



RADFORD News JOURNAL

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Radford City Council recognizes businesses for being 'Best in Virginia'



Several Radford Businesses receive congratulations from Radford City Council at the recent council meeting for their inclusion on the Best of Virginia list in Virginia Living Magazine.

RADFORD - Radford City Council recently recognized 28 Radford businesses that were awarded "Best of Virginia" status by Virginia Living Magazine.

Each year, Virginia Living Magazine asks readers to vote on their favorite businesses in a variety of categories, from restaurants to shops, doctors to attorneys, hair stylists to construction companies, and more. This year, Radford had 17 number one winners and 11 notable mention winners.

"Be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Radford that these 28 businesses are hereby recognized for their exceptional business products, services, and dedication to the City of Radford as they celebrate this monumental achievement," the resolution reads.

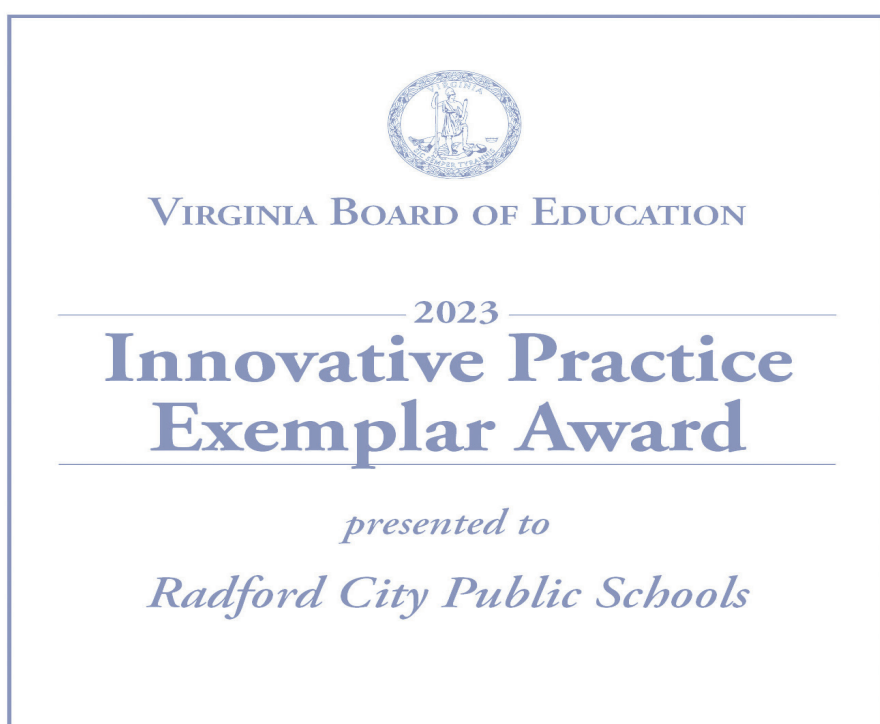
The number one winners include Tuck

Chiropractic, New River Valley Pediatrics, New River Dermatology, Thompson & Litton, Patrick Moore, PC, Mullins Funeral Home, Virginia Furniture Market, Macado's, Sal's Italian Restaurant and Pizzeria, Radford Coffee Company, Thai This Express, Pete Dye River Course, New River Valley Community Services, The Hair Loft, Sams Brothers, Inc., Carter Bank and Trust, and Carilion.

The notable mention businesses include Brickhouse Pizza, Long Way Brewing, Sinkland Farms, Central United Methodist Church, Blacksburg Boxing and Fitness, Carilion New River Valley, Garrett's, Gates Florist and Gifts, PR Sturgill Jewelry, Truist, and Member One.

Staff reports

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RCPS earns Board of Education 2023 Innovative Practice Award

RICHMOND — Radford City Public Schools is one of seven school divisions the Virginia Board of Education has recognized with its annual Innovative Practice Award.

The recognitions are part of the board's Exemplar Performance Awards program and are based on performance and practices during 2021-2022 and prior school years.

RCPS was recognized for "implementing and enhancing STEM offerings by adding courses, incorporating STEM content into existing curricula, creating STEM pathways at the high school level and altering schedules to provide large blocks of time for labs, problem-based learning and exploration for students to highlight their experiences and learning through the creation of digital portfolios, exhibitions and senior capstones."

"I congratulate all of the winners for developing innovative practices that address the needs of their students and communities and for implementing them successfully over time," Board of Education President Dan Gecker said. "These awards recognize the creative and innovative work of educators and provide an incentive for other divisions and schools to develop their own innovations to improve outcomes and expand opportunities for students."

