



Wednesday, December 8, 2021

USPS 387-780

ourvalley.org

\$1.00

City News Brief: New call center to take after-hours utility calls

RADFORD – The City of Radford has contracted with a professional call center to answer public utility calls after hours.

The company, Professional Answer, will now be answering calls that pertain to public utilities after regular business hours. Previously, citizens called a city non-emergency line with such issues. The transition to the call center was effective Dec. 1.

“Citizens previously called 540-731-3624 in the case of a power outage, water line break, downed tree, or a problem with discolored water, to name a few,” the city announced. “Now after regular business hours, citizens will

need to call 540-434-3945. It is important to note the call center will answer the phone “City of Radford” and will process and forward the request along to the appropriate department. Citizens should notice no difference in service.”

For clarity, here is a list of the numbers and when to call them:

Non-emergency Dispatch: 540-731-3624

Electric Department: 540-731-3641 (7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.)

Public Works: 540-731-3605 (8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.)

After Hours Public Utilities Line: 540-434-3945

City news brief:
West Main Street

limited to one lane of traffic at Rock Road intersection

RADFORD -- The sanitary sewer extension to support the development of the patio homes at Rock Road and West Main Street/US Rt. 232 has begun, leading to a change in traffic pattern.

The work is being done by H.T. Bolling and its subcontractor, Phoenix Excavating. During construction, West Main Street will be limited to one lane of traffic adjacent to the Rock Road intersection.

“The vehicular limitation is due to the depth of the excavation and safety,” city officials announced.



Parade delights all ages with ‘Winter Nights and Magical Lights’

From Santa Claus to Harleys, horses, elves, and more, the 2021 Radford ‘Winter Nights and Magical Lights’ holiday parade brought people of all ages to Main Street Thursday.

Two live church bands performed Christmas Carols, scout groups threw candy to onlookers, and Radford’s City Council members greeted their constituents. Many businesses

advertised their services, and Radford’s public safety departments were out in full force with lights and sirens. Animals were also part of the show with several horses and dogs among the parade marchers. The Radford High School Bobcat Marching Band delighted the crowd, peewee football and cheer squads showed their Bobcat spirit, and a nativity scene was among

the many church floats. The arguable star of the show was, as always, Santa Claus himself waving to the crowd from his perch in the bucket of a fire engine.

The parade kicked off at 7 p.m. on East Main Street near its intersection with Tyler Avenue and marched west, ending in the Central Square parking lot.

- Heather Bell

Radford receives \$375,000 grant for community policing

WASHINGTON – The City of Radford was recently awarded \$375,000 in federal funds for community policing efforts.

U.S. Sens. Mark R. Warner and Tim Kaine (both D-VA) recently announced \$718,750 in funding from the Department of Justice through the Department’s Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office) COPS Hiring Program (CHP) for Radford and two additional localities in Virginia.

“These funds will allow Virginia law enforcement agencies to hire new or rehire career law enforcement officers to better serve communities, reduce crime, and advance

public safety through community policing efforts,” reads a joint statement from the senators.

“Community policing allows our police departments to build relationships with the communities they serve,” the statement says. “These funds will help make our police departments more effective and more responsive while fostering a positive and strong relationship between officers and members of the community.”

In addition to the funds for Radford, the City of Buena Vista will receive \$93,750 and the City of Manassas Park will receive \$250,000.

RCPD captain retiring after 27 years as an officer

RADFORD – Radford City Police Department Captain R. Scott Schwarzer is retiring after nearly three decades as an officer.

“After 27 years of law enforcement service to the citizens of Radford City, Captain Schwarzer is retiring,” the RCPD announced. “The men and women of the Radford City police department would like to commend Captain Schwarzer for his dedication, professionalism, and unwavering commitment to this department and to the citizens of Radford. Captain Schwarzer will be greatly missed by not only his peers but also the community.

“Please join us in congratulating Captain Schwarzer on his retirement and wishing him peace and happiness in his future endeavors.”



Radford City Police Department Captain R. Scott Schwarzer is retiring after 27 years of service.



PHOTOS BY ETHAN BELL

Virginia Tech earns invitation to New Era Pinstripe Bowl vs. Maryland

NEW ERA PINSTRIPE BOWL 2021
HOKIES vs TERRAPINS
 DECEMBER 29, 2021 • 2:15PM • YANKEE STADIUM • BRONX, NEW YORK
 VIRGINIA TECH FOOTBALL

BLACKSBURG – Virginia Tech Football has accepted its first-ever invitation to the New Era Pinstripe Bowl in New York City. The Hokies will square off against Maryland at 2:15 p.m. ET on Wednesday, Dec. 29, at Yankee Stadium. The game will be broadcast nationally by ESPN.

The New Era Pinstripe Bowl marks Tech’s 34th all-time bowl berth. The Hokies have achieved bowl eligibility for 29 straight seasons and will return to bowl action after opting out of the 2020 bowl season due to COVID-19. Tech’s most recent bowl appearance came vs. Kentucky in the 2019 Belk Bowl.

The Tech-Maryland bowl contest renews a series that dates back to 1919.

The Hokies (6-6) have won five of their last six games against the Terrapins (6-6). The most recent meeting between the two squads came when Maryland won a 27-24 overtime decision at Lane Stadium on Nov. 16, 2013. The two former ACC foes are scheduled for a four-game future home-and-home series with Tech slated to host home games in 2027 and 2029, while Maryland will host the Hokies in 2026 and 2028.

“It’s our privilege to represent the Atlantic Coast Conference as Virginia Tech makes its first-ever appearance in the New Era Pinstripe Bowl,” Director of Athletics Whit Babcock said. “I know

See Virginia Tech, page 2

UPCOMING EVENTS

Through Dec. 15:

United Way Festival of Trees

The Old Town Mall in Downtown Christiansburg continues its Festival of Trees through Jan. 3, but anyone may vote for their favorite through 9 p.m. on Dec. 15. Visit <https://UWTrees.givesmart.com> to vote. Votes are \$1 with no limit on how many times a person may vote. All proceeds stay local supporting the United Way NRV and its 22 partner agencies. Event sponsors are Corning Inc., Foxridge Apartment Homes by HHHunt, and Quest Floor Care LLC.

Through Dec. 19:

Va. State Police Operation Christmas 2021

The Virginia State Police are accepting donated items for Home Instead Senior Care and Turning Point Domestic Violence Shelter through Dec. 19 at the state police Division VI headquarters at 3775 W. Main St. in Salem. The following items are being accepted: blankets, sheets, white towels, white wash cloths, canned vegetables, shampoo, conditioner, body wash, lotion, deodorant, baby wipes, size 5 and 6 baby diapers, word-search books, adult coloring books, crayons, and colored pencils.

Wednesday, Dec. 8:

Brown Bag Book Club

On the second Wednesday of each month from noon to 1 p.m., the Radford Public Library presents a group book discussion. Participants may bring a lunch. Discussed in December is "The Great Alone" by Kristin Hannah.

Holiday Pop-up Market

The market offers photos with Santa and the chance to roast marshmallows under the stars from 5 to 8 p.m. in the Triangle Pocket Park on West Main Street in Radford. Sweets and treats, coffee and hot cocoa will be available. Vendors will be set up in the New River Valley Community Service parking lot.

Deadline extended for Rad-

ford holiday display contest

The Radford Chamber of Commerce's second annual 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 now Dec. 8 with decorations required to be up by Dec. 10. Public voting will then take place from Dec. 10 through Dec. 22.

