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January 6, 2012

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**Hokies Lose Heartbreaker To Michigan In Sugar Bowl. Pages 8-9.**

# The Patriot

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## 2nd Wild Game Dinner planned for January 14

By LINDA WILLIAMS  
Staff Writer

Bill and Bea Draper, longtime residents (39 years) of the Robinson Tract Community, are the chairmen of the 2nd Annual Wild Game Dinner that will be held Saturday, Jan. 14, at the Robinson Tract Community Center from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

"Our son, Junior Draper thought a Wild Game dinner would be a good fundraiser for our community. He started planning the event, but then lost his home to a fire so Bill and I took over the planning," said Bea.

"My friend Warren Radford of Salem and I have been going to a wild game dinner in Vinton for years," said Bill. "More people come to that event every year. An organization in Mechanicsburg, Va. also hosts a wild game dinner once a year.

"Seventy six people attended our first wild game dinner last year," said Bill.

"Our menu consisted then of bear, deer, turkey, goose, quail and cod. The cod was provided by Mr. and Mrs. Mark Taylor and James Hardie, Inc." added Bea.

Proceeds from last year's dinner went toward the purchase of trout that was used to stock a private pond on the property of Cecil and Tina King, residents of the Robinson Tract community. Then in the spring, children and grandchildren (14 and under) of residents of the community are treated to a kids trout fishing day.



Bea and Bill Draper of the Robinson Tract Community Club.

Linda Williams photo

"We buy trout stock from Brackens Fish Hatchery in Wytheville. Using proceeds from last year's dinner we were able to purchase over 200 trout to stock the pond," said Bill.

"Kids and adults line the banks of the pond. They have a lot of fun," he added.

Proceeds from this year's dinner

will be used again to stock the pond for the 2012 Kid's Trout Fishing Day.

"Cecil is our club president, he's a good one. He is energetic and helpful and will do too much if you don't watch him," Bill said with a smile.

This year the community club will be offering to the public a

wide variety of wild game including raccoon. Yes, according to the Drapers raccoon is edible.

"We will be serving raccoon, bear meat (both plain and barbecued), deer (plain and barbecued), squirrel, rabbit, turkey

See GAME, page 3

## 2012 won't be boring in Virginia

By BOB LEWIS  
AP Political Writer

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — What 2012 won't be is boring. Certainly not in Virginia politics and government.

The list of top stories includes whether money can speak loudly enough to open Virginia to uranium mining despite serious environmental concerns and whether the Republican right rules all of Virginia policymaking.

It includes how Congress copes with the nation's debt and how the inevitable reductions affect Virginia and other states where Washington spends heavily.

But let's start with the main event.

### BATTLEGROUND VIRGINIA-2012:

For politics junkies who've experienced Iowa envy and felt pushed to the curb in presidential election years, 2012 is for you.

Barack Obama sorely needs another Virginia victory, and he knows it.

This year will determine whether 2008 — the first time a Democrat seeking the White House won Virginia since Lyndon Johnson in 1964 — was a harbinger or a fluke.

Under the radar, Obama's team is already well along in efforts to reassemble the sort of regimented, coordinated campaign in Virginia that undergirded his triumph four years ago.

It has yet to match the high-octane enthusiasm that fueled Obama's previous campaign. Also unlike last time, his top ally and go-to guy, Tim Kaine, is no longer governor but in a tough election of his own that could figure heavily into whether Democrats retain or relinquish their U.S. Senate majority.

When Kaine stepped aside in April as Obama's handpicked Democratic National Committee chairman to run against another former Virginia governor, Republican George Allen, political circles in Washington and in Richmond were giddy.

Already, an anti-Kaine attack ad is out, underwritten by an independent conservative group that doesn't disclose its benefactors. And, in their first debate last month at Associated Press Day at the Capitol in Richmond, Kaine signaled what a bare-knuckled bout this election will be by say-

See 2012, page 11

## Auxiliary members help with honor guard duties

Staff Report

The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1184 of Pulaski is the first post in the United States to ask Ladies Auxiliary members to become part of its honor guard, this according to a VFW news release.

Auxiliary members attend local funerals and assist by displaying four flags used during military funerals — the American flag, the Prisoner of War / Missing in Action (POW-MIA) flag, the Virginia state flag and Veteran flag.

"Some post veterans are no

See AUXILIARY, page 2



Ladies Auxiliary photo

Left to Right — Sue Sherwood, Tammy Roberts, Shirley Burcham and Joyce Ward.

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# Auxiliary

Continued from page 1

longer able to serve on the honor guard due to health related reasons, so the ladies auxiliary members have been asked to help," said Sue Sherwood, auxiliary member.

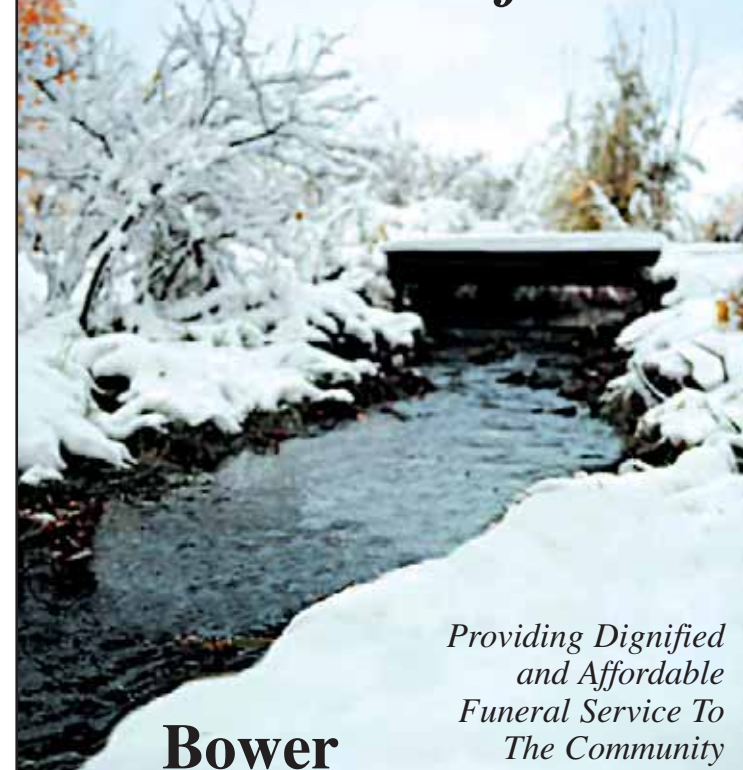
## Apco wins rate hike case with VA. SCC

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — Virginia regulators have approved Appalachian Power Co.'s request to recover more than \$26 million in costs associated with acquiring and operating an Ohio power plant.

The State Corporation Commission said Tuesday that the rate adjustment will take effect for service starting March 1. It will increase the monthly bill of a residential customer using 1,000 kilowatt hours of electricity by about \$2.08.

**The Patriot**  
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Left to Right - Joyce Ward, Julie Shay, Shirley Burcham and Rita Newman.



Ladies Auxiliary photos

Left to Right - Tammy Roberts, Joyce Ward, Virgie Taylor (Auxiliary president), Lee Stoots and Shirley Burcham.

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# Pulaski County Pulse

January 7

**VFW Post 1184 /Ladies Auxiliary to host AYCE breakfast and BINGO**

**VFW Post 1184 and Ladies Auxiliary will sponsor an "All You Can Eat" breakfast**

Saturday, Jan. 7, 8 a.m. – 11 a.m. at the post home. Breakfast includes eggs, bacon or sausage, biscuit and gravy, coffee milk or juice for \$5 donation. Following breakfast the VFW Ladies Aux. will host 25 cent BINGO from 11 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Hot dogs, hamburgers and fries will be on sale during BINGO. The post is located on the corner of Washington and Dora Highway in Pulaski. Bring a friend and enjoy the fun.

January 10

**Reaching Out Support Group Support Group**

Tuesday, January 10, 2012 from 5pm-6pm at the LewisGale Regional Cancer Center Pulaski-Lobby

Topic: How to Make Resolutions Stick

Speaker: Group Discussion Discussion groups and speakers for patients, family members, and personal support teams

**Sons of Confederate Veterans, Stuart Horse Artillery Camp to meet**

The Sons of Confederate Veterans, Stuart Horse Artillery Camp #1784 will meet on Tuesday, January 10, 7pm at Ray's Restaurant on Rt. 221, north of Floyd. Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) are also invited to attend. If Floyd County Public Schools are closed due to weather on Tuesday or Wednesday of that week, the meeting will be cancelled. For further information, please call 633-5666 or 745-8182.

January 13

**Dublin offices closed in observance Lee Jackson/Martin Luther King Day**

Dublin Town Office's will be closed Friday, January 13th and Monday, January 16th. Garbage scheduled for pick up on Friday, January 13th and Monday, January 16th will be picked up on Tuesday, January 17, 2012 along Tuesday's regular pick up.

January 14

**Robinson Tract Community Club to host second Wild Game Dinner**

The Robinson Tract Community Club will sponsor its second Wild Game dinner Saturday, January 14, 2012 at 6p.m. - 8 p.m. Try the delicious variety of wild game and help contribute toward an upcoming Kid's Trout Fishing Day in the community.

January 17

**Breast Cancer Support Group**

Tuesday, January 17, 2012 from 5:00 pm-6:00 pm at the LewisGale Regional Cancer Center-Pulaski Lobby  
Topic: Discussion Group  
Speaker: Group Participation Discussion groups and speakers for patients, family members, and personal support teams.

**No Story time at Pulaski and Dublin libraries**

There will be no preschool story time at the Pulaski and Dublin libraries next week. Story time will resume January 17 at the Dublin Library and January 18

at the Pulaski Library, both at 10:30 a.m. Story time is open to children ages 2-5 and includes stories, rhymes, songs and a simple craft. For more info, contact Jena Hardy at 994-2458 or email jchardy@pclibs.org.

January 19

**Discussion Group for Newly Diagnosed Cancer Patients**

Thursday, January 19, 2012 from 4:00 pm-5:00 pm at the LewisGale Regional Cancer Center-Pulaski Lobby  
This support group is for anyone who is undergoing chemotherapy and/or radiation therapy and would like to share their feelings and anxieties with others who are going through similar experiences. This support group will also include family members, caregivers or support personal. A medical oncology nurse will be available during the group.

**Hip & Knee Replacement Class**

Thursday, January 19, 2012 from 2pm-4pm in the L. Brinkley Eure Building.  
This class is for people scheduled for surgery or thinking about having surgery. You will be taught by Physical Therapists and Registered Nurses. Content includes hospital information and procedures, exercises prior to and after surgery, treatment to get you back on your feet. Discussion about insurance and planning for your care after discharge. Please call 540-994-8451 with any questions. Deadline for sign up is January 16.  
RSVP to: Consult a Nurse at 1-877-242-2362

January 24

**Look Good ...Feel Better Cosmetic Program –sponsored**

by the American Cancer Society Tuesday, January 24, 2012 from 5:00 pm – 7:00pm at the NRVC-CC Lobby  
Beauty professionals lead the group through a hands-on experience to learn make-up techniques, skin care, nail care, and how to use head coverings such as wigs, turbans, and scarves. Please RSVP at 540-994-8549

February 1

**Dance Class**

Learn to have fun and be confident on the dance floor. Beginners, Single or with a partner. Each month will be a popular dance for parties & receptions. Wythe County Parks and Recreation will offer two separate classes in two areas. Starting Wednesdays, Feb. 1 at Max Meadows Ruritan Club Building or Tuesdays, Feb.7 at Rural Retreat Pentecostal Church 6-7 p.m. Cost: \$35 per month/4 classes. Pre-registration required by Jan. 27 for 1st set of classes Call 223-6022 to register or for more info.

