

# News Messenger

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Wednesday, November 24, 2021

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## Average price of 2021 Virginia Thanksgiving meal increases to \$6.37 per person

Virginians will be able to feed their families a Thanksgiving meal for less than \$6.50 per person this year, according to an informal price survey conducted by the Virginia Farm Bureau Federation.

The survey of common grocery items found on Thanksgiving tables places the average cost of a traditional meal for 10 adults at \$63.66, or \$6.37 per person. This is a 5.52% increase from the 2020 average price of \$60.33 for a 10-person meal.

The menu includes turkey, ham, stuffing, sweet potatoes, russet potatoes, rolls, carrots, celery, cranberries, green beans, peas, milk, and pumpkin pie with whipped cream. Prices were reported by volunteer shoppers around the state using no promotional sales or coupons.

The fact that 2021's Thanksgiving meal price tag has increased should not be surprising considering the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported in October that the cost of all food is up more than 5% from a year ago.

"While supply chain and workforce issues are plaguing all sectors of the economy, traditional Thanksgiving dinner ingredients are still readily available at grocery

stores across Virginia," noted Elijah Griles, a Virginia Farm Bureau Federation commodity specialist.

"Our farmers work hard to put food on Virginians' tables, and despite the global pandemic and the challenges it has presented them, they have persevered. We are thankful for their work and the abundance they provide us during the Thanksgiving season," Griles said.

This is the 18th year Virginia Farm Bureau has conducted the survey, which is based on an annual survey organized by American Farm Bureau Federation.

Volunteer shoppers checked prices online and in person at 33 grocery stores across the state. According to the results, the Farm Bureau found the average cost of a 16-pound turkey was \$25.17 or about \$1.57 per pound. The 2020 average was \$1.40 per pound.

The organization discovered the average price for a 4-pound bone-in ham was \$8.47; a gallon of whole milk was \$3.22; frozen peas, \$1.22; frozen green beans, \$1.24; three pounds of sweet potatoes, \$2.80; a 5-pound bag of russet potatoes, \$3.45; fresh celery, \$1.56; fresh car-

See **Average Price**, page 3

## GasBuddy: High gas prices to keep most Americans off the road over Thanksgiving

While the economy may be bouncing back, Thanksgiving travel is not.

GasBuddy, the leading fuel savings platform providing North American drivers with the most ways to save money on gas, revealed in its 2021 Annual Thanksgiving Travel Survey that only 32% of Americans plan to travel for Thanksgiving this year, a decline from 35% last year that compares to some 65% that planned to hit the road for Thanksgiving 2019.

"The national average price of gasoline is projected to decline to \$3.35 per gallon on Thanksgiving Day, still amongst the highest we've seen in over seven years," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy. "But there remains a remote chance that should oil suddenly surge, gas

prices could quickly follow and potentially beat 2012's record for the most expensive national average ever for the date: \$3.44 per gallon.

"Similarly to last year, motorists are contending with a rise in COVID cases ahead of the Thanksgiving holiday when many drive to celebrate with friends and family," De Haan said. "Only this year, we're also just cents away from the highest Thanksgiving gas prices ever recorded. With global oil demand surging this year as the pandemic has eased, we find ourselves in unfamiliar territory: Some of the highest Thanksgiving gas prices on record. Americans are responding to the prices by slamming the car door shut and staying off the road."

According to GasBuddy's survey, seventy-five

percent of Americans also say that COVID-19 has had no impact on their holiday plans this year, up substantially from last year's 46%. Yet, even fewer Americans are traveling this year than in 2020. Fifty percent of Americans say they are driving less overall this year, and when asked what it would take for them to drive more, an overwhelming 78% said lower gas prices.

Those who are traveling are opting for shorter trips with most (13%) expecting to spend one to three hours in the car. When it comes to making a rest stop, decent gas prices remained of most importance to those selecting, though location and convenience rose above the rest stop's cleanliness in 2021's results.

See **Gas Prices**, page 5

## Virginia remains an important turkey-producing state

HARRISONBURG—It's prime time for turkey, and Virginia farmers have been hard at work raising birds for Thanksgiving and other meals.

Virginia turkey production is ranked sixth in the U.S., according to the National Agricultural Statistics Service. In 2021, the state's turkey growers are expected to raise 14.5 million birds. This is down 9% from the 16 million raised in 2020, NASS reported in September. Nationally, NASS forecasts the number of turkeys raised in 2021 will be down 4% from 2020.

"Virginia has not diminished as an important turkey-producing state," said Hobey Bauhan, president of the Virginia Poultry Federation. He noted that the number of birds raised

in Virginia fluctuates from year to year, but the state remains among the top 10 turkey-producing states.

He blamed supply chain issues and workforce challenges for the drop in turkey production this year. Since supplies may be tight this Thanksgiving season, Bauhan recommends that consumers plan ahead.

"Virginia is cranking out fresh turkeys, and they will be on shelves in the weeks leading up to Thanksgiving," he noted. "And you can buy a frozen turkey now. They are frozen fresh, so they're just as good as fresh."

The Virginia poultry industry, which includes chickens, eggs, and turkeys, employs

See **Turkeys**, page 5



Virginia ranks sixth in the nation in turkey production with an expected 14.5 million birds in 2021.



## Fry your turkey safely this Thanksgiving

For some, a giant vat of hot cooking oil screams danger, but for others, it represents deep-fried turkey goodness.

"It's very tasty," said Hobey Bauhan, president of the Virginia Poultry Federation. "When you fry a turkey, it seems to lock in the moisture. The meat's very moist, and the outside is nice and crispy."

Standing around the turkey fryer chatting with friends and family is a fond activity for many. And while it's fun to watch a Thanksgiving bird bubbling, it's also important to remember frying and eating safety.

"You might be inclined to do it in an enclosed area because it's chilly out," said Howard Hill, president of King & Queen County Farm Bureau. "But it should always be done outside in an open area. A lot of problems can happen when people are in enclosed areas."

Hill raises and sells a small flock of turkeys each year for the holidays, and deep-frying is among his favorite ways to prepare Thanksgiving turkeys. In addition to frying outside, he recommends people wear rubber gloves and aprons to protect themselves.

"You could get scalded," Hill cautioned.



No doubt a giant vat of hot cooking oil can be dangerous, but standing around the turkey fryer chatting with friends and family is a Thanksgiving tradition for many.

When frying a turkey, the National Turkey Federation suggests using a 40- to 60-quart pot with a basket, and the fryer should be placed in the grass or dirt away from anything that could potentially catch fire. The pot should be filled with enough oil to completely submerge the bird without spilling over.

As for the turkey, smaller is better, ideally between eight and 10 pounds but no larger than 12

See **Fry Safely**, page 3

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Wednesday, Nov. 24:

### MFRL closed

All branches of the MFRL libraries will close at noon on Wednesday, Nov. 24 and remain closed on Thursday, Nov. 25 and Friday, Nov. 26 for Thanksgiving.

### Radford Drop Center Hours

Closed Nov. 24 through Nov. 26 for the Thanksgiving holiday

### Radford Library Closed

RPL will be closed in observance of Thanksgiving from Wednesday, Nov. 24 - Sunday, Nov. 28.

## Sunday, Nov. 28:

### Chess Club

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

## Monday, Nov. 29:

### Talking About Books: "The Last Anniversary"

At the Blacksburg Library at 11 a.m. To be discussed is "The Last Anniversary" by Liane Moriarty. Call ahead to reserve a copy.

## Tuesday, Nov. 30:

### Gingerbread House Making

At the Meadowbrook Public Library at 4 p.m. Build a personalized gingerbread house for the holidays. Registration is required. Sign up by calling the library at 540-268-1964.

### Dino Party

At the Blacksburg Library at 4:30 p.m. Say goodbye to Dinovember with a Dino Party at the library. Come dig for fossils, hatch dinosaur eggs, and design a dinosaur. Email mroach@mfri.org for more information.

## Throughout November:

### Donate your old sneakers

The RADical Change Commission and GotSneakers have partnered up to promote healthy communities with cre-

ative recycling. This sneaker drive fundraiser will help keep sneakers out of landfills and reduce toxic chemicals released in 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 locations: 1) Unity Christian Church, 400 Tyler Ave. (corner of Tyler and Clement), Radford, Monday through Thursday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Friday 8 a.m. to 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. The following items may be donated by dropping them off at the library during November: deodorant, denture adhesive, 3 in 1 body wash/shampoo/conditioner, body lotion, toothpaste, nail clippers, sweatpants, sweatshirts, 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 Church hand bell choir, will perform music and also lead interactive hand bell playing for little ones. Radford Mayor David Horton will provide the countdown for the magical tree lighting, and Santa will be on hand to flip the switch. This event takes place outside, rain or shine so at-

tendees should 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.

## Saturday, Dec. 4:

### CHS Music Department Breakfast with Santa

At Christiansburg High School from 8 a.m. until noon. The CHS Music Department presents its annual breakfast with Santa featuring a pancake breakfast, games, crafts, and a photo op with Santa. Families can bring their own camera or phone and take a picture with Santa. As an event in a Virginia public school, masks must be worn at all times with the exception of when attendees are eating. The cost is \$5 for children 12 and under and \$8 for ages 13 and up.

