

*Suzanne Chappell*

07/09/20



A GRAHAM MEDIA GROUP – Roanoke, VA

WSLS 10

1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2020

Issues Report

Placed in public file:

# WSLS

## COMMUNITY ISSUES & PROGRAMS REPORT

1<sup>st</sup> QUARTER 2020

The following issues have been identified to be of concern  
in the viewing areas in and around Roanoke/Lynchburg VA:

1. Charitable and Civic Activities
2. Consumer
3. Crime
4. Education
5. Health
6. Minority
7. Politics

## WSLS-TV

### LOCALLY PRODUCED/BROADCASTED PROGRAMS

WSLS 10 Virginia Today	5:00-7:00AM, M-F	News Format
WSLS 10 AT Noon	12:00-12:30PM, M-F	News Format
WSLS 10 AT 5:00PM	5:00-5:30PM, M-F	News Format
WSLS 10 AT 5:30PM	5:30-6:00PM, M-F	News Format
WSLS 10 AT 6:00PM	6:00-6:30PM, M-F	News Format
WSLS 10 AT 7:00PM	7:00-7:30PM, M-F	News Format
WSLS 10 AT 11:00PM	11:00-11:30PM, M-F	News Format
WSLS 10 Virginia Today	6:00-8:00AM, SA-SU	News Format
WSLS 10 AT 6:00PM Weekend Edition	6:00-6:30PM, SA-SU	News Format
WSLS 10 AT 11:00PM Weekend Edition	11:00-11:30PM, SA-SU	News Format