Thursday, Dec. 9:

Storytime with Dancin' Dee

At the Radford Public Library from 11 to 11:30 a.m. This is a special storytime with local artists. Participants may make a leather bookmark craft courtesy of Dancin' Dee Leatherworks to take home while they enjoy stories about creating new art from old things.

Friday, Dec. 10:

Downtown Christiansburg Christmas on Main

Christmas on Main in downtown Christiansburg kicks off with the Christmas Market from 5 to 9 p.m. on Main Street. The tree lighting will take place at 6:55 p.m. at the town square. And then comes the Christmas parade at 7 p.m. on Main Street.

Cookie Decorating

At the Christiansburg Library at 3 p.m. 'Tis the season for holiday cookie decorating. Supplies will be provided; participants should bring the creativity. Registration is required.

Crafternoon: Snowflakes

At the Blacksburg Library at 3 p.m. Make some paper snowflakes and other fun winter decorations. Email mroach@mfrl.org for more information.

Saturday, Dec. 11:

Handcrafted Holiday Pop-up Market and Holiday Open House at Glencoe Mansion

The annual handcrafted Holiday Pop-Up Market is hosted by MountainTrotter Arts from noon to 4 p.m. at Glencoe Mansion, Museum and Gallery. The market offers one-of-a-kind and high

quality handcrafted works by local artisans, perfect for holiday shopping. Those who attend can enjoy hot beverages, sweet treats, and live holiday music and can get even more into the holiday spirit by stepping inside the Glencoe Mansion, Museum & Gallery to check out the holiday display, "Christmas in Virginia," that transports viewers through Virginia's past into the present. The Glencoe Mansion gift shop also features a wide variety of items. The museum will display 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.

Winter Wonderland

This is an outdoor event at the Christiansburg Recreation Center from 6 to 8 p.m. with winter activities for the whole family to enjoy.

Christmas Crafting

At the Meadowbrook Public Library with three sessions: 11 a.m., noon and 1 p.m. Come make three Christmas crafts: a moss-covered Christmas tree ornament, a Christmas silhouette in a frame, and a mouse candy-cane holder. Registration is required. For ages 8 and up.

3D Book Art

At the Blacksburg Library at 2 p.m. A simple paper folding technique upcycles old paperbacks into three-dimensional seasonal art. Supplies will be provided. Registration is requested for limited spots. Ages 12 and up. Call 540-552-8246.

Sunday, Dec. 12:

Chess Club

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

Monday, Dec. 13 - Friday, Dec. 17:

Santa Comes to Town

Santa will be riding through the neighborhoods of Christiansburg on a fire truck sleigh,

which will depart from the fire department on Depot Street at 6:30 p.m. each evening.

Monday, Dec. 13:

Deadline for Light up your home for the Holidays submissions

Christiansburg residents may enter the home decorating contest by submitting their home decorations to christiansburg.org/lightupyourhome by Dec. 13. Submissions may be added to a map for people to visit and enjoy. The top ten entries will be posted to Facebook (@CburgVAGov) on Dec. 17. Voting will conclude on Dec. 19, and the 2021 winner will be announced on Dec. 20.

Crafternoon Delight for Adults Only

At the Radford Public Library from 1-2:30 p.m. Participants may bring their supplies and knit, crochet, and/or needlepoint with a small group of adults. Some crafting supplies are provided.

STEM Club

At the Christiansburg Library at 1 p.m. Join the home-school STEM club where science, technology, engineering, and/or math are explored. Ages 8 and up.

Graphic Novel Book Club

At the Blacksburg Library at 6 p.m. To be read is "Paying the Land" by Joe Sacco. Call ahead to reserve a copy.

Tuesday, Dec. 14:

Sons of Confederate Veterans meeting

The Sons of Confederate Veterans, Stuart Horse Artillery Camp 1784, will meet at 7 p.m. at Aly's Italian Family Restaurant at 3204 Riner Road. Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) are invited to attend. For further information, call 320-4315 or 239-9864.

Wintery Storytime

At the Radford Public Library from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Participants are urged to wear their favorite (or ugliest) sweater for a winter-themed storytime.

Gingerbread Houses

At the Blacksburg Library at

4 p.m. Participants build a personalized gingerbread house for the holidays. Registration is required. Sign up by calling the branch 540-552-8265.

Essential Oils

At the Christiansburg Library at 7 p.m. Learn more about essential oils. A different topic is featured every month.

Lunch & Learn: Sustainability through the Holidays

At the Blacksburg Library at noon. This lunch & learn will feature discussion about ways to make the holidays more sustainable while still enjoying the festivities. In person or register online at <https://tinyurl.com/87kcsaw>.

Art Club

At the Christiansburg Library at 2 p.m. This month, participants will learn about Ming vases and will paint a 2D vase. Registration is required. For ages 6 and up.

Saturday, Dec. 18:

An Extra Special Elf-ish Cooking with Dave & a Movie

At the Radford Public Library from 1 to 3 p.m. An Extra Special Cooking with Dave, Live and in-person and also livestreamed to Facebook. Dave will make his famous Breakfast Dessert Pasta from the movie "Elf," and then participants may stick around for the movie. The recipe can be found in the book "Eat What You Watch: A Cookbook for Movie Lovers." "Elf" runs for 97 minutes and is rated PG for some mild rude humor and language.

All Month of December

Free COVID-19 Test Kits

Now available at all branches of the Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library, curbside only: free, rapid at-home COVID-19 antigen test kits. The tests are available at no cost, and no library card is needed. This pilot program is made possible by a partnership with the Virginia Department of Health. Users will need a Wi-Fi connection, a form of ID, and a mobile device or computer to complete the test.

Virginia Tech

from page 1

how important it was for Coach Price and our players to extend our season and we're certainly glad that their efforts are being rewarded. The holiday season is always a special time to visit New York City, and I'm looking for-

ward to seeing Hokie Nation cheering on our team against Maryland.

"Virginia Tech has long valued its relationship with the Yankees organization and we're pleased to finally have the Hokies participate in this bowl game at Yankee Stadium," Babcock said. "The Virginia Tech community will always be grateful for the generosity and graciousness that the Yankees organization and the Steinbrenner family extended to us following the 2007 tragedy on our campus."

Following the tragic events of April 16, 2007, the Yankees made a \$1

million contribution to the Hokie Spirit Memorial Fund. On May 23, 2007, the Yankees invited the Virginia Tech Police and Rescue Squad to Yankee Stadium in a sign of solidarity with the Hokies. Then-Virginia Tech President Charles Steger threw the first pitch for that game against the Boston Red Sox. In March 2008, the Yankees visited the memorial to the April 16 victims and played an exhibition game against the Tech baseball squad in Blacksburg.

"I'm honored to lead our team to New York for the New Era Pinstripe

Bowl," Tech interim head coach J.C. Price said. "The Hokies have a proud bowl tradition, and we're excited to showcase our football team in the Big Apple. We have a very resilient group of players who stuck together through a number of challenges this season. I know that they'd like nothing better than to conclude our season on a winning note against a Big Ten opponent like Maryland."

Ticket reservations for the Pinstripe Bowl are now available online exclusively for Hokie Scholarship Fund donors. A student ticket option is also available while supplies last. Student tickets will be limited to two tickets per account at a discounted rate of \$28 per ticket, half off the face value of \$55.

Tickets will be available for the general public beginning today, Wednesday, Dec. 8, at 10 a.m. on HokieSports.com.

