# Serving Radford Since 1884 NEWSJOURNAL



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# Radford church raises funds for 100,000 meals for hurricane victims



Two hurricanes recently devastated Puerto Cabezas and the surrounding areas in Nicaragua, including the mission partner of Radford's Community Life Church, Verbo Church Ministries.

**Heather Bell** 

hbell@ourvalley.org

RADFORD - Community Life Church has a long-standing relationship with Verbo Church Ministries in Nicaragua, so the devastation caused by recent hurricanes that hit the area had a particularly personal connection for the Radford church.

Renee and Rod Hidalgo, pastors of Community Life Church, wanted to help and launched an effort to raise \$21,000 to provide a whopping 100,000 meals for Verbo Church Ministries, which is their mission partners, to give out through their orphanage and feeding program, which feeds not only the orphanage but the larger community.

"These hurricanes absolutely devastated the area,"said Renee Hidalgo recently. "It was heartbreaking."

"Puerto Cabezas and the surrounding areas in Nicaragua have recently been devastated by two hurricanes,' reads a message from the church. "The destruction has been immense, and there is an urgent need for meals to help feed local children at the feeding center, as well as those who are sheltering at Verbo Church after losing their

Community Life Church partnered with Kids Around the World for

See Verbo Church page 2



Richard Barnett told his wife not to get her hopes up when she learned a winning Mega Millions lottery ticket had been sold at Triangle Market the day she had bought a ticket there.

# **Christiansburg man** claims \$1 million **Mega Millions prize**

Richard Barnett's wife had some interesting

She had heard Triangle Market at 3631 Radford Road in Christiansburg sold a Mega Millions ticket that won \$1 million, and the winner had not yet come forward.

She had bought a Mega Millions ticket at that very store the day before the

"I told her not to get her hopes up," the Christiansburg man later said.

It turns out that was indeed the winning ticket. The ticket she bought for him matched the first five numbers in the November 17 drawing to win Mega Millions' \$1 million prize. Had the ticket matched the sixth number, the Mega Ball number, they would have won a jackpot estimated at \$176 million.

The winning numbers were 8-13-35-46-68, and the Mega Ball number was 16. This was the only ticket in the nation to win

the \$1 million prize in that drawing. The store receives a \$10,000 bonus for selling the million-dollar winning ticket.

Barnett said they have

no immediate plans for the winnings. "I'm still the same per-

son I was before," he told lottery officials when he claimed the prize.

Mega Millions drawings are held Tuesday and Friday nights at 11 p.m. Drawings are broadcast on TV stations across Virginia and streamed live at www.valottery.com. The odds of matching the first five numbers in Mega Millions are 1 in 12,607,306.

Authorized by Virginia voters in a successful 1987 referendum, the Virginia Lottery generates more than \$1.6 million per day for Virginia's K-12 public schools. In the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, lottery customers helped generate more than \$595 million dollars in funding for public education.

## **Upcoming Great Conjunction or Christmas Star** an extraordinarily rare event, says VT astronomer

Star gazers should mark their calendars for the winter solstice on December 21 to observe the rare alignment of Saturn and Jupiter in the southwest sky.

Virginia Tech astronomer Nahum Arav says "this rare event is special because of how bright the planets will be and how close they get to each other in the sky."

Known unofficially as the "Great Conjunction," the planets of Saturn and Jupiter will line up in a manner that makes for some amazingly bright star gazing. The last time these two were close enough to create the double planet effect was the year of 1226. It also happened again in 1623, but wasn't visible from earth.

"The two planets can easily be seen with the naked eye," Arav says. "They will be very close to each other, about a fifth of the moon's diameter. At their closest, some people will need a binocular to separate them."

Even so, the planets will still be separated in space by about 450 million miles.

This astronomical event is also called by some the "Christmas Star" because of the biblical account of the Star of Bethlehem and the timing so close to December 25.

Professor Arav's ideas for best viewing include:

\*Be ready as soon as it is getting dark on December 21, as the two planets are in the southwest and will set early in the evening.

\*Locate a place where the southwest horizon is clear.

\*An amateur telescope will help reveal the four Galilean moons and perhaps Titan, the largest moon of Saturn, in the same field of view with the planets.

\*Plan on peak viewing for up to

\*If overcast skies are anticipated, try to look a day before or a day after. The two planets will be almost as close as on the 21st.

Even though it's been hundreds of years since the last time these two lined up like this, we won't have to wait nearly as long for the next conjunction, which is now on the books for March 15, 2080.



# Winterfest in Radford continues tomorrow with Cruise-Thru

The City of Radford is hosting a Christmas Cruise-Thru tomorrow, Thursday, Dec. 17. The event is a car decorating contest where cars will enter for a chance to win gift cards: \$75 for first place, \$50 for second place and \$25 for third place. Holiday treats will also be passed out using COVID-19 safety precautions and Santa will be in attendance to get you in the holiday spirit. Come out with your car decorated and collect some holiday treats, while celebrating the season. You do not have to decorate your car to participate, but it is encouraged. Treats are while supplies last.

Winterfest in Radford includes numerous events that will be held virtually and in-person

and will occur during the winter months. Due to the changing climate of the COVID pandemic, attendees are encouraged to confirm dates and times prior to the event and masks will be required at the in-person Upcoming Winterfest

activities include: Letters to Santa: Do

you have a message for Santa Claus? You can drop it off at the Radford Pubic Library, and they will make sure it gets to Santa. If you leave a return address, you might even get a message back

from him. December Business window and residential decorating contest throughout the city. Entry fees apply,

See Winterfest, page 5 you might even get a message back from him.



Do you have a message for Santa Claus? You can drop it off at the Radford Pubic Library, and they will make the COVID-19 vaccine are a much-needed symsure it gets to Santa. If you leave a return address,

# Governor welcomes first shipments of COVID-19 vaccine to Virginia



Virginia Governor Ralph Northam was joined Monday by **Kelly Sweet, Director of Pharmacy for the Bon Secours** Health System, in receiving the first shipments of COVID-19 vaccine.

RICHMOND—Governor Ralph Northam Monday welcomed one of the first shipments of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine to a Bon Secours hospital in Richmond, and the vaccine was administered to frontline health care workers as early as Tues-"These initial doses of

bol of hope for our com-

this moment of celebration, we must remember that this is the first step in a months-long process to receive, distribute and administer the vaccine as it becomes available.

See **Vaccine**, page 5

monwealth and our coun-

try," said the governor.

"With this remarkable

medical achievement, we

are beginning to see the

light at the end of a long,

dark tunnel. Yet even in

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

#### All through December

Grab-and-Go Crafts

At the Meadowbrook Public Library during regular library hours. These are free crafts that may be taken home to make. Each week there will be new

StoryWalk

All month at the Christiansburg Library. Brains and bodies get exercise by reading and walking the trail. The walk begins at the library at the College Street entrance of Downtown Park. This month's book is The Emperor's Egg.

Virtual Cookie Recipe Ex-

All month at the Christiansburg Library. Share a favorite cookie recipe on Facebook. A special craft -- a take-and-make snowman with hot cocoa-ina-car -- will be available while supplies last.

#### Wednesday, Dec. 16

Gingerbread Program 10:00 a.m. at the Blacksburg

Use a take-home kit the library provides to make a gingerbread house. Supplies are

Art Club Virtual Meeting From 2-3 p.m. at the Chris-

tiansburg Library

Canadian artist Ted Harrison will show everyone how to create a colorful landscape painting. Stop by the library for a curated craft kit and catch a video tutorial on the Christiansburg Facebook Page.

Christmas Movie Trivia Contest

From 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. at the Jessie Peterman Memorial Li-

Have fun testing your knowledge about the Christmas classics. How many times have you watched A Christmas Carol? Can you quote Scrooge? What about Die Hard? Is it actually a Christmas Movie? This will be an online program. To reserve a spot, email Joann at jverostko@

#### Thursday, Dec. 17

Talking About Books: Nonfiction Virtual Meeting

11:00 a.m. to noon at the Christiansburg Library

To be discussed virtually is Hidden Life of Trees by Peter Wohlleben.

Radford Christmas Cruise-

At the Radford Recreation Center, 200 George St., from 6 to 8 p.m. The event will feature a car decorating contest and holiday treats. Applications can be found on RadfordVA.gov.

#### Friday, Dec. 18-Monday, Dec. 21

Voting in holiday decorating

The Christiansburg Parks and Recreation Department is hosting a residential holiday decorating contest. Staff will visit each destination to determine the top 10 entries, which then go on the town's Facebook (www.facebook.com/ cburgvagov) for voting by the community. Voting begins Friday, Dec. 18, and runs through 9 a.m. Monday, Dec. 21. Once all applications are received, decorated homes who give permission will be included in a map for others to visit on a selfguided light tour.

#### Saturday, Dec. 19

Saturday Creative Writing At the Meadowbrook Public

Library from 11:00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.