## **WSLS-10 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2020 Public Service and Community Involvement**

### **John Carlin:**

1/15/20 – Associated Press Board

Board Member

1/17/20 – Center in the Square Tour

Volunteer Guide

1/20/20 – Visit Virginia’s Blue Ridge Board Meeting

Board Member

1/21/20 – Saint Francis Service Dogs Board Meeting

Board Member

2/5/20 – Saint Francis Service Dogs Legal Meeting

Board Member

2/12/20 – Visit VBR News Conference on Ironman

Board Member

2/18/20 – Saint Francis Service Dogs Board Meeting

Board Meeting

2/19/20 – Saint Francis Exec. Meeting

Board Meeting

2/20/20 – Meeting with Foundation for Sarcoidosis Research

Official Advocate

2/21-23/20 – Advocate training in Maryland for FSR

Official Advocate

2/28/20 – Cave Spring HS Jazz Café

Emcee

3/4/20 – Associated Press Board

Board Member

3/6/20 – Blue Ridge Marathon Meeting

Announcer/Committee Member

3/7/20 – Addy Awards

Emcee

3/16/20 – Saint Francis Service Dogs Special Events Committee

Emcee/ Board Member

**Eric Johnson:**

2/25/20 – RCPS Wendell Ball Legacy Series

Guest Speaker

**Rachel Lucas:**

1/10/20 – Big Brothers Big Sisters Board Meeting

Secretary

2/3/20 – Big Brothers Big Sisters Board Meeting

Secretary

**Brittney McGraw:**

1/17/20 – SCLC MLK Awards Banquet

Award Recipient

**Lindsey Ward:**

1/23/20 – God's Pit Crew Banquet

Board Member

2/22/20 – Polar Plunge

Volunteer/Participant

2/18-3/3//20 – Red Cross Hero Stories

Story Creator

3/7/20 – International Christian Centers for the Deaf – Planning Meeting

Volunteer

### **Megan Woods:**

1/29/20 – Radford University Communications Class

Guest Speaker

2/24/20 – Radford University Communications Class

Guest Speaker

### **Jenna Zibton:**

1/1-30/20 – 40 Under 40 Class of 2020

President Elect

1/5/20 – Ronald McDonald House

Meal Prep Volunteer

1/8/20 – Junior League Board Meeting

President Elect

1/13/20 – Boys & Girls Club Tour

Volunteer

1/13/20 – LEAP Kitchen Tour

Volunteer

1/17/20 – Commonwealth Catholic Charities Tour

Volunteer

1/21/20 – Junior League Meeting

President Elect

1/27/20 – Junior League Roanoke Valley – Investment Advisory Board Meeting

Volunteer

1/28/20 – Junior League Roanoke Valley – Grants Committee Meeting

Volunteer

1/28/20 – Bradley Free Clinic

Tour

2/5/20 – Junior League Board Meeting

President Elect

2/13/20 – Save Jane Phone Calls

Volunteer

2/18/20 – Junior League Meeting

President Elect

2/28/20 – Monterey Elementary School

Volunteer Reader

3/2/20 – Rivermont Roanoke ABA School

Volunteer Reader

3/4/20 – Junior League Board Meeting

President Elect

3/16/20 – Junior League Meeting

President Elect

3/28/20 – Junior League Roanoke Valley

Community Blood Drive

## *Charitable and Civic Activities*

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Name of Story: FSWVA Volunteer Day    Date: 2.17.20    Newscast: 5P    Reporter: JC LW
Duration: 0:45
Brief description: Volunteers in the area are stepping up to help families in need. Today members of the WSLs 10 team helped inspect and sort around 6000 pounds of food at "Feeding Southwest Virginia in Salem. This will help provide a meal for someone in need within the next 48 hours. Since we told you last week that the organization was in desperate need of volunteers, efforts have sky-rocketed. More than twice the number of volunteers signed up for February, compared to an average month.
Name of Story: Bridges to Progress    Date: 2.18.20    Newscast:5:30P    Reporter: JC
Duration: 0:51
Brief description: Lynchburg's faith leaders are committed. To making sure every citizen knows their rights including the most vulnerable. Faith taskforce leaders with the city's bridges to progress poverty initiative held a know your right informational. Lynchburg police officers explained to people why they make traffic stops, what makes some stops suspicious and what rivers should and should not do. Organizers say having this conversation encourages better relationship with police.
Name of Story: Roanoke Police Homework Helpers    Date: 2.20.20    Newscast: 6A    Reporter: JZ
Duration: 0:55
Brief description: Police officers are getting off the streets in the afternoons and hanging out with kids. RPD homework helpers are officers. Who go into different after school programs around Roanoke. The officers do anything from coloring. To simple math homework.. To just sitting down and talking with them about their day. Officers hope the kids learn a police officer can be a friend... Someone to trust... And they can always come to the police department for help.
Name of Story: Roanoke Valley Saves    Date: 2.21.20    Newscast: 6P    Reporter: LW BM
Duration: 0:44
Brief description: If you're still working on your new year's resolutions. You can now get a little bit of help. The Roanoke Valley United Way is offering help to become more financially stable and independent. It is part of the organization's annual Roanoke Valley Saves week. All next week the organization will be offering financial tips. It will also offer classes, resources and financial incentives. Monday will focus on tax refunds.
Name of Story: Polar Plunge NRV    Date: 2.22.20    Newscast: 6P    Reporter: TS
Duration: 1:35
Brief description: The New River is one of Radford's most impressive sights, but who would think to take a swim in there this time of year? As it turns out, a lot of people will jump in for the right reasons. Special Olympics Virginia hoped to raise \$55,000 from this year's polar plunge. Before a single brave soul ever stepped foot in the river, the organization had collected almost \$60,000. Virginia Tech's Phi Sigma Kappa fraternity led the way, literally. They were the first to experience the cold, and also fundraised more than \$14,000 for the cause. However, 10 news' polar plunging penguins were right behind them. The station collected more than eighty-five hundred dollars, and Brittny Mcgraw raised nearly fifteen hundred dollars of that by herself.
Name of Story: Grandin Theater Seat Campaign    Date: 3.2.20    Newscast: 6P    Reporter: RL
Duration: 0:30
Brief description: Renovations at the historic Grandin Theater are now underway. Thanks to generous donations from the community. The local landmark raised more than \$170,000 to replace more than 500 seats. The conversion of the main theater should be finished by the end of this week. crews are also installing acoustic cloud treatment panels on the ceiling. An LED amber dimming house lighting system and adding new carpeting will be in the next phase to be completed by the end of next month.

## *Charitable and Civic Activities*

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Name of Story: God's Pit Crew Nashville Tornados Date: 3.3.20 Newscast: 6P Reporter: JC
Duration: 0:40
Brief description: A local non-profit stands ready to send aid to Tennessee after devastating tornadoes rip through the state overnight -- killing at least 25. God's Pit Crew says it has been in contact with churches and people who are in affected areas and will respond accordingly. In the meantime. God's Pit Crew is holding a pop-up blessing bucket drive at the Danville Walmart at Mount Cross Road and the Walmart neighborhood market in Nordan this Friday and Saturday from 10 am until 6 pm. If you can't make it to the drive but still want to donate head to our website WSLs.com for how you can help.
Name of Story: Evan Groves Fundraiser Date: 3.4.20 Newscast: 6A Reporter: JZ
Duration: 0:26
Brief description: An 11-year-old Covington boy is fighting a rare skin disorder and his best friend, trying to raise money to help him feel better. we an update to the story we brought you last month. Community members raised more than \$48,000 for Evan Groves. The money will go toward an expansion to Evan's bedroom to create an ADA-compliant bathroom. Evan will also get a hospital bed.
Name of Story: Gleaning for the World Tornado Donations Date: 3.4.20 Newscast: 11P Reporter: ML
Duration: 0:45
Brief description: Organizations here in our area are already pitching in to help with recovery. This week Gleaning for the World is collecting donations at the Sam's Club on Wards Road in Lynchburg. Some items to consider are: non-perishable foods, baby and pet supplies, flashlights, batteries, and hygiene products. Organizers say you don't have to be a Sam's Club member to go there and donate. Gleaning will collect supplies tomorrow to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Name of Story: Local Shelter Needs Help Date: 3.5.20 Newscast: 5P Reporter: JC
Duration: 0:45
Brief description: A local animal shelter needs your help tonight. Staff at Angels of Assisi in Roanoke rescued nearly a dozen dogs. And a couple cats from a severe neglect situation in northern Virginia yesterday. These animals had serious medical issues, so they are needing donations to help cover the costs of their medical care. Staff say they expect that the dogs will be available for adoption sometime next week.
Name of Story: St Patricks Parade Volunteer Need Date: 3.5.20 Newscast: 5P Reporter: JC LW
Duration: 0:45
Brief description: We're only two weeks away from Roanoke's Saint Patrick's Day Parade and Shamrock Festival. However, the city needs your help to make sure everything goes smoothly. Downtown Roanoke still needs dozens of volunteers to handle the event, which brings in hundreds of people every year. This includes jobs such as lining up the floats and working the concession stands. The city already has a dedicated group of volunteers, but they need more this year because of a special guest. Jamie Clark, Downtown Roanoke, Inc. "with the Budweiser Clydesdales coming this year, we are expecting an even bigger event than we've experienced in previous years, which is hard to imagine. We're asking for more volunteers than we would normally." The parade and festival takes place on March 14th.
Name of Story: United Way Giveaway Need Date: 3.5.20 Newscast: 6P Reporter: JC LW
Duration: 0:50
Brief description: Dianne Van Valkenburgh is the winner of United Way of Central Virginia's 2019 campaign. She and five others were picked as the finalists for the car. The group was picked from a raffle of several hundred people who donated \$100. The money was part of the organization's annual fundraiser. It helps fund Lynchburg-area organizations who help families in need. Today, the five finalists were handed a key fob -- not knowing who had the right key.