Tickets range in price from \$55 to \$140. Should the tier A donors select on their reservation run out of inventory, they will be assigned to the next highest seating tier.

Fans should be on the lookout for travel packages available through Martin Travel, the official travel partner for Hokie fans - at martintravel.com/hokies.

ACC league member schools and its bowl partners agreed upon the bowl selection process. The process includes parameters to be followed by the bowls as they are selecting the representatives from the ACC.



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VDH VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

New Duck Pond Drive pathway to provide enhanced safety and accessibility routes

Getting around campus — particularly to and from the Northern Academic District and the “Cage” and Duck Pond Drive Overflow Lots — just got easier thanks to a new six-foot-wide asphalt pathway along Duck Pond Drive between West Campus Drive and Smithfield Road.

The new pathway will help enhance pedestrian and traffic safety while providing an accessible route through an area where a sidewalk did not previously exist.

Responding to increased pedestrian traffic along Duck Pond Drive, the pathway was created through a coordinated effort among the Office for Equity and Accessibility; the Division of Finance; the Division of Campus Planning, Infrastructure, and Facilities; and Enterprise Administrative and Business Services.

“With construction taking place in the North Academic and Perry Street regions to enhance long-term academic and transportation offerings and the shift to increased parking in the Cage and Duck Pond Lots, we have seen more students traversing Duck Pond Drive this semester,” said Lynsay Belshe, vice president for enterprise administrative and business services. “With safety top of mind and nearing winter’s approach with its risk of snow banks and slippery roads, we had to quickly identify and implement a solution to improve safety, mobility, and accessibility.”

Led by Bob Broyden, associate vice president for campus planning and capital financing, stakeholders from numerous operations units established an optimal pathway that could be enacted quickly and complement long-term campus planning efforts.

The group pinpointed a near-term solution: an asphalt pathway that runs along the Virginia Tech Golf Course.

With shorter days and winter weather on the horizon, as well as the seasonal shutdown of asphalt production, the solution was accepted less than a week after the proposal was submitted by Broyden.

“Asphalt vendors and installers reduce and stop activity in the winter because pavers use a hot mixture of asphalt. If ground temperatures are too cold, the asphalt won’t compact properly and reduce the lifespan of the asphalt,” said Anthony Watson, director of facilities operations services and events and deputy to the assistant vice president for facilities operations.

The pathway funding request received unanimous approval among Virginia Tech leadership, underscoring a universitywide commitment to safety. The responsive and synergistic approach among campus partners was vital in getting this initiative funded and construction underway within weeks — and before winter in Blacksburg,” said Broyden.

By Meghan Mars

Winners announced for Auburn Baptist Christian Academy VFW essay contest



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Winners of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Voice of Democracy essay contest at Auburn Baptist Christian Academy were recognized recently by VFW Post 776. Pictured are (front row, left to right) Pastor Shake Smith, VFW member Dana Jackson, first-place winner Grace Myers, second-place winner Audrey Shelor, third-place winner Abbie Richardson, and (back row, left to right) School Administrator Mike King, student Karmyn Brown, student Kaitlyn Strouf, VFW Commander Gary Harris, and teacher Casey Anton.

VT historian and colleagues launch website offering uncensored views from American soldiers in World War II



Members of the 41st Engineers Battalion at Fort Bragg, N.C., participate in a color guard ceremony during World War II. Photo courtesy of the U.S. National Archives and Records Administration.

The good, the bad, the ugly, and the heroic.

Historian Edward Gitre believes every aspect of World War II matters.

Eleven years ago, he discovered a trove of firsthand reflections written by American soldiers through surveys conducted by the United States Army. The uncensored documents detail soldiers’ opinions on a range of topics, such as warfare, race and ethnicity, health care, and their own military service.

When Gitre first located the records, the National Archives and Records Administration held the sole copies. Quickly, Gitre realized the surveys deserved more sunlight.

An assistant professor in the Virginia Tech Department of History, Gitre began combing through the unclassified microfilm reels.

He moved forward to expand access to the records with the help of Virginia Tech students; the Crowd Intelligence Lab led by Kurt

Luther, a Virginia Tech associate professor of computer science and history; and grant funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities and Virginia Tech.

In 2018, Gitre and colleagues launched The American Soldier in World War II project, an international initiative that uses crowdsourcing and natural-language-processing techniques to transcribe, mine, and increase access to the archives. Transcribers from several countries contributed to the project.

According to Gitre, their mission was “to quite literally write these tens of thousands of personal expressions of soldiers into the historical record.”

Now, the project is poised to reach an even wider audience.

The American Soldier in World War II website officially launched on Dec. 7, offering the general public a remarkably honest glimpse into the minds of military

service members amid humanity’s deadliest war.

Gitre said the project team found meaning in opening the website for public access on Pearl Harbor Day.

“We found it especially fitting to coincide with the 80th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor,” he said, “because the WWII research branch administered its first large-scale survey to soldiers the day after the attack.”

With a user-friendly interface, americansoldierww2.org provides easy access to documents once challenging to access or navigate. Historians, journalists, students, educators, and the general public can all benefit from exploring the array of records.

The website features 65,000 pages of open-ended, unfiltered survey responses by an estimated 500,000 services members.

When the U.S. Army conducted the surveys in the 1940s, army command closely guarded the results. Troops only received carefully vetted summary digests, and the general public had even less.

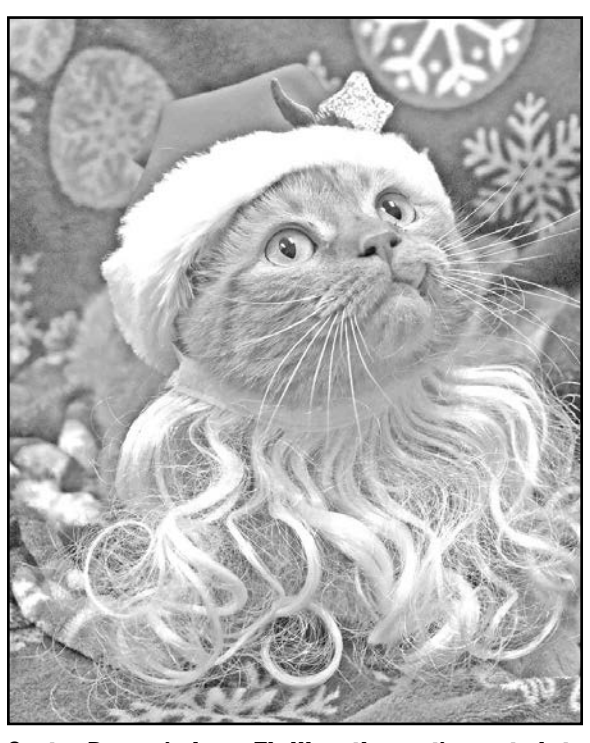
Uncensored access to the authentic views of service members is important from historical and societal perspectives, Gitre said.

“So much of what we know about the everyday experiences of Americans who served in the war comes from such sources as letters that were censored, memories recorded later, or films,” he said. “What struck me when I encountered these soldiers’ commentaries was not only the volume, numbering in the tens of thousands, but also the raw and unfiltered nature of their words.”

