

# News Messenger

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## Masks required for Montgomery County student-athletes

Montgomery County schools are now requiring their student-athletes to wear masks during both practice and competition.

Danny Knott, the director of Human Resources for Montgomery County Public Schools, said on Monday the Virginia High School League (VHSL) "strongly encouraged" the wearing of masks for both practices and competitions, and the local school system is following through with the recommendation.

"[Wearing masks] is also recommended by the Virginia Health Department and the American Association of Pediatrics," Knott said.

This comes on the heels of a

requirement by the VHSL being changed to a recommendation in a clarification of new statewide measures and how they will impact sports. The changes include new guidelines for wearing face-masks during athletic competition and if and when spectators will be allowed to watch games.

In a statement released this past weekend, the VHSL said, "The state's athletic group is rescinding its requirement that face coverings be worn during training and competition and is reissuing its guidance to conform with the intent of Executive Order 72 that face masks are 'strongly encouraged' but not required. Each school may continue to exercise

its discretion and judgment as to safety steps within its athletics programs as it pertains to face coverings."

"With the support of the governor's office and our VHSL Sports Medicine Advisory Committee, the VHSL is requiring each school to follow the recommendations of the Virginia Department of Health and the American Academy of Pediatrics," said VHSL Executive Director, Dr. John W. "Billy" Haun.

According to the Virginia Department of Health, individuals who participate in, attend or organize sports activities should

See **Masks required**, page 7

## Virginia Tech Foundation names new CEO



**A former justice on the Supreme Court of Virginia, Elizabeth McClanahan has been named CEO of the Virginia Tech Foundation.**

Elizabeth McClanahan, a former justice on the Supreme Court of Virginia who now serves as president and dean of the Appalachian School of Law, has been named CEO of the Virginia Tech Foundation.

The foundation manages the university's endowment, has an extensive real estate portfolio and encourages economic development by fostering connections between Virginia Tech and numerous partners.

McClanahan has served as an adjunct professor of finance and senior advisor to the dean in Virginia Tech's Pamplin College of Business since September 2019, but her ties to the university go back much further.

"Virginia Tech played a formative role in my life," McClanahan said. "My mother hosted Extension homemaker clubs when I was a young child. I joined 4-H at age 9 and in my teenage years attended 4-H Congress on campus. Virginia Tech is now a global university and world leader in higher education. Joining the foun-

ation is the opportunity of a lifetime, especially at a time when Tech's energy, innovation and trajectory are unmatched."

McClanahan will become foundation CEO on June 1, 2021, succeeding John Dooley, who in August announced he would retire. The foundation CEO is a member of the Virginia Tech President's cabinet.

"The foundation is deeply involved in realizing the university's mission and vision," Virginia Tech President Tim Sands said. "Elizabeth brings a wealth of experiences in law, leadership and higher education, and I look forward to working closely with her on our key strategic initiatives and partnerships."

McClanahan has served as the Williamson Fellow at the College of William and Mary Law School and taught at the Wake Forest School of Business and Accountancy. She has chaired the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia and has also served on the Board of

See **McClanahan**, page 7

## Virginia Tech students build beds for kids in the New River Valley

The Virginia Tech Honors College Stamps Scholars recently took to the top deck of a parking garage to build 24 beds for children in the New River Valley with a national nonprofit organization called Sleep in Heavenly Peace (SHP).

The project's genesis was a meeting between Christina McIntyre, the director of professional development, national and international scholarships at the Virginia Tech Honors College, and Paul Mele, the president of the NRV chapter of the SHP, which is dedicated to building, assembling and delivering high-quality bunk beds to children and families in need.

The NRV chapter has completed multiple bed builds since becoming

active in August of this year. Volunteers have delivered more than 55 beds to children in the NRV, but there are many more kids on the waiting list.

"There is need in the New River Valley," said Mele. "Bedlessness is a problem in every community across America. We in Sleep in Heavenly Peace believe the average is probably three to four percent of kids between 3 and 17 do not have a traditional device to sleep on."

One of the families Mele and his team provided beds for had two young girls sharing a piece of egg crate foam with a sheet draped over it for a bed. Thanks to volunteers, the foam was thrown out and the girls were presented with bunk beds

fitted with unicorn sheets.

When McIntyre found out about this need, she saw it as a perfect opportunity to bring the Stamps Scholars together. "I really wanted our group to do a project that had meaning," she said. She hoped the scholars could grow from the experience – and they did.

"I learned about teamwork and patience," said 2020 Stamps Scholar Garret Asper from Boiling Springs, Penn.

Natasha Doshi agreed and said she had gained a new perspective. "[I was reminded that] there are people and things in this community that are so much bigger than ourselves," Doshi said.

The build day was made possible by other contributions from the community. Lowe's of Christiansburg donated over \$2,500 worth of lumber, Heavener Rental loaned the group generators, and the Virginia Tech Foundation provided access to the University Mall Parking Garage.

Stamps Scholars are high-achieving student leaders selected from incoming freshmen by the Virginia Tech Honors College each year to receive a multiyear merit scholarship through the national Strive Foundation to help them achieve their educational aspirations. Service is foundational for the VT Honors College and Stamps Foundation.

-Written by Rachael Wennermark, a Stamps Scholar student



**VT Honors College Stamps Scholars use the top deck of a parking garage to build beds for the nonprofit Sleep in Heavenly Peace. They used the top deck to provide distancing of work stations to prevent COVID transmission. Photo courtesy of Christina McIntyre, director of professional development, national and international scholarships at the VT Honors College.**

## What break? Virginia Tech Rescue Squad members serve even when classes are out

While most students look forward to going home for the holidays, a few do look forward to staying behind. The Virginia Tech Rescue Squad operates 24 hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week, 365 days-a-year, including all breaks.

When class is in session, the student-run, all-volunteer rescue squad is staffed to full capacity with around 40-45 members. Over breaks, the squad has a rotating staff of about five-to-10 members who stay in Blacksburg to serve the on-

campus community. At least four members are on duty at all times.

Every member serves some "break duty" throughout the year, and many serve on multiple breaks as well as during the summer. While there is a decrease in call volume during this period, the squad still stays busy with other responsibilities, including serving at athletics events, teaching classes and performing administrative work.

"The Virginia Tech Rescue Squad is proud to be there for the campus

community and our regional emergency medical services partners 365 days-a-year," said Sarah Guida, rescue squad chief. "During winter break, on-duty members will be planning ahead for our operations next semester and will use the time to work on projects around the station. Off-duty members will enjoy some well-deserved rest."

Since the Virginia Tech Rescue Squad's inception in 1969, the squad has strived to provide the best possible emergency medical care to the Virginia Tech community. It is the oldest volunteer collegiate rescue squad in the country and the first in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Along with responding to approximately 1,200 emergency calls each year, the squad provides emergency medical services at major university and athletics events; administers a full cardiopulmonary resuscitation/automated external defibrillator, first aid, Stop the Bleed and EMT-Basic course schedule for the campus community; and manages Virginia Tech's Public Access Defibrillation (AED) program.

-Written by Christy Myers



PHOTO BY SARAH MYERS FOR VIRGINIA TECH

## Mistletoe: A natural and human history



It's that time of year again, when it's difficult to avoid certain songs. Like "I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus." The tune, written by British lyricist Tommy Connor and performed by 13-year-old Jimmy Boyd, reached number one on the Billboard charts in December 1952.

Since then, dozens of artists including Andy Williams, The Four Seasons, The Jackson 5, John Mellencamp, John Prine and Twisted Sister, have recorded versions of it. Under which plant did that kiss happen? Mistletoe, of course. Most of us don't pause to ponder the plant, but we understand the tradition. References to mistletoe continue in nearly every romantically-themed holiday song and more than a few holiday specials.

Kissing someone under this leafy evergreen with its waxy, white berries is a cherished Christmas tradition, but that's only a modern take on a plant laced with lore.

The Plant Perhaps kissing is strongly associated with mistletoe because the plant basically "kisses" its host. Mistletoe is a "hemi-parasite," which attaches to a tree or shrub using a connective appendage called a "haustorium" through which it sucks water and nutrients.

It's hemi- or half-parasitic because many species of mistletoe also conduct photosynthesis, which, in some cases, allows the plant to live on its own, too.

There are 1,300 to 1,500 mistletoe species

See **Mistletoe**, page 7

# UPCOMING EVENTS

### Saturday, Dec. 26:

**Radford Public Library holiday closings** - The library will be closed through Sunday, Dec. 27, for the Christmas holiday and will open for Grab & Go and Library by Appointment services again on Monday, Dec. 28. For the New Year, RPL will be closed from Thursday, Dec. 31, through Sunday, Jan. 3, and will resume routine hours on Monday, Jan. 4, 2021.

to all ages. A prize will be awarded to the winner. The contest ends Monday, Jan. 25. Send your pictures of your decorated cookies to shodges@mfrl.org.

### Wednesday, Jan. 6:

**Talking About Books: Virtual Meeting** - Christiansburg Library, 11 a.m. - noon. Discussing American Dirt by Jeanine Cummins, virtually.

### Thursday, Jan. 7:

**Chamber of Commerce Eggs & Issues** - A panel discussion with local law enforcement via Zoom, 8 - 9 a.m.

**American Legion meeting** - Harvey-Howe-Carper Post 30 will meet at 7 p.m. at the VFW Post Home at 102 Watts St. in Radford. In the event of heavy snowfall or ice, the meeting will be canceled. For further information, contact 250-2283 or 239-9864.

### Tuesday, Jan. 12:

**Sons of Confederate Veterans meeting** - Stuart Horse Artillery Camp 1784 will meet at 7 p.m. at Aly's Family Italian Restaurant on 3204 Riner Road. Jonathan McPeak will present the "History of the 24th Virginia Infantry Regiment." Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy are also invited to attend. For further information, call 320-4315 or 239-9864.

### Ongoing Through Dec. 30:

**The YMCA at Virgin-**

**ia Tech Meals on Main program** - The holiday schedule for meal distribution will be as follows: Mon., Dec. 28: 4-6 p.m. at Prices Fork Elementary School parking lot. Wed., Dec. 30 (to replace Fri., Jan. 1): 4-6 p.m. in the Thrift Shop parking lot.

Through the Meals on Main initiative, the YMCA at Virginia Tech hopes to help relieve some of the pressure faced by families due to the current pandemic.