# CONSUMER

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Name of Story: January Home Sales    Date: 2.17.20    Newscast: 12P    Reporter: PM
Duration: 0:48
Brief description: If you're looking to sell your home, now may be a good time. The Roanoke valley association of realtors says January home sales were the highest they've ever recorded for the month with 391 homes were sold. 535 were placed under contract last month with 584 listings added. The sales numbers include the cities of Roanoke and Salem; as well as neighboring counties like Botetourt, Craig and parts of Bedford and Franklin.
Name of Story: Norfolk Southern Closing Date: 2.18.20    Newscast: 12P    Reporter: TL
Duration: 1:15
Brief description: Sad news for dozens of local families with ties to Norfolk Southern. The locomotive shop and the distribution center will no longer operate here. 85 workers will have the chance to transfer to Altoona, Penn. 19 clerical positions are eliminated. They'll be out by mid-May and that will leave 650 workers in Roanoke. The company is shipping half the amount of coal it was 12 years ago. And it expects further declines.
Name of Story: Shentel to Roanoke    Date: 2.18.20    Newscast: 11P    Reporter: SD
Duration: 1:30
Brief description: With each passing day our lives move closer to the cloud and fast internet is what's in. On Tuesday night, Shentel announced the plan to bring fiber optic internet right to people's homes, on track to be the first in the city. Roanoke's have always had one broadband internet choice at home with Cox. This would be the first time the area has seen true competition, starting with these four neighborhoods and growing from there. The Roanoke Valley broadband authority announced yesterday it wants in on home internet too and will run fiber to the house. Shentel says it's ready to go now. Shentel will offer a triple plan with phone, internet and tv and they hope it gives people what they've always wanted - choice.
Name of Story: Roanoke City Care Portal Launch    Date: 2.19.20    Newscast: 6P    Reporter: JC
Duration: 0:45
Brief description: Here's now a new way to help Roanoke's children at risk. The digital service connecting churches to kids in need is now online. It's called "care portal," and Roanoke is the first area in Virginia to use the system. It notifies churches of situations; such as families without beds or clothes and allows members to donate directly to them. Roanoke's director of social services believes the care portal will fill a crucial gap. Care portal is scheduled to launch in Bedford next month and Lynchburg in May.
Name of Story: Pulaski Lottery Winner    Date: 2.26.20    Newscast: 6A    Reporter: PM
Duration: :33
Brief Description: A Pulaski man is a double winner after buying two winning cash five tickets from the Virginia lottery. Mark Linkous has two tickets with the same five numbers on both. At first, he thought he only matched three numbers, which would have won him \$5. But he got them all and won \$100,000 for each ticket. A total of \$200,000. The odds of winning the top prize are one in 278,000.
Name of Story: Roanoke County Fire Safety Plan    Date: 2.27.20    Newscast: 5p    Reporter: CA
Duration: 1:35
Brief Description: Getting out of your house when it's on fire may sound simple, but without a plan that seemingly simple escape may not be so simple and could have deadly consequences. The Roanoke County Fire and Rescue Department is promoting fire escape plans after fatal fires in Danville, South Boston and Petersburg last week. If you're in a room with a closed door, feel the door with the back of your hand. If it's warm, find another way out, like a window. If you can get out the door, get down on your hands and knees and crawl to the front door. Have a meeting place outside, like your mailbox, and call 9-1-1 from there. Simple steps that could be the difference between life and death.

# CONSUMER

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Name of Story: Orvis Outdoor Festival Date: 2.28.20 Newscast: 6a Reporter: PM
Duration: 0:45
Brief Description: A new festival is coming to downtown Roanoke next month! However, the company behind the new event is no stranger to the Star City. Orvis, which has a store and a distribution center in town, is moving its "down the hatch" festival from Asheville to Roanoke. The event at Elmwood park will feature fly-fishing demonstrations, short films, and live music. The money from the festival will go to both trout unlimited and the Roanoke outside foundation. Julia Boas, Roanoke outside foundation: "it's a validation of all of the effort that we have put into making Roanoke an outdoor town, an outdoor destination, and a place where people want to move because of the outdoor assets we have. It's really a validation of that." The "Down the Hatch Festival" is coming up on March 21-st.
Name of Story: Roanoke Airport Growth in 2020 Date: 2.28.20 Newscast: 5p Reporter: JC LW
Duration: 0:45
Brief Description: More and more people continue to fly out of Roanoke-Blacksburg regional airport. According to the airport commission, over 53,000 people flew in and out of the star city in January. That's up just over 7-percent from last year. Since September 2016, the airport has also seen more monthly passengers when compared to the previous year. Earlier this week, airport leaders made a push for the public to comment on its master plan. While it doesn't touch on ticket prices, changes could lead to lower fares down the road.