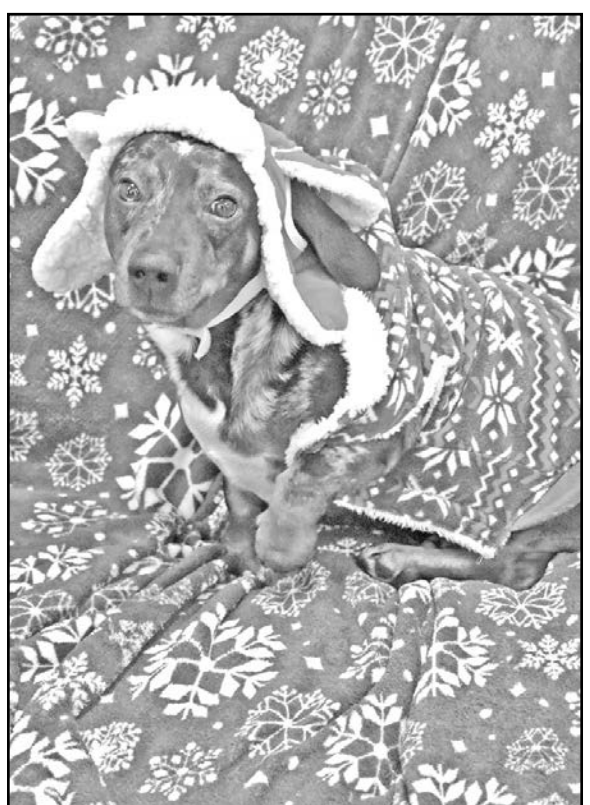
By Andrew G. Adkins

PETS-OF-THE-WEEK

Each week the paper features pets from the Montgomery County Animal Care and Adoption Center (480 Cinnabar Road, Christiansburg). Those interested in adopting a pet can call 382-5795 or visit www.montgomerycountyva.gov/acac. Hours are 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday through Friday and 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Walk-ins are welcome.



Santa Paws (a.k.a. Thriller the cat) wanted to wish everyone a happy holiday season. Thriller has lived at the Animal Care and Adoption Center since October and is ready to find his forever home. He is a sweet boy who will tolerate human silliness, as evidenced by his beard and hat.



Buster is an energetic, spunky pup who loves to play and run. He is treat-motivated, too. He may do best in a home with no other dogs, as he appears to be fearful and unsure of them. Buster is good with children.

Montgomery Regional Solid Waste Authority	
Summary Statement of Financial Condition For The Year Ended June 30, 2021	
Assets	\$6,535,638
Deferred Out Flows of Resources	\$156,034
Liabilities	\$2,401,849
Deferred Inflows of Resources	\$12,960
Net Position	\$4,276,863
Revenues	\$4,160,039
Expenses	\$4,642,784
Net Change in Net Position	\$(482,745)

Detailed financial statements may be obtained by writing to: MRSWA P.O. Box 2130 Christiansburg, VA 24068

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OPINION

Virginia gas prices continue to fall

Virginia gas prices fell 2.6 cents per gallon in the past week, averaging \$3.22/g as of Monday, Dec. 6, according to GasBuddy's daily survey of 4,081 stations in Virginia. Gas prices in Virginia are 7.8 cents per gallon lower than a month ago but still stand \$1.14/g higher than a year ago.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Virginia was priced at \$2.77/g Monday while the

most expensive was \$3.89/g, a difference of \$1.12/g.

The national average price of gasoline fell 5.3 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.34/g Monday. The national average is down 6.9 cents per gallon from a month ago but is still \$1.19/g higher than a year ago.

"The downturn in average gas prices continued to gain momentum last week as oil prices remained at a hefty dis-

count," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis for GasBuddy. "This is largely due to continued anxiety over the omicron variant and because some countries have begun issuing lockdowns, keeping motorists in some countries from consuming as much fuel.

"While the Great Lakes region, the fastest to see prices respond to market fluctuations, is seeing hefty monthly declines approaching 30 cents

per gallon, much of the rest of the country is lagging behind," De Haan said. "But we will see precipitous declines in the next week or two as stations continue to sell through higher priced inventory before slowly lowering their prices. It's not impossible given the conditions that price wars, where stations lower their price significantly, could emerge as stations now have considerable room to lower

prices."

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://prices.GasBuddy.com>

Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign offers chance to support animals

The Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign (CVC) provides opportunities to support animals through a variety of charities. Here are brief profiles of eight charities that work with and through the CVC to better the lives of animals.

Service Dogs of Virginia

Virginia Tech's Cook Counseling Center employs two therapy dogs

trained by Service Dogs of Virginia (SDV) (CVC Code 200117): Wagner, who came on board in December 2018, and Josie, who arrived in May 2021. SDV raises, trains, and places dogs to assist people with disabilities and provides facility dogs for courthouses, counseling centers, schools, and other therapeutic settings. SDV makes a commitment to provide ongoing

training and support for each individual or facility with which it places a dog. Montgomery County Friends of Animal Care and Control

Montgomery County Friends of Animal Care and Control (CVC Code 200090) is dedicated to improving and saving the lives of the homeless animals in Montgomery County. The group works with the Montgomery County Animal Care and Adoption Center by providing financial support, foster homes, dedicated volunteers, community education, and outreach.

Cat Adoption and Rescue Efforts, Inc.

Cat Adoption and Rescue Efforts, Inc. (CARE) (CVC Code 200010) is a volunteer organization dedicated to the rehabilitation, care, and adoption of cats and kittens rescued from euthanizing animal shelters in Richmond and surrounding areas. CARE is committed to the highest principles of humane care and obtains professional medical treatment for all animals in its systems.

Hope's Legacy Equine Rescue

Hope's Legacy Equine Rescue (CVC Code 200004), located in central Virginia, is an all-breed rescue working to save equines from a variety of situations, including abuse, abandonment, neglect, slaughter, or when owners can no longer provide care. The organization



The Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign provides opportunities to support animals through a variety of charities.

is also dedicated to teaching responsible equine care.

American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA)

The ASPCA (CVC Code 200566) is committed to preventing cruelty to dogs, cats, equines, and farm animals throughout the United States. The ASPCA assists animals in need through interventions, behavioral rehabilitation, placement, legislative advocacy, and research and training.

American Humane Association

The American Humane

Association (CVC Code 200564), founded in 1877, is committed to ensuring the safety, welfare, and well-being of animals. The association's team of animal-first responders has been on the ground for virtually every disaster in U.S. history.

The Jane Goodall Institute

The Jane Goodall Institute (CVC Code 201230) works to restore critical habitat to save chimpanzees from extinction, cultivate local livelihoods in harmony with nature, and help young people become an informed generation of

conservation leaders.

Elephant Sanctuary

The Elephant Sanctuary (CVC Code 200545) provides captive elephants with individualized care, the companionship of a herd, and the opportunity to live out their lives in a safe haven dedicated to their well-being. The sanctuary operates on 3,060 acres in Hohenwald, Tennessee.

To discover additional animal-related charities, refer to the CVC website's complete list of charities. This year's campaign has a goal of \$390,000 and ends Friday, Dec. 10.

