

# Blue Ridge Barometer

Welcome to the latest edition of *Blue Ridge Barometer*, the biannual newsletter of the National Weather Service (NWS) office in Blacksburg, VA! In this issue, you will find articles of interest about the weather and climate of our County Warning Area (CWA). You'll learn about a change in how we report cold weather threats, our outreach to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and our participation in events that help the public learn about staying safe during high-impact weather events. We've also included highlights from our first open house since 2018. All this plus a way that you can contribute to weather research, a look back at Spring and Summer 2024, and weather puzzles to complete when it is cold or rainy outside. Enjoy the final, fleeting days of winter!

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## From the Desk of the Editor

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Do you want the opportunity to contribute to weather research? Our friends at NOAA's National Severe Storms Laboratory (NSSL), in conjunction with the University of Oklahoma and the Cooperative Institute for Mesoscale Meteorological Studies, developed an app called mPing in mid-December 2012. mPing is an acronym for Meteorological Phenomena Identification Near the Ground. National Weather Service (NWS) radars constantly sample the atmosphere, and their algorithms attempt to determine what type of precipitation is falling through the sky. However, there is one thing the radars cannot do. Because their electromagnetic beams are directed progressively higher throughout the atmosphere, they cannot sample the precipitation at ground level. The mPing app is a tool for identifying the ground level precipitation.

Users of the free mPing app can anonymously report what type of precipitation is occurring at their precise location. This information is displayed in real-time on a [national map](#) that NWS meteorologists and hydrologists can monitor compared to radar-derived precipitation types above the surface. Additionally, researchers at NSSL use

mPing data in a variety of ways, including developing new radar and forecasting technologies and techniques. While mPing reports are welcome year-round, wintertime reports are of special

importance. Minor differences in temperature near freezing throughout the lower portions of the atmosphere and the position of warmer layers relative to colder layers can make the difference between rain, freezing rain, sleet, or snow on the ground. In the [Fall 2021](#) edition of Kidz Korner, we included an illustration that describes the reasons for, and results of, these differences. Also, it helps NWS meteorologists know the quality of a

winter weather forecast by allowing them to compare what is forecasted to be occurring at a particular location and what is actually happening. To read more about mPing, please visit the [mPing page](#) at NSSL. The mPing app is available on both the Apple and Google Play app stores. Once downloaded, you can contribute to this critical and important weather research.

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## National Weather Service Shifts from Wind Chill to Extreme Cold Headlines

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*Phil Hysell, Warning Coordination Meteorologist*

The National Weather Service (NWS) has made a significant change to how it communicates cold weather threats to the public. This past winter, the familiar "Wind Chill" headlines were replaced with a more comprehensive "Extreme Cold" terminology. This change is part of an ongoing effort by the NWS to simplify and improve public understanding of hazardous weather, ensuring that critical information is conveyed clearly and effectively during life-threatening cold weather events.

### Why the Change?

For years, Wind Chill headlines have been a staple in the NWS cold product suite of headlines, providing guidance on how cold it "feels" when combining actual temperatures with wind speed. The Extreme Cold headline now encompasses all cold-related hazards, including both actual temperature and wind

chill values. This allows the NWS to communicate that cold is dangerous with or without wind. Wind chill has not gone away, although emphasis will be placed on "cold is cold" for public safety.

### Clearer and More Actionable Information

This change is designed to improve public safety by offering clearer and more actionable information. Extreme Cold Warnings and Cold Weather Advisories now focus more holistically on the impacts of dangerously cold weather, regardless of whether the threat comes from freezing temperatures, high winds, or both.

By consolidating the various hazards into a single, straightforward headline, the NWS hopes to reduce confusion and increase the likelihood that people will take appropriate precautions.

Legacy Headlines	What We Now Issue
Wind Chill Watch Extreme Cold Watch	Extreme Cold Watch
Wind Chill Warning Extreme Cold Warning	Extreme Cold Warning
Wind Chill Advisory	Cold Weather Advisory

For more information on the NWS initiative to consolidate and reformat watches, warnings and advisories, please visit: <https://www.weather.gov/hazardsimplification/>



## Weather Safety for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

*Stacie Hanes, Lead Meteorologist*

There have been ongoing efforts over the last several years for the National Weather Service to reach the more vulnerable populations in our midst, including rural communities that may not have reliable cellular coverage, Amish and Mennonite groups who don't use traditional technology, those who speak English as a Second Language, neurodiverse individuals, the blind, and the Deaf and hard of hearing (DAH).