## CRIME

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Name of Story: Marijuana Decriminalization	Date: 2.17.20	Newscast: 6A	Reporter: JZ
Duration: 0:44			
Brief Description: Anybody caught with a small amount of marijuana in Virginia, could soon face a small fine instead of a court case and jail time. The Senate voted to make simple possession punishable by a \$50 fine. The House passed a similar bill. But that version would reduce the fine to \$25. Right now, the punishment is arrest, a fine of up to \$500, and possibly 30 days in jail. The bills have bi-partisan support, but some still have their doubts saying young people caught with pot could still face harsher punishment.			
Name of Story: Halifax Co Double Murder	Date: 2.18.20	Newscast: 5P	Reporter: LK
Duration: 1:30			
Brief Description: The biggest part of grief is my mornings. The hardest part of the day for George Ivan Maertens Aramayo, is when he wakes up and remembers, his 18-year-old daughter-- Ayanna Maertens Griffin was murdered. Butted to: and then you just try to fill it in with good memories." Tuesday -- Ivan traveled down to Halifax county, where Ayanna's accused killer -- 18-year-old Mohamed Aly-- appeared by video from the blue ridge regional jail before a judge. Aly told the judge he plans to hire an attorney. He's charged with two counts of first-degree murder and two counts of use a firearm in the commission of a felony. Search warrants related to the case have been sealed by police. I spoke with Aly's father over the phone. Their family is still in shock. He says Aly's teachers and classmates all liked him and don't believe Aly would do anything like that. And he wonders if Aly is being threatened and is just trying to protect his family. Aly's father also said they don't know the truth & they still have a lot of questions telling 10 news "i hope my son is not guilty."			
Name of Story: Bedford Middle School Fire	Date: 2.19.20	Newscast: 6P	Reporter: ML
Duration: 0:47			
Brief Description: Police arrested Bedford native Daniel Flint and charged him with burglary and arson. According to online court records, this is not Flint's first arson charge. He's had several charges in Bedford general district and circuit court. He's currently serving a three-year probation after he was sentenced to several months behind bars. Court documents tell us last Friday Flint told his mother he set the school on fire. Flint's mom reported this to probation officers and told investigators she believes her son is dangerous. Todd Foreman/ Police Chief: "Commonwealth Virginia probation and parole contacted us on Friday and gave us the same name and we started looking into it farther. They gave us a photograph that we could compare. Then we started following up on the investigation." We got our hand on search warrants... it says investigators looked for flammable materials, documents with plans to set structure fires. Police collected tennis shoes, a black hoodie, PS3 and PS4 and a handwritten note from his home.			
Name of Story: Stolen Car Parts	Date: 2.20.20	Newscast: 5P	Reporter: ML
Duration: 1:30			
Brief Description: Stuart Herndon/ Campbell County Sheriff's Office: "It's over 20 vehicles at this point in the last couple of months." Dewitt and investigator Stuart Herndon believe the thieves are selling the parts police are working with scrap yard owners in the area. Stuart Herndon/ Campbell County Sheriff's Office: "Just have a good policy on what's coming in and who they come from. Working with law enforcement if you do get some items that you do feel like are suspicious to contact us." A catalytic converter is found under your car. This is the sound you should listen for if you've become a victim. Brandon Dewitt/ Service Manager at Integrity Auto Source: "As soon as I fired it up it was extremely loud. You can smell a lot of gas fumes and what not coming through the cabin." Dewitt hopes the people are caught and offer this advice to car owners out there. Brandon Dewitt/ Service Manager at Integrity Auto Source: "Just watch your car. If you can park it in your garage park, park it in your garage or under a light somewhere it's not hidden."			

# CRIME

Name of Story: Roanoke City Drug Conviction Date: 2.26.20 Newscast: 5P Reporter: JC
Duration: 0:41
Brief Description: a Roanoke man will soon be sentenced for one of the largest fentanyl busts in Virginia. According to the department of justice -- a jury convicted "Monta Jordan" on federal drug charges following a 6-day trial. The 44-year-old was arrested back in 2017 following a massive undercover operation. Prosecutors say he was a drug kingpin, who distributed large quantities of heroin, fentanyl, meth and cocaine throughout the region and was picking up the drugs around Valley View Mall. Fentanyl is a potent opioid that has been contributing to a nationwide spike in deadly overdoses.
Name of Story: Lynchburg Census Scams Date: 2.27.20 Newscast: 6P Reporter: BM
Duration: 0:55
Brief Description: Lynchburg is preparing for the census but it also wants you to prepare for possible scammers. Local census representatives remind you the census bureau will never ask for your credit card number. In May a census worker might come knocking at your door to follow up if you have not sent in your information. You are allowed to ask for their badge and identification. Ashley Reynolds Marshall/ commissioner for complete count 2020 census: "so they're just checking to see have you received it, did you may be mail it or maybe it got loss. So individuals won't knock on your door first. That's sort of the second wave of the census. John Hughes/ deputy city manager: "we would like to make sure that everyone is counted. Be aware that the census bureau for instance is banned legally from sharing any of the information that they've garnered from the census." the *official* census day is April first. By then you should have received the application in the mail and you can also fill it out online.
Name of Story: Floyd County Drug Bust Date: 2.28.20 Newscast: 5P Reporter: JC
Duration: 0:32
Brief Description: One of the men charged in a record setting drug bust in our area will spend the rest of his life in prison. According to the commonwealth's attorney -- a Floyd county jury sentenced Jorge Martinez Estrada on multiple charges. This was part of a massive undercover investigation last year called "Operation Trap Door." Prosecutors say he helped distribute 30 pounds of crystal meth and more than 6 pounds of cocaine. Authorities also seized thousands of fentanyl pills, a gun and over \$115,000 cash.
Name of Story: Floyd County Drug Bust Date: 2.28.20 Newscast: 5P Reporter: TS
Duration: 0:32
Brief Description: The sheriff's office did not have much to say about the two deaths this afternoon, but they did say the infant was not injured and is now in the care of other family members. The scene unfolded outside of this house on route 40 near the highway 29 interchange. When we arrived on the scene -- deputies covered the car with the two bodies inside. Witnesses told me that the car somehow went in reverse off of route 40 and ran into the house. I spoke with other people in the area at the time who did not see it but are in shock. The sheriff's office has not identified the two victims. We're told we could get that tomorrow. They said the immediately family of the victims have been told about their deaths--but they are waiting for the medical examiner's autopsy to share their identities and how they died.