## 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.

## Wednesday, Dec. 8:

### Brown Bag Book Club

At the Radford Public Library on the second Wednesday of each month from noon to 1 p.m. Attendees may bring a lunch. To be discussed this month is "The Great Alone" by Kristin Hannah.

## 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 Mountain-Trotter Arts and will be held from noon until 4 p.m. at Glencoe Mansion, Mu-

seum and Gallery. The market features one-of-a-kind and high quality hand-crafted works by local artisans, perfect for holiday shopping. Enjoy hot beverages, sweet treats, and live holiday music. A special feature inside the mansion, museum, and gallery is the holiday display, "Christmas in Virginia," which will transport attendees through Virginia's past into the present. The gift shop will feature a wide variety of items, and the museum will feature works by local artists in its gallery space. 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.

## 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.

## Ongoing:

### Second annual Radford 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 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.

# VT food safety expert warns against holiday foodborne illnesses

To have a safe and enjoyable Thanksgiving Day meal with family and friends, proper food safety precautions should be taken to avoid foodborne illness, said Minh Duong, a postdoctoral associate in the Virginia Tech College of Agriculture and Life Sciences' Department of Food Science and Technology.

"It's vital to clean throughout the cooking process and to not accidentally cross-contaminate surfaces during holiday food prep," says Duong.

When preparing the classic holiday turkey, Duong says there are important steps to take to ensure a tasty – yet safe

– experience for all. The only pain you experience on Thanksgiving Day should be from overeating, not foodborne illness.

For example, Duong says not to wash a turkey prior to cooking.

"Washing raw poultry won't kill bacteria, but cooking to the proper internal temperature will," according to Duong. "Washing your turkey could cause harmful bacteria to be sprayed onto nearby counters and throughout your kitchen."

Duong says it's also important to buy a fresh turkey and try not to purchase more than one to two days in advance. Keep it stored on the bottom shelf of the refrigerator in

a tray or pan to catch any juices that may leak.

Frozen turkeys should be kept in the freezer until they are ready to thaw and be cooked. Thawing in the refrigerator will require about 24 hours for every five pounds. A turkey can be quickly thawed with these techniques, according to Duong:

Submerge the turkey in a container of cool water, changing the water every 30 minutes. Plan to allow it to soak for 30 minutes per pound.

Before committing to thawing your turkey in the microwave, make sure to check the owner's manual for the size turkey that will fit, the minutes per pound, and the pow-

er level. A general rule is to allow six minutes per pound.

A proper internal temperature for the turkey is required to ensure that all bacteria are killed and the meat is safe to eat.

"Using a digital tip-sensitive food thermometer is the only way to know that your turkey is done," says Duong. "Looking at it, seeing if the juices run clear, or cutting it open and looking at color does not tell you it's safe. Poultry like turkey and chicken should be cooked to an internal temperature of at least 165°F. Check the temperature in three spots: the thickest part of the breast, the innermost part of the wings, and the innermost part of the thigh."

This oft-forgotten in-

ternal temperature rule also applies to stuffing, which also must reach 165 degrees in multiple places. To avoid overcooking the turkey while trying to properly cook the stuffing, Duong recommends cooking the stuffing separately.

Another important theme, Duong says, is cleaning. Cleaning of surfaces, hands, and anything that comes into contact with raw meat will help prevent the spread of foodborne bacteria through cross-contamination.

The final piece to an enjoyable Thanksgiving Day meal that provides for days ahead is properly storing the leftovers. Leftovers should be refrigerated within two hours, and any large pieces of

turkey should be broken down and refrigerated in shallow containers to allow for quicker cooling, says Duong. All leftovers should be eaten within three to four days or frozen.

*Minh Duong is a postdoctoral researcher in the Department of Food Science and Technology and a member of Renee Boyer's food safety and extension lab. His research focuses on food safety education and communication. He received his Ph.D. in food science and technology from Virginia Tech in 2021, his master's degree in food science from North Carolina State University, and his bachelor's degree in biological sciences from Virginia Tech.*

**VDOT** Virginia Department of Transportation

**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.



Among the warnings food safety expert Minh Duong issues about preparing turkeys for Thanksgiving is not to wash the bird prior to cooking since that won't kill bacteria. Only cooking to the proper temperature will.

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

# 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](http://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.



Despite her namesake, Lady Tremaine is far from wicked. She's a shy gal who came to the Animal Care and Adoption Center as a young mother a short time ago. She is a petite feline with a beautiful tan, grey, and white coat.



Opie has been a resident at the ACAC for only a brief time but hopes to be in his forever home for the holidays. He is a sweet and gentle older dog. Opie is friendly and likes to meet new people.

## Virginia Christmas trees are a key part of holiday traditions

More than 10,000 acres of pine, spruce, and fir trees are grown on 500 Virginia Christmas tree farms, and that's good news for families whose holiday traditions include choosing a fresh Christmas tree.

Whether hand-cut or purchased from a local retailer, the state's growers insist there's nothing like the real thing. Their Virginia-grown Christmas trees illuminate homes statewide and brighten up living spaces from Ohio to Puerto Rico.

"Every local tree you can find will be sold this year," predicted Ryan Clouse, president of the Virginia Christmas Tree Growers Association and a grower with Clouse's Pine Hill Farm in Frederick County, a choose-and-cut operation. "Already-tight supplies were further impacted by heat and fires in Oregon, which is the largest tree-producing state. It's best to come the first week-end after Thanksgiving to have the best selection of trees."

Clouse's Pine Hill Farm was established in 1977 when Ryan's parents, Ron and Roberta Clouse, allowed FFA students to plant pine trees on their property for a project. The first crop of pines was harvested in 1984, and the family continues to plant 1,000 seedlings a year. About 15,000 spruce, fir, and pine trees currently are growing on 20 acres.

"We like to see families coming back—sometimes generations of the same families—who are really

plugged into the Christmas tradition," Clouse said.

A crop that requires more than five years of cultivation is often harvested in a single weekend by families dedicated to the choose-and-cut tradition. Armed with saws, blankets, tarps, and ropes, some of them line up at 9 a.m. on Black Friday to choose their trees.

Other families skip the saw and purchase fresh trees from local retailers. Many U.S. stores are supplied by wholesale growers

like Bottomley Evergreens and Farms in Grayson County. Bottomley is Virginia's largest Christmas tree farm and plants 1 million seedlings annually on 600 acres.

"This year we'll cut around 600,000 (trees)," said Carlos Taylor, Bottomley's Christmas tree manager. "They'll go to Texas, parts of New Jersey and New York, Ohio, part of Florida and down to Puerto Rico."

Virginia Christmas tree sales top \$10 million annually, and the state is

ranked seventh nationwide for harvest and production of fir, pine and spruce trees.

"And Fraser firs are the Cadillac," Taylor said. "They grow better in the Blue Ridge Mountains than anywhere else. But you can't pop a tree in the ground today and be ready to sell it this year."

Workers hand-harvest most trees in the seventh year following a multi-season regimen of trimming and shaping. Cut trees are chilled for freshness prior to shipping.



With 500 Christmas tree farms that grow more than 10,000 acres of pine, spruce, and fir trees, Virginia is ranked seventh nationwide for the harvest and production of pine, spruce, and fir Christmas trees. That amounts to better than \$10 million in sales annually. Nevertheless, Ryan Clouse, president of the Virginia Christmas Tree Growers Association, predicts, "Every local tree you can find will be sold this year."

## Blacksburg is one of the 5 most affordable metros for utilities in the U.S.

As inflation and winter set in, consumers are anticipating a rise in their utility bills. In light of this, DoxoINSIGHTS has released a new report about comparative utilities statistics that includes Blacksburg among the five most affordable metro areas for utilities in the country.

DoxoINSIGHTS is a Seattle-based company that provides insight into America's bill pay statistics and behavior.

The company's data show that residents of Blacksburg pay \$173 in

utility bills each month, compared to the national average of \$316 per month, a monthly bill low enough to include Blacksburg as one of the five most affordable cities or towns for utilities across the country.

The bill-pay infographics the company used to determine its rankings include information on average monthly payments in 10 major household bill categories.

The company's rankings determined that Virginia is the 13th most expensive set of monthly

bills in the country, averaging \$2,103 per month. The five most expensive states for monthly bills, according to DoxoINSIGHTS, are 1) Hawaii \$2,755 2) California \$2,562 3) New Jersey \$2,543 4) Alaska \$2,448

and 5) Massachusetts \$2,446.

The five least expensive states for monthly bills are 1) Indiana \$1,588 2) New Mexico \$1,585 3) Mississippi \$1,568 4) Arkansas \$1,525 and 5) West Virginia \$1,499



## Fry Safely from page 1

pounds.

Keep thermometers handy, too: One to monitor the oil's temperature, and a meat thermometer for the bird. The oil should be 350 degrees for frying, and the turkey is cooked through when it reaches an internal temperature of 165 degrees.

"If you're cooking to 165 degrees, you're going to kill any bacteria that might be on or in the turkey," Bauhan said. "When it comes to foodborne illness, follow the four core principles: Clean, keep separate, cook thoroughly, and promptly refrigerate leftovers."

