



## Lyric Theatre launches new program: ‘Our House Is Your House’

The Lyric Council, Inc., the organization that manages Blacksburg’s Lyric Theatre, has launched a new program, “Our House Is Your House,” that will allow local performance groups and organizations to use the theatre’s stage and streaming capabilities to stream performances or events from the theatre’s stage using the facility’s set-up, and to broadcast on the organization’s Facebook Live connection with over 8,000 followers.

The theatre is available for community stage events on Wednesdays and Thursdays. The Lyric will promote the events using regular channels of promotion including Face-

See **Program**, page 2



## Richmond Vincent, Jr., named President, CEO of Goodwill Industries of the Valleys

Richmond Vincent, Jr., currently the President and CEO of Goodwill Industries of South Mississippi (GSMS) and Mississippi Goodworks, has been named the incoming President and CEO of Goodwill Industries of the Valleys.

He succeeds Bruce Phipps, who will retire in April.

Goodwill’s Board of Directors launched the search process in September 2020 after Phipps announced his retirement with nearly 18 years of service at Goodwill Industries of the Valleys and 48 years within the Goodwill enterprise.

Vincent is a member of the Mississippi Gulf Coast Business Council Executive Committee, Goodwill Industries’ International Board of Directors, and the Conference of Executives Executive Council. He has been recognized as a Best CEO in Mississippi by the Mississippi Business Journal.

“We are excited to welcome Richmond to our organization,” said Robert Jeffrey, Jr., board chair for Goodwill Industries of the Valleys. “He brings a wealth of Goodwill leadership and business expertise to our

executive team and Goodwill board.

“He is respected for leading organizations through innovation, culture, and growth strategy,” Jeffrey said. “His passion for Goodwill’s mission will enable us to continue providing programs and services with a long-lasting impact on the economic health of individuals and our community now and well into the future.”

Before joining GSMS, Vincent served as the Senior Vice President of Workforce Development for the Goodwill of Central and Northern Arizona. He created the agency’s first career center co-located with a community-based organization. He also spearheaded the development and implementation of the initial fundraising program.

Prior to Goodwill, Vincent served as vice president at several financial institutions, including J.P. Morgan Chase and BBVA Compass. He also served on the board of directors of the Greater Phoenix Economic Council and the Arizona Association for Economic Development, and he served as chairman of the Maricopa County Workforce Investment Board.

“I am thrilled about my new role

at Goodwill Industries of the Valleys and serving the communities in Central, Southwest, and Southside Virginia,” Vincent said. “I am eager to build on the success of a strong organization and honored to lead future successes which will be possible with the MacKenzie Scott gift, loyal donors and shoppers, collaboration with community and business partners, and dedicated Goodwill employees.”



Richmond Vincent, Jr.

## Radford University named a military friendly school



**U.S. Army veteran/RU student Frank Fleming says the support he has received from the school has been “amazing.”**

Radford University has been designated a 2021-2022 Military Friendly School, demonstrating the university’s commitment to supporting and empowering veteran students and active military service members and their families in the classroom and beyond with exceptional, transformative experiences.

Now in its 11th year, the Military Friendly Schools list sets the standard for higher education institutions to provide the best opportunities for veterans and service members and their families. Radford University has regularly landed on the prestigious list since 2011.

Institutions earning the Military Friendly School designation were evaluated using both public data sources and responses from a proprietary survey completed by the school. More than 1,000 schools participated in the 2021-2022 survey with 625 schools earning the designation from

every state in the country.

The 2021-2022 Military Friendly Schools list will be published in the May issue of G.I. Jobs magazine. The list can also be found at [www.militaryfriendly.com](http://www.militaryfriendly.com).

“We are extremely honored to receive this designation,” said Deanna Mabe, director of the Radford University Military Resource Center (MRC). “We strive to extend a warm welcome to all who have served or are currently serving our country, as well as to the spouses and dependents of service members. This recognition and the continued enrollment of these students is proof that our community values their service and welcomes them to the Radford family.”

Located in Russell Hall, the MRC is one of many campus resources for veterans at Radford University, providing information, resources,

See **Military**, page 2



Delegate Nick Rush

## Longtime seventh-district delegate Nick Rush won’t seek re-election

Nick Rush, who has served as the seventh district representative to the Virginia House of Delegates since 2011, announced earlier this week in a Facebook post that he will not seek re-election this fall.

Rush represents the New River Valley as the seventh district is composed of Floyd, Montgomery and Pulaski counties.

“It is with great appreciation to the voters of the Seventh House District that I formally announce my decision to not seek re-election this November for the Virginia House of Delegates,” Rush posted. “It has been a true honor and incredible privilege to have served in the General Assembly for the past 10 years, and I will forever be humbled by the trust placed in me to carry out the people’s work.”

He was appointed

to the most powerful money committee in the Virginia House of Delegates, the Committee on Appropriations. He also chaired the Higher Education Subcommittee.

Rush represented Southwest Virginia as Vice Chairman of the Major Economic Investment Project Approval Commission and as a member of the Joint Sub-committee to Study Mental Health Services in the 21st Century.

When the Republican Party was the majority party in the House of Delegates, Rush served as the Republican whip.

He looked back upon his time in office with great pride with several accomplishments.

“We strengthened the New River Valley and Southwest Virginia’s economic impact well beyond our regional border.”

See **Rush**, page 4

## VT’s Civil War Weekend goes virtual for the first time with free events in March



**President Abraham Lincoln on the battlefield of Antietam, 1862. Courtesy of the National Archives.**

Down the long spiral of violence America fell.

The other. The enemy. The traitor. Americans drew lines of acceptance and lines of battle.

Ultimately, the war ended. The 13th Amendment abolished the heinous act of slavery. But numerous moments in the 156 years since the Civil War demonstrate how deeply divided the na-

tion remains on matters of human rights and social justice.

“When one group of people sees the other as the enemy, it’s hard to break from that cycle. This was true in the 1850s, and I believe it’s true today,” said Paul Quigley, the James I. Robertson Jr. Associate Pro-

See **Civil War**, page 2

## News Brief: Radford Police investigating fraud incident

The City of Radford Police Department is urging local citizens to be wary in the wake of a fraud incident in which the victim was contacted by suspects pretending to be members of the

Radford City Police Department and Radford City Sheriff’s Office.

Contacted by telephone, the victim was instructed to go to various businesses and purchase pre-paid credit cards, then pro-

vide the card numbers to the suspect in order to avoid prosecution and arrest.

The police department and the sheriff’s department remind Radford’s citizens that law en-

forcement personnel will never request payment over the phone to clear arrest warrants. Caller ID can mimic a legitimate number when in fact the call is fraudulent.

