



Christiansburg welcomes Christmas with spectacular parade

One thing can be said with certainty about the folks in Christiansburg: They can throw one heck of a parade.

They did just that Friday night with "Christmas on Main," a parade with so many entries it required an hour to pass by the reviewing stand where one parade marshal estimated the parade had "at least 150 entries."

The parade left the starting gate at 7 p.m. on the heels of the lighting of the downtown Christmas tree at 6:50 p.m. It featured a little bit of everything and a whole lot of something: big old noisy fire trucks from Christiansburg, Shawsville, and Riner, minions, the Grinch, marching bands from Christiansburg and Eastern Montgomery high schools, cadets marching in formation, floats, beauty queens, ballerinas, dogs, horses (which for obvious reasons were among the final units in the parade), a costumed alligator, a bus from the Pulaski River Turtles baseball team, tractors, motorcycles, muscle cars, pickup trucks bedecked in Christmas lights, golf



Always a crowd favorite, minions were on hand to lend a touch of insanity to the parade.



PHOTOS BY ED MCINN

The parade featured a large number of floats, many of them as pretty and as eye-catching as this one.

See **Parade**, page 5



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CARROLL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Former Radford Police Captain Chris Caldwell arrested

Former Radford City Police Department Captain Chris Caldwell has been arrested following an investigation by the Virginia State Police that began in September.

In September, the Radford City Police Department was made aware of an investigation by the Virginia State Police into activities by Caldwell that resulted in criminal charges. Caldwell was placed on administrative leave pending the outcome of the investigation and resigned "within

minutes of being placed on leave" according to a statement released by the Radford City Police Department.

"The Radford City Police Department cooperated fully with the Virginia State Police and special prosecutor assigned to this matter since being made aware of this investigation," the department's statement continued.

Following the investigation, the Virginia State Po-

See **Caldwell**, page 3

Virginia Tech to honor nearly 3,000 at fall commencement

Nearly 3,000 Hokies will graduate on Dec. 16 during Virginia Tech's fall commencement ceremonies, which will be held in Cassell Coliseum.

The University Commencement ceremony will begin at 10:30 a.m. The Graduate School ceremony will follow at 2:30 p.m. Both events will be available via livestream video from the university homepage for those unable to attend in person. Doors will open at 9:30 a.m. for the university ceremony and at 1:30 p.m. for the graduate ceremony.

See **Commencement**, page 3



PHOTO BY CHRISTINA FRANUSICH FOR VIRGINIA TECH.

More than 600 of this year's graduates earned a cumulative GPA of 3.4 or better.

DMV to offer license plate for women vets

The Commonwealth of Virginia calls more than 107,000 women veterans home, and the Department of Motor Vehicles has more than 250 specialty license plates.

Nevertheless, Virginia does not have a specialty license plate honoring its women veterans. Needless to say, the oversight is long overdue, but that may soon change.

The DMV is in the process of collecting 450 pre-applications for the specialty license plate for women veterans along with a \$10 deposit by Jan. 11, 2023. Once the applica-

tions and the deposits are in place, a Women Veterans Plate Bill will be sent to the 2023 Virginia General Assembly.

Once the bill passes during the 2023 session, it will go to the desk of Gov. Glenn Youngkin, who has already expressed his support for such a license plate. Once the governor signs the bill, production of the license plate will begin.

Those who are among the first 450 people to submit a pre-application along with the \$10 deposit (\$20 for a personalized plate) will be given

the opportunity to vote on their favorite option for the license plate design. Drivers need not wait for their registration to expire but instead may simply choose to transfer their plate to the women veterans specialty plate once it becomes available. Drivers also have the option of waiting until their registration expires and then requesting the women veterans license plate option at the time of renewal.

The completed hard copy applications and a \$10 (\$20 if requesting

See **DMV**, page 5



PHOTO COURTESY VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS SERVICES

Virginia Cooperative Extension agent offers care tips for holiday plants



FILE PHOTO COURTESY OF UNSPLASH

Virginia Cooperative Extension agent Ed Olsen offers tips on caring for popular holiday plants such as poinsettias and holiday cacti.

Winter holiday plants such as poinsettia, holiday cacti, and amaryllis make wonderful additions to indoor spaces. Choosing healthy plants, watering appropriately, and keeping them at the right temperature can help extend bloom time so that you get the most out of these plants.

From festive indoor blooms to summer vegetables, Virginians can have year-round gardening success with the help of Virginia Cooperative Extension experts.

"When choosing poinsettias, you want to look for plants with the yellow

true flower in the center of the bract," said Ed Olsen, Henrico Virginia Cooperative Extension agent. "Many times, especially after they have been sitting out in big-box stores, the true flower will drop off which means those plants won't last as long."

Poinsettias should be kept at temperatures between 65 to 70 degrees Fahrenheit. Placing near temperature extremes, such as by a cold window or in front of a warm fireplace, will shorten their lifespan. Poinsettias should be kept well-watered – but not overwa-

See **Holiday Plants**, page 5

UPCOMING EVENTS

Now through Dec. 16:

University Drive bridge closure in Radford

University Drive Bridge will be closed through Friday, Dec. 16. During this time access to the Dedmon center and other RU and city facilities will be limited to Harrison Street and New River Drive.

Now through Dec. 17:

Blacksburg leaf collection extended

Leaf collection in the Town of Blacksburg has been extended approximately two weeks from the scheduled Dec. 3 conclusion date to ensure all neighborhoods have been served. Public Works has been operating with a significantly reduced staff dedicated to leaf collection, so patience is greatly appreciated.

Wednesday, Dec. 14:

Page to screen movies: "Rebecca"

At the Radford Public Library; 5:45 p.m. To be shown is the 1940 Hitchcock classic "Rebecca" on the library's big screen. With a 130-minute run time, the movie will start at 5:45 p.m. This film is rated PG. Popcorn from Lil'Bit Corny LLC will be provided while supplies last.

Library Board of Trustees meeting

At the Christiansburg Library; 7 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 15:

Radford Photo Club meeting

The Radford Photo Club will meet at 6 p.m. at the Radford Public Library. Attendees are invited to share their three best photos

of the year and talk about each one. Goodies to share will be welcome. The photo challenge is Vacation Photography with an Open Theme challenge. Feel free to bring prints of photos for feedback. Meetings, events, and outings are open to the public. The Radford Photo Club is made up of professional and amateur photographers from throughout the New River Valley.

Gingerbread houses

At the Blacksburg Library; 4:30 p.m. All ages are invited to build a personalized gingerbread house with the supplies provided. Registration is required.

Saturday Dec. 17:

Caturday

At the Christiansburg Library; noon. Sign up at the front desk for a 15-minute slot to read to a cat from the Montgomery County Animal Care and Adoption Center to practice reading and to socialize shelter cats. For all ages. Email spahl@mfrl.org for more information.

Holiday movie

At the Meadowbrook Public Library; 12:30 p.m. Get into the holiday spirit with this showing of this fan-favorite holiday animated film (rated G) about a young boy who embarks on a train ride to the North Pole. Call (540) 268-1964 with any questions.

Teen DND

At the Blacksburg Library; 2 p.m. Dungeons and Dragons for ages 11 to 17.

Gingerbread houses

At the Christiansburg Library; 2 p.m. All ages are invited to build a personalized gingerbread house with the supplies provided. Registration is required.

"The Grinch" movie, photos, and S'mores

At Glencoe Mansion, Museum, and Gallery. S'mores and pictures with the Grinch at 6 p.m. The movie will begin at 7 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 19:

STEM club

At the Meadowbrook Public Library; 2 p.m. This homeschool STEM club will explore science, technology, engineering, and/or math. Ages 8 and up.

Pokémon club

At the Christiansburg Library; 4:30 p.m. Pokémon fans can bring their DS or Pokémon cards and get ready to battle, trade and make new friends. All ages.

Tuesday, Dec. 27:

Melted snowman slime

At the Christiansburg Library; 3 p.m. Participants will make melted snowman slime. All ages.

Wednesday, Dec. 28:

Afternoon movie and snack,

At the Meadowbrook Public Library; 12:30 p.m. This fun-filled afternoon comes complete with a tasty snack and an animated film (rated PG) about the crime-fighting Super-Dog Krypto, as he embarks on a mission to save his crime-fighting pal, the Man of Steel. Call (540) 268-1964 for more details.

Thursday, Dec. 29:

American Red Cross blood drive

At the Christiansburg Library; 10 a.m.

Walk-ins are welcome or sign up at <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/donation-time>.

Pokémon party

At the Blacksburg Library; 2 p.m. Participants can bring their Nintendo Switch or DS with Pokémon games, or their Pokémon Card Collection. Make new friends while trading, exploring, and battling. Trainers of all ages are welcome.

Friday, Dec. 30:

Red Cross blood drive

At the Jessie Peterman Memorial Library; 11:30 a.m. Walk-ins are welcome or sign up at www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive.

