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## WEEKEND WEATHER

### Saturday

Partly sunny, with a high near 68. Windy. Chance of precipitation is 50%.

**Saturday Night** - Mostly cloudy, with a low around 35. Chance of precipitation is 60%

### Sunday

Mostly sunny, with a high near 42.

**Sunday Night** - Clear, with a low around 23.

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## County successful in receiving funding for broadband project

**From Pulaski County**

December 16, 2021, Pulaski County was successful in receiving a Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI) grant to deploy a universal broadband deployment project that would deliver a fiber-to-the-home solution to more than 7,800 unserved residents, businesses and community anchors throughout Pulaski County.

The \$29,122,669.00 VATI grant will leverage an additional \$29,122,669.00 in both public and private funding to effectively construct the \$58,245,338.00 project. "Christmas has come early with the news of this award, and it will allow us to resourcefully cobble four different funding resources to make this monumental project possible, not costing the taxpayers of Pulaski County a penny. This has been one of the Board of Supervisors top priorities for decades and it is beyond

extraordinary that we have solved the elusive riddle of universally deploying broadband to the remaining citizens in the County that do not currently have access to this important 21st Century infrastructure", stated Jonathan D. Sweet, County Administrator. "The constellation of direct partners, to include Appalachian Power and All Points Broadband, as well as our neighbors of Montgomery and Bland Counties, were instrumental in the collective success of securing the necessary funding, and now the real work begins to deploy both middle- and last-mile fiber throughout the County to boldly take broadband where broadband has never gone before."

The Pulaski County grant award was part of a three-county project totaling \$135,725,363.00 with a \$68,355,355.00 VATI award

**See GRANT, page A2**

## Sonia Ramsey off and running with Pulaski Police Dept.

**By DANIELLE REID  
The Patriot**

Sonia Ramsey, the Town of Pulaski Police Department's recently commissioned Community Resource Specialist, is gathering resources and promoting community-based solutions to help make Pulaski the best it can be.

Ramsey's position as a civilian Community Resource Specialist, working within the Pulaski Police Department, is unique. Only one other Virginia police department (Lynchburg) has a civilian in that position. As such, her involvement will be as a citizen, on the preventative side of crime.

"The goal is to get out into the community to educate and provide resources for preventing crime, victims of crime, families affected by crime, teaching

children how and when to call 9-1-1; and addressing the perpetrators of crimes. To accomplish this, we're bringing collaborative partnerships together to help design and implement solutions that are community-based," explained Ramsey.

She brings to her position a wealth of knowledge and skills garnered from her previous careers with the Radford City Police Department and the New River Valley Regional Emergency Communications Authority.

"My 20-year career in crime analysis, accreditation management and crime prevention have prepared me to realize where we need to focus and provide support and resources for the Pulaski community. In Pulaski, we have

**See RAMSEY, page A3**



## 9th Annual Veterans Wreath Laying is Saturday

The 9th Annual Wreath Laying Program will be held at the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery sponsored by the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery Volunteers on Saturday, December 18, 2021 at 1 pm.

Guests are encouraged to arrive early as the gates close at 12:45. Parking is not allowed on the cemetery grounds on this day.

There are several important changes to this year's procedures which pertain to parking. Our bus transportation has been made possible this year by the generosity of Sunshine Tours of Dublin.

Our program very much is dependent of the many organizations in and around Southwest Virginia who provide their services free to present this program. This years those guest who are able and want to park in the Community parking lot may park there and across Bagging Plant Road and enter the cemetery grounds. However, guests who wish to ride the bus-

**See WREATHS, page A2**



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Office Manager**





# Wreaths

Continued from Page A1

es should located the water tower located across from the cemetery on Bagging Plant Road, turn up Lion's Club Way, proceed to the end of the road, turn left on Hudson and park in Dublin Elementary School parking lot. From here they will ride the buses to the staging area, be picked up starting at 20 minutes after the formal ceremony ends and returned to their cars. This year's buses are not handicapped acceptable so those guest who are not able to ride the bus will be able to have the driver of their vehicle enter the cemetery, obtain a special



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handicapped pass, let the person off at the staging area, and return to main gate and park in one of the two parking lots.

Any be sure to visit the Volunteers web page (www.swvavcv.org) this coming week to keep up with any changes that might occur because of inclement weather or COVID restrictions which might be in place.

As always the Volunteers look forward to hosting this very beautiful and meaningful event honoring our veterans and their families and friends.

The Volunteers were organized in the fall of 2013 and in December of that year they laid a wreath on each of the 350 gravesite that were in the cemetery at that time. On Saturday, December 18, the Volunteers will offer 1,600 hundred wreath to family & friends to place on each and every gravesite at the cemetery. Everyone is invited to attend the formal pro-

gram. However, it is customary that family will be allowed to lay wreaths on the gravesite of their love ones first and then the other guests may lay a wreath on any grave that does not have a wreath already placed on it.

It is important to note the purchase of a live holiday wreath for each and every veteran's gravesite is made possible by the generous donations from patriots from southwest Virginia and far reaching areas. Each year as the number of burials increase so does our need to raise more funds to purchase more wreaths. We are a 501 C (3) organization and have no employees. Every donations is appreciated and 95% goes to the purchase of the wreaths. Our mailing address is SWVAVCV, PO Box 11373, Blacksburg, VA 24062.

Submitted by  
Mary Lou Summers,  
ChairSWVAVCV

# Grant

Continued from Page A1

leveraged by \$67,370,008.00 in private and other public funding to include direct ARPA funds. The project will potentially serve nearly 20,000 unserved residential, business and community units in throughout the three jurisdictions.

"This could be one of the most transformational public/private projects the New River Valley has seen in the last 40+ years", stated Joe Guthrie, Chair of the Pulaski County Board of Supervisors. "The robust demand for bandwidth to telework, tele learn and connect to telehealth has grown immensely in the past couple of years, and providing our citizens with access to the gold standard of broadband will more than adequately support the

needs of our citizens, businesses and institutions in every corner of the County."

The project will involve installing fiber optic cable upon Appalachian Power's utility poles, with the added benefit of providing a more robust communications platform for the company's deployment of new electric meters and distribution automation (DA). The new smart meters and DA equipment improve service reliability for power customers. Space on Appalachian Power's middle-mile fiber infrastructure will then be leased to a private internet service provider(s). This pilot program was made possible by the 2018 Grid Security and Transformation Act, 2019 Broadband Pilot Program legislation

## Blood donors urgently needed over holidays

From the  
American Red Cross

The blood supply in the United States has reached one of its lowest levels in recent years. Blood centers across the country are reporting less than a one-day's supply of blood — a dangerously low level. If the nation's blood supply does not stabilize soon, lifesaving blood may not be available for some patients when it is needed.

The current status of the U.S. blood supply is particularly con-

cerning amid the holiday season and winter months — a time in which blood donations typically decrease due to travel, inclement weather and seasonal illnesses.

Blood components have a short shelf-life and the blood supply needs to be constantly replenished. Blood can take up to three days to be tested, processed and made available for patients, so it's the blood already on the shelves that helps save lives in an emergency. In the U.S., more

See BLOOD, page A3

### CHRISTMAS WEEK DEADLINES

The Patriot will publish its Dec. 24 newspaper on THURSDAY, Dec. 23.

The deadline to accept news and advertising for that issue is NOON, TUESDAY.

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# Spero Health opens addiction treatment clinic in Dublin

BRENTWOOD, Tenn.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Spero Health, a national leader who has helped more than 25,000 patients on their journey to stable recovery from addiction, just announced it has opened a new clinic in Dublin

. Located at 30 Town Center Drive, this new clinic joins a network of more than 65 Spero Health locations throughout Kentucky, Ohio, Tennessee, Indiana, and Virginia and accepts Virginia Medicaid and most commercial insurance plans.

From January through June of this year, drug fatalities rose in 71 of the state’s 133 cities and counties, according to a Virginia Mercury analysis of data from the medical examiner’s office. Speaking about this, CEO of Spero Health Steve Priest said, “Drug trends continually change, but that data we are seeing is alarming. The surge of deaths will only continue due to the

spread of a street drug like fentanyl which is cheap and 50 times more potent than heroin and accounted for 72% of all overdose deaths last year in the state. It’s an extremely dangerous substance and often gets mixed in with other drugs and users unknowingly ingest it. More than half a million Americans have died of an overdose from opioids in the past two decades, and the number of people dying continues to go up. This was a public health crisis that was worse than the pandemic, and it gets a lot less attention. In Dublin, we want to be a solution to families, friends and neighbors who are struggling with addiction and give them a place to turn by offering immediate access to care that is both affordable and close to home.”

Spero Health offers a community-based approach to treatment, so individuals have quick access to options close to home allowing them to stay connected to their commu-

nity. The program utilizes an innovative and evidence-based integrated care model that combines both physical and behavioral healthcare services under one roof. Going into more details about the services patients can expect to receive at Spero Health, David Hayden, Senior VP of Clinical Services said, “We want everyone to know that recovery is possible. Spero Health’s goal is to engage patients where they are in their journey and personalize the program to meet their specific needs so they can stabilize allowing for interventions to support sustained recovery efforts. Patients will have weekly access to a physician or nurse practitioner, counseling and recovery support services that help link them back to the community to address other issues such as housing, food insecurity, employment and much more.”

## Blood

Continued from Page A2

than 16 million units of blood and blood products are transfused annually with more than 45,000 units needed daily.

Blood donations are needed now to avert the need to potentially postpone lifesaving treatments. Some hospitals have already been forced to alter treatment for some patients or cancel some patient surgeries due to blood supply challenges.

This year, as the country continues to confront the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, blood centers nationwide are facing additional challenges and unprecedented disruption in the form of a decline in donor turnout due to remote work, blood drive cancellations, schools and businesses limiting the number of individuals allowed onsite as a precautionary pandemic practice, and misinformation regarding donor eligibility after receiving an authorized COVID-19 vaccine.

AABB (Association for the Advancement of Blood and Biotherapies), America’s Blood Centers and the American Red Cross are joining together to urge eligible, healthy individuals to contact their local blood center and make an appointment today to donate blood today. We also ask local businesses to encourage their employees, including those working remotely, to find their local center and schedule an appointment to donate and give the gift of life this holiday season. Doing so is essential to maintaining the stability of the nation’s blood supply, which ensures life-saving medical treatments are available for patients.

The blood community relies on the generosity of blood donors to help save lives throughout the year. Please contact one of the following organizations to find a local blood collection site and to schedule an appointment to donate:

- AABB: [www.aabb.org](http://www.aabb.org) ;

+1.301.907.6977

• America’s Blood Centers: [www.americasblood.org](http://www.americasblood.org); +1.202.393.5725

• American Red Cross: [www.RedCrossBlood.org](http://www.RedCrossBlood.org); +1.800.RED CROSS (+1.800.733.2767)

Blood donation remains a safe way that eligible individuals can help save lives throughout the holidays. Individuals who have received a COVID-19 vaccine currently authorized in the U.S., including those manufactured by Johnson & Johnson, Moderna, and Pfizer, are able to donate blood and platelets as long as they are symptom-free and feeling well at the time of donation.

Blood collection organizations continue to adapt their safety protocols to align with local, state and federal guidance to ensure the safest possible experience for all donors, staff and blood drive hosts.



Danielle Reid/The Patriot

**Sonia Ramsey take a moment out of her busy day to admire the Town of Pulaski Police Department’s Christmas tree. Ramsey is the newly hired Community Resource Specialist for the department.**

## Ramsey

Continued from Page A1

drug and alcohol issues, which lead to crimes of theft, domestic violence, child abuse, arguments and fights,” she stated.

For the past few months, Ramsey has been reaching out to the community and resources such as the Senior Center, Pulaski Community Partnership Coalition, Chamber of Commerce, Neighborhood Watch, National Child Safety Council, Project LifeSaver, Lions Club, Ruritan Club and local businesses for their suggestions. She has been attending and planning events to strengthen community interactions.

Ramsey believes that strong relationships of mutual trust between police and the community are necessary elements to help maintain public safety and devise solutions to crime and disorder problems.

“Citizens are willing to believe the police are working on their behalf when they perceive the police actions reflect the community’s values and incorporate the principles of procedural justice and legitimacy,” she said.

Results of the public comments to her Community Survey can be seen on the Pulaski Police Department Facebook page.

“Positive personal interactions between police officers and community members build mutual trust, which is essential to addressing neighborhood problems and reducing crime.

“This opens the door for the police and community to discuss being transparent and accountable, visibility in the community, feeling free to discuss the challenges facing the community while taking steps to improve their community.”

This is where Ramsey’s training will have the greatest com-

munity impact. With her vast network of contacts and resources, she has begun to connect citizens to specific events and assets that will provide them with information and tools to educate and inform.

For example, programs such as Nightwatch, Project LifeSaver, Triad, Operation Porch Pirate Prohibition and Senior Citizens Against Crime are designed to teach people how to avoid situations of crime or physical injury.

In the short time she has been on the job, Ramsey has been active in local events that bring citizens in contact with police on a personal level. Recently, she participated in Celebrity Bagging at Food City, Pulaski Senior Center Christmas Bingo, and Cops & Kids hosted by the NRV Fraternal Order of Police (police volunteers help kids Christmas shop, then enjoy a pizza party while wrapping their gifts).

On Dec. 21 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., Ramsey and the K-9 team of Juneau and Sgt. “CJ” Dickerson will be at Chatting Over Chocolate, hosted by the Amazing Grace Boutique & Café on Main Street in Pulaski.

Ramsey hopes that through combined efforts, people will feel free to talk to her about their concerns; suggest outreach opportunities, such as inviting her to a sit-down at an apartment complex; or ask her to present instructive topics such as domestic violence.

“I live in this community, which means I am invested in our neighborhoods and want to help people in our community make Pulaski the best it can be,” she said.

To reach Sonia, call: 540.994.8676 or email: [sramsey@pulaskitown.org](mailto:sramsey@pulaskitown.org) Crime Tip Line: 540.994.8625

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## Daisy's Kitchen Change In Service

Due to an unfortunate change in business practices, at the Corporate Level, **Rural King** will no longer have local

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# Area Obituaries

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**DOROTHY ANN SHAFFER BURTON**

Dorothy Ann Shaffer Burton 76, of Pulaski, passed away Monday December 13th, 2021, at her home surrounded by her loved ones. She was born August 16, 1945, to the late John Martin Shaffer and Mary Preston Hurst Shaffer. In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by her husband Kenneth Wayne Burton and daughter Cynthia Morris.

She is survived by her daughters; Shannon Thompson and husband Pete, Jennifer Ison and husband Clint; son, Anthony (Tony) Shaffer Burton; grandchildren, Anthony "TJ" Ingles, Courtney Burton, Katie Morris, Stacy Conrad, Madison Thompson, Steven Ison and Olivia Burton; Six great-grandchildren.

Visitation will be held on Friday, December 17, 2021, from 6:00 PM until 8:00 PM, at Draper Valley Baptist Church in Draper, VA. Funeral services will be held on Saturday December 18, 2021, at 2:00 PM, at Draper Valley Baptist Church in Draper, Virginia. Burial will follow in the Oakwood Cemetery, Pulaski.

The Burton family is in the care of Stevens Funeral Home. An online guestbook, and condolences can be made at [www.stevensfuneralhomepulaski.com](http://www.stevensfuneralhomepulaski.com)



**THEODORE (TED) DISHON**

It is with great sadness that the family of Theodore (Ted) Dishon, of Dublin, announce his passing on Tuesday, December 7, 2021, at the age of 85 years.

Ted will be lovingly remembered by his wife of 64 years, May; children, Leon (Carol), Terry, Sonya (Dennis) and Shelia (Mark); 4 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and numerous other family members and friends.

Ted was predeceased by his parents, Thefford and Freda; sibling, Christaline; and grand-daughter, Erin.

Everyone Ted came in contact with will remember him as a hardworking, determined, proud individual adept at many different kinds of work. He touched many lives and will be greatly missed by his friends and family.

At the family's request, no service will be held. Memorial Donations in Ted's name may be made to the Alzheimer's Association at <http://act.alz.org/site/Donation>.

The Dishon family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford. [www.mullinsfuneralhome.com](http://www.mullinsfuneralhome.com).

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**GARY LYNN ISON**

Gary Lynn Ison, age 64 entered into the gates of heaven on December 12, 2021. Gary was born on December 28, 1956 in Toledo, Ohio minutes after his twin Brother Larry, who preceded him in death. Gary was a veteran of the United States Army, serving his country obtaining many honors and medals during his years of service. He also served as an Augusta Police Officer and retired as a Richmond County Deputy. He worked hard many years to care for his family. His greatest accomplishments was being a dad and Pee-Paw. Gary loved his family more than anything. He was a very caring and loving daddy and Pee-Paw.

In addition to his twin brother Larry, Gary was preceded in death by his brother Jim Ison. Survivors include his Daughters Jennifer Ison, JoJo Ison Dunford and husband Michael, and stepson Keith Johnston. Grandchildren Mercedes Gray, Marilyn Ison, Mox Dunford, and his new grandson on the way. Brother Charles Ison. Nephews Andy and Shawn Ison and his Niece Melissa Ison.

Funeral services will be held Monday, 2:00 P.M., December 20, 2021 in the Bower Funeral Home Chapel, 1631 Bob White Blvd. Pulaski, VA 24301. Burial will follow at the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery, Dublin VA where he will receive full military honors.

Visitation will be Monday from 1:00 p.m. until service time at Bower Funeral Home, Pulaski.

To sign his online guestbook, visit [www.bowerfuneralhome.com](http://www.bowerfuneralhome.com)

Bower Funeral Home, Pulaski is handling the local arrangements for the family.



**BASIL THOMAS COX**

Basil Thomas Cox, age 72 of Boones Mill passed away Friday, December 10, 2021 at the Roanoke Memorial Hospital. Born October 22, 1949 in Christiansburg, he was the son of the late Basil Bernard Cox & Treva Perdue Cox.

He was retired from his architectural firm after many years of service.