### Through Dec. 31:

**Christiansburg Leaf Collection** - The Town of Christiansburg's annual free leaf collection is underway through Dec. 31, weather permitting. Public Works crews use a special truck that vacuums the leaves- will collect only piles of loose leaves; leaves placed in bags will not be accepted. Do not place 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, please place a tarp on top of your pile. Crews will remove the tarp, collect leaves and leave tarp behind.

### Throughout 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** - 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** - At the Christiansburg Library. Share your favorite cookie recipe on Facebook. Take-and-Make Snowman Hot Cocoa in a Jar crafts will be available while supplies last.

**Aquatic, Rec Center hours for appointments** - The Christiansburg Aquatic Center is open by appointment only on Mondays, Wednesdays and Friday from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m., on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. and on Saturdays from noon to 5 pm. To make a reservation, visit www.cacpool.com

**The Christiansburg Recreation Center** is open by appointment only Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. until 7 p.m., on Saturdays from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. and on Sundays from 1 p.m. until 7 p.m. To make a reservation, visit www.christiansburg.org/recreation.

**Montgomery-Floyd Library Curbside only** - All branches of the Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library are offering only curbside pickup service (including remote printing). In-branch services are not currently available. Curbside hours are: Monday - Thursday 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.; Friday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Please

return all library items in the outside Book Drop. Visit <https://www.mfrl.org> for more information.

**Radford Public Library Resumes In-Library Appointments** - Same-day in-house browsing and computer use appointments can be made Monday through Saturday on the hour from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Staff will continue to ask screening health questions, take temperatures and require masks be worn as part of the ongoing process of in-library browsing. Children/youth under 18 are welcome to browse when accompanied by an adult. Please call (540) 731-3621 to schedule an appointment to browse or use the computers on Thursday through Saturday.

**Radford Public Library Grab & Go Services** - Monday through Saturday. Please remember that you can use the MyLibro app to search RPL's catalog and place holds as well as schedule pick-up times. For Grab and Go Prints, email the documents you would like printed to rad.lib@radfordva.gov, then call 731-3621 to make sure the document are received and schedule a time to pick them up at the building entrance. Prices are the same as usual (\$0.10 for black and white, \$0.25 for color), and exact change is appreciated when possible.

### Through Monday, Jan. 4, 2021:

**United Way Festival of**

**Trees** - The United Way and partner agencies are decorating Christmas trees in their offices to help spread some holiday cheer in these troublesome times. Pictures of each tree are posted on [unitedwaynr.org/tree](http://unitedwaynr.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.

### Through Thursday, Jan. 21:

**Girl Scout Cookie Sales** - The Girl Scouts of the Virginia Skyline Council are taking orders for cookies that will be delivered in mid-January. Gift certificates can be purchased through Jan. 14, 2021, by emailing [info@gsvsc.org](mailto:info@gsvsc.org) or calling 540-777-5100. Girl Scout cookies are \$5 a box.

To locate a Girl Scout to take an order, contact the girl scouts at [info@gsvsc.org](mailto:info@gsvsc.org) or 540-777-5100. When the cookies arrive in the region in mid-January, Girl Scouts will deliver them in different ways: masked drop-offs to the customer's door; cookie booth drive-thrus; online ordering with shipping via Digital Cookie; a cookie delivery service (The details are being worked out with a national food delivery service. They will be announced on Jan. 12.); and voice-activated sales via Echo home systems.

# Christiansburg Aquatic Center January programs

**Warm Water Move and Soothe (Mondays)**  
Mondays 10:30-11:30 a.m.  
Jan. 4, 11, 25 \*no class Jan. 18  
\$21 R/\$31 N  
This warm water exercise program is designed for individuals with arthritic and mobility limitations who seek to increase strength, flexibility and range of motion in a relaxing and low impact atmosphere.  
Location: Therapy Pool.  
Instructor: Jillian Kowalcik  
Max. Enrollment: 6  
Due to limited spacing and class popularity, Warm Water Move and Soothe is

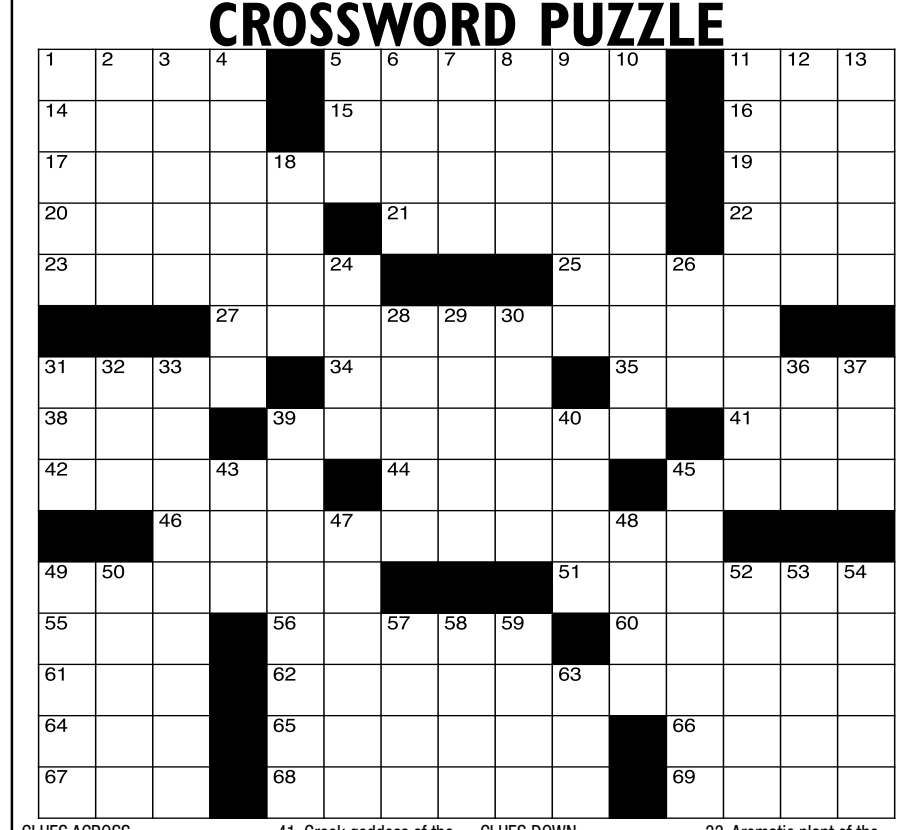
limited in January to one session per person.  
**Rolling in the Deep**  
Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:15-10:15 a.m.  
Jan. 5-28  
\$35 R/\$45 N  
Strap on an aqua belt for a deep water class in the competition pool. Participants should bring an aqua belt and resistance gloves (gloves are not required) and can expect to perform aerobic exercises such as jogging and skiing to develop core strength.  
Location: Competition Pool.  
Instructor: Jillian Kowalcik  
Max. Enrollment: 16

**Warm Water Move and Soothe (Tuesdays)**  
Tuesdays 10:30-11:30 a.m.  
Jan. 5, 12, 19, 26  
\$28 R/\$38 N  
Location: Therapy Pool.  
Instructor: Jillian Kowalcik  
Max. Enrollment: 6  
  
**Hydro Power Tuesdays**  
Tuesdays 5:45-6:30 p.m.  
Jan. 5, 12, 19, 26  
\$20 R/ \$30 N  
This aqua class combines cardiovascular training and muscle conditioning through methods of interval training, abdominal work, and muscle enduring activities. These

combinations provide a great workout with the use of equipment such as pool noodles and water weights in the leisure pool.  
Location: Leisure Pool.  
Instructor: Jillian Kowalcik  
Max. Enrollment: 12  
  
**Rise'n Shine Water Aerobics**  
Wednesdays 7-7:45 a.m.  
Jan. 6, 13, 20, 27  
\$15 R/\$25 N  
Gear up for this morning class that will get participants ready for the work day. It's an aerobics class for the early risers to kick off their day energized.  
Location: Leisure Pool.  
Instructor: Edward Tickle  
Max. Enrollment: 8

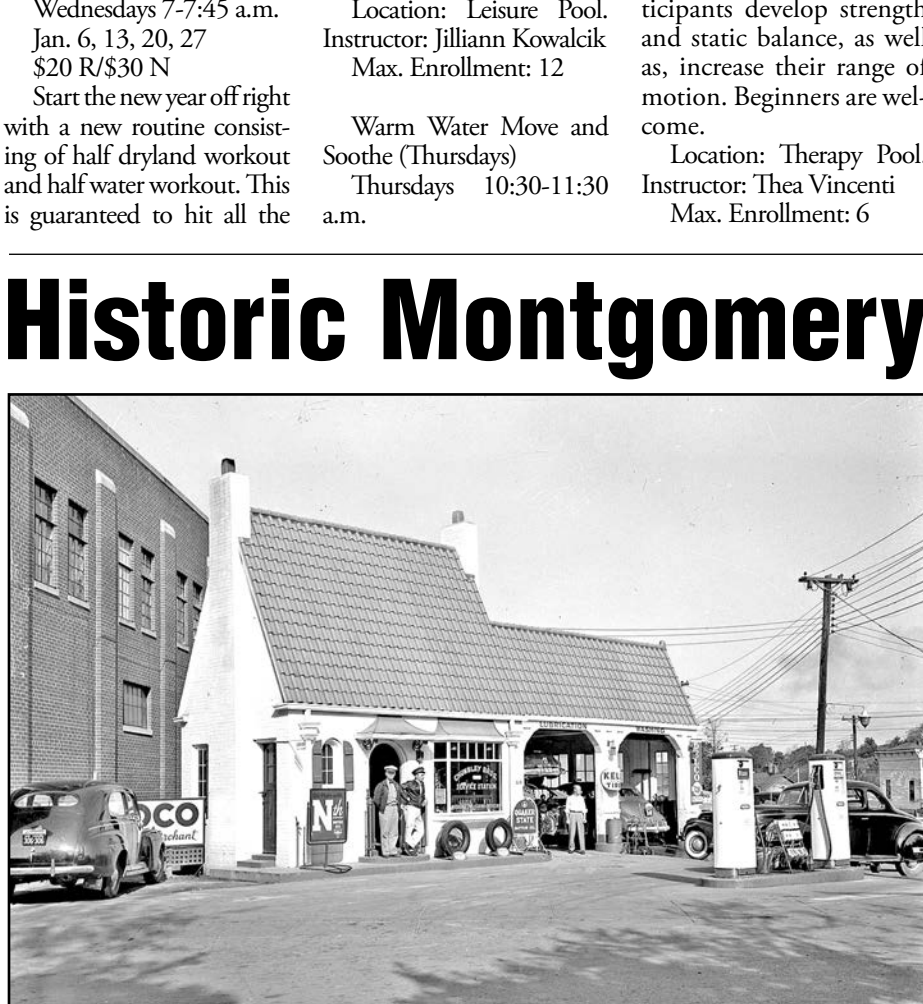
right muscles and have participants ready to conquer the rest of their day. Participants are asked to bring your own mats or extra towels for the deck exercise portion  
Location: Leisure Pool.  
Instructor: Jillian Kowalcik  
Max. Enrollment: 8  
  