RADFORD NEWS JOURNAL

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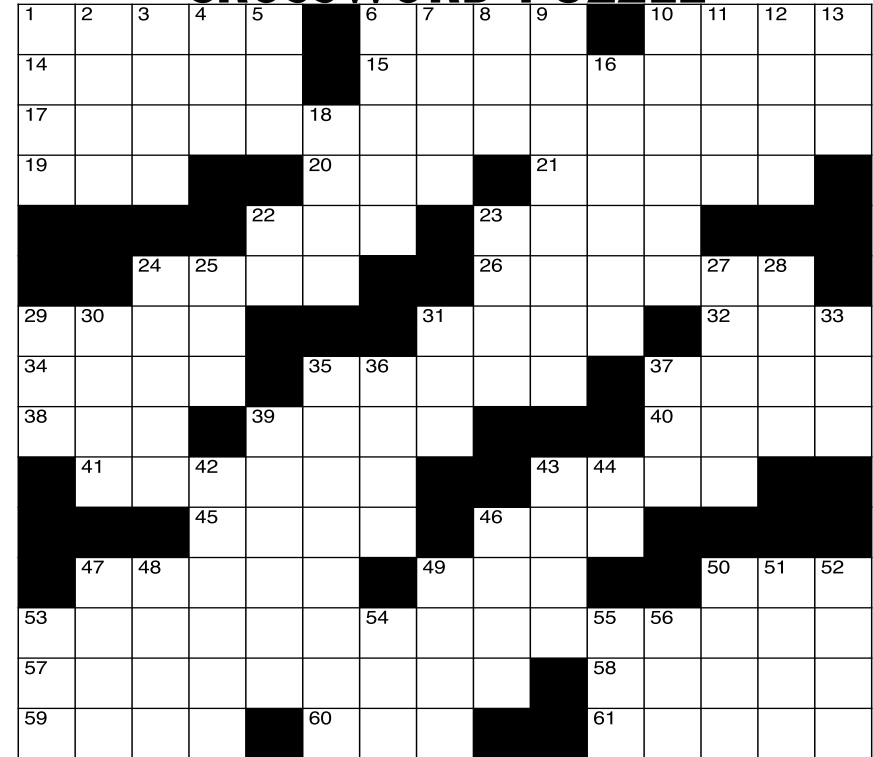
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Radford News Journal is a newspaper of, by and for the people of Radford. We encourage letters from our readers on topics of general interest to the community and responses to our articles and columns. Letters must be signed and have a telephone number 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



- | | | | |
|---|--|----------------------------|--|
| CLUES ACROSS | denotes disgust | CLUES DOWN | 29. Basics |
| 1. Polish city | 34. "Batman" villain | 1. Quarrels | 30. Refuse of grapes |
| 6. Very eager | 35. Downfalls | 2. Right away | 31. Go quickly |
| 10. Identifies a specific person or thing | 37. Philippine province | 3. Comedian Carvey | 33. French ballet dynasty |
| 14. Tennis great Naomi | 38. Once-vital TV part | 4. Egyptian unit of weight | 35. Most open |
| 15. One concerned by professional advancement | 39. Valley | 5. A Brit's mother | 36. Popular soap ingredient |
| 17. PGA Championship reward | 40. Tax | 6. Tropical tree | 37. US time zone (abbr.) |
| 19. A fashionable hotel | 41. Classic Scorsese film | 7. One who speaks Gaelic | 39. Items of food |
| 20. Norse mythology after-life location | 43. Subway dwellers | 8. NHL legend Bobby | 42. Backbones |
| 21. Stood up | 45. Book part | 9. Vacation spots | 43. Infrequent |
| 22. Car mechanics group | 46. Taxi | 10. Military personnel | 44. Blood type |
| 23. Weather forecasters use it (abbr.) | 47. Pancakes made from buckwheat flour | 11. Shakira's don't lie | 46. "Let It Snow!" songwriter |
| 24. Broken branch | 49. Swiss river | 12. Wimbledon champ | 47. Dutch colonist |
| 26. Astronomy unit | 50. Founder of Babism | 13. Teletypewriter | 48. Pike |
| 29. East Asian nursemaid | 53. Have surgery | 16. Mistakes | 49. Egyptian sun god |
| 31. "Airplane!" actor | 57. Withdrawal from a larger entity | 18. Whale ship captain | 50. A cardinal is one |
| 32. Exclamation that | 58. Lot's father | 22. Thus | 51. From a distance |
| | 59. Greek war god | 23. From end to end | 52. Bolivian river |
| | 60. 2,000 lbs. | 24. Kids love him | 53. N. American student organization (abbr.) |
| | 61. Lemur | 25. One and only | 54. River (Spanish) |
| | | 27. Fencing swords | 55. Chinese life force |
| | | 28. Taxis | 56. Chinese surname |

VDOT road watch Dec. 8

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 late 2022.

LANE CLOSURES: 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.

LANE CLOSURES: Alternating lane closures may be in place for milling and paving on I-81 southbound during nighttime hours, 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. the next morning. Expect lane closures on Route 8 between the on and off ramps of I-81.

RAMP CLOSURES: Weather permitting, the I-81 southbound exit 114 on and off ramps may be closed during nighttime hours for milling and paving from 11 p.m. to 6 a.m. Message boards will update drivers. Only one ramp will be closed at a time.

Nighttime lane closures may be in place periodically on I-81 southbound from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning.

DMV Notice: The bridge on I-81 northbound at mile marker 114 currently has a restricted width for wide loads of 26 feet or larger.

OBITUARIES

Bishop, John Michael

John Michael Bishop, 43, of Christiansburg, passed away Thursday, Dec. 2, 2021.

Johnny was a creative soul and artist.

Survivors include his parents, Patsy and James Bishop; his life partner, Keith Ray; a sister, April Brown; nephews Wesley and Noah; a niece, Nyla; and multiple aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends.

A heartfelt thank-you goes to the ICU Team at Lewis-Gale Montgomery Hospital.

The family received friends on Tuesday,



Dec. 7, 2021, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services began at noon with Brother Gary Stike officiating. Interment followed in the Bishop Family Cemetery in Snowville.

In lieu of flowers, the family requested that contributions be made to the Mountain View Humane Society, 225 Industrial Drive, Christiansburg, VA 24073.

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

Etgen, Jesslyn Joan Skeen

Jesslyn Joan (Skeen) Etgen passed away peacefully on Nov. 26, 2021, in Greenville, R.I., at the age of 91.

Prior to moving to Rhode Island in 2017, Jesslyn made her home in the Blacksburg area for nearly fifty years. She was born to Maxine and Bruce Skeen in Logan County, Ohio, on Aug. 9, 1930, and as she neared the end of nursing school, she married William (Bill) Etgen in 1950 in Bellefontaine, Ohio.

Jesslyn's shared life with Bill took them to Wisconsin, back to Ohio, then to Rhode Island, and finally to Blacksburg in 1968. She gave birth to six children along the way, and when the last of them were in late high school, she completed her formal education and became a licensed practical nurse. She worked in the nursery at Radford Hospital for several years and then volunteered her skills and energy to the Community Health Center of the New River Valley before she finally retired.

Jesslyn was preceded in death by daughter Carolyn Etgen in 1988 and by her husband Bill in 1992. To honor them, Jesslyn endowed a physical therapy facility at the Kroontje Health Care Center in Warm Hearth Village in Blacksburg. She also established a schol-



arship in the Department of Dairy Science at Virginia Tech University. Jesslyn was a voracious reader and traveler. She shared her passion for visiting far-flung corners of the United States and for exploring the Skeen family roots in Scotland with her sister Carol Ann Skeen.

She leaves behind five adult children: Michael Etgen in Clyde, N.C.; Anne Etgen in San Francisco; Kathleen Lowyns in Bronson, Fla.; David Etgen in Williston, Fla.; and Mary Etgen in St. David, Ariz. She is also survived by a sister, Carol Ann Skeen in Bellefontaine, Ohio, and a brother Richard (Dick) Skeen in Jackson Center, Ohio, as well as numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers, those who wish to acknowledge Jesslyn's life and legacy consider making a donation in her name to the Community Health Center of the New River Valley, 215 Roanoke St, Christiansburg, VA 24073 (Home - Community Health Center of NRV (chcnrv.org)).