Washing hands and surfaces

often helps prevent cross-contamination, Bauhan said, reducing exposure to dangerous bacteria like salmonella.

For additional safety tips, step-by-step instructions and recipes for frying a turkey, visit the National Turkey Federation's website at [eat-turkey.org](http://eat-turkey.org).

## Average Price from page 1

rots, \$.89; two pie shells, \$2.36; whipping cream, \$1.63; canned pumpkin pie filling, \$3.44; fresh cranberries, \$2.30; stuffing mix, \$2.75; and a dozen dinner rolls, \$3.17.

The Virginia locality with the highest average cost for a meal this year was Ruckersville in Greene County at \$81.80. The locality with the lowest average cost was Rockbridge County at \$45.29.

"We are proud that our Virginia farmers produce quality food," said Virginia Farm Bureau President Wayne F. Pryor. "And we hope that when people sit down to their Thanksgiving meal they will appreciate the farmers who provided the main ingredients."

While statewide, ham and turkey prices were higher this year, cranberries, sweet potatoes, carrots, and frozen peas and beans were less expensive overall.

"Meat has seen increased retail prices recently, and turkey is no exception," Griles said. "This is largely a result of limited processing capacity due to worker shortages, a lack of trucks, and a reduction in cold storage stocks as many consumers have demanded smaller birds and purchased turkeys earlier than before."

Nationally, the Ameri-

can Farm Bureau Federation's informal survey found the average cost of a classic Thanksgiving meal for 10 was \$53.31, a 14% increase from \$46.90 in 2020. This price does not include ham, russet potatoes, and green beans, which were added in 2018. Virginia's average price of a Thanksgiving meal without those three items is \$50.50.

When ham, potatoes, and beans are added to the American Farm Bureau tally, the average cost of a U.S. Thanksgiving meal is \$68.72, a 14% increase from \$60.11 in 2020.

The main factor contributing to the significant rise in the overall price was a 24% increase in the average retail price for turkeys, noted Dr. Roger Cryan, chief economist for the American Farm Bureau Federation. He cited inflation and supply chain issues as the main factors increasing the price of turkey.

American Farm Bureau Federation also reported that volunteer shoppers checked prices Oct. 26 through Nov. 8, about two weeks before most grocery store chains began featuring whole frozen turkeys at sharply lower prices. Details about the American Farm Bureau Federation survey findings are available at [fb.org/newsroom](http://fb.org/newsroom).

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[www.nrvsuperbowl.biz](http://www.nrvsuperbowl.biz)

## AUCTION SALE!

**November 27, 2021**  
**STARTS AT 10:00 A.M.**

**Registration begins at 9:30 AM**

*Bins available for auction are subject to change due to customer payment prior to sale.*

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# OPINION

## Buddy King: Thanksgiving memories from early childhood

Thanksgiving always brings back especially fond and warm memories of my early childhood. The setting for these recollections is the period of my life from age five or six till the beginning of adolescence when my parents apparently became either aliens or lepers, driving a need to distance myself from them.

But from the late 50's till the fierce onset of my teenage years in the mid-sixties, my Thanksgivings were pure Norman Rockwell, America at the height of post-World War II optimism, naivete and innocence.

First, there was the intense feeling of emancipation on Wednesday afternoons when school let out. The Wednesday before Thanksgiving was Friday on steroids. Four days of life without school ahead of me. As I have mentioned before, I was raised by school teachers (My first dog was Spot. I am surprised I wasn't named Dick, a sister no doubt would have been Jane.), and no one has benefitted more than I have from what an education can mean in a life. But that doesn't mean that my young self relished sitting in class. It was an intrusion on my play time.

So, Wednesdays of this special week consisted of an undercurrent of euphoria at school, which must have been maddening to our teachers. Weather permitting, the afternoons after school on the day before Thanksgiving

erupted into games of rough and tumble, a form of football which involved one kid catching a punt and then trying to cross a goal line with the rest of the neighborhood trying to tackle him (or her, my neighbor Lynn was possibly the best athlete on Cherry Lane).

Weather not permitting, as was often the case, the holiday weekend began indoors with a couple of other neighborhood kids. This usually involved playing with toy guns or toy soldiers and fighting the Germans just like our daddies had done.

The Wednesday before Thanksgiving now is usually thought of as the busiest travel day of the year. I have several more recent memories of hilarious complications I have encountered in trying to make it home for the holiday from business travel or trying to visit out-of-town family. But in the Christiansburg of my early years, you didn't travel on holidays. You stayed put, where you had everything and everybody you needed anyway. My world in those days consisted of Christiansburg, Blacksburg (for football and basketball games at Tech), Roanoke (for shopping, Mecca for my mother and her sisters, agony for me) and Myrtle Beach. That was it. Nowhere else existed. My grandparents on both sides, my aunts, six to eight first cousins, and a few uncles all lived within a mile or two of

my home. So the thought of Thanksgiving as involving travel was inconceivable. Where would we have gone?

Turkey Day itself was for me the single best day of the year, better than Christmas in many ways. In my mind's eye, the day always (almost) dawned bright and sunny. There were still a few scarlet or golden leaves on the trees. The weather was wonderfully crisp. As was normal in my home, my Dad and I were up early, my mother 'languishing' in bed to midday - sometimes as late as seven a.m.

There would at some point be a flurry of activity involving preparation for one of the great Christiansburg traditions of the time: the community Thanksgiving church service. This annual event was when the Methodists and the Presbyterians and the Baptists in town laid down their dogmas and communed together. It took place at nine in the morning, and I am sure all were welcome, but in Christiansburg of that time "all" pretty much consisted of Methodists (our "team"), Presbyterians (including the entire opposite side of Cherry Lane, my side being all Methodist except for one outlier Episcopalian family), and Baptists. Diverse religiously we were not.

Less one think that somehow sitting in church was the highlight of my 8-year-old life, rest assured it was not! If school was hard on me, church was unbearable. The "fidget factor" reached record levels. My father, a kind and (usually) patient man, stared me into submission. The service seemed to last until Thursday of the next week. But, finally and mercifully, it would end, and there would

be a period of mutual exchanges of good wishes and other salutations outside the church. Then the main event would begin.

We would hurry home and change out of our "church duds," as my father called them, into warmer clothing, and hit the road for Roanoke to Victory Stadium and the annual VPI-VMI football game. In my world this was the seminal event of the entire sports year, if not of life itself.

One year I was in such a hurry that, having been ordered to remain at the kitchen table until I finished my breakfast while my parents readied themselves, I shoved a sausage patty through the radiator vent next to my chair to get rid of it. A few weeks later when this misdeed was detected, my dad did not accept my explanation that the dog must have done it. Something about lacking opposable thumbs.

The trip down Christiansburg Mountain to the game was fun in the great anticipation but paled in comparison to the main event itself. At this point in time, both schools were all military. The game was viewed as the Southern version of the Army-Navy game, the "Military Classic of the South." In my mind, it was bigger than Army versus Navy, bigger than Alabama versus Auburn, bigger than Ohio State versus Michigan. You get my drift; it was big-time in my small world.

Forget the fact that these two Virginia schools still played with true student-athletes, young men who would go on to become military and community leaders, renowned engineers and scientists, successful farmers, and

business leaders. They were not the mercenaries the major colleges of today put in front of us. The NFL didn't promise future riches in those days, and it was beyond the reach of most of these players anyway. Big-time college football had not reached Virginia at this time.

Perhaps the greatest memory of all was of the venue: Victory Stadium. Until Lane Stadium opened in 1965, it was the largest stadium in the commonwealth. Miles Stadium on campus at Tech seated around 14,000, Scott Stadium in Charlottesville seated 22,000. Victory Stadium held the staggering total of 27,000. It was located near Jefferson Hospital where I had been brought into the world a few years before.

Both the hospital and the stadium are now merely part of Roanoke's rich history, their destruction a violation of my personal story, I feel. In one of life's little ironies, the sister of one of my best friends, and my law partner for almost 40 years, was one of the Roanoke City Council members who voted to send Victory Stadium to its doom. Apparently, it had become more useful for hosting swim meets than football games in its later years, its location along the Roanoke River becoming a problem. Long live its memory.

As mentioned before, the game was more than a game; it was a spectacle. It was color and pageantry. The cadet corps from VPI was brought to Roanoke by bus from the drill field in Blacksburg; the Keydets from VMI took the train from Lexington, and each corps marched into the stadium with their respective bands, culminating with

formations on the field and much fanfare. There were hat tricks (look it up, another lost tradition) by each seated corps, and tame insults thrown back and forth. Who knew then that some of these young men would be losing their lives side by side in Southeast Asia in just a few short years?

The games were a whirlwind of orange and maroon and red and gold. VPI usually won. Occasionally the Keydets would pull out an upset, sending me into a funk for the rest of the weekend. For any who want to lengthen this stroll down memory lane, I refer you to YouTube for a short but wonderful home movie of the day captured by (I believe) a member of the corps at VPI, circa 1958. Also, the Sept. 21, 1959, cover of Sports Illustrated - the college football edition that year - is a wonderful two-page foldout with a sideline view from the 1958 game. It captures the pageantry and the intensity of the moment better than any of my words.