Law enforcement personnel urge citizens suspecting a telephone scam to report the call to the local police department, the sheriff’s office, and the federal trade commission at [ftc.gov](http://ftc.gov).



# Historic Montgomery



**This school served the Den Hill community. It is shown about 1952 shortly before school consolidation closed many small rural schools in Montgomery County. (This image from the D. D. Lester Collection and many more are available from the Montgomery Museum of Art & History.)**

## Program

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book, Instagram, Twitter and email blast (to 2,500 addresses).

The performance group is welcome and encouraged to promote the event to its followers.

The group will be required to sign an agreement establishing expectations (i.e. all material performed must be original or be in the public domain, there is to be no profanity, and the

theatre's safety protocols must be followed.)

Each performance group will be allowed one technical rehearsal on the stage prior to the streamed performance.

To cover the cost of the Lyric staff, a \$50 fee will be charged for each scheduled performance.

Up to 50 people will be allowed to watch the performance in the audi-

torium.

The performance group will be allowed to keep donations made at the door.

The streaming of events at the theatre has been made possible through donations from AT&T and Dr. Carol Beatty that were used to purchase the equipment. Dr. Beatty's contribution was made in memory of her mother, Sylvie R. Beatty.

## Civil War

from page 1

fessor of Civil War History at Virginia Tech.

If progress is not a straight line but a winding road, history can provide the road-map.

Amid a trying time in the United States, renowned historians will provide insights into the deadliest conflict on American soil as part of the 2021 Civil War Weekend at Virginia Tech.

For the first time in the 30-year history of Civil War Weekend, attendees can participate in this celebrated gathering from anywhere — at no cost.

"The COVID-19 pandemic foiled our original plans for marking the 30th anniversary of Virginia Tech's Civil War Weekend," said Quigley, who also serves as the director of the Virginia Center for Civil War Studies. "But we are making the best of a tough situation and are thrilled to open this annual event to an even broader audience."

Historians, history buffs, and anyone else interested in learning about the Civil War will meet via Zoom on Thursday, March 11, and Thursday, March 18. Each gathering will occur from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Attendees will have ample opportunities to ask questions, a staple of

Civil War Weekend.

The theme of the Virtual Civil War Weekend is "Resources for War." Nine expert historians will explore overlooked but crucial elements of the conflict, from nourishment and clothing to the millions of horses and mules that provided transportation.

Attendees will learn how soldiers and their families coped with the heartache and trauma by communicating with one another through photographs and letters. The historians will even explore how soldiers and civilians sometimes argued over how the war should be remembered.

The speaker lineup includes Emmanuel Dabney, a historian at the Petersburg National Battlefield whose ancestors include slaveholders, free and enslaved Black people, and non-slaveholding white people.

William C. "Jack" Davis, the author of more than 50 books on the Civil War and Southern history and the former executive director of the Virginia Center for Civil War Studies.

Angelo Esco Elder, a former postdoctoral fellow in the Virginia Center for Civil War Studies whose research explores gender, emotion, family, and trauma in the Civil War Era South.

David Gerleman, a 19th century historian and an emeritus assistant editor of "The Papers of Abraham Lincoln."

Hilary Green, author of "Educational Reconstruction: African American Schools in the Urban South, 1865-1890."

Kurt Luther, an associate professor of computer science and history at Virginia Tech who created the Civil War Photo Sleuth website, which uses crowdsourcing and facial recognition to identify unknown soldiers.

Caroline Wood Newhall, the Virginia Center for Civil War Studies

postdoctoral fellow, who analyzes the experiences of Black Civil War soldiers who became prisoners of war in the Confederacy.

Dana B. Shoaf, editor of Civil War Times magazine, who researches the impact of the percussion cap on the tactics of the Civil War.

Sarah Jones Weicksel, director of research and publications at the American Historical Association and author of several works, including an upcoming book focused on how American used clothing to wage war against one another across a wide range of battlefronts.

"We are honored to bring together Civil War historians who represent diverse backgrounds and stages of their careers," said Quigley. "These talented scholars and storytellers will help us explore the 'Resources for War' theme of the program, from the invention of the Minié ball bullet, which changed warfare dramatically, to the critical resource of human labor that both sides needed so desperately."

Created by James I. "Bud" Robertson Jr., the legendary founder of the Virginia Center for Civil War Studies, the Civil War Weekend has united thousands of curious minds in Blacksburg since 1991. Last March, Quigley planned to dedicate Civil War Weekend to honor the life of Robertson, who passed away in late 2019. But the rise of COVID-19 cases in the United States forced the cancelation of Civil War Weekend 2020.

Quigley said he's hopeful for an opportunity to dedicate Civil War Weekend 2022 to Robertson as part of a return to in-person programming and Virginia Tech's Sesquicentennial celebration.

## Military

from page 1

advocacy and support for military members as they transition from military to civilian life. By providing these students with a network of friends and resources to support them during that transition, they are more likely to fully embrace their experiences as Highlanders and succeed on campus and in their careers.

"The support at Radford University for veterans has been amazing," said Frank Fleming, a student in the Radford University Carilion Biomedical Science program and a U.S. Army veteran. "I've gotten assistance with VA ben-

efits processing, financial aid, student work study jobs, one-on-one tutoring, study space arrangement and academic advising sessions. There are just countless resources for people like me that have made my educational journey great. I couldn't ask for more."

The Military Friendly Schools list is released annually by VIQTORY, a service-disabled, veteran-owned small business that connects the military community to civilian employment and educational and entrepreneurial opportunities through its G.I. Jobs, Military Spouse and Military Friendly brands.



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# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Saturday, March 6:

**Caturday Storytime**  
At the Blacksburg Library/Montgomery Floyd Regional Library, 11 a.m.  
Come by the library and read to Creature the Cat. Creature was adopted from the Montgomery County Animal Services and Adoption Center two years ago by one of the library's staff members and loves to lay and read.  
Email shodges@mfrl.org for more information.

**Creative Writing Group-Virtual**  
Meadowbrook Public Library online from 11 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.  
Take part in this go-to-meeting for support, feedback, and writing tips. Email mupthegrove@mfrl.org or call 540-268-1964 for more information. A go-to-meeting account is not needed to join.

## Saturday, March 6, and Saturday, March 13:

**Teen Dungeons and Dragons**  
From 2 p.m. until 4 p.m. at the Blacksburg Library/Montgomery Floyd Regional Library online for ages 11 and up. DnD is now virtual on Discord, and the staff suggests downloading Discord for ease of access, but this is not required. Contact shodges@mfrl.org for more information about joining the Discord server.

## Monday, March 8:

**Scratch and Sniff Art Kits**  
At the Blacksburg Library/Montgomery Floyd Regional Library and the Meadowbrook Public Library at 10 a.m.  
Create a sweet-smelling masterpiece. Supplies are limited.  
  