The family will hold a private service in the summer of 2022 at the Plum Cemetery in Lewistown, Ohio, where she will be interred with Bill, Carolyn, Bruce, and Maxine.

Long, Reba Joyce Hawley

Reba Joyce Hawley Long, 92, passed away Wednesday, Dec. 1, 2021.

She was a member of New Hope Church of God.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Mosby and Ocie Hawley; her husband, William Curtis Long; and sisters Elizabeth Shelor and Georgia Robinette.

Survivors include her daughters and sons-in-law, Eula and Sonny Kilby and Patricia and Freddie Jones; sons and daughters-in-law, Albert, Jr., and Pat Carroll; David Leon and Cindy Carroll, and Rodger Dale and Candy Carroll; 11 grandchildren; numerous great- and



great-great-grandchildren; a special caregiver, Nancy Lytton; and many other relatives and friends.

The family will receive friends from 10 until 11 a.m. today, Wednesday, Dec. 8, 2021, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services will begin at 11 a.m. with Pastors Kenneth Poston, Michael Bond, and Jamie Cooper officiating and the

Cooper Family Singers singing. Interment will follow in Hickman Cemetery in Fairlawn.

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

Shumate, Lorna Lea Long

Lorna Lea Long Shumate, 62, of Roanoke, passed away Wednesday, Dec. 1, 2021.

She attended Fairlawn Church of God and was the Retail Price Coordinator at Food Lion in Roanoke.

Survivors include her fiancé, Ron Dellinger; sons Carl Powers (Tara Whitlock), Brad Powers (Maureen), and Jason Powers (Elizabeth); parents Tyrone Gordon and Eleanor Ann Long; grandchildren Kourtney, Cody, Keegan, and Luka Powers, and William Whitlock; a brother, James "Jimmy" Long; sisters Connie



Creed (Kenny), Susan Ramsey (Greg), and Dana Scott; a niece Michelle Lawrence; a great-niece, Kaitlyn Lawrence; and many other relatives and friends.

The family received friends on Saturday, Dec. 4, 2021, at the Fairlawn Church of God of Radford. Funeral services followed with the Rev. Marcus Harrison officiating. Interment followed in Highland Memory Gardens in Dublin.

Lorna's family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home and Crematory in Radford.

Vaught, Junior Kaywood

Junior Kaywood Vaught, 76, of Blacksburg, gained his wings on Nov. 30, 2021, while at home with his son, Junior.

He was born in Blacksburg on March 18, 1945, to the late Percy and Lucille Vaught.

Kaywood was preceded in death by his parents, his loving wife, Winnifred "Freddie" Vaught, brothers Joe Vaught and James Vaught, and a sister, Ruth "Minnie" Cooper.

He is survived by his son, Junior Vaught; daughters Tammy Vaught and Katherine Reed; sisters Lorraine McGuire, Betty Mickles, Helen Vaught, and Ruby Howard; a brother, Arwood Vaught; and many loving grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and extended family members.

Kaywood was a loving father, hus-



band, and grandfather. He enjoyed fixing old cars, going fishing, and spending time with his children.

"You never said I'm leaving, you never said goodbye. You were gone before we knew it, and only God knew why. A million times we needed you, a million times we cried. If love alone could have saved you, you never would have died. In life we loved you dearly, in death we love you still. In our hearts you hold a place that no one could ever fill. It broke our hearts to lose you, but you didn't go alone. For part of us went with you, the day God took you home." Author Unknown.

The family received friends on Saturday, Dec. 4, 2021, at McCoy Funeral Home, 150 Country Club Dr. SW, Blacksburg followed by funeral services.

Dove, Alene Williams

Alene Williams Dove, 90, of Christiansburg, passed away Wednesday, Dec. 1, 2021.

She was born in Christiansburg on Nov. 26, 1931, to the late Fred, Sr., and Caroline Williams. She was preceded in death by her husband, Harley (Pete) Dove, Sr.; her son, Harley (Butch) Dove, Jr.; and her adopted granddaughter, Sandra Woolridge.

Alene was a longtime member of Cambria Baptist Church and was retired from C & P Telephone. She is survived by her adopted daughter, Joyce Brown, her adopted grandchildren, Angela Brun and

Kimberly Brugh; adopted great-grandchildren, Heather and Jamie Martin and son, Aiden, Terrell Brugh; adopted great-great grandchildren Trinity, Ashton, Demi, Paige, and Preston; her brother, Fred Williams, Jr.; and a special cousin, Tommy Alderman and wife, Deana.

Funeral services were held Monday, Dec. 6, 2021, at 11 a.m. in the Cambria Baptist Church with Pastor Keith Crowgey officiating. Burial followed in the Den Hill Cemetery. The family received friends Monday prior to the service at Cambria Baptist Church. Arrangements by McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg.

McCoy, Jennifer Rountree

Jennifer Rountree McCoy, 48, of McCoy, passed away Wednesday, Dec. 1, 2021, at her home. She was preceded in death by her mother, Shirley Rountree. Jennifer was a member of Blacksburg Christian Church.

She is survived by her husband, Blake McCoy, sons Jesse Kline and Nicholas Bui; her father-in-law, Larry McCoy, a sister-in-law, Lorie McCoy; special



friends, Erin, Juliet, and Sharon. The family wishes to thank the staff at Warm Hearth Village and Medi Home Hospice.

A celebration of life was held Saturday, Dec. 4, 2021, at 11 a.m. in the Blacksburg Christian Church with the Rev. Gary McCoy and the Rev. J.B. Beane officiating.

Arrangements by McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg.

Wilson, Jerry Leon and Wilson, Mary Frances

Jerry Leon Wilson, 82, and Mary Frances Wilson (nee Hilliard), 79, of Dublin, passed away the last week of November 2021.

The pair were married for 62 years and raised four sons and two grandchildren. Both worked in the New River Valley for more than 50 years, he as an independent painting contractor and she as a nurse's aide at St. Alban's Psychiatric Hospital and Carillion New River Valley Medical Center.

The couple was preceded in death by their son Christopher L. Wilson; their parents Joseph A. Wilson, Lucille K. Wilson (nee Smart), Thurman W. Hilliard and Golda L. Hilliard (nee Smith); and their siblings, Joyce Wilson Capps and Alta Hilliard Bar-riinger and Eugene Hillard.

They are survived by their sons,



William J. Wilson of St. Inigoes, Md., and Barron L. Wilson and Douglas Scott Wilson, both of Dublin; grandchildren Danielle Wilson, Brittany Wilson Ryan, Brandon Wilson, Gregory Wilson, Majesta Osborne, Shaeli Wilson, and Tiersa Wilson; as well as six great-grandchildren.

The family would like to thank LewisGale Hospital, Pulaski, for their excellent care. In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to Blue Ridge Christian Counseling at https://brccva.org/donations/.

A private family burial will take place at Highland Memorial Gardens in Dublin. A memorial service will be held at a future time.

The Wilson family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford, Virginia.

www.mullinsfuneralhome.com.



Send community news and photos to communitynews@ourvalley.org

OBITUARIES

Elliott, Agnes Virginia

Agnes Virginia Elliott, 89, of Dublin, passed away Tuesday, Nov. 30, 2021, at Highland Ridge Health & Rehab.

Graveside services were held at 10

a.m. on Friday, Dec. 3, 2021, in the Highland Memory Gardens in Dublin.