Ongoing:

Help veterans with donations

The Meadowbrook Public Library is a collection point for items needed at the VA Medical Center in Salem. Bring donations of the following items to the library during December: deodorant, denture adhesive, 3-in-1 body wash/shampoo/conditioner, body lotion, toothpaste, nail clippers, sweat-pants, sweatshirts, t-shirts (size M, L, XL), and new baseball caps. Co-Sponsored by VFW Post 5311 and Montgomery-Floyd Regional libraries.

Free GED classes

At the Meadowbrook Public Library, 5 to 8 p.m. New River Community College is offering free GED classes at the Meadowbrook Library every Tuesday and Thursday until Thursday, Dec. 15. For more information or to sign up call the Mlibrary at 540-268-1964.

POLICE BLOTTER

Radford City Police Department Blotter for Nov. 28 – Dec. 4, 2022

Monday, Nov. 28:

6:58 a.m. I.D. theft: Obtain less than five I.D.s to defraud less than or equal to \$200, 100 block of East Main St.

8:35 a.m. Mental subject, West Main St.

10 a.m. Possession of marijuana – Civil, Dalton Dr.

12 p.m. Larceny, Harvey St.

1 p.m. Assault on teacher/principal/etc., 100 block of George St.

6:05 p.m. Profane swearing or intoxication

in public, 100 block of East Main St.

Tuesday, Nov. 29:

2:17 p.m. Larceny, 400 block of Davis St.

Wednesday, Nov. 30:

8:42 a.m. Mental subject, 1300 block of New River Dr.

9:35 a.m. Obstruct/resist: w/o threats/force, Possession of controlled substance, 400 block of Sanford St.

12:15 p.m. Vehicle/aircraft/boat/etc.: destroy/injure, 200 block of Main

St. 3:08 p.m. Intercourse: victim less than 13 years old, suspect more than 14 years old, 200 block of Allen Ave.

Thursday, Dec. 1:

3:01 a.m. Assault: (misdemeanor), Phone: damage line; prevent summoning law enforcement, Assault and battery of a family member, 200 block of Allen Ave.

12:27 p.m. Sell tobacco to minor- civil, Dalton Dr.

3:30 p.m. Monument: intentional damage, value less than \$1000, 400 block of Third Ave.

10 p.m. Profane swearing or intoxication in public, Possession of controlled substance, offense left blank, 500 Rock Road West

10:26 p.m. offense left blank, 1000 block of Robertson St.

11:38 p.m. Traffic: tail-light or license plate light missing, Driving motor vehicle, engine, etc., while intoxicated, etc. (DUI/DUID), 1100 block of Fairfax St.

Friday, Dec. 2:

1:59 a.m. Monument: unlawful damage, no intent to steal, Profane swearing or intoxication in public, 1200 block of Fairfax St.

8:45 a.m. Obstruction/Resisting arrest with threats/force, 800 block of Sixth St.

11:53 a.m., offense left blank, 2300 block of West Main St.

12:59 p.m., Service call, Dalton Dr.

11:41 p.m. Driving motor vehicle, engine, etc., while intoxicated, etc. (DUI/DUID), 200 block of East Main St.

Saturday, Dec. 3:

12:12 a.m. Abuse/neglect child: reckless disregard for life, Possession of controlled substance, 300 block of Fairfax St.

1:30 a.m. Grand larceny, 800 block of New River Dr.

3:10 a.m. Alcohol: purchase/possession by person less than 21 years old, Profane swearing or intoxication in public, 600 block of New River Dr.

12:58 p.m. Offense left blank, 900 block of New River Dr.

Sunday, Dec. 4:

1:27 p.m. Offense left blank, 400 block of Downey St.

Weekly Alcohol Round-Up:

DUI -1
Drunk in Public - 3
Underage Possession of Alcohol - 0

PETS OF THE WEEK



Miss Kitty would love a permanent home for the holidays. She is a senior gal who has special needs. It is unknown how she may do with other felines but she does well with dogs and children. Miss Kitty's adoption is sponsored by Montgomery County Friends of Animal Care and Control.



Little Foot is a friendly boy who is ready to head home. He enjoys attention from humans and tends to be selective when it comes to other dogs. Little Foot likes treats and would benefit from exercise and training.

PHOTOS BY ROBIN HOBACK (CHESTER, VA).

U.S. DOT announces \$97.6 million in loans for safety improvements on Virginia's I-81

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of Transportation announced Monday, Dec. 12, that its Build America Bureau has provided two low-interest loans totaling \$97.6 million to the Virginia Commonwealth Transportation Board (CVT), the governing body of the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), for improvements to Interstate 81.

The bureau helps communities of all sizes across the country reduce the costs of infrastructure projects by providing Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act loans, known as TIFIA loans, and other types of financing. The bureau's Rural Projects Initiative (RPI), offers loans at half the treasury rate and for nearly half the project costs instead of the customary

33 percent.

The two TIFIA loans, one from RPI for up to \$15 million (49 percent of the \$30.5 million cost) and one traditional TIFIA loan for up to \$82.6 million (33 percent of the \$250.2 million cost), enable VDOT to finance and expedite part of its \$2.7 billion I-81 Capital Improvement Program. The rural project extends the acceleration/deceleration and merge/diverge areas making entering and exiting the highway safer and more functional at various access points along I-81. It will also make a number of improvements along I-81 in Roanoke County, including adding lanes and replacing bridges.

"The department applauds Virginia's efforts to improve safety and reduce de-

lays along the I-81 corridor," said Deputy Transportation Secretary Polly Trottenberg. "We know rural areas not only have a disproportionately high rate of car crashes but they also often lack the resources to make improvements, which is why the Rural Project Initiative is so important to our broader efforts to reverse the crisis of roadway deaths happening all over the country."

Partly in response to the crisis on Virginia's roads, USDOT launched the National Roadway Safety Strategy (NRSS) at the start of 2022 and recently released a dashboard showing implementation progress. The NRSS is bolstered by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law's historic levels of funding to address safety, especially in rural areas, where a disproportionate number of

traffic injuries and fatalities occur. The Virginia project is an example of implementing the NRSS objective on advancing infrastructure design and interventions that will significantly enhance roadway safety.

The bureau was established as a "one-stop-shop" during the Obama Administration to help states and other project sponsors carry out infrastructure projects. The bureau offers low-interest, long-term credit programs, technical assistance, and best practices in project planning, financing, delivery, and operation.

The U.S. Department of Transportation has closed \$38.7 billion in TIFIA financings, supporting more than \$132.9 billion in infrastructure investment across the country.

Santa Claus is touring Christiansburg

Through Friday, Dec. 16, each night beginning at 6 p.m. Santa Claus will cruise through Christiansburg and will ride through the town until his route is complete. Since his sleigh is in the shop, Santa has graciously received permission from the Christiansburg Volunteer Fire Department to borrow a fire truck.

To let everyone know he is nearby, Santa will be periodically sounding the sirens on the fire truck, which will give neighborhood families the time to step outside their homes and toss Santa a quick wave as he drives by.

While Santa would love to travel down every road in town, he's just too busy

this time of year to fit all that into his schedule. He is, however, incorporating as many areas of town as he can into his tour, taking into consideration the extreme length of his fire truck sleigh, which may present some problems as he attempts to navigate every street.

Santa therefore encourages families to find the street nearest to them that he will be riding down and to walk over to wave hello to him. He'll be driving very slowly through neighborhoods, so families are urged to listen for the sirens alerting them that he is on his way. Santa also urges everyone to keep a safe distance from the fire truck as he rides by.



Dec. 12-16 from 6 to 9 p.m.

See Santa on a fire truck in your neighborhood!



PHOTO COURTESY OF DOWNTOWN CHRISTIANSBURG, INC.

While his sleigh is in the shop getting ready for his big night, Santa Claus is borrowing a truck from the Christiansburg Volunteer Fire Department.

Warm Hearth Village continues Silver Santa program on Dec. 15

Warm Hearth Village's Silver Santa program is now in its fourth year, and the program's elves and the village's employees will gather on Thursday, Dec. 15, at Karr Activity Center across

from the village to load their sacks and deliver Christmas gifts, providing a brighter Christmas for Warm Hearth residents who are on low, fixed income or who may not have families.

Warm Hearth Village community members support the program by adopting seniors as their Silver Santa and by shopping for items on their wish lists. In addition, the Silver Santa

Elves help by shopping for items from a general wish list of the most requested items that can be used to complete the wish lists for participating seniors. Despite the current economic climate,

WHV's Silver Santas and elves continue to show their generosity.

Submitted by WHV Marketing Coordinator Amy Webb

Lifelong educator and Virginia Tech professor to deliver 2022 fall commencement address

Virginia Tech Professor Edward Weisband will deliver the keynote address at Virginia Tech's fall 2022 University Commencement ceremony on Friday, Dec. 16.

Weisband is the Edward S. Diggs Endowed Chair in the Department of Political Science in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences.

He has spent 55 years in public education and taught thousands of Virginia Tech students. He came to the university in 1990. He has a lifelong commitment to providing each generation with

the intellectual and professional capacities necessary to contribute to a better world.