**STEM Club virtual meeting**  
At the Christiansburg Library at 1 p.m. Participants should pick up the activity materials by March 6. Email shodges@mfrl.org for any questions.

## Tuesday, March 9:

**Talking About Books: Nonfiction Virtual**  
At the Blacksburg Library/Montgomery Floyd Regional Library from 11 a.m. until noon. To be discussed is "A History of the World in 6 Glasses by Tom Standage." Call ahead to reserve a copy and to learn more.  
  
**Radford School Board Meeting**  
The Radford City School Board will have a regular meeting at 6 p.m., at the School Administration Building. A copy of the agenda can be seen at www.rcps.org.

**Sons of Confederate Veterans meeting**  
The Sons of Confederate Veterans, Stuart Horse Artillery Camp 1784 will meet at 7 p.m. at Aly's Family Italian Restaurant, 3204 Riner Road in Montgomery County. William Reed will present the "History of the 51st Virginia Regiment." Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) are invited to attend. In case of heavy snow or ice, the meeting will be cancelled. For further information, call 320-4315 or 239-9864.

## Wednesday, March 10:

**Radford Chamber Business over Breakfast**  
From 8-9 a.m. at the Radford Coffee Company, 333 W. Main St. The guest speaker is Kim Repass with the Radford Economic Development department. Pre-registration is requested at www.radfordchamber.com. Please bring a face mask to abide by current COVID-19 state regulations.  
  
**World War II: Experience and Legacy at Radford University**  
At 4 p.m. via Zoom, Sandy French of the Radford University School of Communication will present "Germany's Memory Problem: The Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe" as part of Radford University's series commemorating the end of the Second World War 75 years ago. The series is sponsored by RU's Department of History, the College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences, and McConnell Library. More information is avail-

able on the history department's website.

**Virtual Book Talk**  
At the Christiansburg Library, from 11 a.m. until noon. To be discussed is "Lady Clementine" by Marie Benedict.  
  
**Chair Yoga for everybody: Virtual**  
At the Blacksburg Library/Montgomery Floyd Regional Library from 2 until 2:30 p.m. Join Rachel for 20 minutes of chair yoga, a perfect practice for times when a break is needed but leaving your seat isn't possible. Optional props are a pillow (any size) and a strap such as a bathrobe tie. Call 540-552-8246 for details.

## Saturday, March 13:

**New River Valley Cares Annual Gala and Auction**  
To be held virtually at 7:30 p.m. Proceeds will be used locally to protect children from abuse and neglect and to strengthen families through education, advocacy, and community partnerships. More information on NRVCares can be found at: www.nrvcares.org.  
The auction will offer unique and interesting items. Visit www.nrvcares.givesmart.com to register and to preview the auction items. There is no charge to register, and bidding starts at noon on March 11.

## Tuesday, March 16:

**Radford Reads with Monica Rodden**  
A Zoom conversation with Monica Rodden at the Radford Public Library at 6:30 p.m.  
The author of "Monsters among Us," Rodden will read from her book and talk about the publishing process. Email Elizabeth at elizabeth.sensabaugh@radfordva.gov for details. The library has a limited number of copies of this book to give away while supplies last. Those interested in obtaining a copy should let the staff know ahead of the meeting.

## Ongoing:

**Head Start Enrolling**  
New River Community Action is now accepting applications for three- and four-year olds for Head

Start for the 2021-22 school year. Head Start offers a no-charge preschool for income eligible families. Families may apply by calling the local Head Start center, applying online at newrivercommunityaction.org or by picking up an application form in person at the local center.  
Applications are accepted year-round.  
The phone numbers for the three local Head Start centers are Christiansburg 540-381-7559, Radford 540-731-4107 and Blacksburg 540-552-0490. Anyone applying in person should bring proof of the child's birth and proof of the family's income such as a 1040, a W-2, pay stubs, child support income, money received from grants, and unemployment income.

## Month of March:

**Grab-and Go-Crafts**  
All month at the Meadowbrook Public Library. Call the library to request Take and Make Craft Kits, available for grab-and-go with curbside pickup. The kits are free but supplies are limited.  
The craft kits and the dates they will be available are March 1-6: Dr. Seuss door hanger; March 8-13: St. Patrick crafts; March 15-20: shark magnet clips; March 22-28: spring and Easter crafts.

**StoryWalk**  
All month long at the Christiansburg Library. Exercise your brain and body as you read and walk the trail. The walk begins at the library at the College Street entrance of Downtown Park. This month's book is "The Big Red Barn."

**Teen/Adult Craft-Felt Smartphone Cover**  
All month long at the Meadowbrook Public Library.  
Participants may request a teen/adult craft to receive supplies to make felt phone cover while supplies last.

## Through March 14:

Youth softball, baseball registration  
Montgomery County Parks and Recreation is currently taking registrations for youth baseball and youth softball in

the Auburn and Eastern Montgomery school strands. MCPR is offering tee ball (co-ed, ages 5-6), coach-pitch baseball (boys, ages 7-8), coach-pitch softball (girls, ages 7-8), Ripken Minors Baseball (boys, ages 9-10), Ripken Majors Baseball (boys, ages 11-12), Babe Ruth 10U Softball (girls, ages 9-10) and Babe Ruth 12U Softball (girls, ages 11-12).  
To be eligible, players must live in or attend school in the Auburn or Eastern Montgomery school strands. Fees for tee ball and coach-pitch leagues are \$40. Fees for Cal Ripken Baseball and Babe Ruth Softball are \$50. Financial assistance is available. The registration deadline is Friday, March 12, at 5:00 p.m. for all in-person or phone registrations and Sunday, March 14, at 11:59 p.m. for online registrations. For more information or to register, visit www.montva.com/parks or phone 540-382-6975.

## Through March 31:

**Keep Virginia Beautiful Annual "Shiver" Fundraising Event**  
Keep Virginia Beautiful (KVB) has opened registration for Shiver in Virginia, a reimagined version of its annual Shiver in the River festival that has been KVB's largest annual fundraiser since 2015. This year's initiative is designed to be COVID-safe and give people more choice in how they can contribute to the beautification of their communities.  
Participants engage in activities including litter cleanups, recycling, trail cleaning, graffiti removal and other good deeds. For a donation of

\$20.21, participants will receive a free Virginia State Parks parking pass with no expiration date. Participants will also have access to the KVB Mission Challenge website where they can map the collective progress on the 2,021 mile path across the state. With each act reported, participants will be entered into drawings for additional prizes.

**Virginia Tech Parking Survey**  
Virginia Tech has released a 2021 parking survey. All those who utilize parking and transportation in and around the Virginia Tech Blacksburg campus are invited to participate, including visitors and Blacksburg residents. The survey will close March 31, 2021, at 5 p.m.  
All responses will remain anonymous and will be analyzed at the aggregate level. The survey should take fewer than 15 minutes to complete. To take the survey, visit <https://vtnews.vt.edu/notices/adm-ev-ergreens/Transpo-parkingsurvey.html>.

