



## Holiday events announced for the City of Radford

RADFORD – From a tree lighting with caroling to the annual Christmas parade, the holiday season events in Radford are being announced.

In what is considered the annual kick-off to the holiday season, the Radford Public Library will be hosting the annual tree lighting at the library on Wednesday, Dec. 1, from 5:30 to 6:15 p.m.

Radford Coffee Company (RCC) will offer hot cocoa and cookies from the library parking lot prior to the lighting of the tree.

“Thanks to our RPL Lamplighters for funding the refreshments from RCC,” the library announced.

Members of the Grove United

Methodist Church Handbell Choir will perform music and will also lead interactive handbell playing for little ones. Mayor David Horton will provide the countdown for the magical tree lighting, and Santa will be on hand to flip the switch. The event will take place outside, rain or shine. Those planning to attend should dress accordingly.

The following evening, Thursday, Dec. 2, Radford’s Holiday Parade, themed “Winter Nights and Magical Lights,” will take place at 7 p.m. Line-up begins at 6 p.m. The parade route will line up on East Main Street between Tyler Avenue and University Drive Bridge and proceed westward

along Main Street to the Central Square Shopping Center. Registration is underway, and the form can be found on the city’s website, [www.radfordva.gov](http://www.radfordva.gov).

On Dec. 11, the annual Handcrafted Holiday Pop-Up Market hosted by MountainTrotter Arts returns from noon to 4 p.m. at Glencoe Mansion, Museum, and Gallery.

“The handcrafted market features one-of-a-kind and high quality handcrafted works by local artisans, providing a perfect way to do all of your holiday shopping,” according to information released by Glencoe and



FILE PHOTO

**Santa waves to the crowd at a past Christmas Parade in Radford. Registration is open for this year’s parade, which is planned for Thursday, Dec. 2. Registration is open until Nov. 25.**

See Events, page 2

## Radford Recreation Commission seeks July 4th input

RADFORD - The Radford Recreation Commission is looking for public input on the lineup for 2022’s July 4th event.

“The Radford Recreation Commission would like your thoughts and suggestions for our 2022’s July 4th Spirit of America Celebration,” the City of Radford announced. “The commission has been working diligently on making the event the best ever and would love to hear your suggestions and comments.”

Some bands have already been scheduled, including former Statler Brother Jimmy Fortune, returning for his 20th year performing in Radford on July 4. The Cat 5 Band, specializing in country and beach music with classic rock, R&B and soul music, and 80’s pop rock, will also perform. Also scheduled is the LUA Project playing



**Musical performances, like this one from 2021, are a big part of Radford’s 4th of July festival. The Radford Recreation Commission is looking for public suggestions for this year’s performers.**

“Mexilachian” music, a blend of Mexican and Appalachian folk songs.

Anyone who would like to suggest a band for the recreation commission to consider for an afternoon slot on the program may email that suggestion to [Ken.Goodyear@radfordva.gov](mailto:Ken.Goodyear@radfordva.gov) by Wednesday,

Dec. 15. Any pertinent information such as the group’s website and contact information should be included.

The commission also welcomes suggestions and comments on food and craft vendors and any other recommendations the public may have.

## VDOT seeks comments on study for new trail connecting valleys

SALEM – The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) is seeking public comments about a study that is under way to consider a new multi-use path called the Valley to Valley Trail that would connect the Roanoke Valley to the New River Valley.

This new trail would create a single cohesive trail network by connecting the Roanoke River Greenway in Roanoke, the Huckleberry Trail in Blacksburg and Christiansburg, the Radford Riverway Trail, and the New River Trail State Park.

The study will help to determine a recommended alignment with sections

that could be developed in individual phases.

VDOT has posted a recorded presentation about the study along with an online survey on the project website at <https://www.virginiadot.org/valley-tovalleytrail>.

Comments will be received through Dec. 1, 2021. Citizens can provide comments through the online survey or by mailing them to Michael Gray, Virginia Department of Transportation, 731 Harrison Avenue, Salem VA 24153.

For additional information, contact Michael Gray at 540-494-8288, 1-800-367-7623, TTY/TDD 711.

## Radford University announces new Dean of the Libraries

RADFORD - Radford University has chosen Paul Orkiszewski as the Dean of the Libraries, effective in January.

Reporting to the Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, the dean serves in the critical role of supporting student and faculty research, scholarship, and the open exploration of ideas. The university hosts two libraries, the McConnell Library on the main campus in Radford and a Roanoke-based Radford University Carilion Library.

“Mr. Orkiszewski brings a wealth of experience to Radford along with his scholarly interests in acquisitions and collections, technology services, digital initiatives, and intellectual property issues in the digital environment,” said J. Orion Rogers, RU’s Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.

“I am thrilled and deeply honored to have been named Dean of Radford University Libraries and to become part of the Highlander community,” said Orkiszewski, who will join Radford effective Jan. 10, 2022. “I very much look forward to building on the great work that library staff has done at McConnell and at Radford University Carilion as we develop and build vital, engaged, and inclusive library spaces and services



**Paul Orkiszewski**

that will be an active and central part of the intellectual, scholarly, and creative life of the students, faculty, and staff at Radford.”

With more than 25 years of experience, Mr. Orkiszewski is currently serving as the Interim Dean of the Libraries at Appalachian State University and has served in that role since 2019. He leads 39 faculty and 55 staff members in fulfilling the teaching and learning mission of the university libraries with a budget of more than \$10 million. He earned a bachelor of music and a master of music degree from Rice University and a master of library and information science degree from the University of Texas at Austin.

“McConnell Library

plays a critical role in providing transformative educational experiences and ensuring student success,” said Radford University Interim President Carolyn “Lynn” Ringer Lepre. “Mr. Orkiszewski brings extensive experience and innovative thought leadership as the next dean of the libraries at Radford University. I am confident that his ability to collaboratively engage campus partners and the community, cultivate donor relationships, integrate technology, and create inclusive learning environments will significantly contribute to our mission and have a positive impact on our university. I look forward to welcoming him to campus as a Highlander.”

## Center offers support, advocacy for first-generation RU students

The Center for Opportunity and Social Mobility, housed in the Bonnie Hurlburt Student Center, offers support and advocacy for first-generation Radford University students, which make up about 30 percent of the undergraduate student population.

The center opened its doors at the beginning of the fall 2021 semester.

“It’s not just about supporting,” said center director Jessica Twiest. “It’s also about advocating for our first-generation students, faculty, and staff and celebrating the fact that these folks are also on campus.”

First-generation college students — the first people in their immediate families to pursue higher education — often must navigate the college education process on their own. The center was designed to cater to the unique set of challenges that these Highlanders face.

Twiest describes the center as a space that provides a supportive community among students that aligns with Radford University’s pursuit for student-centered facilities. It is a place where students can study, use computers, hang out with like-minded individuals, take advantage of resources, and expand their knowledge.

The center also spotlights its work

with special events. In celebration of National First-Generation Student Day, the center hosted a series of events, including a first-generation student reception, a photo booth, and T-shirt and bookstore gift-card giveaways.

In October, the center hosted a Fall Palooza celebration designed by junior business marketing major Lydia Burke, a work-study student at the center. The event, open to all students, and featuring fall-themed crafts and food, was an example of how the center brings student visions to life and promotes academic well-being.

“Honestly working in the Center for Opportunity and Social Mobility has really helped me within my major,” Burke said. “I have gotten experience in marketing, leadership, and making connections with the people who come in here.”

With its continuous commitment to pushing students forward, the center will also begin hosting workshops on test anxiety, note-taking skills, financial aid, and scholarships to ensure knowledge gaps among first-generation students are filled.

“The center is just the place for folks to be,” said Twiest. “You are welcomed here, and you are valued here.”



**The Center of Opportunity and Social Mobility offers support and advocacy for the roughly 30 percent of the RU student body that are first-generation students.**



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Wednesday, Nov. 17:

### Hahn Horticulture Garden In-Person Learn at Lunch

“Ramps” with Pabitra Aryal; noon to 1 p.m. Pabitra Aryal is a Ph.D. candidate in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences’ School of Plant and Environmental Sciences who is researching the onion’s cousin by growing ramps from seeds and bulbs to study the germination time of the plant. Come learn more about ramps and her research. This is a free event, no registration needed. VT requires face masks in public spaces, so everyone will need to wear a mask at this event. Parking passes will be provided to attendees.

### Computer Basics: Library Databases

At the Meadowbrook Public Library at 10:30 a.m. This course will cover accessing and utilizing library databases from computers, smartphones, and tablets. Databases include the library digital collections, genealogy and research, career resources, and resources for kids.

### Sustainable Blacksburg Lunch & Learn: Food Waste

“The Surprising Cost of Food Waste and What We Can Do about It” is the theme of this lunch-and-learn at the Blacksburg Library at noon. We waste about 40% of food produced in the United States every year. Join Kas Church, the Assistant Director of the Food Access Initiatives at Virginia Tech, as she discusses the Campus Kitchen at Virginia Tech (CKVT). Since its founding in 2015, CKVT has diverted over 240,000 pounds of food from campus dining centers to local food access partners. <https://sustainableblacksburgva.org/>.

### Loops Group with New River Art and Fiber

At the Blacksburg Library at 2 p.m. Participants can bring their latest project every Wednesday from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. to knit and chat.

### Art Club

At the Christiansburg Library at 2 p.m. The club will explore the art of Lubaina Himid and recreate one of her famous paintings, “The Carpet.” Registration is required. For ages 6 and up.

### Teen Book Club: “The Song of Achilles”

Virtual/Online at 4 p.m. Each month the club reads a

different book and meets on the last Wednesday of every month to chat about it. This month the club is reading “The Song of Achilles” by Madeline Miller. The club is meeting both in person and online. Email [mroach@mfrl.org](mailto:mroach@mfrl.org) for the link to participate virtually or for more information.

### Talking About Books Non-fiction; “Gulp” by Mary Roach

At the Christiansburg Library at 11 a.m. Discussed this month is “Gulp” by Mary Roach meeting both in person and virtually.