"I am looking forward to visiting each of these divisions during the next school year to learn more about their innovations and see firsthand how students are benefiting," Superintendent of Public Instruction Lisa Coons said. "I see every school division and school as a potential laboratory for innovations that could potentially inform statewide policies and practices."

School divisions earned the recognition for exemplary innovative practices based on division-wide implementation for at least two full academic years of a new or creative evidence-based alternative to existing instructional or administrative practices. The goals and objectives of the innovative practice had to align with one or more of the following priority areas:

- Closing achievement gaps among vulnerable and/or minority student groups.
- Developing an integrated STEM approach to learning.
- Building genuine relationships with families to support overall family well-being and children's healthy development.
- Elevating the quality and character

See Innovative, page 3

Cassette Rewind's 80's hits bring a big crowd to Glencoe Mansion



Cassette Rewind, an 80's cover band, performs Saturday at on the grounds of Glencoe Mansion.

RADFORD - Saturday's installment of the Radford Summer Concert Series brought more than 600 people to the grounds of Glencoe Mansion to enjoy the 80's sounds of Cassette Rewind.

The keytar took center stage as the band performed hit after hit from the 80's, from Billy Idol to Prince, Madonna to Whitney Houston, Lover Boy to the Eurythmics, and even some Cutting Crew, A-ha and Spandau Ballet. The band made its return to Radford by popular demand after a big performance during last year's concert series, which is organized by the Radford Visitors and Welcome Center. Everybody got Footloose, dancing for hours.

The Radford Visitors and Welcome Center offers "thank you to our sponsors:

Kollmorgen Corporation, Southwest Outdoor Power, Southern Furniture, Ameriprise Financial, Radford Chamber of Commerce, Radford City Government, Radford Public Library, Radford City Sheriff's Office, Radford City Fire/EMS, Radford City Police Department and Brio LIVE Entertainment."

Remaining installments of the concert series include:

- Saturday, July 22: Tee Tones- Doowop/Motown/Soul
- Saturday, August 19: Chairman of the Board- Beach music
- Saturday, September 23: Ryan Perry-country, with opening act Sofie Lynn.

Radford News Journal staff report

Juneteenth celebration brings together community in 'Black Empowerment, Joy, Legacy'



Jojo Stockton, on guitar, and Jarod Leland, on harmonica, entertain the crowd at the 2023 Juneteenth celebration in Christiansburg.

Lori Graham
Contributing writer

The 2023 Juneteenth celebration happened on Saturday, June 19 on the grounds of the historic campus of the Christiansburg Industrial Institute and was sponsored by The Coalition of Christiansburg Institute, Hill School Community Center, and the Christiansburg Alumni Association.

Juneteenth, celebrated on June 19, became a nationally recognized holiday in the United States two years ago

through President Biden's legislative initiative and Congress's passing of the action. The holiday is to remember and celebrate once enslaved African Americans and their emancipation. Specifically, "even though the Emancipation Proclamation was made effective in 1863, it could not be implemented in places still under Confederate control," according to the Smithsonian Institute's National

See Juneteenth, page 3



The crowd dances at Saturday's installment of the Radford Summer Concert series, with the band playing hit after hit from the 80's.

PHOTOS BY ETHAN BELL

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, June 21:

Mingle at the Market

Join the Blacksburg Farmer's Market for the first 2023 Mingle at the Market, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m., at Market Square Park. This event will feature live music, locally brewed beverages, local food and more.

Waffles Club! A Young Writer's Group

At the Radford Public Library; 4- 5 p.m. Join us for a gently guided writing club for kids, aka the Waffles Club (Writing Association for Fun Loving Enthusiastic Students)! Together, we will work on responding to writing prompts, have some quiet writing time, and the opportunity to share work! Geared toward 8-12 year olds. Contact Morgan for more information at morgan.esterhuizen@radfordva.gov. Please bring your favorite writing materials!

English Conversation for Adults

At the Blacksburg Library; 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. We are pleased to host adult English conversation in partnership with the Literacy Volunteers of the NRV. Sign up at www.lvnrv.org/classes.

Thursday, June 22:

Wildwood Park Nature Lecture Series

The Wildwood Park Nature Lecture Series takes place in the heart of Wildwood Park at the Outdoor Classroom (pavilion). To get to the site, attendees can park at the Sundell Drive parking lot for Wildwood Park and take the walkway into the center of the park. All of the talks start at 7:30 p.m. and are held rain or shine unless there are thunderstorms. June 22: Turtles (Brandon Crawford, Virginia Tech).