## Through Saturday, April 24:

**"Unbearable Beauty" Exhibit at Moss Arts Center**  
The exhibit is open each Wednesday from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. and on Saturdays from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. through Saturday, April 24. The exhibit is a demonstration of the devastation human activity has wreaked on the environment. The exhibit is free and open to the public.



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# OBITUARY

## Taubman, Sharon Maxwell

Sharon Maxwell Taubman, 78, passed away Sunday, Feb. 28, 2021, at her home in Pulaski. Sharon was born in Plant City, Fla., in 1942. She was a sixth-generation Floridian. She graduated from the University of South Florida with a degree in biology and later earned a master's degree in social work.  
She taught high school biology and then had a lengthy career with the Florida Division of Family and Children's Services.  
Sharon was predeceased by her husband, Edward Taubman; her parents, Goldston and

Lois Maxwell; and her sister, Jane Wester.  
Survivors include her brother, Jack Maxwell; a niece, Stephanie Fowler; a nephew, Stephen Maxwell; nieces and nephews; and her loving caregivers, Jordan Anderson and Carmen Dunagan and their family.  
Sharon's love of dogs and nature was demonstrated through her compassion and care. She will be greatly missed.  
There will be no services at this time. The Taubman family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford. [www.mullins-funeralhome.com](http://www.mullins-funeralhome.com).

See more on page 6

Send community news and photos to [communitynews@ourvalley.org](mailto:communitynews@ourvalley.org)

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# OPINION

## WalletHub: Virginia is least safe state during pandemic

The personal finance website WalletHub Thursday released the results of its report on the safest and least safe states and reported that Virginia is the least safe during the pandemic.

To find out the safest states during the COVID-19 pandemic, WalletHub compared the 50 states and the District of Columbia across five key metrics: COVID-19 transmission rate, positive testing rate, hospitalization rate, death rate, and vaccination rate.

Virginia's rankings in four of the key metrics, as reported by the website, are vaccine rate: 23; positive testing rate: 34; hospitalization rate: 39; and death rate: 51.

According to the survey the five least safe states/districts during the pandemic are Delaware, the District of Columbia, New York, Georgia and Virginia.

The survey reported the five safest states to be Alaska, Hawaii, North Dakota, New Mexico and South Dakota.

The website pointed out that as the U.S. works to get the COVID-19 pandemic under control, staying safe is one of Americans' top concerns. Safety is also essential for getting the economy back on track as the lower COVID-19 transmission and deaths are in a state, the more that state is able to eliminate restrictions on businesses. The United States will only be able to fully get back to life as normal once most of the population is vaccinated against coronavirus, and it will still be months before that is achieved. The U.S. is off to a slow start so far, as only 7.9% of the population had been fully vaccinated against COVID-19 (received both doses) as of March 2.

## An invisible, unregulated killer is running wild among us

Saw a while back where a high school kid came up with the idea for a science project to illustrate how information and ignorance can be twisted and used for specific purposes by special interest groups. He surveyed 50 people about a particular compound, and after his presentation, 47 of them said it should be banned. Only two said it shouldn't. Number 50 apparently wound up lost in space or something.

What the student came up with was this compound called dihydrogen monoxide or DMHO. If 47 out of 50 people felt it should be banned, then the key question is why something hasn't been done about this invisible, uncontrolled killer that obviously is a threat to us all.

The primary reason, of course, is that, dangerous or no, DMHO is crucial to many manufacturing processes. Big money will always win out over the health and welfare of us unimportant everyday people.

In its natural state, this insidious compound is odorless, tasteless, and colorless. And it is indeed extremely dangerous. It kills thousands of people every year through accidental inhalation. But it's capable of other damage without killing.

For instance, prolonged exposure to this stuff in its solid form causes irreparable destruction of human tissue. As a gas, contact with it burns human skin.

But wait, there's more. Simple ingestion of two much of this substance causes excessive sweating and urination, nausea, vomiting and body electrolyte imbalance. How's that for a checklist of bodily horrors?

But wait, there's still more. The dangers of DHMO go far beyond mere ingestion. It is a major contributor to acid rain and the much ballyhooed greenhouse effect. Further, it accelerates the corrosion and rusting of many metals, has been known to cause electrical failures, and has been found in excised tumors of terminal cancer patients.

The scariest part of all is that this junk is virtually everywhere. No matter where we turn, it threatens us. Its pollution is so global it has even been discovered in Antarctic ice.

DHMO is so unregulated that the American military establishment has spent fortunes designing devices

to use it during warfare. Military installations across the country receive tons of it through highly sophisticated underground distribution networks. Many bases even store large quantities of it for later use.

So why hasn't our constantly overreaching government done something about this nefarious compound? Because as awful as DMHO may sound when only one side of the story is presented as that perceptive student did, life as we know it could not exist without it. It's water.

The moral of the student's presentation is a lesson I'm not sure we've learned very well: That when a special interest group reveals to us one slanted part of the story, we should always question them persistently enough to make them reveal the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.

*The author is a man of a certain age who has gotten increasingly suspicious as he's gotten older. Its effect, he believes, is to make him less prey to any half-truth or patent nonsense some frenzied zealot may try to convince him of. Not a bad result.*

## WalletHub study: Virginia has the most coronavirus restrictions

As the personal finance website WalletHub points out, the country still has a long way to go to reach a full reopening with businesses and life back to what it used to be. In the meantime, many states still have restrictions on businesses and gatherings.

To determine the states with the fewest (and the most) coronavirus restrictions, WalletHub compared the 50 states and the District of Columbia across 14 key metrics. Their result showed that Virginia is the state with the most coronavirus restrictions.

The metrics WalletHub

used for purposes of the survey's comparison were the presence or absence of a requirement that a face mask be worn in public, the presence or absence of travel restrictions, the presence or absence of policies banning large gatherings, the status of public school reopening, the status of restaurant and bar reopenings, whether the state has issued guidance on customer health checks at restaurants, whether mandatory closings to the public of non-essential businesses have been imposed, the presence or absence of legislation ensuring businesses immunity against liability

for any harm caused by COVID-19, whether the state has required or recommended working from home, whether a state has required or recommended workplace temperature screening, whether a state has imposed mandatory quarantine policies, whether a state is participating in a multi-state agreement or regional partnership, whether or not state guidance for hospitals and other medical facilities to reschedule nonessential surgeries to ease the demand for medical supplies during the coronavirus crisis is still in place, and the absence or presence of guidance for as-

sisted living facilities related to COVID-19.

