



A review of the football season, from defeating Baylor to finishing 6-5. **B1**



Liberty hosts the seventh annual Christmas on the Boulevard, Dec. 4-9. **B8**



Students share Christmas memories as holiday season approaches. **A5**

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bringing cheer



DEAN HINNANT | LIBERTY CHAMPION

HOLIDAY SPIRIT – Students, faculty and staff came together Monday, Nov. 27 at Christmas In Lights for the annual Christmas

Innocence and justice

New program for fall 2019

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The Liberty University law, forensics and criminal justice programs are teaming up to start an Innocence project at the school in the fall of 2019, providing unique, real-life experience for students and serving the community and state.

According to the website, innocence projects exonerate wrongly convicted criminals through DNA testing and criminal justice system reforms. With the rapid advancement of technology in the field of forensic sciences, the website reports many closed cases from past decades warrant a re-evaluation.

Phil Kline, an assistant professor of law at Liberty, said students would be

working on real-life cases with all of the pressures that come with them.

“These students will be having a dramatic impact on their clients lives depending on whether they handle these cases competently and professionally,” Kline said. “It’s a great learning experience for them. Unfortunately, the people who are imprisoned do not have a lot of resources. We want to be able to offer them a voice when that voice should be heard. This is one way to do it.”

Rebekah Meier, a 1L in the Liberty Law School, said she appreciates the real-life implications of the project along with the safer environment provided for the students to learn.

See **INNOCENCE**, A2

Tomi shares thoughts

Conservative commentator visits Convo

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Controversial right-wing political commentator Tomi Lahren took the stage at Liberty University’s Convocation Monday, Dec. 4, where she commended Donald Trump, sounded off a list of hot-topic issues and encouraged open political discourse with her signature flair of witty conservative one-liners.

Lahren is known for her dogmatic personality and hard-hitting commentary through her “Final Thoughts” video segment series that is continually posted on FoxNews Insider – the official blog of the Fox



ANDREW SNYDER | LIBERTY NEWS SERVICE

FINAL THOUGHTS – Tomi Lahren spoke at Convocation on a variety of hot topics Monday, Dec. 4.

News Channel. She serves as a correspondent for FoxNews after being ousted from her own show on The-Blaze news network last

March following her publicized comments that she is pro-choice.

See **LAHREN**, A7

Scoping out training

LPD works with students

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Lynchburg Police Department partnered with Liberty University’s SCOPE Program, a subset of the Criminal Justice Club, to provide students with hands-on experience and practice for futures in law enforcement Saturday, Dec. 2.

The SSS Event, properly known as SCOPE Super Saturday, was modeled after LPD’s entrance examination events called

“Super Saturdays,” and featured three different experiences for participants— mock interviews, officer scenario trainings and a physical agility test.

“For the SCOPE Program, this event is kind of like the reward for the students who have gone through the program,” Tyler Schurr, president of the Criminal Justice Club, said.

See **CRIM JUST**, A6

WHAT'S NEWS @ LIBERTY

Student Activities kicked off the Christmas season with the annual **Christmas tree lighting ceremony Nov. 27** in front of DeMoss Hall. In addition to singing carols and indulging in Christmas treats, students also donated resources to Lynchburg Daily Bread.

Junior Katherine Thacker and Liberty’s Criminal Justice Club hosted the second annual **“Words of Worth” event Nov. 30** to write letters to families of the 123 police officers that have fallen in the line of duty since December 2016. About 200 students attended.

Liberty fashion design and business marketing double-major Sarah Blanke received the Blanche Payne Award for a dress design at the International **Textile and Apparel Association conference Nov. 14–18**. Her award came with a \$1,000 cash prize.

Liberty students have signed up to sponsor more than **840 Rwandan children** through Compassion International as a result of the G5 campaign, which launched during Global Focus Week in September.

Building bridges for tomorrow

Downtown exit closes until Nov. 2018 as roads are updated

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For the next year, Liberty University students and Lynchburg residents heading downtown will be unable to take the Main Street exit from the Lynchburg Expressway (US Route 29 Business) while the Main Street Bridge is under construction.

Lee Newland, city engineer for the city of Lynchburg, said the city is expecting to finish the

\$6.8 million construction project that started Nov. 13 by mid-November of 2018. The current bridge is being demolished and replaced with a new bridge that is 18 inches higher and with longer acceleration and deceleration lanes onto the expressway.

“It has exceeded its functional life, and it needs to be replaced,” Newland said. “It’s also too low to the expressway that goes underneath it. It’s been hit several times by large oversized loads.”

To complete the project

within the projected timeline, the city closed the exit to Main Street, which has caused some Lynchburg residents frustration, according to Newland.

“The public doesn’t like it being closed, obviously,” Newland said. “But by closing it, we were able to shorten the time period of the construction by six months. And then we’re projecting that we’re saving close to \$2 million by doing it at one time instead of having to leave it open.”

See **BRIDGE**, A8



CASSANDRA HERNANDEZ | LIBERTY CHAMPION

RENOVATION – Construction began Nov. 13.

INSIDE THE CHAMPION

News

A new bridge opened over U.S. 460, connecting East Campus and South Campus. **A6**

Opinion

The issue of net neutrality and how reversing regulations would be detrimental. **A4**

Sports

Profile on national-qualifying Kenyan cross country runner Azaria Kirwa. **B1**

Feature

Dark comedy “Arsenic and Old Lace” opens at the Blackbox Theater Dec. 1. **B8**

■ News	A1
■ Opinion	A4
■ Sports	B1
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