Friday, June 23:

Reading with Dave and Ollie

At the Radford Public Library; 2 p.m. Teens are invited to come and listen to Dave read a short story or a passage from a novel while also visiting with Saint Francis Facility Dog, Oliver!

Monday, June 26:

Radford City Council meeting

The Radford City Council will hold its regularly scheduled meeting at 7 p.m. in council chambers at the Radford Municipal Building, 10 Robertson St., Radford. See the agenda at www.radfordva.gov.

Montgomery County Board of Supervisors meeting

Public meetings are the second and fourth Monday of each month at the Montgomery County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St. in Christiansburg. Closed sessions begin at 6 p.m. if needed. Open sessions begin at 7:15 p.m. Citizens are invited to attend and allowed to speak at each meeting. All regular meetings of the Board of Supervisors are rebroadcast on Montgomery County Comcast and Shentel Channels 190 daily.

Tuesday, June 27:

Blacksburg Town Council meeting

Town Council meets in regular session the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Roger E. Hedgepeth Chambers of the Blacksburg Municipal Building, 300 S. Main St. These meetings are open to the public and televised live on WTOB Channel 2.

Christiansburg Town Council meeting

Regular Town Council meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month beginning at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Town Hall (100 E. Main Street). The public is welcome and encouraged to attend, with a citizen hearing time reserved at each meeting for residents to bring any matter they desire before the entire council.

Tuesday Night Book Club

At the Radford Public Library; 6- 7 p.m. Adults and teens are invited to chat with Dave about whatever they happen to be reading, watching, or listening to at the moment. Snacks and coffee provided.

Summer Backpack Program

At the Meadowbrook Library; 3:30 – 5:30 p.m. The Summer Backpack Program is intended to help families with children and teens stretch their grocery budget. The bags are filled with nutritious food. This is a drop-in program open to residents of Eastern Montgomery County only. Each week there will be crafts for the kids in addition to the bag of food. If you missed picking up food for the week, call and make an appointment. For more information call the Meadowbrook Library at 540-268-1964.

Wednesday, June 28:

Mingle at the Market

Join the Blacksburg Farmer's Market for Mingle at the Market, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m., at Market Square Park. This event will feature live music, locally brewed beverages, local food and more.

Thursday, July 6:

American Legion meeting

The American Legion, Harvey-Howe-Carper Post 30 will meet at 6 p.m. at the VFW Post Home on 102 Watts St. in Radford. For further information, please call 540-250-2283 or 540-239-9864.

Saturday, July 15:

Rotary Club blood screening

The Rotary Club of Christiansburg-Blacksburg and LewisGale Hospital Montgomery biannual blood screening; 6:30 -10 a.m. in the hospital's lobby. The fasting blood test screens over 25 different markers including cholesterol and red blood indices at a

significantly reduced cost. New this year, the test will include Hemoglobin A1C. Cost is \$50. Results are sent to participants and their physician of choice. A portion of the proceeds is used to fund a service project in the community.

Pre-register for the blood screening at <https://www.rotary7570.org/blood> or call 540-951-8988. Walk-in registration is available the day of the blood screening.

Thursday, July 20:

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 on 3204 Riner Rd. Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) are also invited to this meeting. Mr. Sam Winkler, aka "President Jefferson Davis" will be the guest speaker. For further information, please call 540-320-4315 or 540-239-9864.

On-going:

Entries sought for July 4th Parade

Participants are needed for Blacksburg's July 4th parade, which is organized by the Mount Tabor Ruritan Club. The parade starts at 2 p.m. from Eheart Street, runs through downtown on Main Street, and ends at Alumni Mall. Entries can be floats, bicycles, wagons, marchers, walkers, antique/classic cars, Jeeps, trucks, fire engines, scouts, bands, sports teams, etc. Information is available on the Mount Tabor Ruritan Club's Facebook page, or by texting 540-449-6178.

Market Square Jam

Held Wednesdays, June through September, in Blacksburg on the corner of Draper Road and Roanoke Street; 7 – 9 p.m. Catering to traditional Old-Time music, Blacksburg's Market Square Jam brings musicians together to pick a tune, enjoy fun times with friends and family, and take in all that downtown Blacksburg has to offer. Blacksburg's Market Square Jam is an official Crooked Road affiliated venue that provides fun and entertainment.