The top 10 states with the fewest coronavirus restrictions, according to the WalletHub survey are 1. Iowa 2. South Carolina 3. Oklahoma 4. Idaho 5. South Dakota 6. Alaska 7. Utah 8. Florida 9. Tennessee 10. Montana.

The ten states with the most coronavirus restrictions according to the website's survey, are 50. Virginia 49. Vermont 48. Hawaii 47. California 46. Massachusetts 45. North Carolina 44. New Mexico 43. Colorado 42. Washington 41. Connecticut.

## Virginia, Maryland chosen for speed management pilot programs

Virginia and Maryland have been selected to receive \$100,000 each to develop, implement, and evaluate speed management pilot programs with the goal of reducing speed-

ing.

Maryland's project will be located in a rural setting while Virginia's will be in an urban area.

Three national roadway safety organizations — the Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA), Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) and National Road Safety Foundation (NRSF) — are partnering to fund the projects and an evaluation of their effectiveness.

The goal is to develop a template for effective speed reduction strategies that can be duplicated in other states and communities. Speeding is a leading factor in motor vehicle deaths; more than 9,000 people die each year as a result of speeding-related crashes.

"Though speed management has been a problem for decades, speeding became even more acute during the COVID-19 pandemic as less traffic has prompted some motorists to drive at high speeds on highways and city streets across the nation," said GHSA Executive Director Jonathan Adkins. "En-

forcement challenges, rising speed limits — which IIHS research confirms have cost thousands of lives — and public acceptance of speeding create a demand for new strategies."

"Speeding is one of the long-term problems in highway safety, and the pandemic has thrown it into stark relief," said IIHS President David Harkey. "Unfortunately, this problem won't go away when the pandemic ends. By working with other road safety groups, we can use these initiatives to speak with one voice to keep the attention focused on one of the most common factors in serious crashes."

Reducing vehicle speeds is a central component of a comprehensive approach to preventing injuries and deaths in crashes known as "safe systems." The safe systems approach focuses on how road user behavior, road design and operation, vehicle design, and emergency response all must work together to make roads safer for everyone who uses them. Speed

is an overarching factor within this model that is critical for creating a safe road environment.

"Speeding has always been a major factor in teen traffic deaths, and the fact that roads are less crowded during the pandemic is a recipe for disaster," says Michelle Anderson, NRSF Director of Operations. "Young people, who are less experienced behind the wheel, may see the open roads as an invitation to speed. But driving is a skill that requires good judgement, which is why we have dedicated ourselves to engaging young people to use their creativity to develop messages that speak to their peers and adults to be responsible drivers."

The partnership among GHSA, IIHS, and NRSF to support the pilot programs in Maryland and Virginia was conceived following an April 2019 national forum hosted by IIHS and GHSA that brought together a diverse group of stakeholders to discuss ways to address the speeding problem.

CROSSWORD

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Chicago time

4. And hearty

8. In a murderous frenzy (var. sp.)

10. Substance that imparts a hue

11. Italian's capital

12. Oral flavors

13. The Pitt Family artist, Wm.

15. Most buffoonish

16. A group of 8

17. Overlords

18. Camera artists

21. Resinlike substance in shellac

22. Fundamentally

important

23. Fishing implement

24. Hamilton's bill

25. An adult female hog

26. Emergency broadcast network

27. Transcending national boundaries

34. Applied by spreading

35. Lower in esteem

36. Entered the noneating larval stage

37. Nears

38. Woke up

39. Selfs

40. Parts

41. Dry: esp. of vegetation

tion

42. Knot in a tree

43. River in NE Scotland

CLUES DOWN

1. Drive-in server

2. Kiss

3. Red fruit eaten as a vegetable

4. Foot and legwear

5. Changes

6. Wind deposited silt

7. Formerly (archaic)

9. Gold fineness measure

10. Military snack bar

12. Capital of Uzbekistan

14. Old Tokyo

15. Heat in a microwave

17. A waterproof raincoat

19. Stared sullenly

20. Slang for cool

23. Revolves

24. Don't know when yet

25. Sports shoe

26. Opposite of beginning

27. Chevy sedan model

28. Communist nickname

29. 007's Flemming

30. Drama awards

31. Badgered

32. Towards land

33. Leaseholder

34. Capital of Gyeonggi-do

36. Yellowstone or Central

## Rush

from page 1

ders and throughout the entire commonwealth, country, and global arena," Rush said. "We did this through items like the Tech Talent Investment Program, which is now providing for 31,000 new technology degrees to students attending Virginia Tech and other state

universities for the next 10 years; the Jefferson College of Health Sciences merger with Radford University, which has positioned RU to be a top producer of nursing, health, and human services while providing for greater access to continuing and future research,

collaboration, and greater educational opportunities for students and other regional stakeholders; and the 10-10-10 Plan, which appropriated millions of dollars to struggling rural public schools in the commonwealth, including many in rural Southwest Virginia."



# Engineering students make Cassell cutouts come alive

When Syracuse University's Kamilia Cardoso stepped up to the free throw line in the final 3 minutes 46 seconds of the Orange's game against the Hokies in Cassell Coliseum last month, there was quite a bit of commotion from just behind the basket.

From the student section, Virginia Tech cheerleaders yelled through orange megaphones, maroon and orange skinny balloon characters waved all around, and eight rows of cardboard fan heads moved back and forth like wind-shield wipers.

The 112 shifting cutout faces are a result of about five months of work by a group of seven Virginia Tech mechanical engineering students. They designed the cutouts to move using a motor, metal bars that link together, and two large batteries.

With limited spectators allowed at the university's athletic events, including men's and women's basketball games, due to the coronavirus pandemic, the moving cutouts inject some new life into the student section. Basketball fans purchased the cardboard photos as donations to Virginia Tech Athletics.

"We wanted to imitate fans being there and moving around,"

said Andrew Choi, a senior who is president of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) at Virginia Tech and the leader of the project that the club took on in October. "The biggest thing for us was to support the school and support the teams to get a little bit more Hokie spirit inside."

There's another reason why the moving faces, which debut in the second half of each home basketball game, could be helpful. In the second half, the opposing team shoots at the basket situated in front of the Cassell Guard section, the name for the student seating area. Virginia Tech Athletics wanted the cutouts to help serve as a distraction for opponents.

"Hopefully, they [opposing players] will miss a few more baskets and miss their free throws," Choi said.

It may have worked for some games. For instance, on Feb. 27, Wake Forest University's men's basketball team made only six free throws out of 13 attempts during the game at Cassell Coliseum.

No matter how successful the moving cutouts are at distracting opposing players, Virginia Tech Athletics was excited when the students contacted them with the

project.

"When we are able to collaborate with campus groups, that's a win for everybody," said Bob Gavan, associate director of marketing and fan experience for VT Athletics.

