



School board moves high schools to remote instruction



Friday, the Montgomery County School Board voted to move the schools to Instruction Phase 3, Level 1, which for the high schools means no in-person instruction, effective this past Monday, Dec. 14.

There will be no changes in Pre-K through sixth-grade schedules. Stu-

dents in those grades may attend four half-days per week. Students in grades PK-3 may attend two half-days per week.

The following students, however, in grades 7-12 may continue to attend school in whatever way they have been attending (in-person full-day, in-per-

son half-day, or fully-remote):

Students with disabilities as outlined in their current IEP or 504 plan; students who receive Level 1 or 2 ELL services; students recommended by the Student Assistance Program (SAP) Team; students who received a grade of D or F on their report card (families will be contacted by the school to make these arrangements); students without access to the Internet through MCPS-provided MiFi device; and children of employees who are MCPS students.

The decisions came at a meeting requested by Superintendent Mike Mear in the wake of the increase of COVID-19 spread in Montgomery County that has impacted the staff as they are quarantined mostly due to potential exposures outside of the school building. The rise in staff absences combined with low attendance

See **School board**, page 5

Christiansburg man claims \$1 million Mega Millions prize



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.

Richard Barnett's wife had some interesting news.

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 drawing.

"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 person 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.

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/com-mencement. 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 de-

See **Graduates**, page 2



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 one hour.

*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.

Governor welcomes first shipments of COVID-19 vaccine to Virginia



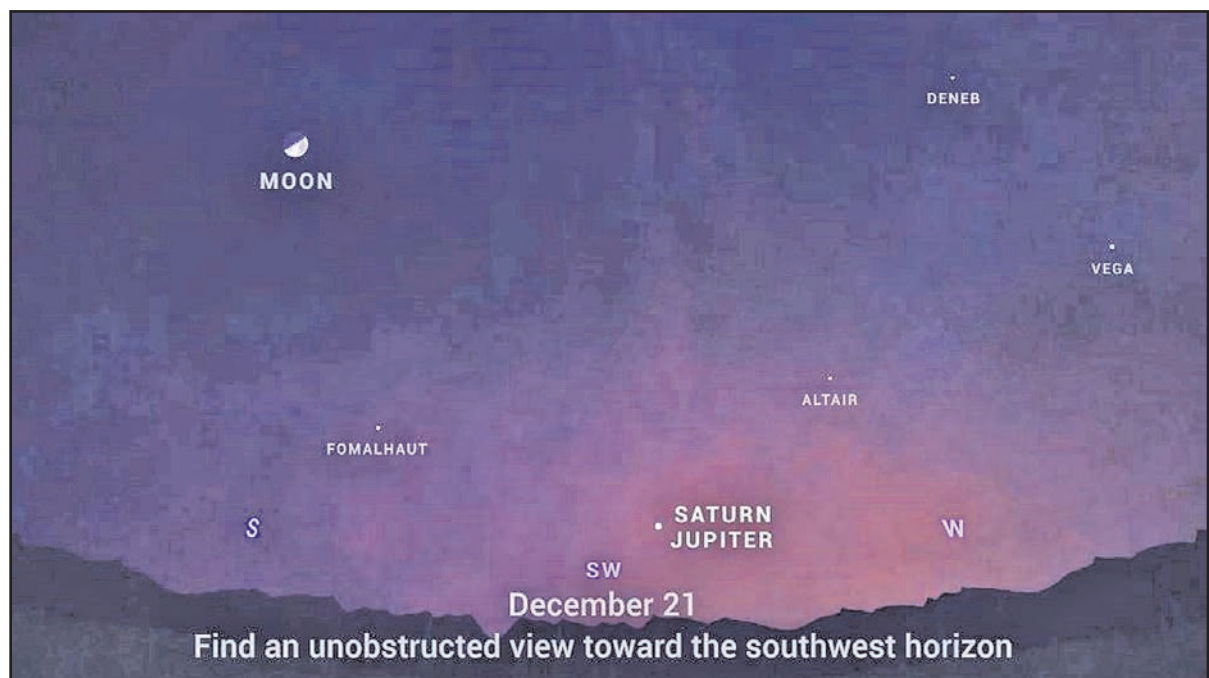
Virginia Governor Ralph Northam was joined Monday by Kelly Sweet, Director of Pharmacy for the Bon Secours Health System, in receiving the first shipments of COVID-19 vaccine.

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 Tuesday.

"These initial doses of the COVID-19 vaccine are a much-needed symbol of hope for our commonwealth and our country," 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 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. I ask everyone to stay vigilant, take care of each other and continue following the public

See **Vaccine**, page 5



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 crafts.

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 Exchange

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

Wednesday, Dec. 16

Gingerbread Program

10:00 a.m. at the Blacksburg Library. Use a take-home kit the library provides to make a gingerbread house. Supplies are limited.