Rough estimates put the number of people in the U.S. who are Deaf or hard of hearing at

over 37 million people, or about 15% of the population. As Baby Boomers age, this number will increase. For those who are born Deaf, English is their second language. There is no traditionally written form of ASL; it is communicated with hand gestures and facial expressions. Therefore, it is a challenge to make weather safety messaging that is useful for people who cannot hear. While some people point to Closed Captioning as a fix-all, it is frequently wrong, has misspellings, or lags behind what is on the screen.





In addition, traditional safety outreach has not focused on marginalized groups. Some of our slogans do not work for those who can't hear. One example is "When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors!" To address these and other gaps in outreach to DAHH individuals, the NWS has made a number of new safety messages, like "See a Flash, Dash Inside!" In September, NWS offices across the country shared safety tips, protocols, training, and graphics intended for DAHH individuals.

Another tool in the toolbox is the NOAA Weather Radio system, a nationwide network of radio stations broadcasting continuous weather information directly from the nearest NWS office. These radios transmit alerts and alarms when tornado, severe thunderstorm, and other weather warnings are issued. The NWS recommends that everyone has a weather radio in their home, including DAHH individuals. Traditionally, the alarms are very loud, in order to wake people up from a deep sleep. Extra attachments to a NOAA weather radio that can make them even more helpful for those with hearing problems include a strobe light and pillow shaker. These can be added to any weather radio with a Public Alert logo.

For more resources, visit <http://weather.gov/wrn/dhh-safety>.



## Weather Safety: NOAA Radio Attachments

### Weather Radio Attachments for the **Deaf and Hard of Hearing**



**Bundle**  
Includes white LED strobe light, pillow shaker with clip, Y cable, and 4 AA batteries. Separate red strobe light is available if you prefer.

**Compatibility**   
Attachments are compatible with any weather radio with the Public Alert logo.

**Other Information + Where Can I Get These?**  
Search online for:  
Weather Radio Attachments



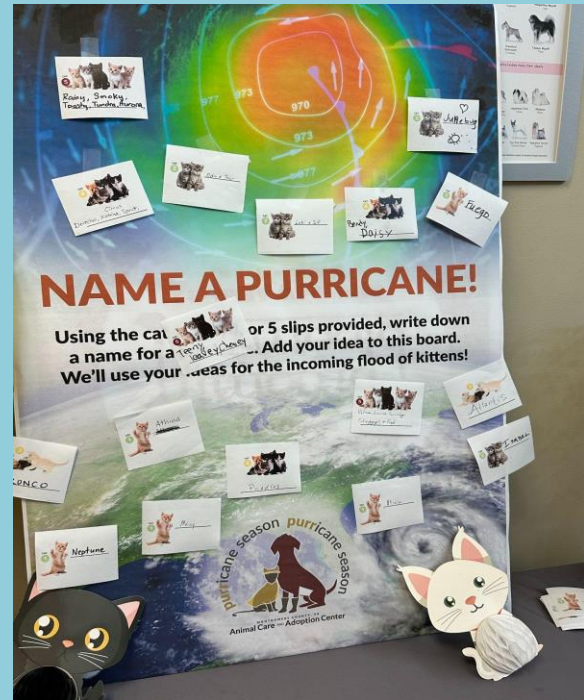


# NWS Blacksburg in Your Neighborhood

Amanda Sava, Meteorologist

The mission of the National Weather Service is to provide weather, water, and climate data, forecasts, warnings, and impact-based decision support services for the protection of life and property, and the enhancement of the national economy. To help us meet this mission, we participate in numerous events throughout the year to educate the public about what to do before, during, and after a high-impact weather event. This past year at NWS Blacksburg was full of numerous outreach events, including a few we have done in years past, and several new and unique events we attended for the first time.

Many communities and organizations have wanted to learn how to prepare for any hurricanes that may impact this area. This was unfortunately very relevant, as both Post-Tropical Cyclone Debby and Tropical Storm Helene significantly impacted the region. One such organization was the Montgomery County Animal Care and Adoption Center in Blacksburg, Virginia, who hosted a Purricane Pawty last May. The goal of this event was to educate the public on how to plan for their pets in an emergency situation like a hurricane. Lead Meteorologist Stacie Hanes was on site at the center to give expert advice to visitors. Attendees had the opportunity to name kittens (Figure 1), as well as adopt one in need of a forever home (Figure 2).