## Thursday, Nov. 18:

### Talking about Books

To be discussed is “Crying in H Mart” by Michelle Zauner at the Meadowbrook Public Library at 11 a.m. Call (540) 268-1964 for more information or to reserve a copy.

### Kids’ Candle Making

At the Christiansburg Library at 4:30 p.m. Kids of all ages are invited to make candles at the library.

### Pokemon Snap Event

At the Blacksburg Library at 5 p.m. Participants can take a tour and snap some Pokémon pics. They will journey to the newly discovered Lental Region and snap some photos of Pokémon on 30 courses, including six that were just added. When the tour is finished, participants can choose a picture to print and decorate as a memento of the journey. All ages are welcome. Contact [sstauffer@mfrl.org](mailto:sstauffer@mfrl.org) with questions.

## Saturday, Nov. 20:

### Creative Writing Group

At the Meadowbrook Public Library at 11 a.m. Participants will receive support, feedback, and writing tips both in person or on Go-to-Meeting. Email [mupthegrove@mfrl.org](mailto:mupthegrove@mfrl.org) or call 540-268-1964 for more information. Participants do not need a Go-To-Meeting account to join.

### Caturday

At the Christiansburg Library at noon. Sign up at the front desk for a 15-minute slot to read to a cat from the Montgomery County Animal Care and Adoption Center to practice reading and to socialize shelter cats. All ages are welcome. Email [shodges@mfrl.org](mailto:shodges@mfrl.org) for more information.

### Edible Pumpkin Patch Craft

At the Blacksburg Library at 2 p.m. Create an edible pumpkin patch with the likes of graham crackers and Oreos. All ages are welcome, registration is required, and all supplies are provided.

### Teen DND

At the Blacksburg Library at 2 p.m. Teens. Dungeons. Dragons.

### Help Project Linus

At the Radford Public Library from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Happiness is a warm blanket. Join in the fun and make a blanket with RPL and Project Linus. Then contribute the finished blanket to Project Linus, which distributes blankets to children in need in Radford, Montgomery, Floyd, Giles, and Pulaski counties. Lamplighters will provide materials, and Project Linus volunteers will provide tools and instruction for participants to begin and complete a blanket to donate to a child in need during this event. Supplies are limited, so participants are invited to bring their own supplies if they’re able (1&1/3 yards Blizzard Fleece in a child-friendly print). Blankets will be completed with loop-through edging rather than knotting. Email [elizabeth.sensabaugh@radfordva.gov](mailto:elizabeth.sensabaugh@radfordva.gov) today to reserve a space. For ages 14+.

## Sunday, Nov. 21:

### Chess Club

At the Blacksburg Library at 3 p.m. Kids and teens ages 8 years and up are welcome to come sharpen their chess skills. Supplies will be provided. All skill levels are welcome.

## Tuesday, Nov. 23:

### Secret Agent Camp

At the Blacksburg Library at 4:30 p.m. Children of all ages are invited to attend the library spy camp. Crack codes, lift fingerprints, and learn how to sleuth.

### Wellness Book Club: “The Anti-Diet”

At the Christiansburg Library at 6:30 p.m. This is a limited book-club series. Discussed this month will be “The Anti-Diet” by Christy Harrison. Pre-register with the Town of Christiansburg Recreation Department at 540-382-2349.

## Wednesday, Nov. 24:

MFRL closed

All branches of the Montgomery Floyd Regional Library will close at noon on Wednesday, Nov. 24, and will remain closed on Thursday, Nov. 25, and Friday, Nov. 26 for Thanksgiving.

## Throughout November:

### Donate your old sneakers

The RADical Change Commission and GotSneakers have partnered up to promote healthy communities with creative recycling. This sneaker drive fundraiser helps keep sneakers out of landfills and reduces the amount of toxic chemicals released into the air and the soil. All sneakers from the drive are recirculated to people who want quality, reusable footwear at affordable prices or repurposed into new surfaces such as playgrounds and tracks. Donors are asked to wash their old sneakers before dropping them off at either of the following two locations: 1) Unity Christian Church, 400 Tyler Ave. (corner of Tyler and Clement), Radford, Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. and Friday from 8 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. The bin is located at the office door facing Moe’s Southwest Grill. 2) The Shelter, 1205 Downey St., Radford. The bin is located on the front porch. Drop-off hours are anytime day or night. Sneakers will be collected through Nov. 30. They can be in any size or condition.

### Help the Veterans with Your Donations

All the month of November at the Meadowbrook Public Library, a collection point for items needed at the VA Medical Center in Salem. Donors may bring the following items to the library during November: deodorant, denture adhesive, 3 in 1 body wash/shampoo/conditioner, body lotion, toothpaste, nail clippers, sweatpants, sweat-shirts, t-shirts (size M, L, XL), and new baseball caps.

### No brush collections in November

Christiansburg public works crews are not collecting brush this month due to equipment failure. Brush collection will resume in December once repairs are completed.

## Wednesday, Dec. 1:

Radford Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony

The Radford Coffee Company (RCC) will offer hot cocoa and cookies from the library parking lot prior to the lighting of the tree. Libby and Olivia, members of the Grove United Methodist Handbell Choir, will perform music and will also lead interactive handbell playing for little ones. Mayor David Horton will provide the countdown for the magical tree lighting, and Santa will be there to flip the switch. This event takes place outside, rain or shine. Please dress accordingly.

## Thursday, Dec. 2:

### Radford Holiday Parade

Radford’s Holiday Parade, themed “Winter Nights and Magical Lights,” will take place at 7 p.m. The line-up begins at 6 p.m. The parade route will line up on East Main Street between Tyler Avenue and University Drive Bridge and proceed westward along Main Street to the Central Square Shopping Center.

## Sunday, Dec. 5:

### Luminaries Display

The annual Stroubles Mill Neighborhood Association Luminaries Display in Blacksburg will begin at 5:30 p.m. The rain date is Dec. 6.

## Ongoing:

### Second annual Radford holiday display contest

The Radford Chamber of Commerce’s second holiday display contest is underway as Radford businesses and residents are urged to come up with their best window or home displays. The entry fee is \$25, and the entry deadline is Nov. 30 with decorations required to be up by Dec. 10. Public voting will then take place from Dec. 10 through Dec. 22.

### “Paper Alchemy” exhibit

Currently on display in the gallery in the Covington Center at Radford University. This is an exhibition of jewelry and other objects made from Thurmanite®, a material invented by James Thurman, an artist who teaches at the University of North Texas. Thurmanite is a unique composite material made of layers of recycled paper bonded together with an environmentally friendly plant-based resin. “Paper Alchemy” is a dynamic demonstration of the artists’ range of inventive problem-solving and creativity.

# Warm Hearth Village employees walk to fight Alzheimer’s

BLACKSBURG -- On Nov. 6, Warm Hearth Village and its employees participated in the New River Valley Walk to End Alzheimer’s for the 21st time.

The Alzheimer’s Association’s Walk to End Alzheimer’s is the world’s largest event to raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer’s care, support, and research. Amy Slone, Warm Hearth’s

associate director of development, coordinated the WHV team and said the 12 team members contributed \$1495 of the total \$44,924 raised by the New River Valley Walk.

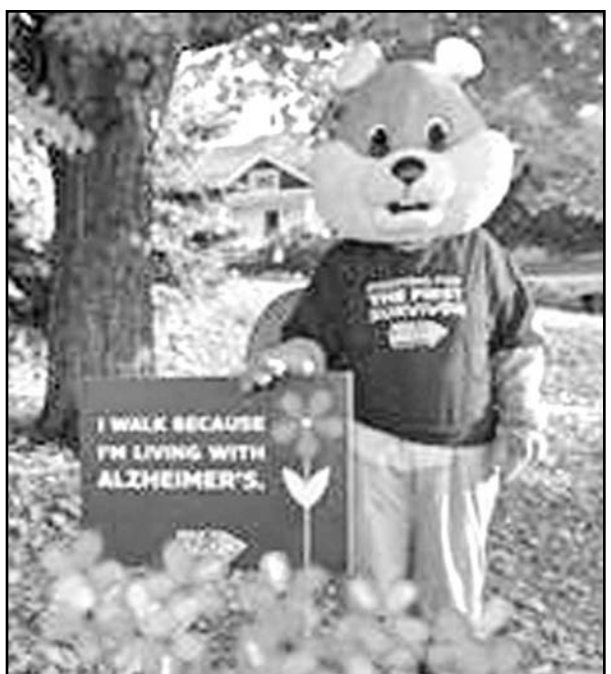
“It is really important to us not only to raise funds but to raise awareness, so we participate in the walk each year,” Slone said. “Fighting Alzheimer’s disease takes a consistent

commitment and that’s what we try to bring to the walk, an unwavering determination to support seniors and their families who struggle with this disease. We see firsthand how the village serves those with Alzheimer’s and dementia, so it feels good to be able to do our part and make a meaningful difference. All the dollars we raise benefit those in our com-

munity who are affected by Alzheimer’s.”

Warm Hearth Village serves many seniors who are impacted by dementia. Part of the facility’s advocacy is helping residents and staff better understand and care for those with the disease. The WHV Alzheimer’s Caregiver Support Group meets every other Friday from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. via Zoom and is open to the public. This provides a safe and welcoming environment for people with early Alzheimer’s and a place for them and their family and friends to socialize and support each other.

The village also hosts a Parkinson’s Support Group the first Thursday of every month at 2:30 p.m.



Warm Hearth Village’s mascot, Nutmeg, was present at the facility’s Alzheimer’s Walk 2021.

## Events

MountainTrotter Arts. “While shopping at the market, enjoy hot beverages, sweet treats, and live holiday music.”

It will also be a great time to visit Glencoe’s Christmas display.

“Get even more into the spirit by stepping inside the Glencoe Mansion, Museum & Gallery to check out the holiday display. This year, visitors will be transported through Virginia’s past into the present with the museum’s “Christmas in Virginia” display.”

Glencoe Mansion is also home to Radford’s favorite gift shop, featuring a wide variety of items perfect for giving this holiday season. The museum will also feature works by local artists in its gallery space for even more great holiday gift-giving ideas.