Art Club Virtual Meeting

From 2-3 p.m. at the Christiansburg 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 Triv-

ia Contest

From 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. at the Jessie Peterman Memorial Library. 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@mfri.org.

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-Thru

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 contest

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 page (www.facebook.com/cburgvago) 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 self-guided light tour.

Saturday, Dec. 19

Saturday Creative Writing Group

At the Meadowbrook Public Library from 11:00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. Those taking part should bring work for small-group feedback and editing.

Teen Dungeons and Dragons

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@mfri.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 Christiansburg 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 take-and-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 Library 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 contest

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.com.

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 sign-up link is <https://tinyurl.com/w4r2020>.

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 w4reason@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@mfri.org for more information.

Monday, Dec. 28

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

Through Thursday, Dec. 31:

Christiansburg Leaf Collection

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.



Live the Life



Richfield Living

New Senior Living Now Open!

Whether you prefer a quiet mountain lake retreat or a socially engaging lifestyle, Richfield Living has plenty to offer. With exciting new senior apartment options now open, you have the freedom to create the life you choose. Add in a convenient, amenities-rich town center and a robust Richfield Living social calendar and you'll have every opportunity for a joy-filled lifestyle.

Choice Apartments Still Remain!

Lake Retreat (Opening Late November 2020)

The Villas NOW OPEN!

- Spacious one or two bedroom apartments with lake views
- In-home full size washer & dryer
- Heated underground parking
- Priority access to other Richfield Living housing and care options*
- Town Center amenities including a club lounge, fitness center, more!

540-380-1580
RichfieldLiving.com

Lake Retreat now reserving!

Call Samantha today for best selection!

Or email to: sedwards@richfieldliving.com



Leasing Office:
3737 West Main Street, Ste. 101
Salem, VA 24153

*Based on availability. Equal housing opportunity.

Graduates

from page 1

grees.

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 follow-

ing 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 de-

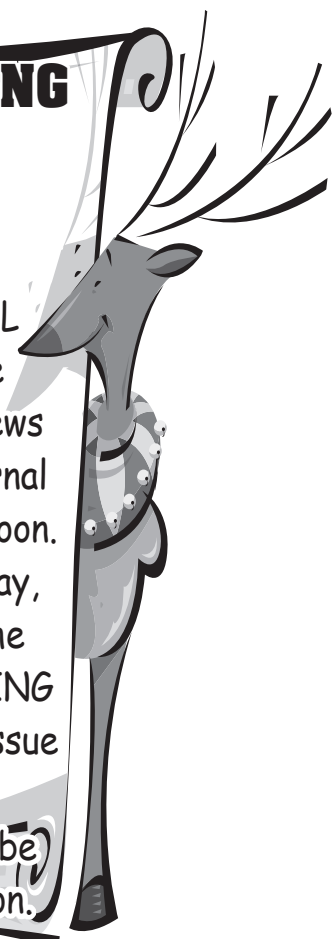
gree. Cortney Steele, a recent recipient of a doctorate in human nutrition, foods, and exercise from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, will deliver opening remarks during the ceremony.

The graduate degree 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 ADVERTISING 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.



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 in."

It all began with a question.

"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.

"We really wanted it to be available for any kind of business," Thompson said.

Still, the requirement is that each business on the app must be local and small, with no more than 15 locations.

Unlike traditional gift cards, the money from each Localyte purchase goes directly to the business at the time of the sale, though purchases include a transaction fee that primarily shifts to the credit card company. Businesses do not have to wait for customers to redeem the gift cards in order for the funds to land in their account.

Also, creating a mobile purchasing app eases people's fears of physically going into a store or restaurant, which is a concern during the pandemic, Werner said.

"The root cause is that businesses need cash flow and with a lot of these ideas, like [traditional] gift cards, the money sits in a bank in escrow until the customer can go into the store [to redeem the card]," Werner said. "But if the customer could go into the store, we wouldn't have the problem to begin with."

With Localyte, custom-



Virginia Tech alumnus Jeff Werner led a team of Hokie alumni and fans to create Localyte, an app that allows people to buy gift cards for use at Blacksburg businesses. The team's goal is to support the Blacksburg economy in the wake of changes to the Hokies' football season due to COVID-19. Photo by Ryan Young for Virginia Tech.

ers' gift card purchases save in the app. They scan a QR code that reveals proof of purchase when they present the card to the business.

Since Localyte's launch in October, Blacksburg residents, out-of-town alumni, and even parents of Virginia Tech students have used the app to make gift card purchases. The app already has generated several thousand dollars for participating businesses, Werner said.

That includes In Balance Yoga in Blacksburg, which is offering a promotion through the app for a 10-class package at \$10 a class.

"It helped us to promote that we are open," said owner Nicole Fitzwater LaFon, explaining that the gift card purchases can be used for virtual and in-person classes at the studio. "It's just a really sweet thing about our community that there are people out there who are thinking about our situation and want to help

contribute."

