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Radford Police to host National Night Out event in Bisset Park

RADFORD - On Tuesday, Aug. 3, the Radford City Police Department will participate in National Night Out, a program designed by the National Association of Town Watch (NATW) to promote positive

relationships between police departments and the communities they serve.

The public is invited to join

See **Night Out**, page 3

High school students rocket through STEM program during RU Summer Bridge

RADFORD - With a Phillips screwdriver in her right hand, Peyton Coleman dropped to the carpeted floor and quickly began lefty-loosening the multiple screws holding together a black remote-control vehicle.

"We're taking it apart to put sensors in it," explained Coleman as she twisted the screwdriver, "and then we'll put it back together."

The rising high school senior from Amelia County tinkered with the vehicle early on a Tuesday afternoon while a small group of her peers looked on. Each eagerly awaited her opportunity to work on the vehicle that soon would serve as a facsimile planetary surface exploration rover.

As the group collaborated, Sandra Liss, Radford University assistant professor of physics, walked by, listened to the dis-



cussion, and periodically chimed in with helpful guidance.

Coleman and her group were among the 20 young women who participated in Radford University's annual Summer Bridge: Women in STEM program, a

week-long residential camp for female high school students. The program offers hands-on learning experiences like building surface rovers and launching rockets and

See **STEM**, page 2

Wizardly event in Bisset Park to support adult literacy

RADFORD - The Literacy Volunteers of the NRV are calling all wizards of Gryffindor, Hufflepuff, Ravenclaw, and Slytherin to have the courage, strength, and power to conquer the Potter in the Park 2021 Triwizard TriMile Race on Saturday, Aug. 28, Hogwarts Move-In Day.

The Harry Potter-themed event asks participants to "run,

walk, apparate, or fly three miles through the wizarding world of Bisset Park in Radford or be a virtual runner using an invisibility cloak."

The Wizard race entry fee is \$25. The fee for four wizards is \$80. Pets are also encouraged to attend. The race sets off at 9:45 a.m.

All proceeds help local adults

learn to read. Raffle tickets will be on sale with chances to win a set of four House pillows, a literacy-themed Potter quilt, and a guitar. All racers will receive a magical Potter T-shirt, a lightning bolt tattoo, and some other fun goodies.

"Better bring your magi-

See **Wizardly**, page 5



Participants in the 2019 Triwizard TriMile Race show off their Harry Potter wizardly garb. This year's event is set for Saturday, Aug. 28, in Bisset Park.

Olympics the latest stop on Irena Gillarova's life journey



Irena Gillarova is just one of two female Virginia Tech athletes, current or former, to win at least two national championships, joining Queen Harrison, who won three national crowns during her VT career from 2006-2010. Photo courtesy of Virginia Tech Athletics.

Virginia Tech alumna Irena Gillarova has traveled all over the world.

Just in the past year, she has visited some of the most beautiful places on Earth, hiking snow-capped mountains in Slovakia, riding horses in South Africa, and going scuba diving in the Adriatic Sea off the coast of Croatia. And a few months before the COVID-19 pandemic arrived, she went surfing in Indonesia.

Now her current location is Tokyo, where she is representing the Czech Republic and the Hokies in the women's javelin throw in the Olympics. She begins her quest for an Olympic medal Monday.

The former two-time national champion in the event for the Hokies will be competing for her native Czech Republic after she earned a spot from the Czech Olympic Committee in early July.

The Olympics represent a career accomplishment for Gillarova. The 29-year-old from Pribam, Czech Republic, a small town southwest of Prague, started thinking about the Olympics after she watched Cool Runnings, a 1993 movie about the Jamaican bobsled team competing at the Winter Olympics, when she was 7.

"This is a huge thing for me," Gillarova said of her Olympic experience. "It's like, 'OK, I've fulfilled my biggest goal and now I can just focus on the future. I know my career has been good. There will be no regrets because I've made the Olympics.'"

Gillarova contemplated a pursuit of an Olympic bid in 2016, but an Achilles injury all but dashed those hopes. Not only that, but she also found herself immersed more in her collegiate career than the chasing of an international one.

In 2015, competing as Irena Sediva, she won Virginia Tech's first national title in the javelin, overcoming the competition with a school-record toss on her final attempt at the NCAA Championships. Her Achilles

See **Olympics**, page 4

Great Road Encampment to honor frontier pioneers August 7, 8

The 10th annual Great Road Encampment will be held Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 7 and 8.

With free admission, this 18th-century encampment in the East Montgomery Park behind the Elliston Fire Department at 5001 Enterprise Dr., will be held rain or shine from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. on Saturday and from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. on Sunday.

The event is sponsored by Montgomery County Parks and Recreation, Fort Vause Outfitters, the Great Road Craft Guild, Seams Colonial, and various private donors.

Demonstrations will include 18th-century reenactors, presentations on the history of The Great Road and the West Vir-

See **Great Road**, page 6



The Great Road Encampment will take visitors back to the frontier days of the 18th century.

Historic Scout Troop 158 Eagle Court of Honor escalates siblings to Eagle rank

In a historic ceremony Tuesday on the grounds of St. Michael Lutheran Church, Troop 158 held an Eagle Scout Court of Honor ceremony that celebrated the conclusion of the Trail to Eagle for siblings Fitz and Jack Cooper by officially elevating them to Eagle rank, the highest recognition in scouting.

Troop 158 Scoutmaster Al Cooper delivered the Eagle charge to his son and daughter.

The occasion was considered historic because Jack Cooper became

the first female in the Blue Ridge Mountains Council to achieve Eagle rank after scouting's national executive board in 2017 approved the welcoming of female youth into scouting and thereby changed the organization's official name from Boy Scouts of America (BSA) to Scouts of America. The decision was supported unanimously by the St. Michael Lutheran Church Council.

Moreover, Fitz and Jack Cooper may well be the first pair of siblings

to achieve Eagle at the same time in Virginia and perhaps in the whole country.

As Ben Crawford, who has been a scout for 80 years, said to the crowd, to climb the advancement ladder to Eagle requires "years of performance-based achievements. . . . Those who earn Eagle are very special, the top of the top" since only 2.1 percent of the millions of scouts "across the country "achieve

See **Troop 158**, page 2



Troop 158 Scoutmaster Al Cooper delivers the Eagle Scout charge to his son and daughter, Fitz (left) and Jack Cooper at Tuesday's Eagle Scout Court of Honor.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, July 31:

Friends of Claytor Lake Annual Meeting

At Claytor Lake State Park Shelter One from 9 a.m. until noon. RSVP to info@focl.org.

Sunday, Aug. 1:

Simply Elemental Art Opening Reception

The Simply Elemental art display in the Hahn Horticultural Garden (on the Virginia Tech campus) officially opens. The art will be on display through Sept. 30. An opening reception with live poetry readings will feature music performances by classical guitarist Renate Kehlenbeck from 4 to 4:45 p.m. and harpist Julia Fallen from 5 to 5:45 p.m.

Hors d'oeuvre and punch will be available, graciously sponsored by Matrix Gallery Fine American Crafts.

The Blacksburg Regional Art Association is sponsoring the first ever, 2021 VT Hahn Horticulture Garden Simply Elemental Sculpture Award. The award recipient will be selected by a jury.

Thursday, Aug. 5:

American Legion meeting

American Legion Harvey-Howe-Carpenter Post 30 will meet at 7 p.m. at the VFW Post 776 building in Radford. For further information, call 250-2283 or 239-9864.

Friday, Aug. 6- Sunday, Aug. 8:

Radford Public Library Book Sale

The Radford Public Library's primary fundraiser, sponsored by the Lamplighters, volunteers who raise money for the library, is the book sale on Friday, Aug. 6,

and Saturday, Aug. 7 from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m., and Sunday, Aug. 8, from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m. Masks and gloves will be provided at the library entrance. Some tables will be set up inside the library to increase the shopping space.

Hardbacks are \$1.00 and paperbacks are \$.50. Children's books are half that.

Tuesday, Aug. 10:

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. Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) are invited to attend. Guest speaker Charlotte Conner will give a talk on "First Battle of Manassas-Unwarranted Deaths of Savable Soldiers." For further information, call 320-4315 or 239-9864.