Blacksburg Farmers Market

Hours now through October: Wednesdays 2 – 6 p.m. and Saturdays 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. Located at Market Square Park, on the corner of Roanoke Street and Draper Road in downtown Blacksburg. Features growers of locally grown produce and meats, alongside artisans of baked goods, prepared foods, cheese, handmade crafts, and more.

Christiansburg Farmers Market

Thursdays; 3 – 7 p.m. Located in the Recreation Center parking lot. Features local farmers and vendors. Seasonal produce, plants, fresh baked goods, crafts, fresh flowers, handmade jewelry and more. Items for purchase vary week-to-week. Check our Facebook page for details about weekly themes, prizes, vendors, and live music.

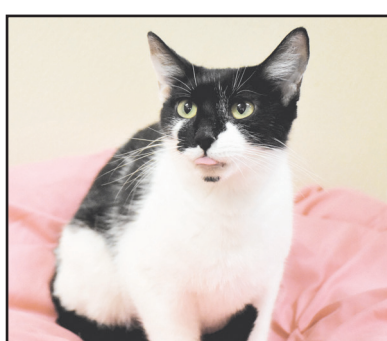
Radford Farmers Market

Held on the grounds of Glencoe Mansion, Museum and Galley, located just off West Main Street, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. each Saturday until October 14. Features produce, plants, baked goods, artisans, fresh squeezed lemonade, eggs, meats, cheeses and more.

PETS OF THE WEEK

These pets and many others are available for adoption at the Montgomery County Animal Care and Adoption Center, 480 Cinnabar Rd., Christiansburg. Phone: (540) 382-5795.

Calliope is a happy, bouncy gal who is ready to find her forever home. She can be a little shy at first, but if tennis balls are in the mix, she's ready to play and have fun chasing them. Calliope is treat-motivated and will need a home where she can learn basic doggie manners.



Sweet Madonna is a young, new-mama cat. She spends a lot of her day caring for her purrecious litter of growing kittens, who are also at the Animal Care and Adoption Center ready to be adopted. She would love a home where she gets some TLC for herself.

Best from page 1

Logos include: Riva's, Virginia Furniture Market, RADFORD Coffee, Sal's ITALIAN Restaurant & Pizzeria, THOMPSON & LITTON, Patrick K. Moore, P.C., CARILION CLINIC, Thai This EXPRESS, Gates Flowers & Gifts, Sinkland Farms, Member One, P.R. Sturgill Fine Jewelry, TRUIST, tuck CHIROPRACTIC, LONG WAY BREWING, PEDIATRICS, NRVCs, NEW RIVER VALLEY COMPUTER CENTER, THE HAIR LOFT.

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In honor of 4th of July

OUR NEWSPAPER offices will be closed on Tuesday, July 4th, 2023 And will reopen on Wed., July 5th @ 8:30 a.m.

All ads for July 5th and July 6th papers need to be in our office by Friday, June 30 at 12:00 Noon.

OBITUARIES

Aliff, Louise Bandy

Louise Bandy Aliff, 95, of Christiansburg, went to be with the Lord on June 13, 2023. She was a woman of great faith who loved her Lord.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Burgess D. Aliff; and daughters, Susan Renee Aliff and Rhonda Aliff Powers. Louise retired from C & P Telephone Company and was a member of Fellowship Baptist Church in Riner.

She is survived by her son



and daughter-in-law, Stephen W. and Carol G. Aliff;

son-in-law, Randy Powers; three grandsons, Sean Aliff, Jake Powers, and Ben Powers; as well as several nieces, nephews, cousins, loving neighbors, and church family.

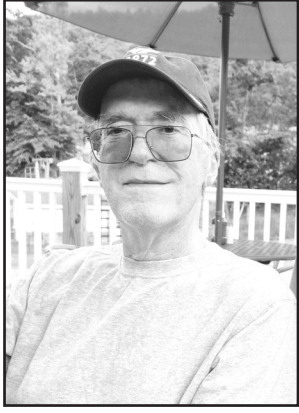
Funeral Services will be held on Wednesday, June 21, 2023, at 1 p.m. with Pastor James Bradley officiating. Interment will follow in Sunset Cemetery. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the funeral service.

Dishon, Merle Thomas

Merle Thomas Dishon, 76, of Hiwassee, passed away at Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital on Thursday, June 15, 2023.

He was an avid Virginia Tech fan and reader of Westerns and loved farming. He was preceded in death by his parents, Roy Freeman and Loma Phillips Dishon; and his sisters, Shannon Ruth Dishon, Helen Quesenberry, and Mozelle Duncan.