The Handcrafted Holiday Pop-Up Market is hosted by MountainTrotter Arts and Glencoe Mansion, Museum, and Gallery. The event and the museum are both open to the public. The event is free. In case bad weather, the rain date will be Dec. 18.

Send community news and photos to [communitynews@ourvalley.org](mailto:communitynews@ourvalley.org)

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# Jazz rockers Squirrel Nut Zippers' tour includes stop at Blacksburg's Lyric Theatre Dec. 1

The Squirrel Nut Zippers, a platinum-selling bunch of jazz rockers, have set off on a 17-date Holiday Caravan Tour that will include a stop at Blacksburg's Lyric Theatre on Dec. 1.

On the tour, the longest the group has ever undertaken, the band will perform classic holiday songs and some of their hits.

The first stop on the tour is Nov. 30 in Asheville, N.C., at The Grey Eagle. The second stop is the Lyric Theatre date. The tour will conclude in Nashville on Dec. 19. Other stops include New York City, Detroit, Cincinnati, Alexandria, Va., and Beverly, Mass. SNZ's most recent

album, "Lost Songs of Doc Souchon," debuted in late 2020. It features 10 brand-new tracks – a combination of newly-penned Zippers songs, along with a few tunes from past times – and has received acclaim from fans and critics alike.

"This new album was inspired by all of the mysterious characters from the history of New Orleans jazz music," said band leader Jimbo Mathus. "It speaks to the hidden roots of where our aesthetic, interests, and philosophy comes from. It pulls on the hidden thread."

Prior to "Lost Songs of Doc Souchon," their most recent studio album,

"Beasts of Burgundy," was released in 2018 and debuted at #4 on the Billboard Jazz Albums Chart upon its release. Back in 1998, SNZ released its only holiday album, "Christmas Caravan," which went on to sell a quarter of a million copies and reached #12 on the Billboard holiday albums chart.

SNZ began its musical journey in Chapel Hill, N.C., in the mid-1990s, as a musician's escape from the cookie-cutter world of modern rock radio at the time. Mathus and drummer/percussionist Chris Phillips formed the band as a casual musical foray among friends and family

in the area. It wasn't long before the band's quirky mix of jazz chords, folk music, and punk rock leanings spread out of the region

and attracted a national audience.

Since reactivating in mid-2016, SNZ has been performing to packed

houses across the country and around the world. As Mathus has said since the band's re-launch, "It's not a reunion, it's a revival."



Jazz rockers Squirrel Nut Zippers are embarking on a 17-date tour that will bring them to Blacksburg's Lyric Theatre on Dec. 1.

# Virginia Tech awarded Virginia Values Veterans award

At the recent 2021 Virginia Veterans and Military Affairs Conference, Virginia Tech was awarded the Virginia Values Veterans (V3) Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs Award.

As a public entity, Virginia Tech received the award for demonstrating innovative support for Virginia veterans and promoting veteran employment.

Virginia Tech's Talent Acquisition team has dedicated resources and outreach efforts to V3 and other veteran organizations to attract, hire, and retain more active and former servicemen and servicewomen to the university.

"It is a source of great pride for Virginia Tech to be recognized for our efforts to support veterans," said Bryan Garey, vice president for human resources. "It is important to honor our veterans for their service to our nation and to support them and their families in any way we can, including enhancing opportunities for them to have a dynamic career with a great public institution."

Virginia Tech has been previously recognized by the V3 Program, including becoming the first public university in the commonwealth to be certified by

V3 in 2015 for its commitment to hire veterans.

In addition, 14 other employers in the commonwealth were recognized for their exceptional commitment to the V3 Program and their hiring of Virginia military veterans, transitioning service members, and their spouses.

The V3 Program is a Commonwealth of Virginia, Department of Veterans Services Program. V3 helps employers understand, design, and implement nationally recognized best practices in recruiting, hiring, and retaining veterans.



Virginia Tech has been awarded the Virginia Values Veterans award in recognition of its demonstration of innovative support for Virginia veterans and for promoting veteran employment.



Shoppers can get a head start on finding just the right Christmas gifts for everyone on their list at the Holiday Pop-up Market on Dec. 11 at Glencoe Mansion, Museum, and Gallery.

## Handcrafted Holiday Pop-Up Market returns to Glencoe Mansion

The annual handcrafted Holiday Pop-Up Market hosted by MountainTrotter Arts returns to Glencoe Mansion, Museum, and Gallery on Dec. 11 from noon until 4 p.m.

The handcrafted market features one-of-a-kind and high quality handcrafted works by local artists, providing a perfect time for holiday shopping. While at the

market, shoppers may enjoy hot beverages, sweet treats, live holiday music, and the holiday display inside Glencoe Mansion.

This year visitors will be transported through Virginia's past into the present with the museum's "Christmas in Virginia" display.

Glencoe Mansion is also home to Radford's favorite gift shop, fea-

ture a wide variety of items perfect for giving this holiday season. The museum will also feature works by local artists in its gallery space for even more great holiday gift-giving ideas.

The event and the museum are both open to the public with no admission charge.

In case of weather issues, the rain date will be Dec. 18.

# National, state agriculture issues to be discussed at Virginia Farm Bureau's convention

Dr. Jewel Bronaugh, U.S. Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, will be the keynote speaker at Virginia Farm Bureau's 95th Annual Convention in Williamsburg Nov. 30 through Dec. 2.

The event is among the largest gatherings of Virginia's farmers. During the Nov. 30 opening luncheon, Bronaugh will talk about current national policies affecting farmers. She also will discuss international trade issues and the upcoming farm bill.

Bronaugh served as commissioner of the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services from 2018 until appointed to her current position in May 2021. A Petersburg native, she previously served as the executive director of the U.S.

Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency in Virginia and as dean of the College of Agriculture at Virginia State University.

A featured speaker during the Dec. 1 meeting of county Farm Bureau delegates is Sam Keiffer, American Farm Bureau Federation vice president of public affairs. Keiffer leads AFBF's public policy, advocacy, and economics teams in advocating to the U.S. government on behalf of farmers and ranchers.

He will discuss a few of the many issues with which AFBF is actively involved with in Washington. These include addressing concerns in the agricultural supply chain, protecting important tax provisions used by farmers and defending the Navigable Waters Protection Rules,

which AFBF supported during the previous administration. He also will talk about working with the new administration and trying to find bipartisan consensus on Capitol Hill.

Keiffer grew up on a grain and beef farm in Pennsylvania, and previously served as the chief administration officer of Pennsylvania Farm Bureau after beginning his career with the organization in 2005.

Virginia Farm Bureau Federation policies for the coming year will be set during the meeting of voting delegates. This is part of Farm Bureau's grassroots process that starts at the county level and culminates

at the annual convention. Policies related to national issues will be submitted to AFBF for consideration at that organization's annual convention in January.

The Virginia Farm Bureau Federation convention agenda also includes recognition of top membership programs among county farm bureaus and the accomplishments of young farmers. The VFBF Young Farmers Achievement Award will be presented on Dec. 1, and the winner of the Young Farmers Discussion Meet competition will be recognized that day as well.

Convention participants will have the opportunity to attend workshops

on farmer mental health, property easements, business succession planning, and smartphone photography.

With 132,000 members in 88 county Farm Bureaus, Virginia Farm

Bureau Federation is Virginia's largest farmers' advocacy group. Farm Bureau is a non-governmental, nonpartisan, voluntary organization committed to supporting Virginia's agriculture industry.

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**Registration begins at 9:30 AM**

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# OPINION

## Buddy King: The cat speaks of Banana Slugs, Anteaters, and Polar Bears

I'm back. It's a Cat of a Certain Age. I finally got my own iPad so I hope to be writing more columns.

I used my boarder's credit card and got the newest version of the iPad pro. I hope he doesn't notice the charge.

I overheard him talking to himself the other morning about an idea he had for a column, and I've decided to beat him to the punch, to "preempt him" as we writers like to say. He was talking about doing a piece on college mascots and nicknames. The more I heard him talking to himself, the more I got interested in the topic. So I did a little research and I feel like I have some interesting thoughts to share.

I'll start off by saying that I'm not going to waste time on Wahos and Hokies. I mean, who even knows what either one is or what the words mean? I understand what is now referred to as a Hokie was once known as a Gobbler and a Wahoo once was a Cavalier. At least those are words that mean something.

I have given thought to some of the more absurd team mascots - like the Stanford tree. There's one that will strike fear into the hearts of your opponents. "Their team was moving down the field like a tree." And the Cal Irvine Anteaters and the Cal Santa Cruz Banana Slugs? What do all these schools have in common? California. Enough said.

I have to throw the Ohio State Buckeye into the mix too, though. Who names their school

after an acorn? Or was it a piece of candy? Maybe OSU should move to Cali.

Now being a cat, I have a partiality for animal mascots, or at least certain ones, like the California Golden Bears and the UCLA Bruins and the Baylor Bears and the Maine Black Bears. Ferocious imagery, something to fear. You know the old expression: "What doesn't kill you makes you stronger, except for bears, bears will kill you." Compare to the Syracuse Orange (a fruit? with pulp?) and the Dartmouth Green (the green what? What is the mascot? a pickle?) and the Minnesota Golden Gophers and Wisconsin Badgers (sound like cartoon characters).

I am not enamored with schools that have picked nicknames like yellow jackets (like Georgia Tech and Randolph Macon) or the Spiders of Richmond (We called them the Fighting Arachnids when I was in college.) or the Wasps of Emory & Henry or the Boll Weevils of Arkansas Monticello (I kid you not.) Little, irritating creatures you can squash with your paw. They might hurt you a little, but they are hardly to be feared. Not mascot material in my opinion.

I have to admit confusion over the schools that apparently used Al Roker to pick their nicknames like the Iowa State Cyclones and the Miami Hurricane although their names make some sense, but the St. John's Red Storm (What exactly is that?) and the Tulsa Golden Hurricane (You

get a lot of hurricanes in Oklahoma?). Come on now.