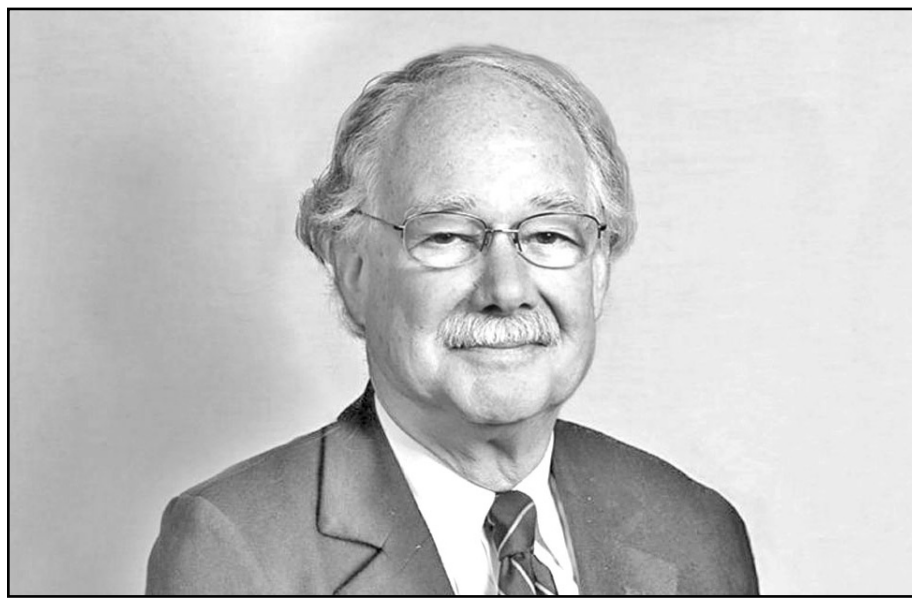
Among his signature courses at Virginia Tech is Nations and Nationalities: Cultural Constructions of Collective Identity. The course focuses on comparative political cultures, the emergence of modern political formations, the impacts of colonialism, and social and cultural categories of inclusion and equity in terms of race, class, gender, and ethnicity.

Weisband has a Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins University, a master's degree from Stanford Uni-

versity, and a bachelor's degree from Princeton University.

He has published 12 books, including several widely adopted textbooks, and has earned awards for educational distinction, including his selection in 1987 as the New York State Professor of the Year by the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education.

The university commencement ceremony will be at 10:30 a.m., and the graduate school ceremony will be at 2:30 p.m. on Dec. 16. Both events will be held in Cassell Coliseum.



COURTESY OF VIRGINIA TECH

Edward Weisband, professor and the Edward S. Diggs Endowed Chair in the Social Sciences.

Commencement from page 1

The events will honor approximately 1,909 students who completed their academic degrees during the summer and fall terms.

Edward Weisband, a professor within the Department of Political Science in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, will deliver the keynote address at the university ceremony. Three graduate students who will each earn doctoral degrees — Ariel Heminger, plant and environmental sciences; Abdulaziz Alenezi, educational research and policy studies; and Steve Gerus, sociology — will speak at the Graduate School's commencement, sharing their thoughts about their graduate education journeys. Their short remarks will be modeled on the Nutshell Games created by the Center for Communicating Science.

During the ceremony, 1,544 undergraduates will be recognized for earning bachelor's degrees.

Of the graduates, 633 earned a cumulative GPA of at least 3.4 on a 4.0 scale.

The College of Engineering will feature the most undergraduates receiving degrees with a total of 409. Additionally, Virginia Tech's six other colleges and the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine will award the following bachelor's degrees to summer and fall graduates:

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences: 127

College of Architecture, Art, and Design: 35

Pamplin College of Business: 326

College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences: 268

College of Natural Resources and Environment: 70

College of Science: 297

Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine: 12

Virginia Tech will recognize 1,453 summer and fall graduates who will receive an advanced, master's, or doctoral degree.

The graduate degree candidates include 804 master's degrees, seven education specialist degrees, 291 Ph.D.s, and 12 doctors of education.

The Graduate School will also recognize its Alumni Achievement Award recipient during its ceremony. Karey Sutton, who received her Ph.D. in Science and Technology Studies in 2010, is the Health Equity Research scientific director for MedStar Health Research Institute in Washington, D.C., where she is responsible for strategy and growth in health equity research and for building partnerships and community relations to foster such research.

During her time at Virginia Tech, Sutton was active in the Black Graduate Student Organization, the Graduate Student Assembly (now the Graduate and Professional Student Senate), and was a Minority Academic Opportunities Program scholar.

A total of 346 students will receive advanced graduate certificates.

By Jimmy Robertson

Caldwell from page 1

lice charged Caldwell with one felony count of "use of communications systems to facilitate certain communications involving children" in violation of Virginia Code 18.2-374.3.

Radford City Police Chief Jeff Dodson released a statement on Saturday following Caldwell's arrest.

"The men and women of the Radford City Police Department are very disappointed to learn of the arrest of former Captain Chris Caldwell," said Dodson. "The charge and allegations against him, if proven true in a court of law, are abhorrent and reprehensible."

Dodson said he and his staff each hold one another to a high standard.

"These accusations against a former employee in no way reflect the professionalism and high standards of the Radford City Po-

lice Department," he said. "All staff with the Radford City Police Department hold each other to a very high standard and know that if we break the law, we will be held accountable, and those who are willing to tarnish their badge, their oath of office, and the law enforcement code of ethics no longer deserve to wear the badge."

"The men and women of the Radford City Police Department work daily to protect and serve the members of this community, especially the most vulnerable," Dodson's statement concludes. "We will continue to serve at the highest levels and ensure that Radford continues to be a safe community for all despite the actions of a former employee."

Radford News Journal staff report



It's Snow Season!

GRAB A SHOVEL - LEND A HAND

Winter is on the horizon and the first snow of the season could arrive at any time. Whether a few inches or a couple of feet, it takes a community to keep Blacksburg's roads and walkways safe during a storm.

As always, town crews will be working around the clock to clear snow from the main thoroughfares, bus routes, secondary roads, and trails. Sidewalk snow removal, however, is the responsibility of individuals and businesses with walkways adjacent to their properties. Rental tenants are responsible unless their lease agreement states differently.

For answers to common questions about sidewalk snow removal visit www.blacksburg.gov/snowremoval or call the Housing and Community Connections office at 540.443.1612.

OPINION

Buddy King: A Gordon Christmas

One of the things I enjoy most about writing these little pieces, whether for my old hometown newspaper or my firm's newsletter, is the opportunity it gives me to chronicle a small part of the lives of some of the interesting people I've met on life's journey.

Gordon is probably the smartest person I have ever known. His IQ is off the charts. While born into an old Virginia family, an "FFV" (look it up), making his family hardcore Episcopalians, Gordon and his 4 siblings were sent by their parents to a nearby Catholic secondary school for academic purposes.

bed for weeks," as they used to say in the South. Unintended consequence.

This intense flirtation with the Vatican (He prefers to find churches where mass is celebrated in Latin) is only one indication that Gordon occasionally is "not of this world."

Actually, those who know him only casually think of him that way. But having known him for almost 40 years, and having viewed up close his brilliant legal briefs and his broad range of tastes in reading and his art at political discourse and his acerbic attacks on pop culture, I have come to reject the "absent-minded" theory.

indifference to convention. My opinion at least. There is much evidence, however, to support the conclusion of forgetfulness and lack of awareness of the world around him. I will give a few examples from the period in my life a number of years ago known as the "great unpleasantness," when I was forced by "circumstances" to live with Gordon for a while.

Not a sports fan, and not one apparently aware of such things as cable or satellite television (He was still using "rabbit ears" - look 'em up), he noticed that I had difficulty withdrawing from ESPN and the world of games. So, kind soul that he is, Gordon subscribed to cable, making sure that he got the full sports package.

Of course the rest of the story here is that after one month, the cable was cut by the cable company, due to failure by Gordon to pay the bill. Unfortunately, this was the least of the inconveniences that came from boarding with Gordon.

mail that came through his mail slot in a large cardboard box, which he sifted through once every several months. Some would say that he didn't realize that his creditors worked on 30-day cycles. My opinion: defiant indifference.

One of my favorite stories from this part of my life, most of which I would like largely to forget, involves one weekend when my daughters were staying with me at Chez Gordon.

Beautiful daughter Laura, age 6 or 7 at the time but wise beyond her years, is having cereal for breakfast. I get the milk out of the refrigerator and start to pour it in Laura's bowl.

I said at the beginning of this column that this is a Christmas story. How so you say? Well, Christmas is Gordon's time of the year.

More background. Gordon is what used to be referred to as a "confirmed bachelor." In our early years at the firm, several of us tried to set him up with dates or find him a mate.

taken by Gordon, but he artfully managed to avoid her overtures, and his friends (me included) eventually came to realize that even if we could get the two of them together, it wouldn't work.