*Figure 1. Visitors had the opportunity to name kittens at the Purricane Pawty. (Photo courtesy: Stacie Hanes)*



*Figure 2. Two kittens available for adoption at the Purricane Pawty. (Photo courtesy: Stacie Hanes)*



# LET'S GET READY, ROANOKE! Roanoke's Prepareathon 2024

*Figure 3. Roanoke Prepareathon logo. Courtesy: City of Roanoke*

In the theme of preparedness, the Roanoke Prepareathon was hosted by the City of Roanoke Stormwater to help the citizens of Roanoke and the surrounding area be prepared for flooding and other natural disasters. NWS Blacksburg, represented by Meteorologist Amanda Sava, participated in this full day of education and interaction with the public. Others in attendance included the Virginia Department of Health, United States Geological Survey, City of Roanoke Emergency Management, and Virginia Department of Emergency Management.



*Figure 4. NWS Blacksburg table at the Roanoke Prepareathon.*

Weather safety is not just for adults, but also for kids. NWS Blacksburg was invited to participate in two Environmental Field Days, which are held annually for fifth grade students in Watauga and Ashe Counties in North Carolina.



*Figure 5. NWS Blacksburg table at the Ashe County Environmental Field Day, hosted by the New River Soil and Water Conservation District in Jefferson, North Carolina*

Warning Coordination Meteorologist Phil Hysell traveled with Meteorologist Dennis Sleighter to Watauga County and Meteorologists Vance Joyner and Amanda Sava made the trek to Ashe County. Multiple fifth grade classes rotated through eight to ten stations to learn from each of the vendors, which included local Christmas tree farmers, Wildlife Management, and Forestry, among others. The NWS Blacksburg staff presented on cloud types and upper air balloon launches. They also talked about the most common weather hazards and how to stay safe in each scenario. It was a fun and educational day

for both the students and NWS Blacksburg staff!



*Figure 6. Meteorologist Vance Joyner discusses the safest locations to be during various weather hazards with fifth graders at the Ashe County Environmental Field Day.*

Virginia Western Community College hosted a free showing of the highly anticipated movie, “Twisters,” for students and staff at its Roanoke campus in the fall. Before the movie, Lead Meteorologist Stacie Hanes and Meteorologist Amanda Sava, gave a presentation on twisters in the real world, discussing how tornadoes are identified on radar, surveyed, and rated, as well as the types of tornadoes and tornado safety. Having a big interest in tornadoes, and being fans of the movie itself, Hanes and Sava enjoyed giving this unique presentation.



*Figure 7. Introduction of “Twisters” presentation at VWCC.*

When NWS Blacksburg attends an event, it is our hope not only to educate the public about weather, but to possibly inspire some to become meteorologists. We were invited to host a table at the Roanoke Career Quest, a two-day event that brought in nearly 3,000 seventh graders from across the region. A wide variety of businesses and organizations shared about the career opportunities that are available in the Roanoke and New River Valleys. Science and Operations Officer, Adam Baker, attended both days of the event, and was assisted on the first day by Information Technology Officer, Jeffrey Moss, and the second day, by Meteorologist Amanda Sava. Participating students loved the Weather Jeopardy Game and the “Tornado in a Bottle” experiment. Hopefully, at least a few students were motivated to become meteorologists one day, and perhaps even work for the NWS in the future!



*Figure 8. Science and Operations Officer, Adam Baker, quizzes seventh graders during Weather Jeopardy at Roanoke Career Quest.*





**Figure 9.** Meteorologist, Amanda Sava, is all set to talk to seventh graders about weather and the National Weather Service at Roanoke Career Quest.

At the National Weather Service, we believe in connecting with the communities we serve, and that those connections help us meet our mission to save lives and protect property. Outreach is a big part of making those connections, and NWS Blacksburg is always happy to participate in community events.

## Weather Witticisms

**How do polar bears make their beds?**

With sheets of ice and blankets of snow.

**What do you call an elderly snowman?**

Water.

**Why did the husband pour warm water on his computer?**

He had asked his wife what to do if windows froze.