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 Localyte.

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

Still, the Localyte 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," Thompson said.

Written by Jenny Kincaid Boone

Historic Montgomery

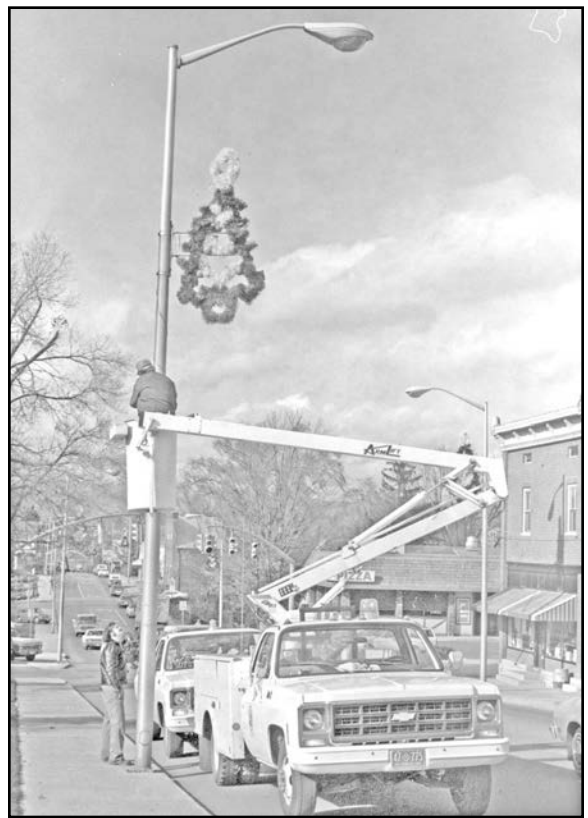


PHOTO COURTESY OF MONTGOMERY MUSEUM OF ART & HISTORY
The Town of Blacksburg puts up holiday decorations in the late 1970s. (This image from the News Messenger Collection and many more are available from the Montgomery Museum of Art & History.)

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 Roanoke.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY ROUTE 11 BRIDGE DECK REPLACEMENT

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 CLOSURE FOR BRIDGE REPLACEMENT

Route 11 (Roanoke Road) is closed for a bridge replacement 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 2020.

See VDOT, page 6

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 poultry-consuming Americans said they prepare it at home at least 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-

eration's Poultry Advisory Committee.

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 said.

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 company we grow for is anxious for 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, about 65% greater than the

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."

GET THE NETWORK THAT WORKS AS HARD AS YOU DO

Our Lifeline Calling Plans bring discounted wireless service to participants in certain government-assisted programs.

Visit uscellular.com/lifeline or call 1-800-447-1339 for more information.

Plans starting at **\$34.25** before Lifeline discount.

LG K88

Things we want you to know: Lifeline is a federal government benefit program and only qualified persons may participate. Lifeline service may not be transferred to any other individual. Applicants must present documentation of household income or participation in qualifying programs. Lifeline is only available for one phone line per household, whether landline or wireless. The Lifeline Calling Plan/Lifeline discounts are only available to residents in states where U.S. Cellular® is an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC). Eligibility to receive Lifeline discounts will be verified annually. Lifeline Calling Plans support all of the federal universal services provided for in 47CFR Sec. 54.101. Additional terms and conditions apply. See store or uscellular.com for details. ©2020 U.S. Cellular

C
R
O
S
S
W
O
R
D

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13					14	
15			16						17	
18			19			20	21			
	22		23				24			
		25					26			
			27		28	29	30			
			31		32					
		33				34				
	35					36		37	38	
39					40				41	
42				43				44		45
46			47	48				49		
50			51					52		
53			54					55		

CLUES ACROSS

1. Selects	28. Displayed exaggerated emotion	52. Ice hockey feint
5. A cutting remark	31. Andalusian Gypsy dances	53. Drive obliquely, as of a nail
9. Teaspoonful (abbr.)	33. Material	21. Runs disconnected
12. Having two units or parts	34. Article	54. Dried leaves of the hemp plant
13. Quality perceptible to the sense of taste	35. Ballplayer Ruth	55. Ardour
14. Expression of surprise	36. 5th largest Greek island	CLUES DOWN
15. Italian Island	39. Hand drum of No. India	1. Lyric poems
16. A coarse cloth with a bright print	40. A style of preparing food	2. Hungarian sheep dog (var. sp.)
17. Propose a price	42. Former ruler of Afghanistan	3. A pad of writing paper
18. Sedimentary material	43. AKA Cologne	4. Lists of candidates
19. Tree toad genus	44. Not generally occurring	5. Base, basket and foot
20. Passed time agreeably	46. Auto	6. Samoan capital
22. Custodians	47. Print errors	7. Mythological bird
24. 3rd largest city in Zambia	49. Interspersed among	8. Urban row houses
25. 18th Hebrew letter (var.)	50. Electrocardiogram	9. Sensationalist journalism
26. Coasted on ice	51. Churns	10. Carried on the arm to intercept blows
27. Libyan dinar		11. Estrildid finch genus
		13. PA 18840
		16. S.W. English town & cheese
		23. Mourners
		28. Old world, new
		29. Atomic #25
		30. Sweet potato wind instrument
		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

OPINION

Cong. Morgan Griffith: Candy apples and toads

An analogy I like to use for 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 on Oct. 1.