Survivors include his loving wife of 39 years, Traci Gross Dishon; sons, Neil Thomas Dishon and Roy Jeffery Dishon; daughter, Jennifer Jo "J.J." Dishon; grandchildren,



Ami, Kristin, Roy, Jr., Benjamin and William; five great-grandchildren; sisters, Nancy, Joyce, Pa-

tricia and Linda; brothers, Bill, Conley, Donald, Lacy, Leslie and Buddy; canine companion, Anna; and many other nieces, nephews, in-laws, relatives and friends.

The family received friends on Tuesday, June 20, 2023, at the Snowville Baptist Church in Snowville. Funeral services followed with Pastor Tony Hart officiating. Burial followed in the Dishon Family Cemetery in Hiwassee.

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

Lawrence, Jenny Cochran

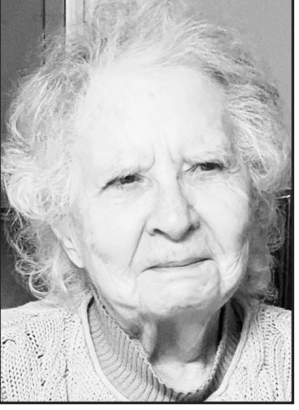
Jenny Cochran Lawrence, of Belspring, passed away on Wednesday, June 14, 2023.

She was born February 4, 1933, to Henry Andrew Cochran and Alma Talbert Cochran Lucado.

Mrs. Lawrence was a 1950 graduate of Dublin High School.

She retired from Hercules (RAAP) where she worked in QC. She was later employed by Kroger.

She was predeceased by her husband, John T. Lawrence, Sr.; sons, John T. Lawrence, Jr. and Kenneth C. "Kenny" Lawrence; brothers, Robert Cochran and Bill E. Cochran; and sister, Juanita Likens.



She is survived by her daughter, Jennifer "Vicki" Lawrence Presley (Randy) of Palm Bay, Fla.; grandson and caretaker, John Thomas Lawrence III (Adrian); granddaughters,

Allison Presley Grice of Palm Bay, Fla. and Jessica Lawrence of Dublin, Va.; great granddaughters, Kaitlyn Lawrence, Tori Foster, Ashtyn Lawrence, and Giuliana Grice; great grandson, Dakota Lawrence; brother, Jim Cochran of Chuluota, Fla.; and many other relatives and friends.

Graveside services were held on Sunday, June 18, 2023, in Hickman Cemetery in Pulaski with Rev. Marcus Harrison officiating.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to Good Samaritan Hospice.

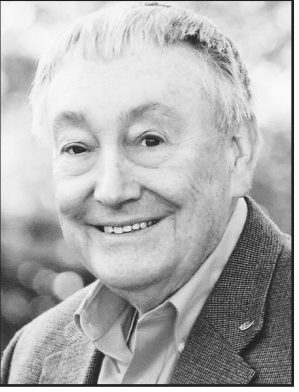
The Lawrence family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford.

Sumner, Sr., Archie Hassell

Archie Hassell Sumner, Sr. 87, passed away on Tuesday, June 6, 2023, at his home.

He was born on December 18, 1935, in Floyd, to the late Archie Woodrow Sumner and Wava Blythe Graham Sumner. Archie was a member of the Auburn Baptist Church of Riner. He proudly served in the United States Army and retired an officer of the Virginia Department of Corrections.

He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Phyllis M. Sumner of Christiansburg; daughter Lisa S. Jarrett of Falls Church; son Archie