Those taking part should bring your work for smallgroup feedback and editing.

Teen Dungeons and Drag-

From 2-4 p.m. online. DnD is now virtual on Discord. The library staff suggest downloading Discord on your device for ease of access, but this is not required. To join the Discord server, contact shodges@mfrl. org for more info. For ages 11 years and up.

Community Conversations

From 2-4 p.m. at the Jessie Peterman Memorial Library

This week's topic is Media and Polarization. Community Conversations offers a safe format to listen to and learn about the opinions of others. It's an opportunity to discover shared interests, intentions and goals and to leave behind assumptions and judgments. Based on conversations and guidelines developed by Living Room Conversations.

#### Monday, Dec. 21

Around the World: Virtual **Holiday Edition** 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. at the Chris-

tiansburg Library

This is another virtual adventure touring the world. To be explored on Facebook are the holiday traditions of Mexico. Stop by the library for a takeand-make craft.

#### Tuesday, Dec. 22

Rambling Readers

From 2-4 p.m. at the Jessie Peterman Memorial Library

This is a safety distanced group activity involving reading and walking for a little exercise and some intellectual stimulation. Readers taking part will walk and talk about what books they're all currently reading and enjoying. The walk will start at the library and cover roughly two miles. Dress warmly and with appropriate footwear for the hills and uneven footing. Call the library for more details.

Polar Express Storytime 6:30 p.m. at the MFRL Li-

brary Online

Join in on Facebook live for a special Polar Express storytime. Complimentary hot chocolate packets and a small craft will be part of the fun. Supplies are limited.

#### Through Tuesday, Dec. 22

Radford Business window and residential decorating con-

Throughout the city. Tour the commercial districts and neighborhoods from the safety of a vehicle and then vote for favorites. A map of the decorated homes and businesses is available on RadfordChamber.

#### Through Dec. 24

Wrapping for a Reason A holiday wrapping booth to

raise money for local emergency assistance is in operation in Uptown Christiansburg (formerly NRV Mall), near Bath & Body Works through Christmas Eve.

Volunteers are needed to wrap gifts in a sanitary, socially distanced environment. All proceeds benefit the Montgomery County Emergency Assistance Program, commonly known as MCEAP, which provides emergency food, clothing, utility, rent and mortgage assistance to Montgomery County residents year-round. The signup link is https://tinyurl.com/

Persons unable to volunteer their time and talents this year may consider donating supplies such as hand sanitizer and disinfecting spray/wipes so all proceeds can go directly to help community members in need. A monetary, tax-deductible, year-end donation to MCEAP is also welcome. Details are at mceap.com or 540-260-3173. For more information, email w4areason@gmail.com or text/ call 540-239-1093.

#### Thursday, Dec. 24, Dec. 25, Jan. 1

Christiansburg closings for Christmas, New Year's The town's facilities will

be closed Christmas Eve and Christmas day on Dec. 24-25.

Solid waste normally scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 24, will be collected on Tuesday, Dec. 22, along with Tuesday's regular collection.

Solid waste normally scheduled for Friday, Dec. 25, will be collected on Wednesday, Dec. 23, along with Wednesday's regular collection. The town's facilities will be

closed for New Year's Day on Friday, Jan. 1, 2021. Solid waste normally scheduled for Fridays will be collected on Thursday, Dec. 31, along with Thursday's regular collection.

#### Saturday, Dec. 26

Escape of the North Pole 4:00 p.m. at the MFRL Library Online

On Discord, a live play of a North Pole Escape Room or participants may play at their own pace. Email shodges@ mfrl.org for more information.

#### Monday, Dec. 28

**Hibernation Station** 

1:00 p.m. at the MFRL Library Online

#### Through Thursday, Dec. 31:

Christiansburg Leaf Collec-The Town of Christiansburg's

annual free leaf collection is underway and runs through Dec. 31, weather permitting. Public Works crews use a special truck that vacuums the leaves. Therefore, they will collect only piles of loose leaves; leaves placed in bags will not be accepted. Please do not place your pile of loose leaves in a way that blocks sidewalks, sanitary sewers, solid waste carts, drainage ditches or utility meter boxes. If you are concerned your leaves may blow away prior to pick-up, please place a tarp on top of your pile. Crews will remove the tarp when they get there, collect your leaves and leave your tarp behind.

#### Through Monday, Jan. 4:

United Way Festival of Trees The United Way and some

of its partner agencies are decorating Christmas trees in their offices as a way to help spread some holiday cheer in these troublesome times. Pictures of each tree will be posted on unitedwaynrv.org/tree.

Residents of the NRV have the job of picking their favorite tree by visiting the United Way website anytime through Monday, Jan. 4, checking out the trees and casting a vote. A special trophy will be awarded to the winner.

Voting will be cast by donations of any amount.

More than 2,600 Hokies to graduate at fall commencement Friday

More than 2,600 Hokies will graduate on Friday during Virginia Tech's fall commencement ceremony, which will be held virtually this year due to the ongoing COVID-19

pandemic. The university-wide ceremony begins at 6:15 p.m. and will be streamed from vt.edu/commencement. During the online broadcast, graduates will be honored, degrees will be conferred, and special guests and student leaders will also speak. There will also be opportunities for friends and family to participate and offer well wishes.

The event will honor

approximately 2,694 students who completed their academic degrees during the summer and fall terms. Use #HokieGrad for all social media posts related to commencement.

Linsey Marr, the Charles P. Lunsford Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering, will speak at the ceremony. Other speakers offering the Class of 2020 well wishes include alumnus Homer Hickam, famed former NASA engineering and bestselling author; alumna Queen Claye, an Olympian, Pan American Games Champion, and championship record

holder; Grant Bommer, president of the Class of 2021; and Nikki Giovanni, poet, University Distinguished Professor, and namesake of the Class of 2020 ring.

During the ceremony, 1,462 undergraduates will be recognized for earning bachelor's degrees.

Of the graduates, 383 earned a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.4 on a 4.0 scale.

Computer science is the most popular major, followed by business information technology and human development. The College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences will feature the most undergraduates receiving degrees with a total of 321.

Additionally, Virginia Tech's five other colleges will award the following bachelor's degrees to summer and fall graduates:

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences: 140; College of Architecture and Urban Studies: 79; Pamplin College of Business: 261; College of Engineering: 290; College of Natural Resources and Environment: 73; and the College of Science: 298.

Virginia Tech will recognize 1,223 summer and fall graduates who will receive an advanced, master's or doctoral degree. Cortney Steele, a recent



recipient of a doctorate in human nutrition, foods, and exercise from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, will deliver opening remarks during the ceremony.

The graduate degree

from page 1

candidates include 706 master's degrees, 20 education specialist degrees, 282 Ph.D.s and 12 doctors of education.

A total of 203 students will receive advanced graduate certificates.

HOLIDAY ADVERTISIN DEADLINES

Our offices will be closed on Friday, December 25 for Christmas. The deadline for ALL ADVERTISING running in the Saturday 12/26 issue of the News Messenger/Radford News Journal will be Wed., December 23 at noon.

We will also be closed on Friday, January 1 for New Years. The deadline for ALL ADVERTISING running in the Saturday 1/2 issue of the News Messenger/

'Radford News Journal will'be) Wed., December 30 at noon.

the 100,000 meals to send. Each meal costs 21 cents and includes vitamins, veggies, rice, and lentils. Hidalgo said Monday the church reached its \$21,000 goal on Sunday but more meals can be sent with additional Now comes the packing..

Verbo Church

The church is responsible for individually packing the 100,000 meals. That effort takes place this weekend and Hidalgo is hoping the community can help. People can either sign up to pack at home or pack at the church, located in the Norwood Room on East Main Street, this Friday and Saturday. Sign up at www.clife.church/nicaraguameals if you have a little time this weekend. More information about the overall effort is available at /www.katw.net/clife.



The Verbo Church Ministries feeding program feeds about 1,500 children per day.

# Team of Hokie alumni, fans creates mobile tool to help boost Blacksburg's economy

Take a pandemic and mix in an unprecedented college football season with limits on fans in the stands and zero tailgating.

It's a recipe for trouble for small businesses nationwide that rely heavily on sales from college football fans, university alumni, and friends and families who flock to cities and towns each fall. It's no different in Blacksburg, where the economic hit to businesses could be more than \$69 million, which is Virginia Tech football's projected economic impact locally, according to a 2014-15 analysis of football operations and visiting fans.

But there is a bright spot in this story. A group of Virginia Tech alumni and Hokie fans who all live in the New River and Roanoke valleys has designed a mobile method to help boost sales for businesses in Blacksburg.

In August, Jeff Werner '95, who works for a Blacksburg blockchain company, gathered 12 friends and former colleagues, all with skills in mobile and web development. They spent their nights and weekends working to create an app called Localyte, through which people can purchase gift cards at participating Blacksburg restaurants, boutiques, yoga studios, hotels and other local places of business.