**Hydro Power Half Hour**  
Wednesdays 11:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m.  
Jan. 6, 13, 20, 27  
\$12 R/\$22 N  
This lunchtime aqua class combines cardiovascular training and muscle conditioning through methods of interval training, abdominal work and muscle enduring activities. Participants can expect to break a sweat in this low impact yet high-intensity workout.  
Location: Leisure Pool.  
Instructor: Jillian Kowalcik  
Max. Enrollment: 12

Jan. 7, 14, 21, 28  
\$28 R/\$38 N  
Location: Therapy Pool.  
Instructor: Jillian Kowalcik  
Max. Enrollment: 6  
  
**Hydro Power Thursdays**  
Thursdays 5:45-6:30 p.m.  
Jan. 7, 14, 21, 28  
\$20 R/\$30 N  
Location: Leisure Pool.  
Instructor: Jillian Kowalcik  
Max. Enrollment: 12  
  
**Aqua Yoga**  
Wednesdays and Fridays 8-9 a.m.  
Jan. 6-29  
\$40 R/\$50 N  
Aqua Yoga utilizes the principles and movements of hatha yoga and adapts them to the water. The yoga poses practiced in this class will help participants develop strength and static balance, as well as, increase their range of motion. Beginners are welcome.  
Location: Therapy Pool.  
Instructor: Thea Vincenti  
Max. Enrollment: 6



- ### CLUES ACROSS
- 1. Sharp pain
  - 5. Military hats
  - 11. Software app on a network (abbr.)
  - 14. Genus of freshwater mussels
  - 15. Continent
  - 16. Afghani monetary unit
  - 17. Recovered
  - 19. Ribonucleic acid
  - 20. Refers to end of small intestine
  - 21. Ethiopia's largest lake
  - 22. Hostelry
  - 23. Defunct American automaker
  - 25. Denotes origin by birth or descent
  - 27. Part of a watch
  - 31. Stare with mouth open wide
  - 34. Found in granite
  - 35. Competing
  - 38. Stone film "Given Sunday"
  - 39. Junction between two nerve cells
- ### CLUES DOWN
- 1. Jewish festival
  - 2. Anoint
  - 3. More pleasant
  - 4. Type of painting
  - 5. Witness
  - 6. Harm
  - 7. Builder of Arantea (Greek myth.)
  - 8. City in India
  - 9. Used to unlock cans
  - 10. Induces sleep
  - 11. More bouncy
  - 12. A branch of Islam
  - 13. White (French)
  - 18. Legal term
  - 24. Covered with frost
  - 26. Hengyang Nanype Airport
  - 28. Wash
  - 29. Disorder of the scalp
  - 30. North American tree
  - 31. Helps cars run
  - 32. Mandela's party
- ### CLUES ACROSS
- 41. Greek goddess of the dawn
  - 42. Fight
  - 44. Thin, narrow piece of wood or metal
  - 45. Ribosomal ribonucleic acid
  - 46. Type of kitchenware
  - 49. Specialty of The Onion
  - 51. Major Mexican river
  - 55. Kilometers per hour
  - 56. Species of mackerel
  - 60. Bones
  - 61. Interest rate
  - 62. New York Mets legend
  - 64. 19th letter of Greek alphabet
  - 65. Shawl
  - 66. Gracefully thin
  - 67. Type of deciduous tree
  - 68. Not classy
  - 69. Taro corn or plant
- ### CLUES DOWN
- 33. Aromatic plant of the daisy family
  - 36. Negative
  - 37. College student educator (abbr.)
  - 39. Most rare
  - 40. Harm with a knife
  - 43. Folk singer DiFranco
  - 45. Return to
  - 47. One who repairs
  - 48. Eastern England river
  - 49. Hockey players need two
  - 50. Dismay
  - 52. Rebuke
  - 53. Plant of the arum family
  - 54. Fish genus
  - 57. Plant of the mallow family
  - 58. Amounts of time
  - 59. 11th letter of the Hebrew alphabet
  - 63. One of Napoleon's generals

# Historic Montgomery



**This Tudor Revival-style service station was built for the Proffitt brothers on the northwest corner of the square in Christiansburg during the early 1930s. The building was a standard company design built across the country after 1927. The Christiansburg station was operated by the Chumbley Brothers at the time of this 1948 photograph. (This image from the D. D. Lester Collection and many more are available from the Montgomery Museum of Art & History.)**

# Virginia Tech community on standby for COVID-19 vaccine

The first coronavirus vaccine is making its way to front-line health care workers in the New River Valley and another vaccine version is coming, but in the meantime, Virginia Tech is on standby as it awaits the vaccine and considers early plans for its distribution on campus for students and employees.

The New River Health District expects to receive the recently approved Moderna vaccine in the next week, but the vaccine probably will not be available for a few months for Virginia Tech students and employees, said Noelle Bissell, the health district's medical director.

Employees of front-line health care and long-term care facilities are considered first priority to receive a vaccine. Hospitals in the region already are receiving the Pfizer vaccine. Within the next week, long-term care facilities will be able to obtain the vaccine through

pharmacy retailers CVS and Walgreens, Bissell said.

Soon, the health district plans to assist with vaccinations for a second priority group that includes emergency medical service workers, residential substance use and mental health facility staff and other health care employees. There are about 500,000 people in that group statewide, Bissell said. The health district is already reaching out to these groups locally to find out how many vaccine doses will be needed.

The next to receive vaccinations will be essential workers, adults with high-risk medical conditions and people ages 65 and older. After that, community vaccinations will begin.

"This will occur over months as vaccine supply allows," Bissell said.

Currently, tests have shown that those who receive the coronavirus vaccine are less likely to become seriously ill from

COVID-19, said Lisa Lee, associate vice president for Scholarly Integrity and Research Compliance at Virginia Tech. Lee has worked in public health and ethics at the local, state and federal levels, including at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"The good news about the vaccine is it is really powerful, and it works well for the person who gets it," she said. "It will keep people from getting sick."

The goal is to establish herd immunity, which occurs when 75 to 85 percent of the population has been vaccinated, Lee said.

Both the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are administered in two doses, taken approximately three to four weeks apart. People must receive the same vaccine for both doses.

Though not everyone will experience side effects, they appear to be more pronounced after people receive the second vaccine dose, Lee

said. But this is good news because it is a sign that a person's immune system is working well and responding to the vaccine.

"We will assist the New River Health District in any way needed to support the efficient distribution of the vaccine," said Mike Mulhare, assistant vice president for emergency management at Virginia Tech.

Virginia Tech and the health district established a Memorandum of Understanding in 2014 to help in the deployment of medical resources during an emergency. For example, the university has identified several -80 degree freezers in case they are needed for vaccine storage in the region, Mulhare said.

At this time, the commonwealth has not mandated vaccinations for university employees, though the vaccine is recommended for everyone unless there is a specific medical reason not to receive it.



PHOTO BY RAY MEESE FOR VIRGINIA TECH

Mulhare said he expects the university to know more details about vaccine distribution after the holiday season.

As people await their turn for a vaccine, they should remain patient, Lee said.

"It's important that we follow the recommended prioritization for the vaccine," she said. "We want health care providers to be well to take care of all of us. What matters is getting the vaccine to the people who

need it in the right condition at the right time. An effective distribution plan is critical for the vaccine to protect all of us."

Also, until there is herd immunity, Lee said, it is important to continue to practice public health guidelines, such as wearing a face covering, avoiding crowds, keeping physical distance and washing hands.

-Written by Jenny Kincaid Boone

# Virginia is now nation's leader in champion and co-champion trees in Big Tree Program, coordinated at VT

The formula for measuring a champion tree is deceptively simple: add the trunk circumference (in inches) to a tree's height (in feet) and one-quarter of the tree's spread (in feet).

Many of the tools required for the job are probably in a typical basement (100-foot tape mea-

sure, plumb bob), and many of the rest (compass, GPS receiver, rangefinder) are easy to download onto a cellphone.

This is as it should be, said Eric Wiseman, an associate professor in VT's College of Natural Resources and Environment who has coordinated the

Virginia Big Tree Program since 2013. The program celebrated its 50th anniversary this year with a move to the top spot in the entire country with 102 registered champion and co-champion trees, according to the 2020 National Register of Champion Trees released by American Forests.

"The central purpose of this program is to promote the conservation and preservation of these heritage trees and to raise the general public's knowledge and literacy about forests," said Wiseman, a faculty member in the Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation. "We want our research to be rigorous enough to be taken seriously, but we also want the process to be simple enough so that the general public can participate in the work."

Wiseman said that while his contributions to the state's big tree database, from combing through the national database to find eligible species to promoting contending nominees, has taken place behind the scenes, the hard work of finding and documenting big trees is accomplished by the outdoor enthusiasts and professionals who share their discoveries with him.

"I may be the point per-

son who holds this project together," he noted, "but our success wouldn't be possible without all of the volunteers who search for trees as a hobby or as part of their profession, and the people who work in arboriculture or land management roles for state agencies or federal parks."

American Forests' efforts to document large trees dates back to 1940, but some states started tracking trees long before then. The project of measuring the maximum size and geographic distribution of trees was initially motivated by lumber industry considerations.

"A lot of current interest is in the tree's growth rate and how much leaf area it has," Wiseman noted. "These are crucial metrics for ecosystem services in urban area because leaf area is important in filtering air pollution and intercepting storm water. And we're increasingly interested in how much carbon can be stored

in trees, which makes the scaffolding of branches and the crown spread an important consideration."

While Virginia's Big Tree Program allows people who are passionate about trees to contribute to a database of information, Wiseman hopes that the program can be a resource for bringing environmental education to young students.

"Looking for big trees involves geography, geometry, plant taxonomy and biology, all integrated towards a specific challenge," he said. "It's a great way to get students to synthesize a lot of different cognitive skills while spending time in the outdoors."

Individuals can access the Virginia Big Tree database online to find champion trees in their neighborhoods and favorite recreation areas. American Forests offers a free downloadable handbook on how to measure big trees.