So Gordon has no children, but has maintained a remarkable if not bizarre enthusiasm for the Christmas season. He has nieces and nephews back in Virginia and has been known as "Uncle Gordon" by the numerous offspring of his law partners over the last 40 years.

Now for a few Christmas stories, Gordon-style. For instance, the Christmas season he was letting me share his house, he went to the store one night and came back with a ton of wrapping paper and "five pairs of scissors because I am always losing them."

Sure enough, after about 15 minutes, a stream of curse words came from Gordon's mouth. I asked what was wrong. Of course over that short period of time, and without ever leaving the couch, he had managed to lose

all five pairs of scissors, some wrapped in packages, some under seat cushions, some behind the couch on the floor.

And there was the time Gordon had a huge, month-long trial in Morgantown in December. It ended around the 22nd or 23rd, and he seemed to have totally missed the season.

I can't do "A Gordon Christmas" without mention of the Christmas tree at his house. When it went up, it stayed up, sometimes for several years. So what you say, many do this? But his was not a fake tree; oh no, it was the real thing.

I won't even get into the squirrel that lived in the Christmas tree during my stay. Another story for another day.

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.

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God's hand on the drama that is life

My wife and I met and married under circumstances that led my mother to declare it wouldn't last six months.

Well, that was 38 years ago. What has happened during that time is that instead of being torn apart by those inevitable difficult times that are a part of any

marriage of any length, our marriage has been strengthened with those rough spots working like glue to bind us ever closer and to shape our relationship into deep, abiding love rather than mere affection.

I have long since passed into the phase of life that officially declares me to be a senior citizen. The result has been to give me the freedom to look back across the long, winding years of our life together and to indulge in some serious retrospection and introspection.

Reviewing our long, rewarding history together today, I have drawn one inescapable conclusion: God's hand has been on it from the beginning and at every crucial moment along the way.

I draw that conclusion because no other explanation is possible, at least from my vantage point. At every pivotal point in our life together, some action that can be explained only by divine intervention has taken place that changed our life's course, rescued us from ourselves and our mistakes, and left our life together richer, more rewarding, and more exciting.

Two particular instances come immediately to mind.

The time, for instance, my wife and I were sitting in our home in Perry, Ga., discussing whether or not I should leave a church that had been established for more than a hundred years and start my own independent, nondenominational church.

one step short of outright insanity right then.

As we were sitting there discussing and listing what our options were (There weren't many.) and feeling pretty stressed and a bit desperate, the phone rang. A family from the church was calling, part of a group that had been meeting for some time once a week at a local restaurant to sing and worship.

In what in all honesty seemed at that moment like just about the most foolish decision I had ever made, I said, 'Yes.' So what happened? The following Sunday in front of a tiny rented club house a fellow worshiper and I stood out front and wondered something fretfully if anyone at all would show up.

And they brought every talent we needed to form a live, ongoing congregation. A choir director and a choir, a group of young people to start a youth program, a dedicated congregation. And a pastor, of course.

In only a few years from that day, we bought property and built a church.

God's hand, people. In retrospect, I also find God's hand on the day my wife and I decided to leave Georgia and move to parts unknown, also known as Christiansburg.

We had wearied of Perry and had discussed such a move for some time but had never been able to make it for one reason or another, mostly having to do with a

less than minor hindrance having to do with jobs and a place to live. We were on vacation, headed to Florida and raw oysters, and sitting in a place called the Wooden Nickel Pub eating lunch on a Sunday when my wife's cell phone rang. This was Sunday now, and we were down in extreme South Georgia, only a few miles from the Florida line and hundreds of miles from anything remotely resembling Virginia.

And now, suddenly, the voice on the other side of the phone calling on the one day no one should have been working offered her a job teaching with the Montgomery County Public School System. He had reviewed the application she had provided, though she hadn't sent it to his desk and how it got there remains a mystery whose only answer lies in God's intervention, and he was suitably impressed. Didn't surprise me any.

We made the move even though I didn't have a job. The job I would have held at the time by the then-editor of the News Messenger and the Radford News Journal. So what happened? It seems the lady's husband had landed a job in North Carolina, and she decided to follow him. I then met with the publisher for an interview to fill the vacated post, and I got a job I technically didn't even apply for. God's hand again, people.

I believe it.

The author is a man of a certain age who has seen his long life unfold as one blessing after another and who thanks God every day for those blessings.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Grid for crossword puzzle with numbers 1-64 indicating starting points for clues.

- CLUES ACROSS: 1. A people of Eastern Afghanistan... 32. Popular airline... 33. Antelopes... 38. Peacock network... 41. Utter repeatedly... 43. One from the Golden State... 45. Photographers... 48. Father... 49. Popular BBQ dish... 50. Cavalry sword... 55. Ancient Greek sophist... 56. Atomic mass unit... 57. Afflicted in mind or body... 59. Indian mythological figure... 60. Mild expression of surprise... 25. Having easily perceived thoughts... 30. Removed surgically... 31. Principle underlying the universe... CLUES DOWN: 1. State attorneys... 2. Imitated... 3. Latvian capital... 4. Irish goddess... 5. Taste... 6. Dried... 7. Spanish saloon... 8. Mother of Perseus... 9. Evergreen coniferous trees... 10. Refuse to comply... 12. Negative... 14. Hyphen... 19. A way to record... 23. Not good... 24. One who tends the furnace... 25. Small amount... 26. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)... 27. The whole quantity... 28. King Cole, musician... 29. One's opinion... 34. Holds ashes... 35. Stablecoin cryptocurrency... 36. Side-blotched lizards genus... 37. Legislator (abbr.)... 39. Concentrated bombardment... 40. Took for oneself... 41. Nigerian City... 42. Thousands of pounds... 44. Inspired... 45. Secret clique... 46. Expression... 47. Dough made from corn flour... 48. Comedian Carvey... 51. Swiss river... 52. Prejudice... 53. Actor Idris... 54. Resistance fighters... 58. Criticize

V DOT ROADWATCH

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

MONTGOMERY COUNTY
I-81 NORTHBOUND AT EXIT 105 NEW RIVER BRIDGE REPLACEMENT IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY – Traffic on northbound I-81 has been switched onto the newly constructed bridge over the New River at the Montgomery/Pulaski County line. The old bridge is being demolished. Lane and shoulder closures may be in place near exit 105. Lane closure may be in effect during the week from 8 p.m. to 7 a.m. Shoulder closures may be in effect at any time during the week. Slow rolls may be performed on I-81 in the north and southbound lanes from mile marker 98 to 109. Speed limit is reduced to 60 miles per hour in the work zone. Shoulder closures will remain in place though the duration of the project. Project completion is estimated by summer 2023.

RINER CHRISTMAS PARADE – The Riner Volunteer Fire Department Christmas Parade will take place today, Saturday, Dec. 10 at 3 p.m. The parade will organize on School House Drive before proceeding to the spectator area along Cloverlea Drive. The parade will briefly impact Route 8 (Riner Road) and Route 669 (Fairview Church Road). For everyone's safety, spectators should not park on Riner Road or Fairview Church.

INTERSTATE 81
INTERSTATE 81 LANE WIDENING CONSTRUCTION PROJECT EXIT 137 TO EXIT 141 – A \$179 million design-build project to widen both directions of I-81 between mile markers 136.6 and 141.8 from two to three lanes is set to begin. Work will be performed on the inside and outside shoulders along a five-mile section of both northbound and southbound Interstate 81 in Roanoke County and the city of Salem. The shoulders will be built up before barrier walls can be installed for road crews to work behind. Barrier walls will be installed along the shoulders in the spring and summer. Two lanes of I-81 traffic in each direction will remain open during the project with periodic lane closures scheduled during nighttime hours or outside of peak travel times as needed. Drivers can expect the following lane closures and upcoming impacts on northbound and southbound I-81:

WORK ZONE SPEED: With narrow spacing in lanes due to barrier walls, lack of shoulders and lane shifts in various locations, drivers should adhere to posted 60 mph speed limits in the work zone and allow space when following a vehicle.

RAMP CLOSURES: Ramp closures are possible during nighttime hours, 12 a.m., to 5 a.m. Drivers should watch for message boards dates and times the ramp will be closed.

LANE CLOSURES: Alternating left and right lane and shoulder closures during nighttime hours between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m., Sunday through Thursday, are possible. Lane widths will be reduced

to 11 feet.

- o Northbound lane closures from I-81 mile marker 136 to 141.
- o Southbound Lane closures from I-81 mile marker 141 to 136.

Nightly lane closures may be in place along the right lane with possible nightly ramp narrows as needed for guardrail and shoulder strengthening.

- Northbound I-81 lane closures from mile marker 138 to 142
- Northbound I-81 exit and entrance ramp narrows possible at Route 311.

The project also includes replacing six bridges, widening two bridges, installing approximately 2.6 miles of sound barrier walls along northbound I-81, improving the southbound exit 137 off-ramp intersection at Wildwood Road and adding interchange lighting at exits 137, 140 and 141 are also included in the project. Expected completion in early 2026.