So, Victory Stadium is long gone, the corps at Tech is merely a small blip on the screen that is now Virginia Tech, and VPI and VMI have not played in years, but I have the memories, as do many others from all around Central and Southwest Virginia who enjoyed these special Thanksgiving days a long time ago.

*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.*

### News Messenger

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

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### Financial Focus: Don't avoid 'taboo' topics with older parents

If your parents are getting close to retirement age, or are already retired, it may be time to talk with them about financial and aging issues, some of which may involve difficult conversations. For the sake of everyone in your family, don't avoid these "taboo" topics.

You'll need to be careful about approaching these subjects with your parents. Mention ahead of time that you'd like to talk to them about their future plans and reassure them that you want to understand their wishes, so their affairs will be taken care of as they would like.

If your parents are agreeable, choose a location com-

fortable for them and ask whom they might like to invite (or not invite). Then, think about how to open the conversation, preferably not with what they want to do with their money - this could be interpreted as your seeking information about your inheritance or being skeptical about their financial decisions. Instead, build a broad-based discussion about their vision for their aging years. A series of shorter conversations may allow you to cover topics more comfortably, one by one, rather than trying to solve everything at once.

Try to address these areas:

**Health care** - You'll want to learn if your parents have established the appropriate health-related legal documents - a health care power of attorney, which gives someone the authority to make important decisions about their medical care if they become unable to do so themselves, and a living will, which spells out the extraordinary medical treatments they may or may not want.

**Independence** - As peo-

ple age, they may begin to lose their independence. Have your parents considered any options for long-term care, such as a nursing home stay, or the services of a home health aide? And do they have plans in place? If they plan to receive support from family members, do their expectations match yours?

**Financial goals** - Focusing on the personal and financial aspects of the legacy your parents want to leave can be a valuable conversation. Have your parents updated their will or other arrangements, such as a living trust? Have they named a financial power of attorney to make decisions on their behalf if they become incapacitated? Do they have the proper beneficiary designations on their insurance policies and retirement plan accounts? If you can position these issues as being more about your parents' control over their financial destiny, rather than "who will get what," you'll more likely have a productive conversation.

**Last wishes** - You'll want

to find out if your parents have left instructions in their will about their funerals and last wishes. Express to them that you, or another close family member, should know who is responsible for making sure their wishes are met.

**Money, independence and aging** can be sensitive topics. Don't think you have to go it alone - you can enlist help from another close family member. Or, if you know your parents are working with a trusted advisor, such as an attorney or financial professional, you could see if they'd be willing to have this person participate in your talks. You might even be able to introduce them to one of your advisors.

In any case, keep talking. These conversations can be challenging, but, if handled correctly, can be of great benefit to your parents and your entire family.

Submitted by Meghan Kuczumski, Edwards Jones Financial Advisor, 540-552-1241.

### Virginia gas prices fell again last week

Virginia gas prices fell 1.2 cents per gallon in the past week, averaging \$3.27/g as of Monday, Nov. 22, according to GasBuddy's daily survey of 4,081 stations in Virginia. Still, gas prices in Virginia are 0.8 cents per gallon higher than they were a month ago and stand \$1.24/g higher than a year ago.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Virginia was priced at \$2.89/g Monday while the most expensive was \$3.89/g, a difference of 100.0 cents per gallon.

The national average price of gasoline fell 1.9 cents per gallon last week, averaging \$3.39/g Monday, Nov. 22. The national average is up 2.8 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands \$1.30/g higher than a year ago.

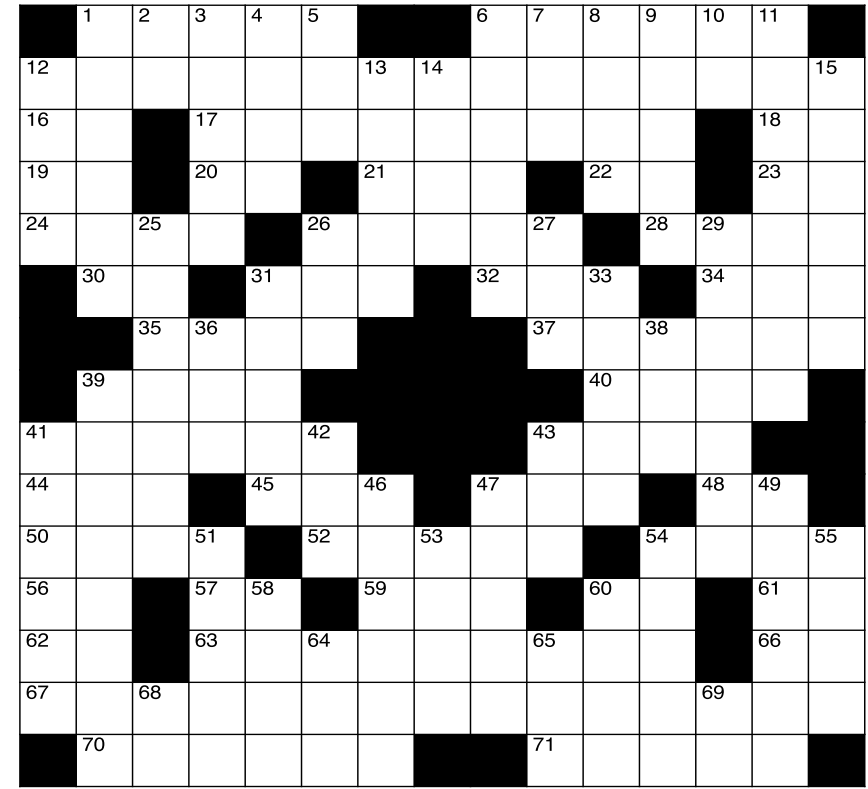
"With oil prices plunging nearly \$10 from the recent peak of \$85 per barrel, motorists will start to see gas prices decline nationwide, just in time for Thanksgiving, and the decline could stretch for several weeks," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis for GasBuddy. "It's not impossible, so

long as oil prices hold near these levels or continue falling, that the national average could shed 15 to 30 cents per gallon over the coming weeks, while some areas like California could see declines of as much as 25 to 40 cents," De Haan said. "While there's reason to be optimistic that the peak of gas prices will soon be behind us, the decline in the price of oil is likely reflecting the possibility of a coordinated global release of oil from strategic reserves.

"If that doesn't happen, oil could again rally," De Haan said. "However, with COVID cases on the rise again reducing global demand, it does seem the most likely outcome will be a drop in gas prices that could last several weeks."

*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>.*

### CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <p><b>CLUES ACROSS</b></p> <p>1. Member of Jamaican religion</p> <p>6. Explodes</p> <p>12. "Walter White" produced this</p> <p>16. Promo</p> <p>17. In a harmful way</p> <p>18. Aluminium</p> <p>19. Cerium</p> <p>20. Female title</p> <p>21. Singer DiFranco</p> <p>22. Beloved alien</p> <p>23. Free agent</p> <p>24. Tax</p> <p>26. Change</p> <p>28. Heaviness</p> <p>30. Third note of the solfège</p> <p>31. Printing speed measure</p> <p>32. Pouch</p> <p>34. Brew</p> <p>35. Female of a horse</p> | <p>37. Platforms</p> <p>39. Type of hemline</p> <p>40. "Traffic" actor Guzman</p> <p>41. Counts on</p> <p>43. Inhabitant of Media</p> <p>44. Pitcher's statistic</p> <p>45. Beloved dish ___ and cheese</p> <p>47. An association of criminals</p> <p>48. Samarium</p> <p>50. Describes an action</p> <p>52. About oviduct</p> <p>54. Holy fire</p> <p>56. Audio frequency</p> <p>57. Stephen King novel</p> <p>59. Rocky peak</p> <p>60. South Dakota</p> <p>61. Gallium</p> <p>62. Larry and Curly's buddy</p> <p>63. One-dimensionality</p> <p>66. Soldier</p> <p>67. Act of foretelling future events</p> | <p>70. Envisaged</p> <p>71. Establish by law</p> <p><b>CLUES DOWN</b></p> <p>1. Regain possession of</p> <p>2. Indicates position</p> <p>3. Con games</p> <p>4. Checks</p> <p>5. Atomic mass unit</p> <p>6. Large groups</p> <p>7. Utah athlete</p> <p>8. Abnormal sound</p> <p>9. Scandal vocalist Patty</p> <p>10. Atlanta rapper</p> <p>11. Takes without permission</p> <p>12. Apple computers</p> <p>13. Hymn</p> <p>14. Clue</p> <p>15. Makes happy</p> <p>25. Close to</p> <p>26. Mimic</p> <p>27. Cool!</p> <p>29. Simplest</p> <p>31. Preface</p> | <p>33. Represents the Tribe of Judah</p> <p>36. Boxing great</p> <p>38. Birth control means</p> <p>39. English cathedral city</p> <p>41. Refurbish</p> <p>42. Test for high schoolers</p> <p>43. "Boardwalk Empire" actress Gretchen</p> <p>46. Most adorable</p> <p>47. Large Pakistani tribe</p> <p>49. Enemy to grass</p> <p>51. Along the outer surface of a hull</p> <p>53. Travels on water</p> <p>54. Innermost Greek temple sanctuaries</p> <p>55. Fire and ___</p> <p>58. Singer Turner</p> <p>60. "___ the Man" Musial</p> <p>64. ___ de plume</p> <p>65. Frozen water</p> <p>68. An alternative</p> <p>69. Intensive care</p> |
|--|---|--|--|

# OBITUARIES

## King, Sr., Thomas (Tom) Nathaniel

Thomas (Tom) Nathaniel King, Sr., 88, formerly of Radford, passed away Saturday, Nov. 20, 2021, at Lewis Gale Medical Center in Salem after a brief illness.