He is survived by his Wife – Priscilla Biggs Cox – Boones Mill, VA

Children – Heather Cox – Roanoke, Michael (Lindsay) Cox – Richmond

Granddaughter – Natalie Dawn Morris

Stepchildren – Amy (Thomas) Ondrus, Jean Anne (Jeffrey) Goodwin

Step Grandchildren – Blake and Evan Ondrus, William, Aaron and Angie Mae Goodwin  
Graveside funeral services were held Thursday, December 16, 2021 at the Highland Memory Gardens, Dublin with Rev. Zane Cox officiating.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations be sent to the Wounded Warrior project.

To sign Basil's online guestbook, visit [www.bowerfuneralhome.com](http://www.bowerfuneralhome.com)

Bower Funeral Homes, Pulaski is handling the arrangements for the family.



**CYNTHIA "CYNDI" WILSON LEFEBVRE**

Cynthia "Cyndi" Wilson LeFebvre, age 56 of Pulaski, passed away peacefully in her sleep, Saturday December 12, 2021 at Skyline Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Floyd. Cyndi was born in Pulaski on April 17, 1965, and is the daughter of Judith "Judy" Anne Harrell and the late Mack Williams Wilson, Jr. After graduating from Pulaski County High School class of 1983, she became a proud member of the United States Air Force, Law Enforcement Specialist – Military Police. Cyndi was later employed as an Administrative Assistant with several businesses in Connecticut, and later performed the same duties in Pulaski County.

In addition to her father, she was preceded in death by her son, Kristofer LeFebvre. She is survived by her daughter; Amanda LeFebvre of New York; Her loving mother: Judy Harrell of Pulaski; sisters; Wendy S. Bentley and her husband Tony of Pulaski, Teresa Roseberry of Pearisburg, and Sherry Roseberry of Roanoke. Also survived by several nieces and nephews, along with the former husband and father of her children, Ron LeFebvre.

Funeral services were held Thursday evening at Seagle Funeral Home with the Rev. Johnny Howlett officiating. Private graveside services will be held on Friday at Oakwood Cemetery, where military honors will be conducted.

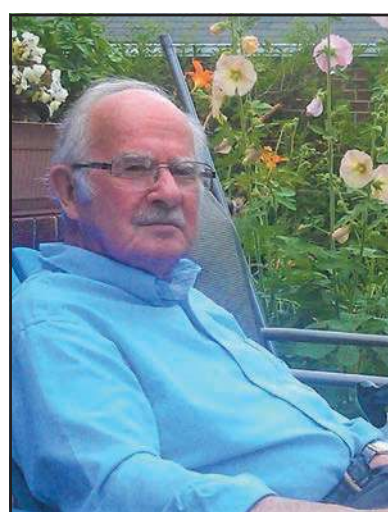
In lieu of flowers expressions of sympathy may be made in the form of donations to Alzheimer's Association 3959 Electric Road Roanoke, VA 24018.

Online condolences may be sent to the family by visiting [www.seaglefuneralhome.com](http://www.seaglefuneralhome.com) Arrangements by Seagle Funeral Home, Pulaski.

*In Loving Memory of*

**Carson L. Compton**

June 29, 1926 – December 16, 2020



Greatly missed  
and forever in our  
hearts,

*The Compton  
Family*



**DELBERT E. WHITE**

Delbert E. White, age 82, Erwin, TN went to his heavenly home on Thursday, December 9, 2021, while he was surrounded by his loving family. Delbert was an only child of the late John Thomas White and Dolly Price White. He was born in Pulaski, Virginia where he spent the first part of his life.

Delbert was a small business owner in Pulaski, and he was active in community events as well as an active member of his church. He retired for health reasons from Volvo White Trucking in Dublin, Virginia. Delbert moved to Erwin

after he met and married Geri Tipton Ray on March 6, 2004. He began a new chapter of his retired life in the Erwin and Unicoi area. Delbert enjoyed spending quite time with Geri and with his extended family. He liked to watch action movies. Delbert was active in the Unicoi Free-will Baptist Church and enjoyed participating in church activities as well as community activities. He loved the natural beauty of Tennessee, and he was equally impressed by the kindness and sense of community he found here in East Tennessee. Delbert

See DEATHS, page A5

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# Deaths

Continued from Page A4 especially loved his cat, Raven.

Delbert was a proud Mason and member of the Unicoi Masonic Lodge F&AM #681 where he received his fifty-year membership pin on Thursday, December 2, 2021. He was an equally proud and active member of Jericho Shriners.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his first wife of forty-three years, Barbara Taylor White.

Delbert leaves behind to cherish his memory, his loving wife of seventeen years, Geri Tipton Ray; four children: Melynda Wassel (Richard), Winchester, VA, Major (USArct) Thomas J. White, Alexandria, VA, Jill Gutches (Michael) Suffolk, VA and Millie Rasnick, Erwin; five grandchildren: Seth Wassel (Jasmine), Morgan Faulkner, Hayley Faulkner, Maeson Rasnick and Brody Rasnick; one great grandchild, Maggie Dickert; special son-in-law, Treb Faulkner.

Funeral service was held Sunday, Dec. 12 at the Unicoi Funeral Home Chapel. Reverend Adam Howard officiated the service. Unicoi Masonic Lodge F&AM #681 conducted Masonic Funeral Rites.

The family would like to extend their heartfelt appreciation to all who cared for Delbert during his illness, Dr. Kevin Cook and Aleshia.

In lieu of flowers, those wishing may make memorial contributions in memory of Delbert to: Jericho Shrine Center, 1100 Jericho Drive, Kingsport, TN 37663 or American Heart Association, www.heart.org

Online condolences, photos and memories may be shared with the White family at www.ledfordfuneralhomes.com

Unicoi Funeral Home, 4428 Unicoi Drive, Unicoi, TN is privileged to serve the White family.

## KAREN QUEEN DONAHUE

Karen Queen Donahue, age 58 of Dublin passed away Wednesday, December 8, 2021 at the Lewis-Gale Hospital, Pulaski. Born December 26, 1962 in Radford she was the daughter of the late Donald Linkous and Pedie Phillips. She was also preceded in death by her sister, Rebecca King.

She is survived by her Sons – Matthew Queen – Pulaski County, Jeremy Queen & Christina Miller – Pulaski County

Grandchildren – Alice Queen, and Landen Queen

Sister – Donna Hill – Pulaski Brother – Richard Hill – Pulaski

Significant Other – Steve Jenkins – Dublin

To sign Karen's online guestbook, visit www.bowerfuneralhome.com

Bower Funeral Homes, Pulaski is handling the arrangements for the family.

## DMV expands walk-in service

RICHMOND – Beginning Wednesday, December 15, 2021, Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) customers may choose to walk in for service on Wednesdays, in addition to Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays (in offices with Saturday hours), at all 75 customer service centers (CSCs). Appointments will still be available on Mondays and Fridays. Hours vary by office location.

DMV launched its hybrid service model, with alternating days of appointments and walk-ins, October 5 with a pledge to Virginians to evaluate data and adjust as necessary to provide optimal service. A month of evaluation showed that, in addition to continued strong support for appointments, an added day of walk-in service would further enhance customer service options.

Data shows strong customer preference of DMV service options outside of the traditional customer service center. In fact, just last week, customers completed 32% more of their DMV business online compared to almost two years ago, pre-pandemic.



## REBECCA ANN BLANKENSHIP THOMAS

Rebecca Ann Blankenship Thomas, age 62 of Dublin passed away Friday, December 10, 2021 at her home. Born March 18, 1959 in Giles County she was the daughter of the late Billy Estill Blankenship & Barbara Vaughn Blankenship. She was also preceded in death by her husband, Gary R. Thomas, brothers, Barry and Mickey Blankenship.

She is survived by her Daughters – Barbara Thomas & Marcus – Dublin, Pamela Thomas – New Mexico

Grandchildren – Jalen Finley, Bryce Finley, Bethany Finley, Latrell (Jasmine) Thomas, Adison Thomas

Sister – Drema Blankenship – MD

Brothers – Tommy Blankenship – MD, Allen Blankenship – WV Long Time Friend – Mark Hamblin

Memorial services will be held at a later date. To sign Rebecca's online guestbook, visit www.bowerfuneralhome.com – Bower Funeral Homes, Pulaski is handling the arrangements for the family.



## GENA BRYANT DEAN

Gena Bryant Dean, age 73 of Pulaski passed away Monday, December 6, 2021 at her home. Born May 10, 1948 in Pulaski, she was the daughter of the late Roscoe Abraham Bryant and Mary Sue Farmer Bryant. In addition to her parents, she was also preceded in death by Her Husband, Bennie Delano Dean, and a number of her sisters and brothers.

She is survived by her Loving Daughter & Son-in-law – Delaina & Joe Gallimore – Pulaski

Her Heart were her two Grandchildren – Talitha and Victoria

Very Special Sisters – Barbara Albright – Pulaski, Arlene Cox – Pulaski

Many nieces and nephews Funeral services were held Monday, December 13, 2021 at the Bower Funeral Home-Chapel, Pulaski with Rev. Randall Lawrence officiating. Interment followed at the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery, Dublin.

To sign Gena's online guestbook, visit www.bowerfuneralhome.com

Bower Funeral Homes, Pulaski is handling the arrangements for the family.

## SIMON WADE DUNCAN

Simon Wade Duncan, age 59 of Pulaski, died, Monday, November 22, in Portsmouth, VA. Arrangements are pending with Seagle Funeral Home, Pulaski.

## PIERCE LEE VIERS

Pierce Lee Viers, "Gramps", 60, of Pulaski, passed away unexpectedly on Saturday, December 11, 2021.

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

## KAREN MATHERLY KING

Karen Matherly King, 61, of Fairlawn, passed away Monday, December 13, 2021. She was a member of Fairlawn United Methodist Church. Due to her selfless nature, she was a CNA for over 30 years, spending the last 15 years with Carilion NRV Hospice. She was preceded in death by her father, Conrad Norris Matherly.

Survivors include her husband of 43 years, Michael "Snuffy" King; daughters, Bryce Smith and her husband, Michael, and Michelle "Bean" King and her wife, Kathryn Jones; grandchildren, Madison "Baby Suggie", Ethan, Thomas and Mathew; mother, Mary Matherly; sister, Lisa Chrisley and her husband Mark; brother, Brian Matherly and his wife, Wanda; and many other relatives and friends.

The family will receive friends from 4 until 6 p.m. on Friday, December 17, 2021 at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services will be private.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to the Women's Resource Center or the charity of your choice.

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

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# School board holds final meeting of 2021

By WILLIAM PAINE  
For The Patriot

The Pulaski County School Board met for the final time in 2021 to pass several agenda items relating to the course catalogue, school calendar and a Memorandum of Understanding between Pulaski County Public Schools (PCPS) and the Pulaski County Sheriff's Office.

School board members also heard from parents who expressed their dismay over the lack of communication following a school bus accident involving their child.

In the first public comment period, Gina Paine inquired about the need for an additional Resource Officer to be stationed at Pulaski County High School.

At November's meeting of the school board, Superintendent Dr. Kevin Siers insisted that two Pulaski County Sheriff's Deputies (Resource Officers) were necessary to keep PCHS students safe on "such a large campus."

Paine noted that the campus is the same size as it was 40 years ago with the smallest student population PCHS has had in its history.

Paine then asked if additional Resource Officers were required to keep students safe from outside threats or from dangers posed by the students themselves. She asked if the school system's implementation of "Restorative Justice" policies have led to a general lack of discipline and if the Resource Officers, instead of school administrators, were now being used to maintain order within PCPS.

"Don't get me wrong," said Paine. "I'm all for keeping our kids safe at school. I have a student at PCHS. But this latest request begs the question, what has changed in the last couple of years that now requires another law enforcement official be present at the high school?"

Other than Chairman of the Board Timmy Hurst notifying Paine that she had 20 seconds left in her time, no board members responded to Paine's questions.

Later in the meeting, board member Becky Cox stated that Resource Officers were needed to present students with positive role models and that interaction between students and law enforcement "builds trust."

Ritchie Thomas, who filled the role of the interim Principal at PCHS after Mike Grim was reassigned, gave an update of the Virginia School Screening Testing for Assurance (VISSTA) Program.

VISSTA is a voluntary weekly COVID testing program, done

in conjunction with the Virginia Department of Health, for any student or staff member in the school system who signs up for the free test.

"The Program is going really well," said Thomas, noting that VISSTA had been up and running for 6 weeks with almost 100 students and 28 staff members enrolled.

Two cases of asymptomatic COVID were discovered from taking these tests leading Thomas to say the VISSTA Program has "already paid off."

Test results come back in about one day's time and those who signed up do not have to get tested every week.

"That's the beauty of it," said Thomas. "That and it's free!"

These tests and those who run them are paid from federal grant money and not taken from the school system's budget.

Thomas went on to effusively praise the Pulaski County School System as one of the best run in Southwest Virginia.

Next, PCPS Finance Director Chris Stafford gave an analysis of the budget and stated that, "All major budget expenditures are under budget at this point in the year."

Stafford added that enough money was left over from renovating the school cafeteria's Dish Room to give all school nutrition employees health insurance.

PCPS Operations Manager Jess Shull spoke next and listed several capital improvement projects that were currently or soon to be underway.

At the high school, a new air conditioning system is set to be installed in the gym, the Art Room and the Dish Room are being renovated, and the CTE school will be converted from electric to gas powered heat.

Dublin Elementary school will have air conditioning installed in the gym and the school's kitchen. Critzer and Snowville Elementary Schools will have rooftop HVAC units replaced as well.

Becky Cox, Chairwoman of the Governor's School Board asked that the roof of the Governor's School be repaired as soon as possible because leaks there are becoming more pronounced.

Shull also mentioned that there had recently been two school bus accidents, but that no one was injured in either incident.

In the Action Items section of the meeting, the board unanimously passed the Course Catalogue for next year and the and

See SCHOOLS, page A7

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**Have A Merry And Blessed Christmas!**



# Taking Action to Combat Fentanyl


Our region of Virginia has known firsthand the devastation of the opioid crisis. In recent years, a new threat has driven up fatal drug overdoses: fentanyl and its analogues.

Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that is 50 times stronger than heroin. Like other opioids, it has a legitimate medical use as a painkiller. But illicit fentanyl is also often mixed in with other illegal drugs sold on the street. Users may not even know they are ingesting fentanyl, but its extreme potency endangers their lives. A mere two milligrams may be fatal.

The numbers indicate the danger. Across the country, 100,306 people died of fatal overdoses from May 2020 to April 2021, according to the most recent Centers for Disease Control and Prevention data available. Roughly two-thirds of those deaths were related to synthetic opioids such as fentanyl and fentanyl-related substances.

Trends in Virginia reflect these national statistics. According to the Commonwealth's Department of Health, 2,309 fatal drug overdoses occurred in 2020, a record. Fentanyl caused or contributed to 71.8 percent of those deaths. Data for 2021 indicate fatal overdoses this year may surpass last year's, a tragic milestone.

Most illicit fentanyl comes from China and arrives in our country either through the mail or via smugglers crossing the southern border. Recently, more Mexican cartels have manufactured the fentanyl themselves. Needless to say, the cartel fentanyl comes across the border, too. As President Biden fails to resolve the crisis at the border, traffickers bring more fentanyl across it.



**Morgan Griffith**

9th District Representative

In fiscal year 2021, U.S. Customs and Border Protection seized 11,201 pounds of fentanyl. That amount

is well over twice that seized in fiscal year 2020 and almost four times the amount seized in fiscal year 2019.

As with the number of illegal immigrant arrests, the amount of illegal narcotics seized generally tracks the amount of overall traffic. More seizures mean more illegal drugs in total being smuggled across the border into our communities.

The pain fentanyl continues to inflict on families across the country demands a response. Unfortunately, the Biden Administration has fallen short. In addition to its lax attitude toward the border, it did not even bother to send a representative from the U.S. Department of Justice to testify at a hearing on fentanyl convened by the Energy and Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Health. The invitation came from the Democrats who constitute the majority but was ignored nonetheless.

In contrast, Republicans are ready to lead on the issue and protect our communities from this scourge. That's why I introduced the Halt All Lethal Trafficking of Fentanyl Act along with Congressman Bob Latta (R-OH).

The HALT Fentanyl Act would permanently classify fentanyl-related substances as Schedule I drugs, those that have the highest potential for abuse. Currently, fentanyl-related substances are subject to only temporary scheduling, which would expire in February 2022. Permanent scheduling properly recognizes the harm fentanyl analogues have caused and could continue to inflict.

Our bill includes more than a simple ban. It makes the process for studying fentanyl-related substances easier, so we can learn more about their dangers as well as any benefits.

Testimony in the Subcommittee on Health hearing about fentanyl indicated how much more research work needs to be done. There are potentially as many as 4,800 fentanyl analogues, but data is available for fewer than 30 – in other words, under one percent of fentanyl-related substances.

Of the work that has been done, most have proven dangerous and a couple inert. One of the witnesses, Dr. Douglas Throckmorton of the Food and Drug Administration, testified that one actually blocks the mu opioid receptor that triggers the dangerous effects of opioids. As a result, it could be beneficial to combating addiction. But we need more data on this analogue and others to know. The HALT Fentanyl Act would allow exemptions for analogues from Schedule I if evidence shows they are warranted.

The HALT Fentanyl Act treats the problem of fentanyl seriously from a science-based perspective. We need this bill, and more bills and executive actions taking a similar approach, to turn the tide and prevent the tragic loss of more lives due to fentanyl.

If you have questions, concerns, or comments, feel free to contact my office. You can call my Abingdon office at 276-525-1405, my Christiansburg office at 540-381-5671, or my Washington office at 202-225-3861. To reach my office via email, please visit my website at [www.morgangriffith.house.gov](http://www.morgangriffith.house.gov). Also, on my website is the latest material from my office, including information on votes recently taken on the floor of the House of Representatives.

# Real First Christmas In America

I'm sorry to tell you this, but Hallmark Movie Channel got it wrong! All this month, they have been depicting "white christmas" type movies with snow scenes, lighting of the community Christmas trees in the park, ice skating on the outdoor arena and hot cocoa being dolled out on chilly winter evenings.