February 4

**Coming in February Blood Screening/Cancer**

Screening for Men and Women The Rotary of the NRV and LewisGale Hospital-Pulaski will sponsor the semi-annual Blood/Cancer Screening on Saturday, February 4, 2012 from 7:00 am – 10:00 am at LewisGale Hospital-Pulaski main entrance. The snow date is scheduled for Saturday, February 11, 2012. Please watch for additional information regarding registration in the local newspapers or contact Darlene Edwards at 540-994-

8549.

**ONGOING:**

**NA:**

Narcotics Anonymous (Principles before Personalities) meets Friday and Saturday at 6 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church Annex located at 4th and Jefferson St., Pulaski, Va. For more information, call 1-800-777-1515 or go to [www.newrivervalleyva.com](http://www.newrivervalleyva.com)

**AA:**

Alcoholics Anonymous meets Monday at 8 p.m. (closed meeting); Wednesday (noon); and Thursday at 8 p.m. (open meetings) at Pulaski Presbyterian Church in America across from Magic Mart. For more information call 980-5233.

**Al-anon – Pulaski:**

Al-anon meets Monday night at 8 p.m. at the Pulaski Presbyterian Church in America. For more information call 980-5233.

**Al-anon – Dublin:**

Al-anon meets Thursday night at 7 p.m. at the Dublin Library on Giles Ave. For more information call 980-5233.

**If you would like to publicize community activities free of charge please contact us by: email: [news@pcpatriot.com](mailto:news@pcpatriot.com), Fax: 540-980-8628 or drop by The Patriot newspaper office at 138 N. Jefferson Ave., Pulaski or call 540-808-3949.**

## Game

Continued from page 1

and tilapia. The Taylors and the James Hardie, Inc. donated the fish again this year. The club would like to thank them for the donation," said Bea.

The wild game will be served along with green beans, mashed potatoes, cole slaw, rolls and a drink (coffee, tea, soft drink or water) and cupcakes for dessert.

"Maxine Jarrells makes the slaw. It is real good," said Bea.

The cost of this unique experience is just a donation to the club's trout fund. No tickets or reservations are needed. "When you get there just drop your donation into the jar," said Bill.

Other members of the Wild Game Dinner committee include Allen and Maxine Jarrells, Connie Thornton, Judy Howard, Mary Ann Jarrells, Colleen Tolbert and Tina King.

Club members are friendly, welcoming, and genuinely seem to enjoy entertaining all their neighbors beyond the boundaries of the Robinson Tract Community.

This is a unique experience for the public, so call a friend and go eat some raccoon, so you can say you did.

# 'Resolve to be Ready' for 2012 emergencies

RICHMOND, Va. – Major snowstorms, April tornadoes, an historic earthquake, Hurricane Irene and the remnants of Tropical Storm Lee all hit Virginia during 2011, causing loss of life and property and leaving millions of dollars in damage. As one of the most active years for disasters comes to a close, the Virginia Department of Emergency Management encourages all Virginians to Resolve to be Ready for emergencies in 2012.

"There have been more billion-dollar natural disasters in the U.S. during 2011 than any year on record, and we have seen our share of grief throughout Virginia," said Michael Cline, state coordinator of emergency management. "All of these events remind us that disasters can happen anytime and anywhere. Make a new year's resolution now that you and your family will take action to be prepared for emergencies in 2012."

Information on how to prepare for emergencies can be found on [www.ReadyVirginia.gov](http://www.ReadyVirginia.gov) and [www.ListoVirginia.gov](http://www.ListoVirginia.gov), VDEM websites that are part of a public outreach effort in Virginia to provide simple steps that residents should take to be ready for expected and unexpected emergencies. Guidelines about how to put together an emergency supply kit, make an emergency plan and stay informed during emergencies are posted on these site. Free checklists, tip sheets and family emergency plan worksheets also are available.

Emergency preparedness infor-

mation in 12 different languages spoken in Virginia is available on [ReadyVirginia.gov](http://ReadyVirginia.gov) as well.

Some printed materials are available free of charge from the VDEM Public Affairs Office. Call toll-free 1-866-782-3470 or write to [pio@vdem.virginia.gov](mailto:pio@vdem.virginia.gov) and ask for Ready Virginia brochures and emergency plan worksheets.

Resolve to be Ready in 2012 is a nationwide effort to increase awareness and encourage individuals, families, businesses and communities to take action and prepare for emergencies in the new year. This effort is led by the Federal Emergency Management Agency in partnership with Citizen Corps and The Advertising Council. Follow the Ready Virginia campaign on Twitter using the hashtag #ReadyVA, and follow the national effort using #ready2012 and #resolve.

**Rep. Griffith staff will be in Pulaski Jan. 31**

Congressman Griffith's Ninth District STAFF will be available at the following locations on Jan. 31.

Pulaski: 2:00pm – 4:00pm, Pulaski County Library Meeting Room, 60 3rd Street NW, Pulaski, VA

Contact the Christiansburg Office at 540-381-5671 with any questions.

## Three more GOP hopefuls join Perry lawsuit in Virginia

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — Three other Republican presidential hopefuls have joined Texas Gov. Rick Perry's lawsuit challenging Virginia's ballot access law.

A federal judge in Richmond, Va., on Wednesday granted a motion by Newt Gingrich, Jon Huntsman and Rick Santorum to intervene in the lawsuit.

Perry went to court after failing to collect enough signatures from registered voters to get on Virginia's GOP presidential primary ballot. Gingrich also failed to qualify, leaving Mitt Romney and Ron Paul as the only candidates on Virginia's March 6 primary. Huntsman and Santorum did not submit petitions.

Perry's lawsuit claims the state's requirement of 10,000 signatures, including at least 400 from each of the state's 11 congressional districts, is unconstitutional. A hearing on Perry's request for a preliminary injunction is set for Jan. 13.

**Contact The Patriot at 540-808-3949, (fax) 980-8628 and email at [news@pcpatriot.com](mailto:news@pcpatriot.com)**

### Town of Pulaski FD New Rescue Tools

The Town of Pulaski is seeking sealed bids on the trade in of current low psi tools and purchase of new high psi hydraulic rescue tools. To be included in the bid are: new spreader, Cutter, combination tool (spreader / cutter), push / pull ram with accessory kit, all tools medium size range, gasoline powered hydraulic pump capable of simultaneous operation of 2 tools and 25 feet of extension hoses with 100% one step hose couplers. Bid is to include delivery, setup and comprehensive training. All equipment and tools must meet or exceed NFPA 1936 performance. Documentation of detailed warranty and description of available service must also be provided. It is important bidders see old tools to determine compatible sizes and types to bid. Contact The Fire Chief at 540-994-8663 for any questions or further details before submitting bids. Sealed bids are to be provided to The Pulaski Fire Department at 117 N. Jefferson Ave. Pulaski VA 24301 and will be opened on Monday, January 30, 2012 at 2:00 PM at the same address and read aloud. The Town of Pulaski reserves the right to accept the bid that is in the best interest of The Town of Pulaski.

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**Thurs.-Sat. January 12th-14th: Pastor Randy Jarrells**

**Thurs.-Sat. January 19th-21st: Pastor Sherman Buckner**

**Thurs.-Sat January 26th-28th: Pastor Randall Lawrence**

**\*\*Please Note: Friday January 6th and Friday January 27th will both be Youth Nights! Please bring your youth for an awesome time in the Lord! Free pizza and drinks to follow both services!\*\***

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## Editorial

### Voter ID prevents election fraud

Tuesday night's nail-biter in Iowa marked the beginning of election year 2012. And with Americans heading to the polls -- next in New Hampshire, then South Carolina and beyond -- they will hope to rely on the integrity of the election system to ensure that every legitimate vote counts and that fraud is not the deciding factor on the local, state or national level.

Unfortunately, despite all the technological advances in our modern democracy, voter fraud still occurs, and yet there is still resistance to one very simple tool that could help eradicate it -- voter ID. Some, like The New York Times, say that voting fraud is a myth, that "there is almost no voting fraud in America." But as Heritage senior legal fellow Hans von Spakovsky explains, voter fraud is all too common in America today:

The fraud denialists also must have missed the recent news coverage of the double voters in North Carolina and the fraudster in Tunica County, Miss. -- a member of the NAACP's local executive committee -- who was sentenced in April to five years in prison for voting in the names of ten voters, including four who were deceased.

And the story of the former deputy chief of staff for Washington mayor Vincent Gray, who was forced to resign after news broke that she had voted illegally in the District of Columbia even though she was a Maryland resident. Perhaps they would like a copy of an order from a federal immigration court in Florida on a Cuban immigrant who came to the U.S. in April 2004 and promptly registered and voted in the November election.

Even former liberal Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens agrees. Stevens wrote in a 6-3 majority opinion upholding an Indiana voter ID law: "That flagrant examples of [voter] fraud...have been documented throughout this Nation's history by respected historians and journalists...demonstrate[s] that not only is the risk of voter fraud real but that it could affect the outcome of a close election."

Given the incidence of voter fraud -- and the simplicity of requiring voters to present a valid ID in order to be able to vote -- it's not surprising that 70 percent of likely U.S. voters believe that voters "should be required to show photo identification such as a driver's license before being allowed to cast their ballot," according to a recent Rasmussen poll. Meanwhile, only 22 percent of Americans are opposed to the requirement.

Despite the fraud -- and the support for voter ID measures -- Attorney General Eric Holder intends to examine new state voter ID laws for potential racial bias. Von Spakovsky writes that the allegations of bias are baseless, and there is evidence to prove it. In Georgia, which enacted a photo ID law before the 2008 election, the number of African American voters increased after the new law went into effect.

"According to Census Bureau surveys," von Spakovsky writes, "65 percent of the black voting-age population voted in the 2008 election, compared with only 54.4 percent in 2004, an increase of more than ten percentage points."

On top of all that, the number of people who don't already have a photo ID is incredibly small. An American University survey in Maryland, Indiana, and Mississippi found that less than one-half of 1 percent of registered voters lacked a government-issued ID, and a 2006 survey of more than 36,000 voters found that only "23 people in the entire sample--less than one-tenth of one percent of reported voters" were unable to vote because of an ID requirement. What about those who don't have photo IDs? Von Spakovsky notes that "every state that has passed a voter ID law has also ensured that the very small percentage of individuals who do not have a photo ID can easily obtain one for free if they cannot afford one."

The American people value the integrity of their elections, and they overwhelmingly support voter ID requirements to make sure that Election Day is as fair, honest, and legal as possible. Still, though, there is resistance and predictions of massive disenfranchisement if voter ID laws continue to be implemented. The evidence, however, proves otherwise.

The Heritage Foundation



## PULASKI COUNTY The PATRIOT

"I like to see a man proud of the place in which he lives. I like to see a man live so that his place will be proud of him."  
—Abraham Lincoln

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You can reach The Patriot by phone at 540-808-3949, by fax at 980-8628 and email at [news@pcpatriot.com](mailto:news@pcpatriot.com) Our office is located at 138 N. Jefferson Avenue, Pulaski in the Air Control Corporation building. The mailing address is P.O. Box 2416, Pulaski, VA 24301.