Tom was predeceased by his parents, the late Jack and Maude King of Pennington Gap, Lee County, Va., where he grew up; his beloved wife of 63 years, Elaine M. King; brothers Jack B. King and Roy M. Snead; a nephew, Roy M. (Spanky) Snead II; brothers-in-law Robert McKee, Gene McKee, Ralph McKee, and Richard Rahm; sisters-in-law Nora Lee Snead, Jimmie McKee, and Myrtle McKee; and a niece, Ann Rahm.

Survivors include a daughter, Susan King of Roanoke; a son, Nathaniel King of Charleston, S.C., and a daughter, Lillian King of Radford; sisters-in-law Lonette King of Bristol, Va., Louise Rahm of Atlanta, Shirley Budlong (Don) of Richmond, and Sarah McKee of Kingsport, Tenn.; and a host of beloved nieces and



nephews.

A US Army veteran, Tom attended East Tennessee State University and graduated from Milligan University. He was employed 60 years by the Virginia Department of Health as an environmental health/soil scientist serving five counties: Buchanan, Montgomery, Floyd, Giles, Pulaski, and Radford City. He attended and served Blacksburg First Church of God, Radford First Church of God, and Tiedstone Christian Fellowship.

The family received friends on Monday, Nov. 22, 2021, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Graveside services will be held in the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin at a time that will be announced.

In lieu of flowers, please consider contributions to Feeding Southwest Virginia in Salem or Our Daily Bread in Radford.

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

## Whitlock, Lewis Daniel "Danny"

Lewis Daniel "Danny" Whitlock, 79, of Dublin, passed away Sunday, Nov. 21, 2021.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Lawrence and Daisy Whitlock; and his wife, Aloma Whitlock.

Survivors include his sons, Lewis D. Whitlock, Jr. (Betty Long), and William Whitlock, all of Dublin; a daughter, Melissa Whitlock of Kentucky; a stepson, Allen Michael Whitlock of Montgomery County;



eight grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and many other relatives and friends.

Graveside services will be held at 11 a.m. today, Wednesday, November 24, 2021, in the Brown Cemetery in Belspring with the Rev. Gregory Harrell officiating.

The Whitlock Family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford.

## Walker, Charles Richard

Charles Richard Walker, 75, of Penhook, passed away Saturday, Nov. 20, 2021.

He was a professional horse farrier for over 50 years. He was preceded in death by his parents, Clyde and Beulah Walker.

Survivors include his friends, Joyce and Bill Music of Union Hall, Missy and Murray Waldrop of Penhook and Tommy Akers and Harry Hubble, both of Radford; and many other friends and neighbors in Tanglewood Estates.

Graveside committal services will be held



at 12 noon on Saturday, Nov. 27, 2021, inside the Rockford United Methodist Church with the Rev. Ginny Tompkins officiating.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Cool Branch Rescue Squad, 3060 Smith Mountain Road, Penhook, VA 24137.

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

## Engineering student takes youth drone academy program to the Dominican Republic

Aerospace engineering major Garrett Asper has made trips to the Dominican Republic with his church since 2014. These mission trips have also included educational elements, giving Asper the opportunity to lead STEM classes for the villages he's visited.

"In 2019, I did a STEM program with a school that we work with," Asper said. "This school is very rural. They bus in students from 20 different villages within a 20-mile radius to give them education. We brought them a STEM program to do some activities that were hands-on, like mini model bridges testing their strength and building bottle rockets."

With that foundation in teaching, Asper wanted to offer a new opportunity for the 2020 trip. His plan, before being canceled with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, would have covered circuits and renewable energy. Unable to make the trip,

Asper used the time to plan what he might want to offer if a trip was possible in 2021.

Asper had spent time during his freshman year working in the Unmanned Systems Laboratory under the direction of associate professor Kevin Kochersberger. He was familiar with the lab's involvement in bringing drone education to Malawi.

"This year I wanted to do a similar program, so I talked to Dr. Kochersberger about my history in the Dominican Republic and what I wanted to do," said Asper. "He was like, all right, let's do it. I'll fund the materials."

"We had students from middle-school age up to 18, and we identified students interested in learning more about STEM," Asper said. "The school had lost a lot of students who had to go to work in the sugarcane fields during COVID, but we ended up with 42 students. Most of the

students at the school got to do the program."

Members of Asper's team were "flight instructors" who worked in smaller groups to teach principles of electricity. While the program had been a more broad-based electrical class at its inception, the inclusion of the drone curriculum caused the group to apply those principles more directly to the circuits powering that technology.

Students also started branching out on their own during lessons, creating their own inventions.

"By the end of the day, they were coming up with their own projects, building things that weren't part of the lesson plan," said Asper. "That was my goal, to expose them to different areas of STEM as a means of inspiring them to continue with their education."

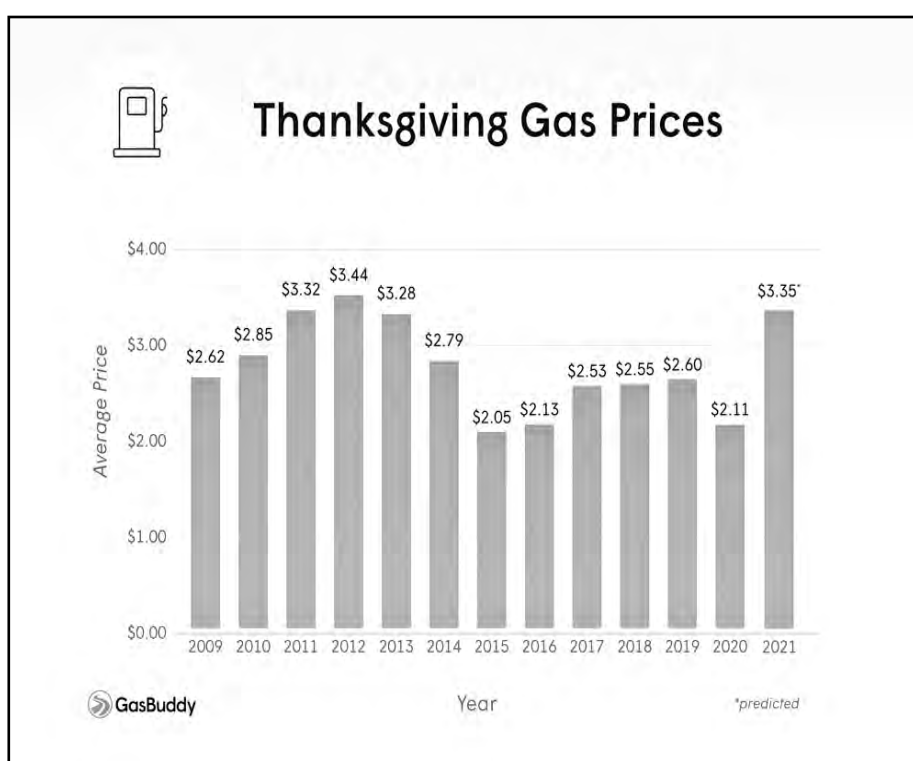


A student in the Dominican Republic launches a glider during a STEM class. Photo courtesy of Garrett Asper.

By Alex Parrish

## Gas Prices

from page 1



GasBuddy offers these travel tips for those who are traveling for Thanksgiving:

- Use the GasBuddy app to watch for price differences between state lines: Gas prices can vary as much as \$20 per tank in some areas of the

country between state lines.

- Use a gas discount card like Pay with GasBuddy® to lower your gas bill by as much as 25 cents per gallon. According to this year's survey, 67% of Americans will be using a gas card or gas loyalty program when they fill up.

## Turkeys

from page 1

almost 19,000 people and generates an additional 34,835 jobs in supplier and ancillary industries. According to the VPE, there are more than 275 turkey farms in Virginia. Many can be found in the Shenandoah Valley and the northern Piedmont.

The 2017 U.S. Census of Agriculture indicated the top two turkey-producing counties were Rockingham with 112 turkey farms and Augusta with 58. Bauhan called Rockingham County the "poultry capital of Virginia."

Craig Miller and his wife, Nancy, have been raising turkeys on Miller Farms LLC in Rockingham County since 1986. They manage three flocks of 66,000 birds each year for Cargill and raised the 2012 presidential turkey.

Miller, who is a member of the Rockingham County Farm Bureau, said the average American eats 16 pounds of turkey each year. His birds yield about 2.2 million pounds of meat each year, "so our farm alone can feed over 140,000 people."

He added that he's proud of the way family farms grow commercial turkeys. "They are raised in warm, climate-controlled environments that are clean and humane," Miller said.

Turkeys are raised year-round, but demand increases around the holidays. Many Virginia-raised birds are sold in Virginia, and others are transported across the country and overseas.