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

Green, Frankie

Frankie Green, 65, of Pembroke, died Wednesday, Dec. 1, 2021, at St. Mary's Hospital, Richmond.

He was born in Giles County on Aug. 27, 1956, to the late Samuel and Patricia Wilson Green. He is survived by his wife, Joan Smith Green; sons and daughter-in-law, Jason and Nicole Green, and Shane Green; a granddaughter, Emma Jayde; a brother, Mike

Green, and girlfriend, Rosa; an aunt, Mae Wilson; a lifelong best friend, Randy Stephens; and a daily best companion dog, Buster.

A funeral service was conducted on Sunday, Dec. 5, 2021, at 6 p.m. in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel with Pastor Greg Irby officiating. The family received friends and family prior to the service.

Griffith, Deborah (Debbie) Reed

Deborah (Debbie) Reed Griffith, 58, a beloved wife, mother, daughter, and employee of the Pulaski County School District passed away unexpectedly on Wednesday, Nov. 24, 2021.

Debbie was born in Radford on Jan. 11, 1963, and was a lifelong resident of Dublin. She lived life to the fullest and was a loving mother and educator and an avid traveler. She devoted her life to helping others and brought joy and compassion to everyone she met. Her light will forever shine through the lives of her students, friends, and family.

She was preceded in death by her husband, William (Bill) Griffith, and her father, Garnett Reed.

She is survived by her mother, Martha Reed; her son, Adam Griffith; her

brothers and sisters-in-law, Garnett and Katie Reed, Dennis and Anita Lynn Reed, and Randy and Cathy Reed, and their families.

The family received friends from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 6, 2021, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. A graveside service was held at 2 p.m. at the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin with the Rev. Mark Miller officiating.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to Dublin Elementary School, 600 Dunlap Road, Dublin, VA 24084 in her memory for the benefit of her beloved school children.

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

Monroe, Helen Phillips

Helen Phillips Monroe, 88, of Claytor Lake, passed away Saturday, Nov. 27, 2021.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Robert and Elizabeth Cox Phillips, and her husband, Dan Cecil Monroe.

Survivors include her daughter, Susan M. Morgan; grandchildren Lauren Elizabeth Monroe and Joel Kelly Monroe; and a great-grandson, Jackson Lee Monroe.

The family received friends on Friday, Dec. 3, 2021, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services followed with Pastor Gregory Harrell officiating. Interment followed in the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin.

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

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Property has frontage on Morning Dew Lane and accessed by Buffalo Lane. Buffalo Lane is a private road that extends from Morning Dew Lane and goes through a portion of the property. Buffalo Lane is also the access for two homes adjacent to this property. In addition, there is a 25' easement that expires in two years giving access to adjoining 113.15 acres to the south. The fire road running along the border of the 96.26 acres being sold and the 113.15 acre adjoining is the property line and a shared road that either property can use to access the back wooded portions of both properties. This fire road does not go through property but along the border. Refer to survey and deed in bidder pack for complete understanding of Right of Way and Fire Road.

Preview - Wednesday December 8th @ 4 PM

Terms - 10% Buyer's Premium will be added to final high bid to arrive at contract price. Earnest Money Deposit of \$10,000 per lot required day of sale. Close in 45 days. Subject to seller confirmation. Property sold as is, where is with any and all faults. Buyer is expected to complete their own due diligence. Auction starts ending at 4 PM on December 16th, 2021. Please note that during the last two minutes of bidding, if a new bid is placed, the clock is automatically extended an additional two minutes. Download Bidder Information Pack for complete terms and conditions, purchase contract and maps at VaAuctionPro.com

Contact Matt Gallimore, Broker/Auctioneer at 540-239-2585 or email Gallimore.matt@gmail.com

102 S. Locust Street, Floyd, VA 24091 (540) 745-2005 VaAuctionPro.com Lic# 2907004059



Blue Ridge Land & Auction Co., Inc

Virginia's varied landscapes are reflected in handcrafted wreaths



Such mundane Virginia materials as pine cones, pods, shells, and husks undergo aesthetic transformation when they are woven into wreaths.

Blooms, pods, shells, husks, and grains that flourish and fade within Virginia's seasonal cycles become a lasting landscape snapshot when woven into wreaths.

A trail ride, beach walk, or even a quick trip to the store is an expedition for natural wreath designers whose art form is inspired by the environment.

"I'll see something that can be used to make a wreath and pull over with my kids in the car," said wreath designer Agnes von Stillfried of King and Queen County. "They say, 'Not again! Mom, you're so weird!'"

Also known as Virginia's Wreath Maker, Stillfried's one-of-a-kind designs demand up-close inspection of materials that have undergone aesthetic transformation.

"What inspires me—when you have to look twice to see what kind of material it is," Stillfried said.

Sliced magnolia pods become miniature pineapples. Pecan shells are painted like delicate robin eggs. Spring daisies are fashioned from slices of hand-painted corn cobs.

Polished acorns simulate a shiny string of pearls. Fuzzy wisteria pods resemble reptile skin.

Stillfried's favorite

wreath is a thick lock of weeping lovegrass braided like a head of hair.

"It's fun to make and so sturdy," she said. "If you buy it today, it will be there in 15 years because it's a heavy-duty sea grass, an amazing material."

Wild mushrooms, tree bark, pine-needle ropes, turkey feathers, and the rough underside of magnolia leaves lend organic textures to Stillfried's original designs sold on her website.

"All of the stuff I work with is from Virginia," Stillfried said. "Farmer friends let me cut grains like wheat and barley. And my dried okra was grown by Jim Woolford, a retired Farm Bureau agent."

Virginia's natural scenes are summarized in the wreaths, which historically represent the unending cycle of life. While some of Stillfried's materials are preserved in a static state, others are intended to dance with atmospheric fluctuations.

"The pinecones will close up with the rain and open with the sun," she explained. "The moss gets dry when the sun beats on it, but when it's wet, it gets nice and green."

Stillfried, who holds a master's degree in floral design, also creates traditional greenery wreaths.

"For me, good technique is important," she said. "It needs to be made so it's holding up at least through the holidays."

Traditional wreath maker Roberta Clouse at Clouse's Pine Hill Christmas Tree Farm has mastered her technique for selecting greens arranged into fragrant 18-inch wreaths that enhance front stoops throughout Northern Virginia.

She gathers an assortment of fresh-cut fir and pine greenery, then overlays them in sections of a circle, clamped by metal claws with the stomp of a foot pedal.

"I'm not that artsy-crafty," Clouse said. "But I do get a little picky with my greens. I like the look of the mixed greens because it adds more dimension."

Customers often pick up a seasonal wreath when they cut Christmas trees at the farm. Clouse can create up to four wreaths an hour, and she made more than 200 of them last season.

"They will last through Christmas, depending on how you treat them," Clouse said. "Between a storm door and a front door with the sun shining on it—they'll be cooked in about a week. But if you hang it outside without too much direct sunlight, it will last through February."

Don't knock a delicious holiday fruitcake



The butt of many jokes such as being called doorstops, holiday fruitcakes don't exactly have the best holiday food reputation, but they can be delicious with the right ingredients.

With jokes about being overly sweet, super dry or overdone, fruitcake doesn't have the best holiday food reputation. But when made with quality ingredients, the underrated cake can be downright delicious. Filled with a variety of fruit, nuts and flavor, fruitcake is a holiday party in your mouth.