-Written by David Fleming

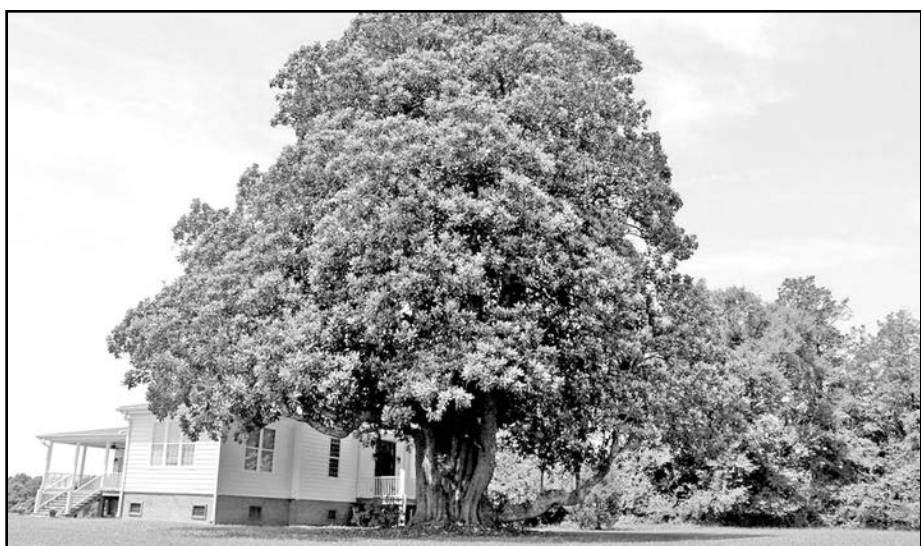


PHOTO BY ALEXANDRA CASSELL

Celebrating 50 years, Virginia's Big Tree Program has seen the commonwealth move into first place among states in champion and co-champion trees with 102 registered trees. The southern magnolia in Sussex County, pictured above, is a national co-champion.

# Pandemic doesn't slow sorority's service

During a semester in which derailed activities are somewhat the norm, Chi Delta Alpha (XDA) has stayed on track with its mission to serve.

"I didn't even think it was an option to not do service projects," said Erin Upton, a service officer for the Virginia Tech service sorority. "I ran [for the executive board] on the idea that we would do whatever we could to keep our services going and that's given me a sense of purpose this semester."

Pandemic precautions have restricted many of the group's traditional activities, but XDA has found creative ways to maintain its long-standing service relationships with organizations like Special Olympics Virginia and Warm Hearth Village while also forging new partnerships with such groups as the New River Valley Chapter of Project Linus, which makes blankets for hospital-bound children. Some projects are entirely virtual while others include a modified in-person aspect done in accordance to public health guidelines.

"Everyone can contribute in some way, based on their comfort level," said Maddie Martin, XDA president. "We just thought, now is the time to be stepping up and serving, not stopping."

Virginia Tech's first service sorority, XDA was founded in 1967 with an aim of providing women at the university a vehicle

for helping in the community. Today, it's that same attitude that still attracts Hokies.

"What XDA did for me is it opened my eyes to what is a mile, two miles from campus that some students don't realize. That was when I really knew Virginia Tech was home," said Lily Foster, a junior studying sociology and criminology and one of the group's pledge advisors. "I'm so thankful to be able to give back to this community that is letting me live here and get an education here."

The group is an example of the types of creative approaches taken to continue fostering community at Virginia Tech and highlighted by Student Affairs' Hokies Can Do campaign.

Motivated by the drive to continue their work, Martin said for perhaps the first-time, members worked through the summer to connect with

community partners and assess the needs XDA could help meet in the fall.

"We know adding volunteers to the mix can be overwhelming for project coordinators [in the community]," said Martin, a senior studying multimedia journalism. "So, that's been a huge growing point with us, we have to do the service that's needed, not just that we want to do."

One area in which they've been able to help came as a result of their longstanding relationship with Special Olympics Virginia during a time when the nonprofit was limited in both sporting and fundraising events it could hold.

"Special Olympics have really been a part of what they've done for multiple decades," said Nancy Morehouse, Southwest Region direc-

See **Sorority**, page 5



PHOTO COURTESY XDA

A Halloween-themed Zoom party was just one of the ways members of XDA stayed connected with their friends who take part in Special Olympic events.

## 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.

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## OPINION

## Christmas 2020: Wishing for little and needing less

What has 15 actors, four settings, two writers, and one plot?

632 Hallmark Christmas movies.

For the uninitiated, though I can't imagine who you are, the plot for Hallmark movies is indeed pretty much the same: Through some unlikely circumstances, boy and girl are thrown together. They either don't like each other or they have a history that renders the other individual persona non grata. Because of this forced time, they come to see each other in a different light and unwillingly and unwittingly fall in love. Then comes the inevitable complication and misunderstanding that breaks them up with some ten minutes left in the movie. Just when all appears lost, a deus ex machina magically appears to straighten everything out, and they finally confess their love and get that kiss they both have been wanting.

The only aspect that makes a Hallmark Christmas movie different from the regular movies is that it takes place during the Christmas holidays and has the inevitable decorated trees, gingerbread houses and a Santa Claus or two.

My wife fusses at me because she has so much trouble buying me things for Christmas. She has a point. I'm at an age when I have practically everything I need.

That doesn't mean, however, that I don't have Christmas wishes for others.

One of those wishes is that everyone would somehow or other land in a version of their own Hallmark Christmas movie. That is, I wish their lives would be blessed and enriched with true love just as I have experienced for the past 38 years. In many ways, my life has indeed been one long Hallmark movie.

The Christmas season is a rather conflicted time of the year for me. It is the time of the greatest blessing of all in that the birth of Jesus Christ and my trust in him gave my life meaning, purpose, fulfillment, and hope. On the other hand, I can't help but be reminded of Lee Marvin in Paint Your Wagon when he told his "podner" Clint Eastwood that the only request he had of him was to look after him when he got melancholy.

Christmas can sometimes be a bit melancholy for me because it's a time when memo-

ries come crashing in with the most devastating impact. Technically, my sisters and I are orphans and have been for decades. I still miss my mom and my dad, especially at Christmas, getting a little ache in the vicinity of my heart as memories of good times that can never be recaptured squeeze my chest. But what I don't wish for is that the ache would go away. Ironically, I don't ever want to stop feeling a tad sad when I recall my parents, their love for me, and the wonderful Christmases we shared in our modest house on New Street.

As long as we're talking melancholy, after way-too-many decades of listening to Christmas music ranging from the sublime ("O Holy Night") to the ridiculous ("Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer") and after careful and earnest consideration, I have concluded that "I'll Be Home for Christmas" is the most melancholy Christmas song of them all. The punch line "if only in my dreams" has got to be the ultimate heartbreaker.

I would wish also this season that the coronavirus would finally go away and leave us alone. It seems that in Virginia

the predicted second round has hit. It got my household this time; both my wife and I have tested positive and have dutifully endured the quarantine period. Unlike some, our cases were mild. I'm still not sure I didn't get a false positive. I never showed any symptoms, and at my age, the so-called experts said I was likely to be in the most danger of some serious problems. The day I got the call with the test results I was outside raking the yard for Christiansburg's leaf removal, for crying out loud.

We have a big tree as we spent our first Christmas in the new (for us) house we bought this year. In a special salute to my Dad, who was the heart and soul of my family's Christmas, we have none of this dull, boring, all-white stuff but dutifully assemble the tackiest bunch of lights and ornaments we can come up with. Our tree is complete with colored lights, blinking lights, bubble lights, Santa riding a pig, Santa catching rays with his belly hanging over his bathing suit, and ornaments from a barbecue joint, the Republic of Floyd, a train depot, the Atlanta Braves, the Georgia Bulldogs and other assort-

ed decorations the misguided would find less than tasteful. I pity the fools.

We spent Christmas with friends so close to us they have in effect become our family since the move to Virginia meant we don't have any so-called blood relatives closer to us than four driving hours or so.

Finally, as a vet who spent more than one Christmas away from his family but fortunately never in a combat zone, through the weeks leading up to Christmas, I have wished daily that peace would come to this fallen world and our soldiers could make it home. The sad part is that this is one wish I know will never come true. Humans being what they are in spite of Jesus' best efforts, we have always been at war with each other and always will be. Thus, soldiers will always be far from home and their families at Christmas.

And that more than anything else makes me melancholy.

*The author is a man of a certain age who, though old enough to be a little jaded about Christmas, still has enough of the little boy in him to get excited about it.*

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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.

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## Home Country by Slim Randles

"Well," said Steve, polishing off the last of his coffee, "what should we discuss this fine morning?"

"I'm awful glad you asked, ol' pard," came the cheerful voice of Windy Wilson, emerging through the swinging doors that came from the kitchen of the Mule Barn Truck Stop. "Yessir. Awful glad."

Steve and the other members of the world dilemma think tank looked in amazement as this old camp cook and cowboy came over with the coffee pot and topped off their coffee mugs. Windy had found a dish towel and wrapped it around his waist, too.

"Windy?" said Doc. "Mighty fine-looking dish towel you're wearing."

"Thanks, Doc. I consider it the apex of dining room fashion for a

volunteer coffee guy. Took me a while to talk Loretta into lettin' me wear it, howsomever. I guess she ain't up on dining room fashions."

"Let me guess," said Doc. "This must be your helping day, right?"

"Right as grain, Doc," Windy said, cheerfully. "I thought about it and decisioned I'd devote my helpin' day to the good ol' Mule Barn."

We all knew Windy dedicated one day each week to helping others. This sometimes meant helping them when they really didn't need it, but hey, the older folks in our town get some trash picked up in the yard and some kindling split. You know.

"So fer a conservation subject this sparklin' a.m.," Windy said,

"I believe I'd meanderate through the mystericals of ancient history, beginnin' with them Egypt guys. Whadda ya think?"

"Might just do that, Windy," said Steve. "But if you don't mind me asking, why are you helping out with the coffee in here rather than cleaning up somebody's yard?"

Windy looked around to see if the other 43 people in the café could hear, then leaned down toward Steve. "Lot warmer in here than it is in somebody's yard, and thassa fact."

*Brought to you by Slim's latest novel "Cock-a-Doodle Death." What happens when a chicken's ghost haunts Home Country? Not yet available, but start saving up.*

## News Brief: Changes to odometer disclosure requirements take effect Jan. 1

The U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration is reminding consumers that, starting Jan. 1, 2021, odometer disclosures will be required for every transfer of ownership for the first 20 years, beginning with Model Year 2011 vehicles.