Mike Williams  
Editor & Publisher

## Dobyns a true Southern gentleman

Pulaski County has lost a true Southern gentleman in the passing Sunday morning of "Bob" Dobyns.

Bob died at his home in Blacksburg at the age of 85.

As his obituary stated, Bob was a beloved member of the Pulaski County and New River Valley communities who "contributed to many facets of life in Virginia and around the world in his career as a building contractor, politician, farmer and missionary."

Bob was a veteran of World War II, serving with the 46th Infantry in the Philippines and Japan, as well as in the Army Reserve.

He owned a beef cattle farm on Back Creek in Pulaski County, and was a director and past secretary of the Pulaski County Livestock Market.

He and his wife of 60 years, Cornelia, have been strong supporters of New River Community College. The couple was honored just last fall for providing scholarships to 100 students at NRCC.

Bob was a leader in the business community in Pulaski



### The View From Here

Mike Williams

County, and served with his wife as Presbyterian missionaries in Zaire, Africa where he put his contractor knowledge to work to construct a hospital.

Bob first entered politics as a member of the Pulaski County Board of Supervisors and was later elected to the Virginia House of Delegates where he served for seven years.

It was during his first campaign for the House seat from this area that I got to know Bob.

Bob was as much a gentleman as a political candidate as he was in the other parts of his life. He was an example of what a politician should be. He was full of a desire to help his community. He remained positive. He was knowledgeable and he would never, ever take a negative swipe at his opponent.

Period!

I recall a debate at the old T.G. Howard Center in Pulaski between Bob and his House of Delegates opponent at the time, Lewis Sheckler.

Lew was a tough campaigner and got under Bob's skin more than once during the race -- including during that event at the T.G. Howard Center.

But Bob would not fight back like some thought he should. He preferred to always remain calm and easy going.

Bob won the election, and went on to represent Pulaski County and his district well.

I recall visiting him in Richmond one day during his first term, and seeing him several times in the years that followed. Bob was always glad to see you -- whether in Richmond or in Pulaski.

Bob will be remembered as one of our county's finest leaders. And I'll remember him as one of the finest people I've had the privilege to know.

Mike Williams is publisher of The Patriot and a 34-years newspaper veteran.

## 2011: Year in Review

2011 has been an eventful and trying year. In the Ninth District, we have welcomed home loved ones serving abroad. We have also witnessed firsthand destructive natural disasters, which caused loss of life and extensive property damage.

Likewise, we experienced the tragic loss and severe wounding of several law enforcement officers and members of the United States Armed Services from Southwest Virginia. As we enter the New Year, a critical time for our nation, I know many of you are concerned about job creation, the economy, and what is going on in Washington. Despite these challenges, I have hope for the future of our country. And it is my distinct privilege to represent and serve you



### Morgan Griffith

9th District Representative

in Congress to help bring about the necessary changes in Washington.

I introduced several pieces of legislation during the first session of the 112th Congress dealing with a variety of issues from delaying the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Boiler Maximum Achievable Control Technology (MACT) rules to reducing Member pay to an amendment to the

Constitution allowing for a State Legislative Veto. In October, the House passed my bill, the EPA Regulatory Relief Act of 2011 (H.R. 2250). This legislation directs the EPA to develop achievable, real world standards for industrial boilers and extends compliance deadlines to allow facilities time to comply.

Last January, the House voted to repeal Obama Care. We also voted to repeal the 1099 paperwork mandate found in the massive health care law. The repeal of the 1099 provision was approved by the Senate and signed into law in April. On the House floor, my colleagues and I focused on pro-growth policies aimed at getting our economy

See GRIFFITH, page 6

## When God feels distant

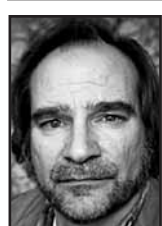
I'm thinking of when God feels distant and that feeling is not due to tragic events in our life, such as an accident when a loved one is hurt. In my experience as a pastor, those tragic events in the life of a believer do not usually inaugurate ill feelings against God. We think they might, and sometimes they do, but far more often, believers have an awesome strong faith in God even in those testings of tragedy that they do not understand.

But what about when our lives are void of tragedy, and we simply feel distance from God. Have you been there? I venture every Christian has.

Rule number one is when God feels distant, he is not. That's why the issue is when God FEELS distant and not when God IS distant. The whole question is never an issue for people who do not know God.

Rule number two is, when God feels distant, it is likely we have forgotten the spiritual grace by which God drew us near to Him. We have moved to one of two places. Either we have moved toward a place where we believe we must show ourselves worthy of salvation. Or we have moved to a place of disobedience born of viewing ourselves as failing God. The first position often leads to the second, since we sinners are doomed to fail at proving our worth as saved ones.

If you are one of God's children then you have a personal relationship that you did NOT deserve and that you do NOT NOW deserve. Otherwise salvation is not born and raised in grace, it is born and grows in accord with our good performance. Grace is the core primary distinctive of Christianity compared to all other religions, so much so that the long spine of grace threatens to lift Christianity out of the realm of religion altogether. Grace that



### Rusty's Ramblings

Dr. Rusty Whitener

makes us Christians also makes us strangers to other religions, odd muscles that gather around the spine of doing good deeds or earning salvation. Islam is about earning status with God, as is Orthodox Judaism. The Eastern philosophies, for example Hinduism and Buddhism, are about pleasing a Higher Being that will never be the pleaser's Father, but only One Who Approves of good deeds the pleaser does. In these religions, humans are instructed how to improve themselves in great ways. In Christianity, humans are instructed how to surrender themselves in simple ways. The other faiths are about polishing our Self. Christianity is about recognizing our Self does nothing worthy unless God gives us a new Self, an identity born of the new heart God gives us at conversion.

In the rush of events and feelings that dominate our life, we slide so easily to the silly place of trying to convince God He made a good decision when He saved us. When we crash and burn, that is, when we demonstrate we are sinners (usually by the more covert sins of the spirit rather than obvious sins of the flesh), we feel we've failed God. If our vision was clearer, we would recognize we have actually misunderstood God more than we have failed Him. God is not counting on our succeeding at the Christian life, He is counting on Himself succeeding. He is counting on righteousness prevailing. He is counting on the perfect righteousness He will do when we stop doing our truncated righteousness. His call to us

is that we bow to His grace and Lordship, confess our sins, and rise forgiven. It is not complicated; it is simply not our preference. We'd rather prove our merit. It is not hard for us to understand, it is hard for us to do.

So God feels distant to us precisely because we have, in our mind, disappointed Him. In other words, we have not turned our eyes upon Jesus, but upon our own efforts at righteousness. And gazing at ourselves is always problematic. Gazing on God always illuminates. Galatians 3:3 reads "Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?" The Message translation reads "How did your new life begin? Was it by working your heads off to please God? Only crazy people would think they could complete by their own efforts what was begun by God."

We are hopelessly self centered. Our culture is cancerous with the twin tumors of self actualization and self aggrandizement on pretenders' thrones. We even consistently frame our relationship to God in terms of what we do or do not do, and how well we did or did not do it!

A better frame of reference is asking what has God done and how well did He do it? He does all things perfectly, including your salvation and your daily walk with Him by the Spirit's power.

When Christians feel distant from God, the step in the right direction is to stop thinking of how we feel and start thinking of who God is. He is our Father. Always.

Rusty Whitener, an actor, novelist, and award-winning screenwriter. His novel "A Season Of Miracles" is in pre-production as a major movie. ([www.rustywhitener.com](http://www.rustywhitener.com) and [www.aseasonofmiraclesbook.com](http://www.aseasonofmiraclesbook.com))

## We still sin, and we must repent and ask forgiveness

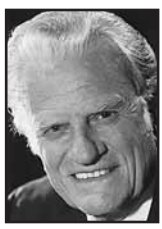
**If all our sins are forgiven when we come to Jesus, then why do we have to keep seeking God's forgiveness when we sin? If we're already forgiven, why bother asking for forgiveness when we sin? — D.L.**

It's true that when we sincerely repent of our sins and turn to Christ for forgiveness, God completely forgives us and looks on us as if we had never sinned. The Bible says, "God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins" (Colossians 2:13).

But we will still sin -- and when we do, we need to confess it and repent of it, and ask Christ to forgive us. The reason is because of the damage sin does -- and will continue to do as long as we hold on to it.

When we sin, our closeness to God is broken, because sin is an offense to Him. Sin also hurts us, because sin -- without exception -- always has negative consequences (even if we don't realize it). In addition, sin cuts us off from others -- especially our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Think of it this way. When you were born, you became a member of a family -- and you'll always be part of that family, no matter what happens. But if you



### My Answer

Billy Graham

do something wrong or hurt someone in the family, your contact with them will be broken. In other words, your relationship can't change -- but your fellowship can. The same is true with God.

Don't allow sin's destructive power to eat away at you. Instead, when you sin, repent of it and seek God's forgiveness at once. The Bible says, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).

**How can I know whether or not to stay with my boyfriend? I like him and we talk about getting married, but he admits he's been a bit wild and even fathered a couple of children he never sees. But he says he wants to settle down now. Should I trust him? — N.D.**

By his own admission, this

person doesn't have a very good track record, so what reason do you have to think the future will be any different? He says all that is behind him -- but what evidence is there to support his claim?

Yes, he knows he's been on the wrong road in life and he may sincerely want to change; many people do. But does he have the inner strength to do it? I urge you to face this question honestly, and not be swayed by your emotions. The Bible warns, "Can... the leopard (change) its spots? Neither can you do good who are accustomed to doing evil" (Jeremiah 13:23).

Only God can bring lasting change to our lives -- and regardless of what the future holds for this relationship, my prayer is that this will happen to your boyfriend as he gives his life to Jesus Christ. And if you have never committed your own life to Christ, I urge you to do so today.

The most important advice I can give you, however, is to seek God's will -- not just about this relationship, but about every detail of your life. God loves you and knows all about you, and He wants to guide you so you make right decisions about your future. Put your life into His hands, and then ask Him to guide you to the husband of His choice -- one who loves God, and will love you as well.

## Interceding for our land

What does it take to motivate you to pray? For some people, prayer is an everyday priority. They cry out to the Lord on a regular basis—not just for their own concerns, but also for the needs of their country and the world. For others, prayer is a last resort. They turn to it only in times of emergency, when all other avenues of help have been exhausted.

No matter which category you fall into, there is no time like the present to lift up our nation to the Lord. Economically, we are facing one of the most difficult times since the Great Depression. Morally, we are experiencing the devastating consequences of forfeiting our belief in God and failing to live according to His standards. Christians often feel helpless to stop the moral decline we see in America today. But you and I can help improve the condition of our country by crying out to God on its behalf.

**What should motivate us to pray?**

*The condition of our nation is evidence that we need to pray for God's intervention. No one will argue that many*

families are struggling economically right now. Our mortgage and banking industries are in crisis. Politicians make decisions based on what is best for themselves or what is popular—not what is best for the country. Families are weakened by divorce, abortion, and promiscuity. Terrorism and natural disasters threaten our security. Many people and even some churches are redefining

morality based on what is popular or convenient.