Another group of mascots I don't get are the devil worshipers like the Duke Blue Devils and the Wake Forest Demon Deacons and the Arizona State Sun Devils. They are a little scary, but the optics are bad. Hard to align with the devil. Sadly, my boarder has clothing that says Blue Demons, so he must have fallen under some spell himself. I think it has something to do with where he went to high school.

Living in West Virginia, we have some interesting high school team nicknames ourselves. For instance, we have a town called Poca. The high school nickname? The Dots of course. The Poca Dots - get it? Some clever thinking there. A former high school near where I live with my boarder had a nickname that was hard to figure out. The school is now gone, Harrisville High, but its sports teams in the day were known as the Gators. Given that the school was in the hills of West Virginia, near Ohio, I couldn't make the connection.

But through some research and talking with the boarder, I figured out that the name had something to do with a four-wheel drive vehicle the kids in that area liked to ride on through the hills. You got me. And we have the Fairmont Senior Polar Bears. I sure have seen a lot of them around.

There are a couple of groups of mascots that I simply detest and can't understand why any

self-respecting group would choose to identify with. First are the birds, like the Boston College Eagles and the Southern Miss Golden Eagles and the Auburn War Eagles and the Miami of Ohio Red Hawks and the South Carolina Gamecocks (a chicken?) and the Rice Owls (creepy) and the Oregon Ducks (another cartoon character?).

A more worthless species to pick a mascot from I cannot imagine. These creatures serve no earthly purpose other than to irritate my kind.

And now the worst. The dogs! Particularly the bulldog! They are ubiquitous: Georgia (too much attention these days), Gonzaga (ditto), Mississippi State, Yale, the Citadel. Bad enough to pick a dog as your mascot, but why the ugliest one around? Although I have to admit that the sad sack hound that the University of Tennessee uses comes close on the "All Ugly Mascot Team."

Then there are the Huskies at Washington (I always pull for the Cougars of Washington State, for obvious reasons.) and UConn and the Wolfpack at N.C. State and Nevada Reno. While I understand some types of this species once served useful purposes, that day is long gone. When I think of the modern-day dog, I think of a creature who couldn't forage for food if her life depended on it and who has to ask for help to go to the bathroom. They make pathetic mascots.

I do have teams that I'm par-

tial to, like the Arizona Wildcats and the Villanova Wildcats and the LSU Bayou Bengals (delicious nickname - I love Cajun food) and the Auburn Tigers (the school's schizophrenic - War Eagles and Tigers and Plainsmen - pick one, darn it!) and the Cincinnati Bearcats (don't know what one is, but love the imagery) and the Ohio U. Bobcats and the BYU Cougars.

There are some really weird ones out there too - like the TCU Horned Frogs (What must that thing look like?) and the Texas Longhorns (dumbest creature on the planet) and the UNC Tar Heels (where'd that come from?).

The funniest story I came across is at Purdue, that great engineering school in Indiana. The name that won out, Boilermakers, had stiff competition from such early candidates as the pumpkin-shuckers, the cornfield sailors, the grangers, and the rail-splitters. Boilermakers doesn't seem so bad, does it?

From what I can tell from hanging out with the boarder, I don't think he picks his teams based on the same factors I do. I hope my prejudices haven't shown through too much.

*Evans "Buddy" King is a proud native of Christiansburg, CHS Class of 1971. He resides in Clarksburg, W.Va., where he has practiced law with the firm of Steptoe & Johnson, PLLC, since 1980. He can be reached at evans.king@steptoe-johnson.com.*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Veterans Day parade made me proud of our hometown

As a veteran of the United States Army, I appreciated the parade and ceremony that was held in Christiansburg on Veterans Day.

On a beautiful November day, bands from the four county high schools performed, seven platoons of high school ROTC students marched, old cars honked their horns, old veterans shuffled along, and sign-bearing students paraded through downtown Christiansburg.

Main Street was crowded with what seemed like thousands of elementary and primary school students, parents, and local citizens (probably 2500) all with American flags, cheering the marchers.

At the end of the parade, I stood near the center of the town thinking this was what small-town America is all about. All that was left was Norman Rockwell (famous painter).

It made me feel proud of what this

country and community are all about and the type of people who live here. As a veteran, I say thank you.

*Steve Huppert*  
Christiansburg Town Council

*These comments are mine and do not represent the opinions of the staff of Christiansburg or members of the Christiansburg Town Council.*

### Gas Buddy: Virginia's gas prices fell last week

Virginia's gas prices fell 0.8 cents per gallon in the past week, averaging \$3.29/g Sunday evening, according to GasBuddy's daily survey of 4,081 stations in Virginia. Gas prices in Virginia are nevertheless 9.9 cents per gallon higher than a month ago and stand \$1.25/g

higher than a year ago. According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Virginia was priced at \$2.92/g Sunday while the most expensive was \$3.89/g, a difference of 97.0 cents per gallon. The national average price of gasoline fell 2.6 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.40/g Sunday. The national average is up 9.5 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands \$1.28/g higher than a year ago.

"As of Sunday evening, the national average price of gasoline posted its first weekly decline in

months," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis for GasBuddy. "As the price of oil continues to struggle, COVID cases flare up, and anxiety over demand starts rising, motorists are likely to see the declines continuing into this week," according to DeHaan. "While it's not known how long market conditions will continue to push gas prices down, it appears that the fall should last through Thanksgiving, just in time for millions of Americans to prepare to hit the road for the holiday. However, the damage may already be done. According to

GasBuddy's Thanksgiving Travel Survey, a significant portion of Americans say the high gas prices already led them to re-think their plans."

GasBuddy is the authoritative voice for gas prices and the only source for station-level data spanning nearly two decades. GasBuddy's survey updates 288 times every day from the most diverse list of sources covering nearly 150,000 stations nationwide, the most comprehensive and up-to-date in the country. GasBuddy data are accessible at <http://FuelInsights.GasBuddy.com>.

## RADFORD NEWS JOURNAL

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

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## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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| <p><b>CLUES ACROSS</b></p> <p>1. German philosopher</p> <p>6. A type of stock trading (abbr.)</p> <p>9. Cincinnati ballplayers</p> <p>13. Deerlike water buffaloes</p> <p>14. Island</p> <p>15. Jewish calendar month</p> <p>16. Round Dutch cheese</p> <p>17. Unstressed syllable of a metrical foot</p> <p>18. A restaurant needs one</p> <p>19. Decent behaviors</p> <p>21. Groans</p> <p>22. Works hard</p> <p>23. Upset</p> <p>24. A sound made in speech</p> <p>25. One point east of due south</p> <p>28. Boxing's GOAT</p> <p>29. Whittles</p> <p>31. Tailless amphibian</p> <p>33. Surrounded</p> <p>36. Doesn't stay still</p> | <p>38. Copycat</p> <p>39. Four-door car</p> <p>41. Morally correct behavior</p> <p>44. Something that is owed</p> <p>45. Pasta needs it</p> <p>46. Ant-Man's last name</p> <p>48. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!</p> <p>49. Small period of time (abbr.)</p> <p>51. Woman (French)</p> <p>52. On or around</p> <p>54. Fencing swords</p> <p>56. Fonts</p> <p>60. A command in the name of the court</p> <p>61. Sprays with an irritant</p> <p>62. Georgetown athlete</p> <p>63. Dry or withered</p> <p>64. Signs of injury</p> <p>65. Tracts of land (abbr.)</p> <p>66. 365 days</p> <p>67. Physique</p> <p>68. Icelandic poems</p> | <p><b>CLUES DOWN</b></p> <p>1. Bodily substance</p> <p>2. Internal</p> <p>3. Provoke or annoy</p> <p>4. Type of lounge chair</p> <p>5. Losses</p> <p>6. Makes less severe</p> <p>7. Identifies a thing close at hand</p> <p>8. Group of blood disorders (abbr.)</p> <p>9. Rebuilt</p> <p>10. Ancient Greek City</p> <p>11. American investigative journalist</p> <p>12. Partially melted snow</p> <p>14. Take shape</p> <p>17. Mexican beverage</p> <p>20. Patti Hearst's captors</p> <p>21. Jacobs and Summers are two</p> <p>23. Disfigure</p> <p>25. Scientists' tool (abbr.)</p> <p>26. Ill-mannered person</p> | <p>27. Overhang</p> <p>29. Famed rat catcher</p> <p>30. Passover feast and ceremony</p> <p>32. Equal to 10 meters</p> <p>34. Central processing unit</p> <p>35. Chinese native religion</p> <p>37. Unfermented juices</p> <p>40. "To the ___ degree"</p> <p>42. Frozen water</p> <p>43. Medieval circuit courts</p> <p>47. 1,000 cubic feet (abbr.)</p> <p>49. Gossipy</p> <p>50. Shopping is one type</p> <p>52. Palmlike plant</p> <p>53. Partner to "ooled"</p> <p>55. Welsh name meaning "snow"</p> <p>56. Popular Mexican dish</p> <p>57. It helps power devices</p> <p>58. Reddish-brown wildcat</p> <p>59. Impertinence</p> <p>61. Legal financial term (abbr.)</p> <p>65. Atomic #52</p> |
|--|---|---|--|

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# Financial Focus: Maximize your charitable giving

The Tuesday after Thanksgiving has become known as Giving Tuesday, when people are encouraged to donate to charitable organizations. If you'd like to take part in this special day, you'll want to maximize the effectiveness and benefits of your charitable gifts.

So, consider these questions: Is the charity reputable? Does it use its resources wisely? Most charitable organizations are honest and dedicated to helping their specific causes. But sometimes there are a few "bad apples" in the bunch. These groups aren't necessarily fraudulent (though some are), but they may spend an inordinate amount of their donations on administrative expenses rather than directing this money to where it's most needed. Fortu-

nately, you don't have to guess about the trustworthiness or the efficiency of a particular group because you can check on it.

To make sure that a charity is an actual charity – one that is tax-exempt and listed as a 501(c)(3) organization – you can go to [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov), the website of the Internal Revenue Service, and hit the "Charities & Nonprofits" link. An organization called Charity Navigator ([www.charitynavigator.org](http://www.charitynavigator.org)) tracks charitable groups' financial health and accountability, including how much is spent on administrative and fundraising costs.