Well, guess what ... in doing research about the first Christmas celebrations in America, I discovered the actual first Christmas that was celebrated on land in America happened near Tallahassee, Fla. in 1539.

According to noted archeologists and historians, in May 1539, Spanish

## One Nation Under God

By Danielle Reid

explorer and conquistador Hernando de Soto, landed in what would become the state of Florida. De Soto's entourage included nine ships carrying over 620 men, among them 12 Catholic priests, 220 horses and a drove (herd)

See NATION, page A7



# Restraint and the tornado tragedy

By Cal Thomas, Tribune Content Agency

Some politicians and government officials can't let a crisis go to waste. In the matter of the tornadoes that devastated parts of Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Tennessee and Missouri, restraint was called for, but went unanswered.

Asked about the cause of such devastation, President Biden said, "We all know everything is more intense when the climate is warming." He later walked back the comment to a "wait and see" position. Federal Emergency Management Agency Administrator Deanne Criswell also blamed climate change, saying such disasters will be the "new normal" from now on.

Neither the president, nor Criswell are meteorologists, but Chris Martz. On [ClimateDepot.com](http://ClimateDepot.com), he writes that there has been "no overall trend in U.S. tornado activity since 1954." He cites the National Weather Service's (NWS) EF scale, which is used to measure the power of storms. That scale shows tornado intensity is down 50 percent in nearly seven decades. This tornado was a rare event.

Another meteorologist, Paul Dorian, is quoted on [climatepot.com](http://climatepot.com): "Tropical cyclone activity across the Northern Hemisphere has been below-normal in 2021 in much the same way as it was last year. Specifically, while the Atlantic Basin featured above-normal tropical activity in this year and last, the Pacific Ocean experienced below-normal conditions in both years leading the way to below-normal levels across the hemisphere as a whole. In terms of tornadoes, it has been another below-normal season in the US with no EF-5's recorded."

Politics, not unbiased science, appears to be behind much of the faith in "climate change." As with COVID-19, "experts" have regularly contradicted themselves and others when offering their conclusions and advice.

A 1974 story in the Lincoln (Nebraska) Journal Star blamed severe weather on "global cooling": "Droughts, floods, blizzards, tornadoes, typhoons, and hurricanes have plagued much of the nation and the world in recent years. Most people

considered these weather conditions to be abnormal and temporary, but instead, climatologists now believe the first half of the 20th century was blessed with unusually mild weather and that the global climate has begun returning to a harsher -- but more normal -- state. For the long run, there is mounting evidence of a worldwide cooling trend."

Climate analyst Paul Homewood notes: "Provisional data from the NWS indicates that the tornadoes which hit Mayfield, Kentucky and Edwardsville, Illinois were both EF-3s. Although most tornadoes occur in spring and early summer, strong tornadoes are not unheard of in winter. Indeed, on average since 1950 there have been five tornadoes every winter of EF3 and greater strength. And the official data shows that these winter storms are not becoming more frequent."

The response to those earlier "sky is falling" assertions included demands to alter our way of life if the planet was to be saved. More recently we have had ludicrous predictions by nationally known figures (most of them associated with growing government and more state control over our lives) that the planet will cease to exist if we don't follow the advice of politicians and "experts" about climate change. These apocalyptic predictions about life on earth range from weeks, to months, to a few years. I wouldn't discount higher gas prices being used to force us to give up our cars and take public transportation.

Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg offers electric cars as alternatives to vehicles fueled by gasoline. He says once families embrace electric cars they will "never have to worry about gas prices again." Has he noticed that electric bills usually go up, not down?

The major media don't report how wrong "experts" have been in the past when they once predicted the opposite of what new "experts" now predict. Could there be a political agenda behind this? Do you have to ask? The focus should be on helping people in need in the states hit by the storm. Leave the politics and questionable science for debate on another day.



Rich Lowery

Editor, National Review

# IOC Is a Craven Handmaid of Beijing

It should be a rule of thumb that the Olympic Games shouldn't be held in countries that operate concentration camps.

If this strikes you as a reasonable demand, you aren't suited to serve on the International Olympic Committee. The IOC has doggedly defended Beijing as the host of the 2022 Winter Olympics even as the Chinese Communist Party pursues its campaign of unrelenting barbarity against the Uyghurs.

The Biden administration just announced a so-called diplomatic boycott of the games, a gesture of disapproval that won't dent the propaganda coup the IOC is handing the most dangerous regime in the world.

The IOC is the World Health Organization of sports. When China disappeared female tennis star Peng Shuai for the offense of making an accusation of sexual assault against a former high government official, the IOC happily assisted in the regime's crisis PR, lest the shocking incident derail the games.

The president of the IOC, Thomas Bach, had a video call with Peng where she said all was well and Bach pretended to take her assurances at face value. Of course, Peng wasn't free to speak her mind, but part of Bach's job now is to look the other way at China's blatant abuses.

China has the great fortune to deal with international organizations -- except the Women's Tennis Association, which is suspending tournaments in China -- that lack all self-respect.

The IOC is following in the well-trodden footsteps of corporations, financiers and sports leagues that start out wanting to do business with China and end up complicit in the regime's crimes by staying silent or explaining them away.

The difference is that the IOC claims to be acting in support of high ideals. Bach likes to quote the Olympic charter that says Olympism exists "to place sport at the service of the harmonious development of humankind, with a view to promoting a peaceful society concerned with the preservation of human dignity."

Placing sport at the service of China does the opposite on all counts. China's autocrat, Xi Jinping, has been open about the political importance of the Olympics, "Hosting an excellent 2022 Games is a major task of the Party and the country, and it is a solemn commitment to the international community." Here, the interests of the CCP and the IOC -- as well as the corporate sponsors of the games -- coincide.

The last time China hosted the Olympics, the Summer Games in 2008, it used the opening ceremony to stage a gigantic and memorable regime-enhancing spectacle. Beijing promised reforms to get awarded the games and then, true to form, engaged in yet more heavy-handed repression.

See LOWRY, page A7



# Schools

Continued from Page A5

school calendar for the next two school years. In upcoming years, no school will be held on the Monday before election day nor election day itself. Winter Break for next year and the year after will provide students and teachers two weeks off before January classes begin.

The board also voted to allow those as young as 20 years old to work as Substitute Teachers at Pulaski County High School. The move comes as administrators at PCPS have had difficulty in hiring enough substitutes to keep teaching positions staffed.

Put forth after last month’s call to hire another Resource Officer at PCHS, the board voted unanimously to support a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the school system and the Pulaski County Sheriff’s Department.

The MOU reads in part that the goal of this collaboration is, “To create and maintain safe and secure school environments ... to reduce and prevent crime, violence, victimization and fear in and around the schools.”

As he did in last month’s meeting, School Board member Bill Benson requested that administrators find money in the budget to better compensate school bus drivers. Benson noted that school bus drivers are sometimes on the road before sunrise and after sunset and must be “on call” in

the hours in between because of weather or other emergency situations.

The shortage of school bus drivers at Pulaski County Public Schools has resulted in frequent and lengthy delays in picking children up from school and taking them back home from school. Benson suggested that the county provide health insurance or some other financial incentive to keep the busses rolling.

Siers stated that there was no room in this year’s budget for better compensating bus drivers, but that this could be considered for the next year’s budget.

The topic of school busses came up again at the second public comment section of the meeting. Brandon Hinkley, father of 11-year-old Natalie Hinkley, informed the board that his daughter was on the bus when a crash happened on December 9th.

“No one informed me about the accident,” Hinkley stated. “I know when my child doesn’t show up for school because you guys call. I know when she didn’t wear a mask because somebody complained. I know about SOLs because I get two or three phone calls about that a day. But absolutely nothing about the welfare of my child ... shame on you!”

Board member Paige Cash said that she was told that no one was hurt in the accident.

“Who told you?” asked Brandon

Hinkley.

“Dr. Siers told all of us,” Cash responded.

“That’s fantastic,” said Hinkley. “That’s more communication than I got, and my child was on that bus.”

“We don’t have a list of which child is on which bus,” said board member Benson.

“How many administrators called to check on those children?” asked Hinkley.

“I can’t answer that,” said Benson.

“I can,” Hinkley retorted. “None of them.”

His wife, Jessica Hinkley addressed the board next. According to Jessica, trauma caused by the accident caused her daughter to have a serious headache.

“I’m not upset there was an accident,” said Jessica Hinkley. “I’m upset because no one cared enough to call and ask if my daughter was okay. Mr. Shull informed my husband that the people in charge of communication were all on vacation.”

After some discussion, Cash agreed that the school system should inquire about the health of students involved in school bus accidents.

“That’s fair ... that’s fair,” added Hurst.

Board member Penny Golden apologized for the oversight and vowed to find a way to correct the communications breakdown.

Siers apologized, as well, and assured board members that “another step in the protocol” had already been added to notify parents their child is involved in an accident.

# Council hears from citizen on image concerns

By MIKE WILLIAMS  
The Patriot

A Pulaski attorney approached council last week over concerns for the town’s image.

Marc LeBlanc said he had been a resident of the town for a number of years, and that he knows that image is a very important thing to the town.

“We’re trying to portray the town as a good place to live,” LeBlanc noted. “Or a good place to move to if you are retiring. A thriving community and a caring community.”

He said, however, the thing that concerns him is the image that Pulaski is actually portraying “is a little bit different.”

He offered three examples of his concerns.

“The planters at the courthouse – lots of people come to this courthouse. What do they see when they get there? There are planters that used to look very nice. I don’t know what happened to the one right by Washington Avenue and Third Street. It looks like a truck just mowed it down,” LeBlanc stated.

Another example he mentioned was trash – drink cans, COVID masks, a dirty diaper, food wrappers, etc.

“I live on the southeast side of town. I’m supposed to mow to the

road, but before I do I have to go through and look for broken glass and cans. That’s the issue.”

“Wherever there are a lot of people walking we need to place trash cans,” he said.

Thirdly, he discussed the tall brick building on East Main Street owned by Appalachian Power, which is surrounded by a chain link fence.

“I don’t know what it would take to turn that eyesore into pickle ball courts. Pavement, a little paint, nets – that’s it,” he suggested.

He noted he didn’t know the feasibility of such an idea.

“It’s just image – what image do we want people to have who come to visit this town. Most of it is good, but the bad is just really easy to take care of and resolve,” LeBlanc told council.

Burcham explained to LeBlanc the parking lot at Washington and Third is owned by the county.

“I’ve seen the conditions you have mentioned and have spoken to the county administrator and, with council’s permission I have offered to take over that lot so the town can maintain it and improve its image,” Burcham said.

She noted the document to cause the transfer of ownership

See IMAGE, page A8

# Nation

Continued from Page A6

of pigs.

For decades, it was believed that de Soto’s winter encampment was on Lake Jackson, but in April 1987, Florida state archeologist Calvin Jones was on-site when bulldozers were clearing land where an office complex was to be built. His keen perception enabled him to realize the jobsite was actually an important historical landmark location.

The actual landing point was Shaw’s Point in Bradenton, which DeSoto named Espiritu Santo, which means Holy Spirit. The Native American tribe of the Apalachee inhabited the land.

Several other noted archeologists joined in the excavation and discovered relics that prove the authenticity of the encamp-

ment, including Charles Ewen, Mary Glowacki and Rachel Porter. Among the relics were chain mail, from armor worn by soldiers, cross bow darts, coins and pottery.

Archeologist Rachel Porter discovered written chronicles from the era that commemorate what took place, and although there were no Christmas trees or giving of presents, she believes the celebration would have revolved around solemn religious observances, culminating with a Christmas mass.

During the excavations, pig bones were found by archeologist Porter, who acknowledges that the Spanish were the first to bring pigs to Florida.

Perhaps that is where our tradition of having ham on Christmas came from!

heid-era South Africa from the games. There is no such thing as neutrality when dealing with an all-encompassing police state for which politics is a life-or-death matter. The games aren’t being hosted by Switzerland or Norway -- nice, law-abiding countries with good ski slopes -- but a revanchist power that tramples on human dignity and is a clear and present danger to international peace.

The IOC could have taken an off-ramp from these games at any point. Instead, its attitude is going to be, “Enjoy the snowboarding, never mind the concentration camps.”

**Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.**

# Lowry

Continued from Page A6

If the 2008 Beijing Games were ill-advised, next year’s Winter Olympics are a complete travesty. The atrocities in Xinjiang province are a matter of public record and the quashing of Hong Kong proceeds apace. No one who crosses the regime is safe from imprisonment or worse. China openly menaces Taiwan with an invasion. Indeed, China could conceivably be in a shooting war with the United States within a year or two of using the presence of our athletes, among others, to enhance the rule of its dictator-for-life.

Bach insists that the IOC must always be politically neutral. As Michael Mazza of the American Enterprise Institute points out, though, the IOC banned apart-



Nails By Michelle  
Pulaski Va

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# Adaire’s annual Christmas show runs through Sunday



“Simply Christmas” features lots of Christmas carols.

## Last Northham budget includes tax cuts, raises

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — Outgoing Democratic Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam laid out a proposal Thursday for a \$158 billion two-year state budget that would boost Virginia’s reserves, give teachers and other state workers pay raises, and institute a variety of tax cuts.

The spending blueprint Northam outlined to members of the legislature’s money committees is possible thanks to record revenue growth that is projected to continue growing. The governor made the case that his budget plan was progressive, fiscally responsible and would set up incoming Republican Gov.-elect Glenn Youngkin for success.

“The budget I propose to you today will leave a roadmap to continue the strong economic success that we are seeing. We will keep making the investments that Virginia needs, and we will keep putting resources into supporting Virginians who need it,” Northam said in prepared remarks.

Northam, who like all Virginia governors was prohibited from serving a second consecutive term, will leave office in January.

It’s standard for even the outgoing governor to deliver a budget plan in December. Northam’s proposal for fiscal years 2022-2024 could serve as a starting

point for negotiations at the General Assembly, which will be under split control between Republicans and Democrats come January. But there is virtually no chance the version lawmakers will send to Youngkin will hew exactly to what Northam is putting in.

Northam spokesperson Ale-na Yarmosky said Northam and Youngkin have met on a few occasions but did not discuss the specifics of the budget proposal, which contains several key campaign pledges of Youngkin’s.

The Democrat’s plan includes a 5% pay raise for teachers in both years of the budget. State employees would see the same pay increases.

It also spends \$223 million on increased funding for pay for law enforcement officials, to address both starting pay and pay compression over time.

Northam’s proposal calls for \$2.1 billion in tax policy adjustments, approximately \$419 million of which would be ongoing.

He wants to eliminate the state’s 1.5% share of the sales tax on groceries. While Northam campaigned on the issue in 2017, he has not prioritized it since. Ending the tax was a key campaign pledge of Youngkin’s.

Northam is also proposing that the state give one-time “econom-

ic growth” tax rebates of \$250 for individuals and \$500 for married couples; make up to 15% of the federal earned income-tax credit refundable for eligible families; and end the accelerated sales tax payments for retailers.

His administration said the tax relief proposals were intended to benefit lower-income workers who were disproportionately affected during the pandemic.

Northam’s proposal, the full text of which was not immediately available for review, contains no significant new money for the beleaguered Virginia Employment Commission, Finance Secretary K. Joseph Flores told reporters in a briefing.

That’s despite the fact that the administration has long maintained that the agency’s struggles, which burst into public view amid a surge in pandemic-related applications, were due partly to underfunding.

Flores said the administration thought previous rounds of funding, including allocations from a special session earlier this year, were enough to resolve the issues.

Northam’s plan would set aside \$1.7 billion for the Commonwealth’s revenue reserves, including a \$564 million voluntary deposit beyond what is required.

See BUDGET, page A9

By Neesey Payne

Around this time of year families get together and celebrate traditions like putting up the Christmas tree, baking cookies, and buying gifts for those who are in need. Adaire Theatre has its own tradition around the holidays. Their Christmas show is one they look forward to year after year.

“It’s the same show, but not the same show. Some elements stay the same and some change. It’s kind of like decorating your Christmas tree. Most of us have ornaments we put on the tree every year, and every now and again we’ll add some new ones, too,” said Payne, Founder of Adaire Theatre.

“Simply Christmas” is an original show written by Adaire Theatre Associate Artistic Director Keith McCoy. It’ll wrap up Adaire Theatre’s 2021 season.

“This kind of show is very special because everyone can relate. Just think about all the funny, quirky and heartwarming things that you see and experience around the holidays. This show

definitely has a mix of it all,” McCoy said.

Payne said it was important for the theatre to create an annual tradition that families could be a part of. The cast includes kids and adults. There are funny sketches and big musical production numbers. Payne said each scene will either have you cracking up, or make you say, “Awe.”

Payne added, “And we’ll be singing lots and lots of Christmas carols, so come ready to sing with us. That’s one of the best parts about this show, when the audience joins in, it’s the best.” And of course there is always a reminder of the true meaning of Christmas.

“Simply Christmas” is one weekend only. It runs through Sunday, December 19, at the Pulaski Elks Lodge on West Main Street. Friday and Saturday shows are at 7 p.m. On Saturday and Sunday, there are matinee shows at 2 p.m.

Tickets are \$10. You can buy tickets in advance at [adairetheatre.org](http://adairetheatre.org) or at the door.

## Image

Continued from Page A7

of the lot is in the works.

As far as trash cans, Burcham said the town would take a look at the situation.

“We’re also looking at some other streetscape amenities in the downtown because I would agree with you wholeheartedly about our image,” Burcham said.

She added there had been discussions about pickle ball, but the town is looking at the possibility of taking one of the town’s tennis courts that is not being used and converting it to a pickle ball court.

As for the East Main property LeBlanc mentioned, Burcham said it would take a significant amount of remediation work before it could be used.

“We just went through that on a site on First Street for skateboard and basketball courts. We spent several hundred thousand of dollars of federal money digging out a certain amount of soil before we encapsulate it with the concrete, and there are significant environmental issues with the site you mentioned,” Burcham told LeBlanc.

“All your items are on target, and we will work on them – those that we have the ability to manage at the present time,” she said.

Council conducted several public hearings during their meeting.

**Randolph Avenue Paving**

Council approved a resolution accepting just over \$274,000 in Virginia Department of Transportation grant funds for the paving next year of Randolph Avenue in Pulaski.