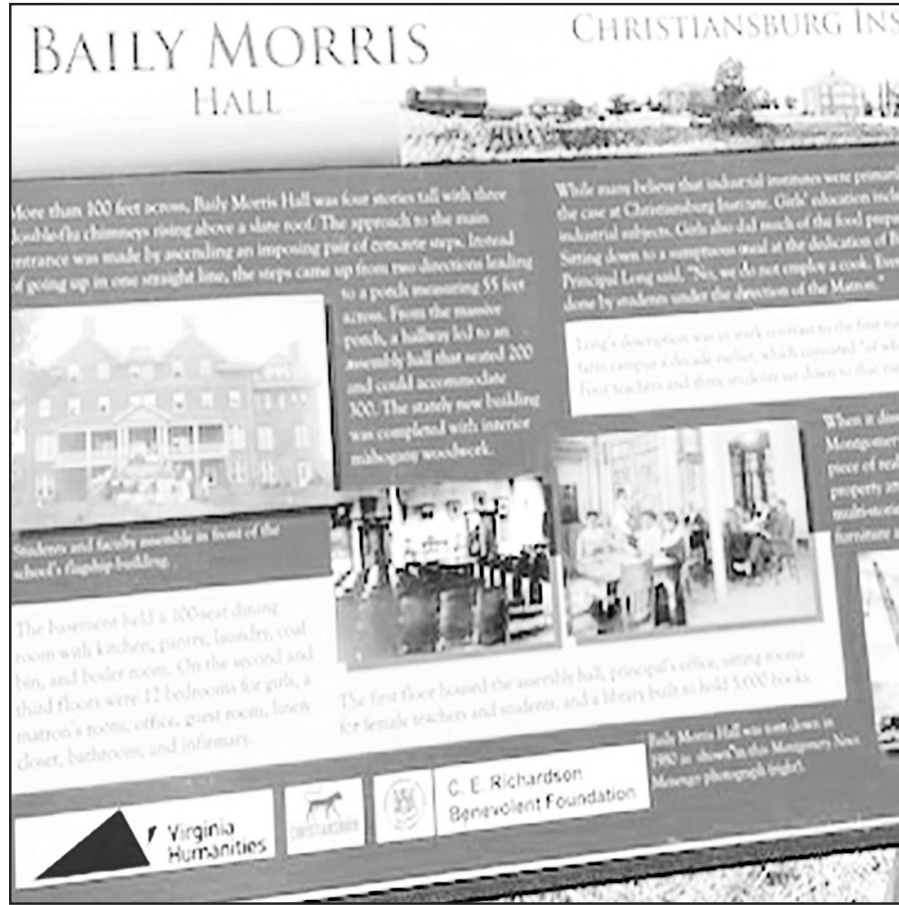


H. Sumner, Jr. of Dublin and his late wife Debra A. Sumner; and one grandchild, Tyler C. Jarrett of Falls Church.

The family gives thanks

and appreciation to all at Gentiva Hospice, Roanoke, Virginia, and Careosity, LLC, Christiansburg. The care and attention given to Archie made his passing much easier.

A graveside service was held on Friday, June 9, 2023, with Pastor Shake Smith officiating and prayer by Assistant Pastor Austin Peyton at Sunset Cemetery, Christiansburg, Virginia in a private family ceremony. Arrangements by McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg.



New storyboards are located on the grounds of Christiansburg Institute.

Juneteenth

from page 1

Museum of African American History and Culture. "As a result, in the westernmost Confederate state of Texas, enslaved people would not be free until much later. Freedom finally came on June 19, 1865, when some 2,000 Union troops arrived in Galveston Bay, Texas. The army announced that the more than 250,000 enslaved black people in the state, were free by executive decree. This day came to be known as "Juneteenth," by the newly freed people in Texas."

Saturday's celebration in Christiansburg included food trucks, refreshments, local artisans, organizations, live entertainment, and of course, fellowship of community members, CI alumni, and the sharing of African American history and culture.

Welcoming remarks were given by Debbie Sherman-Lee, Chair of the Christiansburg Institute, Inc., Devante Mosley, CI, Inc. Project Coordinator, and Chris Sanchez, Executive Director of CI, Inc. Mosley led the celebration as emcee for the evening.

Blues player Jojo Stockton on vocals and guitar, accompanied by harmonica player, Jared Leland, gave a rhythmic and rousing performance, getting the festivities off to a great start. The duo was sponsored by the New River Blues Society, a local group that supports the continuation and growth of Blues music in the New River Valley.

The Glen Holmes and Custom Vibe Band provided music throughout the evening as well. Glen Holmes has been heavily influenced by jazz music, but enjoys all music genres, according to his website at www.glenholmesmusic.com.

Visitors were also able to tour the Smokehouse Museum, a replica built in 1988 of the original structure that once stood on the school grounds. Through a Virginia Humanities grant, C.E. Richardson Benevolent Foundation, and the Christiansburg Institute, new storyboards have recently been placed outside of the smokehouse that provide historical information and original digital images of other original structures that were once a part of the approximately 200-acre campus.

