



## 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

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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.



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.

## Olympics the latest stop on Irena Gillarova's life journey

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 com-

peting 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 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

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## 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 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](mailto:greatroadencampment@gmail.com).



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

## Blacksburg installing bike boxes for safety

The Town of Blacksburg is restriping the Prices Fork Road/Toms Creek Road/Stanger Street intersection and making this intersection more bicyclist friendly by adding new pavement markings called bike boxes to the intersection.

A bike box is a designated area at the head of a traffic lane at a signalized intersection. It is installed to reduce conflicts between people bicycling and people driving. The main goal is to prevent crashes between

right-turning vehicles and bikers moving through the intersection. Bike boxes also increase visibility and awareness and help bikers clear an intersection more quickly.

To use the bike box, drivers should stop behind the bike box for a yellow or red signal and should not turn right on red if this requires crossing the bike box. When the signal turns green, drivers should not pass

See Bike Boxes, page 2



Image Credit: National Association of City Transportation Officials



Left to right, Shelley Butler Barlow, Anna Healy James, and Letitia Long.

## Virginia Tech Board of Visitors members reappointed

Virginia Governor Ralph Northam recently announced the reappointment of two members to the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors.

Anna Healy James, of Virginia Beach, senior vice president of government and community relations for Sentara Healthcare, and Letitia A. Long, of Alexandria, chairman of the board of the Intelligence and National Security Alliance, will

each serve a second four-year term that began July 1.

In addition, Shelley Butler Barlow, of Suffolk, Va., co-owner of Cotton Plains Farm, Inc., a multi-generational family farming operation, was re-elected as president of the board of directors for the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumers Services (VDACS). As president, Barlow will continue her

tenure on the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors as an ex-officio member and will serve a third one-year term.

Anna Healy James received her bachelor's degree in business administration and management from Virginia Tech's Pamplin College of Business and later received her M.B.A. at Virginia

See Reappointed, page 2



# 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](http://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](mailto: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-moist 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

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top of the top" since only 2.1 percent of the millions of scouts" across the country "achieve 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 Micah's Garden at St. Michael. Micah's Garden grows fresh produce for the Micah'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 patrol 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 Korey Mercier 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.

## ONLINE ONLY AUCTION

Sweet Home for Sale in Pulaski VA!  
658 8th St. NE, Pulaski VA 24301



Ends Thursday August 5th at 4 PM  
Bid Now at [VaAuctionpro.com](http://VaAuctionpro.com)

You have the opportunity to purchase a lovely home for Sale in Pulaski County VA. This home features 3 bedrooms, 1 bath and over 1,100 sq. ft. of space! The home is one level with a nice kitchen and dining room area along with a large living room. The laundry is located in the bathroom for easy access. There is a full, unfinished, walkout basement as well. The property has a fenced back yard and a shed out back along with a small building with a carport for parking and storage.

Preview Date – Saturday July 31st @ 10 AM

**Terms** – 10% Buyer's Premium will be added to final high bid to arrive at contract price. Earnest Money Deposit of \$2,500 required on day of sale. Close in 45 days. Subject to seller confirmation. Property sold as is, where is with any and all faults. Buyer is expected to complete their own due diligence. Auction starts ending at 4 PM on August 5th 2021. Please note that during the last two minutes of bidding, if a new bid is placed, the clock is automatically extended an additional two minutes. Download Bidder Information Pack for complete terms and conditions, purchase contract and maps.

Contact – Realtor Levi Cox at 540-230-7162 or email [LeviCox87@gmail.com](mailto:LeviCox87@gmail.com); Broker & Auctioneer Matt Gallimore at 540-239-2585 or email [gallimore.matt@gmail.com](mailto:gallimore.matt@gmail.com)

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Blue Ridge Land  
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## Reappointed

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Commonwealth University. After completing her second degree, James became director of government relations for VCU and the VCU Health System and later became the manager for state government affairs for Troutman Sanders Strategies, before serving as special assistant to Gov. Mark Warner.