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,

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, partisan 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 research-quality 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. I 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 Representatives.

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 community.

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

News Messenger

Established 1869

(540) 389-9355

P.O. Box 1125 • Salem, VA 24153

USPS 016-490 Online: www.ourvalley.org

Michael Showell, *Publisher*

Ed McMinn, *Editor*

editor@ourvalley.org

Heather Bell, *Community News Editor*

communitynews@ourvalley.org

Lynn Hurst, *General Manager*

lhurst@ourvalley.org

Randy Thompson, *Advertising Consultant*

advertise@ourvalley.org

Give us your view:

editor@ourvalley.org

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

The News Messenger (USPS 016-490) is published twice a week for \$41 a year in Montgomery County, \$50 elsewhere in Virginia, and \$54 out of state by Virginia Media Inc., P.O. Box 429, Lewisburg, WV 24901. Periodical postage paid at Christiansburg, VA. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to NEWS MESSENGER 1633 W. Main St., Salem, VA 24153.

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 flea collar.

"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 now."

"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 emotional 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."

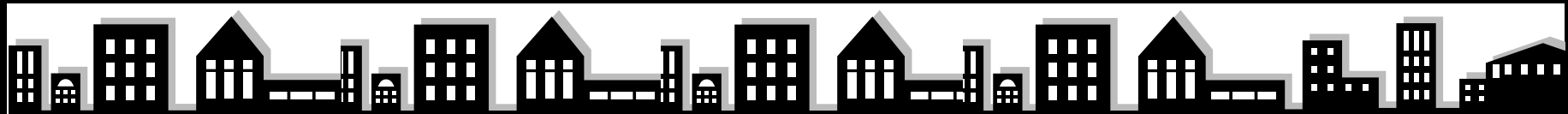
So Dud headed home, only to find the garage door open and Anita standing there holding his brand-new Homelite XL chainsaw. He only had time enough to mumble "Our father..." when Anita set it down gently and flung herself in his arms.

"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

COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTORY



Local Service,
Measurable Savings

PERSONAL ATTENTION. GREAT RATES
CALL NOW!



540-838-2198

BELINDA BLODGETT

Your Local Agent |

1055 E MAIN ST

RADFORD, VA 24141-1747

bblodgett@farmersagent.com



Find us on: facebook



Want to keep up with local
news, sports and events?

SUBSCRIBE TODAY

Call (540) 382-6171

To advertise in this space,
call Randy Thompson
at 540-230-1129
advertising@mainstreetnewspapers.com

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 big-

gest 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 2020; and 3) the percent change in unemployment claims since the start of the COVID-19 crisis vs. last year.

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 Indiana.

OBITUARIES

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 sons-in-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, 2020.

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 sisters.

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.

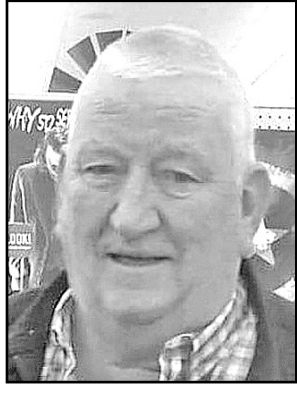
The Wade family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford.

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, Zoe, Gabriella, and Samuel, all of Dublin, and



one on the way; three sisters, Linda (Kenny) Baker, Loretta (Larry) Watson, and Wanda (Ken) Neurre, all of Abingdon; two brothers, Eddie (Carolyn) Harrison of Abingdon, and the Rev. Wayne (Karen) Harrison of Honaker; along with numerous nieces and nephews, and a host of friends.

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 of God.

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

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 his side.

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 married 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 GI 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 Diamondhead, 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 competition, 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 scuba-dived 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 Radford.

School board

from page 1

for substitute teachers has created a staffing burden in the county's school and led the superintendent to request the meeting of the board.

While the high schools will move to remote or online synchronous instruction for all their classes, students in grades PK through 6 will remain on their current schedule. The current schedules will be maintained at least through Friday, Dec. 18.

Monday, Dec. 21, and Tuesday, Dec. 22, will be asynchronous learning days. Students will complete a Wednesday check-in form on these days to indicate if they need additional assistance.

When the schools reopen after winter break, students will go back to Phase 3, Level 1 through the end of the first semester on Thursday, Jan. 21.

