

Cold.

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There's no other way to say it as a blast of arctic air arrives

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To say it feels like Christmas is an understatement.

In fact, with brutal winds it could feel as cold 15 degrees below zero.

That's why the National Weather Service in Blacksburg placed Danville and Pittsylvania County under a wind chill advisory until 1 p.m. Saturday.

The advisory is issued when strong winds mix with frigid temperatures to create "dangerously cold conditions for exposed skin," according to the weather service.

It's all part of a mammoth storm system that's bringing extreme cold to tens of millions of Americans as they scurry off to holiday destinations or out shopping for those last-minute Christmas gifts.

Saturday's high temperature in Danville is expected only to reach the upper 20s. On Christmas Day and Monday, the highs could break the freezing mark, but not by much.

A wind advisory was in place until 6 p.m. Friday for gusts up to 50 mph.

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Getting the lead out

Grant covers cost of program aiming to mitigate hazards found in Danville homes



JOHN R. CRANE PHOTOS, REGISTER & BEE

Michael Beckner is Danville's Lead Safe program manager. Danville has implemented its first Lead Safe program to eliminate the danger of lead in families' homes built before 1978.

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Lead is a terrifying element that can pose dangers in homes, especially for the children living in them.

That's why the city has implemented a program to help qualifying families eliminate the substance from homes built before 1978.

Michael Beckner, the city's Lead Safe program manager, was hired by the city in May to lead Danville's efforts to target the problem.

"We just want to help Danville families provide the safe and healthy homes children need," Beckner said during an interview in his office in the Municipal Building on Thursday morning.

Danville will focus its lead-reduction efforts on homes belonging to low- and moderate-income residents and housing children. Families at 80% or less of the city's median household income can qualify for the program that offers the services at no cost.

"It's all free of charge," Beckner said.

The U.S. Department of Hous-



Danville Lead Safe Program Manager Michael Beckner shows the X-ray fluorescence lead-testing gun at his office Thursday morning.

ing and Urban Development awarded the city \$1.78 million to investigate possible lead hazards in residences in the city that were built before 1978.

That was the year lead in interior products, including paint, became illegal.

The grant is for 42 months and covers the cost of the program, including Beckner's position as well as a risk-assessor job that will be filled later, he said.

Lead, when ingested by children, has been linked to lower IQ,

hearing loss, damaged nerves, abdominal pain and cramping, fatigue, slowed growth, anemia and other conditions.

"Children will eat it and adults can ingest it as well when cleaning and the dust gets stirred up," Beckner said.

The city of Danville will assess up to 100 homes for lead dangers and get rid of the harmful substance in most of them.

City officials expect to remediate — remove lead danger — from 83 homes as a result of

the grant, Danville Community Development Director Ken Gillie told the Danville Register & Bee in January.

The city modeled its Lead Safe program after Roanoke's.

Beckner is informing numerous organizations about the program, including the Danville Department of Social Services, Piedmont Access to Health Services, Danville Public Schools and religious groups.

Beckner inspects homes with an X-ray fluorescence lead-testing gun, checking and measuring lead levels in multiple layers inside walls. The element is also found in old window frames. An outside contractor performs needed abatement and deeper inspections with more sophisticated equipment when needed.

So far, he has inspected six homes, with five testing positive for lead, Beckner said.

Though he doesn't know how many homes in Danville contain lead, Beckner pointed out that a large percentage of them were built before 1978. The city of Danville has about 25,000 parcels, but not all of them include homes, he pointed out.

A changing of the 'interim' guards

County attorney steps into temporary role as administrator while search continues



PITTSYLVANIA COUNTY PHOTOS, CONTRIBUTED

Members of the Pittsylvania County Board of Supervisors present Clarence Monday with a certificate Tuesday evening for serving as interim county administrator. Monday officially stepped down from the interim post Wednesday.

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Pittsylvania County now has a second interim administrator while officials search for a permanent leader to fill the spot.

Vaden Hunt, the attorney for the county, steps into the temporary position following a vote Tuesday night by the Pittsylvania County Board of Supervisors.

Hunt takes the place of Clarence Monday, who's been serving as the interim county administrator since February. Monday's last day was Wednesday.

County officials said Monday stepped down because his home sold quicker than anticipated. While he intended to sell it by the end of the year, it sold the same day it went on the market. That left his family with a challenge to move while in another state.

Monday submitted his letter of resignation last month in what a news release described as a "collaboration" with the Pittsylvania County Board of Supervisors.

"The Board has been most supportive of me in this role, and I have tremendously enjoyed returning to the County and serving the Board of Supervisors, County staff, and the citizens of this great County for the past seven months," Monday wrote in a news release.

Hunt has served as the Pittsylvania County attorney since 2011. In that role, he has been responsible for representing the county in most litigation matters and providing legal guidance and counsel to the board of supervisors and most county departments, commissions and boards, a news release stated.

"I am honored to step into this role on an interim basis and help lead Pittsylvania County during this transition period as we look for the next Pittsylvania county administrator," Hunt said in a statement. "I have no desire to become the permanent county ad-



The Pittsylvania County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday appointed county attorney Vaden Hunt as interim county administrator.

"I have no desire to become the permanent county administrator but am happy to serve the county in this way temporarily."

Vaden Hunt

ministrator but am happy to serve the county in this way temporarily."

Monday took over in the interim role after the Pittsylvania County Board of Supervisors — with three new members — fired David Smitherman at its Jan. 4 reorganizational meeting. It was the first order of business af-

ter members elected Vic Ingram as chairman.

In looking for the next administrator, the board of supervisors partnered with the Berkley Group, a government consulting firm, to perform a national search.

A formal review of applications to find candidates for interviews was scheduled to be conducted last week. The board is expected to interview finalists in late October or early November, the county previously stated.

It's possible a selection will be made by November.

The Danville Regional Foundation has agreed to pay up to \$25,000 of the search costs, the county reported. The contract with the Berkley Group is for \$30,000.