## EDUCATION

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Name of Story: Virginia New Education Proposals Date: 2.17.20 Newscast: 6A Reporter: PM
Duration: 0:47
Brief Description: Virginia state employees and public-school teachers could soon be getting raises and bonuses. Money committees in both the state house and senate unveiled their proposed versions of a two-year, \$135 billion state spending plan. Both contain larger proposed raises than what governor Ralph Northam had proposed. The House is proposing a 2% raise in both years. The Senate proposed a 3% raise in the first year and 4% in the second. The Senate is also proposing a 3% bonus for teachers later this year. There are key differences between the two proposals, with teacher and state employee compensation being one of the most high-profile. Each chamber will now vote on its version of a state budget before trying to reconcile differences before the legislative session ends next month.
Name of Story: Computer Science School Grants Date: 2.17.20 Newscast: 530P Reporter: BM
Duration: 0:38
Brief Description: Governor Northam increased funding for local school's computer science programs to help prepare students for high-school Radford public schools will receive \$150,000 for computer science classes in grades K-8. Schools will also work with Radford university and local businesses to create a high-level learning environment. Floyd county schools is receiving \$77,000 to train more teachers in computer science. They'll also integrate Virginia's computer science standards of learning into courses.
Name of Story: Parent Involvement on Education Date: 2.27.20 Newscast: 5P Reporter: JZ
Duration: 1:05
Brief Description: If you want to help your child thrive in school. There's one simple way to be more involved in their learning. Researchers from the University of Illinois analyzed data from hundreds of studies involving nearly half a million families. They found the more involved parents were in their child's schooling, the better the student's academic achievement, motivation, and social adjustment. Kids were consistently better adjusted when their parents were more active in their school life, both at school and at home and those with parents who were more involved were less likely to face delinquency. Some ways to be more involved: volunteer in the classroom, attend school functions, read at home with your child, communicate with their teacher, and discuss school-related events regularly.
Name of Story: Student Mental Health Date: 2.28.20 Newscast: 6A Reporter: PM
Duration: 0:50
Brief Description: The Virginia General Assembly passed a bill allowing students in grades K-12 to have excused absences for mental health issues. It creates uniformity in how districts address emotional and mental health needs. October, a lobby of student groups pushed Montgomery County schools to adopt a similar measure. The department of education says it's too early to know what guidance it will issue, including requiring a doctor's note and if it will limit the number of days a student can take.
Name of Story: Counting With Fingers Date: 3.3.20 Newscast: 6A Reporter: JZ
Duration: 0:35
Brief Description: If you've ever watched a little kid count to ten. You've seen them move their fingers, but is that something you should worry about? Researchers wanted to answer that question. They found fingers are good tools for children to learn basic subtraction and addition. Parents can also teach how numbers and objects go together. By using fingers to count during everyday activities.
Name of Story: Student Loans Date: 3.4.20 Newscast: 5:30P Reporter: BM
Duration: 0:35
Brief Description: Many don't know the difference between federal and private student loans. Federal student loans are offered by the government and the two have very different benefits, interest rates and re-payment options. Cherry Dale with Virginia Credit Union says one important thing here is to always access federal loans before you go private.

# EDUCATION

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Name of Story: Lynchburg Graduation Changes Date: 3.4.20 Newscast: 6P Reporter: LK
Duration: 1:25
Brief Description: Tyler Coleman can't wait to graduate. He's headed to Central Virginia Community College to become a paramedic. Tyler " just want to help people a lot." The 17-year-old Heritage High School Senior and his twin have family flying all the way in from California to watch them graduate. But right after winter break. School district officials told Heritage and EC Glass students they couldn't have graduation at Liberty University's Vines Center because it would be under construction at that time. And they'd have to move graduations back to the high school campuses. With limited space. Only a select number of family members would be able to attend. Tyler "so (sighs) we had already made the plans with them after they had bought their plane tickets. It was kind of disappointing." Both high schools already use city stadium for football games. So, Tyler thought. Why not have graduation right here. Tyler "a lot of the students were upset so we decided to take action. So, I started a petition and I got quite a bit of signatures, over 100 just from heritage. School district officials agreed... And put it to a senior vote. "first they said stand up if you'd like it to stay at heritage. Some kids got up. And he was like, 'ok if you'd like it to be at the auditorium, basically the whole auditorium was up. It was full of people standing." Lynchburg parks & rec support services manager John Ramsey says. They were happy to step in.
Name of Story: Hybrid Homeschool Model Changes Date: 3.5.20 Newscast: 12P Reporter: JZ
Duration: 1:06
Brief Description: The best of both worlds. That's how families describe a hybrid school where kids split time being homeschooled and in a classroom. At Onward Christian School students are homeschooled three days a week. And come to learn with other students in Madison Heights two days a week. The teachers come up with all the plans that parents follow at home. so, they're more comfortable teaching their children. Lauren Zealand is the school's executive director, who started the school four years ago. Said "I remember the stress that I felt over my kids' education trying to homeschool 5 days a week and how difficult that was it how tiring it was. I didn't feel like my kids were getting a well-rounded education. they weren't getting the best of me. At home, it gives families more quality time, because they finish homeschool work quickly".