All buses will run their regular route to pick up and drop off students. Meals will be available at schools for pickup.

Free meals will be available for pickup at the high schools between 10:30 and 12:30 on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

To help with meal preparation, parents should email the respective cafeteria manager to let them know how many meals will be picked up.

Students will receive one breakfast and one lunch on Monday, Thursday and Friday. Students will receive two breakfasts and two lunches on Tuesdays because the cafeterias are closed on Wednesdays. To pick up meals, parents may call the respective school to arrange for a no-contact pickup.

Auburn High - bwimmer@mcps.org
Blacksburg High - slinkous@mcps.org
Christiansburg High - mweaver@mcps.org
Eastern Montgomery High - gbasham@mcps.org

As a reminder, Dec. 21 and 22 will be "learn from home" days for all students, PK-12. No students will report in-person on these days. Students and their parents/guardians will need to complete the "Wednesday Check-in" form for attendance and to receive assignments from their teachers.

Vaccine

from page 1

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 for COVID-19 patients receiving top priority among providers in Virginia.

Virginia health systems

expect to receive an estimated 480,000 doses of vaccine from two manufacturers, Pfizer and Moderna, by the end of December. This initial allocation will begin the inoculation process for nearly all health care personnel and long-term care facility residents. The Virginia Department of Health estimates that there are up to 500,000 individuals in these two top priority groups in the commonwealth.

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

YOUR LOCAL NEWS

JUST THE WAY YOU LIKE IT!

News Messenger

Serving Montgomery County Since 1869

DIGITAL ONLY

One Year Digital Subscription (recurring) **\$29.00**

DIGITAL & PRINT

Yearly Print & Digital Subscription (recurring) **\$55.50 Montgomery County**
\$64.50 Virginia • \$68.50 Out of State

PRINT ONLY

Yearly Print Only Subscription **\$41.00 Montgomery County**
\$50.00 Virginia
\$54.00 Out of State

Subscribe online at montcova.com or mail to address below

SUBSCRIPTION TO NEWS MESSENGER

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Check Enclosed or call (304) 647-5724 to pay by credit card

Mail to: Circulation Department, NEWS MESSENGER,
P.O. BOX 429, Lewisburg, WV 24901 or call us at (304) 647-5724.

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

The travel and tourism industry has faced enormous hardship from the COVID-19 pandemic 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 pandemic 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. Mask-wearing 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. “Fast-food 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 Admin-

istration/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



IMAGE BY DAVID PEPPER FROM PIXABAY

Closing stations and reducing service hours may help the D.C. Metro system’s financial hardships in the short-term, 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 current Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority budget proposals to eliminate weekend rail service, close stations and reduce

service hours would severely impact area commuters and modes of transportation in the region.

“Metro’s budget proposal 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 COVID-19 pandemic does not make sense from a transportation perspective,” says Buehler.

“The region will begin to transition towards a new normal for transportation 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-open.”

Buehler says that if Metro service is poor (30-minute wait time between trains) or non-

existent (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 the automobile industry many times; now it is crucial to support the transit industry.

“When COVID-19 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 non-existent 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.

VDOT from page 3

ROUTE 636 BRIDGE REPLACEMENT AT SENECA HOLLOW - The 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 (Brookfield 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 REPLACEMENT - 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 CONSTRUCTION - 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 AT S-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 WIDENING CONSTRUCTION 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.

I-81 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 2021.

I-81 BRIDGE REPLACEMENT 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 completion is summer 2021.

DMV Notice: The bridge on I-81 northbound at mile marker

114 currently has a restricted width for wide loads of 26 feet or larger.

I-81 PAVING & MARKING OPERATIONS - Paving operations are being performed throughout the district.

I-81 RAMP CLOSURES FOR PAVING OPERATIONS IN ROANOKE & BOTETOURT 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 expect possible delays.

I-81 POTHOLE PATCHING OPERATIONS - Weather permitting, crews will patch potholes 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 BRIDGE DECK REPAIRS - 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.



Marketplace

ourvalley.org

THE FINECASTLE HERALD

The Vinton Messenger

THE NEW CASTLE RECORD

SALEM TIMES REGISTER

News Messenger

RADFORD News Journal

For Rent - Apartments

2, 3, 4 BR Townhouse Style
accepting applications. Short waiting list, HUD subsidized, W/D hookups, private patio, water & trash incl. Fairfax Village Apts. 332 Fairfax St., Radford Cambridge Square 1805 Whipple Dr. NW Blacksburg 540-731-1786 EHO TDD #800-828-1120



For Sale - Firewood

FIREWOOD
Mixed Hardwood. Call 540-529-2745
Delivery in Botetourt only

For Sale - Misc

Hay Square Bales
Paint Bank VA
Call or Text
304-667-4753

FOR SALE

Unprinted end rolls of newspaper. Great for packing & shipping, moving & storage and for art projects. Various sizes available. Stop by the Salem Times-Register 1633 West Main St. or call (540)389-9355 for details.