"We worked insanely long days to get this built," Werner said. "But it's something that everybody on the team believes

It all began with a ques-

"We asked 'what can we do to help get in front of all these out-of-town parents, alumni and fans who can't come here, and say 'invest in a future visit,' said Kyle Thompson, who is a spokesman for Localyte and a 2006 Virginia Tech graduate who works in product development.

There are more than 20 businesses currently listed on the app, which is available on Apple and Android devices. The list continues to grow.

the app must be local and Virginia Tech. small, with no more than 15 locations.

cards, the money from a QR code that reveals each Localyte purchase proof of purchase when goes directly to the busi- they present the card to ness at the time of the business. sale, though purchases that primarily shifts to residents, in their account.

bile purchasing app eases es, Werner said. people's fears of physi- That includes demic, Werner said.

"The root cause is that \$10 a class. businesses need cash flow and with a lot of these mote that we are open," ideas, like [traditional] said owner Nicole Fitzwagift cards, the money sits ter LaFon, explaining that in a bank in escrow until the gift card purchases the customer can go into can be used for virtual the store [to redeem the and in-person classes at card]," Werner said. "But the studio." It's just a reif the customer could go ally sweet thing about our into the store, we wouldn't community that there are have the problem to begin people out there who are

With Localyte, custom- ation and want to help



'We really wanted it to Virginia Tech alumnus Jeff Werner led a team of be available for any kind Hokie alumni and fans to create Localyte, an app that of business," Thompson allows people to buy gift cards for use at Blacksburg businesses. The team's goal is to support the Blacksburg Still, the requirement economy in the wake of changes to the Hokies' football is that each business on season due to COVID-19. Photo by Ryan Young for

ers' gift card purchases Unlike traditional gift save in the app. They scan

Since Localyte's launch include a transaction fee in October, Blacksburg the credit card company. alumni, and even parents Businesses do not have to of Virginia Tech students wait for customers to re- have used the app to make deem the gift cards in or- gift card purchases. The der for the funds to land app already has generated several thousand dollars Also, creating a mo- for participating business-

That includes In Balcally going into a store ance Yoga in Blacksburg, or restaurant, which is a which is offering a proconcern during the pan- motion through the app for a 10-class package at

"It helped us to prothinking about our situcontribute."

As the concept surrounding Localyte continues to grow, it could be a model for other cities and towns that rely on sales from college football fans. In fact, Werner said he's already talking with localities in other states about signing on with Lo-

We built the core product around the needs in Blacksburg, which we feel like will transfer to other markets," he said.

Localyte Still, the team's primary motivation is a love for Blacksburg and Virginia Tech. While Werner and Thompson, both natives of Northern Virginia, took jobs in large cities after college, they have since returned to Blacksburg because they said they value the region's quality of life.

We've done this because we think we can help our town," Thomp-

> Written by Jenny Kincaid Boone

# **Historic Montgomery**



PHOTO COURTESY OF MONTGOMERY MUSEUM OF ART & HISTORY The Town of Blacksburg puts up holiday decorations in the late 1970s. (This image from the News Messenger Collection and many more are available from the Montgomery Museum of Art & History.)

## Virginia Department of Transportation road watch

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

MONTGOMERY COUNTY ROUTE 11 BRIDGE DECK RE-**PLACEMENT** 

-Work has begun on Route 11 southbound to replace the bridge deck over the Norfolk Southern Railroad. The bridge is located .4 miles north of the intersection with Route 748 (Big Spring Drive) and .4 mile south of the intersection with Route 603 (North Fork Road). The left lane of both Route 11 north and south will be closed daily, 7 a.m. – 5 p.m., between the intersections above as

crossovers are prepared for a Route 11 south detour. Once in place, the detour will re-route Route 11 south traffic through the left lane of Route 11 north, limiting each direction to a single lane. The detour will be in place until the completion of the project. The expected completion date is November 2021.

ROUTE 11 CLO-SURE FOR BRIDGE REPLACEMENT Route 11 (Roanoke Road) is closed for a bridge re-placement over Spring Branch. This closure is located at the intersection with Route 641 (Den Hill Road) and 0.80 mile from Route 753 (Old Town Road). A detour will be in place. All northbound lanes on Route 11 will be closed with traffic being detoured on the southbound side of Route 11 for 1.8 miles. Weather permitting, the project is expected to be completed at the end of December

See **VDOT**, page 6

2020.

# Chicken is protein of choice during pandemic



WASHINGTON— Chicken is a staple protein in many households—and demand remains strong as consumers continue flocking to poultry products during the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to a recent survey conducted by the National Chicken Council, half of Americans who eat chicken said they've eaten it more than any other protein during the pandemic.

"I'm not surprised chicken is the most popular, given that so many more people are dining at home and are looking for convenient meals or taking time to prepare meals from scratch,"

said Tony Banks, senior assistant director of agriculture, development and innovation for the Virginia Farm Bureau Federation. "Chicken fits the needs very well."

The survey found that during the past nine months retail chicken sales have risen \$1.3 billion, up almost 20% from the same time last year. Three-quarters of poultryleast once a week.

"It's probably the most readily available, low-cost protein source," said Bob Threewitts, who raises broiler chickens in Rockingham County and serves on the Virginia Farm Bureau Fed- about 65% greater than the

eration's Poultry Advisory

Threewitts said that, combined with its low cost, the variety of chicken products gives consumers plenty of options. And "you can prepare it so many ways," he

It's good news, he added, that retail demand is robust, especially after some initial uncertainty among producers when restaurants shuttered in the early months of the pandemic. Threewitts and other producers quickly shifted to accommodate the changing environment switching from the restaurant market to focus on the retail grocery market.

"We've found the compaconsuming Americans said ny we grow for is anxious for they prepare it at home at all the meat they can get," he said. "Now they're taking all

we can grow." Banks noted that chicken consumption is expected to continue rising. U.S. annual per capita chicken consumption is around 95 pounds, next most-consumed protein-beef. By 2029, it's expected to exceed 96 pounds. Banks and Threewitts

agree that while home consumption of chicken is helping poultry companies and growers, they're ready for restaurant markets to rebound.

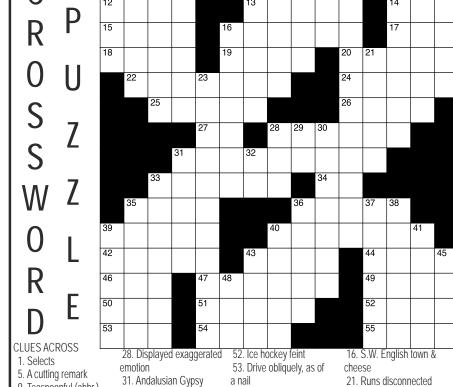
"It doesn't get them out of the woods yet," Banks said. "I expect people purchase more chicken per meal when dining out than when dining at home. The sooner we can get back to normal routines, post-COVID-19, the better for everyone and the economy."

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9. Teaspoonful (abbr.) dances 12. Having two units or 33. Material 34. Article 13. Quality perceptible to 35. Ballplayer Ruth

the sense of taste 14. Expression of surprise island 15. Italian Island

16. A coarse cloth with a bright print 17. Propose a price

18. Sedimentary material 19. Tree toad genus 20. Passed time agreeably

22. Custodians 24. 3rd largest city in

Zambia 25. 18th Hebrew letter (var.) 26. Coasted on ice

Afghanistan 43. AKA Cologne 44. Not generally occurring 46. Auto

50. Electrocardiogram

51. Churns

42. Former ruler of

36. 5th largest Greek

39. Hand drum of No. India

40. A style of preparing

food

47. Print errors 49. Interspersed among

7. Mythological bird 8. Urban row houses 9. Sensationalist journalism 10. Carried on the arm to

plant 55. Ardour

(var. sp.)

**CLUES DOWN** 

1. Lyric poems

2. Hungarian sheep dog

3. A pad of writing paper

5. Base, basket and foot

4. Lists of candidates

6. Samoan capital

intercept blows

13. PA 18840

11. Estrildid finch genus

21. Runs disconnected 54. Dried leaves of the hemp 23. Mourners

28. Old world, new 29. Atomic #25 30. Sweet potato wind instru-

31. Legend

32. 3rd tone of the scale

33. Russian jeweler Peter Carl 35. Capital of Mali

36. Extremist sects 37. Violent denunciation

38. Tooth covering 39. Music term for silence 40. Smoldering embers

41. Writer Jong 43. Actor Kristofferson

45. Adam and Eve's 1st home

48. Fish eggs

# **U**PINION

# Cong. Morgan Griffith: Candy apples and toads

the legislative process invokes candy apples and toads. Legislation rarely includes only things I like - the candy apples - or omits the things I really dislike - the toads. Considering whether to support a bill usually means weighing whether there are enough candy apples to cover up the bad taste of a few toads.