Wednesday, Aug. 11:

Brown Bag Book Club

On the second Wednesday of each month, the Radford Public Library will present a book discussion from noon until 1 p.m. Bring a lunch if you like. This month the group is discussing "The Grapes of Wrath" by John Steinbeck.

Saturday, Aug. 14:

Fourth Annual Swing for Scholarships Golf Tournament

At the Pete Dye River Course to benefit the "Carilion Cares for Children" program providing tuition discounts at the Radford Early Learning Center for families with financial need at Radford Child Development, Inc. The shotgun start is at 2 p.m.

Entry fees for a Captain's Choice Foursome are \$300/foursome paid online by Aug. 1 and 400/foursome at the door, based on availability.

The hole sponsorship is \$100/Hole to

be paid online by Aug. 6. Prizes include a \$100,000 hole-in-one contest for 10 participants chosen by purchased raffle ticket and a 2021 vehicle from Harvey's in Radford for a hole-in-one. Prizes will be awarded for first- through fourth-place teams and closest to the pin. The day will include an awards dinner, gift bags, refreshments, raffle prizes, and mulligans. Register at www.radfordchilddevelopment.org/golf.

Mt. Tabor Ruritan Club Fish Fry

The Mount Tabor Ruritan Club will hold its August Fish Fry from 5 to 7 p.m. at Slusser's Chapel Picnic Shelter, 1543 Mount Tabor Rd, Blacksburg. The meal will feature single servings of fish, fries and slaw, homemade desserts, and beverages. The cost is \$8 for adults and carry-outs and \$5 for children under 12. Children under 3 will eat free. Simple Gifts of the Blue Ridge will be playing some folk music. The fish fry will be held rain or shine. Call or text 540-449-6178 for further information.

Monday, Aug. 16:

Intellectual Disabilities Agency Golf Tournament

The 24th annual "Swing Fore Persons with Intellectual Disabilities" Golf Classic will be held at the Blacksburg Country Club with tee-off at 1 p.m. following lunch. For more information and to sign up, contact the IDA at 381-0310 or email to sheila@idanrv.org.

Ongoing: Through July 31:

Radford Public Library's Summer Reading Program

The Radford Public Library is offering its annual summer reading program for kids, teens, and adults. The program

promotes reading daily to earn prizes and to earn entries to win raffle baskets. The summer reading program is a fun way to promote literacy, encourage reading as a healthy habit, and help readers experience reading as fun and adventurous.

Through Aug. 29:

Glencoe Mansion, Museum and Gallery exhibit "Mountain Rail Trails"

Glencoe Mansion, Museum and Gallery is presenting its newest art gallery exhibit, "Mountain Rail Trails," featuring photography by Dale R. Carlson of Blue-moontastic Images.

The exhibit dovetails nicely with the train observatory platform and exhibit found at the edge of the grounds of Glencoe. Everyone is welcome to visit the museum with no admission charge. Glencoe is located at 600 Unruh Dr. in Radford.

Through September:

Blacksburg's Market Square Jam 2021

Blacksburg's Market Square Jam 2021 will continue each Wednesday from 7 to 9 p.m. through September at Market Square Park.

Through October:

Radford Farmers Market

The Radford Farmers Market is being held each Saturday through Oct. 30 from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. in the New River Valley Community Service parking lot (the old Wade's parking lot) on West Main Street.

Christiansburg Farmers Market

The Christiansburg Farmers Market is being held every Thursday through October in the parking lot of the Christiansburg Recreation Center from 3 to 7 p.m.

Troop 158 from page 1

Eagle rank." That "vast majority are nevertheless better persons for their scouting experience."

To achieve Eagle status requires the earning of 21 merit badges and the completion of a major project that is of benefit to the community and/or a religious institution or church. Fitz's project was the establishment of a 30-foot raised strawberry garden for Michah's Garden at St. Michael. Michah's Garden grows fresh produce for the Michah's Caring Initiative, which focuses on feeding and

clothing the community's most vulnerable members.

Jack's project was the construction of an expansion for a Blacksburg United Methodist Church preschool, which had to close because of the pandemic and needed to expand the outdoor playground center to reopen.

Special thanks were noted to Patricia Hutchinson and Boomer, Mike and Lyn Lenahan, and Linda and Peter Skornia for their financial support of the Coopers' Eagle projects.

Jack Cooper is a founding member of Troop 158G and a member of the inaugural class of female Eagle scouts. She attended the 2017 Norwegian National Scout Jamboree and completed the 2021 Blue Ridge Mountains Council staff training program. She has served the troop as patrol leader, assistant senior patrol leader, and senior patrol leader.

Among his leadership roles, Fitz Cooper has served the troop as historian, patrol leader, assistant senior patrol leader, and senior pa-

trol leader. He attended the 2017 National Scout Jamboree and completed National Youth Leadership Training in 2018 and the 2019 National Advanced Youth Leadership Experience.

Noah Provenzano, a member of Troop 158, served as the ceremony's emcee. It began with the presentation of the colors and an invocation by the Rev. Michelle Stramiello, pastor of St. Michael. Troop Scoutmaster Corey Mercer delivered the welcome speech.

Former troop advancement

chair Dan Provenzano presented the Eagle awards to the Cooper siblings, who then made a few brief remarks with special attention paid to their parents, Al and Kristie Cooper, for their unwavering support on the scouts' long and difficult journey. The duo also presented pins to their mentors with Jack singling out her mom.

Pastor Stramiello closed the ceremony with a benediction, which was followed by the retiring of the colors.

STEM from page 1

provides a window into the world of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education and careers.

This year's summer bridge theme was "Mission

to Mars," which required the students to participate in activities related to power generation and transmission; remote and autonomous vehicles and rocket propulsion; the geology of

Earth and other planets; and the biology and chemistry of space travel.

Three Radford University students served as teaching assistants. Along with faculty and staff, they orga-

nized Summer Bridge with a week of creative activities and lessons that incorporated science into the daily curricula.

"I really like Radford, and I love the science building and the science teachers here," said rising high school senior Linda Main-gua of Roanoke, who also noted that Radford University is now on her list of colleges to consider. "You can really connect with them. You can ask them a lot of questions, and they are on it. They know everything that you're asking."

The rover Coleman and the others created roamed a small portion of the Radford campus in search of data later in the week. The young women controlled the vehicle remotely from Liss's office, three stories above the ground in the Radford University Artis College of Science and Technology Center of the Sciences.

Just down the hallway from the rover construction, four more groups of young women were getting assistance from Caitlynn Fischer '21, a teaching assistant in the program, and physics Professor Rhett Herman. The young women gathered around tables in the lab, working with circuits and coding sensors they placed on the remote vehicle.

Morgan Coltrain's group built obstacle-avoidance sensors for the vehicle like those NASA's Mars Rover utilizes in case something was to get in its way as it roamed.

"So basically, if our rover was going to drive forward and there was a tree in the way, the rover would say, 'Oh no, there's a tree there,'" the rising high school senior from Ches-

terfield, Va., said. "Then, it would avoid it and say 'OK, we're going to go in a different direction, not in the direction of the tree,' because obviously we do not want our rover to hit things and damage itself."

The young women had accomplished all this on just Day Two of the Summer Bridge program. The day before, on Monday, they learned "a lot of rocket math," Coltrain said, before building their own miniature rockets and preparing to launch them into the Radford skies.

"This is rocket science," said Emily Williams, a rising high school senior from Martinsville, Va.

As the young women progressed through each project, Liss could see their confidence soaring to new heights, which is the purpose of Summer Bridge.

"In the early school grades, many girls start to say, 'I am not a science person,' and we know that is not true," said Liss, who, as an astronomer and university physics faculty member, is a role model for young women considering STEM education and careers.

The importance of Summer Bridge, she said, "is to give these girls an opportunity to have fun and take ownership of things and feel like experts of their own kind of creations."

Shree Ghosh is one of those young women. The rising senior from Falls Church, Va., fell in love with space exploration as a child while watching PBS NOVA documentaries with her father. She wants to pursue a career in aerospace or mechanical engineering and found Summer Bridge to be a perfect launching pad for her as-

tronomical ambitions.