**What do mountains wear to stay warm?**  
Snowcaps.

**What did the wool hat say to the scarf?**  
You hang around while I go on ahead.

**What did one snowflake say to the other?**  
“You’re one of a kind!”

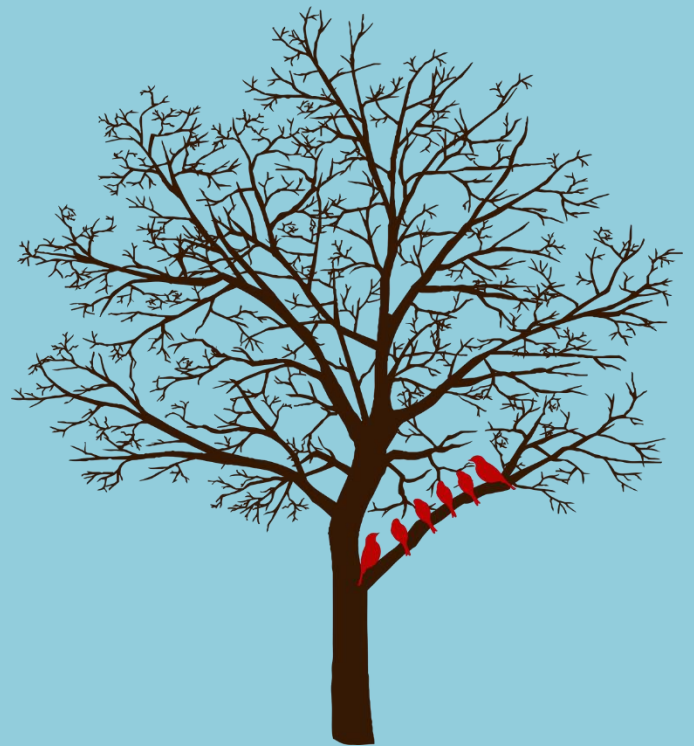
**What is a snowman’s favorite candy?**  
Sno-Caps.

**If a winter fox lost his tail, where would you go to buy him a new one?**

A retail store.

**What did the tree say after a long, cold winter?**

What a re-leaf!





# NWS Blacksburg Open House

*Anita Silverman, Lead Meteorologist*

On Saturday, October 5, 2024, the National Weather Service (NWS) in Blacksburg hosted its first in-person open house since 2018. Staff gave tours to the public inside the office and outside the upper air shelter. Guests received an overview of the mission and operations in the conference room and then moved on to a demonstration of the workstation forecasters use to monitor the weather and issue watches and warnings. This was followed by a description and display of a variety of observation equipment and then a walk to the upper air shelter for an explanation of weather balloon launches.



*Figure 1. Other state and federal agencies had displays available for people waiting their turn to tour the NWS office.*

Meteorologists conducted tours in groups of about 15 people, with a new group starting every 10 to 15 minutes. A total of 315 people took the tour. Special activities were available for kids. The most popular hands-on demonstration was the water balloon toss that promoted the [CoCoRaHS network](#) and

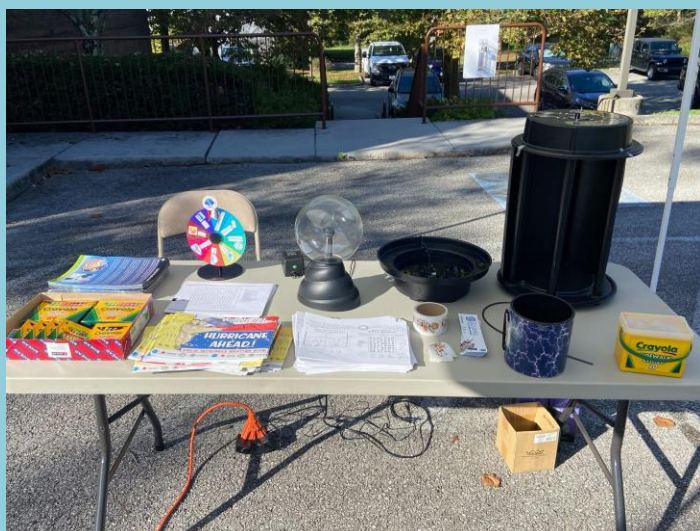
simulated rainfall into a gauge. Staff distributed pet clouds and encouraged guests to try out the weather trivia wheel.



*Figure 2. The Blacksburg Fire/Rescue Squad was one of the groups in attendance.*

While people waited, they could check out displays from the Virginia Department of Transportation, amateur radio operators, the American Red Cross, the Virginia Tech Meteorology Club, the US Geological Survey, and the Blacksburg Fire/Rescue squad. The VT Storm Chasers had the StormCruzzler chase vehicle on display.

