade

All A's – Benjamin Brown, Jack Chapman, Lillian Chapman, Charlotte Hagy, Jaelynn Hite.

A/B – Parker Fitzgerald, Olivia Gaydos, Jackson Hagy, Jonah Izquierdo, Zachary Kirby, Sophia Marshall, Ryder Moore, Ella Sorrells, Corwin Sprouse, Charlotte Whitmore and Jase Wimer.

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At NBE's Fall Festival

Natural Bridge Elementary's fall festival last month featured a number of activities. ABOVE, Roger and Sarah Funkhouser from Grocery Express await trunk-or-treaters. AT RIGHT, Deputy Oliver Schriver hands out candy to students. BELOW, Kristie Funkhouser, Julie Morris, and Beth McElroy explain a craft activity after reading a story to the first-graders.



Jazz, Big Band Sounds On W&L Stage Thursday

Washington and Lee University will present the University Jazz Ensemble + Vosbein Magee Big Band on Thursday, Nov. 9, at 8 p.m. in Wilson Concert Hall.

The University Jazz Ensemble is welcoming the Vosbein Magee Big Band once again to share in its fall showcase. This traditional pairing of bands is a highlight for the student and professional musicians alike.

Kicking off the show, the University Jazz Ensemble's artistry will be on full display, as they explore intricate ensemble work and inventive improvisations. Expect a variety of styles to be presented, but through it all, the core sound of the band is hard swinging big band jazz.

After intermission the Vosbein Magee Big Band will present a set primarily written and arranged by band members, including several pieces created specifically for this performance. Formed by composer Terry Vosbein and trumpet virtuoso Chris Magee in 2015, the band is comprised of regional musicians who are all masters of their craft. They entertain audiences annually at summer festivals and on the W&L stage, where they recorded their debut album in 2019.

No tickets are required. For more information, visit online at <https://my.wlu.edu/lenfest-center/fall-university-jazz-ensemble-vosbein-magee-big-band>. The performance will also be streamed at <https://livestream.com/wlu>.



Trunks And Reading In Fairfield

Last week's PTO trunk or treat event at Fairfield Elementary School featured lots of candy, along with some holiday reading. Among those reading was (below) Sue Morris, a retired teacher from New Jersey.



Habitat Plans Annual Meeting Next Tuesday

Rockbridge Area Habitat for Humanity will hold its annual meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 14, at 5 p.m. at Brady Chapel at Lexington Presbyterian Church on Main Street. The public is invited to attend.

The meeting will include annual reports from Board Chair Paul Gordon and Executive

Director Lynne Johnson, as well as reports from the affiliate's committees: Finance, Family Partnership, Repair, Building/Lands, and Development.

New officers will be installed, and the Golden Hammer will be presented to a longtime, dedicated volunteer.

Walkers Creek Fire, EMS Selling Hams, Turkeys

Walkers Creek Fire & EMS is taking pre-orders for smoked hams and whole turkeys for Thanksgiving dinners. Cost is \$55 each.

Orders must be placed by 6 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 19. They can be picked up by 4 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 22.

For information and to place order, call (540) 348-5105. Leave a message; you will receive a callback to confirm your order. The firehouse is located at 3964 Walkers Creek Road, Middlebrook,

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Hallelujah Night 2023

Rockbridge Christian Academy's annual Hallelujah Night on Oct. 31 drew over 300, including teens and adults, for an evening of varied activities. The event featured games, skits and eight types of bounce houses – along with plenty of children and teens in costumes. (Ethan Blevins photos)

Arab, South Asian Films To Be Shown At W&L

The Museums at Washington and Lee University will present an evening of contemporary short films by Arab and South Asian filmmakers on Tuesday, Nov. 14, at 7 p.m. in Stackhouse Theater, followed by a post-screening discussion on identity, culture, community and pride.

The program is inspired by the current exhibition “We Love Life Whenever We Can,” on view through Dec. 8 in Leyburn Library.

The screening is open to the public, but space is limited, and seating will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

“We’re thrilled to give members of the W&L community a taste of some of the exciting work being done around the globe in the realm of contemporary short films by bringing these three films right to our doorstep,” said Elizabeth Spear, Museums at W&L curator of academic engagement. “This will be a great space for students, faculty and staff to discuss their responses to ‘We Love Life Whenever We Can’ and how the exhibition might resonate on a personal level.”

The program will feature three short films by Ali Boudra, Karina Dandashi and Miryam Mir. Each film is approximately 13 minutes long and will explore the nuances of identity through family, religion and culture in North Africa and the United States.

“Bouchaib” (2022), directed by Ali Boudra, tells the story of a young boy wrestling with issues of identity and forced assimilation during the French colonization of Morocco.

“Cousins” (2023), directed by Karina Dandashi, tells the story of two cousins born in separate countries reuniting in a Brooklyn bar, where a run-in with an ex makes the night even more chaotic.

“Sweet Refuge” (2022), directed by Miryam Mir, follows the journey of a Syrian baklava baker as he struggles to continue his life’s work in a new country.

For more information about the 2023-24 exhibition and programming schedule, visit the Museums at W&L’s website: <https://www.wlu.edu/arts/museums/visit/exhibitions/>.

Thanksgiving Food Drive For Monacans Underway

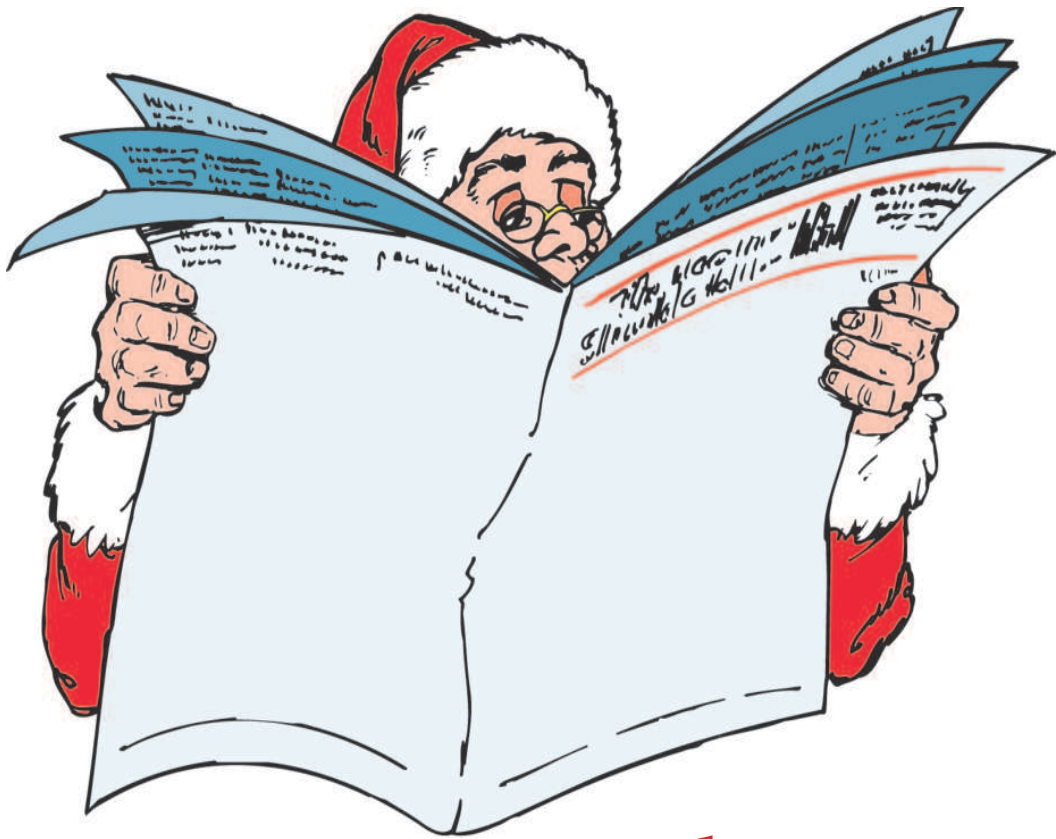
Area residents are being invited to participate in a Thanksgiving food drive to benefit Monacan community members in need.

The nonperishable items needed include stuffing mix, gravy, canned vegetables, instant potatoes, cranberry sauce, instant pudding, pie crust and filling and canned food.

Donations can be dropped off at the Buena Vista firehouse through Dec. 18.

The firehouse will also be the site of a cakewalk, the proceeds from which will go toward the purchase of perishable items, such as turkeys and hams, for Monacan families. The cakewalk will be held on Nov. 18, starting at 1 p.m.

For more information, contact Contessa Sancho at TribalChief@MonacanNation.net.



Business Owners - Reach Every Home In Rockbridge With The News-Gazette Before Black Friday Weekend

- Reach every home in Rockbridge County, Lexington and Buena Vista the day before Thanksgiving.
- The News-Gazette will be mass mailed to over 17,900 local addresses on Wed., Nov 22.
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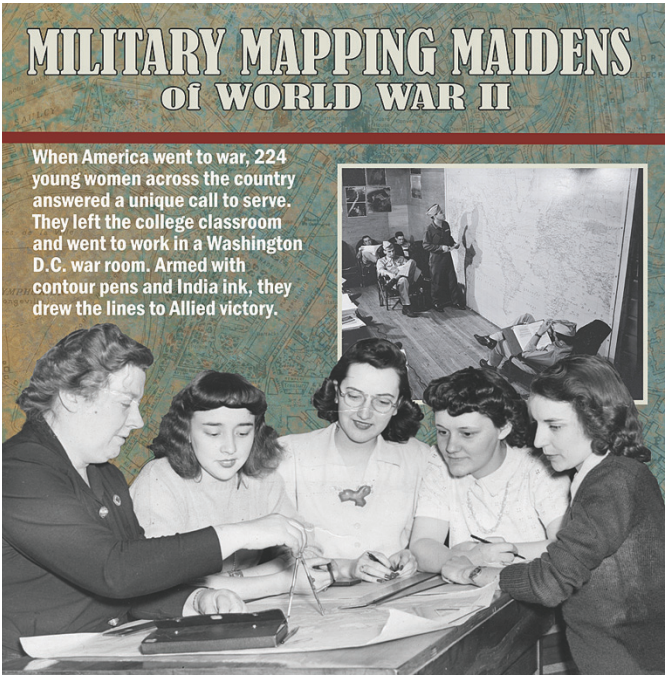
‘Mapping Maidens’ Exhibit Comes To VMI

‘3M Girls’ Drew Maps For Allies During WWII

Virginia Military Institute’s Preston Library is hosting a temporary, traveling exhibit through April 30, 2024, called, “Military Mapping Maidens.”