All of the young women attended Summer Bridge free of charge, thanks to the generosity of several donors, including Appalachian Power through the American Electric Power (AEP) Foundation, BAE Systems, TORC Robotics, the C.E. Richardson Benevolent Foundation, and the Greater Lynchburg Community Foundation.

Many of the sponsors participated in the program as guest speakers, including Amanda Cox, Appalachian Power external affairs manager, and Kim Janney and Anjali Dhabaria from TORC Robotics. A team from BAE Systems, led by research and development manager Kelly Moran, also participated in Summer Bridge.

The students also heard from Radford University alumna Laurie Shelby '83, vice president of environmental, health, and safety at Tesla Inc.

Coltrain felt at home during Summer Bridge as she returned for her second year. In 2020, she participated in the three-day virtual session and "had to come back and do it in person," she said.

Returning for a second year gave her a chance to learn the material more thoroughly, she said, and it also gave her an opportunity and the confidence to be a mentor.

"I did this last year, and this year I'm telling myself 'do this, grasp this,' Coltrain said, "and teach these kids how amazing this stuff is. This is a great opportunity for all these young women."

Chad Osborne
Radford University

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Preview Date – Saturday July 31st @ 10 AM

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Blacksburg's Amanda Cruise, a registered nurse and RU grad, has been named the new administrator for Warm Hearth at Home.

Warm Hearth at Home welcomes new administrator

BLACKSBURG -- Amanda Cruise, a registered nurse and Radford University graduate who lives in Blacksburg, has been named the new administrator for Warm Hearth at Home.

Cruise has served as the Director of Nursing at Warm Hearth Village's Showalter Center since

2017. As the administrator for Warm Hearth at Home, she will oversee administrative and clinical functions of the agency, ensuring that clients and families receive outstanding care and services.

"Amanda's kind and caring nature along with her commitment to qual-

ity care for seniors make her the perfect candidate for this role and we're excited to help her make this transition," said Heather Gearhart, Warm Hearth's Vice President of Health and Wellness.

Cruise earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from Radford University, and she

wants people to believe in Warm Hearth at Home the way they believe in Warm Hearth Village. "My vision is nurturing an environment where we are the clients' biggest advocates," she said.

Cruise has three children who keep her busy with swimming, soccer, and lacrosse.

LewisGale Hospital Montgomery names new chief operating officer

BLACKSBURG -- LewisGale Hospital Montgomery has hired Devin Tobin as chief operating officer for its 146-bed acute-care medical and surgical facility.

"Devin's diverse healthcare background in facility master planning, delivering exceptional patient experience, and ensuring operational performance make her an excellent addition to our hospital executive team," said Alan Fabian, LewisGale's CEO.

Tobin brings nearly 10 years of healthcare experience to her

new role. Previously, she served as vice president of operations for LewisGale Medical Center where she oversaw numerous construction and infrastructure projects and led several support departments. She helped manage COVID-19 response, served as the ethics and compliance co-chair, and launched several new service lines including bariatric surgery.

Prior to joining the LewisGale Regional Health System, Tobin was an administrative resident at

Spotsylvania Regional Medical Center in Fredericksburg. Additionally, she served as an administrative assistant with VCU Health in Richmond.

Tobin earned a bachelor's degree in health science from the University of Florida and later graduated with a masters in healthcare administration from Virginia Commonwealth University. She is active in community and professional organizations, including the American College of Healthcare Executives.



Devin Tobin has been hired as the chief operating officer for LewisGale Hospital Montgomery's 146-bed acute-care medical and surgical facility.

Marcel Lomnický ready to hammer the competition at the Olympics

The men's hammer throw event at the Summer Olympics consists of throwing a 16-pound metal ball attached to a grip by a steel wire out of a 7-foot diameter circle. Usually, a primal scream accompanies each throw.

The event's competitors feature hefty men with massive arms, powerful legs, and thick chests. Their workouts consist primarily of lifting weights, and they tend to develop allergic reactions to anything cardio.

Marcel Lomnický fits that mold, but those familiar with the former Virginia Tech great and one of the world's best hammer throwers might be stunned to learn that this hulking man started his journey into sports as a figure skater.

Yes, a figure skater.

"My mom signed me up for figure skating when I was 6 because I was overweight and I needed to lose weight," Lomnický said. "My guess is that she knew someone at the local figure skating club, so she gave it a shot. All my friends were playing ice hockey. It also may have helped my hammer throwing career, as both are rotational sports, and the hammer technique always came very natural to me.

"I also lost a lot of weight, but then gained it all back for the hammer," Lomnický said. "I have never put on skates since those days, though. Maybe after I retire from track and field and want to be fit again. Who knows?"

For sure, Lomnický won't be starting any weight-loss regimens any time soon. Starting Sunday, the 34-year-old begins his quest for a medal by competing in the hammer throw for his native Slovakia at the Summer Olympics taking place in Tokyo.

These Olympics mark the third for Lomnický, who competed in 2012 in London and in 2016 in Rio de Janeiro. He becomes the first student-athlete with Virginia Tech ties-ever to compete in three Olympic Games.

"Wow, it is truly an honor to be a part of history like that," he said. "It would be a little sweeter if I was able to bring an Olympic medal back to Blacksburg, though."



Virginia Tech alum and three-time Olympian Marcel Lomnický is throwing the hammer better than ever and is looking to become the school's third-ever Olympic medalist.

That is not an unrealistic goal, as he seeks to become Virginia Tech's third medalist, joining Bimbo Coles (bronze medal, men's basketball, 1988) and Kristi Castlin (bronze medal, 100-meter hurdles, 2016). In his Olympic debut in London, Lomnický failed to qualify for the finals, but in Rio, he finished fifth overall with a top throw of 75.97 meters (249 feet, 3 inches).

Then in June, he made a throw of 79.19 meters to finish first at the Slovakia National Championships. That throw marked a personal best and qualified him automatically for the Olympics.

That throw would have won a gold medal in Rio. Dilshod Nazarov of Tajikistan took the gold with a top throw of 78.68 meters.

"Although I was still ranked high in the World Athletics Rankings, I was still chasing the strict Olympic standard that would guarantee my place among the top 32 in the world in my event," Lomnický said of his performance at the Slovakia National Championships. "After they measured my throw, not only had I made the Olympic team, but I had also thrown my personal best after seven years. Perhaps I am prouder of the distance than the Olympics. It became personal, but qualifying never gets old.

"I know I will be physically ready for it," Lomnický said. "The question is will I be ready mentally? I hope my past Olympic experiences will help me and give me an edge over my competitors."

Lomnický's international success, though, hasn't

come without sacrifices. Slovakia lacks some of the resources needed to churn out medal-winning Olympians, and that forced Lomnický to make some tough choices, including leaving his wife and two young children behind in Slovakia while he trained at the United States Olympic Training Center in Chula Vista, Calif., just outside of San Diego.

Lomnický spent three months earlier this spring in Chula Vista, and that time obviously helped him. He probably wouldn't have thrown 79.19 meters without that training.

"My wife understands very well what this sport needs at this level," Lomnický said. "She knows that without sacrifices it cannot be done. I once sat with her, and we started talking. I told her that I ideally need three months of training camp in a perfect weather place to maximize my chances for the Olympic Games. I asked how much of that time was she willing to give me considering our growing family. She said go ahead and do whatever you think will give you the best chance for an Olympic medal.

"I honestly could not ask for a better wife. Of course, it was more than challenging for her to stay home all along with two young kids, but at the end of the day, I am a three-time Olympian because of her."

No matter what happens in Tokyo, Lomnický plans to continue training in hopes of competing in the 2024 Olympics in Paris. After that, he is unsure about his future.

— Written by Jimmy Robertson

Historic Montgomery



Summer road trips were rather different before the development of the interstate system in the 1950s. Here, an attendant poses at an Esso Gas Station. Do you know where it was? The poster in the window advertises the Silver Lake Club and gas costs 20.3 cents a gallon. (This image from the D. D. Lester Collection and many more are available from the Montgomery Museum of Art & History.)