I-81 TROUTVILLE REST AREA CLOSURE - The Troutville Rest Area located on southbound Interstate 81 near mile marker 158 in Botetourt County is closed until further notice. The opening scheduled before Thanksgiving has been rescheduled due to construction delays. Paving is weather dependent and will have to be completed to reopen the rest area. Signage indicating the closure is posted in the rest area. A temporary concrete barrier wall will remain in place in front of the facility. The rest area facility, ramps and parking lot are closed to the public. This project will extend the ramp into the rest area by 500 feet and the ramp out of the rest area by 2,100 feet. It will also include expanding the truck parking area at the facility by about 10-13 spaces.

LANE CLOSURE WITH SIGNIFICANT TRAFFIC DELAYS - Due to paving the ramps and the shoulder at the Troutville Rest Area, a 26-hour right lane closure is tentatively scheduled through Saturday, Dec. 10, and possibly Sunday, Dec. 11. Weather, specifically low temperatures and heavy rain, may impact the schedule for these lane closures.

REST AREA OPTIONS: While the Troutville Rest Area is closed, southbound I-81 drivers can use the Fairfield Rest Area at mile marker 195 in Rockbridge County or the Radford Rest Area at mile marker 108 in Montgomery County. In addition, the Troutville Weigh Station, located on southbound I-81 at mile marker 149, will have portable toilets and parking will be temporarily available for commercial vehicles.

(UPDATED 12-9-22) * **I-81 NORTHBOUND AT EXIT 105 NEW RIVER BRIDGE REPLACEMENT IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY** – Traffic on northbound I-81 has been switched onto the newly constructed bridge over the New River at the Montgomery/Pulaski County line. The old bridge is being demolished. Lane and shoulder closures may be in place near exit 105. Lane closure may be in effect during the week from 8 p.m. to 7 a.m. Shoulder closures may be in effect at any time during the week. Slow rolls may be performed on I-81 in the north and southbound lanes from mile marker 98 to 109. Speed limit is reduced to 60 miles per hour in the work zone. Shoulder closures will remain in place though the duration of the project. Project completion is estimated by summer 2023.

INTERSTATE 581
ROUTE 581 BRIDGE WORK OVER WILLIAMSON ROAD –On Route 11 (Williamson Road) drivers can expect intermittent and alternating lane closures between the intersections with Rutherford Avenue and Wells Avenue. Intermittent daytime and nighttime lane closures between the intersections above might be required, and will be in place utilizing flagging operations. Any impacts to I-581 will be minimal. Expected completion is the end of 2022.

LANE CLOSURES:

- o A left lane closure will be in place on northbound and southbound I-581 from mile marker 0-1, Monday at 7 a.m. through Wednesday at 7 p.m.
- o A right lane closure will be in place on northbound and southbound I-581 from mile marker 0-1, Thursday at 7 a.m. through Saturday at 7 p.m.
- o A left and center lane closure will be in place on northbound and southbound I-581 from mile marker 0-1, Saturday at 5 p.m. through Sunday at 2 p.m.

A right lane closure may be in place on Route 11 northbound between the intersections of Rutherford Avenue and Wells Avenue periodically.

Nighttime left lane closures for both the northbound and southbound directions of Route 11 are possible between the intersections referenced above.

I-581 BRIDGE REPAIRS – Weather permitting, crews will repair bridge decks on Interstate 581. Right, center and left lane closures will be in place northbound and southbound during nighttime hours, 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning. Drivers should watch for signs and expect possible delays. Scheduled traffic impacts include:

- Left or right lane closures may be in place on I-581 northbound from Orange Avenue to Valley View Boulevard from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Left or right lane closures may be in place on I-581 from Valley View Boulevard to Orange Avenue from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

- Flagging operations may be in place on Liberty Road NW from Lukens Street NE to Hunt Avenue NW from 9

a.m. to 3 p.m.

INTERSTATE 77 (CARROLL COUNTY)
I-77 BRIDGE DECK AND MAINTENANCE REPAIRS – Weather permitting, crews will repair bridge decks on Interstate 77. Right and left lane closures may be in place northbound or southbound during nighttime hours, 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning. Drivers should watch for signs and expect possible delays.

- Right and left lane closures in place on I-77 southbound, mile marker 13.5 to 12.5 over Route 702 and I-77 northbound, mile marker 11.5 to 12.7 over Route 702. Height restrictions are in place at 14' 6".

ROANOKE CITY
13th STREET SE IMPROVEMENTS WITH DETOUR – A project to improve a portion of 13th Street SE in Roanoke is underway. Located in a residential neighborhood just east of downtown Roanoke, this project will improve traffic flow and connectivity along 13th Street SE from Tazewell Avenue to Norfolk Avenue. The project entails reconstructing about 0.2-mile of 13th Street as an improved, two-lane roadway with 10.5-foot-wide travel lane and a raised median. A new roadway will extend 13th Street to Norfolk Avenue and the intersection at 13th Street and Wise Avenue will be reconfigured to include a roundabout. Bike lanes, sidewalks, crosswalks and curb and gutter will also be added. Southbound 13th Street traffic has a detour in place using Norfolk Avenue onto 12th Street to Tazewell Avenue. This detour will be in place throughout the duration of this project. Signs will be posted to designate the detour route. Northbound 13th Street will remain open to traffic. Flaggers may be possible and the speed limit through the work zone is 25 mph. The project is expected to be completed in summer 2023.

TRAFFIC PATTERN CHANGE: Northbound traffic will be switched to the northbound lane of 13th Street. Southbound traffic will still be detoured around the work zone.

Parade from page 1

cars, and a big pink pig. As is traditional, the highlight of the parade came at the very end when Santa Claus put in an appearance.

To add to the fun, good samaritans handed out candy to children standing on the sidelines watching the parade on this chilly night.

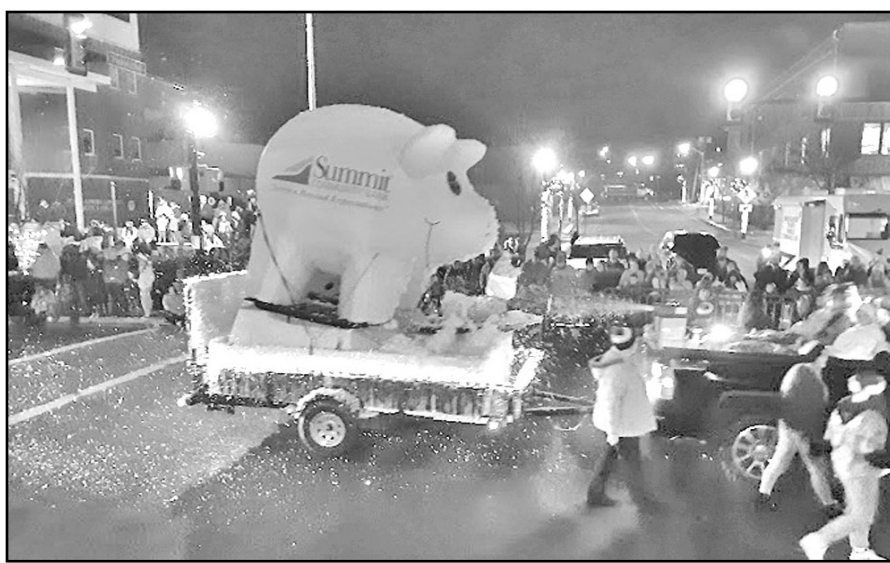


PHOTO BY ED MCMINN

Yes, Virginia, Christiansburg's parade boasted a big pig in the lineup.

DMV from page 1

personalized plate) deposit should be submitted to the Virginia Department of Veterans Services. Payment

should be made by check only, no cash please. Submit to the Virginia Department of Veterans

Services, Attn: Jasmine Scott, 101 N. 14th Street, 17th Floor, Richmond, VA 23219.

Holiday Plants from page 1

tered – and care should be taken to ensure water isn't pooling inside any decorative wrapping on the outside of the pot.

Holiday cacti should be kept slightly cooler, from 55 to 65 degrees Fahrenheit, and soil should not be allowed to dry out during flowering. However, during non-blooming periods, the soil should dry between waterings. Keep holiday cacti out of direct sunlight but in bright, indoor light.

Popular winter-blooming holiday cacti include

the Thanksgiving cactus (Schlumbergera truncata), which has sharp, claw-shaped projects along leaf edges, and the Christmas cactus (Schlumbergera bridgesii) which has more rounded or scalloped leaf projections. Both species need at least 12 hours of darkness and cool temperatures to bloom.

When transporting

holiday plants from the store to your home, be sure they are protected from cold as even short trips in cold temperatures can cause cold damage.

For gift-giving, Olsen suggests choosing a plant with longevity, such as a holiday cactus or an amaryllis bulb, which will last and produce flowers for multiple years.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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

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Virginia Tech's Sesquicentennial celebration draws to a close

The celebration of 150 years of Virginia Tech opened in Blacksburg in July 2021 and will culminate with the fall commencement ceremony on Dec. 16.