Generally speaking, a charitable group that dedicates more than about 30% to 35% of its total costs to administration and fundraising expenses might be considered somewhat ineff-

icient, though you'd want to evaluate each charity individually, since extenuating circumstances can occur. Keep in mind, though, that smaller charities may not have the same resources as a national organization to provide the reporting necessary for Charity Navigator.

Will my employer match my contribution? You can make your charitable gift go a lot further if your employer matches it. Typically, companies match donations at a 1:1 ratio, but some will match at 2:1 or even higher. Check with your human resources department about your company's policy on charitable matches.

Are my charitable gifts tax deductible? A few years ago, Congress significantly raised the standard deduction, which, for the

2021 tax year, is now \$12,550 for single taxpayers, \$25,100 for joint filers, and \$18,800 for heads of household. As a result of this increase, many people no longer itemize and thus have less financial incentive to make charitable contributions.

If you still do itemize and you're thinking of making charitable gifts, you generally have a choice between giving cash and another asset such as stocks. Each type of gift could earn you a tax deduction, but a gift of appreciated stocks could be more beneficial because you may also be avoiding the capital gains tax you might incur if you eventually sold the stocks. You should consult with your tax advisor and the charity (not all accept investments) before making the cash-versus-stock decision.

Even if you don't itemize, you could still get a tax benefit from making a charitable contribution. That's because Congress has extended part of the COVID-19-related legislation that allows taxpayers to claim charitable deductions of \$300 (for single filers) or \$600 (for married couples) if they claim the standard deduction. The charitable donations must be made in cash, not stocks.

Giving Tuesday comes just once a year, but your gifts can have lasting benefits. So, be as generous as you can afford and enjoy the good feelings that follow.

*Submitted by Meghan Kuczarski, Edward Jones Financial Advisor, 540-552-1241.*

## CAC December Schedule

### Aqua Yoga (Monday/Wednesday)

8-9 a.m.; Dec. 1-20 (no class 12/13); \$32, residents; \$42, non-residents.

Aqua Yoga utilizes the principles and movements of hatha yoga and adapts them to the water. The yoga poses practiced in this class will help participants develop strength and static balance and increase their range of motion. Beginners are welcome. The instructor is Thea Vincenti with a maximum enrollment of 10.

### Morning Fit (Monday/Wednesday)

9:15-10:15 a.m.; Dec. 1-16; \$27 residents; \$37 non-residents.

This shallow water workout combines calisthenics style movements with variations of upper and lower body resistance exercises. Participants will jog, kick, march and jump through the water to improve their cardiovascular fitness, muscular endurance, and flexibility. Danielle Bland is the instructor at the slide side of the leisure pool, the deep beach area. Maximum enrollment is 16.

### Warm Water Workout (Monday/Wednesday)

10:30-11:30 a.m.; Dec. 1-16; \$32 residents;

\$42 non-residents.

This warm water exercise program is designed for individuals with arthritic and mobility limitations. This class is for those whose goals include increasing strength, flexibility, and range of motion in a relaxing and low-impact atmosphere. Danielle Bland is the instructor in the therapy pool with a maximum enrollment of 10.

Due to limited spacing and class popularity, the center is limiting participation to one session of Warm Water Workout per person per month.

### Rolling in the Deep (Tuesday/Thursday)

9:30-10:30 a.m.; Dec. 2 and 7; \$10 or drop-in (\$7 per class).

Strap on an aqua belt and take part in this deep water class in the competition pool. Participants can expect to perform aerobic exercises such as jogging, skiing, and more to develop core strength. The instructor is Jillian Kowalcik.

### Hydro Power (Tuesday/Thursday)

9:30-10:30 a.m.; Dec. 14 and 16; \$10 or drop-in (7 per class).

This aqua class combines cardiovascular training and muscle conditioning through meth-

ods of interval training, abdominal work, and muscle enduring activities. These combinations provide a great workout with the use of equipment such as pool noodles and water weights in the leisure pool. The instructor is Jillian Kowalcik.

### Warm Water Workout (Tuesday/Thursday)

9:15-10:15 a.m.; Dec. 2-16 (no class 12/09); \$26 residents; \$36 non-residents.

Danielle Bland is the instructor in the therapy pool with a maximum enrollment of 10.

Due to limited spacing and class popularity, the center is limiting participation to one session of Warm Water Workout per person per month.

### Warm Water Workout (Tuesday/Thursday)

10:30-11:30 a.m.; Dec. 2-16 (no class 12/09); \$26 residents; \$36 non-residents.

Location: Therapy Pool. Instructor: Danielle Bland is the instructor in the therapy pool with a maximum enrollment of 10.

Due to limited spacing and class popularity, the center is limiting participation to one session of Warm Water Workout per person per month.

### Hydro Power (Tuesday/Thursday)

5:45-6:30 p.m.; Dec. 2-16 (no class 12/09); \$20 residents; \$30 non-residents.

Jillian Kowalcik is the instructor in the leisure pool with a maximum enrollment of 25. Drop-ins are allowed.

### Swim and Trim (Wednesday)

7-7:45 a.m. Dec. 1, 8, 15; \$17 residents; \$27 non-residents

This new routine consists of half dryland workout and half water workout and is guaranteed to hit all the right muscles and have participants ready to conquer the rest of their day. Participants should bring their own mats or extra towels for the deck exercise portion

Location: Leisure Pool. Jillian Kowalcik is the instructor in the leisure pool with a maximum enrollment of eight and two participants per lane.

Drop-ins are allowed.

### Rise N' Shine Water Aerobics (Wednesday)

7-7:45 a.m. Dec. 1, 8, 15; \$17 residents; \$27 non-residents.

Gear up for this morning class that will get participants ready for the day. This is an aerobics class for the early risers so they can kick off their day energized.

Edward Tickle is the instructor at the slide side of the leisure pool with a maximum enrollment of eight.

Drops-in are allowed.

### SPECIAL HOLIDAY WORKOUTS

12 Days of Christmas Workout; 8-9 a.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 8; \$7.

The pyramid format of this class is based upon the song "The 12 Days of Christmas" in that it builds and encourages some festivity, but also provides the structure for a pretty powerful workout. Exercises such as lap swimming, core workouts, and squats will be completed both in and out of the water at the competition pool with a maximum enrollment of eight.

Drop-ins are allowed.

### Warm Water Merry and Moving; 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Monday, Dec. 20; \$7. This class provides

exercises that assist with balance, stability, and range of motion with a movement-filled workout in warm water. This is great for those with arthritic or mobility limitations. Maximum enrollment is 10 in the therapy pool.

Drop-ins are allowed.

### Holly Jolly Workout; 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 21; \$7.

This is an aqua class guaranteed to get the fitness party started and have participants energized for the holidays.

This class combines cardiovascular training and muscle conditioning through methods of interval training, abdominal work, and muscle enduring activities. These combinations provide a great workout with the use of equipment such as pool noodles and water weights in the leisure pool.

Maximum enrollment is 16.

Drop-ins are allowed.

### Holly Jolly Workout; 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 21; \$7.

Maximum enrollment is 25.

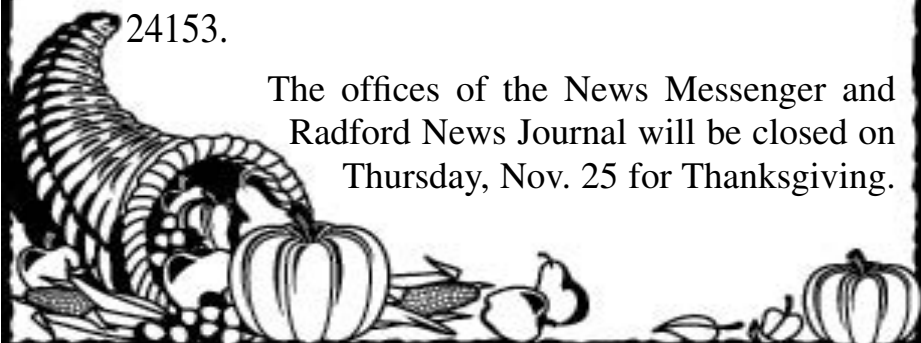
Drop-ins are allowed.


## EARLY DEADLINES FOR THANKSGIVING PAPER

There will be early deadlines for the Nov. 24 issue because of Thanksgiving.

Please send your news items, photos and church news by **Thursday, November 18 at noon** to communitynews@ourvalley.org. Send ads by **Thursday, November 18 at noon** to advertise@ourvalley.org. You may also drop off news items and ads at our offices at 1633 W. Main Street, Salem, VA 24153.

The offices of the News Messenger and Radford News Journal will be closed on Thursday, Nov. 25 for Thanksgiving.





### Valley to Valley Trail Study

**Roanoke, Montgomery and Pulaski Counties;  
Towns of Blacksburg, Christiansburg and Pulaski  
and the City of Radford**

**Citizen Comment Opportunity**  
November 10 – December 1, 2021  
<https://www.virginiadot.org/valleytovalleytrail>

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) is studying a new multi-use path called the Valley to Valley Trail that would connect the Roanoke Valley to the New River Valley. This new trail would create a single cohesive trail network by connecting the Roanoke River Greenway in Roanoke, the Huckleberry Trail in Blacksburg and Christiansburg, the Radford Riverway Trail and the New River Trail State Park. The study will help to determine a recommended alignment with sections that could be developed in individual phases.

VDOT has posted a recorded presentation about the study along with an online survey on the project website at <https://www.virginiadot.org/valleytovalleytrail>. Comments will be received through **December 1, 2021**. Citizens can provide comments through the online survey or by mailing them to Michael Gray, Virginia Department of Transportation, 731 Harrison Avenue, Salem VA 24153. For additional information, contact Michael Gray at 540-494-8288, 1-800-367-7623, TTY/TDD 711.

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Anyone requiring special assistance to attend and participate in this comment opportunity may contact Michael Gray at the phone numbers listed above.