Model Year 2010 and older vehicles will continue to be subject to the previous 10-year disclosure

requirements and thus are exempt from extended federal odometer disclosure requirements.

The U.S. fleet of vehicles is, on average, older than ever, and the national safety administration finalized this rule late last year to address an increase in odometer fraud involving older vehicles.

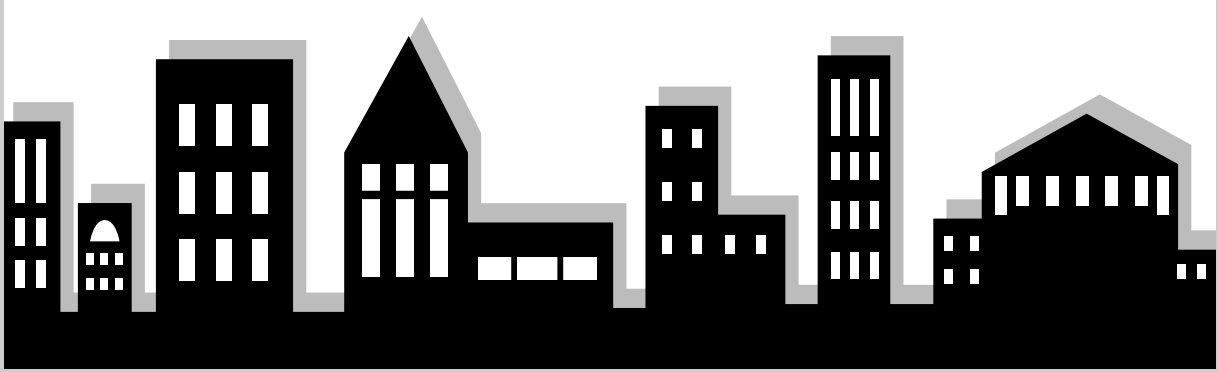
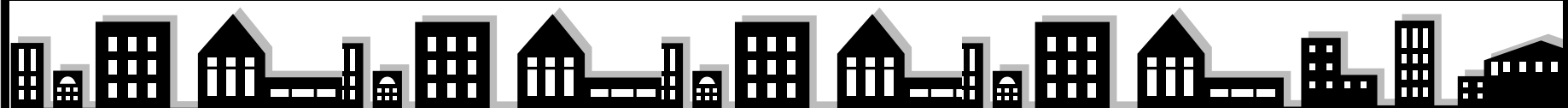
Model Year 2011 or newer vehicles will only be exempt from the odometer rules after 20 years. To

comply with federal law, anyone transferring ownership of a Model Year 2011 or newer vehicle will be required to provide an odometer disclosure to the new owner.

Model Year 2010 and older vehicles will continue to be exempt from federal odometer disclosure requirements. Sellers of Model Year 2011 vehicles must continue to disclose odometer readings until 2031.

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# PETS-OF-THE-WEEK

Each Saturday the paper features pets from the Montgomery County Animal Care and Adoption Center (480 Cinnabar Road, Christiansburg). Those interested in adopting a pet can call 382-5795 or visit [www.montgomerycountyva.gov/acac](http://www.montgomerycountyva.gov/acac). At this time, visits to the Animal Care and Adoption Center are limited to one party at a time in the lobby area. Animal areas are not open to the public. To schedule an appointment to meet a prospective pet call (540) 382-5795 or email [animalcenter@montgomerycountyva.gov](mailto:animalcenter@montgomerycountyva.gov).



**Handsome Kobe is ready to head home for the holidays and beyond. He's a friendly dog, eager to please when a treat is up for grabs. He likes being around adult humans. Kobe would do best as the only pet in the home. He is house trained.**



**Sweet Cami is an affectionate, curious gal who enjoys a good head nuzzle or pet, but she is more independent when it comes to being carried or picked up. She's not a big fan. Cami likes toys and treats as well as the great indoors.**

## ANGLICAN CATHOLIC

**St. Peter the Apostle Anglican Church**, 230 W. First St., Christiansburg, VA. Fr Peter Geromel OHI Th.M., Vicar, Fr. Alex Darby, "Associate", 540-382-0432/540-270-9166. Sundays: 8:00 am & 10:00 am Holy Eucharist followed by Christian Education and refreshments. Holy Communion most Thursdays at 12Noon, other Holy Days as announced. Traditional services use the 1928 Book of Common Prayer and 1940 Hymnal. Handicapped accessible. All are welcome. Come worship with us! Website: [www.stpetersacc.org](http://www.stpetersacc.org). Follow us on Facebook

**St. Philip's Anglican Church**, 306 Progress Street, NE, Blacksburg, Virginia 24060, (540) 552-1771, [www.stphilipsblacksburg.org](http://www.stphilipsblacksburg.org). Reverend Fr. Wade Miller, Priest. Sunday Morning Prayer 9:45 AM, Sunday Morning Eucharist 10:30 AM, Traditional Anglican Worship using the King James Bible, 1928 Book of Common Prayer, And the 1940 Hymnal.

**St. Thomas Anglican Church** - located at 4910 Hubert Rd, NW Roanoke, Va. Traditional Liturgical Lenten Services, Sunday at 10:30 am. Call (540) 589-1299 or visit [www.sttofc.org](http://www.sttofc.org) for midweek masses and events. (In Roanoke, go E on Hershberger, L on Hubert to 4910).

## BAPTIST

**First Baptist Church on 3rd Ave.**, 215 Third Ave. at the corner with Downey St. We are committed to personal spiritual growth and to providing leadership in community ministry. We celebrate the dignity and worth of all persons, created in the image of God. Sunday Bible Study Groups - 9:45, Sunday Worship - 11:00. Website: [www.fbcradford.org](http://www.fbcradford.org), 540-639-4419. Worship is broadcast live on JOY radio, 93.1 FM and 890 AM.

**Trinity Community Church**, 1505 N. Franklin Street, C'burg. John Altizer, Lead Pastor, Brian Cockram, Associate Pastor, 382-8121. Worship at 10:45 a.m., Outreach Ministries - 6:00p.m. Wednesday, Growth Groups - 5:00p.m. Sunday, Youth and Children's Ministry - 5:00p.m. Sunday, [www.trinitycburg.org](http://www.trinitycburg.org)

## CHURCH OF CHRIST

**Blacksburg Church of Christ**, 315 Eakin St., 552-1331. Sun. Bible Classes 9:30 a.m., Sun. Worship 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m., Wed. Bible classes, 7 p.m., Outreach Minister Curt Seright, Community Minister Tom Gilliam, Campus Minister, Deonté Watkins.

**Faith Christian Church of Christ**, 305 3rd Street, Christiansburg, David Rhudy, Minister, 382-4628, Sunday School 10 am; Worship 11 am; Evening Worship 6:30 pm; Wednesday night Bible Study for Women and Men 6:30 pm. We welcome you to any and all of our services.

## CHURCH OF GOD

**New Hope Church of God**, 1404 Mud Pike Rd., C'Burg. Rev. T. Michael Bond, pastor, 731-3178. Sun. School 10 a.m., Worship 10:50 a.m., 6 p.m. Thurs., 7:00 p.m.

**West Radford Church of God**, 1824 West Main Street, Radford, VA 24141, Sunday School- 10:00A.M. Morning Worship- 11:00A.M., Children's Church 11:00A.M. Sunday Evening - 6:00P.M., Wednesday Night - 7:00P.M., Pastor Danny Newman, Church Office - 540-639-6562 or 804- 921-0828.

## CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

**Christiansburg Church of the Brethren**, 310 South Franklin Street. Pastor: Paul J. Stover Jr. 540-797-5015. Sunday School 10 a.m.; Morning Worship 11 a.m.; Bible Study

# Montgomery County WORSHIP DIRECTORY



## Luke 2:9-15

And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."

10:30 a.m. Tuesdays. Website: [www.christiansburgcob.org](http://www.christiansburgcob.org). A loving family, fueled by the Holy Spirit, grounded in God's Word, and delivering Jesus forgiveness and love to all people. Come as you are... you are welcomed!

## LUTHERAN

**Luther Memorial Lutheran Church ELCA**, 600 Prices Fork Rd, Blacksburg. Weekly Online Worship at [www.lmlc.org](http://www.lmlc.org). We are a Reconciling in Christ congregation that welcomes and affirms all people just as they are. For information on Bible studies and Wednesday Vespers, email [luthermemorialblacksburg@gmail.com](mailto:luthermemorialblacksburg@gmail.com), or contact the church office, (540) 951-1000. Rev. Monica Weber, pastor.

## MULTI-CULTURAL

**NON-DENOMINATIONAL Christian Growth Center**, 1850 Electic Way, Christiansburg, VA 24073 (beside Hubbell Lighting). Sunday Worship: 9:30am Prayer, 10:00am Service \*Nursery Available. Lead Pastor: Todd Hallinan. Founding Pastor: Rob Sowell. Mission: Sow, Grow, & Go Sow Faith! Grow in Righteousness! Go into all the world in the authority of the believer! 540-382-2908

**PENTECOSTAL HOLINESS Merrimac Pentecostal Holiness Church**, Rev. Richard Hall (540) 552-7194. [pastorhall29@gmail.com](mailto:pastorhall29@gmail.com). Sunday School at 10 a.m. and morning worship is 11 a.m. Evening service at 6 p.m. and Wednesday at 7 p.m.

**Radford Worship Center**, 1820 Second Street, Radford, 639-6287, Our music is passionate, our worship is real, and Pastor Hal Adams brings relevant messages for everyone at any place on their journey, Sunday Worship Experience at 9:00 AM & 10:45 AM, Wednesday Family Night at 7 PM, Children Ministry provided for all services, join us as Love, Grow, Serve, find us on facebook and Instagram

**Walton Pentecostal Holiness Church**, 4003 Morning Glory Rd., off Walton Rd. on Rt. 114. 731-1755. Lee Sarver, pastor. Sun. School 9:30 a.m., Worship 10:30 a.m. & 6: p.m., Wed., 7 p.m.

**UNITED METHODIST Asbury United Methodist Church**, 500 Stuart Street, Christiansburg. 540-382-0743. Rev. Ryan Schaeffer. Sunday School, 10:15 a.m., Sunday Worship, 11:30 a.m., Wednesday Bible Study 7pm, alternating

month's with Schaeffer Memorial Baptist Church, Senior Bible Study Thursday, 10:30 a.m. All are welcome.