"For the most part, turkey is sold 24-7, 365 days a year," Miller said.

## ONLINE ONLY AUCTION

Ends Thursday December 16th @ 4 PM

256 Buffalo Lane, Floyd VA 24091

Beautiful Farm for Sale in Floyd VA!

Bid Now at [VaAuctionPro.com](http://VaAuctionPro.com)



You have the opportunity to purchase a stunning farm for sale in Floyd County VA! This property features 96.26 acres of open and wooded land with great building spots, long range views, springs and more! The property has a 1946 farmhouse with 4 bedrooms, 1 bath and 1,254 sq. ft. of space! The home has vinyl siding with a metal roof. There are a few woodsheds and a detached double garage. The back section of property has approximately 50 acres of timber. Refer to bidder pack that has a timber cruise completed in 2019. The cruise was completed on a larger section that this property is a +/- 50-acre portion of. In 2019 the timber was estimated to be worth \$1,600 / acre. The timber cruise does not estimate land value, just the estimated value of timber only per acre.

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.

**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](http://VaAuctionPro.com)

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# iTHRIV funds efforts by Virginia Tech scientists and partners to combat obesity, understand self-harm, and reduce waste

The integrated Translational Health Research Institute of Virginia (iTHRIV), a National Institutes of Health (NIH)-funded Clinical and Translational Research Award hub, has awarded \$200,000 in pilot funding across five multi-institutional research projects that include Virginia Tech scientists.

Teams of physicians, researchers, sustainability experts, and software engineers at Virginia Tech, the University of Virginia School of Medicine, Inova Health System, and Carilion Clinic were awarded the funds as part of the iTHRIV NIH-National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences award.

Support of these early phase research projects will help accelerate the discovery of potential treatment options for obesity, lung transplantation, and mental health, as well as an innovative approach to reducing surgical waste.

The awarded pilot projects include:

Combating chronic obesity

Obesity treatments have advanced in recent decades, yet obesity remains a major public health concern. The signaling pathways between the gut and the brain present a novel and potentially

powerful therapeutic target for obesity and metabolic diseases. Alexandra DiFeliceantonio, assistant professor and associate director of the Center for Health Behaviors Research at the Fralin Biomedical Institute at VTC, proposes to test the fidelity of gut-brain signaling to see where signal deterioration occurs across a range of body mass indexes and in states of altered metabolic health. Her team will collect behavioral and functional MRI data from all participants. The data will provide evidence for gut-brain signaling as a therapeutic target in obesity treatments, allowing the development of state-of-the-art tools to measure metabolic health.

Brain pathways of self-harm

Self-harm behaviors are particularly prevalent among young adults and are often accompanied by an elevated risk of suicide. The roots of self-harm are primarily found in early life trauma. Sora Shin, assistant professor at the Fralin Biomedical Research Institute, is partnering with Michael Scott, associate professor in the Department of Pharmacology at the University of Virginia School of Medicine, to determine the neural circuitry involved in self-harm behav-

iors that are modified by early life trauma in mice.

By using genetic manipulation to turn on and off certain calcium channels, the team will be able to study the specific neuronal cell types and pathways that cause self-harm behaviors and how those pathways change when exposed to early life trauma.

Reducing operating room waste

In the operating room, single-use, sterile surgical supplies are opened onto the scrub table but only a fraction are used during surgery. The unused supplies are disposed of as biohazard waste, requiring sterilization or incineration prior to being sent to the landfill. Systematically identifying any unused single-use, sterile surgical supplies at the end of surgery is time intensive and involves handling potentially contaminated objects, so it is rarely done.

In this project, Matthew Meyer, assistant professor in the Department of Anesthesiology at the University of Virginia School of Medicine, is partnering with various professors to develop computer-vision software capable of distinguishing between supplies that were used and those that remain untouched. The team will thus be able to quantify the waste and then develop solutions

that improve the behaviors that cause the waste, saving resources and money while diverting waste from the incinerator and landfill.

Assessing telepsychiatry

Carilion Clinic Psychiatry and Virginia Tech Psychology departments have been successfully using Patient Reported Outcome Measures (PROMs) to assess the severity of mental illness and health outcomes after in-person psychiatric treatments.

A research team led by Anita Kablinger, clinical trials research director at Carilion Clinic, and Lee Cooper, clinical associate professor and director of the Psychological Service Center and the Adult Assessment Clinic in Virginia Tech's Department of Psychology in the College of Science, proposes creating a control group in which patients awaiting treatment will be randomly assigned to one of two control groups: One group will complete PROMs monthly and have access to microlearning patient education videos, and a second group will not receive intervention but will complete the PROMs upon admission to the waitlist and right before being seen by a provider. This will allow the team to assess the influence of telepsychiatry



The integrated Translational Health Research Institute of Virginia (iTHRIV) has awarded \$200,000 in pilot funding to five multi-national research projects that include Virginia Tech scientists. Research subjects include chronic obesity, self-harm, operating room waste, lung transplant rejection, and telepsychiatry.

treatment and the effect of repeated PROMs, offering indications for continued availability of PROMs in conjunction with telepsychiatry services post-pandemic.

Identifying lung transplant rejection early

Lung transplantation is a critical therapy for many patients with end-stage lung diseases. Unfortunately, it is far from perfect, and many transplant recipients die from rejection of the organ meant to save them. Rejection occurs because the recipient's body perceives the donor's lungs as foreign and mounts an attack against them. If physicians were able to detect the early phases of rejection and aggressively

treat it, they would be able to provide the longest survival benefit to the recipients. A research team led by two University of Virginia School of Medicine researchers, will use a specialized MRI technique they developed called hyperpolarized gas MRI (HGMRI) to visualize and detect lung abnormalities. The team proposes to use HGMRI during bronchoscopy in lung transplant patients to target areas of the lung for sampling. With more effective lung sampling, guided by HGMRI, the team hopes to enable an early, accurate diagnosis of rejection. If rejection can be detected proactively, therapies can be implemented earlier to improve survival.

## Virginia DMV services to remain available online during Thanksgiving

All Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) full-service customer service centers will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday from Thursday, Nov. 25 through Saturday, Nov. 27, and will reopen for appointments on Monday, Nov. 29.

But more than 50 DMV services will be available online at dmvNOW.com or through the mail during the Thanksgiving holiday closure.

As Virginia's Highway Safety Office, DMV urges those who plan to drink during the Thanksgiving holiday to arrange for a sober ride home.

Thanksgiving is a time to celebrate with friends, family and loved ones, but according to preliminary numbers, more than 220 people will be missing from this year's dinner table as a result of alcohol-related crashes on Virginia's roads since last Thanksgiving.

With Thanksgiving kicking off the celebratory holiday season, it's essential to know that buzzed driving is drunk driving.

"Getting behind the wheel under the influence is a choice that could result in preventable crashes, injuries and even deaths," said DMV Commissioner Richard D. Holcomb, the Governor's Highway Safety Representative. "Impaired driving is dangerous. Even a small amount of substance consumed can affect a person's ability to drive safely. It's simple: if you are drinking, do not drive."

DMV's 75 customer service centers continue to operate by appointment only on Monday, Wednesday and Friday and by walk-in service only on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday (in offices with Saturday hours). In October, DMV began offering a hybrid service model on alternating days to offer

flexibility for customers and the agency.

In addition to appointments and walk-in service available at customer service centers, DMV Connect appointment

opportunities continue to be offered around the commonwealth, as well as access to DMV Select partner offices which may operate on a different schedule than full-service offices.



## New map reconstructs Southwest Virginia before Europeans arrived

The shape of the land is familiar, but the names on this map are different.

Gone are the names of capitals and cities and towns that are familiar to us: Richmond, Roanoke, Charlottesville, Raleigh. Absent, too, are the veins

of the interstates and highways that trace the connections between those places.

In their place are older names: Rassawek and Monahassanaugh and Occaneechi. They are connected by older routes. A dark

line passing between the Monongahela Forest and the Blue Ridge Mountains marks the Warrior's Path, a critical travel route that ran along the Great Valley of Appalachia on nearly the same place where I-81 currently sits. Other lines

indicate trade routes for people who occupied the land long before European settlers arrived.

It is a map, but instead of depicting a territory, the darker shade that reaches from the Appalachian Mountains to the North Carolina coast depicts the estimated spread of the Eastern Siouan Language. It offers a critical snapshot of a world that has been too-long forgotten in the collective history of the land where Virginia Tech is situated

The map was a collaborative project, bringing together the mapping skills of College of Natural Resources and Environment advanced instructor Stewart Scales with knowledge and input from professors, historians, and members of Virginia tribal communities, to create a tangible vision of what the region looked like prior to European colonization.

"The beautiful thing about maps is that they let us see the unseen," said Scales, who teaches in the Department of Geography. "It's very rare to see any remains from these civilizations or any markers of the trails they utilized, and, as a result, most people are unaware of how extensive the towns and areas of influence for Eastern Siouan Speaking Peoples in this region."

Yes: "The People" "You'll probably notice that we call the people represented on the map Yes, not Monacan," said Victoria Ferguson, interim director of the American Indian and Indigenous Community Center at

Virginia Tech and a member of the Monacan Indian Nation. "Yesa means 'the people,' and the term gathers all of the groups in our alliance, all of the Eastern Siouan speakers who lived in this region."