Send community news and photos  
to [communitynews@ourvalley.org](mailto:communitynews@ourvalley.org)



# OBITUARIES

## Akers, Bonnie D.

Bonnie D. Akers, 74, died at Chippenham Hospital in Richmond on Monday, Nov. 8, 2021. Bonnie was born on May 2, 1947, at Mountain Lake Hotel in Giles County to the late Robert and Josephine Dolinger.



ter-in-law, Robert Auvil, Bill and Debbie Akers, and Johnny and Lily; daughters and sons-in-law, Amber and Lee and Cindy and Floyd.

Bonnie was also blessed with 11 grandchildren: Amanda, Jessie, Kali, Beth, Ashley, April, Harley, Kennedy, Liam, Margaret and Jordan; 18 great-grandchildren; a sister, Lena Meredith-Hites; and a brother, Clate Dolinger.

A memorial service was held on Monday Nov. 15, 2021, at McCoy Funeral Home in Blacksburg at 5 p.m.

## Brammer, Elizabeth Rose Creed

Elizabeth Rose Creed Brammer, 93, of Elliston, went to be with her Lord and Savior on Nov. 11, 2021.

She was born in Montgomery County to the late Melvin Lewis and Ada Moore Creed. She was preceded in death by her husband, Elmer H. Brammer; her son Corlis E. Brammer; brothers Lewis, John, and Gary Creed; and sisters Lorene Brammer, Geraldine Carden, and Mary Huff.

She is survived by her daughter, Linda, and her husband Paul Robinson, and her son, Dennis Brammer, her brothers, Clyde Creed and Wilford Creed; 12 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren, one great-great-grandchild, and numer-



ous nieces and nephews. Elizabeth was a retiree of Radford Army Ammunition Plant and after retirement, she worked at K&W for a number of years.

Funeral services were conducted at McCoy Funeral Home chapel with the Rev. Mike Vest presiding on Monday, Nov. 15, 2021. Interment was held at Roselawn Memorial Gardens in Christians-

burg. The family would like to thank the Radford Health and Rehab Center and their staff for their loving care of Elizabeth. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Faith Missionary Baptist Church for the Operation Christmas Child Outreach.

## Gravley, Elizabeth "Ann"

Elizabeth "Ann" Gravley, 56, passed away peacefully on Nov. 7, 2021, at Roanoke Memorial Hospital with her daughter, Tracie Smith, and her significant other, William "Bill" Brown, by her side. She was born in Wytheville to the late Mary Elizabeth Gravley and David Edward Gravley, Sr.



in her family and friends and always kept them close to her heart. Ann was a person who wore her heart on her sleeve; she loved hard and forgave easily.

Ann was preceded in death by her parents, Mary and David Gravley, and her brother, David Edward "Eddie" Gravley, Jr.

She is survived by her daughters, Heather Amanda Gravley and Tracie Leigh Smith; three grandchildren, Aiden Lee Altizer, Korree Ann Mozelle Alley, and Ella Faye Smith; a brother, Donnie Raye Gravley; and nephews Justin Raye Gravley and Rusty Shayne Gravley.

A celebration of life gathering will be held in the spring of 2022.

The Gravley family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford. www.mullinsfuneralhome.com.

Ann was disabled due to health complications for a large portion of her life. The trials and tribulations that came along with that never stopped her from fulfilling her duties as a full-time mother. She single-handedly raised her daughters and was so proud of the women they became. Ann also held her three grandchildren very near and dear to her heart. She found joy in the little things and the time she spent with them. Ann was especially proud of their successes in school and their extracurricular activities. She took such pride

## Wirt, Allen Insley

Allen Insley Wirt, 75, of Christiansburg, died peacefully Thursday morning, Nov. 11, 2021, at Commonwealth Assisted Living in Christiansburg and entered into his eternal home in Heaven with his family by his side. He was preceded in death by his parents, William Eugene and Minnie Era (Eanes) Wirt; and his brothers, Bobby Eugene, James Lloyd, and Edward Henry Wirt.



and Wolverine. He loved hunting, fishing, gardening, watching the Dallas Cowboys, woodworking, and spending time with his family and friends. His friendly, giving, loving, kind, and generous personality will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

The family received friends on Monday, Nov. 15, 2021, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services followed with Pastor Kelly Howlett officiating. Interment with full military honors followed in the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin.

The family would like to thank the staff at Kindred Hospice and Commonwealth Assisted Living for the care, kindness, and compassion shown to Allen.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that contributions be made to the Humane Society of Montgomery County, 1183 Flanagan Dr, Christiansburg, VA 24073.

Condolences and memories may be shared with the family at www.mullinsfuneralhome.com.

Survivors include his son and daughter-in-law, Michael Eric Wirt (Susan); daughter and son-in-law, Kristin Wirt Gunter (Jon); grandchildren Megan and Ben Wirt and Josh and Jakob Gunter; sister Barbara Jean Barnes; brother and sister-in-law Donald Lee Wirt (Wanda); beloved dog Hershey; and many other relatives and special friends.

Allen graduated from Christiansburg High School in 1966. Upon graduation he enlisted in the Air Force and served during the Vietnam War. He was stationed at Pope AFB in Fayetteville, N.C. as a sergeant, and worked as a jet engine mechanic. Allen later worked for UPS

## McCartney, Elina A.

Elina A. McCartney, 88, of Blacksburg, passed away peacefully on Friday, Nov. 12, 2021, at her home surrounded by her beloved family.



Elina and her husband moved to Blacksburg when her son, Bruno, and his wife, Christine, had their third child. As grandparents living in the house, they were actively involved in the raising of their five grandsons, taking them to soccer games and imparting their love of the outdoors and passion for cooking. Elina's talent for creating her unique art provided many pieces to cover the walls of her home and will be an enduring and treasured legacy.

Elina is survived by her sisters, Maria, Angela, and Leonilda; her sons, Bruno and Walter; her daughter-in-law Christine; and her grandchildren, Antonio, Angelo, Vittorio, Martino, and Marcello.

A service was held Monday, Nov. 15, 2021, at 11 a.m. at St. Mary's Church in Blacksburg with Deacon Rick Furman officiating. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Micah's Backpack, St. Michael's Lutheran Church in Blacksburg.

Elina was born in Italy on July 27, 1933, to the late Giuseppe Paccasassi and Chiara Paccasassi. She was preceded in death by her husband, William B. McCartney, her brothers Minervino, Ennio, Luigi, Gino, and Antonio and her sisters Eligia and Gina.

Elina was born in Pietralta, a small village in the Abruzzi region of Italy. She learned her cooking skills from a very young age in the rustic kitchen of her family's stone house high in the mountains. Elina began her artistic passion learning intricate embroidery from the nuns in the village. She and her husband Bill, whom she met in Naples, embraced the simple life, valuing family and being outdoors every day. A 20-mile bike ride or a trek around local trails looking for mushrooms was part of her everyday life.

## Whitehurst, Henry Armistead

Henry Armistead Whitehurst, 76, passed away Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2021, at his home in Christiansburg.

He was a U. S. Army veteran and a lawyer. He was preceded in death by his parents, Jerry and Mary Whitehurst.

Survivors include his wife, Joetta Akers Whitehurst of Christiansburg;



sons Koehler, Thrasher, Alexander, Jeremy, and B. J.; a daughter, Moriah; one grandchild; a brother and a sister; and many other relatives and friends.

Per Henry's request, services will be private.

The Whitehurst family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford, Virginia. www.mullinsfuneralhome.com.

## VDOT road watch Nov. 17

The following is a list of forecasted highway projects that may impact traffic traveling in the 12-county Salem Transportation District this week. Work schedules and construction project timelines are always subject to change and weather dependent. The Salem District covers Bedford, Botetourt, Carroll, Craig, Floyd, Franklin, Giles, Henry, Montgomery, Patrick, Pulaski, and Roanoke counties.

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY**  
I-81 NORTHBOUND AT EXIT 105 NEW RIVER BRIDGE REPLACEMENT IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY - Lane and shoulder closures may be in place near exit 105.

Lane closure may be in effect during the week from 8 p.m. to 7 a.m. Shoulder closures may be in effect at any time during the week. Slow rolls may be performed on I-81 in the north and southbound lanes from mile marker 104 to 106 from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. Speed limit is reduced to 60 miles per hour in the work zone. Shoulder closures will remain in place though the duration of the project. Project completion is estimated by June 2022.

Right lane closures may be in place on I-81 northbound between mile markers 104-105 during nighttime hours, 7 p.m. to 5 a.m. the following morning.

**SLOW ROLLS:** Slow rolls may be utilized periodically on both the northbound and southbound lanes from mile marker 98-109 for structural steel deliveries and setting beams.

I-81 BRIDGE REPLACEMENT AT EXIT 114 IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY - The bridge replacement of the two Interstate 81 bridges over Route 8, northbound

and southbound, is underway. Drivers can expect alternating lane and shoulder closures, northbound and southbound, from mile marker 114 to 115. Exit 114 ramp shoulder closures will be ongoing from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Speed limit is reduced to 60 mph in the work zone. Route 8 will have alternating northbound and southbound shoulder and lane closures, day or night, as needed between the I-81 on and off ramps. A temporary traffic signal will direct traffic on Route 8 throughout the duration of the project. Access to all properties will be maintained during construction. Estimated completion is late 2021.

**ROUTE 643 PAVING PROJECT** - Beginning soon, exact date to be determined, a project is being scheduled to resurface an unpaved portion of Route 643 (Yellow Sulfur Road). The work area begins .7 mile south of the intersection with Route 642 (Jennelle Road) and ends 1.7 miles north of the bridge over Route 460.

See VDOT, page 10

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### Auctions

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

The contents of the listed unit will be sold at Public Auction November 26, 2021 at 11am at 1st Security Self Storage 5 Midway Plaza Dr. Christiansburg, VA. B 54 D61 1st Security reserves the right to refuse any bid. Terms: CASH OR CREDIT CARD AT SALE.