The grant comes from a special VDOT fund called “State of Good Repair.”

Town Manager Darlene Burcham said the town had requested funding for four projects, but the Randolph Avenue work was the only project that could be done with the amount of funding available.

The work will be done in the spring.

Burcham said these grant funds, like the other grants received by the town, cannot be spent for any other reason other than the purpose for which they were received.

**Rezoning of property at 421 N. Washington Avenue**

Council approved a resolution approving a request from Shah Development to rezone the vacant property at 421 N. Washington Avenue – the former Rutherford

Pontiac property – from B-2 General Business to R-0 Residential Office.

Economic Development Director Brady Deal explained to council the rezoning would give Shah more flexibility on how it would use the 1.55-acre property. The construction of townhouses has been discussed, but no final decision has been made.

Shah has owned the property for about four years, Deal said.

Deal added that one adjacent landowner had submitted a comment stating they had no opposition to the rezoning request.

Another adjacent landowner, however, asked council to delay a decision on the rezoning so she could research the issue more, stating she had not been notified of the rezoning.

Deal assured the property owner that, to the best of his knowledge certified letters had been sent by the town to all adjacent landowners.

Burcham noted, too, public hearing notices had been published prior to the hearing as well.

Kevin Conner of Shah Development said the property had been marketed for two years, and the rezoning would allow the potential for residential use. Any residential development would be market rate and not government subsidized housing, which was one fear of the neighboring resident.

**Special Exception for catering, daycare center, bakery and museum at 1 Corbin Harmon Drive**

Council approved the special exception at the Calfee Community and Cultural Center for catering, daycare center, bakery and museum operations.


The process is part of the adaptive reuse of the Calfee School property.

In her town manager comments, Burcham said Gatewood Reservoir’s water level is in good shape for this time of the year.

She noted it is regularly monitored and the town is in no danger at this time of any type of water restrictions.

Also, Burcham said the town’s brush site off East Main Street has had minimal use of late, but the town has continued staffing it every Saturday for a while now.

So, she said, beginning in January the brush site will only be open the first Saturday of each month from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.



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**Sat. Dec. 4th: Pastor Charlie Barbettini**

**Saturday Dec. 18th Big Christmas Celebration 3 pm—5 pm guest speaker will be Pastor Shawn Burchett. Gifts for infant to 16 years of age. Children must be with parent or guardian to receive gifts. Also the Clothing Bank will be open with Free Men’s, Women’s, Boys and Girls Clothing.**

**Pre-registration is now underway for the Big Christmas Celebration through Saturday Dec. 11th at Emanuel Book Store, The Patriot Newspaper and at Taking It To The Streets Ministries.**

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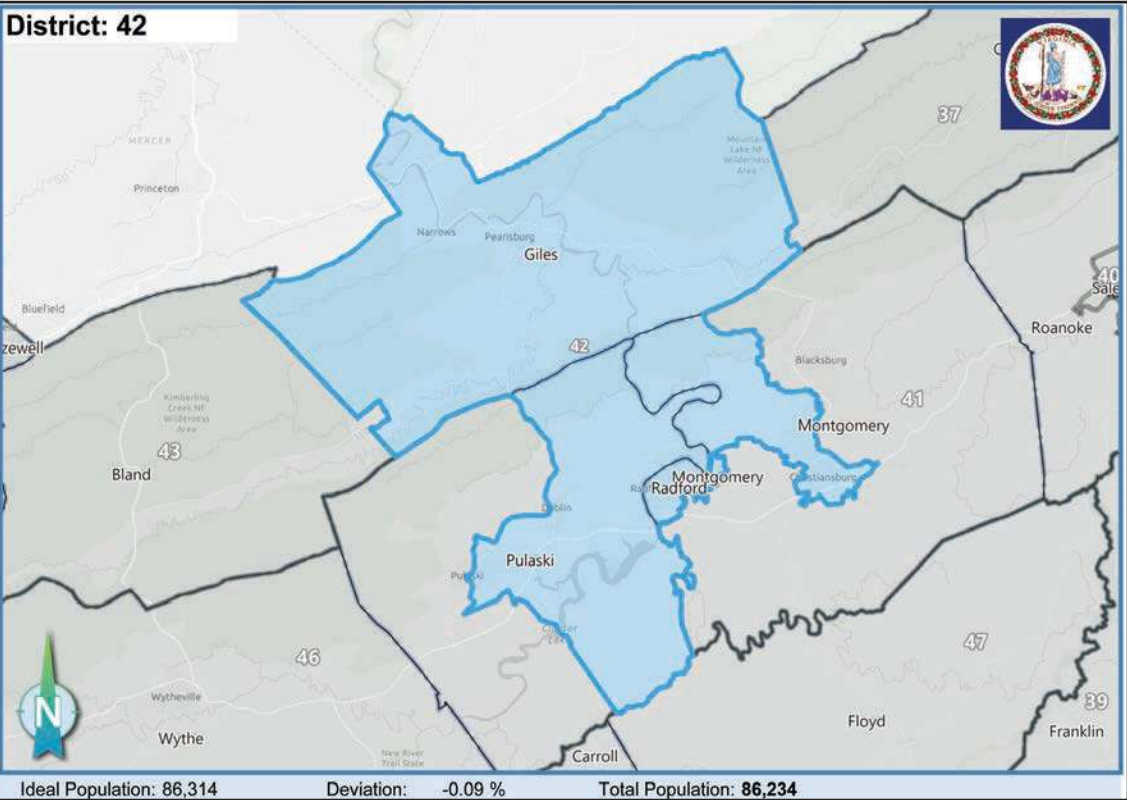
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# Virginia redistricting plan would shake up assembly



This map of the proposed 42nd House District shows how Pulaski County could be split into two different districts - the 46th and 42nd.

## Make Your Holiday Hydrated

**Andrea K. Wann, MPH**  
**Virginia Cooperative**  
**Extension**  
**akrauser@vt.edu**

We’re here. The Holidays! We have survived Thanksgiving, Black Friday Shopping, and most of the region is revving up for the Christmas and New Year’s holidays. There are numerous articles and write-ups every year concerning ways to make your holiday a little healthier. While making healthy food swaps are important (and easy to do) – we often forget about one factor that has quite the influence on our health, hydration. Adults and children are at an increased risk for dehydration in the winter months due to the cold temperatures. When it is hot outside, our bodies are excellent at telling us when they are thirsty, however in the colder months we don’t always recognize when we are thirsty, mainly because we don’t feel sweaty

or hot. Reasons for holiday dehydration can include salty foods, overindulgence of foods, overindulgence of drinks – and yes, unfortunately all of those coffees can add up to really deplete you. Drinking water and staying properly hydrated has been shown to promote many good assets for the human body. First is appetite regulation. Studies have shown that dehydration tricks our brains into thinking we are hungry, when in actuality we could need some quenching H2O. On your way to gatherings and in between them, bring a bottle of water to sip on in the car. This will help keep you hydrated in the case you aren’t able to hydrate at a party or gathering. Staying hydrated also increases energy levels; promoting stamina and fighting fatigue. We understand that things are ‘go, go, go!’ from Christmas to New Year’s, but by staying adequately hydrated, you will feel more energized and in lighter spirits. Other benefits

of drinking more water include, better breathe, regularity, deeper sleep, improved digestion and promotes healthy blood pressure levels. Not sure how many ounces to be drinking daily? Take your body weight, divide by 2 and there you have it! For example, a 140 lb. individual would need approximately 70 ounces (about 8 ½ cups) per day. Most water bottles now days are also designed with ounce readings so you can keep track easier! Drink up, feel better! For more information on health and wellness tips, be sure to check out <https://eatsmartmovemore.va.org>.

The Patriot

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25. There would also be 11 fewer districts that lean Democrat and four more that lean Republican. Overall, there would be 50 seats that are strong or lean toward Democrats, compared to having 53 now and there would be 40 strong or favorable Republican districts compared to the 39 they have now. There would also be 10 tossups, compared to the eight tossups now.

For the state’s 11 Congressional maps, six districts would be either strong Democratic seats or leaning Democratic seats, four would be strong or leaning Republican and one would be a tossup. The new maps would also draw Democratic incumbent Rep. Abigail Spanberger out of her current district.

The Virginia Supreme Court chose the special masters who would draw the lines from a list of options provided by House and Republican lawmakers. They chose one person from the Republican list and one from the Democratic list. The court was tasked with the job after a bipartisan redistricting commission failed to agree on any maps prior to their deadlines.

What it means for our area  
As the house district map is drawn currently, Pulaski County would be divided into two House districts – the 42nd and 46th.

The 42nd includes all of Giles County, the eastern half of Pulaski County, all of Radford and the northwestern portion of Montgomery County – including Christiansburg.

The 46th includes all of Wythe, Smyth and Grayson Counties, the northwest corner of Carroll and the western half of Pulaski County.

To the south, District 47 would include all of Floyd County, most of Carroll and Patrick counties and the western portion of Henry County.

To the east, District 41 would include the majority of Montgomery County and the western half of Roanoke County.

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## Budget

Continued from Page A8

That would bring the reserves to more than \$3.8 billion, 16.8% of state revenues, according to documents provided to reporters.

Northam and other state officials have some flexibility in crafting the new budget because Virginia closed out the 2021 fiscal year with \$2.6 billion more in the general fund than what had been forecast. Northam’s administration says strong economic growth is projected to add another \$13.4 billion in new general fund resources in fiscal years 2022, 2023 and 2024.

Youngkin has said the record revenues are due to overtaxation and called for more expansive tax cuts than what Northam laid out.

The plan would also: invest \$297 million for capital improvements, student support and other needs at the state’s historically Black colleges and universities; dedicate \$165 million to help Richmond, Alexandria and Lynchburg advance

sewer improvement systems to keep wastewater out of streams and rivers; and grant \$500 million to localities for school construction and renovation.

It would also allocate \$150 million to develop mid-sized and large sites for industrial development. A 2019 AP review found the state had already sunk more than \$100 million into land acquisition and development at a handful of such “megasites” dotting Virginia’s struggling rural south and southwest with little to show for it. Economic development officials say without ready-to-go sites, the state will continue to miss out on transformational economic development opportunities.

Northam had already announced many of his spending priorities ahead of Thursday, during a “thank you” tour he kicked off earlier this month.

The General Assembly will convene Jan. 12 and Youngkin will be sworn in three days later as Virginia’s 74th governor.



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# School board recognizes two at meeting



## Reading Teacher of the Year

Rachel Simmers, Title I Teacher at Dublin Elementary School, was awarded the honor of the New River Valley Chapter 2021 Reading Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Simmers is a team player who is eager to go the extra mile to support all students at Dublin Elementary School through programs, such as virtual reading nights and putting new books in the hands of students. Mrs. Simmers has been teaching for 18 years. She received her Reading Specialist certification in 2018. She is currently involved in Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling training. Mrs. Simmers always strives to bring best practices into the classroom.

## GLOE Club at RU goes to work for Christmas

A new club on the Radford University campus, started this year, is the Global and Local Outreach and Education Club (GLOE). It is made up of mostly nursing students from Radford University. The club conducted a drive at the end of the semester in which members collected Christmas Cards, canned food items, personal hygiene items, and toys. They collected over 1000 Christmas cards that were donated at

various nursing homes, hospitals, and the local Office on Aging and Roanoke Rescue Mission. The other over 750 items were dropped off to the LOA and the Roanoke Rescue mission. In total over 1750 items were collected and donated all through the NRV. Pictured below are club member Josie ODell and one of the advisors/professors at the university, Dr. Carey Cole.



## Virginia governor's race was most expensive in history

By Tyler Arnold

(The Center Square) – The two main candidates for governor in Virginia's 2021 elections raised about \$115 million for their campaigns, which was the largest amount of money spent on any gubernatorial race in the commonwealth.

Governor-elect Glenn Youngkin and his opponent, former Gov. Terry McAuliffe, raised nearly the same amount of money. The candidates outpaced the 2017 election by more than \$31 million and outpaced the 2013 election by nearly \$50 million. They more than doubled the cost of the 2005 governor's race and more than tripled the cost of the 2001 race.

Polls showed the race was close in the last couple months of the election with McAuliffe holding a narrow lead until Youngkin gained ground and became

the frontrunner in the last couple weeks of the election. The turning point was when Youngkin set parental authority in public education as one of his top priorities after McAuliffe said "I don't think parents should be telling schools what they should teach." Youngkin narrowly defeated McAuliffe with 50.8% of the vote compared to 48.4% of the vote, according to the unofficial results.

If the numbers hold, the 2.4-point victory will be the closest gubernatorial race since 1989. The second closest race was the 2013 election in which McAuliffe beat out Ken Cuccinelli with just a 2.6-point win. The race also yielded the highest turnout since 1993 with more than 55% of the electorate coming out to vote.

When combining the cost of the candidates for governor and lieutenant governor, including all of the primary candidates, the cost surpassed \$148 million.

## Pests and food at the holiday

FAIRFAX, Va. -- (BUSINESS WIRE) -- The holiday season is here, which means baking and decorating are just around the corner. While this time of year is an occasion for celebration, the National Pest Management Association (NPMA) is also sharing advice on how to avoid potential holiday pests.

"While preparing for the holidays, it's important to make sure your festivities aren't accidentally attracting pests," said Cindy Mannes, senior vice president of public affairs for NPMA. "Taking simple precautions while baking and decorating is a must to protect your home from pests."

Baking and cooking during the holiday season can attract pantry pests like Indian meal moths and merchant grain beetles. NPMA recommends following these tips to keep your kitchen pest-free: Store food properly in containers with an airtight seal. Before purchasing food at the grocery store, inspect boxes and bags for any damage. Keep kitchen surfaces and floors clean and regularly dispose of garbage in a sealed receptacle. For those who decorate their homes with fresh greenery like wreaths, trees or garlands, NPMA has tips to avoid bringing pests into the home:



## Senior of the Month

Pulaski County Public Schools and Pulaski County High School are proud to honor Kimberly Brooks Lyons as Senior of the month for December. Kimberly is the daughter of Dustin and Faye Lyons. The nominator stated "I have known and worked with Kimberly over the past four years as a member of the Competition Cheer program. Kimberly is a vital asset to the program and will be greatly missed when she graduates. " She has served as Captain of the PCHS Competition Cheer team during both her junior and senior seasons. She was also named a member of the First-Team All-Region Cheer Team and First-Team All-State Cheer Team three times and is a two-time Region 4D Cheerleader of the Year recipient (as a freshman in 2018 and again as a senior in 2021). Her positive attitude, kind spirit, and immense work ethic serve as a great leadership example both on and off the competition mat. Not only is Kimberly athletically gifted, but she is also a scholar-athlete. She currently has a 4.15 GPA and has already earned 28 college credits from dual enrollment courses. Kimberly is compassionate, working to make her community better by regularly participating in service projects. Examples include a drive to collect supplies for the Women's Resource Center and fundraisers to support local backpack programs. I believe Kimberly Lyons represents all that is good about Pulaski County High School. She is kind, considerate, and dedicated, with a bright future ahead of her and very deserving of the title of Senior of the Month. Upon graduation, Kimberly will be attending Virginia Tech majoring in bio-chemistry. She plans to go into the medical field, but at this time is a bit uncertain as to which avenue to choose. In her spare time, Kimberly enjoys drawing, painting and hanging out with friends.

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# Hokies add 19 during early signing period

*Hokies sign 11 in-state recruits, Tech's highest total since 2014*

Hokiesports.com

BLACKSBURG – Virginia Tech Football head coach Brent Pry welcomed home his first signing class as the Hokies added 19 players to the squad during Wednesday's early signing period. Tech's early signing list included 11 players who completed their prep careers in Virginia, the best haul of in-state talent for the Hokies since 2014.

The 2022 early signing group is comprised of players who competed at the prep level from eight different states, in addition to one player from Washington, D.C. In addition to Virginia, other states represented included: Georgia, Maryland, Massachusetts, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Texas and South Carolina.

Wednesday's list of signees includes six defensive linemen, four offensive linemen, two tight ends, two defensive backs, a quarterback, a running back, a wide receiver, a linebacker and a kicker.

Tech's tradition of siblings following older brothers also continued on Wednesday. DL Braelin Moore is the younger brother of current G Kaden Moore. The Moore brothers both prepped at Freedom High School in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

The traditional National Signing Day will be on Wednesday, Feb. 2, 2022.

See HOKIES, page B4



Hokiesports.com

Head Coach Brent Pry (right) and Associate Head Coach J.C. Price speak to the media Wednesday about the Hokies signings.

## Cougar boys go to 3-0 with win over Demons

By MIKE WILLIAMS  
The Patriot

The Pulaski County boys basketball team upped its record to 3-0 on the season Tuesday as the Cougars held on to beat Christiansburg, 61-57.

The Cougars were without the services of starters Josh Bourne (injury) and Peyton McDaniel (illness) for the game, so the rest of the squad had to step up – and did.

“We played real well. We were playing without two of our senior leaders – two guys who average double-figure scoring for us. So, we were playing without a lot of statistical numbers tonight,” commented Cougar Head Coach Tyler Cannoy.

“We just talked to our guys about stepping up and doing your job and to contribute where you can contribute, and every guy on our roster stepped up.

“We couldn’t be more proud of these guys and what they’re doing and how they’re stepping up, and that’s what we needed.”

Leading the way for the Cougars were double-figure performances by JJ Gulley, Lane Nester and Kyle O’Neal. Gulley topped all scorers on the night with 22 points. Nester added 18, while O’Neal chipped in 11.

Nester got things started for the Cougars in the first, hitting back-to-back three-point jumpers from the left corner to give Pulaski County a quick, 6-1 lead.

Nester would hit another trey before the quarter ended with Pulaski County leading 15-14.

The two teams traded baskets for much of the second quarter, with Pulaski County pushing out to a 35-28 lead. The Blue Demons closed the gap at the end of the first half when big Tyrique Taylor brought C’burg back with two layups.

The half ended with Pulaski County up, 37-32.