The exhibit features the story of 224 young women who were recruited by the Army Map Service (AMS) in 1943 to research and draw maps by hand for the Allied war effort during World War II.

The exhibit is narrated through the personal experiences of Bea Shaheen McPherson, a Kent State University alumna, who was encouraged to take a 60-credit hour course in cartography. Completion of the course,



designed by pioneering female cartographer Edith Putnam Parker and taught at Kent State by Professor Edna Eisen, opened the door for McPherson to apply for civil service employment with the AMS.

Young women recruited to fill mapmaking roles for the AMS came from 22 colleges and universities where Parker’s cartography class was offered.

Dubbed the Military Mapping Maidens, or 3M Girls,

the mapmakers were housed first in temporary barracks-style housing in Arlington until civil service housing at McLean Gardens was completed. On workdays they commuted by trolley to the Ruth Building, a three-story brick structure covered in camouflage to conceal its top-secret purpose. There, 3M girls toiled up to 70 hours per week in mapping departments that included project drafting, foreign editing, and research.

Over the course of the war, the 3M girls assisted in creating more than 40,000 maps of all types, and made a profound impact on the map making industry and preserved the lives of soldiers and citizens across the globe through their dedication to accurate, hand-drawn mapping.

The exhibit is free and open to the public during normal library hours.

Bird Artist To Give Talk

Boxerwood Walk Also Scheduled

Rockbridge Bird Club has invited local artist Lucinda Rowe to describe how she transforms her passion for bird-watching into works of art.

Rowe’s presentation, “Painting Birds: A Step-by-Step Process,” will take place Monday, Nov. 13, in the Pivovano Room at Rockbridge Regional Library. The evening will begin at 6:30 with a social gathering followed by a talk and demonstration by the artist. The program is free and open to the public.

Rowe is a wildlife artist based out of Roanoke. She works primarily with watercolors and will describe how she paints birds from start to finish in a PowerPoint presentation combined with a live demonstration.

As Rowe noted, “I’ve loved bird-watching since I was a kid, so naturally birds became what I enjoy painting. And one of the cool things about being a wildlife artist is that if you paint something, you learn more about it.”

Rowe grew up in Lexington, the daughter of retired Washington and Lee University associate registrar Barbara Rowe and Virginia Military Institute biology professor and club ornithologist Dick Rowe. Dick Rowe has himself given many presentations to the club about his birding experiences, often noting that he was accompanied by daughter Lucy.

About her wildlife subjects, Lucinda Rowe said, “Birds will always be my first love, but I am inspired by all things in nature. I enjoy depicting all the small details in a moth’s wings, the fine overlay of feathers on a bird, and the delicate curves of a flower.”

Rowe makes prints of her paintings available in a variety of formats on her Etsy page. Some of her ornaments, cards, and tea towels will be available to purchase during Monday’s program.

Readers can also find her work at LucindaRoweArt.com, on instagram: @LRoweArt, and on Facebook at Lucinda Rowe Art.

Birding at Boxerwood

Rockbridge Bird Club invites area residents to join them this Saturday, Nov. 11, for Birding at Boxerwood.

Boxerwood walks, scheduled on the second Saturday of each month, are an excellent introduction for those new to birding. During the November walk, participants are likely to see the many species of birds that have returned to winter in Rockbridge.

Birders will meet in the parking lot at Boxerwood (963 Ross Road) at 8:30 a.m. for a two-hour stroll. Participants should bring their own binoculars and wear sturdy footwear.

Walks are cancelled for rain. For more information or an iffy weather update, visit the Rockbridge Bird Club on Facebook or contact Wendy Richards at richardsw@wlu.edu.



THIS OWL ORNAMENT was created by local artist Lucinda Rowe.



THIS WORK by artist Nestor Armando Gil is called “pa’riba/pa’bajo” (“not far now”), 2023. (photo courtesy of the artist)

Artist Presents ‘Exhibition Of Traces’

Washington and Lee University’s Staniar Gallery will present a talk with artist and educator Nestor Armando Gil on Tuesday, Nov. 14, at 5:30 p.m. in the Lenfest Center’s Keller Theater, followed by a reception.

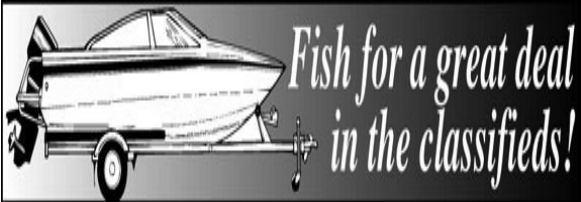
Gil’s solo exhibition of mixed media works, “RASTROS (lo que se hace al andar)” [“TRACES (what you do when you walk)”], is on view from Nov. 1 through Dec. 8.

Gil’s creative practice poetically excavates his own personal history of growing up as the child of Cuban immigrants in the southern United States. He uses a wide range of materials and media to explore themes of culture and place and ask questions about movement, memory and loss. Within these themes, Gil’s art often concerns acts of passage, and the relationship between memory and myth that accompanies these acts.

“RASTROS (lo que se hace al andar)” is what Gil calls “an exhibition of traces,” examining memory, loss and ritual to “peel nostalgia’s skin back, carve out its fleshy interiors, and make room for critical remembering.”

Gil is currently an associate professor of art at Lafayette College. Gil often ideates, processes and produces work with the rotating collective of maker-collaborators known as Taller Workshop, and his work has been exhibited across the United States and around the world.

Staniar Gallery is located on the second floor of Wilson Hall. For more information, call 540-458-8861.



Sounder Community Circle Launched

Series Based On Book With Local Ties

On Monday, Nov. 13, at 7:30 p.m., the Sounder Community Circle will commence in the parish hall of Grace Episcopal Church at 121 W. Washington St. in Lexington.

This will be the first in an ongoing series based on the award-winning book “Sounder” written by Collierstown native William Howard Armstrong.

The November session will focus on introducing the story and its local connections to participants. According to organizer Susan Virginia Mead, “Folks who come don’t have to have read the book; they just need to be curious about how the story of Sounder was born right here in Rockbridge County!”

The Sounder Community Circle arose from a successful event last April, where a diverse audience of more than 100 people heard the author’s son, Kip Armstrong, talk about how Charlie Jones, a Black educator in Rockbridge County, inspired his father to write “Sounder,” and its sequel “Sour Land,” Mead explained.

“People kept asking me when the next ‘Sounder Circle’ event would take place. Now I can say, ‘Every second Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m.!’”

When asked about why the name of the series expanded to include “community,” Mead reflected: “A co-organizer who loves puns said that our ultimate goal is to build a ‘Sounder Community.’ And indeed, it is! The idea is to learn lessons offered by local literature and history so together we in the Rockbridge area can create a more promising future for all.”

Mead said the first session will end with brainstorming about topics that participants want to explore from Armstrong’s books. “After the introduction on November 13, we are planning a very special program for December 11, which will feature images from the town of Lexington found in ‘Sounder,’” Mead said. “Beyond that, community members will help shape the direction of our discussion topics, because ‘Sounder’ belongs to us all.”

Every Sounder Community Circle event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Mead at svm@diversityserves.org.

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GOVERNMENT BRIEFS

Rockbridge Attendance Task Force Planned

Rockbridge County Public Schools is planning to create an attendance task force to help combat chronic absenteeism among students, Tim Martino, assistant superintendent, announced at the Oct. 26 joint meeting.

This is part of the effort to target the attendance component of Gov. Glenn Younkin's All In initiative.

In Rockbridge, the task force will be made up of teachers, school administrators, business owners, and medical professionals. Once formed, the group will discuss potential steps to combat chronic absenteeism.

RCHS PA System Work Underway

Work continues on Rockbridge High School's new public announcement system, which will replace the one that failed at the start of this school year.

Phillip Thompson, district superintendent, told the School Board and the Board of Supervisors at their joint meeting Oct. 26 that the new system is currently under construction.

"We're making progress," he said at the meeting. "It's been a long wait, finding the parts and then finding the manpower to get it all done. But we're confident that we're on the way."

Grant

continued from page 1

cessful with its application for a \$1 million Community Development Block Grant for the project. "We pivoted and are applying for a different grant" – the IRF grant, he said.

He reported that work has begun on transforming the former Courtesy Ford property on Forest Avenue into the workforce center. The first phase of the construction project includes hazardous materials abatement and roof replacement.

The adjacent McCormick building was renovated earlier and classes began there this fall.

When the \$5.5 million workforce training center is completed, it will expand MGCC's capacity to offer training in trades such as heating, ventilation and air-conditioning (HVAC), electrical and plumbing, diesel mechanic, machine tool, welding, building trades and commercial driver's license (CDL.) The center is named for Buena Vista native and Parry McCluer High School and Washington and Lee University alumnus Joe Wilson, a successful businessman and philanthropist who made the purchase of the property for the project possible.