NWS Blacksburg would like to thank our colleagues at NWS Raleigh for providing operational support for the day, which allowed more staff to help before, during, and after the event. Appreciation also goes out to the student members of the VT Meteorology Club who helped guide guests to and from the upper air shelter.



**Figure 3.** The kids table at the NWS Blacksburg Open House, featuring the weather trivia wheel, tornado machine, and thunder drum.

## Spring and Summer 2024 in Review

For our five climatological sites (Blacksburg, VA, Bluefield, WV, Danville, VA, Lynchburg, VA, and Roanoke, VA) both meteorological Spring (March, April and May) and meteorological Summer (June, July, and August) saw temperatures above normal. Blacksburg and Roanoke experienced below normal precipitation in both seasons, and Danville was above normal. Bluefield and Lynchburg had one above normal and one below normal season. Specific values are available in Table 1 for Spring and in Table 2 for Summer. Within the tables, red text denotes positive temperature deviation, green text denotes positive precipitation deviation, and brown text denotes negative precipitation deviation.

Spring (Mar/Apr/May) 2024				
	Average Temp	Deviation	Precipitation	Deviation
Blacksburg, VA	56.4	5.3	7.20	-4.82
Bluefield, WV	54.5	2.8	13.23	1.14
Danville, VA	60.6	2.9	15.14	3.95
Lynchburg, VA	59.7	4.1	8.96	-2.23
Roanoke, VA	61.8	4.3	8.56	-2.75

**Table 1:** Average Temperatures, Temperature Deviation from Normal, Total Seasonal Precipitation, and Precipitation Deviation from normal for meteorological Spring (March, April, and May) of 2024.

Summer (Jun/Jul/Aug) 2024				
	Average Temp	Deviation	Precipitation	Deviation
Blacksburg, VA	72.4	2.4	11.13	-0.92
Bluefield, WV	70.1	1.2	9.03	-2.61
Danville, VA	77.3	1.2	16.42	4.09
Lynchburg, VA	76.5	2.4	12.53	1.30
Roanoke, VA	78.2	2.3	10.60	-1.71

**Table 2:** Average Temperatures, Temperature Deviation from Normal, Total Seasonal Precipitation, and Precipitation Deviation from normal for meteorological Summer (June, July, and August) of 2024.

## Weather Wisdom

It's a very foggy morning in Roanoke, Virginia. An Uber driver picks up a passenger requesting a ride to the airport. The passenger is late for his flight to Atlanta, which may also be delayed, due to the fog. The Uber driver is driving extra cautiously when the passenger sighs loudly and says:

“There’s a funeral home out there somewhere looking for you to be their hearse driver.”

The Uber driver replies: “If I drive any faster in this fog, there’s a hearse out there looking for you to be in it.”



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## What's New in Our Office: Personnel Changes

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This past summer, our office was excited to welcome three new meteorologists. We are equally excited to introduce them to you!

### Christopher Grover

Originally hailing from San Antonio, Texas, Christopher Grover holds a B.A. in International Relations from Boston University and an M.S. in Meteorology from Florida State University. Prior to changing careers and beginning graduate studies, he spent four years working for the Institute for Humane Studies at George Mason University, where he served as an Events Specialist/Coordinator. While at FSU, he was a Student Volunteer at the Tallahassee WFO. He's a Dallas Cowboys fan, enjoys bowling, and likes to bake. Glad you have joined us, Christopher!



### Cody Burroughs

Born and raised near Charlotte, NC, Cody Burroughs holds a B.S. in Meteorology and a M.S. in Earth Sciences, both from the University of North Carolina - Charlotte. He was previously an Industry Meteorologist with DTN in Minneapolis, MN forecasting tropical cyclones around the world. Outside of work, he keeps busy with his family; he has three children (all six years old and under!). He also loves to follow sports, mainly motorsports, football, and basketball. He is happy to be working a few hours from where he grew up and closer to his family in North Carolina. We are happy to welcome you to our office, Cody!





## Eric Bunker

A native of the Stafford/Fredericksburg area of northern Virginia, Eric Bunker obtained a B.S. in Meteorology from the University of North Carolina - Charlotte, and an M.S. in Atmospheric Science from the University at Albany (SUNY - Albany). Before joining our office, Eric was a Meteorologist at the Weather Forecast Office in Tallahassee, FL where he was employed since 2018. While at Tallahassee, he worked during numerous severe weather and tropical cyclone events (including Hurricane Michael), served on Regional and National Teams, and was deployed for numerous Incident Decision Support Services requests and training sessions. Eric was also highly involved in the student volunteer, office computer systems, hazard services, and winter weather programs within the Tallahassee office.