Night Out

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the police department in Bisset Park from 5 to 8 p.m. Tuesday for yard games, food trucks, and a tug-of-war contest against the Radford Fire Department.

HOT 100-7 FM will be on site, and the evening will feature a K-9 demonstration, a SWAT display, and a fire department display.

National Night Out is "an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie," according to the NATW, "to make our neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live. National Night Out enhances the relationship between

neighbors and law enforcement while bringing back a true sense of community. Furthermore, it provides a great opportunity to bring police and neighbors together under positive circumstances."

Millions of people participate in National Night Out events across the country, on U.S. military bases, and in U.S. territories around the world on the first Tuesday in August, hosting "block parties, festivals, parades, cookouts, and various other community events with safety demonstrations, seminars, youth events, visits from emergency personnel, exhibits and much, much more," according to the NATW.

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OPINION

COVID-19 update: As Delta variant circulates, health district director urges people to disregard vaccine misinformation

A recent bump in positive COVID-19 cases in the New River Valley is an indication that the newest strain of the coronavirus, the Delta variant, is circulating in the region.

This is why it's more important than ever for people to be fully vaccinated for COVID-19, said Noelle Bissell, health director of the New River Health District, during a July 26 meeting with news media.

"For those who aren't vaccinated, I'm asking that you put aside anything that you've seen

on social media or heard from friends about COVID and the vaccine," she said. "Our society's pretty divided right now and misinformation is rampant. Getting more people vaccinated is the way to keep things from escalating in our community."

About 42 percent of the district is fully vaccinated for COVID-19, Bissell said. Once people are vaccinated, it is extremely rare to be infected with the coronavirus. If someone who is vaccinated gets the virus, symptoms are mild, Bissell said.

The majority of hospitalizations and severe illnesses from COVID-19 in the region are among those who are not vaccinated.

Also, significant, adverse reactions to the vaccines are rare, at 0.5 percent, and happen within the first few months of vaccination, she said.

"It's much safer to get the vaccine than it is to get COVID itself," Bissell said. "In public health, we're going to advocate for vaccination. Vaccination saves millions of lives every year,

and that was before COVID."

The district continues to make vaccines available to the community, including offering doses at community events. This week, representatives will offer vaccines at the New River Valley Fair. Information about where and when vaccines are available can be found at the health district's website.

Though federal guidance on wearing masks while indoors has been lifted for those who are fully vaccinated, Bissell said people should continue to use

their own judgement depending on the situation. For instance, if vaccinated people are indoors in a crowded space and surrounded by those who have not been vaccinated, wearing a mask is a good practice.

Otherwise, when outdoors or indoors surrounded by vaccinated individuals, people who are vaccinated likely don't need a mask, she said.

— Written by Jenny Kincaid Boone

WalletHub back-to-school survey: 54% of parents say they didn't get their money's worth during the pandemic

With back-to-school sales-tax holidays starting as early as this weekend, the personal-finance website WalletHub Thursday released its 2021 Back-to-School Report.

Among its findings were that 54 percent of parents said they didn't get their money's worth from their local schools during the pandemic. WalletHub analyst Jill Gonzalez said

it "makes sense that parents feel like they got a bad deal, given that most schools — both public and private — were online-only for at least a significant portion of the year while taxes and tuition weren't discounted."

Fifty-six percent of parents think their child's future earning potential has been hurt by the pandemic. Gonzalez said this "is most likely an overreaction. Kids are resilient, and most young people probably learned a lot

more last year than we think. It's easy to overreact when you're a parent and it's your child's future at stake, but everyone was pretty much in the same boat last year. It's fair to say that the earning potential of the country's young people is just as high as it was before."

Sixty-seven percent of parents with school-age children said COVID-19 has changed the way they plan to spend money on education with one in four parents saying they

will spend more on back-to-school shopping this year as compared to 2020. However, one in 20 parents say they will not do any back-to-school shopping at all this year.

Fifty-seven percent of parents think schools should fully reopen for in-person learning.

Forty-one percent of parents say the job market is their #1 concern for their kids after graduation, followed by debt. Gonzalez said this shows that parents are concerned that

their children "are too often leaving school overleveraged and underprepared for a competitive employment landscape."

Seventy-nine percent of parents think all school districts should get the same amount of funding per student. About 60 percent of parents think their children's education is worth going into debt for. About forty percent of parents say the pandemic has changed the way they save for their children's college education.

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Despite taking fewer road trips, Americans buying more gas

Data from GasBuddy's midsummer travel survey reveal that though people are buying more gas, they may be staying closer to home.

In results released Wednesday, GasBuddy's first-ever midsummer travel survey turned up the contradiction that while 10 percent fewer Americans are planning to take a road trip this summer than were in May, demand for gasoline last week hit the highest level of 2021.

"With new COVID cases rising and gasoline prices at their highest level since

2014, some motorists appear to be re-thinking their summer travel plans," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy. "However, while some may be trimming summer road trips, demand for gasoline remains strong across the country with GasBuddy data showing that last week's consumption reached a 2021 high, topping the busy July 4 holiday weekend. That will keep prices from falling much even as COVID anxiety rises."

The spreading COVID-19 Delta variant may not keep people from driving, but it is affecting Americans' decision to take road trips. The percentage of people who are taking fewer road trips due to COVID-19 concerns increased from 22 percent to 28 percent from May to July.

While the recent spike in demand shows that Ameri-

cans are still determined to get out this summer, wavering confidence in road trips says people might be worried about budgeting for high gas prices and seeking adventures closer to home.

In early May, 57 percent of Americans were planning to take a road trip, according to GasBuddy's 2021 summer travel survey. Since then, gas prices have risen to a seven-year high, a new variant of COVID-19 has spread throughout the country, and a pipeline shutdown brought gasoline shortages to the Southeast. As of this week, only 46 percent of Americans have or are still planning to hit the road.

Gas prices have been steadily climbing since early November to prices that haven't seen since 2014 with a national average of \$3.14 per gallon. Fifty percent of Americans now say high gas prices are de-

terringly them from taking a road trip, up from 46 percent in May.

Summer travel is defined as the period between May 31 and Sept. 6, 2021 (Memorial Day through Labor Day).

GasBuddy is the leading fuel savings platform providing North American drivers with the most ways to save money on gas. As one of the most highly-rated apps in the history of the App Store, GasBuddy has been downloaded nearly 100 million times. Acquired by PDI Software in 2021, GasBuddy's publishing and software businesses enable the world's leading fuel, convenience quick service restaurants and consumer packaged goods companies to shorten the distance between the fueling public and their brands. GasBuddy data are available at www.gasbuddy.com.

Olympics

from page 1

injury prevented her from defending her title, but as a senior, she won it again at her final collegiate event, joining Queen Harrison as the only two Virginia Tech female student-athletes to win at least two national crowns.

"In 2016, I was injured, so it wasn't such a big surprise of me not making it [the Czech Olympic team]," Gillarova said. "I think I was living in a bubble of my college career, and I was very focused on that. So the Olympics were a big thing for me, but more important to me at the time was the NCAA Championship and things like that. I probably should have had bigger goals, but it all worked out how it was supposed to work out."

After graduating from Virginia Tech with a degree in international relations, Gillarova returned to the Czech Republic. She con-

tinued training, with the Olympics with 2020 as the target. She also began work toward a master's degree in international relations at a university there in her home country.