To date, \$4.9 million has been raised for construction of the workforce center. Funding raised thus far includes a federal grant of \$3.1 million from the U.S. Economic Development Administration., \$128,220 from individual donors, \$680,000 from foundation donors, \$750,000 in state grants and \$155,365 in support from the local governments.

A vacant tract of land off of Magnolia Avenue and Ninth Street that the city donated to then-Dabney S. Lancaster Community College in 2020 for the purpose of the proceeds benefiting the workforce center has been sold. Roberts said the new owner of the land is making plans for a multi-housing residential project. He anticipates that a rezoning request for the property will be coming before the Planning Commission in the next few months.



ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL students who participated in FCCLA Day at the State Fair of Virginia this fall gather outside the fair entrance.

FCCLA Members Attend State Fair

Rockbridge County High School members of the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) attended FCCLA Day at the State Fair of Virginia in Doswell. Over 70 members, advisers, and chaperones enjoyed a day filled with educational and leadership opportunities.

Members were given the opportunity to participate in four FCCLA contests – FCCLA Poster, Brand FCCLA Wear - Accessories, Brand FCCLA Wear - Clothing, and Brand FCCLA at Home. FCCLA state officers judged the projects based on originality, creativity, and neatness. Each participant received a ribbon for his or her entry and the top winner in each of three levels received a trophy.

Members also participated in an SOL Scavenger Hunt where they explored Virginia's largest outdoor classroom, matching educational opportunities throughout the fairgrounds with related Standards of Learning, including those encompassing family and career issues.



RACHEL BOWYER, vice president of the RCHS FCCLA chapter, turns in her state fair project entry. Members were given the opportunity to enter projects in four FCCLA contests.

Man Sentenced In Rape Case

Shawn Michael White, 30, pled no contest to charges of rape, object sexual penetration and sodomy in Buena Vista Circuit Court on Oct. 10. He was indicted on the charges by a grand jury on April 3, which occurred between Nov. 22, 2022 and Jan. 2, 2023.

White was sentenced to 40 years for each charge with 27 years suspended, with the sentences to run concurrently. Upon his release, he will be on supervised probation of 10 years.

Holiday Guide Items Wanted

Is your nonprofit organization planning any activities for the holidays?

If so, you're welcome to submit an item for our annual holiday guide, which will be published on Nov. 22.

Just send your news submission to editor@thenews-gazette.com by this afternoon, Nov. 8.

Ads for the holiday guide should be submitted by Nov. 15. Send an email to either amikels@thenews-gazette.com or advertising@thenews-gazette.com for more information.

Enroll Virginia Offers Help With Marketplace

Open enrollment on Virginia's Insurance Marketplace is underway, having started Nov. 1. Open enrollment is the time of year that all consumers can enroll in new coverage or make changes to a current plan without needing to experience a qualifying life event.

The deadline is Dec. 15 to enroll in coverage effective Jan. 1, 2024. Free application assistance is available to Virginians during open enrollment and year-round through the Enroll Virginia program.

This year, Virginia is completing its transition from the federal marketplace to a state-based exchange and launching Virginia's Insurance Marketplace at marketplace.virginia.gov.

The new platform is designed to be a one-stop shop for Virginians, who can submit one application for Marketplace or Medicaid coverage, compare plan options, enroll, and find local help all on the same website. All health plans on Virginia's Insurance Marketplace offer comprehensive coverage, and many households will also be eligible for financial assistance to lower costs.

"We encourage consumers to check out the new Marketplace website and compare plan options even if they are currently enrolled in a plan," said Deepak Madala, Enroll Virginia director at Virginia Poverty Law Center. "Prices and plan details change often, so there may be new options that fit your family's budget."

Enroll Virginia is a nonprofit, nonpartisan initiative of Virginia Poverty Law Center that provides free and unbiased help with health coverage options through Virginia's Insurance Marketplace, Medicaid, and FAMIS. Consumers can contact Enroll Virginia's staff to learn more about their insurance options and get help enrolling by calling the toll-free helpline at 1-(888) 392-5132. They can also find local "assisters" and make in-person or virtual appointments using Enroll Virginia's online locator tool at enrollva.org/get-help.

Consumers who are seeking additional information or want to initiate their applications or renewals can also go directly to the Marketplace online at marketplace.virginia.gov or call the consumer assistance center at 1-(888) 687-1501 (TTY: 711). The call center's hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, and language services are available.

Everybody's talking about what's in the classifieds.



At Calvary Brethren

It was all treats at Calvary Brethren Church in Buena Vista last Tuesday night. Twenty-two cars were decked out to share candy with the community. A full meal was served inside the church for those who were hungry for more than sweets. A steady flow of families turned out for the event throughout the evening. Among those participating were (above) Dallas and Daniel Knick showing off their trunk and (below) Cherie Coffey and Shelly Ramsey with Coffey's grandchildren.



RELIGION



Dinner Time At Collierstown Presbyterian

Collierstown Presbyterian Church held its annual church dinner this past Saturday, Nov. 4. A total of 1,002 country ham, turkey and fried oyster dinners were purchased throughout the day. Patrons could choose to eat their dinners in the fellowship hall or carry them out. Sales in the bazaar room totaled \$2,408 and will benefit the Fellowship of Christian Athletes of Rockbridge and Helping Hands, a food bank ministry of the Fairfield Presbyterian Church. (Stephanie Mikels Blevins and Joann Ware photos)



Buena Vista Presbyterian Bazaar This Saturday

Buena Vista Presbyterian Church will hold its annual bazaar this Saturday, Nov. 11, from 8 a.m. until noon. Festivities will include the sale of homemade breads, cakes, cookies, jams, jellies and seasonal treats; arts and crafts; gift baskets; and a white elephant sale offering home decor, Christmas items, dishware; children's toys, dated and boxed Hallmark ornaments; and a framed Buena Vista print by artist Linda Patrick. As in past years, there will be a raffle for a quilt that will be given away at the conclusion of the festivities. Tickets for the quilt may be purchased from any member of the church prior to, and during the event. All proceeds from the bazaar go to mission work of the church, locally and worldwide.

Timber Ridge Church Shoe Box Drop-off Site

Timber Ridge Presbyterian Church is one of the drop-off centers for collection of the shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child. The dates and hours of collection will be as follows: Monday and Tuesday, Nov. 13 and Nov. 14, 10 a.m. to noon. Wednesday and Thursday, Nov. 15 and Nov. 16, 3 to 5 p.m. Friday, Nov. 17, 4 to 6 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 18, noon to 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 19, 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 20, 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. This will take place at the Community Building at 73 Sam Houston Way. For more information, call (540) 460-5199.

Good Shepherd Dedicates Communion of Saints Railing

Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church dedicated a new "Communion of Saints Railing" on Nov. 4 with a party on the lawn. Ever since Good Shepherd's first service in this church building on Sept. 25, 1963, (initial services had begun off-site in September 1958), a congregational core value was that Good Shepherd is a welcoming congregation, said a church spokeswoman. And, in the words of an early history of Good Shepherd: "The church serves through the richness of Lutheran worship, through education in the meaning of life in Christ, and through the openness of welcome to all who seek Him." At a time of continued segregation in many areas of southern life in the 1960s, especially churches, the African-American sexton at W&L's Lee Chapel was noticeable. On Christmas Eve of 1963, he brought his whole family to Good Shepherd to see the new church and worship. And he was welcomed. And with Good Shepherd's adoption of a Reconciling in Christ statement on May 20, 2018, its congregation affirmed that it believes that "God loves all of us, including those who are transgender, non-binary, queer, or straight." Although the church was often referred to as the "little



THIS Communion of Saints Railing outside of Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church was completed and installed last year and dedicated this month.

church way down the (Main) street," Good Shepherd has always been visible in the community as a welcoming congregation, said the church spokeswoman. "It took an act of God, one might say, to open up the front of the church and make it more visually welcoming at a time when a new pastor was striving to make its congregation more spiritually welcoming," she said. The derecho that blew through the city on June 29, 2012, gave Good Shepherd the opportunity for a facelift of sorts. The derecho splintered one of the large spruces on the front lawn and inspiring the church to remove the other which was leaning precariously in the direction of the building. The brick wall

along Main Street sustained substantial damage as well. And this is where vision and artistry enter the picture, the spokeswoman said. The wire fence sitting on top of the brick wall was one step up from chicken wire giving the church the appearance of not having been properly finished. With the trees removed, the fence had now become a none-too-attractive visual focal point. In April of 2018, Good Shepherd members, architects, artists and visionaries Fred and Jean Kirchner began the process of surveying for a new railing (note that it's not a fence [or barrier], it's a railing [something approachable]). A proof-of-concept gathering was convened at Fred's workshop on Nov. 11, 2018,

and the project began to take shape. The railing was finished and installed in 2022. The metal fabricators and welders at Rails End Wood & Metalcrafters and Fire Mountain created the railing. Fred and Jean Kirchner were on hand at the event Nov. 4 to share the full sense of the artistry and symbolism inherent in this magnificent addition to "that little church way down the street." To sum up, in the words of the Kirchners: "Every piece of the railing revealed itself as a symbol. First, we wanted to introduce to the community the heart that represents our Lord's love and open arms to all believers. ... We believe the railing has evolved to express the concept of the Communion of Saints."

Stone Church Bazaar Saturday

The Women's Fellowship of the Stone Church of the Brethren will have their annual Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, Nov. 11, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the church, located at 2162 Forest Ave., Buena Vista. Country ham biscuits and free coffee will be available for breakfast and hot dogs and pork barbecue and drinks will be available for lunch. There will be lots of Christmas crafts, wreaths, silent auction items, baked goods and raffle tickets with six items to be given away at 1 p.m. All money raised will go toward their mission work.

Rockbridge Area Worship Services

Please note, denomination divisions do not reflect subdivisions among the major categories of churches.