End-of-year legislating usually provides plenty of opportunities to apply this test. As the year draws to a close, Congress once again finds itself closing in on a deadline to fund the federal government for the fiscal year that began

As in previous years, we did not need to be in this situation. Federal law prescribes a budget process of individual appropriations bills that should go through regular order at the committee and floor level.

Just following the rules could help us avoid the scramble to resolve everything with one bill that, even if read,

An analogy I like to use for Members of Congress rarely get to fully scrutinize before having to give it an up or down vote.

> Because the omnibus bill funding the government for the rest of the fiscal year ending Sept. 30 has not yet been agreed to by negotiators, Congress passed a continuing resolution (CR) continuing current funding for just one week.

> Like omnibuses, I generally do not find CRs to be a proper way to fund the government. But as with any other bill I vote on, I read this CR. It included an extension

for the Rare Pediatric Disease Priority Review Voucher program for two years. This program encourages the development of new drugs to treat rare pediatric diseases. The innovation promoted by this program can lead to new treatments that help improve and save the lives of children suffering from rare diseases.

While skeptical of CRs, I support the extension of the Rare Pediatric Disease Priority Review Vouchers, so I voted for this CR. In the best instances, legislation rarely includes everything I want to see or leaves out anything I do not support.

In this case, extending the program for two years was a candy apple that made voting for the one-week toad of a CR acceptable.

The Right Way to Legislate on Marijuana

In my last column, I discussed my opposition to H.R. 3884, a broad bill to legalize marijuana, expunge marijuana convictions and provide taxpayer support for businesses and individuals associated with the marijuana industry. It was a sweeping, parti-

san effort that made major changes at a time when the Congress should have other priorities. Despite my support for changes to marijuana law, it was the wrong bill at the wrong time. The week afterward, the

House voted on another bill related to marijuana, my Medical Marijuana Research Act. I believe this was the right approach to marijuana

legislation. The Medical Marijuana

Research Act would ensure a sufficient supply of researchquality marijuana through the National Institute on Drug Abuse Drug Supply Program. It also authorizes more research so that we understand more specifically the medical benefits and side effects of marijuana on the human body. It would also direct the Food and Drug Administration to issue guidelines on the production of marijuana and encourage authorized manufacturers to produce marijuana for the researchers under the law.

I was an original cosponsor of the bill in this Congress, and along with a bipartisan team we had introduced it in previous years. Unlike H.R. 3884, it had support that spanned parties and also different views about marijuana legislation. Whether you want marijuana broadly prohibited, broadly legalized, or fall somewhere in between, you should want to see more data

about its effects.

Because of its widespread support, the bill this year had moved through the House Energy and Commerce Committee without opposition and passed on the House floor in the same manner. Its consideration did not take up valuable legislative time in the same way as H.R. 3884.

I was pleased to see the Medical Marijuana Research Act pass the House and hope it will advance into law. It represents the right way to legislate on marijuana - with prudence and based on data.

If you have questions, concerns, or comments, feel free to contact my office. 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. Also on my website is the latest material from my office, including information on votes recently taken on the floor of the House of Repre-

# WalletHub lists Virginia Beach, Chesapeake among country's most caring cities

With the holidays approaching and Americans needing care and compassion in the midst of a global pandemic, high unemployment and the aftermath of a stressful election, the personal-finance website WalletHub Monday released its report on

2020's Most Caring Cities in America and named Virginia Beach the nation's fifth-most caring city and Chesapeake, Va., as the tenth most caring city in the country.

To identify the most compassionate places in America, WalletHub compared the 100 largest U.S. cities across 39 key metrics. The data set ranges from the share of sheltered homeless persons to volunteering hours per capita to the share of income donated to charity.

Among the highlights in the

report for Virginia Beach was a ranking of second in the country for "caring for the community," fourth for most volunteering hours per capita and 13th for caring for the most vulnerable citizens. Chesapeake ranked eighth

in the nation in caring for the

In the composite final rankings, only Boston, Madison, Wisc., New York City and Fremont, Calif., ranked higher than did Virginia Beach in WalletHub's survey.

www.montcova.com

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# **Home Country by Slim Randles**

Brought to you by "A Cowboy's Guide to Packing the Backyard Horse," by Slim Randles. Available at www.amazon.com.

When it comes to romantic flops, it's hard to beat ol' Dud. He and Anita have been married for about five years now, but sometimes we question why she puts up with him. He has all the courtship skills of a

'Dud Campbell," Anita said the other night, "what are you getting me for Christmas?"

"Now Honey, it wouldn't be a surprise if I told you, would it?" "That means you haven't bought

it yet, doesn't it?' Well, I won't say I have and I

won't say I haven't, but, uh, don't get in that cupboard out in the garage

"I won't, Dud," she said, purring.

Ten minutes later, Dud was flipping his coffee cup upright and sliding into his place in the line of scrimmage at the philosophy counter of the Mule Barn truck stop.

"I'm dead meat, guys," he said. We inquired as to why this emo-

tional putrefaction should be setting in, and he said, "I don't have anything for Anita for Christmas and I have no idea what to get her."

"Let's look at this scientifically for a moment," said Steve. "What kinda stuff does she like?"
"Uh ... well ... "

"You don't know, do you?" said Doc.

"Not a clue."

"Does she read? You can pick up a couple of books."

"I don't really know. I never really

paid attention.' "Does she knit?" "Knit what?

"Never mind." "I got it," said Herb Collins. "You

can get her a gift certificate to a store and let her pick out her own gift." "She said if I ever did anything

so insensitive, she'd brain me with a skillet."

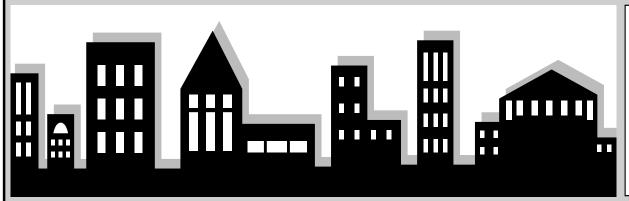
So Dud headed home, only to find the garage door open and Anita standing there holding his brandnew Homelite XL chainsaw. He only had time enough to mumble "Our father..." when Anita set it down gently and flung herself in his

"Oh Honey, how did you know I wanted a Homelite XL with automatic oiler and a 16-inch bar? I couldn't help myself. I looked in the cupboard and found it. It's just what I've always wanted."

Well, Darlin'," Dud said in his most debonaire voice, "I do try to be sensitive to your needs."

Submit letters to the editor to editor@ourvalley.org

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# Virginia's unemployment claims jump

Many states have been hit by a surge in COVID-19 cases, and as a result new unemployment claims have shown an increase in recent weeks. The personal finance website WalletHub has released updated rankings for the states whose weekly unemployment claims are increasing the most, and the report shows that Virginia has the sixth biggest increase in unemployment claims among the 50 states.

To identify which states' workforces are experiencing the biggest increases in unemployment claims due to COVID-19, WalletHub compared the 50 states and the District of Columbia across three metrics: 1) the percent change in weekly unemployment claims, latest week vs. last year; 2) the percent change in unemployment claims latest week vs. start of 2030; and 3) the percent change in unemployment claims since the start of the COVID-19 crisis vs. last

The statistics for Virginia showed respectively a 442.04 percent change (23,221 the week of Nov. 30, 2020, vs. 4,284 the week of Dec. 2, 2019), the sixth biggest increase in the U.S.; a 628.39% change (23,221 the week of Nov. 30, 2020, vs. 3,188 the week of Jan. 1, 2020), the fifth biggest increase in the U.S.; and a 1,372.26% change in unemployment claims (1,286,110 between the week of March 16, 2020, and the week of Nov. 30, 2020, vs 93,722 between the

week of March 18, 2019 and the week of Dec. 2, 2019), the fifth biggest increase in the U.S.

Combined, the three metrics left Virginia with the sixth biggest increase in unemployment claims in the country. The five states showing a greater increase than Virginia were Kansas, New Mexico, Illinois, Colorado and

#### Carroll, Gloria Anne Parrott

Gloria Anne Parrott Carroll, 72, of Riner, passed away Sunday, Dec. 13, 2020, at her home.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Daisy B. Parrott; her father, Theodore Woody Parrott; her sister, Belva Parrott, and her brother, Charles "Bobby" Parrott.

She is survived by her husband, Ralph D. Carroll; her son and daughter-

in-law, Tony and Joyce Hopkins; her daughter and son-in-law, Betina and Steve McGuire; stepdaughters and sonsin-law, Judy and Jim Sarver, Tracy and John Bausano and Angela Carroll; 12 grandchildren, Rachel, Christie, Chris, Russell, Nate, Elizabeth, Ethan, Lucy,



Emma, Tima and Kyndra; four great-grandchildren, Carter, Daelyn, Levi and Aubrey; her stepmother, Esther (Mama P) Parrott; half-sisters Tina Parrott and Linda Walters; a nephew, Rob Flowers; nieces Donna Spencer and Tonya Villarreal; lifelong friends Paulette Stewart Custer and Silvana Lafluer; as well as her whole Moog family.