Outside of the office, he enjoys all types of outdoor activities -- especially running, golfing, and gardening. Eric is married, with a toddler daughter and two dogs. He is excited not only to be closer to family, but also to escape the “eternal summers with upper 70s dewpoints” of North Florida, and to enjoy the mountain views and fall colors of this region. Great to have you on board, Eric!

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## Feeling Under the Weather?

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Some people claim they can feel an approaching winter storm or cold snap, based on a sinus headache or a flare-up of their arthritis. Can our health really serve as a barometer of upcoming changes in the weather?

Ancient Greek physician, Hippocrates, recorded that some illnesses seemed to increase in severity under certain meteorological conditions. Scientists since then have conducted studies to determine just how much of a correlation there is between our aches and pains and the weather.

One such study revealed that increases in barometric pressure, and colder ambient temperatures, are independently linked to the pain felt by people with knee osteoarthritis. (Source: [The American Journal of Medicine](#)) Another study found that a drop in barometric pressure triggered migraine attacks. (Source: [National Library of Medicine](#))

So, if the sun is shining outside, but the achiness in your knee has returned, it could mean that a storm is on the way. When in doubt, check with your [local meteorologists](#) at the National Weather Service!



## Kidz Korner

In this edition of **Kidz Korner** you are presented with two puzzles! For the **first puzzle**, determine the mystery word based upon the clue given. All the answers are related to the Autumn and Winter seasons, including some of the Federal Holidays that occur during those seasons. The mystery word is presented to you as a series of blanks indicating the number of letters in the mystery word. As a help, one of the letters of the mystery word is included. For the **second puzzle** (a word search), find all twenty of the mystery words from the first puzzle in the word search puzzle. The mystery words may be placed horizontally (left to right), vertically (top to bottom), or diagonally within the puzzle. To view the answer key for the puzzles, please click the links which follow each of the puzzles.

### PUZZLE 1

These items fall off the trees in Autumn:   A  

Composed of ice crystals, this is a white colored form of precipitation:   N  

These decorate some porches in late October:

  U  

The one in late December marks the beginning of Winter:   C  

Wintertime precipitation that is in the form of small balls of ice:   L  

This type of scientist predicts the weather:

  T  

Object attached to the front of a large truck, used to help clear snow off the road:   L  

Autumn begins during this month:      M  

This hand-held device is used to remove ice and snow from vehicle windows:      P  

Many people wear these items on their feet while walking through snow:   O  

This bird is associated with the Thanksgiving Day holiday:      Y  

This type of notice is issued by the National Weather Service when conditions are favorable for hazardous weather, but a degree of uncertainty remains:   C  

This type of notice is issued by the National Weather Service when hazardous weather conditions are likely or occurring:   R  

In early February, a famous groundhog from the western part of this state looks for his shadow to predict either an early spring or six more weeks of winter:      S  

You can put these on your hands to help keep them warm:   T  

The last name of a slain civil rights leader honored with a holiday in January:   I  

Bright, electrical items found on many pine trees around the Christmas holiday:   G  

The type of kit your family is encouraged to keep in your vehicle that contains items such as first aid supplies, snacks and water, a blanket, and a flash light:   E  

Men and women formerly serving in the armed forces who are honored on a November holiday:

     N  

Many people wrap this item around their face to stay warm:   C  

### Puzzle 1 Answer Key

## PUZZLE 2

B	U	N	H	U	S	P	A	M	I	T	T	W	V	A	E	U	L	G	C
I	O	E	M	E	R	W	W	R	P	O	E	S	C	R	A	P	E	R	O
S	R	O	O	G	R	Y	A	F	L	M	O	O	O	S	O	O	C	U	I
C	H	P	T	U	F	W	T	H	E	P	S	L	I	T	U	I	N	G	U
R	U	E	U	S	A	L	C	R	A	A	U	S	I	A	U	A	T	U	G
A	A	N	G	M	T	K	H	U	V	A	I	T	K	G	V	E	T	E	T
F	A	N	O	S	P	O	P	W	W	T	G	I	T	L	H	M	P	S	W
A	L	S	T	U	R	K	E	Y	O	N	K	C	U	Y	A	T	I	N	F
V	C	Y	S	M	H	S	I	H	I	W	E	E	T	S	K	G	S	O	I
E	V	L	L	E	R	O	E	N	U	R	U	R	E	R	O	O	T	W	S
T	W	V	I	T	B	W	R	Y	S	M	A	C	T	L	A	W	W	A	H
E	A	A	G	O	F	A	W	N	N	U	T	E	O	R	I	T	U	E	E
R	W	N	H	R	W	S	O	N	E	M	E	R	G	E	N	C	Y	M	P
A	M	I	U	H	G	L	E	O	R	L	O	R	U	N	M	U	C	I	I
N	A	A	S	I	M	P	S	N	S	E	P	T	E	M	B	E	R	T	C
S	K	O	E	F	S	Y	M	C	T	K	U	A	R	S	C	W	A	T	C
O	C	V	P	V	C	L	M	E	O	N	S	O	L	S	M	T	P	E	L
P	L	O	W	W	A	L	M	U	U	T	M	L	Y	N	E	R	P	N	A
H	K	O	M	A	R	W	A	R	N	I	M	E	L	E	A	V	E	S	U
P	U	M	P	G	F	E	N	S	K	I	N	G	T	U	U	E	E	N	S

### Puzzle #2 Answer Key



## Furry Bear

*A.A. Milne*

If I were a bear,  
And a big bear too,  
I shouldn't much care  
If it froze or snowed;  
I shouldn't much mind  
If it snowed or friz—  
I'd be all fur-lined  
With a coat like his!

For I'd have fur boots and a brown fur wrap,  
And brown fur knickers and a big fur cap.  
I'd have a fur muffle-ruff to cover my jaws,  
And brown fur mittens on my big brown paws.  
With a big brown furry-down up to my head,  
I'd sleep all the winter in a big fur bed.



Feeling creative? Would you like to see your art or writings included in the next edition of Blue Ridge Barometer? If you are between the ages of 3 and 17, we would love to see

your hand-drawn artwork, short poems, or short stories about the weather. Our meteorologists will review the submissions and select a few to include in the newsletter. Maybe yours will be one of them!

To submit your original drawing, poem, or story, scan your artwork or writing into a .jpg computer image file (with the help of an adult, if needed). You can also write your poem or story using Word and save it as a .doc or .docx file. Please keep any written material to 500 words or less. Artwork may also be completed using drawing or painting software, submitted as a .jpg file.

When submitting your drawing, poem, or story, please include your first name and first initial of your last name, age, and the city/town where you live. All entries should be submitted no later than June 1, 2025. Please email your entries [here](#).

We look forward to hearing from you!



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## From Piedmont to Mountaintop

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In this edition, we have a picture that one of our office's forecasters captured of "jellyfish clouds," which are altocumulus clouds with virga extending from them. Altocumulus clouds develop in the middle levels of the atmosphere and are composed primarily of water droplets. Virga, the wispy tails that look like jellyfish tentacles, is precipitation that evaporates before it reaches the ground. The meteorologist took this picture of the early morning sky over Radford, Virginia, in late April 2024.



Do you enjoy taking weather pictures in your neighborhood? If so, we would really enjoy seeing them! We invite you to take some weather-related photos and [share](#) them with us. Please include with your photos your first name, the first initial of your last name, and where and when you took the picture. We will include your photos in upcoming newsletters and credit them appropriately. Also, by submitting a picture, you agree that we can use it on one of our social media platforms (Facebook and X) or in our local community outreach presentations (for example, a SKYWARN class). Photos used in these forums will also be credited appropriately.



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## Stay Safe & Stay Involved!

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The upcoming spring and summer seasons will bring not only warmer temperatures, but a wide range of potential weather hazards, including flooding, lightning, and even tornadoes. Check out the NWS [Weather Safety page](#) for information on all types of weather hazards. If you are interested in helping the NWS with storm spotting and verification, please consider participating in the [SKYWARN](#) program. Additionally, the NWS can always use new rain observers for the [CoCoRaHS](#) network, especially in West Virginia!

To keep up to date on what's happening in our office in between newsletters, please visit our website: <https://www.weather.gov/rnk> or follow us on [X](#) and [Facebook](#).

For questions or comments about this newsletter, please contact the [editor](#) or via snail mail at:

Blue Ridge Barometer

National Weather Service

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