ADVENT CHRISTIAN

Advent Christian Church
4574 Turnpike Rd.
Lexington, VA
Pastor: Nathaniel Rulan
740-627-6005
Sunday Services: 11:00 a.m.
Wednesday Youth Group: 6:30-8:00 p.m.

ANGLICAN

St. Paul's Anglican Church (REC)
103 Davidson St., Lexington, VA
540-463-1597
Rector: Rev. Dr. Eric M. Parker
Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.
Worship: 11:00 a.m.
Holy Communion: 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays
Morning Prayer: 2nd & 4th Sundays

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Life Chapel AG
70 Hines Lanes, Lexington, VA
540-464-LIFE (5433)
Lead Pastor: Rev. David Lively
Service: 10:00 a.m.
Check website for details about other programs offered throughout the week
www.lifechapelonline.com

BAPTIST

Bible Church at Rockbridge
3 W. Whistle Creek, Lexington, VA
2 mi. W. of Lex. on Rt. 60 Midland Trls at Whistle Creek
540-463-6210; 540-463-1688
Minister: Rev. George Warden, Jr.
Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.
Worship: 11:00 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.
Prayer Meeting & Bible Study: Wed. 7:00 p.m.

Blue Ridge Baptist Church
150 11th Street, Buena Vista, VA
540-261-2005
Minister: Ralph Coleman
Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.
Worship: 11:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

Buena Vista Baptist Church
2173 Chestnut Avenue, Buena Vista, VA
540-261-2516
Pastor: Rev. Scott Covington
Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.
Worship: 11:00 a.m.

Collierstown Baptist Church
3926 Collierstown Road, Lexington, VA
540.463.4012
<http://collierstownbaptistchurch.com>
Sunday School, K-Adults, 10:00 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship, 11:00 A.M.

Faith Mountain Baptist Church
270 Valley Pike, Lexington, VA
(1/4 mi. from Rt. 39 on Rt. 647 (Valley Pike))
540-464-3300 (leave message)
Pastor: Bill Thomas
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.
Worship: 10:45 a.m.
with Children's Church & Nursery.

First Baptist Church
P.O. Box 1009
103 N. Main Street, Lexington, VA
540-463-4854- Leave message
Rev. McKinley A. Williams, Pastor
Follow us on Facebook:
FirstBaptistChurch of Lexington, VA
FirstBaptistChurchlex@gmail.com
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Worship - 11:00 a.m.
Bible Study/Prayer Meeting:
Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.

Glasgow Baptist Church
805 10th Street, Glasgow, VA
540-258-2655
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. (all ages)
Worship: 11:00 a.m.
Adult Choir Practice: Wednesdays 10 a.m.

Goshen Baptist Church
51 Baptist Hill Lane, Goshen, VA
540-997-9467
Minister: Rev. Scott Reese
Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.
Worship: 11:00 a.m.
Youth Group: Wed. 5:00-8:00 p.m.
Bible Study: Wed. 7:00 p.m.
Listen to an encouraging & uplifting message every Friday @ noon.
Tune into: globalgospelradio.com

Kerrs Creek Baptist Church
66 Franks Lane, Lexington, VA
540-463-9211
Pastor: Bryan Volpe
Sunday Morning Breakfast: 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.
Worship: 11:00 a.m.
Wednesday Dinner: 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00 p.m.

Lexington Baptist Church
75 Old Farm Road, Lexington, VA
540-463-5911
www.lexingtonbaptistchurch.org
Email: LBC@lexva.church
Pastor: Michael Saunders
Pastor: Ethan Appell
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship: 10:30 a.m.
Children's Church: 10:45 a.m.
Sunday Nights
5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Awana Children's Program
Youth Group: Grades 6 - 12

Magnolia Avenue Baptist Church
2205 Magnolia Ave., Buena Vista, VA
540-261-2484
Minister: Pastor Wyatt Mayes
Worship: 10:45 a.m.
Prayer Meeting: 1st Sunday of Month after worship

Manly Memorial Baptist Church
202 South Main Street
Lexington, VA
540-463-4181
Pastor: Skyler Daniel
Sunday Bible Study: 9:45 a.m.
Sunday worship: 11:00 a.m.

Natural Bridge Baptist Church
36 Bell Tower Lane, Natural Bridge, VA
540-291-2569 (Church phone)
Pastor: Mason Jordan
Phone: 540-460-8251
Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.
Worship: 11:00 a.m.
Evening Service: 6:00 p.m.

Neriah Baptist Church
1891 Old Buena Vista Rd.,
Buena Vista
540-817-3971
Summer Worship Sunday: 9:30 a.m.

Spring Valley Baptist Church
411 Mackey's Lane, Fairfield, VA
Minister: Pastor Ken Byrd
Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.
Worship: 11:00 a.m.
Children's Church: 11:00 a.m.
Pray Meeting following worship service
Visit our facebook page:
Spring Valley Baptist Church
Mackey's Lane

BRETHREN

First Brethren Church
100 E. 29th Street, Buena Vista, VA
540-261-6425
Pastor: Michael Hamilton
firstbrethrenbv@yahoo.com
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.
Worship: 10:50 a.m.

Women's Bible Study: Mondays 10:00 a.m.
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 10:00 a.m.
Wednesday Children & Youth Meeting: 7:00 p.m.

Stone Church of the Brethren
2162 Forest Avenue, Buena Vista, VA
540-261-6946
Email: office@bvstonechurch.org
Pastor: Rev. Galen Combs
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.
Worship: 11:00 a.m.

Bible Study: Wednesdays 10:00 a.m.
Food Pantry Available
Kids Club: Sunday - 4-6 p.m.
light meals served.

BUDDHIST

Bodhi Path Buddhist Center
12 Bodhi Path, Natural Bridge, VA
540-464-5117
www.bodhipath.org
Sunday Meditation: 10:30 a.m.

CATHOLIC

St Patrick Catholic Church
221 West Nelson Street, Lexington, VA
540-463-3533
Priest: Fr. Maxwell Appiagyei
Holyday Mass Schedule:
12:00 and 5:30 p.m.
Weekend Mass: Sat. 5:00 p.m.; Sun. 8:00, 10:30 a.m. & 5 p.m.
(late mass is only when campuses are in session)
Weekday Mass: Wed.-Thurs. 8:00 a.m.; Tues. & Fri. 12:00 p.m.
Sacrament of Penance/Reconciliation: Sat. 4 p.m.; 1st Fri. 12:30-1:30 p.m.

CHURCH OF CHRIST

Lexington Church of Christ
522 S. Main Street, Lexington, VA
540-463-7737
Minister: Page Barnes
Sunday School: 10 a.m.
Worship: 11 a.m.
Bible study: Wednesday, 7 p.m.

CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

Rockbridge Community Church of the Nazarene
906 Magnolia Ave., Buena Vista, VA
Office: 540-572-2006
Minister: Pastor Scott Beattie
Worship Sundays: 10:30 a.m.
Connect with our website for events and information at:
www.abridgetohope.com
Join us on Facebook to connect with our service streams and events at Facebook: @RockbridgeNaz
Lets us know how we can pray for you
prayer@abridgetohope.com
PastorScott@abridgetohope.com

EPISCOPAL

Christ Episcopal Church
2246 Walnut Avenue
Buena Vista, VA
Contact person: Nancy Hartless
540-462-7627
First & Third Sunday Services: 10 a.m.

Grace Episcopal Church
123 West Washington St. Lexington
540-463-4981
Website: www.gracelexva.org
www.facebook.com/GraceEpiscopalLexington
Rev. Ellis Tucker Bowerfind, Rector
Sundays Holy Eucharist:
8:00, 10:30 a.m.
5:00 p.m. Taizé Eucharist every 2nd Sunday
Christian Education for Adults: 9:15 a.m.

St. John's Episcopal Church
1002 Blue Ridge Rd., Glasgow, VA
540-258-2959
Worship with us on Sunday at 11:00 a.m.

FOUR SQUARE GOSPEL

Lexington Foursquare Gospel Church
21 Snowy Egret Lane, Lexington, VA
540-463-5456
www.lexingtonfoursquare.org
Minister: G. Hunter Phillips
Worship: 11:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Bible Study: 7:00 p.m.

LUTHERAN

Bethany Lutheran Church
1320 Bethany Road, Lexington, VA
540-463-5516
Minister: The Rev. Jim Youngblood
Worship: 11:00 a.m.

Concordia Lutheran Mission (LCMS)
Pastor: Rev. Mark Schroeder
540-784-5622

Meets @ Ben Salem Presby. Church
34 Ben Salem Lane, Buena Vista
Sundays: Divine Service: 9:15 a.m.
Bible School: 10:45 a.m.
concordiaandkoinonia.com

Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran
617 S. Main Street, Lexington, VA
540-463-2021
Pastor: Rev. Adam C. Schultz
Sunday worship with Holy Communion: 10:30 am
No Bible Study during Summer Months
www.goodshepherd-lexingtonva.org
www.facebook.com/goodshepherdlexington

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

Concord Church
48 Concord Lane, Fairfield, VA
Located 2.5 miles east of Fairfield, Red Hill Road.
Judy Hevener - 540-348-1011
Sunday Service: 11:00 a.m.

Grace Chapel
3595 Catalpa Ave., Buena Vista, VA
540-261-2254
Pastor: Joseph "Butch" Grow
Associate Pastor: Thomas Johnson, Jr.
Sunday School: 9:30 to 10:00 a.m.
Worship: 10:30 to 11:45 a.m.