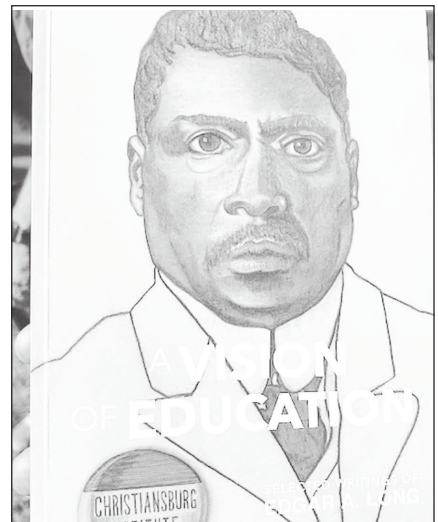
Speakers also provided the audience with opportunities to hear more about the legacy of the Christiansburg Institute and African American culture present in the region's past.

Linda Whitlock-Brown, a great-great-great granddaughter of Edgar A. Long, former member of the Tuskegee Institute, and principal of the Christiansburg Institute, was present and spoke at the Juneteenth celebration.

"I am a firm believer that we all have a story to tell," Whitlock-Brown said. "Share your story."

Whitlock-Brown also shared the publication of writings titled *A Vision of Education: Selected Writings of Edgar A. Long*. The book is in its second edition of publication and is available to purchase from the Christiansburg Institute, Inc. website at www.christiansburginstitute.org.

The NAACP, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, also had a tent at the celebration and representatives available to provide information on their work. Shirley Akers, Secretary of the local NAACP shared that in-person meetings are happening on the fourth Sunday of each month at the Old Hill School on High Street in Christiansburg.



PHOTOS BY LORI GRAHAM
Edgar A. Long's publication of writings titled "A Vision of Education: Selected Writings of Edgar A. Long" is in its second edition of publication.

Innovative

from page 1

of the school environment and supporting norms, goals, and values of the community.

Retaining high-quality teachers. Developing life-ready students through implementation of the Profile of a Virginia Graduate.

Data provided by the school or division demonstrate that the practice is meeting its objectives and is having a significant impact on outcomes for the

targeted student population.

The other winning divisions and school included: Goochland County Public Schools, Louisa County Public Schools, Roanoke County Public Schools, Roanoke County, Roanoke and Salem Public Schools, York County Public Schools, and Kempsville High in Virginia Beach.

Staff reports

DOWN EAST WOOD DUCKS VS SALEM RED SOX

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JUNE 21ST 7:05PM
GAME 2 - GATES OPEN AT 6:00PM

JUNE 22ND 7:05PM
GAME 3 - GATES OPEN AT 6:00PM

JUNE 23RD 7:05PM
PRIDE NIGHT - GATES OPEN AT 6:00PM

JUNE 24TH 6:05PM
MARVEL'S DEFENDERS OF THE DIAMOND - GATES OPEN AT 5:00PM

JUNE 25TH 3:05PM
GAME 6 - GATES OPEN AT 2:00PM

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OPINION

Dear Editor,
 Radford has lost its superintendent. Rob Graham made the difficult decision to leave Radford, something he sadly admitted he didn't want to do.
 "Members of Radford City School Board deliberately and systematically drove off a good man and award-winning Superintendent," former Radford School Board member Liz Altieri lamented immediately after Graham's resignation.
 Many fail to realize how difficult it is to be a school superintendent. The "buck" stops with him or her. Problems that can't be solved by anyone else always end up with the superintendent. He has to

work effectively with everyone: students, parents, staff, the board, the city council, the community---everyone. Any little mistake is amplified; many, many positive outcomes go unrecognized.
 In a small division like Radford, you're on call 24/7/365. Rob is an excellent superintendent/leader. He assembled an outstanding team. He is knowledgeable and on top of issues, educational and otherwise. He is humble and deflects praise to others. He supported his teachers and staff. He worked valiantly with the city council to secure funding for the division and, ultimately, the students, staff, and community. Students

excelled in sports, the arts, academic areas---in everything. Radford is a great school system because of his leadership.
 However, of all of these great attributes, one stands out to me: His love of students. Everything he accomplished was done with the educational, social, emotional---all areas---of growth for children at the forefront of his thinking, planning, and actions. This real compassion for people is something a person can't fake and is often missing from the top of the "toolbox" of many superintendents.
 Radford lost so much more than just another administrator; it lost a leader

who cared about the people of the community like no one else may again in the same way because he was such a part of the community from his youth until now.
 Some current school board members do not yet realize the ramifications of "driving off a good man" for the Radford community. Rob truly is a good man.
 I wish Rob the best with Pulaski County. They obviously recognize his value to their division. Radford's loss is Pulaski's gain.
 Steve Frey
 Radford

Virginia the 'most improved' state for retirees

Seemingly vying to appeal to the highest number of retiring individuals, each passing year presents a fresh ranking of the most desirable states for retirees. Past years saw states such as Florida, South Carolina, and Arizona consistently topping the lists. Recently, however, the landscape has fluctuated, with states gaining or losing allure based on various criteria including quality of life, affordable housing, reasonable healthcare costs, safety, and low taxation.
 Nonetheless, gauging the attractiveness of retirement states solely from an isolated annual ranking might not yield a precise portrait. It might fail to show whether these high-ranking states truly offer the best retirement environments, or if their positions have been temporarily inflated by short-term factors like favorable new tax regulations.