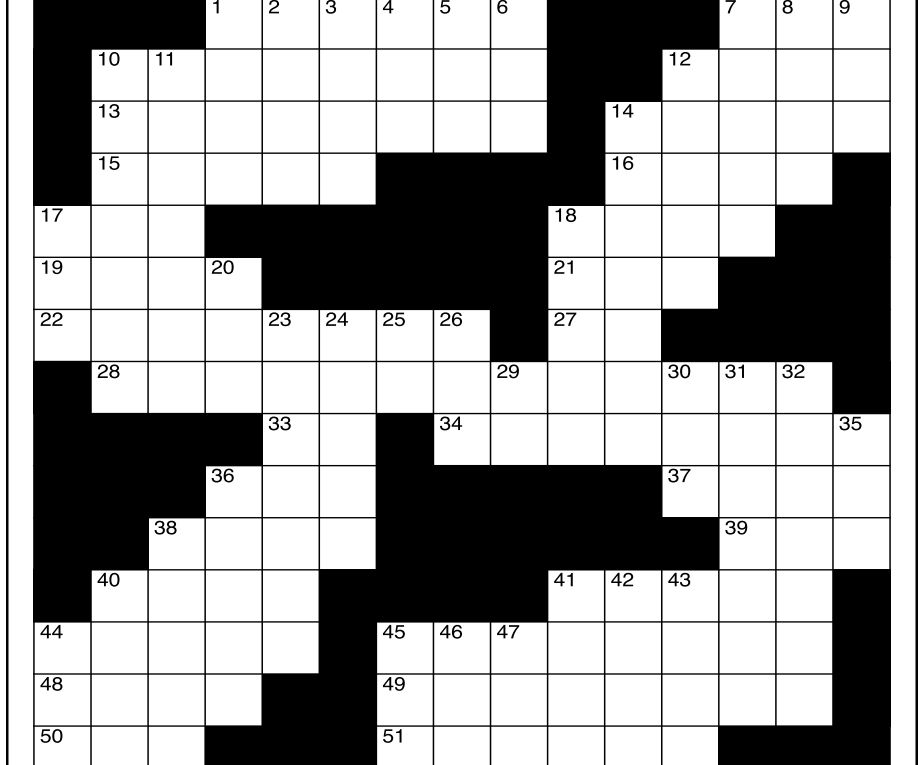
Life hasn't been all classes and track and field, though, since she left Tech. After a two-decade relationship, her parents finally wed in the fall of 2019.

How that marriage came about is a rather interesting tale, and it led to Gillarova taking her father's last name. Most people assumed that she had gotten married, so she wanted to set the record straight.

"Then I went to the reporters and journalists [after competing], and the lady was asking me, 'So, you're holding a chocolate. Is that something your parents give to you when you have a successful competition?' I was like, 'Actually no, but my father promised me one thing: that he is going to marry my mom.'"

"It was all over the newspapers, and my mom started receiving congratulations over the wedding, and she had no idea what was going on," Gillarova said. "We had to tell her what happened, and they were kind of forced to get married. They got married, and my mom is 64 and my dad is 66. Then, I promised my dad that I was going to change my last name to his name. Honestly, I did not plan to share that with the journalists. It just happened."

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. The winners
 - 7. A place to relax
 - 10. Monies to pay debts
 - 12. Horse mackerel
 - 13. Type of steroid
 - 14. Make dry
 - 15. The Godfather's adopted son
 - 16. Ivanovic and Gasteyer
 - 17. Horror movie franchise
 - 18. Grab
 - 19. Iranian city
 - 21. Yearly tonnage (abbr.)
 - 22. One's illicit lover
 - 27. Fake smarts (abbr.)
 - 28. Where Jersey natives depart from
 - 33. Doctor
 - 34. Front feet
 - 36. Insurance option
 - 37. Some is "wicked"
 - 38. Type of weaving
 - 39. Religious woman
 - 40. One point east of southeast
 - 41. Prestigious literary prize
 - 44. Tiny humans
 - 45. Relish over
 - 48. Computer manufacturer
 - 49. Envelops
 - 50. One type is dippin'
 - 51. Bequeaths
- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Dice game
 - 2. Greek goddess of youth
 - 3. Piers Anthony protagonist
 - 4. One-thousandth of an inch
 - 5. JFK Library architect
 - 6. A type of corrosion (abbr.)
 - 7. Beat up
 - 8. Political action committees
 - 9. Antidiuretic hormone
 - 10. Of the desert
 - 11. Oblivious of
 - 12. Actress Lathan
 - 14. Musical instrument
 - 17. It's in a plant
 - 18. One-time special prosecutor
 - 20. Indigenous people of Brazil
 - 23. Mothers
 - 24. Mongolian desert
 - 25. Great Britain, Scotland and Northern Ireland
 - 26. British air aces
 - 29. A lover to Zeus
 - 30. Frequently
 - 31. Get together again
 - 32. Gives a permanent post process
 - 35. Sun worshippers love one
 - 36. Ammonia-producing process
 - 38. 4th month of the Jewish calendar
 - 40. New England river
 - 41. Stores grain
 - 42. Confess openly
 - 43. Quarterbacks do it
 - 44. Not good
 - 45. Witness
 - 46. Author Coulter
 - 47. Type of screen

WalletHub: Virginia ranks 14th among states with least sustainable credit-card debt

As the personal finance website WalletHub points out, Americans are known for racking up credit-card debt, but right now the total is “shocking.” At the beginning of 2021, Americans owed nearly \$900 billion in credit-card debt.

To determine which states have the least and the most sustainable credit-card debts, WalletHub drew upon TransUnion credit data to calculate the cost and time required to pay off the median card balances of each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

The survey revealed that Virginia is the state with the 14th-most least sustainable credit-card debt.

To establish the rankings, WalletHub used the median credit-card balance and monthly credit card payment of residents in each state and determined the required number of months to pay off that balance and the resulting finance charges. To do so, the company made the following assumption:

Consumers would pay an average 15.91 percent interest rate, based on the APR paid by existing

cardholders, according to the average interest rate assessed on accounts with finance charges. Using that percentage, WalletHub computed the cost of paying off the state’s median credit-card balance.

Finally, WalletHub ranked the states based on the calculator’s outputs. Rank 1 corresponds with the state with the least sustainable credit-card debt — that is, the state with the longest payoff timeline.

The rankings with the median credit card debt and the months and day until payoff were as follows: 1)

Alaska, \$2,839, 15 months and 8 days 2) Montana, \$2,249, 14 months and 23 days 3) District of Columbia, \$2,404, 14 months and 12 days 4) Colorado, \$2,576, 14 months and 11 days 5) Vermont, \$1,850, 14 months and 7 days 6) North Dakota, \$2,001, 13 months and 13 days 7) Kansas, \$2,186, 13 months and 10 days 8) Washington, \$2,236, 13 months and one day 9) Oregon, \$2,058, 12 months and 26 days 10) Nebraska, \$2,022, 12 months and 19 days 11) New Hampshire, \$2,111, 12 months and 17 days 12)

Texas, \$2,323, 12 months and 16 days 13) Idaho, \$2,083, 12 months and 14 days 14) Virginia, \$2,371, 12 months and 10 days 15) Maryland, \$2,312, 12 months and eight days.

The states in the best shape (42 through 51) were 42) Illinois, \$2,091, 11 months and two days 43) Oklahoma, \$2,233, 11 months and one day 44) Ohio, \$1,940, 10 months and 27 days 45) Iowa, \$1,690, 10 months and 23 days 46) Pennsylvania, \$1,871, 10 months and 12 days 47) New York, \$1,854, 10 months and

eight days 48) Hawaii, \$2,220, 10 months and five days 49) Alabama, \$2,115, eight months and 27 days 50) Mississippi, \$1,912, eight months and 19 days 51) South Dakota, \$1,45, four months and 15 days.

WalletHub noted that the \$900 billion in credit-card debt is “a bit less” than the nation’s card holders had in 2020, thanks to record paydowns due to the stimulus checks. But the company predicts that net credit card debt “will increase by \$60 billion in 2021.”

Wizardly

from page 1

cal creature to protect you in the Forbidden Forest, \$10 for beasts,” says the event description.

Magical creatures will receive a Potter-themed bandanna. Participants should register

by Aug. 10 to guarantee a T-shirt.

Participants will self-sort into Houses upon registration. The House Cup winner will be the house with the most registrants. In addition to magical

medals for the fastest male and female racers, awards will be bestowed upon the male and female wizards with the fastest times in the following age categories: three through five, six through nine, 10 through

12, 13 through 15, 16 through 19, 20 through 29, 30 through 39, 40 through 49, 50 through 59, 60 through 69, and 70 and older

Beastly awards will be donated by New River Engraving.

Also, a costume contest will be held, and awards will be granted in the categories of youth, adult, and magical creature/pet.