**Central United Methodist Church**, 803 Wadsworth Street, Radford. 639-3529. 8:30 a.m. Sunday Services: 8:30am (interpreter provided); 9:45am Sunday School (interpreter provided); and 11:00a.m. Wednesday Bible Study: 6:30p.m. Child care is provided. [www.centralmethodistchurch.com](http://www.centralmethodistchurch.com).

**St. Paul United Methodist Church**, 220 W. Main St., C'Burg. Rev. Moonsup "Paul" Song (540) 382-2410. Sunday Worship 10 a.m., Sunday School 9 a.m. Live streaming Sunday Service - [www.twitch.tv/stpaulumc](http://www.twitch.tv/stpaulumc)

**Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church**, 350 Stafford Drive, Christiansburg, VA 24073, Sunday School 10am, Sunday Worship Service 11am.

**WESLEYAN**

**Christ Wesleyan Church**, 525 Harkrader Street, C'burg. Facebook LIVE service Sundays at 9:00 AM., Public Worship service at 11:00 AM. Sunday School for adults - 10:00 AM. Pastor: Gale Janofski 574-306-7682. Website: [christwesleyanchurch.org](http://christwesleyanchurch.org)

# Masks required from page 1

consider the potential level of risk for transmitting COVID-19 associated with certain sports before deciding to participate. COVID-19 is spread by close contact between infectious individuals (who may or may not be symptomatic). In line with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention Considerations for Youth Sports, the Virginia Department of Health recommends that participants and organizers of sports activities consider the following to help assess the risk of spread during a particular sport:

- The physical closeness of players and the length of time that players are close to each other or to staff.
- The amount of necessary touching of shared equipment and gear (e.g., protective gear, balls, bats, racquets, mats, or water bottles).
- The ability to engage in social distancing while not actively engaged in play (e.g., during practice, on the sideline, or in the dugout).
- The age of the players.
- Whether the players are at a higher risk of developing serious disease.

- The size of the team. Limit any nonessential visitors, spectators, volunteers and activities involving external groups or organizations.
  - Travel outside of the local community.
  - The setting in which the sport is typically played (e.g. indoors vs. outdoors).
- The VDH says wearing masks is especially important during indoor competition and practices. Wearing masks is also important in shared spaces such as locker rooms and during shared transportation (including carpooling)

to/from an event. Masks should also be worn by coaches, officials, spectators and volunteers at all times, and coaches and/or officials should monitor proper use. Individual outdoor sports that do not involve close contact such as golf and singles tennis may not necessitate wearing a mask. There are some sports in which the mask could become a choking hazard or inadvertently impair vision and should not be worn, such as cheerleading-tumbling/stunting, gymnastics, wrestling and

water sports. Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam announced Executive Order 72 on Thursday that includes capacity limits. For sports played indoors, spectators must be limited to 25 persons per field (indoor courts). For sports played outdoors, spectators are limited to two guests per player. So far, no parents or coaches have spoken for or against the requirement that masks be worn. Competition in Montgomery County schools is not expected to start until Jan. 1.

# McClanahan from page 1

Visitors for the College of William and Mary as vice-rector and the Board of Trustees for Emory & Henry College. “The network of relationships that Elizabeth has built over her impressive career will serve the foundation and the university very well,” said Dwayne Pinkney, the university’s senior vice president and chief business officer, who co-chaired the search committee for the foundation CEO position. “This position is an important connection between

the university and many of its constituencies.” Along with many other projects, the foundation is deeply involved in the university’s new Innovation Campus in the greater Washington, D.C., metro area; the university’s growing presence in Roanoke; and what will become the tallest building in downtown Blacksburg. “Elizabeth will arrive at a pivotal time, and her leadership will play a major role in our ability to deliver on key initiatives and build on the momen-

tum they bring to accomplish even more in the future,” said Hance West, the foundation board’s current chair. “I look forward to working with her to extend the impact our university can make.” McClanahan earned her bachelor’s degree from the College of William and Mary and her law degree from the University of Dayton School of Law. She is admitted to the bar in Virginia, Maryland, West Virginia and Washington, D.C. Her law career includes hav-

ing served as a shareholder and director at Penn, Stuart, & Eskridge; being chief deputy attorney general for Virginia; and serving as a Virginia Court of Appeals judge before joining the Supreme Court of Virginia. McClanahan’s accomplishments as president of the Appalachian School of Law include establishing a partnership between the school, Ballad Health, and Pamplin College of Business on a project to combine health and legal services at a single point of care. Pamplin

faculty experts will use analytics to track and measure the program’s success as part of their research. As president and dean, McClanahan also played a leading role in the Appalachian School of Law’s fundraising. McClanahan, who has a daughter attending Virginia Tech, said she views higher education as “a way to improve the human condition through service, which is exactly what Virginia Tech’s Ut Prosim motto is and what the land-grant university mission is all about.”

# Mistletoe from page 1

in the world, most living in tropical or subtropical regions. Australia, for instance, has 85 mistletoe species. By contrast, there’s only one native to the British Isles, but it is the one we see around the holidays. This species is *Viscum album*, known as the European mistletoe or common mistletoe. It is also the only species of mistletoe found over most of Europe. The European mistletoe was introduced to the United States in 1900. It has a smooth-sided oval leaf with clusters of two to six berries, as compared to Eastern mistletoe, which is native to North America, but has shorter, wider leaves and larger clusters of berries. All mistletoe species

are parasitic and all eventually cause the death of their host. They typically land on a host thanks to a bird that has eaten a sticky mistletoe seed, then either poops it or rubs it onto a tree or shrub. Evolution of a Tradition Ancient Greece is the earliest known culture to venerate mistletoe. The Greeks referred to its white berries as “oak sperm” and considered it a symbol of male fertility. In Greek mythology, Aeneas carried mistletoe to protect himself on his journey to the underworld and ensure his return. The Druid priests in ancient Celtic times performed the “ritual of oak and mistletoe.” The Druids considered it a sacred plant with great medicinal and

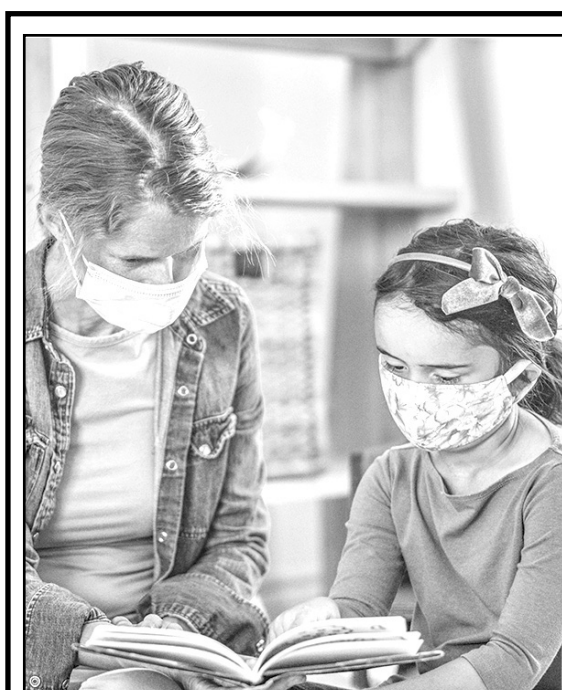
mythical powers. Upon finding the plant, which usually grows on a host tree or shrub, which was rare in Gaul and even rarer on an oak tree, the Druids sacrificed two white bulls and feasted under the oak. Then one of the priests climbed the tree to harvest the mistletoe, a potion from which they believed would make sterile animals give birth and counteract any poison, though in truth, mistletoe is toxic to people. In Norse mythology, the god Loki tricked the blind god Hodur into killing Loki’s twin brother, Baldur, with an arrow made of mistletoe wood. The tears of Frigga, their mother, are said to be the berries of mistletoe, which became a symbol of love

in Scandinavia. There are many variations of this tale, which became the basis of the custom of calling a truce if two enemies found themselves under mistletoe. Mistletoe also symbolized peace, love and understanding to the Romans, who hung it over doorways. During the annual Saturnalia celebration, which included giving gifts, a public banquet and a sacrifice at the Temple of Saturn, god of wealth, agriculture, liberation and renewal, gambling was allowed, and masters served their slaves at the feast. The idea of kissing one’s heart throb under mistletoe was first observed during Saturnalia.

that continue today. Most of us consider mistletoe another bit of holiday decoration, if we consider it at all. But those earworm songs about Mommy and Santa Claus have their roots in ancient myth and even natural history, like so many cherished holiday traditions.

-By Lisa Ballard

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## Thank You!!

**2020 has been a year of challenges and overcoming obstacles in our daily life. The most challenging has perhaps been most evident in our frontline workers (The nursing community and medical workers) as well as our teaching professionals in the New River Valley. This page is to both salute them and more importantly thanking them for their commitment and help throughout this very difficult time.**



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# 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.

**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 OPERA-**

**TIONS** - 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.

**INTERSTATE 581 I-581/220 LANE & RAMP CLOSURES FOR PAVING AND MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS IN ROANOKE COUNTY** - 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-581 BRIDGE DECK REPAIRS** - Weather permitting, crews will repair bridge decks on Interstate 581. Right, center and left lane closures will be in place northbound and southbound during nighttime hours, 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning. Drivers should watch for signs and expect possible delays.

## INTERSTATE 77 (CARROLL COUNTY)

**I-77 LANE & RAMP CLOSURES FOR PAVING AND MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS IN CARROLL COUNTY** - Weather permitting, crews will be milling, paving and performing maintenance along Interstate 77. Right and left lane closures will be in place along northbound and southbound lanes during nighttime hours. Drivers should expect possible delays.

pect possible delays.

**I-77 BRUSH REMOVAL & SHOULDER WORK** - Weather permitting, crews will remove and clear brush and work on shoulders and slopes along I-77 northbound and southbound from mile marker 17 to 14 during nighttime hours, 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. the following morning. A left lane closure will be in place.

**I-77 POTHOLE PATCHING OPERATIONS** - Weather permitting, crews will patch potholes along Interstate 77. Right and left lane closures will be in place along northbound and southbound lanes during daytime hours, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Drivers should watch for moving vehicles and equipment. Expect possible delays.

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

## ROANOKE CITY

**ROUTE 460 (ORANGE AVENUE) INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS** - Intersection improvements on Orange Avenue and Hollins Road are underway. Turn lanes will be extended on Orange Avenue and a new traffic signal will be replaced at the intersection. Hollins Road will be widened from Orange Avenue to McDowell Avenue. On Hollins Road and McDowell Avenue, all lanes of traffic will remain open during peak hours, Monday through Saturday, 6 a.m. to 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Single lane closures will be allowed during non-peak hours with flagging operations. Nighttime lane closures may be in place during the week and weekends on Orange Avenue. Estimated completion is fall 2021.