### For Sale - Firewood

**FIREWOOD**  
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### For Sale - Misc

**FOR SALE**  
Unprinted end rolls of newspaper. Great for packing & shipping, moving & storage and for art projects. Various sizes available. Stop by the Salem Times-Register 1633 West Main St. or call (540)389-9355 for details.

### Help Wanted - General

**Part Time Newspaper Production Help**  
The Salem TimesRegister has openings for afternoon/evening shift work inserting, labeling and bundling newspapers for delivery. No experience necessary. Hours may vary. Will train. \$7.50 per hour. Contact Lynn Hurst, General Manager, Salem-Times Register (540)389-9355 or email lhurst@ourvalley.org

**Quality Inn Radford**  
Hiring Full-Part Time Front Desk Clerk/Night Auditor and Housekeeping. Apply in Person. Ph-540-639-3000

### COMBINATION TECHNICIAN PEMBROKE TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE

Pembroke Telephone Cooperative is currently seeking a Combination Technician. This individual will install, maintain and service telephone lines, fiber optic systems, terminals, protection devices and customer owned equipment. Also, may diagnose and repair trouble in switching equipment, broadband equipment, and key systems.

The individual must have strong communication skills, problem solving abilities, must have experience with computer applications and must be detail oriented. A two-year degree in electronics, computer science or equivalent work experience is preferred.

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Applications may be picked up at our office and should be accompanied by a resume:

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504 Snidow Street  
P.O. Box 549  
Pembroke, VA 24136

Application Deadline: Wednesday, December 1, 2021 by 5:00 pm

NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE

### Help Wanted - General

#### Daleville Baptist Church

is searching for a pianist. The candidate must be a committed Christian as either a non-church member or a Daleville Baptist church member in good standing, competent with piano and able to accompany groups or individuals, willing to rehearse with music ministry members and able to communicate well and work well as a team member. Contact Jason Hogan for information about responsibilities, salary, etc. @ 360-527-5085.

Daleville Baptist Church, 375 Orchard Drive, Daleville, VA 24083

### Legals - Botetourt County

#### ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316  
**Case No. JJ014314-06-00**  
Botetourt JDR District Court Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Commonwealth of Virginia, in re Fowler, Eli Commonwealth v.  
Unknown Father  
The object of this suit is to: To terminate residual parental rights to Eli Fowler. It is ORDERED that Unknown Father appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before 12/07/2021 01:00PM.

10/18/2021  
Jessica Hall  
Deputy Clerk

#### ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316  
**Case No. JJ014314-04-00**  
Botetourt JDR District Court Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Commonwealth of Virginia, in re Fowler, Eli Commonwealth v.  
Fowler, Jerry  
The object of this suit is to: To terminate residual parental rights to Eli Fowler. It is ORDERED that Fowler, Jerry appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before 12/07/2021 01:00PM.

10/18/2021  
Jessica Hall  
Deputy Clerk

#### ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316  
**Case No. JJ014314-05-00**  
Botetourt JDR District Court Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Commonwealth of Virginia, in re Fowler, Eli Commonwealth v.  
Linkenhoker, Olivia Sink  
The object of this suit is to: To terminate residual parental rights to Eli Fowler. It is ORDERED that Linkenhoker, Olivia appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before 12/07/2021 01:00PM.

10/18/2021  
Jessica Hall  
Deputy Clerk

#### ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316  
**Case No. JJ014315-06-00**  
Botetourt JDR District Court Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Commonwealth of Virginia, in re Fowler, Nicholi Commonwealth v.  
Unknown Father  
The object of this suit is to: To terminate residual parental rights to Nicholi Fowler. It is ORDERED that Unknown Father appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before 12/07/2021 01:00PM.

10/18/2021  
Jessica Hall  
Deputy Clerk

### Legals - Botetourt County

#### ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316  
**Case No. JJ014315-05-00**  
Botetourt JDR District Court Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Commonwealth of Virginia, in re Fowler, Nicholi Commonwealth v.  
Fowler, Jerry  
The object of this suit is to: To terminate residual parental rights to Nicholi Fowler. It is ORDERED that Fowler, Jerry appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before 12/07/2021 01:00PM.

10/18/2021  
Jessica Hall  
Deputy Clerk

#### ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316  
**Case No. JJ014313-04-00**  
Botetourt JDR District Court Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Commonwealth of Virginia, in re Fowler, Nicholi Commonwealth v.  
Linkenhoker, Olivia Sink  
The object of this suit is to: To terminate residual parental rights to Nicholi Fowler. It is ORDERED that Linkenhoker, Olivia appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before 12/07/2021 01:00PM.

10/18/2021  
Jessica Hall  
Deputy Clerk

#### ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316  
**Case No. JJ014313-03-00**  
Botetourt JDR District Court Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Commonwealth of Virginia, in re Fowler, Lula O Commonwealth v.  
Fowler, Jerry  
The object of this suit is to: To terminate residual parental rights to Lula Fowler. It is ORDERED that Fowler, Jerry appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before 12/07/2021 01:00PM.

10/18/2021  
Jessica Hall  
Deputy Clerk

#### ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316  
**Case No. JJ014313-04-00**  
Botetourt JDR District Court Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Commonwealth of Virginia, in re Fowler, Lula O Commonwealth v.  
Linkenhoker, Olivia Sink  
The object of this suit is to: To terminate residual parental rights to Lula Fowler. It is ORDERED that Linkenhoker, Olivia appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before 12/07/2021 01:00PM.

10/18/2021  
Jessica Hall  
Deputy Clerk

#### ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316  
**Case No. JJ014302-04-00**  
Botetourt JDR District Court Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Commonwealth of Virginia, in re Wright, Cooper Solstice Commonwealth v.  
Martin, Holly Isabella  
The object of this suit is to: To terminate residual parental rights to Cooper Wright. It is ORDERED that Martin, Holly Isabella appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before 12/07/2021 01:00PM.

10/19/2021  
Jessica Hall  
Deputy Clerk

### Legals - Botetourt County

#### ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316  
**Case No. JJ014302-05-00**  
Botetourt JDR District Court Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Commonwealth of Virginia, in re Wright, Cooper Solstice Commonwealth v.  
Wright Jr, Gary Robert  
The object of this suit is to: To terminate residual parental rights to Cooper Wright. It is ORDERED that Wright Jr, Gary Robert appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before 12/07/2021 01:00PM.

10/19/2021  
Jessica Hall  
Deputy Clerk

#### ORDER OF PUBLICATION

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA VA. CODE §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316, -317, 2-104  
**Case No. CW20000063**  
Botetourt Circuit Court 1 W. Main Street, Fincastle, VA 24090  
Commonwealth of Virginia, in re Estate of Georgina B. Hutchens  
The object of this suit is to: Show Cause Against Distribution  
It is ORDERED that **SHOW CAUSE ORDER** The Estate of Georgina B. Hutchens is before the Court on the Motion of its Administrator, by counsel, for the entry of an Order requiring that the creditors of, and all other persons interested in, the Estate of Georgina B. Hutchens, deceased, show cause, if they can, on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of December, 2021, at 2:00 p.m. to the Judge of this Court at his courtroom, against payment and delivery of said Estate to its distributees without requiring refunding bonds. It is further ordered that the foregoing portion of this order be published for once a week for two successive weeks in the Fincastle Herald, a newspaper of general circulation in the County of Botetourt, VA, it appearing that a report of the account for said Estate has been filed in the Clerk's Office, and that six months have elapsed since the Administrator's qualification as Administrator. Entered this 5<sup>th</sup> of November, 2021.  
Tommy L. Moore, Clerk  
Joel R Branscom Judge  
I ask for this:  
Counsel for Jane Judah, Administrator of the Estate of Georgina B. Hutchens, deceased  
Michael A. Cleary (VSB #19989)  
4519 Brambleton Avenue, Suite 210  
P.O. Box 21136  
Roanoke, VA 24018  
Telephone: (540) 400-5467  
Email: mclearylaw@gmail.com

### Legals - City of Radford

#### ABC NOTICE

Dolgenercorp, LLC (Used in VA by DolgenCorp, LLC), trading as Dollar General Store#23058, 2001 W. Main St, Radford, VA 24141-1665.

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer Off Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Stephen Sunderland and Emily Taylor, Managers of LLC

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](http://www.abc.virginia.gov) or 800-552-3200.

11/17/2021, 11/24/2021

### Legals - Montgomery County

#### Trustee's Sale 3225 Springview Drive, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073 (Parcel ID: 030275; Tax Map No.: 090-C 7 32)

Default having been made in the terms of a certain Deed of Trust dated April 21, 2009, in the original principal amount of \$110,398.00 and recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of the County of Montgomery, Virginia as Instrument No. 2009004870, and modified by a Loan Modification Agreement recorded as Instrument No. 2013001123, the undersigned Substitute Trustees will sell at public auction on December 10, 2021, at 3:00 p.m., in front of the building housing the Montgomery County Circuit Court, 55 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073, the property designated as Lot 32, shown on plat entitled "Springview Subdivision Phase I", recorded in the aforesaid Clerk's Office in Plat Book 15, page 403. Sale is subject to all prior liens, easements, restrictions, covenants, and conditions, if any, of record, or other matters which would be disclosed by an accurate survey or inspection of the premises. TERMS: CASH. A deposit of \$11,000.00 or 10% of the sale price, whichever is lower, will be required of the successful bidder at time of sale. Prior to the sale, interested bidders will be required to register with and must present a bid deposit which may be held during the sale by the trustee. The bid deposit must be certified funds and/or cash, but no more than \$9,900.00 of cash will be accepted. The successful bidder's deposit will be retained at the sale and applied to the sale price. If held by the trustee, all other bid deposits will be returned to the unsuccessful bidders. Settlement is to be made within 15 days. The successful bidder will be responsible for obtaining possession of the property, and for all costs and fees related to recording the Trustee's Deed, including the grantors tax. The successful bidder will be required to execute a Memorandum of Trustee's Sale, available for review on the Foreclosure Sales page of [www.glasserlaw.com](http://www.glasserlaw.com), outlining additional terms of sale and settlement. A Trustee's Deed will be prepared by Trustee's attorney at high bidder's expense. This is a communication from a debt collector. Glasser and Glasser, P.L.C. on behalf of Atlantic Trustee Services, L.L.C., and/or M. Brennan Hutt d/b/a H&H Abstracting and/or Rocky Mount Title, Inc. and/or Auction.com-VA, LLC, Substitute Trustees, Crown Center Building, Suite 600, 580 East Main Street, Norfolk, VA 23510, File No. 222193-02, Tel: (757) 321-6465, between 10:00 a.m. & 12:00 noon only.