Register at <http://www.lvnrv.org/potterinthepark>.

ANGLICAN CATHOLIC

St. Philip’s Anglican Church, 306 Progress Street, NE, Blacksburg, Virginia 24060, (540) 552-1771, www.stphilips-blacksburg.org. Reverend Fr. Wade Miller, Priest. Eucharist Sunday’s at 11am and Wednesday’s at 12pm.

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 for mid-week masses and events. (In Roanoke, go E on Hershberger, L on Hubert to 4910).

BAPTIST

First Baptist Church, 555 West Rock Road, Radford, 639-3873. Rev. Corwin C. Casey, Pastor. Worship with us: 9:45 a.m.; Sunday School: 10:45 a.m.; Praise and Worship: 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship Service; Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord. 1 Corinthians 15:58.

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.fbradford.org, 540-639-4419. Worship is broadcast live on 105.9 FM, 101.3 F, 1430AM.

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.

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.

CHURCH OF GOD

Childress Church of God, 4187 Piney Woods Rd., C’Burg. 381-3693. Sun. School 10 a.m.; Worship 11 a.m. & Wed. 7 p.m.

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

Radford WORSHIP DIRECTORY

Declare the Truth

Read Isaiah 43:1 through 45:25

“You are my witnesses,” declares the Lord, “and my servant whom I have chosen, so that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he. Before me no god was formed, nor will there be one after me” (Isaiah 43:10).

When the people of Israel persisted in looking to the gods of the nations that surrounded them, the Lord was provoked to address their unfaithfulness. He called Israel to make a thoughtful examination of exactly what the gods of other nations had to offer. He then contrasted these false gods with himself.

These gods of the nations, which were no gods at all, could not choose Israel. But

God, who is the only God, did make a choice. In His choosing, He had a purpose. He wanted Israel to know that He alone is God, to believe in His character, and to understand His love for His chosen.

Then He wanted one more thing. He wanted His people to acknowledge Him before all others and declare His glory. Instead of seeking false gods, Israel should have been declaring: “Only our God is God; no other is like Him.”

Thought for Today: God wants our love for Him to be evident to all.

Quicklook: Isaiah 43:9-13

If your church is not listed and if you are interested, call Randy Thompson at 540-389-9355 or email at advertise@ourvalley.org

CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

Radford Church of God in Christ, 206 Russell Ave., Radford. Supt. Ronald A. Watson, Sr.; Elder, 639- 5948. Sun. School 9 a.m.; Prayer 11:30 a.m.; Worship 6 p.m.

LUTHERAN

Christ Lutheran Church, 201 Harvey St. Sunday worship with communion at 10am; fellowship & snacks at 11am. All are welcome. Upcoming events and fellowship opportunities (Senior Brunch, Faith & Film, Rough Draught, etc.) detailed in weekly email and on website: clcradford.org. 540-639-2671.

PENTECOSTAL HOLINESS

Merrimac Pentecostal Holiness Church, Rev. Larry Christopher (540) 552-7194. l.christopher695@comcast.net. 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.

PRESBYTERIAN

Join us at **The Presbyterian Church of Radford**, 201 Fourth Street, at the corner of 4th and Randolph Streets. Worship at 10am in the sanctuary, masked and distanced. Phone 639-2585. Find us on Facebook: The Presbyterian Church of Radford and on our Website: www.pcradford.org. We are called to share the love of Christ in this community and beyond. Kelsey and Peter Hawisher-Faul, Co-Pastors.

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 11:00am. Wednesday Bible Study: 6:30pm. Child care is provided. www.centralmethodistchurch.com.

St. Paul United Methodist Church, 220 W. Main St., C’Burg. Rev. Moonsup “Paul” Song (540) 382-2410. Sunday Worship 10am, Sunday School 9am. Live streaming Sunday Service - www.twitch.tv/stpaulumc.

OBITUARIES

Wingard, Evelyn Jacquelin “Jackie” Adamson

Evelyn Jacquelin “Jackie” Adamson Wingard passed away peacefully at home in McKinney, Texas, on June 27, 2021. One day shy of their 66th wedding anniversary, her beloved husband, Richard “Dick” M. Wingard, Sr., was by her side.



in her life, which helped her acclimate and meet new friends. She also enjoyed working for many years in her chosen career field as a preschool teacher and director both in her home and at Good Samaritan Episcopal Church in Knoxville.

Born in Lynchburg, on July 18, 1933, Jackie was the middle daughter of George Dent Adamson and Evelyn Byrd Thomasson Adamson who both preceded her in death. Having primarily grown up in the Lynchburg area, Jackie's family moved six times while her father served in the U.S. Army during World War II, and they eventually moved to Blacksburg where Jackie graduated from Blacksburg High School in 1951.

The mother of three sons and the grandmother to eight grandchildren, two bonus grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, and two bonus great-grandchildren, Jackie loved spending time with her family. Over the course of many years, Jackie and Dick traveled extensively with her uncle and two sisters, visiting Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Great Britain, Scandinavia, Rhine, Switzerland, Italy, Capri, Austria, Germany, Greece, Turkey, the Panama Canal, Canada, and France and throughout the continental U.S. and Hawaii.

After high school, Jackie attended Mary Washington College in Fredericksburg and fondly remembered living in the “practice house” while pursuing her degree in early childhood education. That experience coupled with her innate ability to organize all facets of life and the discipline to stick to a schedule prepared her to manage a busy household, family, and career throughout her life. After two years at Mary Washington, she moved back to Blacksburg and graduated from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in 1955.

Jackie is survived by her husband, Dick; her sisters Martha Webb of Concord, Va., and Betty Teske of Blacksburg; her sons Richard M. Wingard, Jr., and his wife, Vickie, of Calera, Ala., George Andrew Wingard and his wife, Peggy, of Miami, Fla., Glynn Adamson Wingard and his wife, Beverly, of McKinney; her grandchildren Trey Wingard, Cassie Holcombe, Adam Wingard, Chris Wingard, Ashton Wingard, Tiffany Wingard Chavez, Andrew Wingard, Caleb Wingard, Silas Wingard and Daniel J. Stagner; great-grandchildren Hailey Wingard, Archer Wingard, Caraline Holcombe, Leonardo Wingard, Carson Holcombe, Marie Chavez, and Charlotte Wingard; and one niece, five nephews, and many great-nieces and nephews.

Jackie married the love of her life, Dick Wingard, Sr., on June 28, 1955, at Grace Episcopal Church in Blacksburg, and theirs was a love story that spanned over six decades. Always a devoted wife, Jackie happily followed Dick's career moves to Washington, D.C.; El Paso; Huntsville, Ala.; Rockville, Md.; Long Meadow, Mass.; Cinnaminson, N.J.; Knoxville, Tenn.; Auburn, Ala.; Tampa, Fla.; and, when he retired, to McKinney.

Jackie was preceded in death by her honorary son, Larry Joe Perdue.

Jackie said the one thing that she could always count on being the same, no matter where they lived, was her faith and being heavily involved in the Episcopal Church. She found the similarity of the services in every location to be a comfort and a constant

A memorial service was held at St. Philips Anglican Church on Friday, July 9, 2021, at 11 a.m. followed by graveside services at Westview Cemetery in Blacksburg. In lieu of flowers Jackie requested donations be made to the general fund at St. Philips Anglican Church.

McCauley, Blueford Edgar

Blueford Edgar McCauley, 90, passed away Monday, July 19, 2021, at his home in Radford surrounded by his family.

He was retired from the Radford Army Ammunition Plant and was a U. S. Army veteran. He was also a member of First Baptist Church in Radford.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Willie Edgar and Ruby Jean Lloyd McCauley; his daughter, Jennifer M. Lemon; and a grandson, Jonathan Lewis.

Survivors include his wife of 66 years, Phyllis McCauley; a daughter, Beverly McCauley Lewis; a son, Earl Lemon; a grandson, E-Ray Lemon and his wife, Lindsey, and their children, Elara and

Emrys; granddaughters Kaitlyn Faircloth and husband Tony, and their children, Michael, Gabriel and Trinity; and Amanda Cary and husband Jamie and their daughter Annabeth; and many other relatives and friends.