The concept to design moving cutouts actually came from a Virginia Tech alumnus who emailed Choi with the idea.

"It sounded like the coolest idea to me," said Molly Maranto, a junior and one of the ASME members who helped build the device.

Choi, Maranto, and five other ASME student members designed the prototype and rented space at Hacksburg, a community makerspace workshop located in the Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center where they did most of the project labor. They could not work in a campus lab due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Choi said he used some ideas that he gleaned from a dynamics of machinery class to inform the device's design. The students used four metal bars that link together and on which the cutouts move, and they attached a crank arm to each row.

"It's definitely nice to be able to take something out of the class-



**Some members of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers at Virginia Tech pose in front of the cutouts at Cassell Coliseum that they designed to move back and forth during basketball games. The students are (from left to right) Eric Link, Kieran Beaumont, Raunak Ahmed, Pratik Satija, Andrew Choi, and Molly Maranto. Not pictured - Mikayla Dolo-Pittman. Photo by Ryan Young.**

room and apply it to real life," Choi said. "You get to learn a lot more along the way than simply reading it from a book."

Two batteries power the eight rows of moving cutouts through the second half of the game.

The students visited Cassell Coliseum several times to install the cutouts. The first three rows of moving cutouts debuted during a Virginia Tech men's basketball game against the University of Virginia on Jan. 30, and ESPN included a quick video of the action on its live broadcast.

A few mechanical engineering

student volunteers are attending the remaining Hokie home games to turn on the moving cutouts and monitor them.

Seeing the work come together has been rewarding for the ASME students, who plan to count the moving cutouts as the club's annual design project.

"Hopefully by this, we can increase the spirit of people who are not in the coliseum right now," said Pratik Satija, a junior at Virginia Tech and the vice president of ASME.

*By Jenny Kincaid Boone*

## ANGLICAN CATHOLIC

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

**St. Philip's Anglican Church**, 306 Progress Street, NE, Blacksburg, Virginia 24060, (540) 552-1771, [www.stphilipsblacksburg.org](http://www.stphilipsblacksburg.org). Reverend Fr. Wade Miller, Priest. Eucharist Sundays 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](http://www.sttofc.org) for midweek masses and events. (In Roanoke, go E on Hershberger, L on Hubert to 4910).

## BAPTIST

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

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

## CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

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

## CHURCH OF GOD

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

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

## CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

**Christiansburg Church of the Brethren**, 310 South Franklin Street. Pastor: Paul J. Stover Jr. 540-797-5015. Sunday School 10 a.m.; Morning Worship 11 a.m.; Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays. Website: [www.christiansburgcob.org](http://www.christiansburgcob.org). A loving family, fueled by the Holy Spirit, grounded in God's Word, and delivering Jesus forgiveness and love to all people. Come as you are... you are welcomed!

## ECKANKAR

**Eckankar, the Path of Spiritual Freedom**, is located at 1420 3rd St. SW, Roanoke, VA 24016. However, due to COVID-19, the Light & Sound Services and other ECK programs are

currently available online through Zoom. Visit [www.eck-va.org](http://www.eck-va.org) for program listings, [www.meetup.com/Roanoke-Spiritual-Experiences-Group](http://www.meetup.com/Roanoke-Spiritual-Experiences-Group), or call 540-353-5365 and leave a message. We will return your call. Also visit [www.eckankar.org](http://www.eckankar.org) for more information about how the teachings of Eckankar lead you to spiritual freedom.

## LUTHERAN

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

## MULTI-CULTURAL

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

## Families Deserve Respect

Read Numbers 1:1 through 2:34

In our fragmented families today, it is difficult to understand the closeness of Israelite families. They worked together, lived in the same area, and had tribal leaders who counseled them, taught them God's Law, and arbitrated their disputes. God appointed a leader from each tribe to help Moses count the men of his tribe. God also told them where to arrange their tents so each tribe lived together. By living so closely together, they must have learned a great deal about getting along with one another.

So the Israelites did every

thing the Lord commanded Moses; that is the way they encamped under their standards, and that is the way they set out, each of them with their clan and family (Numbers 2:34).

In today's society, respect is often a missing ingredient in families. Often, families intentionally live a distance from each other so they don't have to spend much time together. Maybe we should return to the Israelite model and learn to appreciate and depend on one another more.

Thought for Today: The family structure is important to God.

Quicklook: Numbers 2:32-34

**If your church is not listed and if you are interested, call Randy Thompson at 540-389-9355 or email at [advertise@ourvalley.org](mailto:advertise@ourvalley.org)**

## PENTECOSTAL HOLINESS

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

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

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

## UNITED METHODIST

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

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

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

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

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

## WESLEYAN

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

# OBITUARIES

## Noonkester, Sandra

Sandra Noonkester, 77, of Draper, died Monday, March 1, 2021.

She was born in Montgomery County on Aug. 18, 1943, to the late Roy and Thelma Linkous Young. She was preceded in death by her husband, David Noonkester, and her daughter, Beth Bolt.

She is survived by her daughter, Julia Bryant; a son and daughter-in-law,



Mike and Joan Noonkester; a son-in-law, Lester Bolt; seven grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and a sister, Betty Thompson.

A graveside service was held on Friday, March 5, 2021, at 2 p.m. at Roselawn Memorial Gardens, Christiansburg, with the Rev. Carson Linkous officiating.

Arrangements by McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg

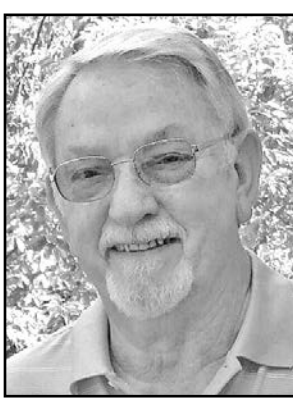
## Jones, Norman Dean

Norman Dean Jones, 81, of Radford, passed away Wednesday, March 3, 2021.

He was a member of Unity Christian Church and former owner and operator of Norman's Cabinetry.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Carl and Minnie Jones; his brothers, Carl "Rudy" Jones and Willard "Deacon" Jones; and grandchildren Kelsey and Trey.

Survivors include his wife of 60 years, Blanche M. "Tenny" Jones; sons and daughters-in-law Dean and Karen Jones and Dennis and Kristi Jones; daughter and son-in-law Denise and Hoyt Parris; sister Minnie Gay Jones; grandchildren Tyler, Jordan, Seth, Ethan, Rhen, Gage, Karli,



and Emma; great-granddaughter Elliyana; special sister-in-law Rita Jones; and many other relatives and friends.

The family received friends on Friday, March 5, 2021, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford followed by memorial services with the Rev. Wendy Wilson and the Rev. Jim Asbury officiating.