As the sesquicentennial opened, Angela Hayes, associate vice president for advancement and sesquicentennial director, said, "The sesquicentennial is everyone's celebration," noting that the occasion offered everyone who is or has been connected to the university the opportunity to reflect on their Virginia Tech experiences.

Over the next few weeks, the Virginia Tech community is invited to continue those reflections by attending a number of events as the 18-month celebration concludes.

On Dec. 13 from 2:30 to 3 p.m., Virginia Tech will host the dedication of the Sesquicentennial Grove of Trees and the official sealing of the sesquicentennial time capsule. A brief program will highlight the university's 150-year history even as its leaders embark on plans for the future. A short reception in the Burruss Hall atrium will follow the program. A short reception in the Burruss Hall atrium will follow the program, which will begin on the Drillfield.

On Dec. 14 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., simultaneous events in Washington, D.C., and Roanoke will showcase the impact of Virginia Tech on the commonwealth and beyond.

In Roanoke, the event will be held at the Hotel Roanoke.

The Washington, D.C., event will take place at The Schuyler D.C. at the Hamilton Hotel.

These closing celebrations will be interactive. Engagement zones will explore research at the Fralin Biomedical Research Institute at VTC and Virginia Tech's K-12 outreach, which is expected to shape the next 150 years of STEM education.

At each event, guests will enjoy food stations, cocktails, music, and time with fellow Hokies. There will also be a brief program featuring university leadership, including President Tim Sands, that will be simulcast in D.C. and Roanoke.

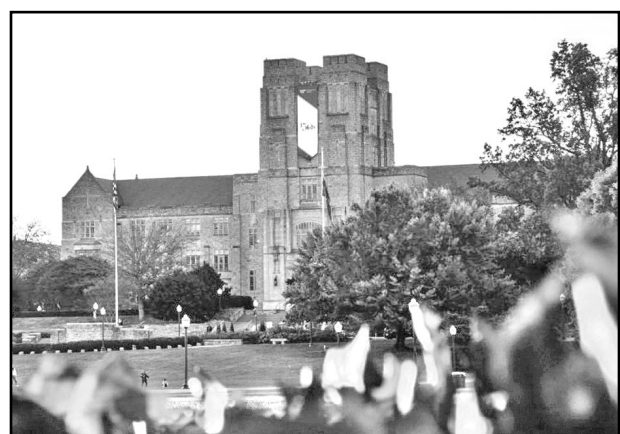


PHOTO BY LUKE HAYES FOR VIRGINIA TECH

Virginia Tech is wrapping up its sesquicentennial celebration with two events and graduation within the next two weeks.

OBITUARIES

Baker, Judith Jones

Judith Jones Baker passed away on Dec. 8, 2022 at the age of 72.

Judi, as she was known to friends and family, was born on June 28, 1950 to mother Edith Jones and father Elliott Jones. She grew up in the coastal area of Princess Anne County, Va. with her parents, older sister and younger brother.

She attended Ferrum College where she met her future husband Edward (Eddie) Baker and earned her Associate's degree. She completed her bachelor's degree in English at Radford University and later, a Master Gardener certification through Virginia Tech.

Eddie and Judi settled in Blacksburg and raised their family. Judi was known as an accomplished writer, master gardener, creative quilter/seamstress and equine (dressage) enthusiast. Her reserved manner was often offset by an entertaining, wry sense of humor to those who knew her. She was a loving mom and adoring, supportive partner to Eddie. She was



most recently living her dream building her horse boarding business on the family farm in Riner.

Judith was predeceased by her mother, Edith, and father, Elliott Jones; her father-in-law, Vernon Baker; and her daughter Alison Baker. Judith is survived her loving family: her husband of 50 years, Eddie Baker; her daughter, Diane Baker;

her son, Alan Baker and his wife, Audrey; and her daughter, Michelle Hall and her husband, Seth, of Blacksburg. She is also survived by her sister, Josephine Jones, and her brother, John Jones of Virginia Beach; her mother-in-law, Virginia Baker, of Blacksburg, and extended family.

A visitation will be held on Friday, Dec. 16, 2022, from 1 to 2 p.m., at McCoy Funeral Home. A funeral service will follow in the McCoy Chapel. Masking is encouraged. In lieu of flowers the family asks that you make a memorial donation to the Ovarian Cancer Research Alliance at <https://www.ocrahope.org>.

Edwards, Edith Lorraine Nester

Edith Lorraine Nester Edwards, 91, passed away Thursday, Dec. 8, 2022. She was born Aug. 9, 1931, near Belspring.

She was the daughter of the late Abie M. and Mary Myers Nester and was preceded in death by her husband, Isom Talmage (Curly) Edwards and her siblings, James Milton Nester, Howard E. Nester and Mary (Lois) Morehead.

She was a graduate of Dublin High School and retired from Radford Pipe Shop Employees Federal Credit Union. Edith was a faithful, lifelong member of Belspring United Methodist Church.

She is survived by her brother, Ronald

C. Nester, and many nieces and nephews and their children.

The family received friends on Tuesday, Dec. 13, 2022, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services followed with Chaplain Robbie Vance officiating. Interment will be private.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to Belspring United Methodist Church, Love Offering Fund, PO Box 190, Belspring, VA 24058.

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

Henson, Lois Marie Atkinson

Lois Marie Atkinson Henson left this world on Sunday, Dec. 4, 2022.

She and her sisters used to sing a song with the refrain, "I'll leave without saying goodbye," and that is what she did. She died six weeks to the day after the passing of her husband of 77 years, Edward B Henson.

She was born just over the Floyd County line on Aug. 8, 1923. Her parents were Goldie Gaines Jewell and Robert Demarcus Atkinson. Her siblings were Freda Cooper, Maurice Atkinson, Ruth Willis, Cline Atkinson, Billy Atkinson, and Joseph Atkinson. They all preceded her in death except Ruth, who turns 105 this month.

Lois grew up in the house where she was born. She attended a one-room school in Otey, Shawsville High School, Emmanuel College in Franklin Springs, Georgia, and Central State University in Oklahoma. She majored in childhood education, but first taught shorthand and typing in high school. She then taught elementary grades at the Elliston School and first grade at Belleview and Christiansburg.

After she and her family moved to Franklin Springs, Ga. in 1968 she continued to teach first grade until she retired. For much of her teaching career she was able to start the school day with a Bible story and prayer. And there was always singing! Lois loved God first and loved her family, church, and community. She cherished her heritage and told countless stories of growing up near both sides of her family.

She wrote a children's book about her brother Cline's dog, Andy. She wrote a book about the Jewells and co-wrote a book about the Atkinsons. Her genealogy searches took place before the inter-

net and ancestry websites. She put a lot of hours and miles into her research, a labor of love. Her research made it possible for her to join the Daughters of the American Revolution.

An African proverb says, "When an elder dies, a library burns to the ground." Her knowledge about family and community history was invaluable. She sang in church with her sisters, traveled and sang with a trio when she was in college, sang with her husband Ed, and later with her daughter. She had a strong alto voice that remained strong even when her body was giving out. In her last months, dementia caused her to be confused and sometimes anxious. Often her instinct would be to start singing a hymn or chorus, thanking God for His goodness and faithfulness.

She loved her grandchildren, greats, and great-greats and kept each one of the five grandchildren at one time or another while their parents worked. She wrote poetry, including a poem describing the talents and personality of each grandchild. She called the name of each family member in prayer every day.

She is survived by her son, Perry Henson, and his wife, Gloria; daughter Kathy Henson Klaut; grandchildren Michael Henson (Karen), Kari Howard (Gordon), Kristi Snapp, Jessica Largen (DJ) and Michaela Liles (Wade); great-grandchildren Justin Henson (Kayla), Katelyn Roberts (Jake), Abigail, Isaiah and Sarah Henson, Joshua, Haley and Hunter Howard, Ian and Josie Snapp, JJ and Melody Largen, and Sadie and Sawyer Liles; and great-great-grandchildren Emerson and Barrett Roberts and Blaire and Ivan Henson.

Visitation was Thursday, Dec. 8, and the funeral was Friday, Dec. 9, at the Horne Funeral Home Chapel.

Norris, Stan

Stan Norris of Blacksburg passed away on Monday, Dec. 5, 2022.

He was preceded in death by his parents, George and Martha Norris.

Survivors include his wife of 34 years, Bobbie Jean "BJ," his sons, Joshua and Benjamin; his five younger brothers and their wives, Bruce (Laura), Key (Mary), Phillip (Stacy), Bill (Elizabeth), and Glenn (Nancy); nephews Sam and Michael; and nieces, Emily and Danielle.

A 1976 graduate of Virginia Tech, Stan was a true Hokie. He loved all sports but especially enjoyed football and basketball. He was an avid skier, spending much of the winter months volunteering as an instructor for Wintergreen



Adaptive Sports and coaching for Special Olympics. Stan's next love was hiking. He had covered most of the Appalachian Trail in Virginia. He would also spend hours shore fishing at any ocean beach he could get to, although he rarely actually caught anything.