*Biblical warnings should also*

*motivate us to pray. Moses warned the Israelites, "It shall come about if you ever forget the Lord your God and go after other gods and serve them and worship them, I testify against you today that you will surely perish" (Deut. 8:19). In 2 Chronicles 7, the Lord told His people, "If you turn away and forsake My statutes and My commandments which I have set before you, and go and serve other gods and worship them, then I will uproot you from My land which I have given you, and this house which I have*

See **STANLEY**, page 6

## In need of a snowday

Sometimes I just need a snowday. To rid the noise in it's quiet placement as it falls and settles. Place our noise gently under its path. Hold our hearts just for a day even, hold our minds in quiet gentleness to this beauty of our hands Lord. Your gift today for our rest, as we see your mighty power and fury, come gently to our world. You quiet us of your beauty and your grace by nature all around us. Help us to see your hand as we ponder the beauty of your gifts.

I can come to you no matter what. I always and everyday have a need, and I come to you in quiet rest. And you show me, I always can. No matter my ways, for my ways bring me to you. And as I see in Psalm 51:17, I am this way for you. For me to give place for you I find everyday in need. You feed me Lord as I open to your word and listen to my heart. You reach me in gentle stillness in comfort and peace.

In reading Ephesians 3:19 "...that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God. And to know the love of Christ, which pass all knowledge..."

This place is where I want to always know. What you and peace and wisdom is shown there. Our place of comfort. A place where everything is taken care of, by God's care and control. The fear of no control freezes our joy. Hold to our focus where all is alright, where God uses our days to His plan. Hold that in comfort, in knowing we are not alone, not to remedy our failures or heal our pain in our lives. We are not the ones who are able. God alone is and alone in God we succeed in our ways, and in our heart we know His peace and care and joy.

When you come to know Him spiritually you begin to see Him in others around you. In places you never thought to, in needs and cares of others in your life. And we can see how we are related in our paths to feed to and from God's care in those we see or know. Stop to notice and ponder God's presence in your heart, take the time. His presence will grow this way ... through you or me, one by one He reaches our whole life. Let



### The Write Words

Journals by  
Connie  
McMillan

Him shine in your day, let Him live in you so He may live in those around you.

Remember as you may be cast down, you will be built up, day by day. Let God show you in your journeys His strength and knowledge of your need, let Him guide your path. And as He does, give of your care to others along the way. As long as we keep God's purpose as our eternal focus, we have strength to get there. Day by day we learn in Him.

**Connie McMillan lives in Pulaski and is the main office secretary at Pulaski County High School.**

## Church Pulse

January 22

### Congregation Performs "God's Trombones"

Asbury United Methodist Church will present James Weldon Johnson's "God's Trombones," seven Negro sermons in verse. The Asbury Choir will provide the music with featured guest artists The Glorylanders of the New River Valley, and Dr. Gena Chandler, soprano, a Virginia Tech English professor. The opening prayer and all seven sermons will be performed by members of the Asbury congregation and two guest artists.

The program will begin at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 22, 2012. Asbury UMC is located at 500 Stuart Street in Christiansburg. For more information call the church at 382-0743 or Reliford Sanders, Jr. 961-3847 or 250-2663.

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# Griffith

Continued from page 4

moving again and spurring job creation. Currently, 28 bipartisan job creating and job protecting bills passed by the House are awaiting Senate action, including H.R. 2250.

In 2011, the House Energy and Commerce Committee and my two Subcommittees covered many issues. One main focus of the Subcommittee on Energy and Power was the American Energy Initiative. We explored ways to expand American energy production. On the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, I played an active role in the investigation of the Department of Energy's \$535 million loan guarantee to the now-bankrupt solar energy company Solyndra.

Throughout the year, my staff and I traveled around the Ninth District talking with hard working Americans, touring businesses and medical facilities, and visiting local schools. In 2011, I held many public question and answer meetings with thousands of constituents and Ninth District businesses and also conducted telephone town halls across the entire Ninth District. My office also established monthly traveling staff office hours to better serve constituents in each county and city.

Over the past year, I have had the honor of taking part in medal ceremonies for local veterans receiving both new and replacement medals, including presenting a long-deserved Bronze Star with "V" Device for valorous actions in the Korean War to Corporal James C. Rasnake of Abingdon. In addition, students from Southwest Virginia participated in the Congressional Art Competition for high school students. The Ninth District is proudly represented in the Capitol art display by Jessalyn Mullins of Norton. My office also hosted two Service Academy Days and a roundtable discussion for goat and lamb producers. In November, I

# Stanley

Continued from page 5

consecrated for My name I will cast out of My sight and I will make it a proverb and a byword among all peoples" (vv. 19-20). This passage clearly indicates that God will send adversity to get the attention of His people (v. 22).

How does this apply to us as believers? The United States has enjoyed prosperity—more than almost any other nation—as a result of God's favor upon our country. We have experienced spiritual abundance too: Churches preach the Word of God, Bibles and other resources are readily available, and numerous ministries broadcast the gospel across our land. However, as a whole, we have forsaken the Lord and His commandments. Instead of basing decisions on God's principles, Americans tend to act according to personal preference or popular opinion. There can be little doubt that our nation is in spiritual rebellion.

**The principles of God do not change.**

Some people might argue that the two passages above refer specifically to the Israelites and cannot be applied today. But I believe these verses outline an important biblical principle that endures for all time and in all situations.

We also see these warnings echoed in the New Testament. Galatians 6:7 states that what we sow, we will reap. Jesus said, "Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell—and great was its fall" (Matt. 7:26-27). If God allowed adversity to come to His chosen people because of their sin and idolatry, why would He withhold it from America?

**What will it take for God to hear and answer our prayers?**

Second Chronicles 7:14 says, "[If] My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven,

launched the One More Job Initiative to seek input from you and others on how we can create just one more job in each of our communities.

In the coming year, I will continue to work vigorously to address our nation's dire debt situation, promote policies that spur job creation, support legislation that encourages domestic energy production, and fight job-killing regulations. As 2012 gets underway, I encourage you to stay in touch. Please do not hesitate to contact my office to share your legislative ideas or request assistance involving federal matters. My staff and I are here to serve you. Best wishes to you and your family for a happy and healthy New Year.

Note: My office has compiled a 2011 Year in Review, a brief summary of this year's legislative highlights in the House, my activity in the Energy and Commerce Committee, and Ninth District outreach. This report is available for download at [www.morgangriffith.house.gov](http://www.morgangriffith.house.gov) or hard copies can be obtained from one of my District Offices.

### January Traveling Staff Office Hours

To better serve you, throughout the month of January, members of my staff will be holding traveling office hours around the Ninth District. Due to various federal holidays, some of the regular dates and locations may have changed. The dates, times, and locations of upcoming office hours can be found at [www.morgangriffith.house.gov](http://www.morgangriffith.house.gov).

As always, if you have concerns or comments or wish to inquire about legislative issues, feel free to contact my offices. You can call my Abingdon office at 276-525-1405 or my Christiansburg office at 540-381-5671. To reach my office via email, please visit my website at [www.morgangriffith.house.gov](http://www.morgangriffith.house.gov).

will forgive their sin and will heal their land." This promise is threefold: God will hear our cry, forgive our sins, and heal our land. But we must humble ourselves, repent of our wrongs, and lift up our nation to Him.

**The time is now.**

Few Christians would deny that our country is in moral decline. As the nation has moved away from biblical principles, we have seen an increase in divorce, drug abuse, suicide, depression, teen pregnancy, and selfishness. Ethical compromise and greed have resulted in financial instability. The right to share our faith, speak out on moral issues, and attend church freely could one day be threatened.

Do you love this country and the independence it provides for us? Then I challenge you to kneel before the Lord and cry out to Him on behalf of the United States. Ask the Lord to awaken American spiritually and call her to repentance. If we do that, He has promised to hear from heaven and heal our land (2 Chron. 7:14).

**Dr. Charles F. Stanley is senior pastor of the First Baptist Church of Atlanta and founder of In Touch Ministries.**

# Another un-won war

The last American troops have left Iraq. In his comments regarding this event, President Obama did not use any of these words: victory, mission accomplished, win, won, triumph, success, complete, or any other such words. Quite the contrary: A few months ago, Obama said he was uncomfortable with the notion of "victory" in Iraq. So our soldiers just left one day, and we now have another un-won war.

This is a real problem. There are consequences to un-won wars, just as there are consequences when we win.

Let's look at real examples from United States history that show the consequences of wars that were won and those that were not.

The last war that America won decisively was World War II (WWII). Both Germany and Japan surrendered unconditionally.

For Japan, this happened only after the Japanese Navy was completely destroyed and the



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American's were totally defeating the Japanese on Pacific island after island in ferocious, all-out, scorched earth, bloody fighting on their way to an assault on the Japanese mainland (which it was estimated would have resulted in hundreds of thousand of casualties on both side). The nuclear bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki eliminated the need for that mainland invasion, but only after the Japanese emperor stepped in and overruled the Japanese military, which wanted to fight on.

In Europe, it was a ground and air war. We all know about D-Day, the longest day, which

Eisenhower agonizingly delayed for three days due to weather, and then gave the go-ahead even though the weather was still marginal at best because he couldn't keep all of those masses of ships and troops waiting off-shore any longer. It was the largest amphibious assault in history. After the success of D-Day, it was on to Berlin. On the way, there was the Battle of the Bulge, the last major land battle in Europe, which came close to being a disaster for the Allies, but we held on. The German Air Force (the much vaunted Luftwaffe) had been eliminated, and we were relentlessly pounding military and industrial sites from the air with impunity. The Red Army was closing in from the East. Finally, Hitler realized it was over and committed suicide (with his mistress, Eva Braun). After the war, Germany was a pile of rubble.

It was total victory for the

See RING, page 12

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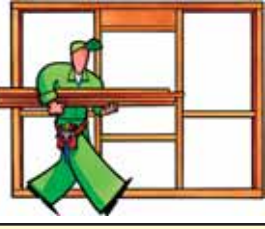
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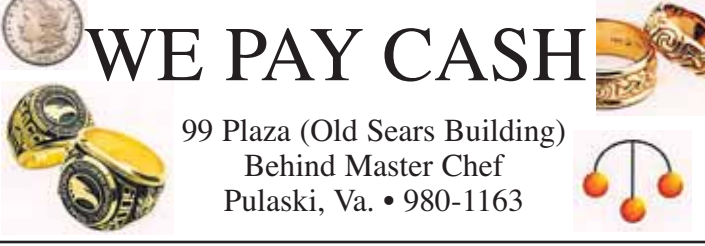
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Poor Cooper is a country song waiting to happen! Dumped at the shelter in March 2010 at the young age of 3 months, Cooper was quickly adopted. Cooper was returned 3 months later for being "too high-energy." Cooper still has a lot of energy because he is still young--just about 2 years old! Cooper is already neutered and up to date on shots. If you are interested in adopting Cooper, please contact Pulaski County Animal Control at 540-674-8359.

See ELDERCARE, page 9

# NRV AoA joins eldercare campaign

From NRV AoA

Returning home from a hospital stay can result in unexpected challenges for many seniors and as a result, millions of older Americans are spending billions of dollars on health care costs every year that could be avoided through simple planning and preparation prior to being admitted to the hospital. Nearly one in five Medicare patients discharged from the hospital is readmitted within 30 days due to an injury resulting from medical management – not the underlying disease – costing over \$26 billion every year. Some studies

have found that between 40 percent and 50 percent of readmissions are linked to social problems and lack of community resources.