While working with Warner, James established the governor's Healthy Virginians initiative and advised him on issues such as teacher quality, K-12 education, procurement, capital outlay, health care, and higher education. She subsequently was named policy director to Gov. Terry McAuliffe, a position she held from 2014 to 2016.

Letitia A. Long  
In addition to her role as chairman of the board of the Intelligence and National Security Alliance, Long also serves currently on the boards of T-Mobile, Parsons, COPT, and Noblis. At Virginia Tech, she serves on the advisory boards of the School of Public and International Affairs in the College of Architecture and Urban Studies and the Ted and Karyn Hume Center for National Security and Technology.

Long served as the fifth director of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency and was the first woman to lead a major U.S. intelligence agency. She previously served as the deputy director of the Defense Intelligence Agency and the deputy director of Naval Intelligence. Her career has spanned all aspects of organizational leadership, business functions, and global operations.

Long received her bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Virginia Tech's College of Engineering and a master's degree

in engineering from the Catholic University of America. She was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Strategic Intelligence from the National Intelligence University.

Shelley Butler Barlow  
Barlow received her bachelor's degree in agriculture from Virginia Tech's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. She has worked in various segments of agriculture, including hog production, feed sales, pharmaceutical sales, veterinary medicine, and row crop and vegetable farming. She is also the garden coordinator for Healthy Suffolk, a local nonprofit that supports community and school gardens.

Barlow is a 2016 Fellow of Virginia Agriculture Leaders Obtaining Results. In addition to her VDACS board position, Barlow represents Virginia's cotton industry on The Cotton Board, is the Suffolk USDA Farm Service Agency county committee chair, and serves on the Virginia Farm Bureau's Ag-Pac Board of Trustees and Cotton Advisory Board. She was Virginia Farm Bureau's 2010 Farm Woman of the Year.

Also joining the board for one-year terms are two new student representatives, Paolo Fermin, a rising senior studying computer engineering in the College of Engineering, and Phil Miskovic, a doctoral candidate in public administration and policy in the College of Architecture and Urban Studies.

Robert Weiss, professor of geosciences in the College of Science, is the new faculty representative, and Serena Young, administrative assistant in the University Ombuds Office, will serve as the new staff representative in the 2021-22 academic year.

## Bike Boxes

from page 1

bikers while in the intersection and should watch for bikers, especially in front and to the right.

If the light is green as drivers approach, they may move through the intersection as usual.

Bikers should enter the bike box from the approaching bike lane at a yellow or red sig-

nal. They should stop before the crosswalk and position themselves in the appropriate lane depending on the direction they are travelling. When the signal turns green, bikers may proceed through the intersection as usual but should be aware of right-turning vehicles.

Bikers may move through the intersection as usual if the light is green as they approach.





**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 Lomnicky 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 Lomnicky 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," Lomnicky 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," Lomnicky 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, Lomnicky 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 Lomnicky, 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 Lomnicky 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, Lomnicky 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," Lomnicky 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," Lomnicky 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."

Lomnicky'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 Lomnicky 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.

Lomnicky 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," Lomnicky 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 alone 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, Lomnicky 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.)**

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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.

**News Messenger**

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The News Messenger is a newspaper of, by and for the people of Montgomery County. We encourage letters from our readers on topics of general interest to the community and responses to our articles and columns. Letters must be signed and have a telephone number where you can be reached for verification. All letters will be verified before publication. We reserve the right to deny publication of any letter and edit letters for length, content and style.

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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

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 continued 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.

"My dad proposed to my mom 20 years ago, but somehow it didn't happen," she said. "When I was competing at the European Championships in 2018, my dad told me that if I would make it to the finals, then he was going to propose again."