A memorial service was held at Blacksburg Baptist Church on Saturday, Dec. 10, followed by a reception in the fellowship hall.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks for memorial donations to Special Olympics Virginia - Area 9, 1100 S. Main St., Suite B, Blacksburg, VA 24060 or online at <https://impact.specialolympicsva.org/Stan>.

The family is in the care of McCoy Funeral Home in Blacksburg.

Hamilton, William "Poo John" Orville

William "Poo John" Orville Hamilton, 91, passed away on Thursday, Dec. 8, 2022.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Cecil Jasper and Josie Purdy Hamilton; his son, Cecil Jay Hamilton; five sisters; and a brother.

Survivors include his wife of 63 years, Freda Johnson Hamilton; daughters and son-in-law Lisa and Steve Bishop, and Paula Marshall; son and



daughter-in-law Tyler and Yonna Hamilton; seven grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren and many other relatives, and friends.

The family received friends on Monday, Dec. 12, 2022, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services followed with Pastor Eddie Dalton officiating.

The Hamilton family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home in Radford.

Jones, Joanne Harper

Joanne Harper Jones, 80, passed away on Dec. 7, 2022, in her home in Blacksburg. Joanne was born on March 20, 1942 (befittingly the first day of Spring), in Westboro, Mass. Born a minute apart was her sister, Barbara, during a time when twins were rare, so the Harper twins were quite the pair in town. Joanne was the daughter of the town funeral director and spent her childhood raised in the funeral home. Her mother passed away when she was seven when she was then cared for her by her older sister, Gini, who was the rock of the family. During her formative years in Westboro, her report cards often read "talks a lot."

Joanne attended the University of Maine where she met the love of her life, Jerry, on a blind date at the Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity house. Their love affair lasted 60 beautiful years and produced three surviving children, Jere of Blacksburg, Timothy (Lynn) of Indianapolis, and Michelle (Robert) of Charlotte; and five grandchildren, Evan, Ellie, Tanner, Ryan, and Brady. She is also survived by sisters-in-law Sharon and Nancy who she



considered to be sisters; brothers-in-law, and many nieces and nephews she adored. Lastly, she is survived by the sweetest fur baby, Lottie, who her children said she loved more than them at times.

She was preceded in death by her father, Irving Harper; mother, Dorothy Conant; and sisters Barbara Minardi and Virginia Cox. Joanne loved to laugh and make others laugh. It was not often you would find her sad or angry. She never met a stranger, was always surrounded by friends, and would give you the shirt off her back. She will be dearly missed but she would not want us to be sad and prefer we smile and laugh at the "good times."

The family will receive friends at McCoy Funeral Home in Blacksburg on Friday, Dec. 16 from 5 to 7 p.m. Joanne will be laid to rest finally at peace on Saturday, Dec. 17 at 2 p.m. followed by a graveside service. Details will be provided later for an afterlife celebration toasting our funny, caring, beautiful JoJo. We feel comfort knowing she is reunited with her family and peace that she had a life well lived.

Walters, Glen Jackson "Jack"

Glen Jackson "Jack" Walters, 88, of Riner, passed away Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2022.

He was retired from Virginia Tech and was preceded in death by his parents, William Edgar and Jessie Williams Walters; and a daughter, Ellen McGuyer.

Survivors include his daughter, Shirley Walters; a son, Glenn A. Walters; his life partner, JoAnn Phillips; a granddaughter, Holly Dickerson; an adopted son, Har-

vey Hill (Sherry); and many other relatives and friends.

The family will receive friends from 10 until 11 a.m. today, Wednesday, Dec. 14, 2022, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services will begin at 11 a.m. Interment will follow in Sunset Cemetery in Christiansburg.

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

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General Information

Historical Society debt still owed

To whom it may concern By Roger Davis. In 2018, I contracted restoring a cabin for the Craig County Historical Society. I was presented with an appraisal that stated the cabin was 80% complete. After starting the foundation, I was able to inspect the cabin materials. The logs were in very bad condition due to being stored for 20 some odd years with three other deteriorating cabins. The termites had destroyed a lot of the logs, this was going to require a lot of extra work and materials. After discussing this with several historical society members and notifying them that there would be an extra charge to this restoration, I was told to continue. This project went from a restoration to a total rebuild. I had to collect parts and pieces of other structures from all around the county, including a large log barn that I had to demo and dismantle. I have restored about 20 of these cabins this one being the most difficult I have ever done. Restoration time is usually about 6 months for one of these cabins, this one took almost a year. After completing this project, I submitted a bill for \$5000 dollars for extra time and labor. The Craig County Historical Society voted and approved but two of the Historical Society members decided I did not deserve this and I was not paid. The two Historical Society members were disrespectful and hard to work with throughout the whole project. I restored the other cabin in town about 20 years ago with no problems. The Holstein cabin will stand for many years as a testament to my hard work and skills- I believe I should be paid for it. I want to give special thanks to the people that contributed to this project: Rob Bradley, Rob Givings, Mary & Pete Hutchinson, Joel Johnston, Randy Zimmerman, Ed Mattox, and Karen Barnheart.

Legals - Botetourt County

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 3465 WEBSTER ROAD, BLUE RIDGE, VA 24064.
In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated December 26, 2006, in the original principal amount of \$105,539.12 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Botetourt County, Virginia as Instrument No. 070000271. The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for Botetourt County, Main Street, Fincastle, VA 24090 on January 9, 2023, at 12:45 PM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: BEING THAT CERTAIN 0.713 ACRE, AS SHOWN ON HTAT CERTAIN PLAT OF SURVEY PREPARED BY JACK G. BESS, C.L.S., FOR GERALDINE B. CARTER, DATED APRIL 3, 1980. TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit of ten percent (10%) of the sale price or ten percent (10%) of the original principal balance of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, in the form of cash or certified funds payable to the Substitute Trustee must be present at the time of the sale. The balance of the purchase price will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Purchaser's deposit may be forfeited to Trustee. Time is of the essence. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser may, if provided by the terms of the Trustee's Memorandum of Foreclosure Sale, be entitled to a \$50 cancellation fee from the Substitute Trustee, but shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. A form copy of the Trustee's memorandum of foreclosure sale and contract to purchase real property is available for viewing at www.bwvsa.com. Additional terms, if any, to be announced at the sale and the Purchaser may be given the option to execute the contract of sale electronically. This is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. The sale is subject to seller confirmation. Substitute Trustee: Equity Trustees, LLC, 8100 Three Chopt Road, Suite 240, Richmond, VA 23229. For more information contact: BWV Law Group, LLC, attorneys for Equity Trustees, LLC, 6003 Executive Blvd, Suite 101, Rockville, MD 20852, 301-961-6555, website: www.bwvsa.com. VA-359323-1.

Legals - City of Radford

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MONTGOMERY SPORTS



FILE PHOTO

RHS quarterback Landen Clark is the district and region offensive Player of the Year.

Radford's Clark Three Rivers, Region 2C offensive Player of year

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Radford High School quarterback Landen Clark is only a junior, but is on the verge of rewriting all of the Bobcats' offensive football categories..

In honor of his success, Clark has been named the 2022 Three Rivers District and Region C offensive Player of the Year.

Clark was 130 for 192 passing this season with 2,396 yards and 36 touchdowns. He also rushed 97 times for 404 yards with another six touchdowns.

He was joined on the first-team all-Three Rivers District offensive squad by Radford offensive linemen Andrew Moore and Jordan Moore, running back David Woodward, and receivers Marcell Baylor and Parker Prioleau.

Clark was also named to the first-team

defensive unit as a defensive back and the second team as the punter. Also, on the defensive side of the ball, first-teamers included linebackers Charlie Davis and Max Kanipe and Prioleau at defensive back.

Radford players named to the second-team offense were offensive lineman Jackson Wade and receiver Max Kanipe. Second-team Radford defensive players were linemen Matt Martin and Brandon Thompson.

Clark was joined on the Region 2C first-team offense by Moore, Baylor and Prioleau. Radford's Charlie Davis was named first-team all-region at linebacker with both Clark and Prioleau honored at the defensive back position.

Jordan Moore was a second-team all-region offensive lineman and Max Kanipe was a second-team all-region linebacker.

RU lacrosse players use Morgan's Message to enhance mental health awareness

A group of Radford University women's lacrosse players has taken the initiative to enhance mental health awareness and make sure that it is a key component of the Highlanders' student-athlete experience through a program called Morgan's Message.

Spearheaded by Molly O'Brien and River Rupert, the underclassman duo serve as ambassadors for Morgan's Message. They have helped expand the group, which now has eight different ambassadors on campus that aim to serve Radford's 310 student-athletes as well as the surrounding student body and local community.

Morgan's Message was founded by the family and friends of Morgan Rodgers, a former women's lacrosse player at Duke University. Coming out of high school, Rodgers was a highly-touted recruit. Her goal was to play college lacrosse at the highest level while also receiving a top-notch education. As she was about to begin her sophomore season, she suffered a horrific injury that brought an end to her playing career. The sudden changes this injury brought to Rodgers' life led to many silent battles that she chose to fight on her own. She committed suicide when she was 22.