The Blue Demons were on fire to open the second half, scoring on three straight layups by Taylor, Jacob Moles and Austin Purcell. Purcell’s basket put Christiansburg up, 38-37 and the visitors’ first lead of the game.

See COUGARS, page B5



Brian Bishop/The Patriot

Kyle O’Neal puts up two of his 11 points against Christiansburg.

## Elliott meets UVa alumni, media

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. (AP) — Virginia’s new coach achieved the first big victory of his tenure on Monday when quarterback Brennan Armstrong said he’s given no thought to transferring.

Coach Tony Elliott met with the Cavaliers for the first time on Sunday night, and Armstrong — who threw for 4,444 yards in 11 games this season for an average of 404 per game, which ranks second nationally — said Monday after Elliott’s introductory news conference that he’s staying put.

“I think he’s going to run a great program. I’m really excited to see it,” said Armstrong, who has two years of eligibility remaining. “I’m not going to transfer. It’s either here or the NFL.”

Elliott spent the past seven seasons as the offensive coordinator at Clemson, a stint that included two national titles and the spectacular three-year career of quarterback Trevor Lawrence, who was the top pick in this spring’s NFL draft.

At Virginia, Elliott takes over for Bronco Mendenhall, who surprisingly announced his resignation after the Cavaliers concluded a 6-6 regular season.

Elliott touched on a variety of topics Monday as players, fans and alumni listened on the Cavaliers’ sun-splashed artificial turf practice field.

“I patiently waited for this opportunity and I’m ready,” said Elliott, who spent 11 years as an assistant to Clemson’s Dabo Swinney. “I’ve seen the establishment of a championship culture, what it looks like, and I’m prepared for this moment. I chose UVA because I wanted to lead a program that was partnered with a university that had world-class academics.”

Elliott said he expects to have top-level football success at a school with strict academic requirements “because I think in order to be the best football player, you have to be the best student. You can’t have one without the other. They complement each other and all of those skills are transferable.”

Mendenhall and his staff will coach the Cavaliers in the first Fenway Bowl in Boston on Dec. 29. That will give Elliott time to build his staff and observe the program, either from the sideline during practice or on video. He praised Mendenhall and his staff for their willingness to help with the transition.

See ELLIOTT, page B4

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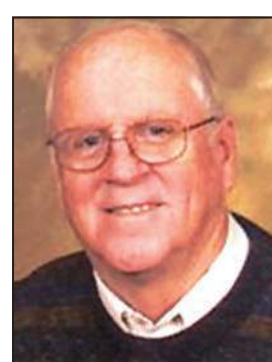
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# Help Wanted: Pulaski County PSA Heavy Equipment Operator



The Pulaski County Public Service Authority is seeking to fill a full time position as a Water/Wastewater Department Heavy Equipment Operator. The primary responsibilities are performing routine skilled mechanical work in the installation and maintenance of the water distribution and sewer collection systems. The employee shall perform responsible skilled work in the operation of, but not limited to, a backhoe, trench machine, bush hog and other heavy equipment as required. A Class A CDL is required.

This is a full-time position with extensive benefits that include health, dental, vision and life insurance, state retirement program, optional 457-retirement program, sick and

vacation leave, paid holidays and more. The salary range for this position is \$30,112 – \$50,405. Salary is commensurate upon education and experience.

Interested individuals may apply at the appropriate Virginia Employment Commission or may download an application from [www.pulaskicounty.org](http://www.pulaskicounty.org) and submit to Tammy Nichols, Human Resources Director, [tnichols@pulaskicounty.org](mailto:tnichols@pulaskicounty.org).

Position is open until filled.

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# Bowl Season: Back to normal, but why watch?

By **RALPH D. RUSSO**  
Associated Press

To be frank, last year’s bowl season felt a little sad.

A bunch of bowls were canceled by the pandemic even before the matchups were set. More had to be called off on relatively short notice. Teams decided to pass on playing in a bowl altogether after rocky seasons. Fans were grateful for the 25 bowls they got, but it just wasn’t the same.

The full bowl lineup is back this

season. There will be 43 games, 42 involving FBS teams, before the College Football Playoff championship game Jan. 10 in Indianapolis.

And there is a reason to watch every single one ( lines from Fan-Duel Sportsbook ):

Friday, Dec. 17

Bahamas Bowl, Nassau

Toledo vs. Middle Tennessee

Why watch? Kicking off at noon ET on a Friday, the Bahamas Bowl marks the official start of the “this can probably wait until after the

new year” season when it comes to work.

Pick: Toledo minus 10. Score: Toledo 35, MTSU 21.

Cure Bowl, Orlando, Florida  
Northern Illinois vs. Coastal Carolina

Why watch? Coastal QB Grayson McCall’s efficiency rating of 207.95 is well ahead of the pace to break the record of 203.06 Alabama’s Mac Jones set last year. Fire up your calculator and follow along as McCall chases history.

Pick: Coastal Carolina minus 10

1/2. Score: Coastal 35, NIU 21.

Saturday, Dec. 18

Boca Raton (Fla.) Bowl

Western Kentucky vs. Appalachian State

Why watch? Hilltoppers QB Bailey Zappe needs 288 yards passing — a good half for him — to break the FBS single-season record of 5,833 set by Texas Tech’s B.J. Sy-

mons in 2003.

Pick: WKU plus 3. Score: WKU 38, App State 35.

Celebration Bowl, Atlanta

South Carolina State vs. Jackson State

Why watch? Coach Prime! Deion Sanders led Jackson State to its first SWAC title in 14 years, with his son, freshman Shedeur Sand-

See BOWLS, page B4

## LEGAL NOTICE

## Board of Supervisors Public Notice



The Pulaski County Board of Supervisors intends to hold two (2) sequential Public Hearings beginning at 7:00 p.m., or soon thereafter as can be heard, on Monday, December 20, 2021, in the Supervisors Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, 143 Third Street, N.W., Suite 1 in the Town of Pulaski to receive citizens’ comments on the following matters:

- Adoption of a proposed ordinance approving the creation of a joint entity to be known as the New River Valley Passenger Rail Station Authority and authorizing execution of an agreement setting forth rights and obligations of authority members as provided by law. This proposed action is in accordance with Chapter 38 of title 33.2 of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended.
- Adoption of a proposed Pulaski County Election Redistricting Ordinance.

Comments may be presented orally or in writing via mail to above address, fax (540-980-7717), or e-mail to [bos@pulaskicounty.org](mailto:bos@pulaskicounty.org). A copy of the draft ordinances is available for public inspection from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, at County Administration Building, 143 Third Street, NW, in the Town of Pulaski or by phoning (540) 980-7705.

If you are a disabled individual and would like special auxiliary aids or services, please contact the County’s ADA Compliance Officer at (540) 980-7800 (TDD accessible) or (540) 980-7705, ten (10) days prior to the above meeting date.

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## JOBS

## Pulaski County Planning and Zoning Director



Pulaski County is hiring for the position of Planning & Zoning Director. With a population of 34,500, Pulaski County provides a full range of rural and urban services. The County is located along I-81 just north of the I-81/I-77 intersection. With a land area of 327 square miles, Pulaski County encompasses the Towns of Dublin and Pulaski, the New River, Claytor Lake, two state parks, portions of the Jefferson National Forest, and the second largest Boy Scout camp in the US. The County also hosts a regional industrial park, a regional general aviation airport, jail, landfill, sewer treatment plant, home for handicapped adults and the Pulaski Yankees at the historic Calfee Baseball Park. The New River Valley offers a K-Doctorate level educational system through the Pulaski County School system, the Southwest Virginia Governor’s School for Science and Math, New River Community College, Radford University and Virginia Tech.

The essential functions for this position are to oversee the planning and zoning office including the administration of zoning, subdivision, land development standards, long-range planning, and other related activities and duties. Responsible for enforcement of zoning, land development, and subdivision regulations. Staffs and serves several boards and commissions on behalf of Pulaski County. Does related work as required. Should operate at the executive level to interact with elected officials, appointed officials, and the public.

Educational Requirements: A Bachelor’s degree in planning, public administration, architecture, geology, or a related field preferred. Minimum of four (4) years of experience in planning or a related field; project management experience for planning and design of capital improvement projects; general knowledge about a wide range of planning topics; computer skills necessary to work in various Microsoft Office programs and ESRI ArcMap; ability to interpret and draft codes and ordinances; proficiency at public speaking; ability to work effectively in a team environment. Possession of a valid appropriate driver’s license issued by the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Preferred: Master’s Degree in planning or related field, AICP certification, minimum of two (2) years of supervisory experience, experience working with building inspectors, Certified Zoning Administrator (CZA) certification. Must have excellent customer service skills, technical writing ability, negotiation skills, verbal communication skills, and Planning Commission Management.

The salary range for the position is \$54,797 - \$86,784, DOQ. Benefits include: health, dental, vision and life insurance, state retirement program, 457b retirement program, county vehicle, sick and vacation leave, paid holidays and more.

Interested applicants may apply at the Virginia Employment Commission Office or complete a County Application located at [www.pulaskicounty.org](http://www.pulaskicounty.org) and submit it to Tammy Nichols, Human Resources Director at [tnichols@pulaskicounty.org](mailto:tnichols@pulaskicounty.org).

Application review to begin immediately, position open until filled.

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# Climbing Mountains

I recently read the book, “A Window to Heaven” by Hudson Stuck, an ordained Episcopal priest who led an expedition in the first conquest of MT McKinley in 1913 (now renamed Denali to its original native name). There had been a couple others who had claimed to have climbed this mountain first, the highest point in North America, but were later proved wrong. Denali tops out at an elevation of 20,310 feet compared to that of Mt Everest at 29,032 feet but Denali is at a much higher latitude of 63 N; 151 W where Everest is closer to that of the southern part of Florida of 27 N; 87 E. Climbing mountains of these heights challenges the best climbers in the world and many have lost their lives on mountains of this caliber all over the world.

I thought of such mountains that I have climbed over the years that pale in comparison to this type of mountain climbing. In the first days when the deer population was nothing as it is today, I often climbed to the tops of mountains where good-sized bucks often go to the highest



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points available in order to check their back trails. First day of fall hunting season is a time when firing of guns are going full force and deer are moving as a result.

I have climbed many places to the tops of Little Walker and Big walker from the valley below the elevation of around 2100 feet to as high as around 2800 feet at High Rock up atop Big Walker at the end of Spur Branch that leads off from the Little Creek Road in Bland County. I ran into a driving snow storm once on Aangels Rest Mtn. West of Pearisburg but there was none in the valley below. I have been on Mt Rogers (not hunting), elevation 5,729 feet, where one can sign a log shared by those

known as “High Toppers” who climb all the highest points of all states in the U.S.

Many try to climb the highest mountains on the seven continents with Everest being the jewel of them all. Rob Hall of New Zealand had led many expeditions on Everest and had been atop it on 5 separate occasions. In 1996, a total of eight including Hall, lost their lives in the worst tragedy in Everest history. They encountered hurricane-force winds, exposure and the effects of high altitude that led to this disaster.

Most mountains around here get more difficult to climb in my latter years. I have no desire to be among those that take many days establishing base climbs, climbing into thin air and risking it all just to say I did it.

As we approach the celebration of Christmas, we should as Christians be telling the “reason for the season.” Isaiah 52:7a KJV: “How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings.” As the song states: “Go tell it on the mountain. That Jesus Christ is born”

Until next time

## JOBS



## Pulaski County PSA Water/Wastewater Service Technician

The Pulaski County Public Service Authority is seeking to hire two Water/Wastewater Service Technicians. These positions are responsible for performing routine, semi-skilled and technical work in the installation, maintenance and repair of utility systems, pump stations, monitoring, repair and maintenance of flow meters, minor repairs to automotive and other equipment, inspection of sewage facilities, manholes, valves, etc.

This is a full-time, non-exempt position with benefits such as health, dental, optional vision, retirement, vacation, sick leave and paid holidays. The salary range for this position is \$27,040 to \$42,054 and is commensurate upon education and experience.

Interested individuals may apply at the appropriate Virginia Employment Commission or download and submit an application from [www.pulaskicounty.org](http://www.pulaskicounty.org) to Tammy Safewright, Human Resources Director, [tnichols@pulaskicounty.org](mailto:tnichols@pulaskicounty.org).

Position is open until filled

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# Elliott

Continued from Page B1

Another player Elliott would prefer to stay with the program, center Olusegun Oluwatimi, attended the news conference and said he liked what he heard. Oluwatimi, one of three finalists for the Rimington Trophy given to the top center in college football, has entered the transfer portal.

He said teammates are already recruiting him to stay at Virginia.

Elliott said his offensive system will be adapted to the talent he has to work with, and he said he was intrigued by the offense Virginia ran this season, which ranked third nationally at 515.8 yards per game. On defense, he said he favors controlled aggression with well-disguised coverages.

In his meeting with the team, he said his initial message was “finish and do so with purpose, passion and love for each other and love for coach Mendenhall and the staff.” He did not rule out retaining some of Mendenhall’s assistants.

“The journey ahead is going to be filled with some mountain-top moments and also some moments down in the valley, and I look forward to both because I



Virginiasports.com

UVA’s new head coach, Tony Elliott.

know that both are important for growth,” Elliott said.

Elliott and athletic director Carla Williams both addressed Virginia’s facilities, which Mendenhall said were lacking when he arrived six years ago. The school has increased staffing levels and added a grass practice field and plans a new building to house coaches’ offices, weight rooms and other services.

“Mt staff tells me I’m brutally

honest, and I was with Tony about the facilities because I think it’s really important to be honest,” Williams said.

Elliott’s said his work to establish his vision for the program will be equally important.

“Bricks and mortar is nice, and the young people want to see bricks and mortar, but we all know that’s not what makes a home. It’s the people inside,” he said.

# Hokies

Continued from Page B7

## Virginia Tech’s Early Signees

Name	POS	Height	Hometown/High School
Keyshawn Burgos	DE	6’ 5”	Chesterfield, Va. / Matoaca
Mansoor Delane	S	6’ 1”	Silver Spring, Md. / Archbishop Spalding
Johnny Dickson	OL	6’ 3”	Corpus Christi, Texas / Flour Bluff
Bryce Duke	RB	5’ 11”	Leesburg, Va. / Tuscarora
Devin Farrell	QB	6’ 0”	Alpharetta, Ga. / Milton
Johnny Garrett	OT	6’ 5”	Scituate, Mass. / Boston College (HS)
Gunner Givens	DL	6’ 5”	Daleville, Va. / Lord Botetourt
Benji Gosnell	TE	6’ 5”	Pilot Mountain, N.C. / Carrol County
Tucker Holloway	WR	6’ 2”	Andrews, N.C. / Rabun Gap-Nacoochee
Cam Johnson	CB	6’ 0”	Washington, D.C. / St. Frances Academy
Lemar Law Jr.	DT	6’ 5”	Virginia Beach, Va. / Green Run
John Love	K	5’ 11”	Spartanburg, S.C. / Spartanburg
Hunter McClain	OL	6’ 4”	Hot Springs, Va. / Lord Botetourt
Brody Meadows	OT	6’ 6”	Bluefield, Va. / Graham
Braelin Moore	DL	6’ 3”	Bethlehem, Pa. / Freedom
Kyree Moyston	DE	6’ 4”	Portsmouth, Va. / King’s Fork
Rashaud Pernell	DT	6’ 4”	Henrico, Va. / Highland Springs
Reid Pulliam	LB	6’ 3”	Highland Springs / Life Christian Academy
Harrison Saint Germain	TE	6’ 4”	Centreville, Va. / Westfield

# Bowls

Continued from Page B3

ers, playing quarterback.

Pick: South Carolina State plus 10. Score: Jackson State 24, South Carolina State 17.

New Mexico Bowl, Albuquerque Fresno State vs. UTEP

Why watch? Miners try to make a little history. UTEP has not played in the postseason since 2014 and it has not won a bowl since 1967, when it beat Ole Miss at its home Sun Bowl.

Pick: UTEP plus 11 1/2. Score: Fresno State 27, UTEP 17.

Independence Bowl, Shreveport, Louisiana

No. 12 BYU vs. UAB

Why watch? The Independence Bowl has slipped down the bowl pecking order over the years, but BYU is the highest-ranked team to play in Shreveport since No. 15 LSU beat Notre Dame in 1997.

Pick: UAB plus 6 1/2. Score: BYU 27, UAB 24.

LendingTree Bowl, Mobile, Alabama

Eastern Michigan vs. Liberty

Why watch? If the NFL draft is your thing, get a look at Liberty quarterback Malik Willis, who has a chance to rise up the draft boards in a so-so QB class.

Pick: Liberty minus 6 1/2. Score: Liberty 31, Eastern Michigan 21.

ADVERTISEMENT

Jimmy Kimmel LA Bowl, Inglewood, California

Oregon State vs. Utah State

Why watch? Safe bet that at some point Jimmy Kimmel is going to show up in some way. Is that a reason to watch or to flip to another game? That’s for you to decide.

Pick: Oregon State minus 7 1/2. Score: Oregon State 42, Utah State 28.

New Orleans Bowl

No. 16 Louisiana-Lafayette vs. Marshall

Why watch? Ragin’ Cajuns are New Orleans bowl regulars, with five appearances but none since 2016. With a late kickoff, should be good atmosphere at the Superdome.

Pick: Louisiana-Lafayette minus 1/2. Score: Louisiana-Lafayette 24, Marshall 20.

Monday, Dec. 20

Myrtle Beach Bowl, Conway, South Carolina

Old Dominion vs. Tulsa

Why watch? The game kicks at 2:30 p.m. EST, but it’s always happy hour somewhere. Actually, isn’t it always happy hour in Myrtle Beach?

Pick: Tulsa minus 8 1/2. Score: Tulsa 28, Old Dominion 14.

Tuesday, Dec. 21

Famous Idaho Potato Bowl, Boise, Idaho

Kent State vs. Wyoming.

Why watch? Last year, the winning coach of the Potato Bowl had French fries dumped on him instead of the traditional Gatorade bath. This year, maybe mashed potatoes?

Pick: Wyoming minus 3. Score: Wyoming 34, Kent State 28.