Help Wanted - General

Part Time Newspaper Production Help

The Salem TimesRegister has openings for afternoon/evening shift work inserting, labeling and bundling newspapers for delivery. No experience necessary. Hours may vary. Will train. \$7.50 per hour. Contact Lynn Hurst, General Manager, Salem-Times Register (540)389-9355 or email lhurst@ourvalley.org

Quality Inn

Hiring full-part time front desk & housekeeping. Apply in person. Phone 540-639-3000

CRAIG COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE PART-TIME DISPATCHER

The Craig County Sheriff's Office is seeking applications for the position of Part-Time Dispatcher. Applicants must be 21 years of age and possess a high school diploma or GED equivalent.

Applicants must be willing and available to work all shifts to including nights, weekends and holidays on a as needed basis.

Successful applicants will be required to undergo comprehensive training and be required to complete basic dispatch school and basic VCIN training as a condition of continued employment. A criminal background check is required.

Commonwealth of Virginia Application for Employment can be obtained at the Craig County Sheriff's Office or on the Craig County Government website <http://craigcountyva.gov/employmentopportunities/>

Deadline for applications is January 4th, 2021 at 5:00 pm.

ADVERTISE!

CUSTER'S PLASTERING AND DRYWALL

- No job too large or small
- Repair work, new construction, etc.
- Quality Work At A Reasonable Price

Call 864-6498

Help Wanted - Health Care

Psychiatrist,
Roanoke, VA & other Carilion sites across state of VA. Treat adults, adolescents & children w/ psychiatric illness in inpatient, outpatient, consults, & emergency room settings. Mail resume to A. Ollie, Carilion Medical Center, 1212 Third Street SW, Roanoke, VA 24016.

Lost & Found

LOST:
Yearling all black Angus bull (700- 800 pounds) and 8 month old all white Charolais type bull. No ear tags. Missing from the corner of Springwood Rd and Timber Ridge Rd since early November. If you have any information, please call 540-354-2514

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 Bruffey 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 /v. 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 Clerk

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 /v. 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 Clerk

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 /v. 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.

10/30/2020
Sally Davis Clerk

Classified Advertising Delivers

THE CLASSIFIEDS-
Where the Deals Are!

To place a classified ad, call 540-389-9355

A GREAT DEAL IN THE CLASSIFIEDS!
To place your ad, call 389-9355

A GREAT DEAL IN THE CLASSIFIEDS!
To place your ad, call 389-9355

STATEWIDE ADS

AUCTIONS

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

HOME IMPROVEMENT

Vinyl Replacement Windows Starting at \$235* Installed w/ Free Trim Wrap Call 804-739-8207 Siding, Roofing, Gutters and More!

GENERAC Standby Generators. The weather is increas-

STATEWIDE ADS

ingly unpredictable. Be prepared for power outages. FREE 7-year extended warranty (\$695 value!) Schedule your FREE in-home assessment today. Call 1-877-636-0738 Special financing for qualified customers.

ATTN. CONTRACTORS:

Advertise your business statewide and in other states. Affordable Print and Digital Solutions to reach Homeowners. Call Landon Clark at Virginia Press Services 804-521-7576, HYPERLINK "mailto:landonc@vpa.net" landonc@vpa.net

REAL ESTATE

ATTN. REALTORS: Advertise your listings regionally or statewide. Afford-

Prepare for unexpected power outages with a Generac home standby generator

SCHEDULE YOUR FREE IN-HOME ASSESSMENT TODAY!
844-947-1479

FREE 7-Year Extended Warranty*
A \$695 Value!
Offer valid August 24, 2020 - December 31, 2020

Special Financing Available
Subject to Credit Approval

LeafFilter GUTTER PROTECTION

INSTALLS ON NEW & EXISTING GUTTERS

15% OFF YOUR ENTIRE PURCHASE
AND!
10% OFF SENIOR & MILITARY DISCOUNTS
5% OFF TO THE FIRST 50 CALLERS!

Promo Number: 285
CALL US TODAY FOR A FREE ESTIMATE
1-877-614-6667
Mon-Thurs: 8am-11pm, Fri-Sat: 8am-5pm, Sun: 2pm-9pm EST

*For those who qualify. One coupon per household. No obligation estimate valid for 1 year. ** Offer valid at estimate only. CSLB# 1025795 DOR# #10782658-5501 License# 7656 License# 50145 License# 41354 License# 9938 License# 128344 License# 218294 License# 603 233 977 License# 2102212986 License# 2106212946 License# 2705132153A License# LEAFNW22JZ License# WV056912 License# WC-29998-H17 Nassau HIC License# H01067000 Registration# 176447 Registration# HIC0649505 Registration# C127229 Registration# C127230 Registration# 36692018 Registration# PCS475 Registration# R731804 Registration# 13V409953900 Registration# PA069383 Suffolk HIC License# 52229-H

HAVE SOMETHING TO SELL?
To place your ad, call 389-9355

ADVERTISE!