# HEALTH

Name of Story: Roanoke City Kidney	Date: 2.17.20	Newscast: 6A	Reporter: PM
Duration: 0:48			
<p>Brief description: A Virginia couple is celebrating the remarkable gift of a kidney donated by a wife to her husband. Richard Dawson had been battling kidney disease for 20 years, but his condition began deteriorating quickly last fall. He was placed on the transplant list, and it turned out his wife Lynn was a perfect match to donate one of her kidneys to him. The two had the transplant surgery last week at Wake Forest Baptist Health in Winston-Salem. They say their recovery is going well, and they urge others to consider being a living kidney donor. "He was very hesitant. He was not crazy about me doing it but, I was like, you know, if I'm going to ask other people to do, I'm going to at least volunteer first, and what are the chances we'll be a match? There we were, and we were!" The Lawsons' transplant surgeon says more people die on the waiting list for a kidney than for any other organ.</p>			
Name of Story: Coronavirus	Date: 2.17.20	Newscast: 12P	Reporter: PM
Duration: 1:50			
<p>Brief description: This morning hundreds of Americans who were quarantined on the Diamond Princess cruise ship are back on U.S. soil. Two chartered flights from Japan touching down overnight at Air Force bases in Texas and California. The flights were not supposed to include any passengers affected by the coronavirus. But the state department has now revealed 14 people who tested positive could travel. They spent the more than 12-hour flight in isolation chambers seen here filmed by passenger Cheryl Molesky. NBC's Janis Mackey Frayer is in Yokohama, Japan: Some 3,000 passenger and crew who will remain under quarantine until Wednesday, only when they test negative for the virus will they be allowed off the ship. " Among the Americans who chose to stay on board. Keep in mind, it's been almost a month since these folks initially set sail on their cruise. Home is still a long way away.</p>			
Name of Story: VT Child Vaccine Fight	Date: 2.17.20	Newscast: 530P	Reporter: JJ
Duration: 1:30			
<p>Brief description: Kush Pandit seems like your typical Virginia Tech student, studying mechanical engineering but what sets him apart is his passion. What Pandit wants is a world where all children have a better chance at a future. One of those things is access to vaccines. Last year alone, 600,000 children died from vaccine-preventable disease according to the global vaccine alliance. Now he's taking that message to Washington DC. He's one of a handful of students nationwide chosen to attend a summit for "the one campaign" a global organization, trying to end poverty and preventable disease.</p>			
Name of Story: Kidney Stones	Date: 2.17.20	Newscast: 7P	Reporter: BM
Duration: 1:20			
<p>Brief description: "It feels like somebody stabbed you and stabs you and stabs you." Katie Elkins was in 5th grade when she was crying, vomiting in pain and her parents called an ambulance. While in the hospital at Texas children's hospital, doctors informed her she has several kidney stones. Pediatric urologist, Dr. Paul Austin, says the number of kids getting them is already up 40%! "I think it's fluid hydration, I think it's diet, those of the two biggest culprits. I think kids are eating too much processed foods with high sodium and they don't drink enough." The best advice for dealing with stones is to try to avoid them in the first place. Katie has an appointment at the TCH stone clinic where doctors will determine the best way to treat the stones she hasn't passed.</p>			
Name of Story: Flu Season	Date: 2.18.20	Newscast: 6A	Reporter: JZ
Duration: 0:35			
<p>Brief Description: Health experts believe at this point flu cases will easily outnumber coronavirus cases. Americans stand a much higher chance of getting the flu. The flu has been gaining strength in the US now widespread in almost every state. The CDC estimates there have been 26 to 36 million cases of influenza this season so far. The CDC says at least 14,000 people have died so far this season from the flu, 92 of them children. Including one in Virginia. It's not too late to get a flu shot.</p>			