Frisco (Texas) Bowl

No. 24 UTSA vs. San Diego State

Why watch? Only the playoff games have two teams that combined for more victories than the Roadrunners (12-1) and Aztecs (11-2). Plus, punt god Matt Araiza of San Diego State.

Pick: San Diego State plus 3. Score: San Diego State 23, UTSA 21.

Wednesday, Dec. 22

Armed Forces Bowl, Fort Worth, Texas

Army vs. Missouri

Why watch? Find out what hap-

pens when Army’s triple-option matches up against the Southeastern Conference’s worst run defense.

Pick: Army minus 4. Score: Army 28, Missouri 21.

Thursday, Dec. 23

Frisco (Texas) Football Classic Miami (Ohio) vs. North Texas

Why watch? Last season, bowls were getting canceled left and right. This game was ADDED to the lineup a few weeks before it will be played. It’s the Anti-2020 Bowl and deserving of your respect.

Pick: North Texas plus 3. Score: North Texas 34, Miami 24.

Gasparilla Bowl, Tampa, Florida

UCF vs. Florida

Why watch? Don’t think this is how UCF was hoping to get its first crack since 2009 at the Gators, who limp in with an interim coach and .500 record. Still, the winner will hold it over the loser as if it was a playoff game.

Pick: Florida minus 7. Score: Florida 31, UCF 23.

Friday, Dec. 24

Hawaii Bowl, Honolulu

Memphis vs. Hawaii

Why watch? How many times do you need to watch “It’s a Wonderful Life,” really?

Pick: Hawaii plus 7. Score: Memphis 21, Hawaii 17.

Saturday, Dec. 25

Camellia Bowl, Montgomery, Alabama

Ball State vs. Georgia State

Why watch? How many times do you need to watch “A Christmas Story,” really?

Pick: Georgia State minus 4 1/2. Score: Georgia State 24, Ball State 16.

Monday, Dec. 27

Quick Lane Bowl, Detroit

Nevada vs. Western Michigan

Why watch? Two winning football teams playing at Ford Field, the home of the Lions. That doesn’t happen often.

Pick: Nevada minus 3. Score: Nevada 27, Western Michigan 21.

Military Bowl, Annapolis, Maryland

Boston College vs. East Carolina

Why watch? Get a jump on your 2023 NFL draft QB class with a look at Phil Jurkovec of BC.

Pick: East Carolina plus 3. Score: Boston College 26, ECU 24.

Tuesday, Dec. 28

Birmingham (Ala.) Bowl

No. 21 Houston vs. Auburn

Why watch? Transitive property playoff preview: Auburn lost to Alabama in overtime. Houston was routed by Cincinnati in the AAC title game. How do the Cougars and Tigers match up? Will it reveal anything about how the Cotton Bowl will play out? Probably not, but somebody on social media is bound to suggest it does.

Pick: Auburn minus 3. Score: Auburn 26, Houston 20.

SERVPRO First Responder Bowl, Dallas

Air Force vs. Louisville

Why watch? Last chance to see the triple-option until next season.

Pick: Score: Air Force plus 1. Score: Air Force 31, Louisville 28.

Liberty Bowl, Memphis, Tennessee.

Mississippi State vs. Texas Tech

See BOWLS, page B10

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# Pulaski County girls now at 3-1 on season

**Patriot Staff Report**

The Pulaski County Lady Cougars are 3-1 now on the season after humbling Christiansburg Tuesday, 68-14.

Head Coach Scott Ratcliff’s squad was led in scoring by Jaden Lawson’s 16 points. Ally Fleenor added 15, Erin Russell had 14 and Keslyn Secrist had 10.

Hannah Keefer had 7 points and Paige Huff closed out the Lady Cougars scoring with 6.

Last Saturday, Pulaski County got revenge for its lone loss of the season by beating Carroll County, 61-45.

Secrist paced Pulaski County with 19 points. Fleenor added 13 and Lawson had 12. Huff and Russell added 6 each and Keefer chipped in 5.

Pulaski County was due to host Radford on Friday, however, that game has been postponed because of COVID concerns within the Radford program.



Brian Bishop/The Patriot  
Hailey Capps goes to the line to shoot a free throw vs. the Blue Demons.

## Cougars

Continued from Page B1

Then Gulley took over.

The Cougar senior stepped up big time, with eight straight points off two layups and two short jumpers to give Pulaski County the lead again at 45-42.

With about two minutes to go in the third, Cannoy pulled his team out into a spread in an effort to force Christiansburg out of a 2-3 zone defense and neutralize Taylor.

“In the third he [Christiansburg Head Coach Mike Hunter] went 2-3 zone and we’re up five. I don’t have two guys who can stretch the floor for me so, for me offensively it just didn’t benefit me to run our offense against that zone. So we had to force them to play man-to-man. That’s what we figured out our strength was against their defense,” explained Cannoy on his strategy.

It worked.

Tyler Sutherland hit two free throws to keep the Cougars out of reach.

Nester closed out the third quarter, banking a three-pointer off the backboard as the buzzer sounded to put Pulaski County up, 50-44.

Khalib Horton and O’Neal scored on layups for the Cougars and were answered by Purcell’s three-pointer and the Cougars led, 54-47 to open the fourth.

Then Christiansburg’s two big men, Taylor and Kenyon Johnson Buchannon scored on three layups in a row to close the gap to one at 54-53 with 3:36 to go.

Gulley stopped the bleeding for the Cougars, hitting a short jumper from the left side followed with 1:45 to go by an O’Neal layup to give PCHS some breathing room at 58-53.

Taylor scored again for Chris-

tiansburg and had a chance to complete a three-point play, but missed his free throw.

The Cougars then spread the floor again.

“Late in the game when they had Tyrique on the floor – Tyrique’s a load. He’s a really good player. That’s our weakpoint as a team – being able to have post defense. So, we knew with him on the floor, they had the advantage offensively on their end, but we also had the advantage if we could spread them out. So, we spread them out and really tried to make them defend in space and Coach (Mike) Hunter had to make a decision – do you leave him defensively or do you pull him. Really just a chess match,” explained Cannoy.

Cannoy won the chess match.

Nester added some insurance with a layup before Gulley completed Pulaski County’s scoring, going one of two from the charity stripe for a 61-55 lead.

Johnson Buchannon finished the Blue Demons’ scoring with a layup and the final was 61-57 Cougars.

Friday night, the Cougars play at Radford in hopes of remaining undefeated on the season. The junior varsity game tips off at 5:30 and the varsity follows around 7 p.m.

Hoops notes:

- Last Saturday’s home game against Carroll County was suspended with 3:39 to play due to a medical emergency involving the father of two of the Cavaliers’ players – both of whom were in the game when the incident occurred.

Pulaski County will host Carroll to complete that game, likely after the first of the year.

When play was suspended, the score was 40-39.

The Cougars defeated Carroll

earlier in Pulaski County’s season opener.

- Back on Dec. 7 the Cougars got their second win of the season with a 69-62 win over Floyd County.

Gulley led the Cougars with 21 points. Bourne added 16, McDaniel scored 13 and Nester had 10.

Other scorers for the Cougars were O’Neal with 6, Caleb Underwood had 2 and Sutherland added 1.

Remember Your Cherished Loved Ones With A Memoriam In The Patriot.

Call 540-808-3949.

Deadline Is Noon Wednesday.



Brian Bishop/The Patriot  
Jaden Lawson led all scorers against Christiansburg with 16 points for Pulaski County.

Remember Your Loved Ones On A Special Day With An In Memoriam Message.

540-808-3949

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## PET OF THE WEEK

### WISH LIST

#### Pulaski County Animal Shelter

- Leashes and collars ( may be gently used)
- **\*\*UNSCENTED** Kitty Litter

(WalMart’s “Special Kitty” in the red/blue bag works great)

- Purina Kitten and Cat Chow (Indoor formula, please)
- Purina Puppy Chow
- Canned dog/cat food
- Dog/Cat Treats (NO RAWHIDE)
- Laundry Detergent (UNSCENTED)
- Bleach

- Blankets/Towels/Sheets/Dog or Cat beds that are no longer needed
- Small litter pans
- Dawn dish soap

- Heavy Duty Dog Toys: KONGS Classic works great!
- Wal-Mart Gift Cards
- Puppy Pads

**\*\*Please drop off donations at the Pulaski County Animal Shelter with Animal Control**

**Pulaski County Animal Control,**  
**80 Dublin Park Rd.**  
**Dublin, VA 24084, 540-674-8359**

**Pet of the Week Is Sponsored Each Week By**  
**Todd Bruce, Mgr.**  
**Seagle Funeral Home**

ADAIRE THEATRE

# Simply Christmas

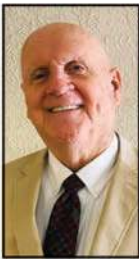
**December 16th - 19th, 2021**  
**Thursday, Friday & Saturday at 7pm**  
**Saturday & Sunday at 2pm**

**Pulaski Elks Lodge**  
**8 West Main Street**  
**Pulaski, VA 24301**

**Tickets \$10**  
**Sold Online At**  
**adairetheatre.org**

**Group Reservations**  
**(504) 250-3665**  
**adairetheatre@gmail.com**





Teach Me Your Word O Lord

Terry McCraw

God Parts Waters of the Red Sea

God sent Moses to Egypt with a message for the Pharaoh of Egypt. To let God’s people go. Israel, God’s chosen people, had been living in Egypt for over 400 years. At first they were treated with respect because they were of the family of Joseph, second in command of all of Egypt. Then Joseph died. The Israelites multiplied rapidly and soon the Egyptians became feared the Israelites may turn against Egypt if Egypt was attacked by another strong nation and join the invaders. Soon afterwards Egypt enslaved the Israelites.

The Israelites cried out to the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob for deliverance from bondage.

When Moses went to Egypt, with his brother Aaron, he demanded as the voice of God, that the Israelites be set free. But the Pharaoh refused to let God’s people go. So God sent 10 plagues upon the Egyptians and finally the Pharaoh agreed to free the Israelites from bondage.

The Israelites packed up and headed for the land that God had promised Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. But before they could travel out of the land of Egypt, the Pharaoh went back on his word and sent his army after the Israelites with the intent to slay them all.

God delivered His people, through a mighty miracle and destroyed the enemy in one fell swoop. And that’s what God can do and will do when the enemy comes in like a flood. The Spirit of the Lord will lift up a standard against them.

Exodus 14:5. “And he (Pharaoh) made ready his chariots, and took his people with him: And he took six hundred chosen chariots, and all the chariots of Egypt, and Captains over every one of them. And the Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh, king of Egypt, and he pursued after the children of Israel: and the children of Israel went out with a high hand. But the Egyptians pursued after them, all the horses and chariots of Pharaoh, and his horsemen, and his army, and overtook them encamping by the sea

The Pharaoh was out of his mind with bitterness and remorse over letting the Israelite slaves go free. So he called up all of his soldiers and they went blindly rushing out in a fit of rage, to catch up to the Israelites and to destroy them all.

God directed Moses to lead the people down a route that ended at the impassible Red Sea. It caused the Pharaoh to wrongly believe that the Israelites were now trapped between his powerful forces and the Rea Sea, with no way out.

But with God, there’s always a way out. He always provides a way out of our dilemmas. And if we’ll trust Him, He will bring us out of all of our troubles. He will make a way where there seems to be no way.

“And the children of Israel murmured against Moses and they murmured against God. They showed such a blatant lack of faith, that it’s a wonder that God didn’t let every last one of them be slaughtered. But What God had spoken, He will perform. For God cannot lie. He would save them in spite of themselves.

They should have trusted God, but instead they angrily railed against both God and Moses for being in such a threatening predicament. Sometimes,

Church Directory

**Draper Valley Baptist Church**  
3200 Lee Highway  
Draper, Va. 24324  
Pastor: Alan Pearce  
Service Times:  
Bible Study Sunday, 10 a.m.  
Sunday Worship, 11 a.m.  
Sunday Evening, 5 p.m.  
email: drapervalleybc@gmail.com  
www.drapervalleybaptist.org

**Grace Baptist Church**  
552 E. Main Street  
Dublin, Va. 24084  
Pastor: Doug Testerman  
674-1762  
Primary Services:  
9:45 a.m. Sunday School  
11 a.m. Sunday worship  
Sunday Night Power Hour, 6 to 7 p.m.  
Wednesday Night 7 to 8 p.m.  
Grace Kids and Teens Bible Study

**Open Door Baptist Church**  
4576 Miller Lane  
Pulaski, VA 24301  
Pastor: Rev. N.K. Howlett  
Primary Services:  
Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.  
Worship, 11 a.m.  
Wednesday Night, 7 p.m.  
Phone: 980-2046

**Draper United Methodist Church**  
3080 Greenbriar Road  
Draper, VA 24324  
Pastor: Rev. Jason Crandall  
423-716-2570  
Primary Service Times:  
Sunday School, 10 a.m.  
Worship, 11 a.m.  
Phone: 276-477-3835

**Newbern Christian Church**  
Disciples of Christ  
5183 Wilderness Road, Newbern  
Rev. Denise and Ken Walker  
540-440-8733

**Christ Episcopal Church**  
144 North Washington Ave., Pulaski  
Service: 10 a.m. every Sunday  
Phone: 980-2413  
Email: christ24301@gmail.com  
www.christpulaski.dioswva.org

**Jordan's Chapel UMC**  
Pastor: Jim Goddard  
Worship: 9:30 a.m.  
Sunday School: 10:45 a.m.  
Wednesday Bible Study: 7 p.m.

**Cecil's Chapel United Methodist Church**  
5801 Cecil's Chapel Road,  
Hiwassee, VA 24347  
Pastor Mark Asbury  
Worship service is 8:45am-9:45am  
Sunday School is 10 - 10:45am  
Ricky Dishon, 540 239 6360, www.facebook.com/cecilschapel.umc

**Newbern United Methodist Church**  
5155 Wilderness Road  
Exit 98 off I-81 Newbern  
Rev. Paige Wimberly  
674-6111  
Worship Services: 9:45 a.m.  
Sunday School: 11 a.m.

**Valley Harvest Ministries**  
1 Harvest Place  
P.O. Box 458  
Dublin, VA 24084  
Senior Pastor Steve Willis  
Associate Pastors: Perry Slaughter,  
Walter Gueste, Derick Burton  
Sunday Worship: 10 a.m.  
Hispanic Ministry Service- Sunday 6 p.m.  
Wednesday School 7 p.m.  
www.vhmdublin.org  
540-674-4729

**Mountain View United Methodist Church**  
6648 Wilderness Road  
Dublin, VA 24084  
Phone: 540-674-6111  
mountainviewumc.yolasite.com/  
Pastor: Paige Wimberly  
Adult Sunday School: 10 a.m.  
Morning Worship with Children's Church at 11 a.m.

**Dublin Baptist Church**  
Dublin Baptist Church  
100 Hawkins Street, Dublin, VA 24084  
540-674-6061  
secretary@dublinbaptistva.org  
Website: dublinbaptistva.org  
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.  
Morning Worship: 11 a.m.  
Wednesday Youth Bible Study, 7 p.m.

**Allisonia Pentecostal Holiness Church**  
1560 Julia Simpkins Road  
Allisonia, VA  
Pastor Justin Phillips  
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:30 a.m.  
Sunday Evening Worship: 6 p.m.

**First United Methodist Church**  
301 N. Jefferson Ave. - Pulaski (physical address)  
135 Fourth St., NW - Pulaski (mailing address)  
Pastor’s Name: Will Shelton  
Hispanic Lay Pastor: Sebastian Ruiz  
Sunday Service: 10:00 AM  
Hispanic Worship: 11:00AM  
Contact Info. Phone: 540.980.3331  
e-mail: office@fumcpulask.org website: www.fumcpulask.org  
FACEBOOK@FirstUMCPulaski and WBLB 10:00am

**Belspring Baptist Church**  
6887 Depot Street  
Belspring, VA 24058  
Pastor Darrell Linkous  
Service Times:  
Sunday School: 10 a.m.  
Sunday worship: 11 a.m.  
Wednesday Bible Study and Youth Group: 7 p.m.  
Darrell Linkous: 353-0081  
belspringbaptistchurch@gmail.com

**Memorial Baptist Church**  
995 Peppers Ferry Road  
Pulaski, VA 24301  
Pastor: Michael S. Jones  
Sunday  
9:45 am - Sunday School  
11:00 am - Worship  
Wednesday  
6:30 pm - Prayer Meeting  
(540) 980-4731  
Email: dfarley3@verizon.net

**River of Life Church**  
5311 Black Hollow Road, Dublin, Va. 24084  
Shawn Burchett, Pastor  
Sunday School 9:15 AM  
Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 AM  
Wednesday Evening Life  
Building Service 7:00 PM  
www.rolcdublin.com 540-674-4500

**Delton Church of God of Prophecy**  
4570 Boyd Road, Draper, VA 24324  
Pastor Vickie Lee Viars  
deltoncogop@gmail.com (276) 620-3191  
Sunday mornings - 11 AM to 12 PM  
Sunday evenings-Facebook live services announced on Facebook  
Wednesday evenings- To be announced at later future time until COVID-19 ceases  
Delton COGOP is following all COVID-19 safety guidelines of social distancing, masks, cleaning, and disinfection.