O'Brien knew Rodgers personally as the two played club lacrosse together. At the time of Rodgers' passing, O'Brien was a junior at Westfield High School and chose to become an ambassador shortly after the organization was created.

So when the Chantilly, Va. native committed to Radford, she didn't just bring her on-field talents, she brought Morgan's Message with her.

"I brought it up to [Assistant] Coach Heather [Conklin]," O'Brien said. "I've worked really closely with her on that. It's taken off from there; we started an Instagram page and started planning our meetings.

"We just wanted to get everyone involved that we could."

As the work began on Radford's campus, it quickly gained the attention of many student-athletes, the same student-athletes who understand the often-unseen struggles of balancing so many responsibilities at such a vital time in a young person's life.

One of the first to join O'Brien's efforts was her teammate. Rupert didn't know Rodgers but was well aware of the situation. The pair's respective clubs were connected locally, so Rupert felt a connection she had with Rodgers needed to live on.

When the sophomore decided to help spread awareness about mental health, she knew it was a responsibility she wouldn't take lightly. "It is such a great opportunity, not only to work on my mental health but everyone else who needs it, especially in athletics," Rupert said.

As mental health continues to be an

ongoing crisis in the collegiate athletics world, Morgan's Message has continued to grow into a bigger community. "It has grown to support and represent all student-athletes who have been affected by a tragic event," Rupert said.

"It's all come together and has become such a great community. People are really coming together and raising awareness."

Such a passionate response from student-athletes has inspired those higher up to get involved as well.

Assistant women's lacrosse coach Heather Conklin is proud of her players. "I think it's great that they are advocating for not only themselves, but for other student-athletes as well," Conklin said. "It's a great organization that these ladies are bringing to Radford to give student-athletes a voice and bring awareness."

Conklin believes the sad truth is that often people seek out help when it's too late, when they think there is no other solution or option, or they never get help at all. Since Morgan's Message was begun at Radford by a handful of lacrosse players, Conklin recognizes the opportunity her team has to reach others.

"Although it was created for women's lacrosse athletes, they have an opportunity to become an umbrella for all other athletes who have unfortunately fallen into the mental health crisis by providing them with an opportunity to learn, grow and/or seek guidance," Conklin said. "This movement continues to grow throughout campus because the student-athletes are each other's biggest supporters and advocates."

And although the student-athletes were the ones to get things started, the program has become an effort by many different members of the Highlander athletic community. The lacrosse team has seen an increase in turnout at their meetings and will be hosting a dedication game to recall Rodgers' story and many others like hers.

"The more awareness that is brought to athletes, coaches, and families of the support and message this organization provides, the better it will be for our entire athletic community," Conklin said.

The number of lives changed has increased.

The impact of Morgan's Message is still growing.

Her story continues to live on; it continues to spread across the world.

More than 1,500 institutions in the United States and Canada have formed chapters designated to promote mental health awareness and provide a landing spot for student-athletes who are either struggling or want to join in on the efforts. Many different colleges and universities are bringing in ambassadors from different sports in hopes of reaching a higher number of student-athletes who may be suffering in silence.

Glenvar basketball downs Christiansburg



Christiansburg's Brody Blount (top) secures a rebound after an attempted shot in his team's 42-33 loss to Glenvar Friday night.



Drake Gandee goes in for two points for Christiansburg. He finished with seven points in the contest.



Caden Calloway (left) closely guards his Glenvar opponent. With the loss, Christiansburg falls to 0-4 on the season. Calloway had six points for the Blue Demons.



PHOTOS BY KYMN DAVIDSON-HAMLEY

Kaleb Robinson shoots for two late in the third quarter for Christiansburg.

Auburn volleyball coach, player honored by region, state

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

The accolades keep coming in for Auburn High School's volleyball team after the squad won another state title. Senior Avery Zuckerwar and coach Sherry Millirons have respectively been recognized as the Player of the Year and the Coach of the Year for Region C and statewide for Class 1.

Zuckerwar and Millirons had previously been honored by the Three Rivers District.

Zuckerwar was joined on the first-team all-region squad by teammates Madeline Lavergne, Madison Ketterer, Stacy Lewis,

and Briel Underwood.

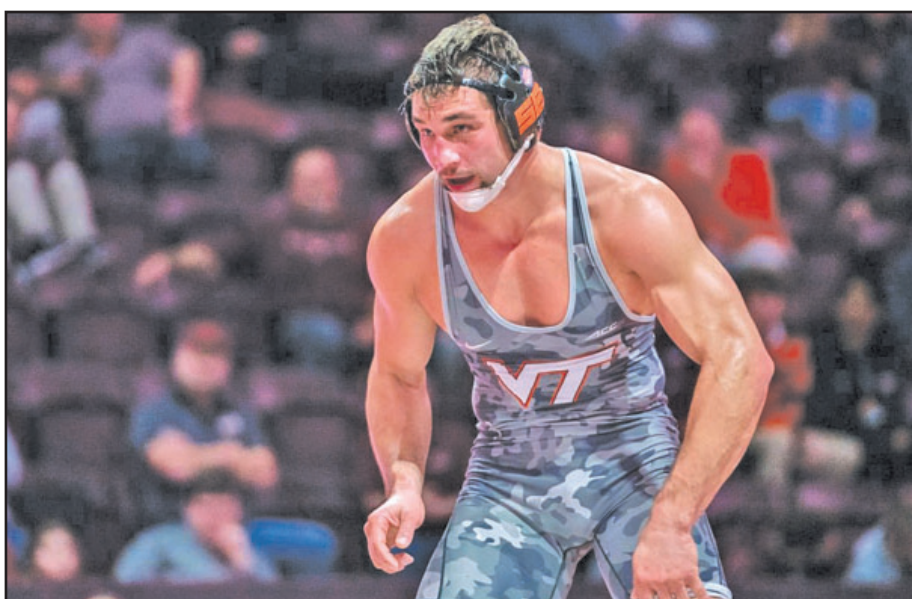
Eastern Montgomery's Logan Boone and Anna Ryan were named to the second-team all-region squad.

Lavergne, Ketterer, and Underwood joined Zuckerwar on the first-team Class 1 all-state team.

Region 3D also announced two players from Christiansburg were on its first team: Addison Reasor and Braelynn Williams.

Radford's Cline Holleybrook and Karlee Rae Hill were named to the Three-Rivers all-district first team. Radford's Mattox Adams was a second-teamer.

Hill and Holleybrook were named to the Region 2C second team.



Hunter Bolen's late takedown proved to be the difference maker in No. 9 Virginia Tech's upset of No. 7 Missouri Sunday night.

Christiansburg's Bolen helps Hokies upset Mizzou

The No. 9 Virginia Tech wrestling team opened its home competition schedule in grand fashion Sunday night with an upset victory over the visiting No. 7 Missouri Tigers, 17-15, in front of a 2,892 Hokie home crowd of almost 3,000 spectators.

Redshirt senior Hunter Bolen's late takedown was key in the Hokies' win.

Tech was led by bonus-point victories from redshirt freshman Cooper Flynn and Bolen. The Hokies also got a gutsy win from sophomore Clayton Ulrey.

"We had a good win over a really good team tonight," said head coach Tony Robie. "The energy and atmosphere from Hokie Nation was great as always." Starting off the dual with two back-to-back wins were Cooper Flynn and redshirt junior Sam Latona to get the Hokies a 7-0 lead. Flynn made his dual season debut in a dominant display with a major decision over Peyton Moore. Flynn was aggressive early and often, racking up five takedowns along the way to his 13-3 victory in his Cassell Coliseum debut to push the Hokies ahead in the dual. Latona followed up with another strong performance in a 6-4 decision. Latona scored two take-

great about it just tells us how good our team is and how good we can be down the stretch here.

"Tonight was a good opportunity to wrestle some highly ranked guys with multiple All-Americans, a national champion, and world champions in their lineup, so it was a great experience for our guys and I think it's going to help us moving forward," Robie said. "The energy and atmosphere from Hokie Nation was great as always."

Latona scored two take-

downs in what was a controlling bout to give the Hokies a 7-0 lead early in the dual.

After dropping two close matches at 141-pounds and 149-pounds, sophomore Clayton Ulrey stepped up in a big way to swing momentum back to the Hokies by grinding out a gritty 3-2 decision over Logan Gioffre. The match was highlighted by a 1:00 scramble as the bout ended to give the Hokies a much-needed victory heading into the second half of the dual.

In his last, first home dual, Bolen was in dominant form, putting on a takedown clinic over No. 23 Sean Harman en route to a 13-3 major decision. Bolen was aggressive throughout the bout and tough on top to pick up the Hokies' fifth win of the evening. He added a takedown late to pick up the major decision and pick up the second bonus point victory for the Hokies in what proved to be the difference in the upset of the Tigers.

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