Heart of the Home - Buena
2446 Sycamore Ave., Buena Vista, VA
Pastor: Gordon Staton
804-502-3333
Sunday Morning: 10:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening: 6:00 p.m.
Refreshments provided

New Beginnings Christian Church
Borden Grant Trail (intersection w/ Mackey's Lane)
Pastor: Brandon McClung
Visit our Facebook page at:
[@Newbeginningsrockbridge](https://www.facebook.com/Newbeginningsrockbridge)
Children's Sunday School: 10:30 a.m.
Worship: 10:30 a.m.

New Beginnings Church Mosaic (NBC Mosaic)
248 Poplar Hill Rd., Lexington, VA
540-650-4150
Senior Pastor: Rev. J. Hamilton Branninburg
Pastor: Rev. Gentry Hinojosa, Sr.
www.nbcmosaic.org
Sunday Morning Live: 10 a.m.
Children's Sunday School: 10 a.m.
Bible Study: Wed. 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Rockbridge Church
See our website for location and LIVE online campus information at:
www.rockbridgechurch.net
Sundays service: 10:00 a.m.
540-339-7985

METHODIST

Beth-Horon United Methodist Church
7 Beth-Horon D., Natural Bridge Stn.
540-291-3279
Minister: Pastor Lucy Jackson-Hughes
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.
Worship: 11:00 a.m.

Collierstown United Methodist Church
3998 Collierstown Road, Lexington
540-463-7717
Minister: Rev. William Bearden
Worship: 9:45 a.m.
Sunday School: 11:00 a.m.

Ebenezer United Methodist Church
73 McCurdy Lane, Rockbridge Baths, VA
Mailing address: P.O. Box 150, Rockbridge Baths, VA 24473
Pastor: Jody Lipham
(540) 460-1304
Email: jodylipham@vaumc.org
Worship: 11:00 a.m.

Fairfield United Methodist Church
5622 North Lee Hwy, Fairfield, VA
Pastor: Rev. Nona Allen
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Worship: 10:30 a.m.

Mt. Horeb United Methodist Church
Pullen Rd. off Blue Grass Trail
Lexington, VA
Minister: Rev. William Bearden
Sunday School: 10:15 a.m.
Worship: 11:15 a.m.

Randolph Street United Methodist Church
118 South Randolph St., Lexington, VA
Pastor: Rev. Reginald A. Early
Church: 540-463-7417
Pastor: 703-297-6463
Worship: 10:00 a.m.
Bible Study: Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.
In person and facebook live

St. John's United Methodist Church
351 E. 21st Street, Buena Vista, VA
540-261-3304
Email: pastor@stjohnsbv.org
Minister: Rev. Hungsu Lim
Website: stjohnsbv.org
Services can be watched on the web or the church facebook page.
Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
Worship: 10:00 a.m.

Trinity United Methodist Church
147 South Main Street, Lexington, VA
Minister: Rev. Anita Mays Lucord
Office Phone: 463-4053
E-mail: trinxlex@yahoo.com
Website: www.trinumc.org
In-person worship at 10:00 a.m.
We will also Livestream on Facebook:
[facebook.com/tumclcx](https://www.facebook.com/tumclcx)
Home of Shenandoah Preschool - Rebecca Saunders, Director
Shen. Preschool: 463-7195

PENTECOSTAL HOLINESS

Buena Vista Pentecostal Holiness Church
1702 Chestnut Ave., Buena Vista
540-261-6596 - bvphc@yahoo.com
Website: bvphc.com
Lead Pastor: Adam Williams
Sunday: Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.
Celebration Service: 10:00 a.m.
Live Stream on Facebook
Celebration Service II: 11:00 a.m.
(A staffed nursery & children's classes are provided during the Celebration service)
Wednesday
In-Person service and Facebook live with Pastor Adam & Lacy: 7:00 p.m.
Awaken Student Ministries (Grades 6-12): 7:00 p.m.

Greater Vision Pentecostal Assembly
258 E. 41st St., Buena Vista, VA
434-729-7930
Minister: Pastor Steve Ramsey
Sunday School: 10:00 am.
Worship: 11:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening: 7:00 p.m.
Monday Evening Prayer: 7:00 p.m.
Wed. Adult Bible Study: 7:00 p.m.
Wed. Youth Meeting: 7:00 p.m.
grtvsn@gmail.com

Lexington Pentacostal Holiness Church
408 Houston Street, Lexington, VA
Pastor: Rev. George Close
540-521-1166 - Cell
Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.
Worship: 11:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Service: 7:00 p.m.

Mt. View Pentacostal Holiness Church
845 Borden Grant Trail, Buena Vista, VA
All are welcome to worship the Lord!
Pastor: Rev. Sheldon Sorrels
Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.
Worship: 11:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
Wed.: 1st & 3rd: Open Choir 6:00 p.m.
Wed.: 2nd & 4th: Bible Study 6:00 p.m.



As Quakers, we seek to know God's will for us as a gathered people, to speak the Truth that is revealed to us, and to listen to the Truth that is revealed to others.

Find out more at www.mauyriverfriends.us

Maury River Monthly Meeting Quaker

Welcome All Visitors, Inquirers, and Seekers
Maury River Friends Meeting is a worshiping community gathered in the presence of the Divine, affirming that of God in everyone.

Natural Bridge Christian Fellowship
21 Gilmores Mill Road-P.O. Box 126
Natural Bridge Station, VA
540-291-2332
Minister: Pastor Wes Galford
Services: 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.
Youth service available: 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.
Wednesday Prayer: 7:00 p.m.

New Grace Church of God of Prophecy
920 Fitzlee St., Glasgow, VA
540-258-1924
Pastor: Bishop Lewis McDaniel
Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.
Worship: 11:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening Service: 6:00 p.m.

PRESBYTERIAN

Ben Salem Presbyterian Church
34 Ben Salem Lane, Buena Vista, VA
(Behind Food Lion)
540-460-0488
Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.
Worship: 11:00 a.m.
Wed. Service: 7:00 p.m.

Bethesda Presbyterian Church
90 Bethesda Road
Rockbridge Baths, VA
540-348-5314
Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.
Worship: 11:00 a.m. at Bethesda

McElwee Chapel
Sunday School: 7:00 p.m.
Worship: 7:45 p.m.

Buena Vista Presbyterian Church
303 E. 24th Street, P.O. Box 406
Buena Vista, VA
540-261-6210
www.bvpres.embarqspace.com
Email: bvpres@embarqmail.com
Minister: Dr. Howard Boswell
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.
Worship: 11:00 a.m.

Collierstown Presbyterian Church
31 Church Drive, Lexington, VA
540-463-5918 - Office
www.collierstownpres.org
Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.
Worship: 11:00 a.m.

Ebenezer ARP Church
788 Ebenezer Circle, Lexington, VA
Pastor: Rev. William Harris
540-570-3571
Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.
Worship: 11:00 a.m.

Falling Spring Presbyterian Church
386 Falling Spring Rd., Glasgow, VA
540-258-2647
Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.
Worship: 11:00 a.m.

Fairfield Presbyterian Church
5508 N. Lee Highway, Fairfield, VA
540-377-6697
Minister: Helen "Punker" Robertson
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.
Worship: 11:00 a.m.

Grace Presbyterian Church (PCA)
www.gracerockbridge.org
40 Village Way (Off Greenhouse Rd.), Lexington, VA
540-463-2374
Senior Pastor: Justin Clement
Assistant Pastor: Jason Kriaski
Worship: 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School for all ages: 10:00 a.m.

High Bridge Presbyterian Church
67 High Bridge Church Rd.
S. US 11, Exit I-81 - 175, Natural Bridge, VA
540-291-2625
Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.
Worship Service: 11:00 a.m.

Immanuel Presbyterian Church
3809 Walkers Creek Rd., Middlebrook, VA
(across from the Zack, Va. sign)
540-348-5790
Pastor: David Taylor
Worship: 9:30 a.m.

Lauderdale ARP Church
300 S. Main Street, Lexington, VA
540-463-4661
Minister: Rev. Benjamin Dowling III
Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.
Worship: 11:00 a.m.

Wed. Evening Prayer Meeting: 6:00 p.m.

Lexington Presbyterian Church
120 South Main Street, Lexington, VA
540-463-3873

Pastor: Rev. Andrew Ditzel
Early Worship: 8:45 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.
Traditional Worship: 11:00 a.m.

McCutchen Presbyterian Church
1180 Long Hollow R., Buena Vista, VA
540-261-2664
Pastor: David Bain
Worship: 9:30 a.m.

Mt. Carmel Presbyterian Church
6410 Lee Jackson Hwy.
Steeles Tavern, VA
540-377-6742
mtcarmelpres@gmail.com
Sunday Worship: 11:00 a.m.

New Monmouth Presbyterian Church
2348 W. Midland Trail, Lexington, VA
Reverends Casey & Rachel Clark
Church: 540-463-9283,
Office: 540-460-5148
www.newmonmouthpres.org
Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.
Worship: 11:00 a.m.

New Providence Presbyterian Church
1208 New Providence Rd., Raphine, VA
540-348-5881
newprovchurch@gmail.com
Pastor: Rev. Loren Tate Mitchell
Website:

www.newprovidencepresbyterianchurch.org
Visit our Facebook Page:
[@NewProvidencePres](https://www.facebook.com/NewProvidencePres)
Adult Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.
Children's Sunday School: 11:30 a.m.
Worship: 11:00 a.m.

Oxford Presbyterian Church
143 Oxford Lane, Lexington, VA
Interim Pastor: Robert Sharrard
Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.
Worship: 11:00 a.m.

Timber Ridge ARP Church
160 Timber Ridge Rd, Fairfield, VA
Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.
Worship: 11:00 a.m.

Timber Ridge Presbyterian Church
73 Sam Houston Way, Lexington, VA
540-463-6939

Website: www.trpchurch.org
Adult Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Worship: 11:00 a.m.