The family wishes to extend special thanks to Angel and Nicole Cromer Thompson and the fourth-floor staff that helped and cared for Anne at Carilion New River Valley Medical Center. Services will be private. Arrangements by McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg.

#### Wade, Sr., William Arthur

William Arthur Wade, Sr., 98, of Radford, passed away Thursday, Dec. 10,

He was a member of New Mount Olive Methodist Church and retired from Hercules after 30 years of service. He was preceded in death by his parents, Robert Lee Wade and Savannah Lewis Wade Haley; a brother and three

Survivors include his loving wife of 70 years, Marion Snell Wade; daughters and son-in-law, Gertrude Moore, and Norma and Ronald Walker, all of Columbus, Ohio; son William A. Wade, Jr. of Radford; a multitude of grandchildren and great-grandchildren; a sister, Evelyn Coalston of Phoenix; and numerous other nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

The family received friends on Monday, Dec. 14, 2020, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services followed with Pastor Jenene Lewis, the Rev. Betsy King and the Rev. Vivian Simmons officiating. Entombment followed in Highland

Memory Gardens Mausoleum in Dublin. In lieu of flowers, the family requests

that contributions be made to New Mount Olive United Methodist Church. The Wade family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Rad-

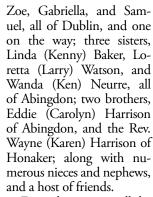
#### Harrison, Ted Andrew

Ted Andrew Harrison, 77, of Dublin, went home to be with the Lord on Saturday, December 12, 2020. He was born on March 8, 1943, in Honaker, Va., to the late Isaac and Kathleen Harrison. He was a faithful member of the Fairlawn Church of God and volunteered for the past several years at It's All About Jesus Outreach and Ministry Center. He was a veteran of the U.S. Navy where he served from 1964-

67 during the Vietnam War. He retired from New River Castings/Radford Pipe Shop in 2007 after working for 36 years. He enjoyed gardening, canning, quilting, and cruising with his family.

He is preceded in death by his parents; two brothers, Maynard Douglas and Charlie Randall Harrison; and a sister, Nevada Leigh Harrison

He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Mary Harrison; two sons, Teddy (Nina) Harrison, and the Rev. Marcus (Alicia) Harrison; and three beautiful grandchildren whom he loved more than life itself,



Funeral services will be at 6 p.m. on Friday, December 18, 2020, at the Fairlawn Church of God with the Rev. Marcus Harrison and the Rev. Danny Newman officiating. Due to COVID restrictions, please be sure to wear a mask and

abide by social distance rules. Interment will be private at the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that contributions be made to Fairlawn Church

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

## Winterfest from page 1

grab dinner and then tour the commercial districts and neighborhoods from the safety of your own car and then be sure to vote for your favorites, map on RadfordChamber.com.

December 1 through February 5- Exhibit at Glencoe Mansion, "Misfits, Ghosts and Goblins," Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Sunday 1-4 p.m., 600

Unruh Drive, free admission. December 1 through

24-Grab & Go Crafts and virtual Holiday Storytimes at the Radford Public Library, various dates/times, call 540-731-3621 to schedule an appointment or use My Library app.

Information about restaurants and shops in Radford and the full calendar of events

can be found on VisitRadford.com under "things to do." Maps and event information is available at the Radford Info & Welcome Center at their new location, 701A W. Main St. Current hours are Tuesday-Thursday 10 a.m.-2 p.m. or they can be reached at Info@ VisitRadford.com for questions.

# Streeter, Charles Edward (Ed)

Charles Edward (Ed) Streeter, 96, passed away on Nov. 25, 2020, in Christiansburg at the home of his daughter with his family at

Born in 1924 into a loving German family living on a Wisconsin farm, Ed moved at the age of five to Dubuque and grew up near the river with his devoted parents, Alma (née Witt) and Ray Streeter. He mar-

ried Mary L. (née West) Streeter in 1948. Mary preceded him in death in January 2004, after 55 wonderful years of marriage.

After graduating from Dubuque Senior High School where he excelled in football and basketball, Ed enlisted to join the war effort in 1942. He served in the U.S. Navy for over three years as a diesel mechanic on both a minesweeper and on the USS Blower submarine. He embarked on his initial tour of World War II duty down the East River of New York City, past the Statue of Liberty, and headed for the South Pacific.

Following the war, Ed attended Iowa State Teacher's College (now Northern Iowa University) on the ĞI Bill, and then Drake University where he earned a master's degree. Ed enjoyed a long career in educating youth with both academic and life lessons. He taught math and coached sports in Eldora, Humeston and Corydon, Iowa, eventually becoming superintendent of schools, and then, in Keokuk, where he became director of curriculum while continuing to coach the high school's sports teams.

With a family of five young children in 1964, Ed and Mary moved north where he earned a PhD in curriculum and educational media at Michigan State University.

Ed next landed at Illinois State University in Normal, Ill., and stayed for 20 years, first as an associate professor, then department chair, and last as dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

He and Mary retired in 1988 to the Gulf Coast to explore a new world. They first lived in Pass Christian and then Dia-

mondhead, Miss. In 2018, Ed moved to his son's and daughter-in-law's home in Cincinnati, followed by a last move this year to his daughter's home in Christiansburg.

Ed enjoyed tent camping, small craft sailing and golf with his family and many friends. With Mary as skipper and Ed as crew, the two raced their Snipe sailboat on Illinois lakes and later aboard the "Easy Does It" on St. Louis Bay, Miss.

With an enduring passion for sports and compe-

tition, Ed won gold medals in swimming with the Senior Olympics and once carried the Senior Olympic torch in the relay to light the flame.

In retirement, with Mary, he scubadived the Great Barrier Reef off Australia and traveled through Europe and China, as well as across the U.S., visiting his children and many friends.

Ed Streeter is survived by his five children and their families: Pam (Pete) Bontekoe in Michigan, Susan Jensen in Texas, Becky Sutton in Virginia, Stan (Claudia) Streeter in Ohio and Jenny (Dave) Roen in Illinois. Ed and Mary greatly enjoyed time spent with their 12 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren. His grandchildren include Mark (Katrina) Bontekoe, Doug (Amy) Bontekoe, Karen Bontekoe, Carol Bontekoe, Diane (Gabe) Buckery, Laura (Brad) Gurasich, Kami (Jaret) Reece, Chad (April) Sutton, Max (Mary) Streeter, Jane Streeter, Emily (Mike) Nolte, and Audrey Roen. Ed is as well survived by his brother-in-law, Charles West, in Iowa and his nieces and nephews across the country.

A memorial service for Ed Streeter will be held at a later date.

Messages to the Streeter family may be sent to Ed's daughter, Pam Bontekoe, at pambon@gmail.com.

Donations in Ed Streeter's memory may be made to The Boys and Girls Clubs of America (bgca.org) for either the Pass Christian, Miss., or Dubuque, Iowa, club locations, or to the "Sol Shulman Scholarship Fund" at ISU (giving.illinoisstate. edu/fund/sol-shulman-scholarship/).

The Street family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Rad-

#### Vaccine

I ask everyone to stay vigilant, take care of each other and continue following the public health guidelines as we work to vaccinate Virginians in a safe, efficient, equitable

manner." Initial shipments are being delivered to health systems across the commonwealth this week, as expected, with vaccinations for health care workers that directly care

among providers in Virginia. Virginia health sys-

estimated 480,000 doses commonwealth. of vaccine from two manufacturers, and Moderna, by the end of December. This initial allocation will begin the inoculation process for nearly all health care personnel and long-term

for COVID-19 patients care facility residents. receiving top priority The Virginia Department of Health estimates that there are up to 500,000 individuals in these two tems expect to receive an top priority groups in the

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# Pandemic will damage the travel industry for years to come, says VT expert

The travel and tourism industry has faced enormous hardship from the pandemic COVID-19 and will take years to recover, says Virginia Tech expert Mahmood Khan. For travelers, 2020 will be remembered as the year of canceled vacations and missed special occasions with family and friends.

"The COVID-19 pan-demic has literally affected every continent and all travel destinations will need to rebuild from the ground level. Recovery will easily take two to three years and 2021 will focus on assessing the damage," said Khan. "All travel agencies, tour guides, maintenance staff, government bodies, and modes of transportation will need to rebuild from scratch.

"For future generations, grandparents will talk about the coronavirus pandemic. Maskwearing photos will become historical collective items just as we look back now at black and white photos of the past," said Khan. "History will not forget it and diaries will

witness the catastrophes. All travel businesses are going through a period of shock, which will take years to recover.