STATEWIDE ADS

ble Print and Digital Solutions that get results! Call Landon Clark at Virginia Press Services 804-521-7576, HYPERLINK "mailto:landonc@vpa.net" landonc@vpa.net

SERVICES

DIVORCE-Uncontested, \$395+\$86 court cost. **WILLS** \$195.00. No court appearance. Estimated completion time twenty-one days. Hilton Oliver, Attorney (Face-

STATEWIDE ADS

book). 757-490-0126. Se Habla Espanol. BBB Member. HYPERLINK "https://hiltonoliverattorneyva.com" https://hiltonoliverattorneyva.com

WANTED TO BUY

FREON WANTED: We pay \$\$\$ for cylinders and cans. R12 R500 R11 R113 R114. Convenient. Certified Professionals. Call 312-313-9671 or visit Refrigerant-Finders.com

Feeling Stressed about COVID?

Virginia C.O.P.E.S. Warmline
877-349-MHAV (6428)

Monday - Friday 9am - 9pm
Saturday - Sunday 5pm - 9pm

OPEN TO ALL VIRGINIANS | YOU ARE NOT ALONE

VACOPES
Compassionate. Optimistic. Person-Centered. Empowering Support.

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING

2020 VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

Virginia has voted to have a redistricting commission and you can be part of it!

If you are interested in becoming a citizen commissioner go to our website for more information.

Accepting applications
November 30th through December 28th

Apply Today
<https://redistricting.dls.virginia.gov/>

THE CLASSIFIEDS-
Where the Deals Are!

The best place to find it, sell it, buy it, and announce it.

- SITUATIONS WANTED
- HOMES FOR SALE
- BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES
- AUTOMOBILES FOR SALE
- APARTMENTS FOR RENT
- GARAGE SALES

To place your ad, call 389-9355

BUSINESS SERVICES DIRECTORY

DRFAME
ALLERGY
ASTHMA

540 404-9598
1002 APPERSON DR • SALEM, VIRGINIA 24153
WWW.DRTOMFAME.COM

SENIOR FOR SENIORS
PAINTING & RESIDENTIAL MAINTENANCE

C: 540-293-4271
O: 540-772-2268

RETIREMENT PLANNING
Face it, you only get one shot at a successful retirement. We can help.

TALK TO WALT
WALTER S. KEARNS, JR., CFP® (540) 389-0300

JUST FINANCIAL PLANNING, INC.
1630 ROANOKE BLVD., SALEM, WWW.JUSTFINANCIALPLANNING.COM

embrace home loans

Robin Jewell
Senior Loan Officer / NMLS# 235597
540.309.5013
rjewell@embracehomeloans.com
www.embracehomeloans.com/robin-jewell
5044 Keagy Road, Suite H100
Roanoke, VA 24018

Embrace Home Loans, Inc. (NMLS ID#2184) is licensed in VA.
www.nmlsconsumeraccess.com

EVANS ELECTRICAL & PLUMBING SERVICE
Fincastle

Residential • Commercial
Industrial • Remodeling
New Construction

473-2481 • 276-228-5863 cell
Class A License • Insured
Master Tradesman

If you believe in your business and want to build it...

ADVERTISE!

To place a classified ad, call 540-389-9355

MHC
Monroe Health Center

Craig County Health Center
226 Market Street - New Castle, VA

Phone: (540) 864-6390 Fax: (540) 864-6356

- *Physical Exams * X-ray Services
- * Laboratory Services * Acute Care
- *Mental Health Services * Well Baby Checks

ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS

CARPET RE-STRETCHING!
STEVEN W. DURRANCE FLOORS

Repairs • New Sales • Expert

540-776-9591
Cell: 540-353-7908

Licensed & Insured
carpetroanoke.com

Lisa Martin, REALTOR®
Serving the industry for 30+ years
Roanoke Valley & Blue Ridge Mountains

Premier, REALTORS
(540) 597-0480
Lisa@Lisa2buy.com • www.Lisa2buy.com
1638 Roanoke Road, Suite 101
Daleville, VA 24083

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HomeServices
A member of the franchise system of BHH Affiliates, LLC

BAG A GREAT DEAL IN THE CLASSIFIEDS!

To place your ad, call 389-9355

If you believe in your business and want to build it...

ADVERTISE!

To place a classified ad, call 540-389-9355

Roof Replacement & Repair

540-966-0688
PO Box 630
Daleville, VA 24083

www.southerntracellc.com

THE CLASSIFIEDS- Where the Deals Are!

The best place to find it, sell it, buy it, and announce it.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES
Opportunity is knocking loud and clear.

SITUATIONS WANTED
Find a job in your special field, or find the help you need.