Eldercare Locator, a public service of the U.S. Administration on Aging that is administered by the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a), recently launched a national campaign encouraging older adults, caregivers and their families to discuss potential hospital visits and start planning ahead for a smooth transition from the hospital to the home. The New River Valley Agency on Aging is supporting the cam-

paigned by raising awareness for more effective care transitions throughout the Counties of Floyd, Giles, Montgomery and Pulaski and the City of Radford. "We strongly encourage families to take some time to address these issues and plan ahead so that when medical issues arise, a plan is in place," said Tina King, Executive Director. "Consumers can save on health care costs and most importantly, save lives."

Eldercare Locator and the United Hospital Fund's Next Step in Care ([www.nextstepincare.org](http://www.nextstepincare.org)) released a consumer guide that can be used by [region/city] families and care-

givers to lead the discussion this holiday season. The guide, which provides planning tips for pre-hospital check-in as well as post-checkout from the hospital, is available at [www.n4a.org/pdf/HospitaltoHome](http://www.n4a.org/pdf/HospitaltoHome). Some of the questions the Eldercare Locator encourages the public to address prior to being admitted to a hospital include: What do you need to bring? If you are not going to be well enough to care for yourself when you are released, where will you go? Will you need help getting around? Will you need

## UVa goes to 13-1 with win at LSU

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP) — LSU let an opportunity to defeat a second Top 25 team in two weeks slip away.

Sammy Zeglinski scored 17 points, including a big 3-pointer late in the game, to help No. 21 Virginia beat the Tigers 57-52 in a non-conference game Monday night.

Joe Harris added 14 points, also hitting a 3-pointer late, for the Cavaliers (13-1), who have won 11 straight games.

LSU coach Trent Johnson was not happy with his team's defense on either 3-point shot.

"Not to take anything away from Virginia, but we had way too many breakdowns defensively," Johnson said. "Losing Harris and losing Zeglinski on end-line out-of-bounds and (giving up) jump shots cost us. If you are not disciplined and you do not close out the shooters, they will make you pay."

With the Cavaliers on top 48-47, Zeglinski knocked down a 3-pointer with 3:25 remaining in the game. LSU (10-4), which had its seven-game winning streak end, came right back to pull within one point at 51-50 when Anthony Hickey sank a 3-pointer with 2:07 remaining in the game.

Then it was time for Harris to make his 3-pointer to give Virginia another four-point advantage.

"I knew the shot clock was running down," Harris said. "I tried to get the shot up quick. (Ralston) Turner closed out with his hands down. I thought it was going in when I shot it. This win should give us a huge lift."

Trailing 47-46, Virginia went on top on a basket by Assane Sene with 5:13 remaining in the game. Sene's basket came after his blocked shot went out of bounds off a LSU player. It was nearly two minutes before either team scored again. Zeglinski ended the scoring drought with his 3-pointer.

"Mike made a great pass," said Zeglinski. "My guy was sagging off me to help out on our big guy. I was fortunate enough to make it."

The Cavaliers had to prevent LSU from scoring on a couple of possessions in the last minute to preserve their victory.

The Tigers cut their deficit in

See **UVA**, page 9



Hokiesports.com photo

**Erick Green helped the Hokies to an 84-55 victory over North Florida.**

## Hokies down OSU Cowboys; Hudson scores 1,000th point

From Hokiesports.com

STILLWATER, Okla. — Virginia Tech defeated Oklahoma State, 67-61, in Gallagher-Iba Arena on Saturday afternoon. The Hokies are now 11-3 overall, while OSU falls to 7-6 on the season.

The Hokies jumped out to an eight-point lead early in the first half and took a 28-23 lead into the intermission. The Cowboys opened in the second half on a 19-9 run and led 44-37 with 13:03 remaining. Tech then went on a 19-3 run over the next seven minutes and took a 56-47 lead on a lay-up by Robert Brown with 6:18 remaining to play.

OSU fought back and tied the game, 61-61 with 2:02 to play. Virginia Tech did not allow the Pokes to score for the remainder of the contest. Tech scored its final field goal of the game with 5:43 remaining, a jumper by Brown, but made all seven of their free throw attempts down the stretch to secure the win.

Dorenzo Hudson led the Hokies with 18 points and Erick Green added 16 points in the win. With his 18 points, Hudson reached the 1,000-career points

mark at Virginia Tech. He now has 1,006 points as a Hokie. Dorian Finney-Smith grabbed 10 rebounds and Jarell Eddie added nine points and seven rebounds. Keiton Page led all scorers with 21 points and Brian Williams added 14 points in the loss for OSU.

One major key in the game for the Hokies was rebounding. Tech out rebounded OSU, 47-34, including 18-6 on the offensive glass. This was the second meeting of the season between the two schools, as Tech defeated OSU, 59-57, in Madison Square Garden on Nov. 25, to claim third place in the NIT Season Tip-Off. Tech out rebounded the Cowboys by 22 boards in the first meeting. Tech made 15 of 17 from the free throw line in the game, including 13 of 15 after intermission. The Hokies scored 24 points on second-chance opportunities.

The Hokies return to action on Saturday, Jan. 7, as they travel to Winston-Salem to open ACC play against Wake Forest. The game will tip-off at noon in Joel Coliseum and will be televised live by the ACC Network.

improved depth as evidence that he has the Redskins pointed in the right direction. Even so, there are significant upgrades needed at receiver, in the secondary, along the offensive line and in a special teams unit that had five blocked field goals this year — the most allowed by a team in the NFL in eight years.

But it all starts and ends with the quarterback, and Shanahan needs to find one.

After failing to make it work with Donovan McNabb last year, Shanahan made the bold statement that he was staking his reputation this season on Rex Grossman and John Beck. Grossman ended up committing 25 turnovers in 13 games, and Beck lasted for all of three winless starts.

"I don't care what anybody says, I know what I can do and I know what I'm capable of — and

I know that I will achieve it," Beck said Monday before stuffing his belongings into a large clear plastic bag at his locker. "I thought it was going to happen this year. It didn't. But it's going to happen. I'm not going to let it not happen."

Grossman's self-confidence was just as strong. While Beck is under contract for next season, Grossman is a free agent — but it's possible he could be brought back to mentor a quarterback taken in the first round of the draft.

"There's a lot of things that I can do to improve," Grossman said. "But definitely there was a lot of good, and we'll see how they evaluate it."

Shanahan has already starting looking for someone else. For weeks now, he has been spending about a half-hour in the mornings looking at video of the top col-

## Michigan beats Va. Tech in Sugar Bowl

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — As Brady Hoke trotted across the Superdome field, his Michigan players celebrating all around him, a big bucket of ice water suddenly came splashing down on the coach's head.

It had been quite a while since the Wolverines won a BCS bowl and they were going to enjoy it.

"All the tough times we've been through makes it even more special," senior defensive tackle Mike Martin said. "To be the fifth team that ever in Michigan history has won 11 games in a season, it means a lot."

Brendan Gibbons drilled a 37-yard field goal down the middle in overtime, lifting No. 13 Michigan to a 23-20 victory over 17th-ranked Virginia Tech in the Sugar Bowl at the Superdome on Tuesday night.

The victory capped an impressive debut season for Hoke, who has led the Wolverines (11-2) back to prominence with their first BCS bowl victory since the 2000 Orange Bowl.

"I'm just real proud," Hoke said, noting that only five Michigan teams in 132 have won 11 games in a season. "Real proud of our seniors, real proud of how they took this football team last January and molded it and did a tremendous job."

Denard Robinson highlighted an otherwise unspectacular night with touchdown passes of 45 and 18 yards to game MVP Junior Hemingway.

"It shows everything we put in from Day One, all the long days, long nights," Hemingway said, his voice cracking with emotion. "Man, I'm telling you, it feels too good, man. Too good."

Virginia Tech gave the Wolverines all they could handle and might have won if not for some key miscues.

"I'm about half-sick right now," Virginia Tech coach Frank Beamer said. "They weren't stopping us; we were stopping ourselves."

Virginia Tech (11-3) more than doubled Michigan's total yards, 377-184, and had 22 first downs to Michigan's 12, but settled for four field goals in regulation by third-string kicker Justin Myer.

However, Myer was unable to connect on his fifth try from 37 yards away in the opening possession of overtime.

Robinson finished 9 for 21 for 117 yards passing and threw an interception. He rushed 13 times for a season-low 13 yards.

"I feel like this was a team that didn't quit and we just kept fighting," Robinson said. "We held everybody accountable for what we had to do to win."

Virginia Tech first-year starter Logan Thomas was 19 of 28 of 214 yards with one interception.

Thomas scored Tech's only touchdown on a 1-yard keeper that tied the game at 17 — after a 2-point conversion — early in the fourth quarter.

Michigan senior receiver Danny Coale had eight catches for 117 yards, and nearly made a spectacular diving catch for a touchdown in overtime. Coale held on to the ball for what was initially ruled a score, but the play was overturned on video review,

which showed the receiver narrowly landed on the sideline.

"Danny's play is so close, and it seemed like there was just quite a few of those there tonight," Beamer said.

The result of that third-down play forced Tech to try for Myer's failed field goal.

Michigan then used three runs to set up Gibbons in the middle of the field.

As his kick sailed through, Gibbons sprinted toward the

Wolverines' sideline and was mobbed by teammates while the Michigan band belted out the school's fight song, "The Victors," while Michigan fans, in rhythm, thrust a sea of maize pom-

poms in the air.

Virginia Tech fell behind late in regulation after gambling on a fake punt. Michigan's Jake Ryan stopped it at the Tech 45, leading to a short drive that set up Gibbons' go-ahead 39-yard field goal with 4 minutes left.

That left just enough time for the Hokies to tie it, even though they had to start at their own 9 after a holding penalty on the kickoff.

Thomas marched the Hokies 83 yards in 3:58, setting up Myer's game-tying 25-yarder.

Hemingway staked Michigan to a 17-6 lead in the third quarter when he soared over Tech's Antone Exum for an 18-yard catch in the back of the end zone. The scoring drive was set up by an even more difficult grab by reserve Michigan linebacker Frank Clark, who leaped and reached high over his head to snag Thomas' pass at close range, returning the interception to the Tech 35-yard line.

"I was just trying to dump it over his head. He timed his jump perfectly and got his hands on it and came down with it," Thomas said. "He made a great play."

Tech cut it to 17-9 on Myer's 36-yard field goal, then tied the game after Thomas' 13-yard scramble on fourth-and-11 sustained the drive that ended with his touchdown.

Virginia Tech dominated most of the first half, taking a 6-0 lead on Myer's field goals of 37 and 43 yards, and could have led by more had the Michigan defensive line not stuffed Thomas on fourth-and-1 on the Wolverines 4.

Michigan then drove to mid-field with the help of a roughing the punter penalty, setting up Robinson's first big play.

The quarterback yanked his leg from a defender's grasp and unleashed a long throw while scrambling right. Virginia Tech free safety Eddie Whitley went for an interception but mistimed it, allowing Hemingway to make the grab with no one between him and the end zone.

Michigan got the ball right back when Tech's Tony Gregory fumbled the ensuing kickoff return.

Michigan nearly botched a field goal attempt soon after, but holder Drew Dileo's pass to no one in particular was tipped into the hand of long snapper Jareth Glanda for a first down on the 8, setting up a shorter field goal for a 10-6 halftime lead.



## Shanahan says 'Skins better even with worse record

ASHBURN, Va. (AP) — The Washington Redskins' record is a matter of perspective.

Steve Spurrier famously proclaimed 5-11 was "not very good" after his 2003 season with Washington. He quit the next day, done with the NFL after two years and a 12-20 record.

Mike Shanahan's spin couldn't be more different.