"Historical monuments were left unprotected in many places and the architectural beauty of many cultural destinations were left with no one to care for them," Khan said. "Many tourism professionals may have found other work and will be unable or unwilling to return back to their jobs. All this will be a great loss to the travel industry as well as to those who preferred leisure and heritage tourism."

In an interview, Khan said that business travelers have also changed their outlook and professional pursuits and are now used to travel restrictions, hiring freezes and remote ways of working. Opportunities for development and investment in domestic ventures took priority, which will be difficult or unprofitable to change.

"Conference and business meetings drastically suffered in 2020 to an extent that trickle-down chains and other affiliated businesses do not exist. This will indirectly affect the travel business, said Khan. "Airlines have also gone through an unprecedented time with unimaginable losses. The recovery will be long and will need new innovative means and methods to rebuild."

Related with travel, Khan said that the restaurant industry has also suffered inconceivable damage that has changed the age-old method of classification. "The most to benefit in

the hierarchy of restaurants are the businesses that were able to survive by using delivery services," Khan said. "Fastfood restaurants have a different nomenclature now with third-party platforms infiltrating as major beneficiaries.

"Fine dining suffered the most damage with many going out of business or facing bankruptcies. In essence, the entire traditional classification of fast, fast-casual, casual and fine dining will



need a substantial revision," said Khan. "Ghost kitchens, free-standing delivery only services, and restaurants with less available dining area space will have a direct impact on the way travelers or diners were used to prior to the pandemic. "As we look to the New

Year," Khan said. "it's unreasonable to expect that

a flood of tourists will emerge once vaccines are available as travelers will be hesitant, and the psychological damage to consumer's outlook will take time to recuperate."

Mahmood Khan is a professor and director of the Pamplin College of Business Master of Science in Business Administration/Hospitality and Tourism Management program in the Washington, D.C., metro region. Major areas of his research include hospitality franchising, services management, customer relationships, food service and operational management, and consumer preferences in hotels, restaurants and institutions.

# Budget cuts to D.C. Metro could alter long-term travel patterns in the region, says expert



Closing stations and reducing service hours may help the D.C. Metro system's financial hardships in the shortterm, but those changes will also hamper efforts to win back customers next year as the region emerges from the pandemic, says a Virginia Tech expert. Virginia Tech urban

transportation expert

Ralph Buehler says the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority budget proposals to eliminate weekend rail service, close stations and reduce

verely impact area commuters and modes of transportation in the 'Metro's budget pro-

service hours would se-

posal makes sense from a current financial perspective and current ridership; however, cutting service during a time when the region is trying to recover from the CO-VID-19 pandemic does not make sense from a transportation perspective," says Buehler.

"The region will begin to transition towards ortation in 2021," Buehler says. "As vaccines become available, people will feel safe riding the Metro again. We'll begin to see an increase in ridership as people resume their commutes to work and offices begin to re-

Buehler says that if Metro service is poor (30-minute wait time between trains) or nonexistent (closed stations) and bus lines are eliminated, the transit agency will have a hard time winning back customers.

"Metro and bus service must be convenient to lure customers back. Unattractive service will make winning back customers difficult, if not impossible," says Buehler. "Metro clearly needs help from local, state and federal governments to bridge this crucial time of recovery from COVID-19. Governments have helped a new normal for trans- the automobile industry many times; now it is crucial to support the transit industry.

COVID-19 "When numbers begin to decline in the region, Metro needs subsidies to offer attractive service to win back customers," Buehler says. "Service can be adjusted a year later if ridership does not come back. Unattractive service, however,

will guarantee that fewer people will ride trains and buses.

"Metro is a sustainable mode of transport causing fewer emissions than driving," says Buehler. "It's also the mode of transportation for many car-free and carless individuals. People want to ride Metro if it is attractive. However, once people have made permanent adjustments on how they get around because of poor or nonexistent service, it will be hard to win them back for buses or trains."

Ralph Buehler is a professor of urban affairs and planning in the School of International and Public Affairs at Virginia Tech in the greater Washington, D.C. metro region. His research areas focus on understanding individual travel behavior and the sustainability of transport systems in urban areas.

114 currently has a restricted

width for wide loads of 26 feet or

ING OPERATIONS - Paving

operations are being performed

FOR PAVING OPERATIONS

IN ROANOKE & BOTE-

TOURT COUNTIES-Weather

permitting, crews will be milling

and paving along Interstate 81.

Right and left lane closures will

be in place along northbound

and southbound lanes during

nighttime hours. Drivers should

I-81 POTHOLE PATCH-

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throughout the district.

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I-81 RAMP CLOSURES

#### from page 3

ROUTE 636 BRIDGE RE-PLACEMENT AT SENECA HOLLOW - Tthe bridge on Route 636 over the Roanoke River at Seneca Hollow is being replaced. A road closure will be in place from Echo Hills Road to .36 mile south of Route 460. A detour will be in place. The detour will restrict access to Route 460 at Seneca Hollow and will require travelers to enter/exit Route 460 at Friendship Road near Wheeling Hollow. The project is expected to be completed in late June 2021. ROUTE 685 TURN LANE

CONSTRUCTION – Turn lane construction on Route 685 (Prices Fork Road) is underway between Route 1145 (Stratford View Drive) and Route 654 (Brooksfield Road). Motorists should expect daily shoulder closures with intermittent lanes closures controlled by flagging forces. Work will be performed from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Completion is spring 2021. ROUTE 603 BRIDGE RE-

PLACEMENT – Work has been underway on Route 603 (North Fork Road) for a bridge replacement over Flatwoods Branch from the intersection of Route 713 to .01 miles south of the intersection of Route 647. Drivers will continue to see residual work taking place in the area with intermittent flagging operations and should use caution within

the work zone. Weather permitting, the project is expected to be completed by the end of December 2020.

WATERLINE CONSTRUC-

TION - Construction of a waterline along Route 659 (Vicker Switch Road), Route 719 (Switchback Road), Route 660 (Crab Creek Road), and Route 661 (Chrisman Mill Road) includes shoulder closures and lane closures. The work is expected to be completed in February 2021.

INTERSTATE 81 INTERSTATE 81 SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS AΤ CURVES IN BOTETOURT COUNTY - A project to improve the S-curves along southbound I-81 in Botetourt County between mile markers 167.4 and 169.5 is underway. This project will enhance safety and improve vehicle traction. Work includes repaving the travel lanes, applying new pavement markers and installing underground pavement drains. Nighttime lane closures will be in place and the speed limit will be reduced to 60 mph in the work zone. This project also includes permanently closing and removing the southbound off ramp at exit 167 (Buchanan) to reduce speed differentials, conflict points and lane changes associated with exiting vehicles.

The estimated completion date is

summer 2021.

INTERSTATE 81 LANE CONSTRUC-WIDENING TION EXIT 141 TO EXIT 143 - A project to widen the lanes on I-81 in Roanoke in both northbound and southbound directions between Exit 141 to Exit 143 has begun. Installation of construction signs is taking place along with surveys and clearing operations. Work may be conducted within the median and barrier walls are being put in place. Weekday and weekend lane and shoulder closures may be in place for guardrail removal, shoulder wedging and paving. A left lane closure will be in place on I-81 northbound or southbound during nighttime hours from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. while equipment and materials are brought into and out of the median. Estimated completion date of the project is summer of 2022. Weather permitting, drivers

can expect a left lane closure on northbound and southbound I-81, 8 p.m. at night until 6 a.m. the following morning from exit 140 to 143. I-81 at Route 640, a one lane

flagging operation will be in place from Route 799 to Route 798

from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. NORTHBOUND AT EXIT 105 NEW RIVER BRIDGE REPLACEMENT IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY -

Lane and shoulder closures may

be in place near exit 105. Lane

closure may be in effect during the week from 8 p.m. to 7 a.m. Shoulder closures may be in effect at any time during the week. Slow rolls may be performed on I-81 in the north and southbound lanes from mile marker 104 to 106 from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. Speed limit is reduced to 60 miles per hour in the work zone. Shoulder closures will remain in place though the duration of the project. Project completion is estimated by late  $202\bar{1}$ . I-81 BRIDGE REPLACE-

MENT AT EXIT 114 IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY - The bridge replacement of the two Interstate 81 bridges over Route 8, northbound and southbound, is underway. Drivers can expect alternating lane and shoulder closures, northbound and southbound, from mile marker 114 to 115. Exit 114 ramp shoulder closures will be ongoing from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Speed limit is reduced to 60 mph in the work zone. Route 8 will have alternating northbound and southbound shoulder and lane closures, day or night, as needed between the I-81 on and off ramps. A temporary traffic signal will direct traffic on Route 8 throughout the duration of the project. Access to all properties will be maintained during construction. Estimated comple-

tion is summer 2021.