AUTOMOBILES FOR SALE
Get rid of the old rattletrap while it still runs

If you're eligible for Medicare
It's time to choose a Medicare Advantage plan.
Humana is here to help. In every way.

facebook.com/InsuranceRoanokeVA
JESSICA FARMER
540-761-8858
JFarmer5@Humana.com

Humana. Y0040_GHHJQ9DEN_21_C

HANDY MAN SERVICES

- Interior / Exterior Painting
- Carpentry, Window / Door Replacement and More
- Deck Repair and Restorations

Serving New Castle & Surrounding Areas

Call or Text Gary Benefield 386.527.8434

Shopping Starts Here! Newspaper Advertising Works!

Want to keep up with local news, sports and events?
SUBSCRIBE TODAY
Call (540) 389-9355

If you believe in your business and want to build it...

ADVERTISE!

To place a classified ad, call 540-389-9355

THE CLASSIFIEDS- Where the Deals Are!

The best place to find it, sell it, buy it, and announce it.

To place a classified ad, call 540-389-9355

ADVERTISE!
389-9355

MONTGOMERY SPORTS

New performance center opens to Tech athletes



PHOTOS COURTESY OF VT ATHLETICS

The performance center at Virginia Tech features a full-service kitchen and provides dining space for student-athletes 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 Merriam 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 full-service 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 Fields.

"Facilities are a part – it's not the only part, but it's a big part – of recruiting," head football coach Justin 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 fa-

cility 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. Obviously, for our program, development is a huge part of what we're trying to do, and what you ingest in your body, what you feed your body is a huge part of our players and their development."

"We ask our wrestlers to be 100% committed to the process of being great in all the areas of their lives," said head VT wrestling coach Tony Robie. "How they fuel their bodies for practice and competition is a huge part of that process.

"The new Student-Athlete Performance Center will make that more efficient and effective," Robie said. "The state-of-the-art facility is absolutely spectacular and located just steps from the

wrestling room. This will be a game changer for all the student-athletes at Virginia Tech."

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 coaches expect to use the center for recruiting events, team gatherings and other student-athlete development events.

"We see the new performance 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 a state-of-the-art gathering place for all student-athletes at Virginia Tech. I speak for our softball program when I say we're extremely excited to put the new performance center to use"

Though multi-functional, the center will be used primarily for nutrition purposes, an area in which Virginia Tech Athletics has invested heavily over the past decade. Officials within the athletics department spend more than \$3 million annually on food for student-athletes, citing the need for proper nutrition, fueling, and hydration to receive better performances in the playing venues.

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 dietitians: 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 student-athletes, something that has not been done before," said Director of Sports Nutrition Aly Onyon. "It 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 student-athletes. 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

Hokies run past 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 Stadium.

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 third-down conversions with UVA get-

ting 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 six-

yard 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

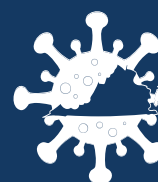
under 60 rushing yards and their second-fewest points this season (Miami, 14 pts.). Safety Divine Deablo showed out with six tackles, two pass breakups and an interception.

The Hokies have now won 20

See **Hokies**, page 10

HAPPY SMALLIDAYS.

Keep celebrations small to fight COVID.



**VIRGINIA'S
HEALTH
IS IN OUR
HANDS.**

Do your part,
stop the spread.

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.

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.

HEAD COACH JUSTIN FUENTE

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

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

VIRGINIA TECH TEAM NOTES

- 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 BURMEISTER

- 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 yards.

RB KHALIL HERBERT

- Registered his sixth 100-yard rushing game of the season with 162 yards on 20 attempts.
- Scored a touchdown on a 76-yard rush, which was the longest rushing play of the season.

RB JALEN HOLSTON

- Had 14 carries for 58 yards.

WR TRE TURNER

- Recorded his second rushing touchdown of the season on a six-

yard carry.

- Caught three passes for 25 yards.

WR TAYVION ROBINSON

- Had five receptions for 98 yards and a touchdown.
- His 60-yd touchdown reception was the longest pass play of the season.

TE JAMES MITCHELL

- Had three receptions for 67 yards.

DB DIVINE DEABLO

- Recorded his fourth interception of the season and also broke up two other passes.
- Led the team with six total tackles.

- Wore Coach Beamer's 25 jersey for the contest.

DB DEVIN TAYLOR

- Had five total tackles.

DB CHAMARRI CONNER

- Made five stops and broke up two passes.

DB ARMANI CHATMAN

- Recorded a sack and broke up a pass.

DB DORIAN STRONG

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

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 speak-

ers, 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 good reason."

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."

"I've 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 culture."

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 to."

"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 presence is felt."

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 so."

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



Be committed. Be well.
WEARING YOUR MASK IS YOUR GIFT TO THE NRV.



Wear your mask.

Watch your distance.

Wash your hands.