**Heritage Church**  
6195 Cleburne Boulevard, Dublin  
Pastor Mike Pierce  
Service Times:  
Wednesdays, 7 p.m.;  
Sundays, 10 a.m.  
(540) 674-9220  
Website: www.heritagechurch.net  
Facebook.com/  
HeritageChurchDublinVA

**Fairlawn Baptist**  
6758 Oxford Avenue  
Fairlawn, VA 24141

**First Missionary Baptist Church**  
7318 Manns Drive / P.O. Box 90  
New River, Virginia 24129  
(540) 639-5331  
email: fmbc1872@verizon.net  
Pastor: Rev. Richard A. Goodman, Sr.  
Associate Minister:  
Rev. Annette Cheek  
Clerk: Mrs. Carlotta Lewis  
Sundays:  
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.  
The Lord's Supper - Each First Sunday  
Wednesdays: Prayer Meeting & Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

**Dublin United Methodist Church**  
P.O. Box 577  
424 East Main Street  
Pastor Don Shelor  
(540) 674-5128  
office@dublinumc.com  
Sunday Worship at 9:00 & 11:00am  
Sunday School - 10:00am

**Freedom Fellowship Church**  
1730 West Street  
Radford, VA 24141  
Sr. Pastor: Jerry W. Collins  
540-577-5780  
jcollinsfreedomfellowship@yahoo.com  
Sunday Service: 10 a.m.  
11 a.m. Children’s Church  
Wednesday - 7 p.m. Service  
7 p.m. Youth Service

**Grace Episcopal Church**  
210 4th Street, Radford, 24141  
639-3494  
Service: 10:30AM Sundays  
Email: office@graceradford.org  
http://www.graceradford.org  
Facebook: Grace Episcopal Church

**Draper’s Valley Presbyterian (PCA)**  
2755 Old Baltimore Road,  
Draper, VA 24324  
Senior Pastor: Rev. Robert E. Davis  
Associate Pastor: Rev. Roland Mathews  
Sunday School 9:00 a.m.  
Sunday Morning Worship Service 10:30 a.m.  
Sunday Evening Worship Service 6:15 p.m.  
Wednesday Youth Groups and Adult Prayer & Bible Study 6:30 p.m.  
Phone - 540-994-9015  
e-mail - drapers.valley@dvpca.org  
website - www.dvpca.org  
Sunday Morning Worship Live-Stream • 10:30 a.m. (or anytime on YouTube)

**Trinity Lutheran Church ELCA**  
2 Fifth Street, N.W., Pulaski  
540-980-3624  
The Rev. Terrie Sternberg  
trinitypulaski@gmail.com  
Sunday Worship 11 a.m.  
(Sept. - May)  
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.  
(June - Aug.)  
Bible Study: Wednesday, 12:30  
www.trinitypulaski.org

**Trinity United Methodist**  
Pastor: Judy Yonce  
Sunday Worship - 9:45 a.m.  
Bible Study - Wednesday, 7 p.m.  
528 5th Street, S.E.  
Pulaski, Va.  
Phone - 980-0820

**Snowville Baptist Church**  
3238 Gum Log Road, Hiwassee  
Pastor: Rev. Tony Hart  
Sunday School: 10 a.m.  
Sunday Services: 11 a.m., 6 p.m.  
Wednesday Night Service: 7 p.m.

**Fairlawn United Methodist Church**  
7584 Brandon Road, Fairlawn, Va. 24141  
Pastor Mark A. Miller  
markmiller.psalml@gmail.com  
Cell) 540-320-2431  
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.  
Sunday Worship (with children's message): 11 a.m.  
Bible Study, Wednesday: 7 p.m.  
Youth Ministry  
Facebook.com/  
Fairlawn-United-Methodist-Church

**Grace Ministries Church of God of Prophecy**  
1021 Macgill Street  
Pulaski, VA 24301  
Church: 540-980-2118  
Cell: 276-233-8083  
Bus Ministry: 540-385-9972  
www.pulaskigracemin.com  
Email: pulaskigracemin@hotmail.com  
Pastor Mike Williams  
Children's Ministry  
Aaron & Becky Sampson  
Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.  
Children’s Church 10:30 a.m.  
Children’s Free Breakfast 10:30 a.m.  
Ages 5-12  
Men’s & Women’s Ministry Wed. 6:30

**Faith Bible Church**  
110 LaGrange Street, Pulaski, VA 24301  
Pastor: Jim Linkous  
Associate Pastor: T.J. Cox  
540-980-5433  
www.facebook/faithbiblechurch  
Sunday School: 10 a.m.  
Sunday Worship: 11 a.m.  
Sunday Children’s Church: 11 a.m.  
Sunday Evening: 6 p.m.  
Wednesday Evening Bible Study: 7 p.m.  
Children’s Meal: 6:30 p.m.  
Children’s and Youth’s Group Classes: 7 p.m.

**Dublin Christian Church**  
5605 Dunlap Road  
P.O. Box 1330  
Dublin, VA 24084  
(540) 674-8434  
www.dublinchristianchurch.com  
Richard R. Goad, Jr.  
Senior Minister  
Sunday School 10 a.m.  
Worship 11 a.m.  
Sunday Evening Worship and Youth Meeting, 6 p.m.  
Wednesday Bible Study and Children's Bible Classes, 7 p.m.

**First Presbyterian Church**  
408 N. Jefferson Avenue, Pulaski  
Pastor Melissa McNair-King  
(540) 980-2132  
firstprespulaskiva@gmail.com  
www.firstpresbyterianpulaski.org  
Sunday Services:  
Sept.-May: Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.,  
Service 11 a.m.  
June-Labor Day: Service 10 a.m.  
Wednesday Family Night, 6 - 7:30 p.m.



**Thornspring United Methodist Church**  
5670 Thornspring Church Rd.  
Dublin, VA 24084  
Pastor: Rev. Teresa Tolbert  
Sunday School: 10 a.m.  
Worship Service: 11 a.m.  
Phone: (540) 980-2927

**First Baptist Church**  
5473 Baskerville Street  
Dublin, VA 24084  
Pastor Wallis Brown  
540-674-2677  
Service: 11 a.m.

**New Dublin Presbyterian Church**  
5331 New Dublin Church Road  
Dublin, VA 24084  
Pastor: Sara Jane Nixon  
Website: newdublinpres.org  
540-674-6147  
Services 11:00 AM Sundays

**Community Christian Church**  
5382 Grace Street, Dublin VA, 24084  
540-674-4308  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Worship Service 10:45 a.m.

**First Dublin Presbyterian Church (ECO)**  
409 Church Street, Dublin, Va. 24084  
P.O. Box 2027, Dublin, Va. 24084  
first-dublin-presbyterian-church-eco.com  
Minister:  
The Rev. Dr. Olin Marsh Whitener, Jr.

**Max Creek Baptist Church**  
3000 Old Route 100 Road, Draper, Va. 24324  
www.maxcreek.org  
www.facebook.com/maxcreekbaptist  
Senior Pastor: Mike Coleman  
Youth Minister: Charlie Prince  
Sunday Services  
Sunday School: 10 a.m.  
Morning Worship: 11 a.m.  
Teen Social and Class: 5 p.m.  
Evening Worship: 6 p.m.  
Wednesday Bible Study & Classes: 7 p.m.

**Pulaski Church of God**  
1621 Bob White Boulevard  
Pulaski, VA 24301  
Pastor Donald Jones  
540-980-8880  
www.pulaskicog.church  
Sunday Services  
Sunday Life Groups: 9:30 a.m.  
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:30 a.m.  
Wednesdays Midweek Connect: 7 p.m.

**Showers of Blessing Church of God in Christ**  
305 Newbern Road, Dublin  
Pastor Elder Stephen Muse  
Come and Worship With Us!  
Sunday School: 10:30 a.m.  
Sunday Worship: 11:30 a.m.  
Tuesday Night Bible Study: 7-8 p.m.

**Randolph Avenue United Methodist Church**  
1607 Randolph Avenue  
Pulaski, VA 24301  
Pastor: Rev. Dr. Elston McLain  
Worship Service: 11 a.m.  
Phone: (540) 980-8775

**Pulaski Christian Church, Inc.**  
4531 Brookmont Road, Pulaski, VA 24301  
www.pulaskichristianchurch.com/  
Rev. Kathy Warden, Pastor,  
(540) 250-2974  
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.  
Worship 11 a.m.  
Worship 7 p.m.  
Monday Bible Study  
7 to 9 p.m.  
Wednesday Bible Study  
7 p.m.

**Aldersgate United Methodist**  
1946 Medallion Drive  
Pulaski, VA 24301  
(540) 980-1349  
Pastor Jim Goddard  
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.  
Sunday Worship 11 a.m.

**First Baptist Church**  
220 Magazine Street  
Pulaski, VA 24301  
540-980-3336  
Email: firstbaptist220@gmail.com  
Pastor: Rev. Douglas Patterson  
Sunday School 10 a.m.  
Sunday Worship 11 a.m.  
Monday's Child Youth Group, Monday  
Evening 6 p.m.  
Wednesday Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

**Pulaski Presbyterian Church (PCA)**  
975 Memorial Drive  
Pulaski, VA 24301  
Office Phone: 980-2631  
Email: pastor@pulaskipca.org  
Website: www.pulaskipca.org  
Stated Supply: Rev. John Gess  
Sunday School: 10:00am  
Worship Service: 11:00am

**Sure Foundation Christian Fellowship**  
6598 Annie Akers Road  
Radford, VA 24141  
(540) 639-3443  
Pastor Steve Phillips  
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:00 am  
Sunday Night Prayer: 5:30 pm  
Wednesday Night  
Prophetic Teaching: 6:30 pm

**New Hope Chapel**  
1555 Case Knife Road  
Pulaski, VA 24301  
Pastor Darrell Gray  
(276) 733-6080

Pastor Gray and congregation invite you to  
New Hope Chapel.  
Service Times:  
10 a.m. Sunday School  
11 a.m. Sunday Service

**Family Worship Center First Pentecostal Holiness**  
955 Memorial Drive, Pulaski  
540-980-7287  
Jeff Willhoite, Pastor  
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.  
Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m.  
KidsZone 10:45 a.m.  
Evening Worship 6 p.m.  
www.fwcpulaski.church

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**Pulaski First Church of the Brethren**  
1749 Newbern Road  
Pulaski, VA 24301  
Pastor Frank Peters  
Sunday School: 9:45  
Worship: 11 a.m.  
Wednesday Bible Study: 7 p.m.  
980-3798

**Abundant Life Ministries**  
3050 Lee Highway  
Pulaski, VA 24301 (540) 980-5506  
(Mon. - Fri., 9 a.m.-1 p.m.)  
Pastor Randall K. Lawrence Sr.  
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.  
Wednesday Evenings (Family Night) 7 pm  
Bible Classes all ages  
Adult Bible Class  
THRIVE Teen Class  
Children's Special Activitiy Classes

**New Life Church of the Nazarene**  
45 S. Jefferson Avenue  
Pulaski, VA 24301  
540-980-2001  
www.newlifepulaski.com  
email: pastorjuls@verizon.net  
Pastor: Julie Armbrister  
Sunday School (all ages) 9:30 a.m.  
Sunday worship: 10:45 a.m.  
Wednesday Bible Study: 6 p.m.

**Trinity Baptist Church**  
4008 Robinson Tract Road  
Pulaski, VA 24301  
Telephone: 980-8186  
Pastor Johnny Howlett  
Minister of Education Rev. Steve Taylor  
Sunday Worship - 10 a.m.  
Sunday Bible Study - 6 p.m.  
Wednesday - Adult Bible Study and Youth  
Group - 7 p.m.

**Grace Fellowship Baptist Church**  
2640 Max Creek Road  
P.O. Box 326  
Hiwassee, VA 24347  
Pastor: Jason N. Aker  
Phone: 276-699-3176  
pastorjasonaker@gmail.com  
Sunday School: 10 a.m.  
Sunday Worship Service: 11 a.m.  
Wednesday Night Bible Study: 7 p.m.

**St. Edwards Catholic Church**  
Corner of N. Washington Ave. and  
7th Street N.W., Pulaski  
Phone: 980-6511  
Fax: 980-6511  
Priest: Fr. Francis Boateng  
Mass: 11 a.m. Sunday

**Warriors for Christ II**  
Bishop Sherman Buckner  
600 Skyline Circle  
Pulaski, VA  
540-315-2317  
Sunday School: 10 a.m.  
Worship: 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.  
Thursday: 7 p.m. Service

**Bob White Boulevard Baptist Church**  
3826 Bob White Boulevard  
Pulaski, VA.  
Pastor: Allen Harman  
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.  
Preaching: 11 a.m.  
Sunday Evening: 7:30 p.m.  
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7:30 p.m.  
**FUNDAMENTAL**

**First Baptist Church**  
325 Randolph Avenue  
Pulaski, Va.  
Pastor: Dr. Henry Fiske  
Phone: 980-6565  
fbcpulaskiva@gmail.com  
Sunday School: 10 a.m.  
Sunday Worship: 11 a.m.

**Pathway to Heaven Worship Center**  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 434  
Dublin, VA 24084  
Physical Address: 7889 Cleburne Blvd.  
Dublin, VA 24084  
Pastor Winfred Keene - Phone 540-239-8092  
Sunday School: 10 a.m.  
Sunday Morning Worship: 11 a.m.  
Sunday Evening Worship: 6 p.m.  
Tuesday Evening Bible Study: 6 p.m.

**Amazing Grace Ministries**  
4892 Veterans Hill Road  
Pulaski, VA  
Pastor Todd Garwood  
(540) 250-3741  
ttgarwood674@gmail.com

we must never forget that because of Jesus' death and resurrection, Satan has already been defeated -- and someday the battle will be over.

The same book -- the Bible -- that tells of God's love, also warns us of the devil who desires to come between God and His people; he is ever wanting to ensnare the souls of mankind. Remember, the closer we stay to Jesus, the farther away we are from the devil.

(This column is based on the words and writings of the late Rev. Billy Graham.)

**McCraw**

Continued from Page B6

we who are Christians find ourselves doubting God when we run into something that we can't handle. But there's nothing that our God can't handle! If God brings us to it, He will bring us through it.

Verses 13 through 18. "And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord which He will show unto you today: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen today, ye shall see them again no more forever. The Lord shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace."

Verse 15. "And the Lord said unto Moses, wherefore criest thou unto me? Speak unto the children of Israel that they go forward."

God wanted them to step out in faith. And brothers and sisters in Christ, when we take a step in faith, rest assured, that God will make a way where there seems to be no way.

Verse 16. "But lift up thy rod, and stretch out thine hand over the sea, and divide it, and the children of Israel shall go on dry land through the midst of the sea."

Moses did what God told him to do. If we'll do what God tells us to do, we'll see the mighty hand of God working miracles around us. God hasn't changed. He still works miracles for those who believe.

Verse # 21. "And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the Lord caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided. And the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea upon the dry ground; and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand and on their left."

What God does, God always does well. When the army of Egyptians followed after them, God made the waters abate, and whole Egyptian army were drowned.

To slow the opposing army down, God made the wheels come off of their chariots. When the last Israelite reached the far shore, the walls of water came crashing back down upon the armies of the Pharaoh and they all perished.

We serve the mighty God of deliverance. If we'll obey God and trust God, He will deliver us from evil. Remember, all things are possible with God. There's nothing our God cannot do. If it takes a miracle to deliver us, then God will send us the miracle that we need.

"God did not remove the Red Sea. He opened it. He will help us find a way through our problems as well." Brad Wilcox.

# Bible Trivia

1. The main Christmas story about the birth of Jesus is paraphrased from what two New Testament books? Mark/John, Acts/Romans, Matthew/Luke, Jude/Revelation
2. Approximately how old was Jesus when the wise men (Magi) arrived with their gifts? 1 day, 2 weeks, 2 months, 2 years
3. Where did the angel Gabriel appear to Mary, saying, "Blessed art thou among women"? Nazareth, Tyre, Ninevah, Gazi
4. How many times does the word "Christmas" appear in the Bible (KJV)? Zero, 1, 2, 7
5. In what city of Judaea was Jesus born? Damascus, Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Gezer
6. Who plotted to kill the baby Jesus? Archelaus, Herod, Pontius Pilot, Caesar Augustus

ANSWERS: 1) Matthew/Luke; 2) 2 years; 3) Nazareth; 4) Zero; 5) Bethlehem; 6) Herod



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## Learning how to deal with a bully is important

From the writings of the Rev. Billy Graham

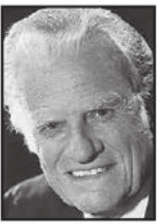
Q: Bullying among children is never acceptable behavior, so it's hard to understand why adults practice bullying every day. In an age where society cries for more tolerance, what is behind this oppressive spirit? - B.A.

A: Learning how to deal with a bully is important. The best way is to ignore them if possible. When it comes to bullying in a spiritual sense, the ultimate bully is Satan. God has taught us how to defend ourselves against him -- never

listen to the devil. This was Eve's problem at the beginning of time on Earth -- she "listened" to the serpent (the devil).

Satan will do everything he can to discourage and defeat us. He attacks us where we are weakest. He wants to keep us from serving God and living according to His ways. "Resist [the devil]," the Bible says, and be steadfast in the faith (1 Peter 5:9).

Spiritual training is necessary to build us up in our minds, like physical exercise makes our muscles stronger. Christ has provided everything we need to arm



My Answer

Billy Graham

ourselves against Satan's attacks. He communicates with us through His Word and brings a sensitivity to the working of His Spirit within.

God has promised to be with us when we face any trouble; we must remember that He is bigger than every problem! Most of all,



Amber Waves

DEAR, I FOUND A NEW CEREAL AT THE STORE FOR YOU.

THIS ONE'S MUCH HEALTHIER WITHOUT ALL THE SUGAR. I'M SURE YOU'LL ENJOY IT.

THIS CEREAL IS BROWN. IN ORDER TO TASTE GOOD IT HAS TO BE RED, BLUE OR PURPLE.

by Dave T. Phipps

Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas

Calzonias, Italy

SMILE AND SAY...

RICOTTA CHEESE!!!

R.F.D.

by Mike Marland

THINK WE'LL HAVE SNOW FOR CHRISTMAS?

I SURE HOPE SO!

Three Days Later...

THINK WE'LL BE ABLE TO DIG OURSELVES OUT BY NEW YEAR'S?

I SURE HOPE SO!

AWESOME!

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering

I JUST WATCHED A DOCUMENTARY ON P.B.S. ABOUT BEAVERS.

HOW WAS IT??

BEST DAM SHOW I EVER SAW!!

POPEYE

HEY CFSMAN

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WHAT'S HOLDING YOU UP?

TH' GUY IS GITTEN A PENCIL

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps

AHH GEEZ, I SUPPOSE IT WOULD JUST BE EASIER TO READ A BOOK.

LAFF - A - DAY

"I wore the same dress yesterday and nobody even noticed!!"

SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

Acute  
HARPS

Charm  
ELAPSE

Salad  
LEAK

Rude  
SCARS

TODAY'S WORD

\_\_\_\_\_

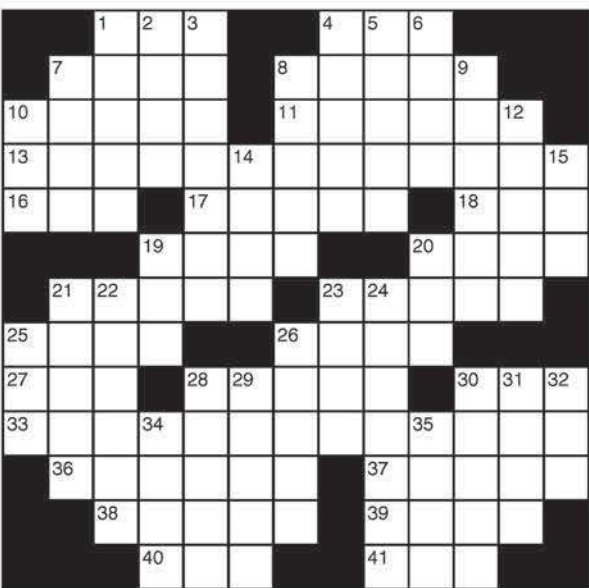


"He must be considering marriage — he's started taking me to restaurants."

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 PC port
- 4 Roast VIPs
- 7 — cheese dressing
- 8 Some tides
- 10 Coffee-break hr.
- 11 Mistakes in print
- 13 Mitch Hedberg and Margaret Cho, for two
- 16 Standard
- 17 Cyber-commerce
- 18 To and —
- 19 Greet
- 20 "Roots" author Haley
- 21 Racing shell
- 23 Red-tag events
- 25 Poker variety
- 26 \$ dispensers
- 27 1040 org.
- 28 Mideast pen-insula
- 30 Mimic
- 33 "Don't slouch!"
- 36 Spud
- 37 Thin nails
- 38 Brick worker
- 39 Used car sites
- 40 Med. plan option



41 Away from WSW

DOWN

- 1 Of an arm bone
- 2 Writer O'Casey
- 3 Unfair treatment
- 4 "Thank you, Henri"
- 5 Yule tune
- 6 Pesky email
- 7 Alpha follower
- 8 Himalayan
- 9 Repress
- 10 Recipe abbr.
- 12 Farm units
- 14 Gas co., for one
- 15 Boston team, for short
- 19 Paul Newman film
- 20 Gore and Franken
- 21 Vegas area
- 22 Convention
- 23 Luminary
- 24 Good-natured

- 25 Venus, to Serena
- 26 Playwright Chekhov
- 28 Tic
- 29 "Life — short ..."
- 30 Marble type
- 31 Profs' degrees
- 32 UFO crew
- 34 Hexagonal state
- 35 Press agent?

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top ten

CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

1. Christmas movies

2. Christmas tree

3. Holiday decorating

4. Hang mistletoe, stockings

5. Christmas dinner

6. Bake cookies

7. Exchange gifts

8. Christmas cards

9. Elf on the Shelf

10. Christmas music

Source: minted.com

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Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. SCIENCE: How long does it take for light to travel from the Sun to Earth?

2. TELEVISION: Which comedian used the catchphrase "one ringie dingie, two ringie dingies" in a TV character sketch?

3. MEASUREMENTS: How many centimeters are equivalent to 100 inches?

4. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Who is the only president to serve nonconsecutive terms?

5. LANGUAGE: How many languages are spoken in the world today?

6. GOVERNMENT: Which branch of U.S. government is responsible for making laws?

7. SPORTS: Which famous baseball pitcher's nickname is "The Chairman of the Board"?

8. FOOD & DRINK: What type of food do the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles love?

9. GEOGRAPHY: Which ocean does Bermuda lie in?

10. MATH: What is a prime number?

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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Mustache is added; 2. Glasses are added; 3. Boots are different; 4. Pocket is added; 5. Pants are different; 6. Button is missing.

Answers

1. Eight minutes, 20 seconds

2. Lily Tomlin, as telephone operator

3. 254

4. Grover Cleveland

5. More than 7,000

6. The legislative branch — U.S. House and Senate

7. Whittier Ford

8. Pizza

9. Atlantic

10. A number that is only divisible by itself and 1

SCRAMBLERS

Today's Word

1. Sharp 2. Please; 3. Kale; 4. Grass

CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: C equals T

TJRB CJR WRWAR XHBMGRF

JXO CTM IMNDBFO, CJR AXLXF

NMBDGIJ HDLR CJRN CJR CJXGF

FRIGRR.

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King Crossword

Americanisms

"Christmas isn't a season. It's a feeling."

— Edna Ferber

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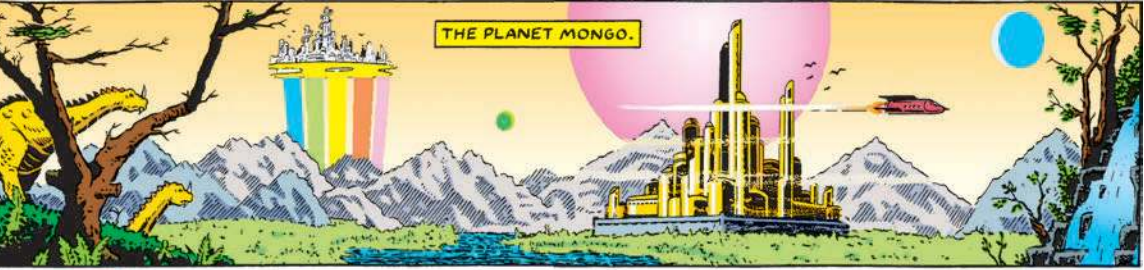
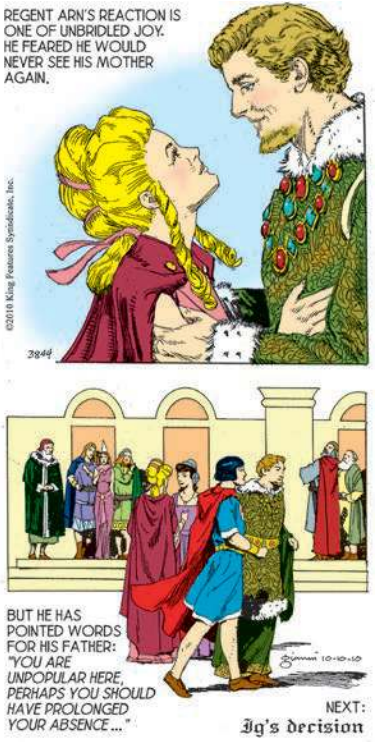
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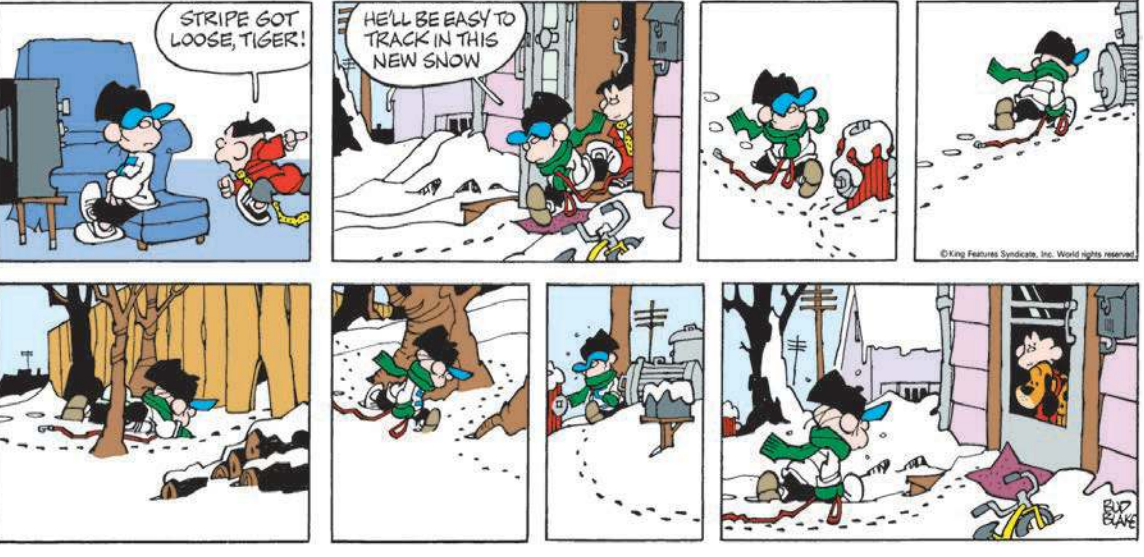
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G N D E C H R I S T M A S N T  
B Y A W T T R O S P M K I A F  
D D E H S A W A H B Y W E I U  
S Q O M P K L I F P D M D S B  
Z X W U S E V O L G S R S S Q  
O N L R N J L H C E A O F U D  
C A Y I S O R E C O N I H R W  
V T P C S Q P N B L H I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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally  
Unlisted clue hint: THE STAFF OF LIFE

Board	Elephant	Pine	Sale
Chocolate	Gloves	Rhinoceros	Washed
Christmas	Meat	Rice	Wine
Corpuscule	Phosphorus	Russian	

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CryptoQuote

AXYDLBAAXR is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, **A** is used for the three L's, **X** for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each week the code letters are different.

EZSBIV ZG, TFY BFWU LPTL XL'N  
JWXFJ LW EV T LCVHVFYWZN  
THWZFL WR UWCB, EZL  
VHECTSV XL. — LWCQ EZCSP

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Cryptoquote answer

embrace it. — Tory Burch  
amount of work, but  
going to be a tremendous  
juckle up, and know that it

WHITE

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

		2		4		8		
	5		3					2
4					7		1	
	9			5				4
1			2				3	
		8			4	1		
	4			6		7		
		7			5			9
9			8				2	

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging  
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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Puzzle Answer Appears Elsewhere In This Week's Issue

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Meredith McGrady  
Office Manager



# What's the best thing? Bowls

**Dear Dave,**  
My wife and I are trying to help our son and daughter-in-law. They are both 29-years old, and they have been married for three years. They have good jobs, but the problem is they ask for money on a regular basis. Helping them out hasn't been a strain, because we're in good shape financially, but we have started encouraging them to live on a monthly budget. They always say they will try, but it never seems to happen. At this point, it feels like we may be enabling them instead of helping. How can we make sure we are doing the best thing?

C.M.

**Dear C.M.,**  
The first thing you and your wife need to do is sit down and have a loving, but serious, talk with these kids. If they've asked for money before, and this is something that has turned into a habit, you have every right to know more about their spending and other circumstances.  
Don't be surprised if they act defensive, or maybe even get angry. People are often embarrassed to admit to, or talk about, their mis-



Dave Says  
**Dave Ramsey**

takes. They may even tell you these things are none of your business. If they do, that's fine. But they should understand you two won't be opening your checkbook again if they don't open up about their financial behavior. This isn't about mom and dad being controlling or snooping around, it's about you and your wife making sure you're not enabling what you consider to be bad behavior going forward.  
It always hurts parents to see their kids go through things like this. But if they're acting irresponsibly with money, they need to suffer the consequences of their actions. Who knows? That, along with your love and guidance, might help put them on the right track to win with money!

— Dave

\* Dave Ramsey is a seven-time #1 national best-selling author, personal finance expert, and host of The Ramsey Show, heard by more than 18 million listeners each week. He has appeared on Good Morning America, CBS This Morning, Today Show, Fox News, CNN, Fox Business, and many more. Since 1992, Dave has helped people regain control of their money, build wealth and enhance their lives. He also serves as CEO for Ramsey Solutions.

— Weekly SUDOKU —  
Answer

3	1	2	5	4	9	8	6	7
7	5	6	3	8	1	9	4	2
4	8	9	6	2	7	3	1	5
6	9	3	1	5	8	2	7	4
1	7	4	2	9	6	5	3	8
5	2	8	7	3	4	1	9	6
8	4	1	9	6	2	7	5	3
2	3	7	4	1	5	6	8	9
9	6	5	8	7	3	4	2	1

Continued from Page B4  
Why watch? According to Mississippi State coach Mike Leach, Texas Tech still owes him money from when he was fired more than a decade ago ago. How funny would it be if Tech delivered it at halftime, but in the form of one of those oversized golf tournament checks?  
Pick: Texas Tech plus 8 1/2. Mississippi State 35, Texas Tech 28.  
Holiday Bowl, San Diego  
UCLA vs. North Carolina State  
Why watch? If he plays — always an open-ended question with top NFL prospects in bowl games — North Carolina State All-American Ikem Ekwonu might be the best offensive lineman in the country.  
Pick: North Carolina State minus 1. Score: N.C. State 35, UCLA 31.  
Guaranteed Rate Bowl, Phoenix  
Minnesota vs. West Virginia  
Why watch? The Gophers lost to Bowling Green this season, scoring 10 points. Not really a reason to watch, but three months later, still trying to figure out how that happened.  
Pick: Minnesota minus 4. Score: Minnesota 23, West Virginia 10.  
Wednesday, Dec. 29  
Fenway Bowl, Boston  
Virginia vs. SMU  
Why watch? You miss baseball.  
Pick: Virginia minus 1 1/2. Score: Virginia 38, SMU 28.  
Pinstripe Bowl, New York  
Virginia Tech vs. Maryland  
Why watch? You really miss baseball.  
Pick: Maryland plus 2 1/2. Score: Maryland 27, Virginia Tech 17.  
Cheez-It Bowl, Orlando, Florida  
No. 19 Clemson vs. Iowa State  
Why watch? Two preseason top-10 teams expected better, but could both be motivated to end the season on a high note.  
Pick: Clemson plus 1 1/2. Score: Clemson 24, Iowa State 21.  
Alamo Bowl, San Antonio  
No. 14 Oklahoma vs. No. 15 Oregon  
Why watch? Sooners QB Caleb Williams starts his 2022 Heisman

Trophy campaign.  
Pick: Oregon plus 4 1/2. Score: Oklahoma 31, Oregon 28.  
Thursday, Dec. 30  
Duke's Mayo Bowl, Charlotte, North Carolina  
South Carolina vs. North Carolina  
Why watch? No team in the country was more excited to go 6-6 than South Carolina in year one under coach Shane Beamer. No team in the country was more of disappointed to go 6-6 than North Carolina, which started the season ranked No. 10 under coach Mack Brown.  
Pick: North Carolina minus 9. Score: North Carolina 35, South Carolina 17.  
Music City Bowl, Nashville  
Purdue vs. Tennessee  
Why watch? Reminisce about the Bluebonnet Bowl, the postseason game once played in the old Houston Astrodome that was the setting for the only pervious matchup of the Boilermakers and Volunteers in 1979.  
Pick: Tennessee minus 4 1/2. Score: Tennessee 35, Purdue 24.  
Peach Bowl, Atlanta  
No. 11 Michigan State vs. No. 13 Pittsburgh  
Why watch? Two of the country's most surprising double-digit win teams. Think of how cool this would be if it was a playoff game.  
Pick: Pittsburgh plus 2 1/2. Score: Pitt 31, Michigan State 23.  
Las Vegas Bowl  
Wisconsin vs. Arizona State  
Why watch? See the best 17-year-old in college football. Badgers RB Braelon Allen completed high school early and won't turn 18 until January. The 238-pounder ran for 1,109 yards and 12 touchdowns despite hardly playing the first four games.  
Pick: Wisconsin minus 7. Score: Wisconsin 28, Arizona State 17.  
Friday, Dec. 31  
Gator Bowl, Jacksonville, Florida  
No. 20 Wake Forest vs. No. 23 Texas A&M  
Why watch? Classic good offense vs. good defense. Demon Deacons are fifth in the country, scoring 41 points per game. Aggies allow 16 per game, third best in the nation.  
Pick: Texas A&M minus 5. Score: Texas A&M 34, Wake Forest 21.  
Sun Bowl, El Paso, Texas  
Washington State vs. Miami  
Why watch? One of the many bowls canceled last season because of the pandemic, but this one was especially missed. Only the Rose is older and the Sun Bowl remains the only bowl televised by CBS. It feels like nostalgia.  
Pick: Miami minus 2 1/2. Score: Miami 31, Washington State 23.  
Arizona Bowl, Tucson  
Central Michigan vs. Boise State  
Why watch? Maybe the best running back in the country you have never heard of is CMU's Lew Nichols III, who leads the nation at 142.5 yards per game. MAction fans are familiar with his work.  
Pick: Boise State minus 7 1/2. Score: Boise State 28, Central Michigan 16.

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YMCA  
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Hayden Electric & Plumbing  
Poor Boys  
1st Pawn  
Food City  
Laundry Mat  
Webb Donald State Farm  
Towne House  
Ike's Auto Sales  
Downtown Exxon  
Shop Eez (Lighthouse)  
The Wedding Center  
Cougar Express  
Patriot Office
- Dublin**  
Bradley Ridge Apartments  
Fairview  
Newbern Exxon  
PC Visitor's Center  
Makin' Waves  
NAPA  
Walgreens  
Martin's Pharmacy  
Ramey Pawn Shop
- Country Styles**  
Laundry Mat  
T.A. Produce  
NRV Lube  
Kangaroo  
Sleep Inn  
McGuire's Campground  
Papa John/7-11  
Subway (Walmart)  
El Ranchero  
T.J.'s  
Shop Eez (Rt. 100)  
Patty's Kitchen  
Dublin Storage  
Gobble Stop  
Highland Ridge  
Bucko's  
NRCC
- Draper**  
Draper Post Office  
Bryson's Store  
New River Sports  
Sai Mart
- Fairlawn**  
Kroger  
Foodette  
Bucko's  
Laundry Mat
- Sal's Jr.**
- Radford**  
Radford Drug  
Sal's  
Cook's Clean Center  
Tha Dawg House  
P.R. Sturgill  
Rec Center  
Food Lion  
Food City  
Brad's Barber Shop  
R&R Market  
Deli Mart
- Barren Springs**  
Gobble Stop  
Sai Mart
- Fort Chiswell**  
The Lunch Bucket  
Ogle's Country Conven. Store  
New River General Store  
Burger Express  
Food Country  
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