# HEALTH

Name of Story: Child Flu Deaths Date: 2.22.20 Newscast: 7A Reporter: TL
Duration: 0:50
Brief description: As coronavirus concerns grow, the flu is now widespread as 105 children have now died from it. That's the most at this point in the season. In a decade. the record number of flu deaths in children is blamed on an unusual flu season, influenza b has been circulating early this year and has been particularly severe in kids. The CDC reports 29 million cases of flu so far and an estimated 280,000 people hospitalized. A Virginia mother is warning other parents to get their child a flu shot after her 16-year-old daughter died earlier this month.
Name of Story: Hollins Student Health Battle Date: 2.26.20 Newscast: 6p Reporter: JJ
Duration: 2:10
Brief description: Morgan Donelson lives out her passion with a paintbrush, every stroke, telling a story. "I really like to use my art as sort of a therapeutic process" And that story is her own. During Morgan's Sophomore year at Hollins university. She was diagnosed with idiopathic intracranial hypertension, a rare disorder related to high pressure in the brain. Causing symptoms of a brain tumor. "without treatment, it leads to permanent vision loss and blindness, which as an artist is like the worst disability that I could think of for myself" Her problems only got worse. "I was in the hospital having spinal taps and then the next day I went back to class and took my exams" Complications led to eight spinal taps, three brain surgeries, two hernias, hundreds of medications, seizure disorder, sepsis, and PTSD among other issues. Her health, forcing her to drop out of college four different times. "do I want to go to this appointment, or do I want to go to class?" Now after an uphill battle and putting her life on hold she's back and just a few months away from graduation. "I'm really proud, emotional. Morgan's health struggles are far from over, but she's channeling her pain with her purpose. "syringes from my pic line and wrappers from pills I look at the art that I make and the way that people say that I inspire them emotional and that really just makes it worth it for me to keep going" Pushing towards the finish line. "the sky's the limit now, right?" I think she can do anything she wants" Living out a dream, that once seemed impossible. "That's just what I want more than anything is to say that I did it and I didn't let it stop me" Proof that healing is an art.
Name of Story: Local Coronavirus Concerns Date: 2.26.20 Newscast: 5:30P Reporter: CA
Duration: 1:30
Brief description: Getting a good education has always required a little creativity, and that's certainly true for students at North Cross's school in Shanghai, China. "It's been crazy, but it's actually been fairly effective." The Chinese government has shut down schools until at least March 1st. North Cross's Headmaster, Dr. Chris Proctor, says the students and teachers at the Shanghai school are now having class online using a video conference program. DR. CHRIS PROCTOR/ NORTH CROSS SCHOOL HEADMASTER: "The teacher's looking at a screen and has a picture of all the kids in front of their screen. When you see the face talking to you, it helps promote conversation, so we try to make it as normal as we can." Some of the teachers from countries outside of China went to their home countries over winter break and have not been allowed back into China and don't know when they will be. At Roanoke Catholic School, the virus is not impacting classes but is having an impact on international students from China. {EMILY GASTON/ROANOKE CATHOLIC SCHOOL: "They're definitely worried about their families. They're always talking to them on the phone, and WeChat is a big thing they use to message them. A lot of them are buying masks and sending them home The virus could also eventually impact whether the students can come back if they go back to China, for example, to visit family over the summer. GASTON: "That is something that we've voiced our concerns to the diocese about, but they're still ruminating on that." Like so many, watching and waiting to see how much worse the deadly virus may become.

## MINORITY

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Name of Story: Black History Month	Date: 2.18.20	Newscast: 6P	Reporter: LW JC
Duration: 0:47			
Brief description: There are several black history month events happening and today the spotlight was on African American history in local railroads. it was part of the Roanoke nonprofit Total Action for Progress annual black history month celebration. It featured prominent African Americans associated with the Norfolk and Southern railroad. Children from the local Head Start program also performed a railroad-themed skit.			
Name of Story: African American Distillery	Date: 2.21.20	Newscast: 530P	Reporter: BM
Duration: 1:20			
Brief description: "The story sells the first bottle, but what's in it will sell the second." Like many Kentucky bourbons the history of their distillery is so important to founders Sean and Tia Edwards, "as we went through the process, we found out there were no African American distilleries in the state of Kentucky. There had been no African Americans producing bourbon that weren't slaves." So, the Edwards's decided the time was more than overdue to break that barrier down. They have now announced plans to build a multi-million-dollar distillery in Lexington. Though they cannot release their exact location. The Edwards's did tell me they plan on taking their own unique spin on the bourbon. They plan to break ground on the 34 thousand square foot project by the end of the year.			
Name of Story: Hidden Figures Death	Date: 2.24.20	Newscast: 5P	Reporter: LW
Duration: 0:56			
Brief Description: Tonight, the nation is also mourning the loss of one of NASA's first African American female scientists. Katherine Johnson whose life story was featured in the 2016 movie "Hidden Figures" has died. "That's John Glenn, what do you ladies do for NASA. Calculating launches and landing sir" the 101-year-old mathematician calculated America's first space flights in the 1960's. Johnson worked for NASA Langley in Hampton. When it was extremely difficult for African Americans especially women to get jobs in the field. The West Virginia native said back in 2017 that despite all the obstacles the women faced. They were doing something they loved. Katherine Johnson, mathematician: "the main thing was I liked what I was doing, I liked work I liked the stars and the stories we were telling." Johnson enrolled at West Virginia State University at just 14-years-old. She also received the medal of freedom.			
Name of Story: Roanoke Black History	Date: 2.25.20	Newscast: 6a	Reporter: MW
Duration: 0:43			
Brief description: I'm Mignon Chubb Hale and I am your tour guide. The tour begins here at the Gainesboro Library; now a state historic landmark in one of Roanoke's oldest communities. From there, on a full parks and recreation bus, Mignon makes stops at buildings that look nothing like their iconic past. we had people like Lena Horne and Louie Armstrong they could stay here but would play at Hotel Roanoke, blowing away anyone who is along for the ride. I am so proud and most importantly educating people on the place they call home. We have such a rich history here in Roanoke if you live in a place you should be knowledgeable of the different important events. Mignon can only hope shedding light on the accomplishments and landmarks of this historic black community will encourage a better future like it did for her. when I went to Addison it was a high school segregated, but I concluded my teaching career in Addison it was integrated			
Name of Story: Lynchburg Black History Museum Event	Date: 2.25.20	Newscast: 530p	Reporter: JC
Duration: 0:45			
Brief description: Students at the University of Lynchburg are getting creative with how they want stories told during Black History Month. Tomorrow students and faculty will stand in as live wax figures depicting people who made a difference in black history. People can expect to see civil rights leaders like Malcolm X, Martin Luther King, and more. Organizers say it's the first of its kind on campus. The event is free and open to the public. It starts at 6:30 and will be in the Memorial Ballroom.			