The Eastern Siouan speakers, whose first recorded encounter with Europeans occurred when Christopher Newport's expedition crossed the James River in 1608, would withdraw from much of the territory by century's end to escape the encroachment of settlers.

"This project originated as part of the Council on Virginia Tech History's sesquicentennial commemoration plans," said Emily Satterwhite, associate professor and director of Appalachian Studies. "We wanted to tell a deeper history of the land the college is on, and we realized that we didn't have a good map that showed the university in relation to the nations that were here prior to colonization."

The lines and places on the expanded map offer a view on what life was like in this region four centuries ago, as well as the critical ways that trade influenced interactions between various language groups.

"These peoples weren't isolated," said Sam Cook, an associate professor and director of American Indian Studies who teaches in the Department of History. "I hope that the map conveys that this continent was saturated with networks of trade and interaction for many years. These were com-

munities that moved out of necessity, sometimes to preserve natural resources or because of the pressures of climate challenges from the Little Ice Age or later the pressures of colonization. This was a fluid moment, which can be difficult for us to grasp."

To expand on that initial map that focused on the region around Virginia Tech's campus, the group received funding from the Department of Religion and Culture, which gave them the opportunity to provide a broader vision of what the region looked like in the 17th century.

The names on the map note a variety of markers, from archeology sites where remnants of Eastern Siouan Speaking Peoples villages have been found, to natural resources like springs and rivers, to Rassawek, the historical capital of the Monacan Indian Nation. Once covered with bark houses, religious buildings, and burial plots, this site along the James River is considered sacred to the Monacan Indian Nation.

"Our history needs to go back further," said College of Natural Resources and Environment advanced instructor Stewart Scales, who is himself a native of Appalachia. "The foundation was here long before Europeans arrived, and while that story is being told more, we still have a long way to go to completely understand what that element of our history demands of us now."

Written by David Fleming

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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.

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**Help Wanted - Clerical**

**ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE MANAGER**  
CRAIG COUNTY DSS  
Salary range, depending upon experience \$35,452 to \$38,997  
Craig County Department of Social Services is seeking applicants for the position of Administrative Office Manager. The position deals primarily with financial matters, but also human resources, computer security matters and general office management duties. The full job description and applications can be found online at <https://jobs.virginia.gov/>. Click on Search Job Postings, then Job Postings, then type L0003 in the keyword section. Application deadline is 11/28/2021. Additional questions can be directed to Jim Weber, Director, at (540) 864-5117 ext. 237. Craig County DSS is an EOE.

**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](mailto:lhurst@ourvalley.org)

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**Help Wanted - General**

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Pembroke, VA 24136

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

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- Record keeping and data collecting skills required
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**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 *iv*.  
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 *iv*.  
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 *iv*.  
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 *iv*.  
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

**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 *iv*.  
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. JJ014315-04-00**  
Botetourt JDR District Court Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Commonwealth of Virginia, *in re* Fowler, Nicholi Commonwealth *iv*.  
Linkenhoker, Olivia Sink  
The object of this suit is to: To terminate residual

**Legals - Botetourt County**

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 *iv*.  
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 *iv*.  
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 *iv*.  
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

**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 *iv*.  
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 § 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 *iv*.  
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, 20-104  
**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

**Legals - Botetourt County**

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](mailto:mclearylaw@gmail.com)

**Legals - City of Radford**

**ABC NOTICE**

DolgenCorp, 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 - City of Salem**

**PUBLIC HEARING**

The City of Salem School Board will hold a public hearing for comment on the FY 2022-23 budget on **Tuesday, December 14th** The hearing will begin at 7:00 PM at the School Administrative Office, 510 South College Avenue, Salem. Any citizen of Salem who wishes to address the Board should contact Kathy A. Jordan, Clerk of the Board, at 389-0130 by Friday, December 10, in order to be placed on the agenda. Individuals who plan to address the Board are requested to bring a copy of their remarks for the record. In accordance with Board Policy KD, Public Participation in Board Meetings, individuals who plan to address the Board are requested to:

- provide their name and address,
- address their remarks to the Board,
- be brief,
- provide a copy of their remarks for the record, and
- be prepared to answer questions from the Board,
- In unusual cases or cases of emergency, the Board, by consensus, may allow an individual or organization to speak if not on the agenda.

**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

**Legals - Montgomery County**

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

**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 PM. 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. ATTN. AUCTIONEERS: Advertise your upcoming auctions statewide and in other states. Affordable Print and Digital Solutions reaching your target audiences. Call this paper or Landon Clark at Virginia Press Services 804-521-7576, HYPERLINK "mailto:landonc@vpa.net" landonc@vpa.net  
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**Legals - Montgomery County**

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.

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# MONTGOMERY SPORTS

## Auburn picks up third straight volleyball state championship



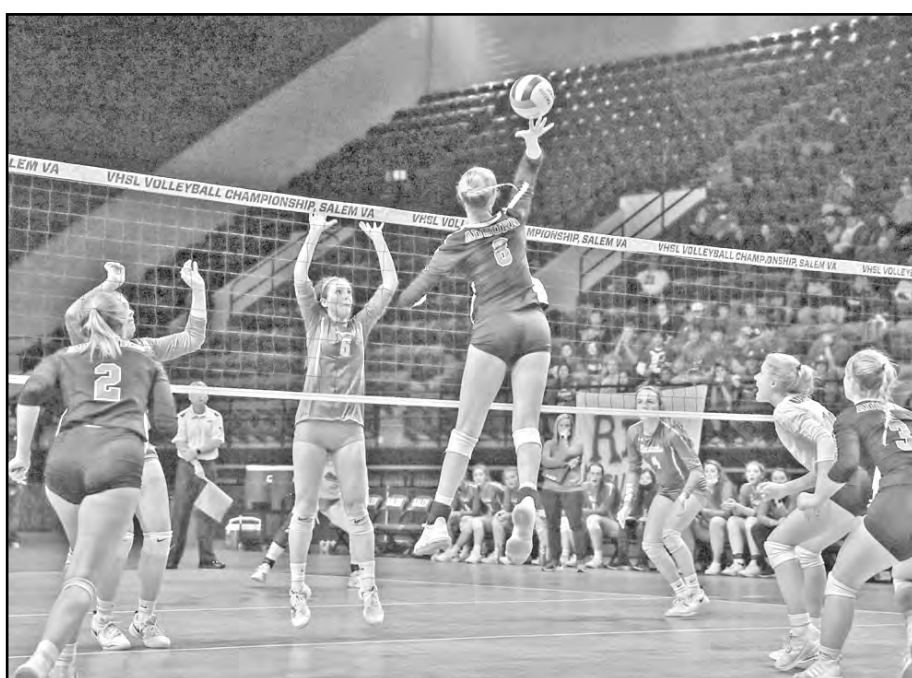
The Lady Eagles of Auburn High School gather around their Class 1 volleyball state championship trophy after their win Saturday at the Salem Civic Center.



Auburn head coach Sherry Millirons receives the state trophy after the team's third straight state championship win.



Anna McGuire provides a jump shot in Auburn's 25-8, 24-10, 25-9 state championship win Saturday over Riverheads.



Allyson Martin notches the final point to end the third game making the Auburn Lady Eagles state champions.

PHOTOS BY ASHLEY AKERS

### Marty Gordon

NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Dynasty is one word that can now be used in the conversation about Auburn High School volleyball. Saturday afternoon, the Sherry Millirons-led Eagles arrived back in Riner with a police and fire escort as hundreds of screaming fans stood along Route 8 and the entrance into the school.

Just hours before, the Eagles had claimed their third straight state title by taking down Riverheads in three sets 25-8, 25-10 25-9 at the Salem Civic Center. The win stretched the team's state-record unbeaten streak to 74 matches.

The individual statistics were also pretty impressive.

Auburn's Allyson Martin had 20 kills, 12 digs, three assists, and two aces; Anna McGuire add 34 assists, four digs, and two aces; Avery Zuckerwar finished with 10 kills and eight digs; Madeline Lavergne had 11 kills, 12 digs, and four aces while Stacy Lewis added 11 digs. Madison Ketterer collected 10 digs, and Emma Vance had two kills, two digs, and a block.

The hardware was never in doubt as the closest Riverheads could get to winning a set was the 14-point margin in the second.

For Millirons, winning has come in bunches. The 3-peat matches her first run at Auburn when the Eagles won the 2012, 2013, and 2014 titles.

Now the new stretch includes 2019, 2020, and 2021. Of course, the 2020 championship was played this past spring because of COVID.

Thus, Auburn's players have been going since February.

"The Streak--we discussed the record in September when we broke the record, and then we didn't talk about it. We prepare for our next match every day in practice. I never used a winning streak to motivate the team," Millirons said.

The longtime coach said she was thrilled for the girls' state title win. "They have worked hard. In the off season, they play, travel, and attend camps," Millirons said. "During the season we go hard every day; we practice two hours a day

and lift/condition for 45ish after practice. So it is great when hard work pays off."