The family received friends from 1 to 3 p.m. on Monday, July 26, 2021, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services followed at 3 p.m. with Todd Millsaps officiating.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to the charity of your choice.

The McCauley family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford, Virginia.

Coalson, Sr., Nicholas Edward

Nicholas Edward Coalson, Sr., 45, of Wilmington, N. C., formerly of Radford, passed away Monday, July 26, 2021.

He was a U. S. Army veteran having served during the Iraq War. He was also a paramedic, firefighter, and police officer. He was preceded in death by his daughter, Ali Coalson.

Survivors include his sons, Nicholas E. Coalson, Jr., Michael Coalson, and Kory Coalson; a daughter, Alison Coalson; his mother, Barbara Coalson; his father, Jonny Wayne Simmons; grandchildren Lynnox and Fynnleigh; sisters Lottie Simmons



and Rae Simmons; his fiancée, Renee Holder; his stepmother, Jonette Simmons; and many other relatives and friends.

The family will receive friends from 11 a.m. until noon on Monday, Aug. 2, 2021, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services will begin at noon with the Rev. Neil Turner officiating.

Interment with full military honors will follow in the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin.

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

Phillips, Hazel Shelton

Hazel Shelton Phillips, 91, passed away on Sunday, July 25, 2021, at her home in Christiansburg. She was born in Indian Valley, Floyd County, Va. on Feb. 7, 1930, to Kyle Erring Shelton and Josie Alice Turpin Shelton. On July 22, 1950, Hazel married Robie Lee Phillips. In 1963 (almost 13 years later) they were blessed with a child, Ricky Lee Phillips.



Christiansburg; sisters Zula Saul of Fairlawn, Irene Dalton of Riner, and Louise (Cobern) Quesberry of Floyd County. She also leaves many other relatives and friends to cherish her memory.

Special acknowledgments go to her caregivers, Dr. Jared March and Dr. Caleb Cutherall, and the staff at Intrepid Hospice.

Hazel was proud to be a homemaker, wife, and mother. She was happy to be gardening, growing flowers, cooking, canning, or quilting with ladies at her church. She was an active member of the Harbor of Hope Pentecostal Holiness Church in Christiansburg for over 60 years.

Hazel was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, and five of her siblings. Survivors include her son and daughter-in-law, Ricky and Tanya Phillips of

friends on Wednesday, July 28, 2021, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford, followed by services with Pastor Richard Kingrea officiating. Interment followed in Highland Memory Gardens in Dublin.

Hazel will be missed dearly by all of us here on Earth, but she was welcomed by all in Heaven with great joy.

An angel has gone home. The Phillips family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory.

Great Road

Virginia Company of Roger's Rangers, and demonstrations of a detached military hospital and medicine of the time, flintlock muskets, camp cooking, knife and tomahawk throwing, leather work, blacksmithing, 18th-century clothing, spinning, and weaving.

Traveled by the likes of George Washington, Daniel Boone, Andrew

Lewis, William Preston, Adam Harman, and Ingles and Draper families, the Great Road was the main thoroughfare going west to the frontier. This event honors all who passed through the valleys of Southwest Virginia in the quest for a better life.

For more information, call Henry Bryant at 540-380-3469 or greatroadencampment@gmail.com.

Marketplace

ourvalley.org

THE FINCASTLE HERALD THE Vinton Messenger THE NEW CASTLE RECORD SALEM TIMES-REGISTER News Messenger RADFORD News Journal

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

Legals - City of Radford

ABC NOTICE

Gabby Properties LLC, trading as Nesselrod on the New, 7535 Lee Highway, Fairlawn, Pulaski County, Virginia 24141.

Legals - Montgomery County

Notice to Our Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine Patients

Effective Saturday, August 7, 2021, Anita Kumar-Gill, M.D., will no longer practice from Carilion Clinic Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine in Christiansburg. Your confidential medical records will remain with Carilion Clinic. If you choose to continue your medical care with us, you do not need to take any action. If you choose to transfer to another provider and need a copy of your Carilion Clinic Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine record, please contact our office for a medical record request/transfer form. After you return the form and the request is processed, your medical record will be sent to another provider of your choice within a reasonable time. If you need help finding a physician in a different office, please call the physician referral line on Carilion Direct at 800-422-8482.

Legals - Montgomery County

AUTHORITY for a Wine and Beer On Premises/Mixed Beverage Restaurant license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

John Tobe, Managing Member

Legals - Montgomery County

Public Notice

Town of Christiansburg

The Christiansburg Town Council will hold a public hearing at its meeting on Tuesday, August 10, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Room, Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street.

Legals - Montgomery County

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Christiansburg Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, August 16, 2021 at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073. The purpose of the public hearings is to receive public comments concerning:

Legals - Montgomery County

construct five (5) Townhome units. The property is designated as Business/Commercial on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.

For Sale - Misc

FOR SALE

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

NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

ABC NOTICE

TFW VA LLC, trading as The First Watch, 2730 Market St, Christiansburg, Montgomery County, Virginia 24073-0000.

ABC NOTICE

Absolute Accessories & Treasures LLC, trading as Absolute Accessories & Treasures, 320 W Main St Ste A, Christiansburg, Montgomery County, Virginia 24073-2975.

Pursuant to Va. Code §§ 15.2-1800 & 15.2-1813, the purpose of the public hearing is to receive comments on a Lease from September 28, 2021 through December 31, 2021 to New River Valley Unwired Ventures, LLC of space on four municipal water tanks to site communication equipment for the provision of internet service. Such equipment is currently sited on these locations, and the current lease expires September 27, 2021.

A. Rezoning request by Deerfield Home Estates LLC to rezone Tax Parcel Nos. 496-A 68 & 496-A 73 (4.71 acres) from Agricultural (A) and Two-Family Residential (R-2) to Single Family Residential (R-1) with conditions. The proposal was revised to construct 26 single-family detached dwellings. The property is designated as Residential on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.

Town Hall will be open and available to receive public comment in-person at the time of this Public Hearing. A copy of the applications, the Town's Zoning Map, Zoning Ordinance, and Future Land Use Map may be viewed in the Planning Department Office, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073 during normal office hours of 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contact Andrew Warren, Assistant Town Manager, at (540) 382-6128 ext. 1130 or by email at awarren@christiansburg.org with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations.

Help Wanted - General

Part Time Newspaper Production Help

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

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The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC)

Information on the preceding items, including the proposed lease, may be viewed in the Town Manager's Office, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073-3029, during normal office hours of 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. For more information, contact Andrew Warren by phone at (540) 382-6120 ext. 1130 or by email at awarren@christiansburg.org.

B. Conditional Use Permit request by Deerfield Home Estates LLC for a Planned Housing Development to consist of 26 Single-Family Residential dwellings on property located adjacent to Wades Lane and Agee Street, Tax Parcel Nos. 496-A 68 & 496-A 73.

C. Conditional Use Permit for R-3 Multifamily Dwelling District uses in the B-3 General Business District by Bruce A. Moses (owner) on behalf of Bryan A. Rice (Applicant) at 975 Radford Street, Tax Map No. 525-A-19). The proposal is to

Run: Saturday, July 31, 2021

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RADFORD SPORTS



PHOTO BY ANGEL VALIANT

Longtime pro wrestler Jimmy Valiant (left) will take to the squared circle one last time today, Aug. 31, in a retirement match. Sports Editor Marty Gordon (right) had a chance to speak with him earlier this week.

Jimmy Valiant set to retire with one final pro wrestling match

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Professional wrestling has been in Jimmy Valiant's blood for the past 54 years. This weekend at the age of 79, he will wrestle in his retirement match at the Dublin Fairgrounds as part of the 2021 NRV Fair.

He will hang up the boots while also celebrating his wedding anniversary, his birthday and the birthday of his wife, Angel.

On Tuesday at his Alleghany Springs home, Valiant spoke about his emotions about the event.

"Now is the time for me to leave my boots in the middle of the ring at the end of my final match. I'm done," he said.