DMV Notice: The bridge on

I-81 northbound at mile marker

holes along Interstate 81. Mobile right and left lane closures will be in place and moving along northbound and southbound lanes during nighttime hours, 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning. Drivers should watch for moving vehicles and equipment. Expect possible delays. I-81 BRÍDGE DECK RE-

PAIRS - Weather permitting, crews will repair bridge decks on Interstate 81. Between mile markers 97 and 162, right and left lane closures will be in place northbound and southbound during nighttime hours, 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning. Drivers should watch for signs and expect possible delays.

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#### Legals - City of Salem

#### **NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

Notice is hereby given to all interested persons that the Board of Zoning Appeals of the City of Salem, Virginia will hold a public hearing, in accordance with the provisions of Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2309 of the 1950 Code of Virginia, as amended, on December 23. 2020, at 4:00 p.m. in the Community Room of the Salem Civic Center, 1001 Roanoke Boulevard, in the City of Salem, Virginia, to consider the following applications.

Request of The Trustees of Roanoke College, property owners, for a variance from Section 106-226.7 pertaining to development restrictions in a floodway, for the property located at 301 Campus Lane West Riverside Drive, Tax Map # 86-3-4. The petitioners are requesting to construct a pavilion within the floodway

At this hearing, all parties in interest will be given an opportunity to be heard. present evidence, and show cause why such requests should or should not be granted. For additional information, contact the Office of the Zoning Administrator, 21 South Bruffev Street, Salem. Virginia (Phone 375 3032).

THE BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS OF THE CITY OF SALEM

BY: Mary Ellen H. Wines, CZA, CFM Zoning Administrator

#### Legals -Montgomery County

#### **ORDER OF PUBLICATION**

Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 Case No. JJ004492-01-00 & JJ004492-02-00 RADFORD J&DR-JUVENILE DIVISION Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Commonwealth of Virginia. in re BOWLING, ALAYNA DAWN RENEE HILL, STEPHANIE BOWLING, DAVID H.

The object of this suit is to: LOCATE PARENTS.

It is ORDERED that DAVID H. BOWLING appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before 1/19/2021 2:00pm.

11/16/2020

Sally Davis

#### Legals -Montgomery County

#### **ORDER OF PUBLICATION**

Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 Case No. JJ004492-01-00 & JJ004492-02-00 RADFORD J&DR-JUVENILE DIVISION Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Commonwealth of Virginia, in re BOWLING, ALAYNA DAWN RENEF HILL, STEPHANIE LAPP, KRISTEN

The object of this suit is to: LOCATE PARENTS.

It is ORDERED that LAPP KRISTEN appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before 1/19/2021 2:00pm.

11/16/2020

Sally Davis

#### **ORDER OF PUBLICATION**

Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 Case No. JJ004494-01-00 & JJ004494-02-00 RADFORD J&DR-JUVENILE DIVISION Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Commonwealth of Virginia. in re CARSTENS-ZIEGLER, ARIANA LEIGH EAST, AMANDA

CARSTENS, RICHARD FRANK; III The object of this suit is to: GAIN CUSTODY.

It is ORDERED that CARSTENS, RICHARD FRANK; III appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before 2/16/2021 2:00 pm.

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Sally Davis Clerk



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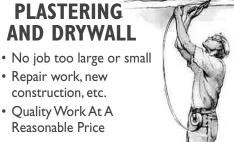
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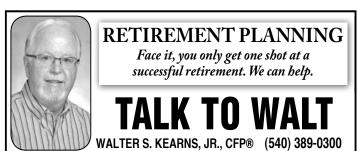
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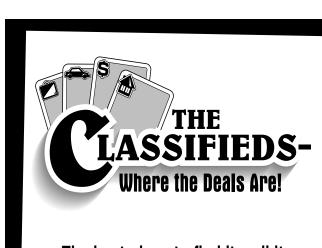
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# RADFORD SPORTS

# New performance center opens to Tech athletes



The performance center at Virginia Tech features a fullservice kitchen and provides dining space for studentathletes from all 22 of Virginia Tech's varsity sports

Looking to gain an edge over its Atlantic Coast Conference counterparts, Virginia Tech Athletics unveiled the recently completed Student-Athlete Performance Center last Thursday morning.

The nearly \$20 million center replaced the old Bowman Room on the fourth floor of the Jamerson Athletics Center and now serves as the primary space for the sports nutrition staff to meet the nutrition needs of student-athletes from all 22 of Virginia Tech's varsity sports.

This project, in addition to what it represents on the face value, also represents that we've now completed a total renovation of the Merryman Center and Jamerson Center," Director of Athletics Whit Babcock said. "The new Student-Athlete Performance Center has more than 25,000 square feet of space.

It triples the previous space. It will provide constant nutrition for our student-athletes and wonderful event space for athletics activities, graduations and more."

The 19-month renovation project came about primarily as a result of the generosity of an alumni couple who made an anonymous \$15.2 million gift, the largest gift ever to Virginia Tech Athletics. Both are natives of Virginia, and they, along with several other donors who made contributions to the project, did so mostly out of a desire to do something to benefit all of Virginia Tech's approximately 550 student-athletes.

The center includes a fullservice kitchen that allows for the preparation of meals for student-athletes and a large dining space for them that features panoramic views of Lane Stadium and the



Virginia Tech's newly renovated Student-Athlete Performance Center was unveiled Thursday morning.

Beamer-Lawson Practice Facility. A balcony on the outer edge of the center overlooks the Steve Johnson Practice

"Facilities are a part – it's not the only part, but it's a big part – of recruiting," head football coach Jus-tin Fuente said. "It shows a commitment to servicing the student-athlete in terms of making sure all their needs are met through their athletic development, their academic development, their social development and their spiritual development. I think this is another huge step for Virginia Tech demonstrating the commitment to the young people and their families who decide to attend Virginia Tech and participate in intercollegiate activities.

"Between school, study hall, training, practice or lifting and meals, to have a facility like this that's located right in the middle of all of those things I think only enhances the efficiency of their day," Fuente said. Óbviously, for our program, development is a huge part of what a state-of-the-art gathering we're trying to do, and what place for all student-athletes you ingest in your body, at Virginia Tech. I speak for huge part of our players and I say we're extremely excited their development."

"We ask our wrestlers to center to use" be 100% committed to the process of being great in all al, the center will be used the areas of their lives," said primarily for nutrition purhead VT wrestling coach poses, an area in which Vir-Tony Robie. "How they fuel ginia Tech Athletics has intheir bodies for practice and vested heavily over the past competition is a huge part of decade. Officials within the

lete Performance Center will nually on food for studentmake that more efficient athletes, citing the need for and effective," Robie said. proper nutrition, fueling, is absolutely spectacular and better performances in the located just steps from the playing venues.

wrestling room. This will be a game changer for all the student-athletes at Virginia The center also allows

for donor hospitality events before games, particularly basketball games. A large hallway leads directly from the center to the concourse of Cassell Coliseum. In addition, Tech's coach-

es expect to use the center for recruiting events, team gatherings and other student-athlete development events. "We see the new per-

formance center as a transformational facility for our program," said VT softball coach Pete D'Amour. "It will give us a chance to provide our players with optimal nutrition, as well as being what you feed your body is a our softball program when to put the new performance

Though multi-functionathletics department spend "The new Student-Ath- more than \$3 million an-'The state-of-the-art facility and hydration to receive

The center also provides a place for the nutrition staff to hold educational sessions, and the athletics department officials continue to add staffing in the area of nutrition. In 2003, they hired a nutritionist, becoming one of the first schools in the nation to do so, and the staff today consists of six registered dieticians: three full-time positions, two graduate assistants, one consultant and a group of approximately 20 students.

"The Student Athlete Performance Center will allow us to provide nutritious meals to all of our studentathletes, something that has not been done before," said Director of Sports Nutrition Aly Onyon. "Ît will be a space for them to eat balanced, performance friendly foods in a convenient location, while being able to interact with other Virginia Tech studentathletes. This dining facility will be one of the best in the ACC and in the country. We are so thankful and excited for the opportunity to serve our student-athletes in this new space."

The center already has opened with both basketball teams using it for pregame meals. Athletics department officials plan to open the center for use by all student-athletes and have it operational in the spring semester.

--VT Athletics

# UVA 33-15 in regular-season finale

BLACKSBURG - Getting the cup back in convincing fashion, the Virginia Tech football team defeated in-state rival Virginia 33-15 Saturday night at Lane Sta-

Tech (5-6, 5-5 ACC) got out to a 20-point lead at halftime over the Cavaliers (5-5, 4-5), 27-7, thanks to its second-most yards of offense at halftime this season (NC State, 336 yds). And a big reason why was tailback Khalil "Juice" Herbert's 138 rushing yards the first 20 minutes, including a 76-yard run that went for six.

The first half saw many thirddown conversions with UVA getting three on its first drive to go up 7-3 and then the Hokies following suit with seven of their own the rest of the way in the first. Tech put together its longest drive of the season, culminating in a 17-play, 75-yard drive that took 7 minutes, 40 seconds with Tre Turner finishing it off on a jet sweep for a sixyard touchdown.