## ROANOKE COUNTY

**ROUTE 646 CLOSURE** - Route 646 (Barley Drive) is closed at Mayfair Drive. Work has begun to repair the damage to the rail bridge. Local traffic are able to access the area through a flagging operation with alternating lane closures. The closure is due to a train derailment that resulted in needed road and bridge repairs. Drivers should expect this closure to remain in place through December 2020.

**ROUTE 221 BRIDGE REPLACEMENT WITH BOX CULVERT OVER MARTINS CREEK** - Work is underway at the existing bridge on Route 221 over Martins Creek that will be replaced with a box culvert at the intersection with Route 696 (Martins Creek Rd). Paving of the roadway over the new precast box culvert is underway and once it is complete, traffic will be switched back onto the road over the new box culvert. The speed limit has been temporarily reduced to 35 MPH in the work area. Flagging operations will be in place as needed from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Estimated completion is fall 2021.

**ROUTE 115 (PLANTATION ROAD) INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS** - Intersection improvements at Route 115 (Plantation Road) and Route 2023 (Lila Drive) are underway. Alternating lane closures and shoulder closures may be in place northbound and southbound, Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., on Route 115 from the intersection at Gander Way and Route 115 (Plantation Road) to the intersection at Route 11 (Lee Highway) and Route 115 (Plantation Rd.). The work includes the installation of a traffic signal at the intersection. Estimated completion is December 2020.

A lane closure will take place northbound and southbound on Route 115 at separate times during the daytime for signal work.

**ROUTE 419 IMPROVEMENT PROJECT** - Construction on a 0.5-mile section of Route 419 (Electric Road) in front of Tanglewood Mall is underway. The project includes improvements to alleviate congestion and provide safer accommodations for bikers and pedestrians. Throughout the life of the project on Route 419, drivers should expect barrels and shoulder closures and nighttime lane closures between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m. Access to some businesses with nighttime hours may be modified at times during construction. For additional information on traffic impacts, visit <http://www.virginia.gov/Route419tanglewood>. The project is expected to be completed in fall 2021.

**ROUTE 220 BRIDGE REPLACEMENT OVER BACK CREEK** - Work to replace the existing bridge over Back Creek is under construction. There will be right shoulder closures on Route 220 in the northbound lane between Route 715 and Route 676. The bridge is near the intersection of Route 657 (Crowell Gap Road and Winter Drive). Weather permitting, there will be right lane closures between the hours of 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. on Route 220 northbound lane between Route 715 and Route 676. The right, northbound shoulder will be closed from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. until further notice. Estimated completion is late 2021.

Periodic left lane closures will be in place between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Route 220 northbound and southbound between Route 715 and Route 676.

The Route 220 crossover at Crowell Gap Road and Winter Drive is closed and no left turns will be allowed at this intersection.

**BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY CLOSURE** - While the Blue Ridge Parkway makes repairs to slope failures, detour signs will detour traffic around the Bent Mountain section of the Parkway. Traffic will be rerouted onto Route 220 south to Route 419 north to Route 221 south. Those traveling north, will use the reverse of this detour. Detour signage will be attached to existing VDOT signage and will be in place through June 2021.

**ROUTE 221 ROAD UTILITY WORK** - MMI will be installing fiber optic along Route 221 from the Roanoke County line to Clover Hill Road and along Clover Hill Road during daytime hours, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Friday and 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Saturdays. Motorists should expect shoulder or lane closures for travel in both directions. Intermittent full closures of the highway will be required for periods lasting no longer than 15 minutes.

## BEDFORD COUNTY

**ROUTE 622 BRIDGE REPLACEMENT** - Work to replace the bridge over the Norfolk Southern Railway on Route 622 (Everett Road) is underway. This closure will be located 0.48 mile north of Route 1329 (West Crossing Drive) and 1.06 miles south of Route 646 (Gladden Circle). A signed detour will be in place. Drivers traveling from the south end of the bridge will use Route 811 (Thomas Jefferson Road) to Route 221 South (Forest Road) to Route 646 (Gladden Circle) to Route 622 (Everett Road). Drivers traveling north will use Route 646 (Gladden Circle) to Route 221 North (Forest Road) to Route 811 (Thomas Jefferson Road) back to Route 622 (Everett Road). The road is scheduled to be closed until spring 2022.

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# MONTGOMERY SPORTS

## Radford kicker commits to Boston College

**Marty Gordon**  
NRV@sports@ourvalley.org

Radford High School kicker Connor Lytton made it official Monday when he signed a national letter of intent to continue his playing career at Boston College.

Lytton is rated the number one kicker in the country according to National Kicking Rankings.

Earlier this year, he said when the recruiting process started, he had

decided his top three focuses would be academics, coaches and program atmosphere. "There are a lot of schools that met this criteria, but BC felt like the best fit," he said.

The 6-2, 195-pound Lytton kicked off 58 times this past season for 1,288 yards. Seventy-two percent of his kicks were touchbacks with the opponent starting no further than their 30-yard line only five times. Most of the time, opponents started at the 20-

yard line. Lytton added punting duties this season and averaged 36.8 yards per kick. He was also 39 of 40 on point-after attempts.

Lytton was just 11 away from the Bobcat school record of 37 field goals currently held by Trey Mitchell. This past season, he was named the All-County, All-City defensive player of the year.

At least 20 Division 1 schools had expressed interest in Lytton in-

cluding West Virginia, UVA, UConn, Virginia Tech, Iowa State, Memphis and Michigan State. Boston College offered him a full ride to kick in the Atlantic Coast Conference.

Lytton signed on the dotted line as family and friends watched virtually, a sign of the times during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Lytton will skip the "spring" football season at Radford High School and enroll early at BC.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

**Connor Lytton will continue his football career this spring at the Atlantic Coast Conference's Boston College. He made it official this week when he signed his national letter of intent.**

## Virginia Tech opts out of bowl game, ending longest consecutive bowl streak

The Hokies recently announced they would not be playing in a bowl game in 2020, thus ending the nation's longest current bowl streak of 27 consecutive bowl games.

The decision to decline any bowl bids was announced a day following

an impromptu press conference called by Athletic Director Whit Babcock.

Virginia Tech finished the 2020 season with five wins and six losses, the first regular losing season since 1992. The Hokies five wins came against North Carolina State, Duke,

Boston College, Louisville and Virginia. Their losses were at the hands of North Carolina, Wake Forest, Liberty, Miami, Pittsburgh and Clemson.

In the season finale, Virginia Tech took down Virginia 33-15 to reclaim the Commonwealth Cup.

In a COVID-riddled season, bowl eligibility did not take total wins into account, allowing a sub-.500 team to climb into a bowl game. In previous years, teams that have finished the regular season at 5-7 have still made it to bowl games. Virginia Tech will

instead decline participation in a bowl game and end its 2020 season at 5-6.

Players now have the opportunity to spend the holidays with their families without the need for constant testing leading up to the bowl game. Virginia Tech operated its 11-game season with one open week over the span of four months.

Virginia Tech thus joined a large list of teams that have decided not to

play in a bowl game. In addition to the Hokies, opting out of a bowl are Arizona State, Boise State, Boston College, Florida State, Georgia Tech, Kansas State, Louisville, LSU (self-imposed postseason ban), Michigan State, Minnesota, Penn State, Pittsburgh, Rutgers, San Diego State, Southern Cal, Stanford, Texas Tech, UCLA, Utah, Virginia, Washington and Washington State.

## Tech dunks its way past Longwood



**Junior forward Keve Aluma flies in for one of seven Virginia Tech dunks against Longwood Monday night, the most in the Mike Young era.**

Following its seven dunks, the most in the Mike Young era, the No. 24 Virginia Tech men's basketball team defeated Longwood 84-58 Monday night at Carilion Clinic

Court at Cassell Coliseum.

The Hokies (7-1, 1-0 ACC) got off to a slow start but kicked it into gear the second half and rolled past the Lancers (1-7, 0-2 Big South) for their fourth con-

secutive win against Longwood dating back to 2008. Young is now 1-0, as this was his first contest against the Lancers and their head coach Griff Aldrich.

Tech was dominant offensively, shooting 49.2% and collecting 14 offensive rebounds. Jalen Cone led the team with 18 points, all coming from behind the arch. Keve Aluma contributed 14 points and four rebounds to the win. Tyrece Radford showed strength all around, leading the Hokies with a team-high eight rebounds and scoring nine points.

On the defensive end, Tech racked up a season-high nine steals and forced the Lancers to commit

15 turnovers. The Hokies scored 15 points off those errors. Hunter Cattoor, Wabissa Bede, Aluma and David N'Guessan picked up two steals each. The Hokies held Longwood to 43.6% shooting from the field and 23% from behind the arc.

Nahiem Alleyne came out just as he left off and drained a 3 to put the Hokies on the board in a competitive first half. A few minutes later Tech went on a 14-point run, which included three 3-pointers, two from Cone. Cone led the Hokies in the first half with nine points, which came by a way of three 3s. The Lancers went on a seven-point run to end the

half, shrinking the Hokies lead to 34-30 at the break.

VT started the second half hot with a 10-point run contributed by Radford, Justyn Mutts and Alleyne. The Lancers answered with an eight-point run of their own cutting the Hokies lead back down to five.

Tech began to pull away at the eight-minute mark with a 13-point run, upping the Hokies' lead to 22 points and salting the game away. Contributing to the run was another pair of threes from Cone and a dunk from Aluma.

**GAME NOTES**

The Hokies grabbed nine steals, marking their season high to top their previous high of five,

which they did against Coppin State in their last game. Tech has had 14 steals its last two games, marking its best two-game stretch in that category.

Tech's bench scored 45 points, the second most of the season (51, Coppin State).

All 13 of Tech's players made an appearance on the court.

The Hokies outscored the Lancers 21-1 off second-chance points.

**UP NEXT**

Tech will resume its ACC slate against Miami (4-2, 0-1 ACC) on Tuesday, Dec. 29, at 6 p.m. inside Cassell Coliseum with coverage available through the ACC Network.

## Nine Hokies named All-ACC

Nine Virginia Tech football players were recognized Tuesday as the Atlantic Coast Conference announced its 2020 All-ACC football teams, which were compiled from a vote among a panel of the league's 15 head coaches and select media members.