## MINORITY

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Name of Story: Film on Black Veterans Date: 2.28.20 Newscast: 530p Reporter: BM
Duration: 0:45
Brief Description: A Richmond film director is asking for your help as he creates a 20-minute short film centered around depression. The film called *Angels* focuses on a young black veteran who is battling with depression after returning home from the war. On the day the veteran decides to take his life -- he comes across a woman who changes his perspective and decides to help. Brandon Hughes -Film Director "So many times, in our lives we have people who treat people like their depressed and when people just treat you like a regular person just with these feelings and let you vent every once in a while, like that's a big deal." The director says the goal behind this film is to open a dialogue about mental health and depression.

# POLITICS

Name of Story: Assault Weapons Bill Fails Date: 2.17.20 Newscast: 12p Reporter: pm
Duration: 0:35
Brief description: Governor Ralph Northam's push to ban the sale of assault weapons has failed after members of his own party balked at the proposal. Moderate democrats joined republicans on a senate committee this morning in rejecting legislation that would have prohibited the sale of certain semiautomatic firearms including popular ar-15 style rifles and banned the possession of magazines that hold more than 12 rounds. The bill was a top priority for Northam, who has campaigned heavily for a broad package of gun-control measures.
Name of Story: Candidacy Announcement Amanda Chase Date: 2.17.20 Newscast: 5p Reporter: JC
Duration: 0:41
Brief description: A state senator is planning on running for governor next year. Republican lawmaker Amanda Chase made the announcement in Richmond this afternoon. She's gained attention for her strong support of gun rights and push to end abortion. Chase says if she doesn't get the republican nomination. She'll run as an independent. She is the first republican to formally enter the race to succeed Governor Northam, who by law cannot seek back-to-back terms.
Name of Story: Presidential Debate Date: 2.17.20 Newscast: 530p Reporter: BM
Duration: 0:52
Brief description: Democratic candidates making their cases for why each should be president. Sen. Elizabeth Warren "2020 is our moment to choose hope over fear". Touting themselves, while bashing the current president. Pete Buttigieg "we have got to have the right nominee. Someone who can pull in a broad coalition. Someone who can challenge the president on his own turf." The one to beat for now: Bernie Sanders "democracy is not billionaires spending to get elected" One of the harshest attacks are against a candidate notably absent Nevada and other early states but surging in the polls: businessman and former NY city mayor Michael Bloomberg. Vice president joe Biden "Michael Bloomberg with \$62 billion can buy every ad he wants but he can't in fact wipe away his record no everything from dealing with stop and frisk to his foreign policy". The big question; will Bloomberg appear alongside the others. At Wednesday's democratic debate in Las Vegas.
Name of Story: VA Beach Shooting Bill Date: 2.18.20 Newscast: 6a Reporter: PM
Duration: 0:51
Brief description: Governor Ralph Northam announced in a tweet that he's signed the first bill of the 2020 legislative session. One that allows donations to the Virginia Beach strong fund to be tax-deductible, but a bill that would create a state investigation into the Virginia Beach mass shooting has been scrapped. The bill would have established a state commission to investigate the massacre that killed 12 people and injured four. Several of the families are not satisfied with the criminal investigation, or the independent investigation and want a state commission to be created.
Name of Story: Franklin Co Militia Push Date: 2.18.20 Newscast: 5p Reporter: JJ
Duration: 1:35
Brief description: A familiar sight at the Franklin County board of supervisors meeting Tuesday people in the crowd wearing bright orange stickers, saying "guns save lives." William Dyer exec. Member, Virginia Citizens Defense League "we hope to get a militia formed for Franklin County". It's a move we've seen in other counties, like Floyd back in January. More than a hundred people there used the militia muster call to educate the community. As for the man who started the movement in Franklin County. Aaron Hodges "there's nothing really to carry out yet but we are, we do want to assemble, and we do want to train for it and with the help of hopefully the sheriff's office, we will be prepared" .It's an opportunity to bring together like-minded people. And get ready to oppose whatever gun control measures might be coming down the road. Second amendment supporters in Franklin County, not just looking for support from neighbors, but the board of supervisors and beyond.

# POLITICS

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Name of Story: VA Tech Democrats    Date: 2.26.20    Newscast: 6a    Reporter: RL
Duration: 0:56
Brief description: Some area college students are asking the tough questions as we close in on Super Tuesday. The young democrats at Virginia Tech hosted a presidential primary forum. Representatives from many of the campaigns were there to answer questions from student groups and others. A lot of the concerns dealt with specific college issues. The young dems say face-to-face interaction like this goes a long way. Many of the campaigns say college students are important to their causes. In Virginia, we vote on March third, super Tuesday, along with thirteen other states.
Name of Story: Tim Kaine in Lynchburg    Date: 2.28.20    Newscast: 12P    Reporter: PM
Duration: 0:30
Brief Description: Senator Tim Kaine says he's backing Biden for president. The senator released a statement a short time ago saying. America is afflicted by a president who delights in division, cruelty, lies, and chaos. We deserve better in the oval office. In Virginia's primary, I will proudly vote for Joe Biden. Joe has exemplary heart, character, and experience-and he's a leader our kids can look up to. The senator is in Lynchburg today. We'll have more from him on this decision tonight starting on 10 news at 5.
Name of Story: Felon Voting Rights    Date: 2.28.20    Newscast: 5:30P    Reporter: JC
Duration: 0:45
Brief Description: Thousands of potential voters here in Virginia won't take part in Super Tuesday and not because they don't like any of the candidates, but because they have a prior conviction. Virginia Organizing says many convicted felons don't realize their right to vote can be restored. That's why the organization wants to help. The Secretary of the Commonwealth gives priority consideration to those who request restoration of their civil rights. Head to <a href="http://Restore.Virginia.gov">Restore.Virginia.gov</a> to get started.