QUAKER

Maury River Friends Meeting
West Midland Trail @Waterloo Dr.
(10 miles west of Lexington-Old Rt. 60)
www.mauyriverfriends.us
Silent Worship: 10:00 a.m. Sunday
Discussion: 11:30 a.m.
Youth program concurrent with Adult program

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST

Buena Vista Seventh-day Adventist Church
2335 Magnolia Avenue, Buena Vista, VA
540-261-2050
Services on Saturday
Sabbath School: 9:30 a.m.
Worship: 11:00 a.m.
Tuesday Service: 7:00 p.m.

If your church is not listed, please submit information on location, pastor, phone number and service times to The News-Gazette, Attention: Church Directory, P.O. Box 1153, Lexington, VA 24450. There is a \$99.00 per year fee for this listing.

SPONSORS

Buena Vista Family Pharmacy
Drive Thru
Free Local Delivery Available
NEW Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8:30-5:30
2263 Magnolia Ave., Buena Vista
Brian Morris, R.Ph. Owner/Manager
540-261-2896

Commonwealth Environmental
• Underground Storage Tank Testing
• Radon Monitoring & Mitigation
• Asbestos Testing & Consulting
• Environmental Site Assessments-Phase I & II
540-462-6077 jmccoy@commonwealthenvironmental.com

CornerStone Cares
CornerstoneBankVA.com
540.463.2222
FDIC

FARM CREDIT
Financing farms, homes, part-time farms, bare land tracts, home & barn construction.
152 Maury River Rd., Lexington, VA
540-463-5255

H&J TIRE Co
"We're More Than Just A Tire Store"
110 South Randolph St., Lexington, VA
540-463-2178
• Brakes • Shocks • Alignments •
• Oil Changes • Belts & Hoses
GOOD YEAR Independent Dealer

HEVENER'S C

CLASSIFIEDS



CLASSIFIED INDEX

Classified Ads
Effective July 1, 2023
Classified Advertising Rates

LINE ADS: First insertion \$12.50 for first 3 lines (15 words), \$2.00 for each additional line. Repeat insertions receive a 10% discount after the first week, and 15% discount after the fourth week. 50¢ discount for prepayment (cash, MasterCard, Visa or AmEX). Note: Yard Sale ads start at \$15.50 and must be prepaid.
DISPLAY ADS: (These ads include Cards of Thanks, In Memoriams, Obituaries and Auction ads.) Rate: First insertion \$29.50 for first 12 lines (60 words), \$2.00 for each additional line. Repeat insertions receive 10% discount after first week, 15% discount after fourth week, 50¢ discount for prepayment. Cards of Thanks, In Memoriams and paid Obituaries appear on the Obituary page and must be prepaid.
INTERNET CLASSIFIEDS: All classifieds are posted on The News-Gazette's web site at www.thenews-gazette.com every Wednesday at no additional charge.
LEGAL ADS: \$1.50 per line.
EXTRA CHARGES: Blind ads, \$3.00 per insertion. Mail responses, \$2.00 per insertion. Color overlay, \$3.00 per insertion. Logo charge, \$20.00. Picture, \$20.00 per insertion plus space. Deadline for classified ads is Tuesday 10 a.m. for The News-Gazette. (National rates for classified: Multiply above rates by a factor of 1.1765.)

10. General For Sale
11. Adnet Classifieds
12. Antiques
15. Appliances
20. Yard Sale
30. Automotive
35. 4x4 Vehicles
40. Motorcycles
50. Mobile Homes
60. Campers & Equipment
70. Farm Machinery
80. Livestock
85. Horses & Equipment
90. Pets
100. Real Estate
110. Business Opportunity
120. Services
130. General Help Wanted
131. Medical Help Wanted
135. Driver Help Wanted
137. Volunteers Wanted
140. Work Wanted
150. For Rent
160. Want To Rent
170. Notices
180. Wanted
190. Lost & Found
200. Entertainment
210. Instruction
220. Auctions
230. Public Notices
240. Cards of Thanks/In Memoriams
245. Thank You Notes
250. Obituaries
270. Government Notices

540-463-3113

Classified Deadline
The News-Gazette - 10 a.m. Tuesday

We are pledged to the letter and spirit of Virginia's policy for achieving equal housing opportunity throughout the Commonwealth. We encourage and support advertising and marketing programs in which there are no barriers to obtaining housing because of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, elderliness, familial status or handicap. All real estate advertised herein is subject to Virginia's fair housing law which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination because of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, elderliness, familial status or handicap, or intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." This newspaper will not knowingly accept advertising for real estate that violates the fair housing law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. For more information or to file a housing complaint, call the Virginia Fair Housing Office at (804) 367-8530; toll-free call (888) 551-3247. For the hearing-impaired, call (804) 367-9753. E-mail fairhousing@dpor.virginia.gov. Web site: www.fairhousing.vipnet.org

10 General For Sale

WALNUTS Cracked and ready to eat. \$15 per pound. 540-466-0348.

VINTAGE CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS, Santas, Billy Jacobs prints, Avon nativity pieces, Snowbaby, primitives — everything Christmas! Visit Booth 228 at Duke's Antique Mall — two spaces on the same aisle.

NORDIC TRACK AUDIO-STRIDER 990 Pro Elliptical, Lightly used, 81.5"L x 27"W x 67" H, Capacity: 350 LBS., Foot pedals: oversized, Space saving capability, \$500. 540-460-1731 or 540-460-1729.

STAIRLIFTS, WHEELCHAIR RAMPS & SCOOTERS. new and used. MITS of VA, 540-932-7300.

FIREWOOD FOR SALE All hardwood - Pickup load of firewood \$100 per load Contact 540-460-6664 or 540-784-3058

WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE VANS Starting at \$7K. MITS of Virginia. Dealer 12069. 540-932-7300

SEASONED OAK Firewood. Split, approx. a cord, delivered up to 15 miles. \$210/load. 540-290-1400



ELIMINATE GUTTER CLEANING forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE Leaf-Filter estimate today. 20% off Entire Purchase. 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-877-614-6667

DENTAL INSURANCE from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Coverage for 350 plus procedures. Real dental insurance - NOT just a discount plan. Do not wait! Call now! Get your FREE Dental Information Kit with all the details! 1-888-550-3083 [#6258](http://www.dental50plus.com/virginia)



ATTN. AUCTIONEERS: Advertise your upcoming auctions statewide and in other states. Affordable Print and Digital Solutions reaching your target audiences. Call this paper or Landon Clark at Virginia Press Services 804-521-7576, landonc@vpa.net

FREE HIGH SPEED INTERNET for those that qualify. Government program for recipients of select programs incl. Medicaid, SNAP, Housing Assistance, WIC, Veterans Pension, Survivor Benefits, Lifeline, Tribal. 15 GB internet service. Bonus offer: Android tablet FREE with one-time \$20 copay. Free shipping & handling. Call Maxsip Telecom today! 1-855-970-1995

PORTABLE OXYGEN CONCENTRATOR May Be Covered by Medicare! Reclaim independence and mobility with the compact design and long-lasting battery of Inogen One. Free information kit! Call 888-608-4974

NOW OFFERING FINANCING! Ronnie Jenkins II Windows, Siding, Roofing and Gutters! FREE Estimates! Call 804-739-8207 for More Details! American Made Products!



SAFE STEP North America's #1 Walk-In Tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our FREE shower package and \$1600 Off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe Step 1-877-591-9950

THE BATHROOM OF YOUR DREAMS for as little as \$149/month! BCI Bath & Shower. Many options available. Quality materials & professional installation. Senior & Military Discounts Available. Limited Time Offer - FREE virtual in-home consultation now and SAVE 15%! Call Today! 1-844-945-1631

REPLACE YOUR ROOF with the best looking and longest lasting material steel from Erie Metal Roofs! Three styles and multiple colors available. Guaranteed to last a lifetime! Limited Time Offer - \$500 Discount + Additional 10% off install (for military, health workers & 1st responders.) Call Erie Metal Roofs: 1-844-902-4611

DIVORCE - Uncontested, \$475+\$86 court cost. WILLS- \$295.00. No court appearance. Estimated completion time twenty-one days. Hilton Oliver, Attorney (Facebook). 757-490-0126. Se Habla Espanol. BBB Member. <https://hiltonoliverattorneyva.com>.

PREPARE FOR POWER OUTAGES TODAY with a GENERAC home standby generator. \$0 Money Down + Low Monthly Payment Options. Request a FREE Quote. Call now before the next power outage: 1-844-947-1479

20 Yard Sales

MOVING SALE! Fri. & Sat. 9 - 2, 166 Timber Ridge Rd, Lexington. Dishes, bookcases, Dining Room Tables & chairs, leather reclining loveseat & chair, camping & bike items, electronics - projector & screen, multi-CD player, and more!!

Kitty-Care 2023
Holiday Fundraiser

Thursday, Nov 9, 11 to 2 PM
Friday, Nov 10, 8 to 2 PM
Saturday, Nov 11, 8 to 2 PM

Ben Salem Community Building
on Forge Road

We have great buys
for the Holidays, loads of
home decor, baked
goods, yarn for crocheting or
knitting, designer purses, etc.
& our popular 5 item raffle.

85 Horses & Equip.

COME RIDE WITH US!!! Trail Riding & Riding Lessons: Hunt seat & Western. All ages & exp. levels welcome. Tish Vest, 540-570-3718

90 Pets

BICHON FRISE PUPPY AKC registered, male, hypoallergenic \$800. 540-348-4212.

WANTED TO ADOPT Older, gentle, loving female dog who likes cats very much. This will be a companion dog for an older, lonely male dog that loves cats. 540-460-1160.

120 Services

HOME MAINTENANCE & small repairs by David Lipscomb. 540-280-2350.