The group was headlined by first-teamers tackle Christian Darrisaw and safety Divine Deablo, while running back Khalil Herbert earned second-team honors as an all-purpose player and third-team honors as a running back. Defensive tackle Jarrod Hewitt also was named to the third team.

Five Hokies were listed as honorable mention: guard Lecitus Smith, center Brock Hoffman, defensive end Amare Barno, kicker Brian Johnson and defensive back Chamarrri Conner.

**ALL-ACC FIRST TEAM**

Tackle Christian Darrisaw

Darrisaw started 10 of the Hokies' contests at left tackle where he anchored the left side of Tech's offensive line and was part of a blocking unit that helped propel the squad to six 250-yard rushing games. The Hokies registered 27 rushing TDs, the squad's best total in a decade, and the line paved the way for running back Khalil Herbert, who had six 100-yard rushing games in 2020.

Darrisaw was named the ACC Offensive Lineman of the Week following Tech's 38-31 victory at Duke (10/15) and was included in PFF College's All-America

Team as a second-team selection.

Safety Divine Deablo Deablo, a team captain, had 55 total tackles in 2020 despite missing two contests early in the season. He had two tackles for loss, defended eight passes, forced a fumble and tied for the league lead with four interceptions. He wore Coach Frank Beamer's 25 jersey in the final game of his college career, a victory over Virginia (12/12) to win back the Commonwealth Cup, a victory he sealed with an interception.

**ALL-ACC SECOND TEAM**

All-Purpose Khalil Herbert

Herbert amassed a staggering 1,791 all-purpose yards in 2020, a mark that led the nation and consisted of his 1,182 rushing yards, 179 receiving yards and 430 yards gained on kickoff returns. The Fort Lauderdale, Fla., native owned the best single-game output of any conference player with his school record 357-yard performance at Duke (10/10). Herbert's 162.8 yards per game average also led all ACC players.

His total all-purpose output ranks fourth all-time at Virginia Tech since at least 1987 and is the most by any player to participate in only 11 contests or fewer.

**ALL-ACC THIRD TEAM**

Running Back Khalil Herbert

The first Tech player to gain 1,000 yards rushing since 2015, Herbert, nick-

named 'Juice,' led the Hokies' potent rushing attack with 1,182 yards on the ground on 154 attempts. His average of 7.68 yards per carry ranked second in the conference and sixth nationally. After rushing for 100 or more yards in each of his first four games for the Hokies, Hebert finished the season with six such efforts after totaling 162 yards and a touchdown against Virginia (12/12). He had a season-best 207 rushing yards at Duke (10/10) as part of a record-breaking day that saw him accumulate 357 all-purpose yards.

**Defensive Tackle Jarrod Hewitt**

A redshirt senior and captain of the defense, Hewitt registered 31 total tackles (13 solo) this season and ranked inside the top 10 in sacks in conference play with 5.5. He recorded a career-best 8.5 tackles for loss and also had a quarterback hurry. Hewitt donned Coach Beamer's 25 jersey for the Miami game (11/14) and had 2.5 sacks for 23 yards lost.

**ALL-ACC HONORABLE MENTION**

Defensive end Amare Barno

A converted linebacker playing on the line for the first time, Barno recorded 43 tackles on the season, including 28 solo stops. The Blythewood, S.C., native led the ACC and all power-five players with 16 tackles for loss. He tied with Tech defensive end Justus Reed for sixth in the league with 6.5 sacks.

Defensive back Chamarrri Conner

Tech's leader in tackles in 2020, Conner started all 11 games and registered 81 total

tackles (60 solo). He had 3.5 tackles for loss, two interceptions, four pass breakups, four quarterback hurries and forced a fumble. Conner was

recognized twice as ACC Defensive Back of the Week (10/19) and (11/2).

Center Brock Hoffman Hoffman started all 11 contests at center and helped the Hokies rush for 240.1

**See Hokies, page 10**



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# Outdoor report: Game check-in transitioning to electronic in Virginia

The Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) plans to fully transition big game checking to electronic and telephone at the beginning of the 2021-22 hunting season (as of Sept. 1, 2021).

All hunters (including those who are not required to purchase a license) who harvest a deer, turkey, bear, bobcat or elk, will need to check their harvest by calling DWR (866-GOT-GAME), logging on to go-outdoorsvirginia.com or by using their mobile app harvest reporting system, GoOutdoorsVa (free through the app store).

Since 2004, DWR has offered some form of electronic harvest reporting, and beginning in 2019, electronic harvest reporting options were available for all game species for which

reporting is required.

Last hunting season, 86% of all deer, 93% of fall turkeys, 100% of spring turkeys, 100% of bobcats and 58% of all bears were reported through an electronic harvest reporting system. Mandatory game checking, a cornerstone of DWR's game management program for more than 70 years, will remain vital for game management in Virginia for many years to come. Thus, it is critical that every hunter report his harvest using the electronic or telephone harvest reporting systems.

DWR recognizes the traditions associated with paper checking and game check stations and is exceptionally grateful to check station operators for their decades of service collecting the harvest data that

has supported restoration of our deer, bear and turkey populations. While moving to an electronic/telephonic check system will no longer necessitate official "check stations," those operators who wish to continue offering this service to hunters may do so by assisting with electronic or telephonic checking.

DWR remains committed to a harvest reporting system that is convenient to hunters, obtains reliable data and maintains the public's trust in information that is of critical importance to sound wildlife management.

**FAQ's:**  
**Q:** What's changing in the process to report the bear, deer, elk and turkeys I've harvested?

**A:** The Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR)

plans to discontinue game check stations and the distribution of game check books beginning Sept. 1, 2021 with the start of the 2021-22 fall hunting season. All hunters (including those who are not required to purchase a license) who harvest a deer, turkey, bear or elk will need to report their harvest using DWR's telephone, internet, or mobile app harvest reporting systems through GoOutdoorsVA.

**Q:** Has there been any change in bobcat checking procedures?

**A:** No. Harvested bobcats must continue to be reported electronically using telephone (866) 468-4263 or (866) GOT-GAME, internet or mobile app harvest reporting systems.

**Q:** Do I still need to report the bear, deer, elk,

turkeys and bobcats that I harvest throughout the remainder of the current (2020-21) hunting seasons?

**A:** Yes. Successful hunters will have the option of taking their bear, deer, elk and turkey harvest to a check station through the remainder of the current regular hunting seasons, which closes on Jan. 2, 2021. As has been the case for many years, all bobcats, as well as deer and turkeys, harvested during the late seasons (after Jan. 2), will need to be reported using the telephone (866) 468-4263 or (866) GOT-GAME, internet or mobile app harvest reporting systems.

**Q:** When will DWR stop distributing game checking materials to check stations?

**A:** The department will gather game checking materials from the check stations after the closure of the regular hunting season on Jan. 2, 2021. After that date, and for all subsequent seasons, game checking materials will no longer be distributed to check stations.

**Q:** If DWR is no longer distributing game check materials to check stations, does that mean the check station I have always used to report my harvest will be closed?

**A:** Not necessarily. Even though DWR will no longer distribute game checking materials, check station operators can still offer to check game for hunters using their own telephones or internet to access DWR's electronic harvest reporting systems.

**Q:** Is DWR eliminating the need to report the harvest of bear, deer, elk, turkeys and bobcats in the future?

**A:** No. Mandatory game checking remains in effect, but will only be available through DWR's telephone, internet, or mobile app harvest reporting systems through GoOutdoorsVA.

**Q:** Do I still need to report the bear, deer, elk, turkeys and bobcats I harvest next season? If so, what options will be available to report my harvest?

**A:** Yes. The department will continue to maintain and provide the telephone, internet and mobile app harvest reporting systems for hunters to report their bear, deer, elk, turkeys and bobcats.

**Q:** What if I don't have cell phone or internet service where I harvested my game?

**A:** For hunters using the mobile app to report their harvest, there is no problem if you do not have service at the location where the animal is recovered. Hunters can enter all the appropriate information into the mobile app, and the mobile app will automatically upload that information when service is available. When using the telephone or internet checking systems to report a harvested animal, the hunter must validate the appropriate license tag at the location of recovery then transport the animal to a location where it can be reported via the telephone or internet checking system. However, as has been the case for many years, hunters must report their harvest upon vehicle transport or at the conclusion of hunting hours, whichever occurs first and without unnecessary delay.

**Q:** I don't have a smart phone or computer access—how can I report my game?

**A:** Hunters can use any telephone to report their harvest via the Department's telephone reporting system (866) 468-4263 or (866) GOT-GAME.

**Q:** Do I still need to carry a paper copy of my hunting license?

**A:** Hunters who are required to purchase a license must carry either a paper copy or an electronic copy of their hunting license.

**Q:** Is DWR concerned that the switch to electronic reporting will reduce the quality of the data it receives on harvested bear, deer, elk, turkeys and bobcats?

**A:** No. DWR staff have been reviewing the quality of the electronic data since options for electronic reporting were implemented in 2004. Data collected via the electronic checking systems meet or exceed the standards of data collected at game check stations.

**Q:** Do I still need to submit a tooth for a harvested bear?

**A:** Yes. Successful hunters are required to submit a tooth from a harvested bear. The checking system will direct the hunter through various steps, and an official tooth submission envelope will be sent to the hunter at the address listed on their GoOutdoorsVA account.

For other questions or additional information, email [gamecheck@dwr.virginia.gov](mailto:gamecheck@dwr.virginia.gov).



--Virginia DWR

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## Hokies from page 9

yards per game, which ranked second in the conference. Tech scored 27 rushing touchdowns on the season and amassed better than 200 rushing yards eight times, 250+ six times and 300 or more rushing yards on three occasions. Hoffman was named the ACC Offensive Lineman of the Week twice (9/28) and (11/2).

Kicker Brian Johnson Johnson became the first Virginia Tech kicker to convert three field goals of 50+ yards in a single season in 2020. He hit on 20 of his 26 field goal tries. Inside of 49 yards, he missed only twice and made all 34 of his extra-point kicks. Johnson owns the Virginia Tech record with 131 consecutive PATs

made, never missing one in his four seasons of action for Tech. The Washington, D.C., native also kicked off 12 times for an average of 61.1 yards with seven touchbacks.

Guard Lecitus Smith Another member of the Hokies' talented offensive line, Smith was a key ingredient in helping running back Khalil Herbert have such an outstanding season. He started all 11 contests for the Hokies at left guard. He was named to the PFF College National Team of the Week (10/11) after the Hokies racked up 260 yards and four rushing scores at then-No. 8 North Carolina.

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