It was 2019 when Millirons became a rookie coach in word only when she returned to the bench. The "second" first team had six seniors, and when they were allowed back in the gym in July 2020, there were plenty of new faces.

"Our spring of 2021 season was unlike anything we have ever experienced," Millirons said. "We did our best to do the right thing and keep each other safe while having COVID out there that could end our season at any time. This season felt normal, the girls went to school every day, they went to homecoming, and we had fans at our matches. I am

so happy the team got a season that felt normal."

The idea that the volleyball state title runs through Auburn is definitely something other coaches are paying attention to. The title of Class 1 state champions lives in Montgomery County and might stay here for a long time.

In addition, Millirons has become the winningest coach in western Virginia and possibly the state of Virginia.

The Eagles graduate six seniors from this year's team but had six juniors and two underclassmen who gained valuable experience.

"We will start the 2022 season with the same goal we always do: Win our last match," Millirons said.

## Recent RU, VT basketball game brings out the coaches' connections

### Marty Gordon

NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Black and gold was scattered throughout Cassell Coliseum recently as former Radford High School graduates squared off when Radford and Virginia Tech met in a men's basketball game won by the Hokies 65-39.

Radford University head coach Darris Nichols and Virginia Tech head coach Mike Young are both Radford High School alums, just one of many connections between the two coaches.

Young was present for Nichols's introductory press conference on April 21.

The two were on the same sideline for the 2013-14 season at Wofford where Young was the head coach and Nichols was an assistant coach. Picked to finish sixth in the league by the coaches that season, the

Terriers won 20 games and a Southern Conference Tournament championship that earned them an automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament.

In that NCAA Tournament game, Nichols was on the opposite bench from his former head coach at West Virginia, as Beilein's Michigan team topped 15th-seeded Wofford.

In addition to Darris, older brother Shane Nichols, who is on Darris's staff at RU, has Coach Young and Radford ties as well. Shane played for Young at Wofford (2005-08) before joining his staff as an assistant coach (2010-12). Shane was on the staff when the Terriers won the SoCon title and advanced to the 2011 NCAA Tournament.

Radford University Director of Athletics Robert Lineburg is Mike Young's cousin. Growing

up, Nichols also knew Young's family closely. Young's aunt (Joann Lineburg) was his favorite physical education teacher, his dad (Bob Young) was Nichols's middle school principal, and his cousin (Mark Lineburg) was Nichols's high school principal.

All four (Young, the Nichols brothers, and Lineburg) are in the Radford High School Hall of Fame.

After their defeat of the Highlanders, the Hokies have a 10-2 advantage all-time in the series. The win was VT's fourth straight in the series that started in 1987.

Other interesting notes from the game:

Tech is now two wins away from securing program win No. 1,500.

Virginia Tech has never lost on November 15.

The game marked Mike Young's 600th career game as a head

coach.

VT guard Storm Murphy's first name

comes from his mom's maiden name. In addition to being born in

January, he was born during a snowstorm in Wisconsin.

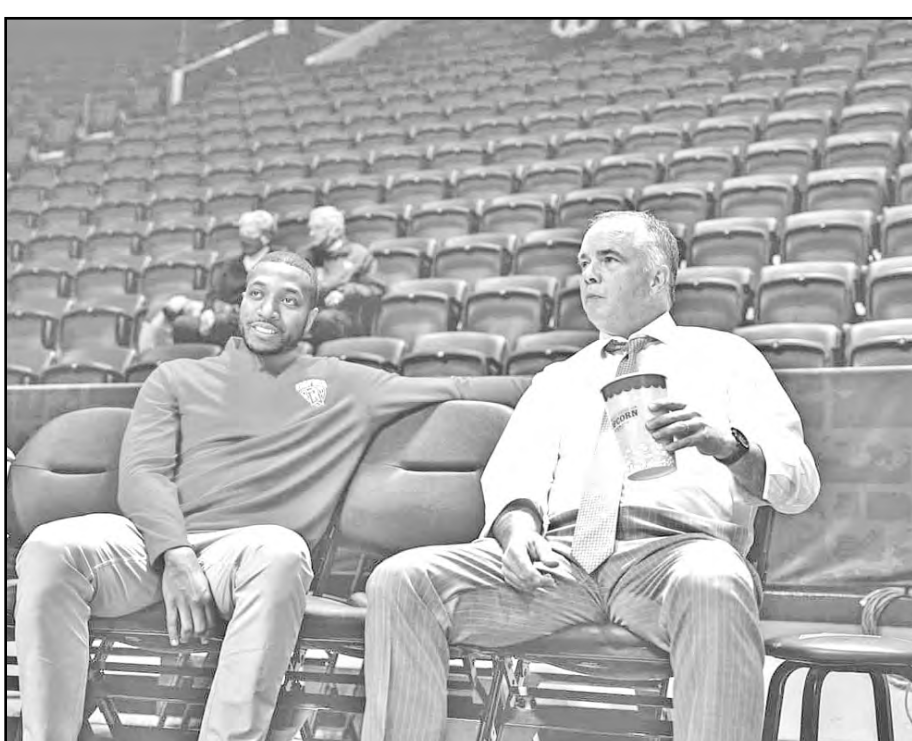


PHOTO COURTESY OF VT ATHLETICS

Fellow Radford High School graduates Darris Nichols (left), the current men's basketball head coach at Radford University, and Virginia Tech men's basketball head coach Mike Young chat before the contest between the two schools at Cassell Coliseum.

# Christiansburg eliminated from state quarters in 28-27 thriller

**Marty Gordon**  
 NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Disappointment was all over the faces of Christiansburg players and coaches as the clock ran out Friday night on the team's 28-27 loss to Lord Botetourt. The Blue Demons finish a 10-2 season, one of the best in school history. The finish just was not what they had hoped for.

Coach Alex Wilkens said obviously he was heartbroken for his kids, parents, and coaches "But I am incredibly proud of our resiliency, effort, and togetherness in the game. It was just not meant to be for us," he said.

The contest was delayed for over an hour as Botetourt's team buses were stuck in traffic on Interstate 81 when not one, but three tractor-trailer accidents slowed movement. Kickoff was pushed back to 8 p.m. and finally was underway by 8:15.

Wilkens said the delay had no effect on the game. "Both teams were too mentally tough to let something like that affect how we play the game," he said.

On the field, Christiansburg jumped out to an early 7-0 lead, but Botetourt answered score for score with a 14-14 game at halftime. But it was the first 10 sec-

onds out of the locker room in the third quarter that changed the ball game when Botetourt ran the opening kickoff back 91 yards for a touchdown.

After that the visitors used a tough defense to force two Christiansburg fumbles and an interception. The biggest might have been a stop with less than three minutes remaining as they led Christiansburg 28-27.

Wilkens rolled the dice and went for two and the win. Officials on the field ruled the running back Stephan Mythril was stopped at the goal line.

But with time remaining, Wilkens rolled the dice a second time and executed an inside kick to perfection. In a play the head coach calls jailbreak, the kicking team bunched everyone up at the 50-yard line and tapped the ball off a Botetourt receiver.

After almost a 15-minute discussion by the officials, Christiansburg was awarded the ball. Ten seconds later, Tanner Evans tossed a long halfback pass to Travis Altizer to set up some last-

minute heroics at the Botetourt 3-yard line. But the Christiansburg ball carrier fumbled the ball on the next play with Botetourt recovering and running out the final 90 seconds for the win.

Botetourt advances to play in the regional championship for the fifth year in a row against Abingdon, which downed Bassett on Friday night.

"I think there are a lot of plays or calls that could have gone another way that affected the outcome of the game, but the only point at which I knew it had shifted too far the other way was the fumble late in the game to go in and take the lead," Wilkens said.

In the game, Stephan Mythril rushed 21 times for 105 yards. Tanner Evans added 88 yards on 12 carries, and Casey Graham was seven of 14 through the air for 164 yards with a touchdown and two interceptions. Mythril scored twice.

For the season, Graham finished 106 for 169 passing with 19 touchdowns and 1,853 total yards. Mythril



PHOTO BY KYMN DAVIDSON-HAMLEY  
**Tanner Evans (center) quickly zeroes in on Lord Botetourt's running back to take him to the ground as Blue Demon support gathers around him. Evans had more than 10 tackles for the night and rushed for 88 yards with a touchdown.**

finished with 121 carries for 855 yards rushing with 14 touchdowns while Evans had 80 carries for 682 yards with seven touchdowns. Running back Kenyon Johnson-Buchannon tallied 717 yards on 115 carries with 13 touchdowns.

The Blue Demon seniors took a long time to leave the field after the game, but Wilkens met with his players at the 40-yard line.

"I just told them I was proud of them and that I have no regrets. I wouldn't change a thing about the game," Wilkens said. "We went out swinging together. We gave it our all. I told them how blessed we are to have something like this season and this team that we love this much for it to break our hearts. Most go their whole lives never knowing a love like this," he said.

"I was humbled, proud and thankful," Wilkens said. "This group of kids, and particularly our seniors, changed the mindset of our entire program so that we expect to win. They believed in themselves. That is the hardest thing to do in sports, and this group did it."

The future is extremely bright for the program, according to Wilkens, as they expect to compete and win at a very high level.

The school's junior varsity team finished 7-1 this past year.

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