CLEANING SERVICES Residential, Commercial and vacation homes. Rockbridge cleaning and landscaping. 540-319-3486

COOPER'S STUMP GRINDING: Landscape friendly - hillsides, near structures, sidewalks, etc. No stump too tough! Also land clearing w/ forestry mulcher. Call for details. Locally owned. Free estimates. Reas. priced. Lic & ins. 540-319-3259 or 460-6794

CJ GARRETT DESIGN
Let me design your:
***Newsletter *Brochure**
***Flyer *Menu**
***Business Card *Magazine**
***Invitation *Poster * Letterhead**
and more

***Typing**
Over 25 years experience
1042 Woodland Ave.,
Buena Vista, VA
540-261-7164.
cherylgarrett60@gmail.com

SHAFERS ROOF CLEANING is currently accepting jobs for single level homes. 540-784-8356.

SHAFERS PRESSURE WASHING Lic. & Ins. w/ 20 yrs. exp. Vinyl, wood, concrete, stucco, alum. All work guaranteed w/ free Estimates! 540-784-8356

POTTER'S TREE SERVICE & Firewood. Licensed & Insured. Also, snow removal. 540-688-9486

LOCAL LAWN CARE SERVICE, Mowing & More is available to mow, trim shrubs, pruning or tree removal, pressure washing, painting, roofing, etc. All at reasonable and competitive rates - 540-261-4767

ELY'S HOME REPAIRS Painting, sheetrock repairs, interior foundation, ceiling repairs, concrete sidewalks and brick pointing. Serving area for 30 years. 540-784-0048 or 540-261-4680

FENCE: SWISHER'S Fencing: board, woven wire, horse fence, high tensile & other types. Fence & barn painting. 540-460-1949

SHAFERS GUTTER CLEANING is currently accepting jobs for single level homes. 540-784-8356.

130 General Help Wanted

HOUSECLEANER NEEDED two times out of the month. Must be able to clean windows in and out. Good pay. Buena Vista, Va. 540-784-0229

DISABLED MAN looking for a caregiver in Glasgow area. Must pass background check. Personal care and light housework. 540-784-9917

150 For Rent

Avail. 1/1/24. Brick ranch: 3-4 bed., 2 baths, liv. rm., eat-in-kit., sun rm., deck, garage, and walk out basement in Providence Hill. Appliances. furnished. Nat. gas. Text/call 540-460-0001.

COMPLETELY FURNISHED 2BR, 1BA house within minutes of downtown Lexington. Not pet friendly. 540-460-2727

4 BEDROOM 1 1/2 BATH, 2 miles from Lexington. Reduced rent with work done. Call 540-494-4091.

180 Wanted

WANTED FOR HISTORICAL PRESERVATION: Buena Vista, VA Memorabilia. Maps, Books, Pamphlets, Blotters, Prints, Advertising, Calendars, Bottles, Architectural pieces, Newspaper invoices, Letterhead, Letters, Deeds, Postcards, Photographs, Paperweights, Memories, etc. **ROCKBRIDGE MOVIE THEATER MEMORABILIA! Call 540-460-1729**

POLITICAL BUTTONS, ribbons & posters wanted by collector. Top prices paid. Call/Text Steve @ 412-418-1567.

ATTENTION Wanted to buy Standing Timber. Free Estimates. Top prices paid. Call 540-958-1652

BUYING STERLING SILVER Flatware, etc. Coins, gold & silver before 1965. Jewelry. 540-570-0182

WANTED: JUNK CARS, old farm equipment, boats and campers, motorcycles, tractors, ETC. Free removal. 540-784-6203

200 Entertainment

VETERANS DAY CAKE WALK. November 11th @ 6pm. Glasgow First Aid Building. Baked goods needed and appreciated. 540-460-3352.

VETERANS BREAKFAST FOR DINNER
Natural Bridge Fire Dept.
Fri., November 10, 2023.
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM.
Veterans eat free,
Others- Donation.
Eggs, pancakes, sausage,
pork loin, coffee.

Sam Houston Ruritan Club Fall Bazaar on Saturday November 11th from 8am-1pm at 1260 Valley Pike Lexington.

200 Entertainment

VETERANS DINNER. November 11th. Doors open @12, Lunch is at 1pm @ Lexington Moose Lodge. Veterans and a guest welcome! To reserve your spot call Doris Sibold @ 540-463-1914.

220 Auctions



Glasgow Downsizing Auction
1034 Fitzlee Street, Glasgow, VA 24555

Bid on Jewelry, Furniture, Collectibles and MUCH MORE!

Auction Ends Wednesday, November 8th @7:30pm
Auction will Close at a Rate of 3 Lots Per Minute
with a 1 Minute Auto extension!

Preview will be Wednesday, November 8th from 3:30-6pm

Pick-up will be Thursday November 9th from 4-6 pm
Visit www.CircleCAuction.com to Register and Bid! VA AF# 2908001046

HOME
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The Classifieds Are

VISTA APARTMENTS
is now accepting applications for upcoming openings.
Rent based on income.
Applicants must be 62 yrs. or older or disabled.
Credit/Criminal check required.

Apply at:
Vista Apartments 3101 Rockbridge Ave., Buena Vista
Contact 540-261-7356 for more info.
For TDD Call VA Relay 1-800-828-1140
This Institution is an equal opportunity provider.

KENDAL[®] at Lexington
Together, transforming the experience of aging.[®]

Financial Controller for Kendal at Lexington
Are you a finance professional who aspires for more than just a job working in an Accounting Department? Do you enjoy feeling like you are making an important contribution to a greater good? If you answered yes to these questions, then Kendal at Lexington has an opportunity just for you!
Kendal at Lexington is conducting a search for a well-qualified Financial Controller. Kendal at Lexington is a CARF-accredited, not-for-profit Life Plan Retirement Community located in the heart of the Shenandoah Valley. The 84-acre campus sits just one mile from Main Street in beautiful Lexington, Virginia, and features a farmland setting with panoramic views of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Known for its celebration of lifelong learning, engaged residents, and Quaker values, the Kendal at Lexington community offers high-quality independent living. When you are an employee of Kendal at Lexington, you will not just be working – you will feel good everyday knowing you are helping our amazing residents and creating a positive and resonating impact for everyone on our beautiful campus while doing the work you have a passion for in a career that has unlimited potential with plenty of room for advancement.
A well-qualified incumbent for this wonderful career opportunity will possess a minimum of a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting. Possession of a CPA and experience working in a non-profit environment with senior living is preferred. This position requires superior analytical and communication skills as well as extensive experience in Microsoft Office and accounting software. To be successful in this role, the selected candidate must be knowledgeable of the entire accounting cycle from initial transactions through year-end closing of financial records.
In this position, you will be responsible for managing the financial operations of Kendal at Lexington by ensuring accuracy of the financial records and reporting. You will support the Chief Financial Officer and the Finance Department by preparing and maintaining the general ledger system and accounting records, preparation of the monthly financial statements, development of the annual capital and operating budgets, as well as other required reporting. The Financial Controller provides oversight of the accounts payable and cash receipt functions.
If you would like to learn more about this opportunity, or submit an online application of employment, please visit our Kendal at Lexington website at www.kalex.kendal.org.

NOW HIRING
North Lee Highway
Lexington, VA

TEXT "CHICKEN" TO
(540) 340-9861

@chickfilalexingtonva @Chick-fil-A Lexington, VA

230 Public Notices

ABC NOTICE

Natural Bridge Hotels LLC Trading as: **Natural Bridge Historic Hotel and Conference Center, 15 Appledore Ln. Natural Bridge, VA 24578-3602.**

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Mixed Beverage Restaurant license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

Vijitha Gutta

Managing Director

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.

ABC NOTICE

Natural Bridge General Store LLC Trading as: **Natural Bridge General Store LLC 593 Wert Faulkner Hwy., Natural Bridge Station, Virginia 24579-3433.**

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Convenience Grocery Store license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

Nathaniel Lee Goad

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.

The Rockbridge County Sheriff's Office made the following felony arrests over the past two weeks:

Summer Leigh Vance, 43, of Buena Vista, for one count of making threats to burn on Nov. 1.

Alfred Painter, 58, of Waynesboro, for one felony count of domestic assault and battery, one felony count of attempted malicious wounding and one misdemeanor count of assault and battery on Nov. 1.

Russell Henson, 43, of Glasgow, for one felony count of discharging a firearm in an occupied dwelling and one misdemeanor count of reckless handling of a firearm on Oct. 30.

Jonathan Edward Trobee, 31, of Raphine, for one felony count of possession of a schedule I or II drug and one misdemeanor count of possession of drug paraphernalia on Oct. 25.

Shaun Wayne Cook, 46, of Raphine, for one felony count of assault on a law enforcement officer, one misdemeanor count of obstruction of justice

and one misdemeanor count of public drunkenness on Oct. 24.

Ariana Ciara Deberry, 24, of Buena Vista for one felony count of possession of a schedule I or II drug and one misdemeanor count of driving without a license on Oct. 24.

Henry George Gaston, 25, of Staunton for one felony count of destruction of evidence on Oct. 23.

Justin Taylor Schultz, 30, of Tallassee, Ala., for one felony count of malicious wounding and one misdemeanor count of carrying a concealed weapon on Oct. 23.

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The Lexington Police Department made the following felony arrests over the past month:

Angela Josephian Venezian, 44, of Charlottesville, on a warrant from Buena Vista for two felony counts of possession of a schedule I or II drug with intent to distribute, one felony count of possession of a schedule I or II drug, one misdemeanor count of

reckless driving and one misdemeanor count of driving under the influence (first offense) on Oct. 31.

Heather Ashley Grimes, 31, of Galax, for one felony count of endangering a child while having custody, one felony account of possession of a schedule I or II drug and one misdemeanor count of public intoxication on Oct. 30.