#### ABC NOTICE

Magdy Ghaly, trading as Ghaly Inc, 301 South Main St Suite 106, Blacksburg, Montgomery County, Virginia 24060.

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Beer and Wine On Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

Magdy Ghaly, Officer

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](http://www.abc.virginia.gov) or 800-552-3200.

### STATEWIDE ADS

**AUCTIONS**  
Smith Mountain Lake Auction. December 2. 37 Land tracts, 29 are lake front having between 220' and 1,019' of lake frontage. All lots are over 5 acres. Excellent location on main body of lake. Auction held at Hotel Roanoke at 4 P.M. Live and Online bidding available - You must be registered One Week in Advance of the Auction to bid online. For more information, visit [woltz.com](http://woltz.com) or call 800-551-3588. Woltz & Associates, Inc. (VA #321) Real Estate Brokers & Auctioneers. Roanoke, VA.

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# RADFORD SPORTS

## Radford advances in playoffs with win over Floyd



David Woodward rushes for yardage in the first quarter Friday night as Radford took down Floyd 47-27 in the opening round of the Region 2C playoffs.



Brandon Thompson sacks the Floyd quarterback. The Bobcats are now 8-3 on the season. Thompson had three solo tackles in the win.



PHOTOS BY BRYANT ALTIZER

Radford sophomore quarterback Landen Clark fires a flat pass in the Bobcats' defeat of the Floyd Buffaloes. The sophomore finished the night with five touchdowns and 259 yards passing.

## Undefeated Auburn Eagles advance to state volleyball semis



Avery Zuckerwar had four kills and two aces in Auburn's 25-20, 25-19, 25-18 win over Patrick Henry-Glade Spring this past weekend. The Eagles advanced to the state Class 1 state semifinals to play Chilhowie.



Auburn's Anna McGuire collected 26 assists, three aces, and eight digs in her team's win as they remained unbeaten for the season.



PHOTOS BY ASHLEY AKERS

Stacy Lewis finished the three-set sweep of Patrick Henry-Glade Spring with 17 digs. Allyson Martin added 17 kills, two aces, and 14 digs.

## Radford, Christiansburg advance in postseason

**Marty Gordon**  
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Then there were two. Eastern Montgomery was eliminated from the first round of the state high school playoffs this past week, while Radford and

Christiansburg advanced with wins.

Christiansburg now hosts Lord Botetourt, which downed Hidden Valley this past week. This is the 10th straight year Botetourt has moved on to the second round of the regional playoffs.

In the spring's shortened season, Botetourt routed Christiansburg 55-0.

In Friday's game, Christiansburg rolled over Staunton River 48-0 as quarterback Casey Graham was 11 for 13 passing for 157 yards with three touchdowns.

The Blue Demons improved to 10-1 on the season.

Radford will now travel to Appomattox in the regional semifinals after a 47-27 win over Floyd County. Landen Clark threw five touchdown passes, going 17 of 26 for 259 yards. He also had an in-

terception for the 8-3 Bobcats.

Eastern Montgomery ran into a buzz saw in Giles in a 47-17 loss to finish the season at 5-6.

Predictions for the weekend: Christiansburg 34, Lord Botetourt 30; Radford 34, Appomattox

## Blacksburg volleyball falls in quarterfinals



Sophia Johnston is all air as she spikes the ball to Millbrook, which defeated Blacksburg 26-24, 24-26, 28-26, 13-25, 15-13 in a tight match in the state quarterfinals.



PHOTOS BY KYMN DAVIDSON-HAMLEY

Blacksburg's Rylee Sloss (right) spikes the ball to Millbrook in this past weekend's Class 4 state quarterfinals.



# Radford High Bobcats race to finish in state cross-country championships



Radford teammates Reagan Bryant (left) and Addie Tapp (right) race together early in the girls' Class 2 state championship race. They placed 15th and 21st respectively for the Bobcats in Saturday's race at Green Hill Park.



Kellen Bishop placed 21st for the Radford Bobcats in the Class 2 boys' state championship race.



Radford's Cyrus Hartig ran with the leaders in the Class 2 championship for much of the race and would finish a close third with a time of 16:35.3.

PHOTOS BY JOHN FLEMING

# Questions surround coaching job in Blacksburg



**From the Sidelines**  
Marty Gordon

reer here in Blacksburg with the defeat of Duke.  
He has avoided questions about his future, even saying he has no control of that and will keep doing what he is doing: coaching the Hokies on a week-to-week basis.

Sometimes, it is hard to say goodbye. On a day when Virginia Tech honored a long list of seniors at Lane Stadium, there were many questions about whether it would be the last appearance for head coach Justin Fuente on the Hokie sidelines.

Fans, including many in the stands on Saturday, have expressed their displeasure in the football team's success or should we say lack thereof. Fuente has been on the hot seat since last year but so far has weathered the storm. Now, the question: Is he out or is he still the coach of the Burgundy and orange. For this week, he is still in.

The online chat forums have called for his head after losses to Boston College and Syracuse. He was even booed by the crowd at Lane. Not something any head coach is hoping to experience.

In play is a decrease in the amount a buyout could cost the university to let him go before his contract runs out. That date is around December 15 when the amount would drop by \$2.5 million. But onlookers wonder if the university can wait as recruiting hangs in a balance. Recent commits have stood the ground, and so far, none have "decommitted" in the midst of Fuente's hot-seat discussion.

Getting rid of Fuente could cost the university anywhere from \$7.5 to \$10 million.

The Hokies can still be bowl eligible if they can get by Miami and Virginia in the final two games of the year, which are both on the road.

Saturday, Fuente was all smiles as the team managed to produce one of its best games of the season and maybe of his ca-

But that has not squelched the discussion as to who might be his replacement. As a matter of fact, the next coach talk has taken center stage not just locally and regionally, but nationally.

After the game, Fuente praised those outgoing seniors who were honored on Senior Day.

"Thanks to everyone for coming out and supporting us," the head coach said. "It was a special day for those seniors, and I'm happy to send them out in their last home game on a positive note. I'm proud of our kids and their perseverance through tough, adverse times. They continue to amaze all of us in this building who see them every day with their resilient nature and their care for each other. It's a lot of fun to watch. Inspiring, quite honestly, to all the coaches and everybody around them. They're a great group of kids."

Fuente was named Virginia Tech's head coach on November 29, 2015, after orchestrating a dramatic resurrection of the football fortunes at the University of Memphis.

The Hokies enter their sixth season under Fuente in 2021. Through Saturday's game, he has compiled a 43-31 record in Blacksburg. While the coach's overall mark is not terribly bad, expectations for the Tech program have pushed the demands even higher.

Media members skated around the subject during the post-game press conference.

The non-asked question might have been: "Coach, what would you say if this was your last appearance in Lane Stadium?" A simple wave might not be enough for the Hokie fans who seem to have already written off Fuente and a return to the sideline in 2022.

# RU to retire jersey of former Highlander basketball star

On Sunday, Nov. 28, at the Radford-Eastern Kentucky basketball game at the Dedmon Center, Radford University will retire the jersey of former Highlander basketball star Javonte Green.

Green will make the trip to the New River Valley and be in attendance for the 4:30 p.m. game.

A member of the Radford program from 2011-15, Green ranks first in program history for career games played (133) and ca-

reer steals (243) and ranks second for career points scored (1,911), career field goals made (701), and career rebounds (1,064).

The Petersburg, Va., native was an All-Big South Conference selection in each of his four years as a Highlander and was named Big South Defensive Player of the Year in 2014-15.

After earning a bachelor's degree from Radford University, Green went on to play professionally over-

seas with stops in Spain, Italy, and Germany before becoming the first player in RU program history to sign a contract with an NBA organization. In 2019, he signed a two-year deal with the Boston Celtics. During the 2020-21 season, he was traded to the Chicago Bulls, re-signed with them in the summer of 2021, and became a fan favorite in the Windy City with his energy, his defense, and his electrifying slam dunks.

Send community news and photos to communitynews@ourvalley.org

## VDOT from page 6

Traffic impacts will include intermittent flagging operations between these intersections. This project has an estimated completion date of May 2022.

**LANE CLOSURES:** Intermittent single lane closures utilizing flagging operations will be in place between the intersection of Teaberry Road and Jennelle Road.  
**ROUTE 636**

**BRIDGE REPLACEMENT AT SENECA HOLLOW** - Work has begun replacing the bridge on Route 636 over the Roanoke River at Seneca Hollow. A road closure with a detour is in place from Echo Hills Road to .36 mile south of Route 460. The detour will restrict access to Route 460 at Seneca Hollow and will require

travelers to enter/exit Route 460 at Friendship Road near Wheeling Hollow. The project is expected to be completed by the end of 2021.

**UTILITY WORK ON ROUTE 460** - MMI will be installing fiber optic along Route 460 from the Giles County line to the Floyd County line. This work will be ongoing. Motorists should expect shoulders and/or lane closures for travel in both directions.

**VARIOUS ROADS FOR UTILITY WORK** - Utility crews will be working on overhead lines along a general corridor alignment following Route 114 (Peppers Ferry), Route 460 Business (Franklin Street) and Route 11/460 (Roanoke Road). The work zone

will span from the Pulaski/Montgomery county line to the Montgomery/Roanoke county line. In addition, various side roads will be impacted by intermittent closures for crossings. Motorists should expect shoulder closures and lane closures for travel in both directions. Intermittent full closures of the roads will be required for periods lasting no longer than 15 minutes. Work hours are scheduled for 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. daily. Advance warning for weekend work involving closures of primary highways on weekend mornings from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. will be provided via message boards once scheduled. Work is scheduled to last through the fall of 2021.



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