Traditionally made with candied or dried fruits, slicing into a fruitcake reveals a festive pallet of colors from cranberries and cherries to

dates and oranges. They also can have extra holiday flavor with the addition of a dash of spirits.

For a holiday gift and to solve the problem of getting a dessert for the holidays, bakers can skip the store-bought fruitcake and try a hand at a homemade holiday staple.

Holiday Fruitcake
 ¾ cup butter
 1¾ cup sugar
 4 eggs
 4 cups flour
 ¾ pound candy orange slices, chopped
 1½ cup pecans, chopped
 ½ pound dates, chopped
 3½ ounces flaked coconut
 1 teaspoon baking soda
 1 cup buttermilk
 1 tablespoon lemon juice
 3 teaspoons grated orange rind

For the glaze:
 2 cups powdered sugar
 1 cup orange juice

2 teaspoons grated orange rind
 Heat oven to 300°.

In a mixer, cream butter and sugar, and then beat in eggs, one at a time.

In a bowl, sift half the flour over the orange slices, pecans, dates and coconut, toss together, and set aside.

In a separate bowl, sift remaining flour with the baking soda and then add alternately with buttermilk into the creamed mixture. Stir lemon juice and orange rind into the creamed mixture, then add the dredged fruit mixture and combine.

Grease and flour a tube pan or two 9-by-5 inch loaf pans and fill with the mixture. Bake for 1½ hours or until a toothpick comes out clean.

For the glaze:
 In a mixing bowl, combine glaze ingredients until smooth. When cakes are finished, pour glaze over top.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS															
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RADFORD SPORTS

Maston Stanley to walk on at Virginia Tech

Marty Gordon
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Former Christiansburg High School standout Maston Stanley has announced plans to walk on to the football team at Virginia Tech. This past year, he enrolled and dressed on the gridiron for Emory & Henry College. “I decided to leave Emory and Henry because they did not have the major I wanted. I also wanted to be closer to home,”

Stanley said this past weekend. “I transferred to Virginia Tech because I have loved VT since I was little. I will get to live at home, and they had the major that is a natural fit for me.” He plans to pursue a degree in forestry. Two years ago, Stanley rushed for 1,100 yards and 13 touchdowns at Christiansburg High School and was named the 2019 All-River Ridge District and All-Region 3D linebacker. On de-

fense, he tallied over 100 tackles for the second year in a row. “I was taught at a young age that working hard for the things we need and want is a fact of life,” Stanley said about the move. With changes in the coaching staff at Tech, what position Stanley will play remains a question mark. “I will play wherever the coaches decide they could use me, and I will work hard in any position to help the team,” he said.



An All-River Ridge District and All-Region 3D linebacker in 2019, Maston Stanley, pictured making a tackle against Salem, is moving from Emory & Henry College to walk on to the Virginia Tech football team.

Is Tech becoming a basketball school?

Virginia Tech as a basketball school is something fans and the media are starting to think about more and more on a regular basis. In so many ways, maybe it's a distraction to what was not happening on the football field. The basketball team is winning on a regular basis. A packed house decked out in orange watched the Hokies play their first conference game of the season Saturday against Wake Forest. Fans were rowdy and involved in the game, and Coach Mike Young even led the raucous crowd in a “Let's Go Hokies” cheer before tipoff. The game was officially listed as a sellout, the first since

Feb. 26, 2020. The biggest roar from the crowd was when new football coach Brent Pry took the court. He said the last 48 hours have been unbelievable. “The welcome for me and my family has been tremendous,” the new head Hokie said. The Hokies announced the addition of three standout recruits during the early signing period in the form of MJ Collins from Rock Hill, S.C., Patrick Wessler from Matthews, N.C., and Rodney Rice from Clinton, Md. 247Sports lists the group as the 20th-ranked recruiting class in the country. Some interesting side notes: Upperclassmen have ac-



From the Sidelines
 Marty Gordon

counted for 79 percent of the Hokies' scoring so far this season. With late threes from walk-ons Camden Johnson and Ben Varga in the win over Merrimack, each member of this year's unit has scored at least a point this season. Storm Murphy and Justyn Mutts are both in grad school at Virginia Tech. Murphy graduated from Wofford be-

fore his transfer with a degree in finance and is now seeking a grad degree in leadership studies within the College of Agriculture. Mutts graduated with a psychology degree from Delaware and completed his masters at Tech in agricultural and life sciences with a concentration in education. He is seeking his second grad degree, this time in educational psychology. Meanwhile Keve Aluma earned his first undergraduate degree in human development at Tech and is now seeking a second undergrad degree in sociology. During the October airing of “Nothing but Net,” analyst Luke Hancock picked the Hokies to win the ACC regular season. He also felt Aluma would contend for ACC Player of the Year honors. The sports information staff at the university has pointed out that if you are a night owl, then this year's men's basketball schedule is right up your alley. Tech will appear in at least 10 games this season with a start time of 8 p.m. or later with seven games not tipping off until 9 p.m. Tech has 13 players on the roster who represent eight states and two international countries. Florida leads the way with Hunter Cattoor, Lynn Kidd, and Jalen Haynes.

Blacksburg boys defeat Auburn 59-52



Blacksburg's Keegan Apea scored 16 points in the Bruins' 59-52 win over Auburn Friday night.



Auburn senior guard Ethan Millirons drives down the lane against Blacksburg. Millirons scored 12 for the Eagles in the early season road game.

Auburn has a banner problem: Too many of them

Marty Gordon
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Auburn High School has been the place for championships as the school has won 36 total state titles in 13 different sports, 33 in the last nine years, and 19 in the last four years. As a result, the rafters of the school's gymnasium have gotten overcrowded with banners. In an unprecedented move on Monday, the school unveiled a new plan, an “Add-A-Year” state championship system. Simply put, Athletic Director Paul Dominy said it came down to a space issue as there are no empty spots on the walls for additional banners. “We've been putting the banners on the walls of the Teel Gym, and we are very close to running out of space,” Dominy said. “It is a problem we never thought about when we first started winning state championships, but our success over the past eight years has put us in a position where we had to make a change.” As the AD looked around at how other schools have handled this problem, it became apparent that add-a-year banners were the most popular solution. So, the school has made a banner for each of the 19 sports they have competed in over the past nine

years and is ready to display them. Monday night, the school held a special ceremony following the conclusion of the girls' varsity basketball game. A new banner will show each sport and the years state titles were brought home to Riner. The banners were unveiled by former and current athletes in that sport who have made a significant impact in the history of the program. Following the ceremony, the single-year banners were auctioned off to the highest bidder with the money being used to purchase the new ones. Here is the total list of Auburn's state championships:
 Boys basketball 1967, 2020
 Boys tennis 1973, 1974
 Girls volleyball 2012, 2013, 2014, 2019, 2020, 2021
 Boys outdoor track and field 2014, 2015, 2016, 2018, 2021
 Girls tennis 2015, 2018, 2019, 2021
 Boys cross country 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018
 Girls outdoor track and field 2016, 2017, 2018
 Boys indoor track and field 2017
 Baseball 2017, 2019, 2021
 Girls cross country 2017, 2018
 Golf 2017
 Softball 2019, 2021
 Girls soccer 2019

Send community news and photos to communitynews@ourvalley.org

PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING

Blacksburg girls slip by Auburn 43-31



Auburn's Allyson Martin drives for a layup against Blacksburg this past weekend. The Bruins defeated the Eagles 43-31. Martin finished with eight points in the loss.



Brynn Ferguson led Blacksburg to the win with 15 points.

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