Terron Lamar Goodman, 40, of Lexington, for one count of assault of a family member (third offense) on Oct. 28.

Anthony David Bates Jr., 56, of Lexington, for one felony count of driving under the influence (third offense within 10 years), one misdemeanor count of possession of a title issued to another, one misdemeanor count of presenting a false ID to law enforcement, one misdemeanor count of obtaining an ID to avoid arrest, one misdemeanor count of refusing a breathalyzer test (second offense), one misdemeanor count of driving with a

revoked license and one misdemeanor count of obstruction of justice on Oct. 7.

- - -

The Buena Vista Police Department made the following felony arrests over the past several weeks:

Forest Shepherd, 27, of Fairfield, for one felony count of assault and battery on a law enforcement officer, one misdemeanor count of obstruction of justice and one misdemeanor count of public intoxication on Oct. 12.

Justin C. Wood, 34, of Vesuvius for one count of felony property damage on Oct. 9.

Ian Martin, 28, of Buena Vista, for one count of strangulation and one count of felony assault and battery against a family member on Oct. 3.

Kaden Bell, 22, of Buena Vista for one count of aggravated sexual battery on Oct. 2.



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DuPont Community CREDIT UNION
Mortgage Loan Originator –
Augusta County, Rockbridge County, and Harrisonburg

DuPont Community Credit Union (DCCU) is currently seeking experienced candidates for Mortgage Loan Originators (Mortgage Advisor) to serve the Augusta County, Rockbridge County, and Harrisonburg area as part of our Mortgage team. DCCU was founded in 1959 and is currently serving over 116,000 members, with over \$1.7 Billion in Assets. DCCU continues to be a leader in mortgage market share in our service area. At DCCU, we go beyond transactions and truly want to help our members achieve financial success by aligning them with the right products and services to help make a difference in their lives. As a direct to FNMA lender, offering in-house underwriting, processing and funding, we provide a full array of programs such as FHA/VA/RD as well as in-house portfolio programs including 100% financing. We are committed to serving our community as the premier mortgage lender in the Shenandoah Valley.

Job Opportunity:
Great opportunity to join a well-respected, award-winning, secure, and growing financial institution offering meaningful and value-added work that impacts our community. We are searching for a Mortgage Loan Originator (Mortgage Advisor) that has a passion for making the dream of home ownership a reality!

Job Responsibilities:
The Mortgage Loan Originator (Mortgage Advisor) will be responsible for conducting real estate interviews in a timely manner, while providing courteous and friendly service to DCCU membership and staff. Also, the Mortgage Loan Originator will ensure that loans are originated according to guidelines by Credit Union policy and that all documentation is in order prior to processing. Duties include but are not limited to: provide financial counseling as it relates to matching member needs with credit union products, complete loan applications, collect applicable member documentation, submit loans for credit approval, prepare mortgage disclosures within applicable compliance guidelines with necessary signatures and consent, submit applications per portfolio and secondary market requirements, and collects documentation as necessary, organize and assist with planning workshops and seminars, attend local real estate and realtor related functions, and attend mortgage closings.

Qualifications:
The ideal candidate will possess a high school diploma with a minimum of 1 year experience as a Mortgage Loan Originator (Mortgage Advisor). This individual will have excellent verbal and written communication skills and detail oriented. Candidates that demonstrate both oral and written fluency in Spanish and English are preferred. They must be eligible to register with the Nationwide Mortgage Licensing System (NMLS). They should have good organizational, time management and problem-solving skills. The optimal candidate should demonstrate passion for the mortgage industry and for serving others. DCCU offers a good balance of internal leads and marketing support as well as external business opportunities for the Mortgage Origination team.

At DCCU, we believe that people who like what they do, do it better. We pride ourselves on having a strong purpose in our community and align everything we do around financial wellness. Our work atmosphere fosters an environment that values individual contribution, growth, and development. DuPont Community Credit Union offers a competitive compensation structure featuring a base salary plus incentives with an excellent benefits package including medical and dental insurance, life insurance, long term disability insurance, pension, 401K, and paid time off.

Qualified individuals should apply on-line only by Friday, November 17, 2023.
On-line applications/resumes can be submitted by visiting www.mydccu.com.
Follow the careers link on the homepage.

At DuPont Community Credit Union our goal is to be a diverse workforce that is representative, at all job levels, of the community we serve. We are an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. All qualified applicants are encouraged to apply and will receive consideration for employment without regard to sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, color, religion, national origin, disability, protected Veteran status, age, or any other characteristic protected by law.

We cover more than just the news. Subscribe today!

Please start my subscription to The News-Gazette

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Please enclose a check for the proper amount, or fill in your card number and expiration date to charge to your credit card.

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☐ 2 Years (In Rockbridge County) - \$86.95
☐ 6 Months - \$31.95
☐ 1 Year (In Virginia) - \$62.95
☐ 2 Years (In Virginia) - \$116.95
☐ 6 Months (In Virginia) - \$41.95
☐ 1 Year (Out-of-State) - \$79.95
☐ 2 Years (Out-of-State) - \$149.95
☐ 6 Months (Out-of-State) - \$55.95
☐ Active Military Service (Anywhere) - \$47.95
☐ Student Subscription (9 months) - \$27.95

Credit Card Number _____

Card Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

Mail to The News-Gazette, P.O. Box 1153, Lexington, VA, or drop at our office at 20 West Nelson St., Lexington



HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

These are some of those who have served, as honored by family and friends.

E-4 Cpl Carl Deacon, Sr., U. S. Marine Corps <i>Honored by wife Diane and son Carl Jr.</i>	MSgt Donald Linton, U. S. Army, Retired <i>Honored by his wife, Teresa Linton</i>	Clarence Edward McManama, U. S. Army <i>Honored by Deborah Thorne</i>	PFC Paul T. Huffman, U. S. Army <i>Honored by his daughter, Barbara Majors</i>
SMSgt Bruce C. McGee, U. S. Air Force, Retired <i>Honored by family</i>	PFC George Warren Wade, U. S. Army SSgt William (Bill) Graves, U. S. Army SSgt Charles Graves, U. S. Army Sgt Johnny Graves, U. S. Army <i>Honored by Ellen Graves</i>	SPEC4 E4 (T) Evan Willard Branch, U. S. Army <i>Honored by family & friends</i>	SFC Paul W. Majors, Sr., U. S. Army <i>Honored by his widow, Barbara Majors</i>
SSgt Jamie Schankweiler, U. S. Air Force <i>Honored by SSgt Alan Schankweiler</i>	LCpl Albert V. Carr, Jr., U. S. Marine Corps Reserve <i>Honored by Gail Carr</i>	Clarence Phillip Miller, U. S. Army, Rank Unknown <i>Honored by family & friends</i>	BG Charles F. Brower, U. S. Army <i>Honored by Eileen Brower</i>
SSgt Alan Schankweiler, U. S. Air Force <i>Honored by SSgt Jamie Schankweiler</i>	SSG John Lewis, U. S. Army <i>Honored by his wife, Shelly Lewis</i>	PFC Francis (Buck) Miller Conner, U. S. Army <i>Honored by Mary Emma Stoner</i>	Sgt Daniel R. Rexrode, U. S. Air Force <i>Honored by his wife, Monica Rexrode</i>
SPC-3 James Franklin Conner, Sr., U. S. Army <i>Honored by Debbie, Butch, and Bridgette</i>	1LT Joseph F. Skovira, U. S. Army	SNE3 Carroll “Bob” Gene Floyd, Sr., U. S. Navy <i>Honored by family & friends</i>	CW4 Joseph L. Dorey, U. S. Army, Retired 1st Sgt Joseph Travis Dorey, U. S. Army, Retired <i>Honored by Linda Dorey</i>
Sgt Richard E Armentrout, U. S. Marine Corps <i>Honored by Roger, Debbie & Sue</i>	MAJ Nancy Ellen Roberts, U. S. Army Nurse Corps <i>Honored by her son Wesley Roberts</i>	Sgt Henry Lee Bryant, U. S. Marine Corps <i>Honored by family & friends</i>	CPL Charlie Herman Goad, Jr., U. S. Army E-3 Teresa L. Mundy, U. S. Army RM3 Frank G. Mundy, U. S. Navy E-4 Jimmy C. Mundy, U. S. Army <i>Honored by Goad's Body Shop</i>
E3 Jerry L Snider, U. S. Navy <i>Honored by Jeremy Snider</i>	A1C James Marshall Flint, Sr., U. S. Air Force <i>Honored by Levonne Flint and boys</i>	SP5 Frank D. Gaines, U. S. Army A3C Frank D. Gaines, U. S. Air Force <i>Honored by Jennie Gaines & family</i>	Cpl. Tom McCraw, U. S. Marine Corps <i>Honored by Will & Janie Harris & family</i>
SFC Robert (Alan) Sloan, U. S. Army PVT Paul Timothy Huffman, U. S. Army <i>Honored by family</i>	LTC Paul B. Maini, U. S. Army, Retired <i>Honored by Linda Maini</i>	Sgt George Lee Rhodenizer, U. S. Army <i>Honored by family and friends</i>	MG John W. Knapp, U. S. Army <i>Honored by family</i>
CWO-4 Boyd Walker, U. S. Navy, Retired <i>Honored by family</i>	E-3 Floyd Clyde Camden Sr., U. S. Navy <i>Honored by his family</i>	E5 William R. Chaplin, Jr., U. S. National Guard John J. Chaplin, U. S. Army, Rank Unknown <i>Honored by family and friends</i>	E6 Nicolas Strickler, U. S. Air Force SP4 Orie A. Snider, Sr., U. S. Army PFC Robert W. Dameron, U. S. Army Raymond E. Staton, U. S. Army (rank unknown) EM3 John E. Snider, Sr., U. S. Navy <i>Honored by the Snider family</i>
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