In lieu of flowers, please consider the Unity Christian Church, 40 Tyler Ave., Radford, VA 24141 or the Exalted Church, 5319 Williamson Road, Roanoke, VA 24012.

The Jones family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford, Virginia. [www.mullinsfuneralhome.com](http://www.mullinsfuneralhome.com).

## Clower, Warren R.

Warren R. Clower, 87, of Check, Va, went to be with the Lord on Feb. 28, 2021.

He was the beloved son of Orville and Inez Clower and brother to Shelby Kirby, who preceded him in death. He was a gifted artist and craftsman.

Warren was admired by his daughter, Melinda Midkiff (Stephen); two grandsons, Michael Midkiff and Matthew Midkiff;



and two sisters, Phyllis Crawford and Wanda Brickey.

Funeral services will be held on Saturday, March 6, 2021, at 1 p.m. at Gardner Funeral Home with Pastor Baily Gardner officiating. Interment will be in Iddings Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Little River Baptist Church, Floyd, VA. 24091.

## Meade, Ruby Cantrell

Ruby Cantrell Meade, 87, of Radford, passed away Wednesday, March 3, 2021.

She was retired from Montgomery County Schools where she was a teacher for 35 years.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Ellsworth Cantrell and Edna C. Brown, and her sisters, Emogene Boggs (Dennis), Wilma Jenkins (Raleigh), and Ann Sturgill (Charles).

Survivors include her children, Charles Jeffrey Meade (Jackie), Clarine Wilson (Michael "Butch"), Billie Mullins, and Stephen Meade (Kelly McCoy); grandchildren Jeff, David, Crista, Joseph, Jennifer, Stephanie, Doug, Michael, Ian, Hannah and Emily;



and many great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and other relatives and friends.

Special thanks to Ken Stone and Kayla Mabe for their loving care throughout the years and to all her friends and staff at Commonwealth Senior Living in Christiansburg.

Graveside services will be private and a celebration of her life will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, please consider the Literacy Volunteers of the NRV, 195 W. Main St., Christiansburg, VA 24073.

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

## Howard, Ellen Louise

Ellen Louise Howard, 98, of Blacksburg, went to be with her Jesus on Monday, March 1, 2021. She was born on Sept. 17, 1922, to the late Irwin S. and Lura Bower Howard.

She was preceded in death by her sisters Phyllis Howard Jones and Frances Howard Baird.

Louise loved walking under the blue skies to work and around Blacksburg. She was a proud Hokie and loved reading the newspaper. She was a secretary in the Ag Engineering Department at Virginia Tech where she plotted rainfall amounts for the state before computers.

She was a member of the Blacksburg United Methodist Church. Her father was one of the charter members of the Blacks-

burg Volunteer Fire Department, started the year Louise was born, keeping families safe in Blacksburg.

She was the beloved aunt to Nicolynne Jones, Luralee Jones Cornwell (Steve), Vicki Baird Stec (Steve), and Barry W. Baird (Alison).

The family would like to give a special thanks to Noble Senior in Christiansburg and Good Samaritan Hospice for the loving care that she received.

The family will have a private graveside service. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Blacksburg Fire Department, 407 Hubbard Street, Blacksburg, Va. 24060. Arrangements by McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg.

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Send community news and photos to [communitynews@ourvalley.org](mailto:communitynews@ourvalley.org)

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### Legals - City of Radford

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CITY OF RADFORD, VIRGINIA**  
The Radford City Planning Commission will hold a public hearing to receive comments regarding a request from the Ellett Valley Investments LLC, for a Special Use Permit to develop residential dwellings above the main floor, Tax Parcel's 5-(1)-62T, located 1129 East Main Street, Radford VA 24141. The hearing will be held on Monday, March 15, 2021 beginning at 5:30 P.M. E.S.T., at 10 Robertson Street, Radford, VA. Interested parties are invited to attend the public hearing and present their views on the proposed Special Use Permit. Written comments may be sent to 10 Robertson Street, Radford 24141; please allow adequate mailing time: Melissa Skelton, Community Development Director

### Legals - City of Radford

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CITY OF RADFORD, VIRGINIA**  
The Radford City Council will hold a public hearing to receive comments regarding a request from the Ellett Valley Investments LLC, for a Special Use Permit to develop residential dwellings above the main floor, Tax Parcel's 5-(1)-62T, located 1129 East Main Street, Radford VA 24141. The hearing will be held on Monday, March 22, 2021 beginning at 7:00 P.M. E.S.T., at 10 Robertson Street, Radford, VA. Interested parties are invited to attend the public hearing and present their views on the proposed Special Use Permit. Written comments may be sent to 10 Robertson Street, Radford 24141; please allow adequate mailing time: Melissa Skelton, Community Development Director

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# MONTGOMERY SPORTS



Auburn's Ethan Millirons was named Wednesday as the Mt. Empire District boys player of the year.

## All-District, All-Region basketball teams announced

**Marty Gordon**  
*NRVsports@ourvalley.org*

In announcements released Wednesday, Eastern Montgomery placed three players on the 2021 Pioneer All-District girls basketball team, Eastern Montgomery seniors Adam Bahnken and Jacob Price were named to the All-District Boys First Team, and Auburn's Ethan Millirons was named the Mt. Empire District boys player of the year.

Eastern Montgomery senior Elli Underwood and sophomore teammates Maddie Bruce and Lilly Underwood were named to the all-district girls team.

Millirons' teammate, Michael Royal, joined him on the All-District First

Team. Auburn's Daniel Brotherton earned second-team honors.

Auburn's Amelia Terry was named to the Mt. Empire All-District girls' second team. Her teammates Allison Martin and Rhyland Rorrer were also second-team.

Ethan Millirons was also named to the Class 1 Region C boys first team.

Eastern Montgomery's Bahnken and Price received second-team all-region recognition.

Auburn's Brotherton and Royal were named to the all-region second team.

Maddie Bruce and Elli Underwood of Eastern Montgomery were also named to the Region C girls first-team. Lilly Underwood was named to the second-team.

## Blacksburg High's Parker Epperley honored by Virginia Sports Hall of Fame

Blacksburg High School junior Parker Epperley was one of 16 student-athletes from across the state to receive recognition from the Virginia Sports Hall of Fame Foundation as one of the finalists for the Student-Athlete Achievement Awards.

A reception held virtually via Zoom and Facebook Live featured high school student-athletes from across Virginia that excel academically, athletically, and in their communities.

The hall received 115 nominations from August through October 2020 from which the sixteen finalists were chosen by an awards selection committee. From the eight girls and eight boys, the committee picked two from each group as the Hall of Fame's Student Athletes of the Year.