"Then I went to the reporters and journal-

ists [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

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50					51						

**CLUES ACROSS**

- The winners
- A place to relax
- Monies to pay debts
- Horse mackerel
- Type of steroid
- Make dry
- The Godfather's adopted son
- Ivanovic and Gasteyer
- Horror movie franchise
- Grab
- Iranian city
- Yearly tonnage (abbr.)
- One's illicit lover
- Fake smarts (abbr.)
- Where Jersey natives depart from
- Doctor
- Front feet
- Insurance option
- Some is "wicked"
- Type of weaving
- Religious woman
- One point east of southeast
- Prestigious literary prize
- Tiny humans
- Relish over
- Computer manufacturer
- Envelops
- One type is dippin'
- Bequeaths
- Fake smarts (abbr.)
- Dice game
- Greek goddess of youth
- Piers Anthony protagonist
- One-thousandth of an inch
- JFK Library architect
- A type of corrosion (abbr.)
- Beat up
- Political action committees
- Antidiuretic hormone
- Of the desert
- Oblivious of
- Actress Lathan
- Musical instrument
- It's in a plant
- One-time special prosecutor
- Indigenous people of Brazil
- Mothers
- Mongolian desert
- Great Britain, Scotland and Northern Ireland
- British air aces
- A lover to Zeus
- Frequently
- Get together again
- Gives a permanent post process
- Ammonia-producing process
- 4th month of the Jewish calendar
- New England river
- Stores grain
- Confess openly
- Quarterbacks do it
- Not good
- Witness
- Author Coulter
- 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) Kan-

sas, \$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.”

## 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. Follow us on Facebook

**St. Philip’s Anglican Church**, 306 Progress Street, NE, Blacksburg, Virginia 24060, (540) 552-1771, 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 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, 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

## 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. 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

# Montgomery County 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**

& Sound Services and other ECK programs are currently available online through Zoom. Visit www.eck-va.org for program listings, 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 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. 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, 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.

**PENTECOSTAL HOLINESS Merrimac Pentecostal Holiness Church**, Rev. Richard Hall (540) 552-7194. 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.

**St. Paul United Methodist Church**, 220 W. Main St., C’burg. Rev. Mooncup “Paul” Song (540) 382-2410. Sunday Worship 10 a.m., Sunday School 9 a.m. Live streaming Sunday Service - 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, Christiansburg. Public Worship service at 11:00 AM. Sunday School for adults - 10:00 AM. Pastor: Gale Janofski 574-306-7682. Website: christ-wesleyanchurch.org

Send community news and photos  
to communitynews@ourvalley.org

# 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.



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.

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 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 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

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.

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.

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

A memorial service was held at St. Phillips 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. Phillips 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.

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



Christiansburg; sisters Zula Saul of Fairlawn, Irene Dalton of Riner, and Louise (Cobern) Quesenberry 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 Cuthrell, and the staff at Intrepid Hospice.

The family received 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.

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

# Marketplace

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The Vinton Messenger
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News Messenger
RADFORD News Journal

### For Rent - Apartments

**2, 3, 4 BR Townhouse Style** 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



### For Sale - Misc

**FOR SALE** Unprinted end rolls of newsprint. 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.

### Help Wanted - General

**Part Time Newspaper Production Help** The Salem Times Register 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](mailto:lhurst@ourvalley.org)

### Legals - City of Radford

**ABC NOTICE**  
Gabby Properties LLC, trading as Nesselrod on the New, 7535 Lee Highway, Fairlawn, Pulaski County, Virginia 24141.  
The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Bed & Breakfast license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.  
Jeffrey Caldwell, Member

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](http://www.abc.virginia.gov) or 800-552-3200.

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CLASSIFIEDS!

To place your ad, call 389-9355

### 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.

### ABC NOTICE

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

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

### 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

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](http://www.abc.virginia.gov) or 800-552-3200.

### ABC NOTICE

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

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Wine and Beer Off Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

Sabrina Martin  
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](http://www.abc.virginia.gov) or 800-552-3200.

### 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.

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.

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](mailto:awarren@christiansburg.org).

Run: Saturday, July 31, 2021

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### 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:

A. Rezoning request by Deerfield Home Estates LLC to rezone Tax Parcel Nos. 496-A 68 & 496-A 73 (4.711 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.

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

### 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.

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](mailto:awarren@christiansburg.org) with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations.

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# MONTGOMERY 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.

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.

"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.

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"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 Lockett 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 Cullop.

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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