"Even though the record may not show it," Shanahan said Monday, "we're a much better football team than we were a year ago."

The Redskins regressed from 6-10 to 5-11 this year, so Shanahan's mark in two seasons in Washington stands at 11-21. He's never had a worse full-season record as a head coach, and Washington has now finished in last place in the NFC East for four years running.

"Thank God I haven't been through any like this before — I might not be in this profession very long," Shanahan said. "But it's something that really drives you and motivates you. It's something that I look forward to doing, putting a great football team together and doing it the right way, and sometimes it takes a little bit longer than sometimes expected."

Shanahan cited the team's

See **SKINS**, page 9

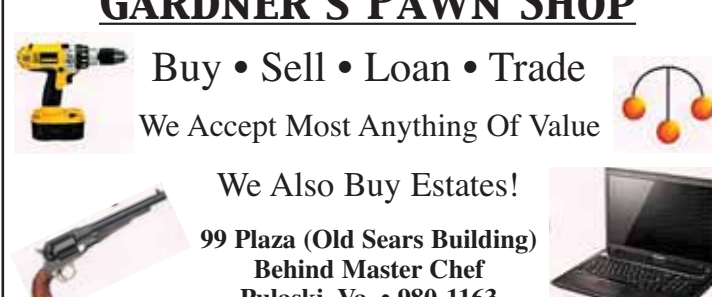
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# UVa

Continued from page 8

half at 54-52 on a field goal by Justin Hamilton with 51 seconds remaining. LSU got the ball back when Turner blocked a shot by Harris and Hamilton grabbed the ball. However, Hamilton immediately lost the ball.

LSU would have one more opportunity to tie the score after Zeglinski made just one of two foul shots with 19 seconds remaining. Turner failed to make a 3-point shot on LSU's next possession. Mike Scott, who had 12 points, rebounded for the Cavaliers and made his two free throws.

Hamilton was the Tigers' only double-figure scorer with a career-high 21 points. Turner, who entered the game with a 10.5 scoring average, was held to two points. Andre Stringer, who had not played in nearly a month due to some fainting issues, started and scored eight points in 24 minutes.

Despite holding the lead for

most of the first half, Virginia needed a pair of free throws from Harris in the final 30 seconds to forge a tie going into the break. LSU had no more than a two-point advantage in the opening 20 minutes.

The Tigers grabbed a four-point lead at the outset of the second half on baskets by Hamilton and Turner. The Cavaliers responded with an 8-2 run to go ahead 34-32. A field goal by Harris gave Virginia its first lead of the second half.

LSU came back to take its largest advantage of the game at 42-37. Trailing by one point, Hamilton converted a three-point play and Jalen Courtney knocked down a 3-pointer.

The lead was short-lived as the Cavaliers outscored the Tigers 9-2. A field goal by Scott gave Virginia a 46-44 lead with 6:20 to play. Hickey gave LSU its last lead at 47-46 with a 3-pointer with 5:46 remaining in the game.

# Hokies make too many mistakes in Sugar Bowl loss

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Virginia Tech wanted to prove itself worthy of a BCS bid.

The Hokies blew it in the Sugar Bowl.

After squandering numerous chances to race to a big lead in the first half, No. 17 Virginia Tech needed a gutsy comeback just to force overtime. Then, one more miscue — third-string placekicker Justin Myer, who made four clutch field goals in regulation, finally missed on his fifth attempt, and Brendan Gibbons knocked through a 37-yarder that gave No. 13 Michigan a 23-20 victory Tuesday night.

The Hokies (11-3) outgained the Wolverines 377-184 in total yards, making quarterback Denard Robinson look downright ordinary. But the most disputed team to land a BCS invitation simply made too many mistakes to pull it out.

While Michigan leaped around and even managed to dump a bucket of ice on first-year coach Brady Hoke, Virginia Tech's players collapsed on the field in anguish.

They had a chance to prove all the skeptics wrong.

They let it slip away.

Myer made the last of his field goals from 25 yards with 2 seconds left in regulation, sending the game to overtime tied at 20. It was quite a performance by a kicker who fell into the job when the top two specialists got in trouble off the field — one left at home, the other sent home on a bus.

Virginia Tech got the ball first in overtime and appeared to score a touchdown when Danny Coale made a brilliant, one-handed catch as he was tumbling out of bounds. But the replay showed he landed on the line as he pulled the ball in — just a split-second before he dragged his right foot inbounds.

On came Myer, whose 37-yard attempt faded wide right.

Michigan (11-2) failed to pick up a first down. It didn't matter. The Wolverines were already in range for the winning kick.

But don't blame Myer for this one. "He did a heck of a job," coach Frank Beamer said of his fill-in kicker.

There were more than enough mistakes to go around, including all sorts of botched plays by Virginia Tech's special teams. The Hokies ran into Michigan's punter. They fumbled a kickoff return. They turned an ugly pass into a first-down completion after Michigan messed up a field-goal try. And, finally, a fake punt that failed miserably in the fourth quarter, setting up Gibbons for a 39-yard field goal that put the Wolverines ahead 20-17 with 4 minutes remaining.

Virginia Tech, to its credit, drove 83 yards for the tying field goal.

In the end, it was just another loss in a major bowl for the Hokies, who dropped to 2-6 on college football's biggest stages. This one stings a little worse, since there was plenty of criticism when Virginia Tech was invited to the Big Easy over two higher-ranked teams, Boise State and Kansas State.

"I'm about half-sick right now," Beamer said. "Too many mistakes."

Robinson, the Wolverines' thrilling quarterback, didn't do much. He was sacked three times and finished with 13 yards rushing on 13 carries. He completed just 9 of 21 passes for 117 yards, but two of them were touch-



Head Coach Frank Beamer

downs to the game's MVP, Junior Hemingway, who made a pair of acrobatic catches.

Logan Thomas passed for 214 yards, David Wilson rushed for 82, and the Hokies dominated the stat sheet. But the only numbers that mattered were in Michigan's favor.

Virginia Tech jumped ahead 6-0 but it should've been a much bigger lead. On the opening possession, the Hokies marched right down the field to set up first down at the Michigan 4. Then, the first of the major blunders. Wilson got hemmed up in the backfield, kept going backward trying to find some daylight and finally was slung down for a staggering 22-yard loss. Myer's 37-yard field goal was the consolation.

The Hokies took over again after Robinson was picked off by Fuller on a deep throw, then drove the other way on another impressive drive that stalled short of the end zone. Myer hit from 43 yards.

With Michigan just trying to hang on, Wilson broke off a 32-yard run and the Hokies faced fourth-and-1 at the Wolverines 4. This time, they passed on the chance for another field goal, figuring their massive quarterback, the 6-foot-6, 254-pound Thomas, could find a way to pick up a measly yard. Instead, he was stuffed about a foot short of the marker.

At that point, the Hokies had a 185-39 lead in yards but Michigan was still in the game. The Wolverines took advantage, seizing on more costly mistakes.

James Hopper ran into punter Matt Wile and received a 15-yard roughing penalty that kept a possession going. When Michigan faced a third-and-17 predicament, Robinson scrambled away from pressure and lofted a pass down the sideline toward Hemingway. Safety Eddie Whitley raced in, eyeing an inter-

ception, but Hemingway yanked the ball away and was gone for a 45-yard touchdown.

Just like that, Michigan had a 7-6 lead.

"I didn't know who (Robinson) was throwing the ball at," Hemingway said. "I heard the safety coming over. I didn't know if he was going to take me out or what. But I snatched it and ran it in for six."

On the ensuing kickoff, Tony Gregory fumbled and Michigan pounced on it at the Virginia Tech 26. The Wolverines botched the field goal, forcing holder Drew Dileo to throw up a wobbly pass toward no one in particular. The ball was headed right to Hokies cornerback Kyle Fuller, but he slammed into a teammate and the ball deflected to Michigan lineman Jareth Glanda for an 11-yard completion.

The Wolverines took advantage of their second chance, Gibbons knocking through a 24-yarder on the final play of the half for an improbable 10-6 lead.

Michigan extended the margin to 17-6 after not one, but two apparent interceptions by Robinson were overturned — and Thomas threw one that stood.

Throwing off his back foot, Robinson put up a pass at the rear of the end zone that was pulled down by Hemingway, who just got a foot down for an 18-yard touchdown.

The Hokies didn't fold. Myers booted a 36-yard field goal and Virginia Tech finally got to the end zone on Thomas' 1-yard run with just over 10 minutes left in regulation. The big quarterback tied it on a 2-point conversion pass to Marcus Davis.

But Michigan reclaimed the lead when Coale, who also punts for the Hokies, made the ill-fated decision to try to run for a first down on fourth-and-1 at the Wolverines 48, rather than boot the ball away. He was swarmed for a 7-yard loss.

"I should have punted it," Coale said. "That's completely on me."

Michigan coach Brady Hoke ended his debut season with a signature win, having revived a storied program after three dismal years under Rich Rodriguez.

The Hokies had to settle for more heartache.

**The Patriot**  
**808-3949**

# 'Skins

Continued from page 8

lege prospects. The Redskins hold the No. 6 overall pick in the April draft.

"Everybody's looking for a franchise quarterback," offensive coordinator Kyle Shanahan said. "You want one of those guys that there's no question about. There's probably only about five or six of them in the league. Then there's a lot of guys who can play and there's some guys who need to be replaced. You're always trying to find that one and (we're) still working to do it."

The Redskins' noteworthy free agents include linebacker London Fletcher, safety LaRon Landry, tight end Fred Davis, defensive end Adam Carriker and running back Tim Hightower. Shanahan said Fletcher is a priority to re-sign, while Landry's value is subject to his return from a left Achilles injury and Davis has just completed a four-game suspension for violating the NFL's drugs policy. Davis was one of three Redskins players suspended this season, the latest black eye for the franchise.

But the Redskins, being the Redskins, couldn't wrap up the season without one final bit of consternation. Shanahan, as is his usual routine, gave his parting words to the players in the locker room Sunday after the final game. On Monday, with the coach not even in the room, the players heard from Navy SEALs and a marine as part of a program mandated by the NFL.

While many players said they

found the presentation inspiring and that it helped them put football in perspective, backup offensive lineman Sean Locklear tweeted that it was the "Worst exit meeting ever!" because no coaches or front office people spoke. He later went back on Twitter to apologize.

"I talked to Sean after the game and, obviously, he must not have liked my speech," Shanahan said with more than a touch of sarcasm. "Obviously he must have been disappointed in it. I've only been doing it that way for a number of years, and he must be used to a different way. So I apologize, Sean, it'll never happen again — at least not with me."



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# PUBLIC NOTICE

The Pulaski County Board of Supervisors intends to consider the following matters on which public hearings to receive citizens' comments, will be held by the Board at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, January 23, 2012 in the Supervisors Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, 143 Third Street, NW, Suite 1, in the Town of Pulaski:

a. Petition by Patrick J. & Lesley Nash McCarthy for Special Use Permit (SUP) to allow exceptions to limitations on piers, private dock facilities, and or moorings located at 4341 Plantation Estates Rd., (Private Road), south of Burma Rd., (Rt. 819), zoned Residential (R1), map no. 076-012-0000-0011, Ingles District.

Comments may be presented orally or in writing via mail to above address, fax (540-980-7717), or e-mail to bos@pulaskicounty.org. Telephone inquiries may be directed to (540) 980-7705. Information regarding items as noted above is available for public inspection from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, at the Zoning Administrator's Office, County Administration Building, 143 Third Street, NW, in the Town of Pulaski or by phoning (540) 980-7710.