Epperley has been an A-B honor roll student since the third grade. As a freshman, he won the regional livestock judging contest at Virginia Tech for his age group. At Blacksburg, he has played football, baseball, and basketball. He was the ESPN Blacksburg Football Player of the Game twice as a sophomore.

He has created his own tilling and gardening business growing plants in a greenhouse and tilling around 50 gardens in Vir-

ginia and West Virginia.

With high school athletics put on hold in Virginia because of the pandemic, many of this year's finalists took the opportunity to further their commitment to their communities by creating projects and initiatives to help those in need.

In addition to the scholarship awards provided to the four Student-Athletes of the Year, each remaining finalist received a \$500 scholarship.

The additional funds are the result of a year-end appeal campaign for the Hall of Fame aimed at increasing the scholarships provided for student-athletes.

"Student-athletes have endured so much as a result of the pandemic," said Virginia Sports Hall of Fame Executive Director Will Driscoll. "We wanted to make sure we continued this initiative that celebrates their overall accomplishments even if games aren't being played."

Since 1972, the Virginia Sports Hall of Fame has honored Virginia's contributions to the world of sports. As the commonwealth's official hall of fame, its mission is to honor athletic excellence and to serve as a nonprofit resource highlighting philanthropy through sports while inspiring sports fans through programming and engaging entertainment.

## Local wrestling club takes wrestling association state championship

**Marty Gordon**  
*NRVsports@ourvalley.org*

A Christiansburg wrestling club brought home plenty of gold this week after a state tournament in Virginia Beach. Elite Wrestling, the home of the Christiansburg Blue Demon wrestling club, brought home the Virginia Wrestling Association (VAWA) state title and two divisional championship banners.

Overall, Elite scored 515.5 total points, far ahead of second place Smith Mt. Lake's 351 points. The group had 28 place winners, nine of whom were individual state champions: Jackson Crowder, Brady Hand, Barrett Collins, Reid Stiltner, Reza Massjouni, Bryar Asbury, Leland Altizer, Jesse McGraw and Logan Rose.

Elite second-place finishers in the state tournament were Carter Hudson, Titus Bolen, Stephen Bolen and Derek Bush. Earning third-place finishes were Jake Robie, Chandler Webb, Evan Mefford, J.J. Pociask, Molly Keller, Elan Catoe and Talan Hall.

Finishing in fourth place were Steven Bolen and Ian Ray, and achieving fifth-place finishes were Dillinger Collins and Jaccob Smeltzer. Sixth-place finishers were Zack Hudson, Nic Hamm, Randy Winnans and Jackson Mann.



The Virginia Elite wrestling club's 10-and-under squad took first place in the Virginia Wrestling association (VAWA) state tournament this past week. Pictured are (from left) Coach Matt Hand, Randy Winnans, Carter Hudson, Titus Bolen and Luke Hand.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Also claiming a Virginia Wrestling Association state championship this past weekend was the Virginia Elite wrestling club's 12-and-under squad. Pictured are (front row from left) Stephen Bolen and Jackson Crowder; (back row from left) Jesse McGraw, Leland Altizer, Coach Joe Collins, Dillinger Collins, Reid Stiltner, Coach Joey Stiltner, Zack Hudson, Reza Massjouni, Jaccob Smeltzer and Coach Matt Hand.

## Hokie men capture ACC indoor track and field championship



PHOTO COURTESY OF VT ATHLETICS

The Virginia Tech Hokies are the 2021 ACC men's indoor champs, winning with the largest margin of victory in the modern era.

The Virginia Tech men's track and field squad won its sixth ACC indoor championship Saturday, winning by 55 points over second-place North Carolina, the largest margin of victory in the league's modern era.

The title was the 17th overall for the Hokies' track and field program.

"This championship was a total team effort by our men," said Director of Track and Field Dave Cianelli. "We had contributors from almost every event. The athletes were prepared and focused to come here and win this title."

In the mile run, Fitsum Seyoum, Ethan Mills, and Tyler Leaser all delivered personal bests for the Hokies. Patrick Forrest set career records in both the prelims and the finals of the 400 meters. Thierry Siewe Yanga set a personal record of 1:50.36 in the 800 meters, and Cole Beck's 6.74 in the 60 meters contributed fifth-place points for the Hokies.

The Hokie gold medalists:

Jacory Patterson in the 200 meters and the 400 meters. He repeated as the league champion of both events and won the 400 meters for the third straight year. Patterson broke his own school record in the preliminaries with a time of 20.66 before surpassing it again on Saturday with a gold-medal-winning 20.62. With a 45.38 in the finals, Patterson earned the 2021 ACC Indoor Championships Men's Track

MVP award.

Bashir Mosavel-Lo, 800 meters. In one of the most exciting races of the meet, the Richmond native stretched at the finish to hold off the pack and become the ACC champion. Posting a time of 1:48.34, a career best, Mosavel-Lo added a gold medal to his reputation as one of the best distance runners in Hokies' history.

Antonio Lopez Segura, 5000 meters. Lopez Segura never broke his stride, biding his time until he blew through the pack and never looking back until the gold medal was in his hands. With his winning time of 13:49.86, the Spaniard broke the Clemson Indoor Track facility record and the ACC Indoor Championships record and moved into third in Virginia Tech history.

Tyler Leaser, Patrick Forrest, Dave Whitfield, and Ben Nibbelink, distance medley relay. Showcasing the depth and talent of the distance crew, the men's distance medley relay team breezed past the rest of the conference to win the gold medal with a time of 9:41.87.

The Hokie silver medalists:

Chauncey Chambers, triple jump. Chambers earned the first medal for the Hokies on Saturday, placing second in the triple jump with a career-best mark, earning first team All-ACC honors and moving into third all-time in Tech's record book.

Tyson Jones, shot put. Competing in one of the best shot put events the ACC has ever seen, Jones took the silver medal.

Ben Nibbelink, 3000 meters. The junior from Leesburg battled against a strong field of 34 entrants and produced a career best time of 7:56.88 to earn the silver medal and first-team All-ACC honors.

Harrison Rice, pole vault. Rice improved his third-place finish from last year's ACC Indoor Championships with a silver medal. He earned first-team All-ACC honors.

The Hokie bronze medalists: Sean Murphy, heptathlon. With five personal bests across the heptathlon's seven events, Sean Murphy smashed the all-time Tech record in the event with 5,350 points, earning the bronze medal.

Aidan Clark, high jump. Earlier in the season at the VT challenge, freshman Clark became just the third Hokie in history to clear seven feet. His jump of 6' 11.75" at the championships earned him a bronze medal.

Ben Fleming, mile. A Blacksburg native, Fleming brought the bronze medal back to his hometown with a time of 4:00.01, which earned him first-team All-ACC honors. He was one of four Hokies to break the four-minute mark during the season.

--VT Athletics





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