Getting steady play from its quarterback, Tech's Braxton Burmeister racked up 212 passing yards on 15-of-22 passing with a passing touchdown while earning 36 yards on the ground.

Tech's defense turned in a stout outing, holding the Cavaliers to under 60 rushing yards and their second-fewest points this season (Miami, 14 pts.). Safety Divine Deablo showed out with six tackles, two pass breakups and an interception.

The Hokies have now won 20

See Hokies, page 10

Keep celebrations small to fight COVID.





For many of us, being with friends and family is a holiday tradition. But this year, instead of having large gatherings, it's smart to keep things small. To help prevent spreading COVID-19, limit the number of people in your home. And instead of personal visits, opt for video chats or long phone calls. Keeping it small can make a very big difference.



•Wore Coach Beamer's 25 jer-

#### Hokies from page 9

of the last 22 games against UVA. POST GAME NOTES

 Virginia Tech is now 59-38-5 against the Cavaliers and 16-1 since joining the ACC in 2004.

• The Hokies' 17-play touchdown drive was the longest since a 17-play drive at Pitt in 2018.

 Khalil Herbert's 76-yard TD run in six seconds was the longest one-play touchdown drive in VT history since at least 1987 to last six seconds or less.

COACH JUSTIN HEAD

• Record moves to 38-26 at Virginia Tech and 64-49 in his

• Recorded the fifth ACC win of the season for the fourth time at Tech (2016, 2017, 2019).

VIRGINIA TECH TEAM

• The 33 points scored against the Tigers mark the 333rd consecutive game Virginia Tech has scored, the third-longest active streak in the nation among FBS schools. It's also the sixth-longest streak in FBS history.

• The contest was the first played on Dec. 12 in Virginia Tech football history.

PLAYER NOTES QB BRAXTON BURMEIS-

•Record moves to 3-1 as starting quarterback.

•Completed 15 of 22 passes for 212 yards and a touchdown.

 Ran the ball seven times for 37 RB KHALIL HERBERT

•Registered his sixth 100-yard

rushing game of the season with 162 yards on 20 attempts.

 Scored a touchdown on a 76yard rush, which was the longest rushing play of the season. RB JALEN HOLSTON

WR TRE TURNER Recorded his second rushing

•Had 14 carries for 58 yards.

touchdown of the season on a six-

yard carry.

the season.

•Caught three passes for 25

WR TAYVION ROBINSON •Had five receptions for 98

TE JAMES MITCHELL

DB DIVINE DEABLO

up two other passes.

•Had three receptions for 67

Recorded his fourth intercep-

•Led the team with six total

tion of the season and also broke

DB CHAMARRI CONNER •Made five stops and broke up yards and a touchdown. •His 60-yd touchdown receptwo passes. tion was the longest pass play of

**DB DEVIN TAYLOR** 

•Had five total tackles.

sey for the contest.

DB ARMANI CHATMAN •Recorded a sack and broke up

DB DORIAN STRONG

•Tallied his first career interception and had a 27-yard return. •Had five total tackles in the

LB RAYSHARD ASHBY •Made five stops in the game and had a sack.=

# Catching up with VT men's basketball Coach Mike Young

The 2020-21 Virginia Tech men's basketball season has already given people plenty to talk about, and Head Coach Mike Young is the perfect person for the conversation.

The Hokies are off to a 4-1 start after suffering their first loss of the season, 75-55 to Penn State last Tuesday night. They also had a game against Clemson scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 15. The squad has already successfully navigated a COVID-19-related schedule shuffle, defeating then No.-3 Villanova in an impromptu game.

Virginia Tech's hot start follows an offseason full of precautionary restrictions while acclimating many new players to the team. The Hokies added four scholarship transfers, three of which are graduate transfers, and four freshmen to the team.

The success also comes on the heels of Young's establishment of MY TURN, a nonprofit inspired by his father, Bob Young, that takes on bullying. The program works with public schools in the New River Valley while also giving players the opportunity to serve others.

Following the team's victory over VMI, Young took some time to share his thoughts on the offseason, the culture the team aims to create and what they'll need to do to continue having success.

How has it felt to be back on the court for regular-season games?

"Honestly, it's been great. So much hard work was put in by our players, with them being disciplined and sacrificing to play by being great teammates, that it brings me joy to see them out there competing again on the floor. Sure, it's still a little different with no fans and the crowd noise playing on the speakers, but it's been so good being back at doing what we all love."

What's been the biggest change or challenge in how you all prepare and practice this season related to the pandemic?

"Probably the biggest challenge has been being together in close quarters. About everything we do is spaced out, and that includes group huddles on the court, our team breakdown to end a practice and when we're watching film together. So it's challenging, but I feel like our guys have been able to stay focused with that and abide by our protocols that have been set in place for

What have you found to be the key or keys towards building community and collective culture within a team of that make-up, as well as your staff, at a time when gathering can be quite limited?

"There is one key thing that we have tried to instill in our guys regarding culture and community. One of my favorite lines is, 'Love your neighbor,' which certainly is true now and it's arguably harder with not as much gathering time. So, with so many new guys on our roster this year, it's been pivotal for our players to love one another, be respectful of others around them, and be always reminded that we are all here for each other, even on those tough days when we need it most.

Tve been so fortunate to be surrounded by great people my whole career, and that rings true now more than ever with the bunch we have on our roster and staff. Being present and in the moment with everyone has been a key ingredient to our

What types of bonding activities

have you found to be helpful? "It's been tough these last few months with following Covid-19 protocols and doing larger-type gatherings, but I know quite a bit of our players have really enjoyed their participation in MY TURN. Our players have had the pleasure of reading children's books to elementary school kids over Zoom. It's been wonderful to see the players truly get more out of it than the kids. They've been able to reap and sow some pretty good things out of that and grow with one another as well, with acting out certain scenes and things of that nature.

"In the past, we've also done cooking classes as well, giving the players tools to succeed for making meals for themselves. We have an exceptional nutritionist who has really readied the guys for treating their bodies the right way with food intake and smartened them up on the best way to refuel after workouts, practices and more."

Why was it important for you to go ahead and launch that program despite the additional obstacles caused by the pandemic?

"It just felt like the right time. I felt like it's something that had been on my heart for some time, and I just felt led to launch it this fall. It did come with some hurdles and speed bumps due to COVID-19 protocols of what we could and couldn't do. But overall, I don't regret beginning it now, and it has been such a great thing so far."

The main aim of that program obviously is to help young people in the area, and your players are only involved to the level at which they desire, but how do you hope your players and team might also benefit

from MYTURN? "I would hope they get more out of it than they would anticipate, and I think that has been the case so far. Spending time not thinking about yourself when you're not practicing, doing school work, or playing a game is crucial for someone's development off the court. It's great to give back and spend time with those maybe you wouldn't have if not given the opportunity. This has been a terrific time for

the local children in the NRV with our players making an impact on them in a positive light and giving them someone to look up to. And I would argue the same influence has been able to trickle into our players' minds as well with seeing how great these young kids are and giving them a sense of hope that our future in the area is strong."

What are the key character traits your players will need to successfully face the challenge of such an ever-evolving situation?

"Adaptability has to be up there. It happens in a game with how it ebbs and flows and teams going on runs and being able to respond to that. But now, it has happened with our game schedule. That's a different dynamic, one that will take some time to become accustomed

"But I believe our guys are off to a good note on that end and are truly taking it one day at a time. That's what I tell them, 'One day at a time,' and they've been able to take that to heart and stay level-headed through it all."

How have you seen your staff and other people within Virginia Tech Athletics rise to meet challenges this year?

"Our athletics staff here at Virginia Tech has been terrific. From facilities to game ops to sports medicine, everyone has pitched in and contributed in an impressive way to be able to pull off one of the most unprecedented seasons ever. I'm very proud of what has transpired with our first few home games. Our people haven't missed a beat and am grateful for that. I feel safe, I know our players feel safe playing in Cassell. So, kudos to everyone involved. Their pres-

With game attendance obviously limited, what are some other ways the Virginia Tech community can support you and your players?

"Though I'm not on there too much, I've enjoyed scrolling on Twitter and seeing the love from Hokie Nation. The support this season from our fans has been tremendous. I know they want to be in Cassell badly, but they have been very supportive through it all so far and I know they will continue to do

Speaking of attendance being limited, that could also impact concessions. Do you have a backup plan for what's become somewhat of a pre-game ritual if popcorn becomes scarce?

"Tell you what, it's been a little different with not being able to do my typical bag of popcorn before the game. I do miss it a bit, but at the end of the day, my pregame routine will be fine without it. I'm more grateful than ever to be the head coach of Virginia Tech men's basketball and sure am happy we are playing games after all."

-Written by Travis Williams

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