For disabled individuals who may require special auxiliary aids or services, the County upon request will make reasonable accommodations available. 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 to arrange for these special accommodations.

# Eldercare

Continued from page 7

equipment and supplies? Will you be able to take the appropriate medications without help those first days out of the hospital? Who will assist you? How long will you need assistance?

"As we age, the likelihood of a hospital stay increases and it is critical to plan before that time arrives," said Kathy Greenlee, Assistant Secretary for Aging, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. "We encourage families and caregivers to take advantage of their time with older relatives to talk about the brochure's important cost-saving and potentially life-saving tips."

For information on local community resources and services in the New River Valley to assist older adults with care transitioning, contact the New River Valley Agency on Aging by calling 540-980-7720, or toll free: 1-86-260-4417.

# Fair Housing Notice

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For the hearing-impaired, call (804) 367-9753. E-mail fair-housing@dpor.virginia.gov.

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Buck Mountain Band (above) and Upland Express.

NRCC photos



## Buck Mtn. Band, Upland Express to perform at NRCC jamboree

Upland Express and the Buck Mountain Band will perform at New River Community College's Fiddle, Banjo and Dance Club jamboree on Saturday, January 14, at 6:00 p.m. in Edwards Hall, room 117.

Upland Express began in 1974 as a bluegrass band, but has branched out to play a variety of styles including country and rock. Current band members include Barry Collins on banjo, bass and background vocals; Garry Collins on guitar, bass, lead and background vocals; Barry "BJ" James on lead and rhythm guitar and bass, and lead and background vocals; and Dara James on harmonica, guitar, keyboard and lead and background vocals.

The Buck Mountain Band takes its name from the mountain in Grayson County where two of its members reside. The group formed in 1999 at the Galax Old

Fiddler's Convention. The award-winning band performs for dances in Applewood Music Park in Cana and the Floyd Country Store. They also perform regularly at the Blue Ridge Music Center in Galax as part of the center's "Mid-Day Mountain Music" program. Band members are Bob Taylor on fiddle, Dan Peck on banjo, Sue Taylor on guitar, Larry McPeak on guitar, Debbie Larson on bass, and Amy Boucher on banjo.

Corporate sponsors of the jamborees include CVS Pharmacy, Dublin; Pulaski County Patriot, Pulaski; Pepsi Cola Bottling Co.; King's Tire Service, Pulaski; WPSK Radio; Shoney's Restaurant, Dublin; Wade's Supermarket, Dublin; Pulaski County Chamber of Commerce and Trader's Emporium & Estate Jewelry Services, Dublin.

The doors open at 5 p.m. for the show. There is no charge for

admission; however, donations will be accepted to help pay travel expenses for the musicians. The jamborees are held the second Saturday of each month through April at NRCC.

More information about the NRCC Fiddle, Banjo, and Dance Club is available from Roger Adkins at 674-3600, ext. 4307, and online at <http://www.nr.edu/fiddle>.

## Pulaski Police warn of sweepstakes telephone scams

Pulaski Police Department would like to warn citizens of recent sweepstakes telephone scams.

There have been several complaints of these harassing phone calls in the past few days.

The caller may state that you have won a large amount of money, but to collect your winnings, you must first wire money through a commercial money transfer to cover fees and taxes.

Legitimate sweepstakes will not require someone to pay up-front fees.

Con artists will utilize high-pressure tactics and sound very convincing. The majority of these calls are received from area code "876", which traces back to the country of Jamaica.

However, con artists are capable of disguising their phone numbers into a local area code, by using internet technology.

Don't become a victim. If, it

sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Contact Officer Megan Jennings if you have any questions regarding this matter.

To report telephone scams, you can visit the Federal Trade Commission's website at <https://www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov>.

## Va. GOP to study loyalty oath

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — Virginia Republicans plan to re-examine requiring voters to pledge support for the party's eventual nominee before they can cast ballots in the March 6 presidential primary.

Media outlets report that the Virginia GOP's Central Committee will meet Jan. 21 to discuss the new loyalty oath. Voters who refuse to sign the oath cannot participate in the primary.

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## Saving is always smart

**Dear Dave,**  
My wife and I have gone from having almost nothing to making about \$90,000 in the last few years. The problem is that I can't get her interested in saving money. What's worse, her father is the preacher at our church and he has convinced her that he knows the Lord is coming back in our lifetime. Thinking this, she says there's no reason to save because it will all be gone anyway. What can I do?

**Brian**

**Dear Brian,**  
I'm all for people living their lives according to God's word. But the Bible says that no man knows when the Lord will return. So, I get pretty leery when a guy — especially a preacher — tells me he knows when it's going to happen.

The Bible also tells us very clearly that it is wise to save, and the Bible does not contradict itself. So basically, if you don't save you're being foolish. Still, it probably wouldn't be a great idea for you to run and tell your wife that financially she's behaving like a fool.

This is a touchy situation in other areas, too. Right now her dad's theology is ruling your marriage, and that's not good. Husbands and wives should grow in their faith together. I think you guys should sit down with a good marriage counselor and, for the good of your family, come to an agreement on a new place of



**Dave Says**

Dave Ramsey

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worship.  
I mean, even if her dad is right about this — and if he turns out to be right, I'm pretty sure it's not because he has inside information — there's some stuff going on here where he's interwoven his own ideas and spiritual authority in with your household authority.

And that kind of thing could cause more problems down the road!

—Dave

**Dear Dave,**  
My company makes me use my personal credit card for overseas travel. They take care of my expenses, but sometimes they don't send the money until after the payment is due. Does this

See **RAMSEY**, page 11



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# Area Deaths

# 2012

Continued from page 1



**Larry Paul Warden**

Larry Paul Warden, age 43 of Pulaski passed away Thursday, December 29, 2011 at Lewis Gale Hospital-Salem, Virginia.

To send the family your online condolences, visit [www.bowerfuneralhome.com](http://www.bowerfuneralhome.com) Bower Funeral Home, Pulaski handled the arrangements for the Warden family.

**Grover Menethree Gravley**

Grover Menethree Gravley, age 95 of Belspring went home to see his Saviour face to face S u n d a y , January 1, 2012 at his home."

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that contributions be made to the Mission Fund at New River Baptist Temple - 7043 Warden Court, Radford, VA 24141. To send the family your online condolences, visit [www.bowerfuneralhome.com](http://www.bowerfuneralhome.com) Bower Funeral Home, Pulaski handled the arrangements for the family.

**Ruth Irene Hedrick Mitchell**

Ruth Irene Hedrick Mitchell, 72, of Wytheville, passed away S u n d a y , January 1, 2012. She was a member of Mt. Pleasant U n i t e d Methodist Church. The Mitchell family was in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford.



**James Robert (Bob) Dobyns**

Former member of the Virginia House of Delegates, James Robert (Bob) Dobyns, 85, died at his home here Sunday, January 1, 2012. Dobyns was born on Feb. 28, 1926 to the late Richard Allison Dobyns and Martha Snow Dobyns of Dublin. Dobyns was a beloved member of the Pulaski County community and the New River Valley, contributing to many facets of life in Virginia and around the world in his career as a building contractor, politician, farmer and missionary. He was an active participant in the business and educational activities of the community. He was the loving and devoted husband of the former Cornelia Gates, who survives him, for 60 years; and the father of two daughters, Robyn Dobyns and Rebecca Dobyns and her husband Mark Mitchell. He is also survived by a brother, Richard A. Dobyns Jr., of Maryland. A graduate of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in Civil Engineering, Dobyns was a building contractor for 25 years, building industrial, commercial and educational buildings in the New River Valley. He was a certified licensed Professional Engineer in the State of Virginia and a past

state Director and Treasurer of the Associated General Contractors of America, Virginia Branch. Dobyns was a veteran of World War II, serving with the 46th Infantry in the Philippines and Japan. He was a veteran of the Army Reserve, having served as a paratrooper. He began his political career as a member of the Pulaski County Board of Supervisors and went on to be elected to the Virginia House of Delegates, where he served seven years in the mid-1980s. His appointments in the House included membership on the Education, Roads, Mining, Agriculture and Finance Committees. Dobyns' career included owning and operating a beef cattle farm on Back Creek in Pulaski County. He supported the agricultural industry in the county as a Director and past secretary of the Pulaski County Livestock Market, Inc. and was a past Director of the Pulaski County Farm Bureau. An active member of the Board of Directors of the New River Community College Educational Foundation, Inc. Dobyns and his wife were honored last fall for having provided scholarships for 100 students at NRCC. His religious faith was an important part of the life of a man who lived what he believed. He was a member and trustee of the New Dublin Presbyterian Church. He and his wife served as Presbyterian Volunteer Missionaries to Zaire, Africa, where he constructed a hospital in Tshikaji, Zaire. Other business activities included being past Chairman of Sovran Bank, Pulaski Office Advisors Board, a past member of the Town of Pulaski Housing Board of Adjustments and Appeals and a past member of the Pulaski County Board of Building Appeals. He was honored in 1971-72 as the Pulaski Jaycee Boss of the Year and with the Pulaski County Chamber Business Executive Award in 1984. He served as a Director on the board of the New River Valley Habitat for Humanity and was appointed to serve on the Virginia War Memorial Commission and on the Commission on Virginia's Transportation in the Twenty First Century. The family will receive friends from 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, January 3, 2012 at Stevens Funeral Home in Pulaski. The funeral service will be at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, January 4, 2012 at the New Dublin Presbyterian Church, Dublin, with the Rev. Andrew Taylor-Troutman and the Rev. Kerfoot Boyd officiating, with burial in the church cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorials can be given to either New Dublin Presbyterian Church Missionary Fund, New River Community College Scholarship Fund, or Wilderness Road Museum. Arrangements by Stevens Funeral Home.

**Kathryn Ann Harner Edwards**

Kathryn Ann Harner Edwards, 67 of Barren Springs, died Friday December 30, 2011. She was born on March 29, 1944 in Reading, PA, and was the daughter of the late Mae Ruth Keefer Harner and Charles Harner. She spent most of her life enjoying work as a clerk in a deli. She was Lutheran by faith and was a member of the St. Pauls Lutheran Church in Auburn, PA. She is survived by her loving husband, George H. Edwards of Barren Springs; a son, Mike G. Edwards and his wife Beth of Barren Springs; a daughter, Kelly L. Reimert and her husband Ronald of Nitro, WVA; a brother, Allen Harner of Reading, PA; a sister, Sharon Zaorski and her husband James of Reading, PA. Also survived by 6 grandchildren, and several

nieces and nephews. A memorial service will be held at a later date. The family will receive friends at their home in Barren Springs on Sunday, January 8, 2012 from 12 Noon until 8:00 p.m. Online condolences may be sent to the family by visiting [www.seaglefuneralhome.com](http://www.seaglefuneralhome.com) Arrangements by Seagle Funeral Home, Pulaski. 540-980-1700

**Evelyn Margaret Fellows Meadows**

Evelyn Margaret Fellows Meadows, age 76 of the Little Creek section of Bland County, died Wednesday December 28, 2011 in Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital. For those who wish, they may make memorial contributions to the Little Creek Volunteer Fire Department. Online condolences may be sent to the family by visiting [www.seaglefuneralhome.com](http://www.seaglefuneralhome.com) Arrangements by Seagle Funeral Home, Pulaski. 540-980-1700

**Frances Ferguson Morehead**

Frances Ferguson Morehead, age 90, beloved wife of the late Frederick Morehead, Sr., died on Monday, January 2, 2012 at Tuomey Regional Medical Center.