Valiant, whose real name is James Harold Fanning, was born in Tullahoma, Tenn., the youngest of five children. His four siblings were all girls. He admits being the lone male in the family was sometimes tough.

"I just fell into wrestling after seeing a Charles Atlas muscle ad on the back of a magazine. It changed many young boys' lives like mine," he said.

At an early age, he delivered newspapers, flipped burgers, and swept up the floor at a local gymnasium just south of Chicago where he crafted his skill on the mat. "I was bound to be a wrestler," Valiant said.

He started wrestling in 1964 as Big Jim Valen, then wrestled with the World Wide Wrestling Federation, which is now the WWE, in the 1970s when he was known as Handsome Jimmy Valiant. He teamed with Johnny Valiant to dominate the tag-team ranks, winning the WWF tag team belts several times. The two headlined several matches in Madison Square Garden in New York City.

During the late 70s and early 80s, Valiant became a regular in the Memphis wrestling scene where he feuded with the likes of the King Jerry Lawyer. During this period he changed his wrestling persona several times ranging from King James Valiant to Boogie Woogie Man.

His wife, Angel, operates a wrestling costume seamstress service in the couple's basement, making elaborate robes that are seen during wrestling television broadcasts.

"We will keep doing things like that," Valiant said, but this is his last match as a competitor, especially as he is about to turn 79.

"I loved to enter with lots of energy, dancing, and hugging and kissing people in the crowd," he said.

Over the years, he has held 40 individual and tag titles.

Since his departure from the WWF/WWE, he has turned to the Independent scene throughout the country, making public appearances, signing autographs, and even writing a couple of books ("Woo....Mercy Daddy, Welcome to My World, the Jimmy Valiant Story," and "Blueprint to Become a Pro Wrestler.")

He also continues to operate the Boogie Woogie wrestling training camp in Alleghany Springs near Shawsville, which includes his own special wall of mementoes.

One of his biggest honors came in 1996 when he was inducted into the WWF Hall of Fame. He has also been named to the Southern Championship Wrestling's Hall of Fame (1997), the New England Pro Wrestling Hall of Fame (2018), and the Allied Independent Wrestling Federations Hall of Fame (2016).

But of all those honors, Valiant admits his biggest memory will be this weekend's retirement match at the New River Valley Fairgrounds.

"Now, I just want to be a goodwill ambassador for the sport, signing a few autographs, and maybe making some public appearances," he said.

Valiant is scheduled to meet fans and fairgoers in the Wysor Building at Dublin's New River Valley Fairgrounds shortly before tonight's match at 7 p.m.

His wife, Angel, operates a wrestling costume seamstress service in the couple's basement, making elaborate robes that are seen during wrestling television broadcasts.

"We will keep doing things like that," Valiant said, but this is his last match as a competitor, especially as he is about to turn 79.

A special birthday bash will be held for the Boogie Woogie Man on Aug. 8 at his training camp. The party is free and open to the public.

"We will have some cake, and I will pass the torch to the youngsters that train at the camp," Valiant said.

Radford's Page named Region 2C soccer Player of Year; Greco is region Coach of Year

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Radford High School senior soccer forward Makenzie Page has been named the Class 2 Region C Player of the Year, and her coach, Nikki Greco, has been honored as the region Coach of the Year.

Page was joined on the first team by teammates Anna Turk, a junior midfielder, and senior defenders Kathryn Vinson and Emma McMurray.

Midfielder Sarah Luckett was named to the region's second team.

The Bobcat boys placed four players on the Region 2C soccer first team: Parker Prioleau, Evan Rupe, Zane Rupe, and Devin Cullopp.

Second-team honors went to Bobcats Austin Shepherd, Grayson Herndon, Jack Davis, and Owen Saunders.

Nate Wesley was the lone Bobcat named to the all-region baseball first team. Daniel Hale, Tate Mannon, and Allen Hamblin were named to the second team.



Radford High senior forward Makenzie Page is the Class 2 Region C girls soccer Player of the Year. Her coach, Nikki Greco, has been named the region Coach of the Year.

ACC needs to add three schools



From the Sidelines
Marty Gordon

The landscape of conference affiliation for college football is in the process of changing, and the Atlantic Coast Conference needs to make choices soon that will keep them among the Power 5 conferences, which is quickly changing to the Power 4.

The key is adding new teams to the current ACC lineup. I believe the conference should look to West Virginia University, Cincinnati, and Notre Dame as new members.

WVU provides a perfect geographical bride for the ACC while Cincinnati needs to step up to a higher level in order to be recognized on the national stage. Notre Dame is just the ideal partner after what they showed last year in a one-year deal during COVID.

Any of the above conversation comes on the heels of the proposed move to the Southeastern Conference (SEC) by the universities of Texas and Oklahoma.

The two schools have officially begun their transition from the Big 12 to the SEC with the announcement Monday that they will not renew their grant of rights agreement with the Big 12, though they plan to "honor their existing agreements" through the 2024-25 term.

If Texas and Oklahoma were to leave the Big 12 early and make their SEC debut as early as next year, each school could owe up to \$80 million to the Big 12 as a penalty for leaving before the TV rights contract expires.

Big 12 Commissioner Bob Bowlsby said the remaining eight members are disappointed with the decisions of these two institutions, but they recognize that intercollegiate athletics is experiencing rapid change and will most likely look much different in 2025 than it does now.

"The Big 12 Conference will continue to support our member institutions' efforts to graduate student-athletes and compete for Big 12 and NCAA championships," the commissioner said. "Like many others, we will use the next four years to fully assess what the landscape will look like in 2025 and beyond. The remaining eight institutions will work together in a collaborative manner to thoughtfully and strategically position the Big 12 Conference for continued success, both athletically and academically, long into the future." The additions of the

Longhorns and the Sooners to the SEC would create the first 16-team super conference.

This would leave the ACC looking at a lower spot on the totem pole, especially when it comes to any future television agreement.

The current division structure leads to each team playing the following games:

Six games within its division (three home, three away, one against each opponent).

One game against a designated permanent rival from the other division (not necessarily the school's closest traditional rival, even within the conference). This is similar to the SEC setup.

The permanent cross-division matchups are as follows with the Atlantic Division member listed first: Boston College-Virginia Tech; Clemson-Georgia Tech; Florida State-Miami; Louisville-Virginia; NC State-North Carolina; Syracuse-Pittsburgh; Wake Forest-Duke.

One rotating game against a team in the other division, for a total of two cross-division games.

Non-permanent cross-division opponents face each other in the regular season twice in a span of twelve years.

Prior to the addition of Syracuse and Pittsburgh in 2013, teams played two rotating cross-division games (for a total of three cross-division games), with a total of eight conference games. The addition of one team to each di-

vision meant the loss of one cross-division game per year.

Four non-conference games.

As of the 2014 season, one of the four non-conference games was against Notre Dame every two to three years, as Notre Dame plays five ACC opponents in non-conference games each season.

Starting with the 2017 season, ACC members were required to play at least one non-conference game each season against a team in the "Power 5" conferences. Games against Notre Dame meet the requirement. In January 2015, the conference announced that games against another FBS independent, BYU, would also count toward the requirement.

ACC teams can also meet the requirement by scheduling one another in non-conference games; the first example of this was announced in January 2015 when North Carolina and Wake Forest announced that they would play a home-and-home non-conference series in 2019 and 2021.

For the 2020 season, changes were made to the football schedule model due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The use of divisions was suspended with conference games being scheduled on a regional basis. The top two teams by winning percentage against conference opponents will advance to the ACC Championship Game.

All teams will play 10 conference games and may play one non-conference game of their choice as long as the game is played in-state. In addition, Notre Dame will play an ACC conference schedule and will also be eligible to play in the ACC Championship Game.

The ACC currently has 15 members playing football. Notre Dame played a COVID-19 ACC schedule this past year and would be the ideal full-member. WVU and Cincinnati both bring not just a strong football program to the table but also a strong basketball program.

Eighteen members would also give the ACC the right amount of clout as the college football landscape becomes a reality.

Under the current model, the two divisions could remain and each team would be guaranteed seven games each year within the division. This can include two crossover games with the other division and two out-of-conference games.

Let's make it happen, ACC.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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