**Morehead**

Memorials may be made to the Friends of Swan Lake, P.O. Box 7 4 2 6 , Sumter, SC 29150. You may sign the family's guest book at [www.bullockfuneralhome.com](http://www.bullockfuneralhome.com) or [www.bowerfuneralhome.com](http://www.bowerfuneralhome.com)

Bullock Funeral Home - Sumter, South Carolina and Bower Funeral Home, Pulaski, Virginia handled the arrangements for the family.

**Kayla Annette Doss**

Kayla Annette Doss, age 18 of Pulaski passed away Sunday, January 1, 2012. Arrangements pending by Bower Funeral Home, Pulaski.

# Ramsey

Continued from page 10

affect my credit score?

**Marshall**

Dear Marshall,

Unless you pay on time instead of waiting for their money, you bet it affects your credit score. It's your card! You signed for it, and it's in your name. Every late payment affects your credit bureau score.

I don't know who you work for, but this is a very dangerous and bad practice - both by you and your company. Your company is using your credit and abusing you in the process. Talk to them about furnishing you with a corporate card. Better yet, a corporate debit card! If your employer is going to send you overseas, or anywhere on the road, it shouldn't cost you money or cause you problems.

—Dave

Dear Dave,

My husband and I both work, and we just bought a great house for \$150,000. He makes \$50,000 a year, and I make about \$30,000. We've been getting lots of different mortgage life insurance offers in the mail. They say they will pay off the house if one of us dies. Do you think we should take advantage of this?

Blasha

Dear Blasha,

No! These kinds of offers are terrible unless you're uninsurable, because most mortgage life insurance policies are a lot more expensive than term life insurance.

—Dave

ing he considers the "macaca" meltdown that cost Allen his Senate seat in 2006 fair game six years later, even though Allen has acknowledged his error and apologized repeatedly.

**URANIUM MINING:**

A long-awaited independent study by the National Academy of Sciences in December raised serious concerns about whether a massive uranium ore deposit can be safely mined and milled in Pittsylvania County.

Neither the 290-page report nor its authors recommended whether to dig or not to dig. It would have been easier if they had.

It's up to the Virginia General Assembly to weigh the appeal of an economic boom in Southside Virginia — an area hit hard by declines in the textile, furniture and tobacco industries — against the prospect of contaminating water supplies for huge areas of Virginia and North Carolina.

The deep-pockets consortium of investors and corporations eager to recover the 119-million-pound deposit has hired Capitol Square's most expensive and influential lobbyists to shepherd legislation to end a 30-year uranium mining ban through a deeply divided House and Senate.

This is one of those issues more likely to create geographic divisions than partisan ones.

**ECONOMY AND THE STATE BUDGET:**

The \$85 billion biennial state budget Gov. Bob McDonnell presented to the General Assembly two weeks ago sets up clear and predictably partisan lines of debate.

Democrats accuse McDonnell of raiding healthcare and public education programs that benefit Virginia's poor to help the wealthy. They point to his elimination of allowances for inflation cost increases for Medicaid recipients at hospitals and nursing homes and cuts to indigent care support at the state's medical school hospitals.

Republicans support their governor by saying he's putting Virginia on sound fiscal footing by reining in runaway health care spending and investing in jobs. They note accurately that costs for the shared federal-state entitlement that helps pay for medical care for the needy, aged, disabled and blind have increased by 80 percent the past 10 years, far in excess of inflation. And now, they add, Medicaid consumes one-fifth of the state's general fund.

McDonnell's budget prescribes the largest cash infusion ever — \$2.2 million — to the Virginia Retirement System, which manages the pensions of state- and local-government employees. It's an employer's contribution to VRS, whose unfunded liabilities

now total nearly \$20 billion. McDonnell says he won't pass so frightful a dilemma to a subsequent governor, and it's won him praise from Democrats and Republicans, from Wall Street and from state employees for his stand.

But about half of the total comes from cash-strapped city and county governments, and they view it as another in a series of unfunded state mandates.

The larger budget story, however, could be determined by Congress, not the legislature. Nearly \$15 trillion in debt Washington faces difficult decisions and cuts are inevitable. That's worrisome to states like Virginia that depend heavily on military installations, a large federal workforce and major defense and government contractors. Anything that puts the capital's far-flung Virginia suburbs into economic distress will take a heavy toll on state tax collections.

**CAN REPUBLICANS RULE?**

The Republicans in November's elections achieved parity with Democrats in the state Senate, each holding 20 of the 40 seats. They believe they can claim a majority because Republican Lt. Gov. Bill Bolling presides over the Senate and holds the tie-breaking vote.

Not so fast, Democrats argued in a December lawsuit. Virginia's Constitution says only those elected to the Senate can vote on how the chamber organizes itself. Bolling not only a member of the executive branch, Democrats argue, he's in the governor's cabinet.

Democrats asked a judge to bar Bolling from casting the deciding vote, but she declined, ruling the court challenge was premature without addressing the constitutional question. That leaves open the prospect of more litigation.

Should Republicans get what they want, conservatives would take over the Senate committees where, their bills cracking down on abortions, undocumented immigrants, gay rights and broadening gun rights died for years. Presumably, those bills could now sail right to the desk of a conservative governor. How far right will they go?

**Bob Lewis has covered Virginia government and politics since 2000.**

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3	1	2	6	9	4	7	8	5
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# Bolling plans to be tie-breaker in most Staet Senate votes

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — Virginia Lt. Gov. Bill Bolling said Tuesday that he plans to cast a tie-breaking vote in the state Senate in the upcoming session except in certain cases, giving the Republicans a controlling majority in the 40-member chamber that is evenly divided between political parties.

In a memo, Bolling said his interpretation of the Virginia Constitution and previous legal opinions give him the power to vote on most issues that result in a tie in the upcoming General Assembly session, which begins Jan. 11. However, he said he believes he cannot vote on final passage of bills such as the budget, tax bills, constitutional amendments, the election of judges and the creation of new offices. That's because the state Constitution says those issues can only be voted on by members elected to the Senate, which Bolling is not.

"While this ruling will protect my ability to vote on important organizational issues, it will limit my ability to vote on the final passage of certain other types of leg-

islation," Bolling wrote in an email explaining his official memo. "Needless to say, this is a complex issue and I know that some people will agree with my ruling while others may disagree."

Republicans gained two seats in the Nov. 8 state Senate elections, ending four years of Democratic control and creating a 20-20 split in the chamber. Bolling, who is running for governor in 2013, and the Senate's GOP leadership had been enthusiastic but unambiguous about their intent to claim a majority based on Bolling's tie-breaking vote as the body's president.

Democrats filed a lawsuit in Richmond last month asking the court to halt the Republican plans, saying the state Constitution limits Bolling's deciding vote to legislation because he's a member of the executive branch of government. The judge turned aside the challenge, saying that the issue was not ripe and didn't warrant a court inserting itself into the actions of a separate branch of state government.

## Ring

Continued from page 6

U.S. and it's allies, and total defeat for Germany and Japan. What have been the long-term consequences of this war that we won decisively? Today, Germany is Europe's strongest economy, Japan is a major world economy, they have high standards of living, their people are well off, they are modern not third world countries, and both are our good friends. On a personal note, I worked for a company that did forty percent of its business in Japan, and I traveled there many times.

Let's look at another example of the consequences of a war that was decisively won, the Civil War. I am a Civil War history buff; I must have read two dozen books about the Civil War, the events that lead up to it, and its aftermath. The devastation of this war is incomprehensible to people today. Generals routinely lost a quarter or a third of their army, and lived to fight another day. Lincoln knew that he couldn't just win battles, but that he had to destroy the rebel army in totality. Lee knew that his only chance for victory was to score some big win on northern territory early on that would be psychologically devastating, hence Antietam and Gettysburg. Toward the end, General Sheridan saw the Shenandoah Valley as the breadbasket of the Confederacy by which the Confederate Army was fed. He laid waste to it, saying that he wanted a crow flying from end to end to find not one kernel of grain, and he pretty much succeeded. The only reason Lee and Jackson didn't do similar things was because they never got the chance.

In the end, the number of casualties was appalling: over six hundred thousand killed and over one million killed, wounded, or missing in action, at a time when the total population of the country was thirty-one million. It took a hundred years for the economy in the southern states to fully recover.

The Union won decisively, and what have the long-term consequences been? The United States of America that we see today.

Now what about the consequences of wars that we got into but didn't win?

We'll start with Korea. We did not win that war, by any account. It was a negotiated truce. North Korea was left intact, and it has been a nightmare for the North Koreans and the world ever since. The North Korean people live under an extremely oppressive regime and are virtually starving to death while the country's ruling dictator and his select few live in immense luxury. Consider one little factoid: The recently deceased Kim the elder apparently liked good brandy, and reportedly spent \$850,000 on it in one year, while his people starved. And then there is that matter of the nuclear weapons that North Korea may have. What will happen if this unstable, rogue country ever gets them for sure and the means to

deliver them? This is all the result of a war that America got into but didn't win.

How about Vietnam? Fifty-seven thousand Americans died in that war plus many thousands more that were wounded or missing in action. We didn't win that one either; as with Iraq, we just left one day. The consequences: The North Vietnam communist regime took over South Vietnam, the very thing we were fighting to prevent. Our soldiers died in vain.

Consider Iran. In 1979, Iran disregarded all international norms and occupied the U.S. Embassy in Tehran, taking a number of the embassy's staff, U.S. citizens, prisoner. This was an act of war, because centuries-old international law grants diplomats immunity from arrest and regards an embassy to be that country's sovereign territory. Respect for those principles is considered by all countries to be the most basic tenet of international relations. If an embassy is taken over or otherwise violated, it is equivalent to a similar act on that country's homeland. Fifty-two Americans were held hostage by Iran after the embassy take-over for 444 days (a few others were released earlier). In the face of this clear act of war, President Carter dithered. After several months, he authorized a military rescue mission that failed miserably. The hostages were held for several more months before finally being released after Reagan was elected President.

The consequence of our failure to recognize Iran's actions for what they were, an act of war, and to deal with Iran accordingly is that we are still to this day being threatened by Iran's dangerous behavior. We know the Iranians were supporting terrorists in Iraq, leading to the deaths of American soldiers. Iran has said it wants to wipe one of our strategic allies, Israel, off the map. Iran is trying to go nuclear. Recently, Iran threatened to close the Strait of Hormuz, through which passes a large portion of the world's oil.

And how about those soldiers that left Iraq recently? The only reason they were there in the first place is because we didn't win the first Gulf War with Iraq in 1991. In that one, we pushed Iraqi forces out of Kuwait (which they had invaded), declared victory, and left the Saddam Hussein regime in power in Iraq. The rest is history.

There is an unmistakable lesson to be learned from these wars that were won or not. Since the United States is a major world power, there are significant consequences to the outcome of any armed conflict that we undertake. Winning brings good things; losing or just giving up brings more problems that only get worse as the years go by.

**Jessee Ring is a Giles County native, retired corporate executive, and vineyard owner who now lives in Pulaski County.**



Linda Strain photos

## Cougar Band At Champ Sports Bowl

The Pulaski County Golden Cougar Marching Band was one of the bands which participated in this week's Champ Sports Bowl halftime show in Orlando, Fla. Here, members of the band are shown during practice for the event and in uniform preparing to travel to the stadium.

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