To provide a more comprehensive, long-term perspective, Metal-res.com undertook a 'study of studies' of retirement rankings across a five-year span. This research involved calculating the rise or fall in rankings to identify the states showing the most significant improvements or declines as retirement destinations, as reflected in various studies' rankings.
 The findings revealed that Virginia has had the most remarkable improvement as a retirement state over this half-decade period, jumping 38 places. While Virginia might not immediately come to mind as a retirement destination, it has distinguished itself as the state with the most progress, thanks to its high-quality living standards, top-notch healthcare services, and affordable cost of living. Virginia jumped from 39th place in 2019 to occupy the top spot by 2023. When it comes to tax

policy, Virginia is comparatively moderate, charging .66% less in state tax than the national average. However, the exemption of social security benefits from taxation adds significant appeal for retirees.
 "Over the last five years, we've witnessed a substantial shift in the retirement landscape across the United States," said Barry Landry of Metal-res.com "It's not merely about where retirees are heading now; it's about recognizing consistent improvement in factors that matter to retirees. This data gives us a deeper understanding of retirement trends and showcases how states are striving to better accommodate our aging population."
 Submitted by Metal-res.com

RADFORD NEWS JOURNAL

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Radford News Journal is a newspaper of, by and for the people of Radford. 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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Virginia residents have the fourth highest student loan debt in America

A new study reveals that Virginia is among the top 10 states with the highest student loan debt. The research, conducted by CreditDonkey, compared all 50 states based on the most recent student debt data from the Federal Reserve Bank of New York to discover which states had the highest proportion of student debt per borrower.
 The study revealed that Maryland has a higher prevalence of student loan debt than any other state. With 864,700 student loan borrowers in the state, Maryland's total federal student loan debt balance is \$36,787 billion. This equates to an average loan debt of \$42,543 per borrower.
 The state of Maryland has also taken legislative measures to address student loan debt in the past. For instance, the Maryland Student Loan Debt Relief Tax Credit was introduced in 2017, which provides tax credits to certain individuals who have acquired student loan debt and are making timely payments.
 The study revealed that Georgia placed next in the ranking, with the second-

largest amount of student debt in the country. In the Southeastern state, there are a total of 1,641,600 student loan borrowers, with an average loan debt of \$41,826 per borrower. Delaware ranks third, with residents having the third largest average federal student loan debt compared to borrowers in other states. When broken down, there are a total of 137,300 student loan borrowers in Delaware, with an average of \$39,238 debt per borrower.
 Virginia ranks as the fourth state with the largest amount of student debt, with an average of \$39,001 per borrower, while New York follows in fifth place with \$38,668. The top ten is rounded out by Florida ranking sixth, Oregon in seventh, followed by Illinois, California, and Alabama in eighth, ninth, and tenth, respectively.
 At the other end of the scale, South Dakota has the lowest average student loan debt per borrower. Approximately 12.9% of all South Dakota's residents hold federal student loan debt, which equates to an average of

\$28,218 debt per student loan borrower. The study revealed that Iowa has the second lowest proportion of student loans per borrower. The state has a total number of 465,500 student loan borrowers, with an average of \$29,845 of debt per borrower. Iowa has several student loan forgiveness programs, including specific programs for doctors, nurses, teachers, and other health care providers.
 Alaska places next in the ranking, with residents having the third lowest average student loan debt when compared to borrowers in other states. When broken down, the average loan debt per borrower in Alaska is \$30,427 and there is a total of 70,600 student loan borrowers in the state.
 North Dakota ranks as the fourth state with the lowest amount of student debt, with an average of \$30,542 per borrower, while Wyoming follows closely behind in fifth place, with \$30,581. The top ten is rounded out by Wisconsin ranking sixth, Nebraska in seventh,

followed by Arkansas, Indiana, and Oklahoma in eighth, ninth and tenth, respectively.
 A spokesperson for CreditDonkey commented on the study: "It's no secret that the cost of a college education has soared over recent decades, with the average price of tuition, fees, and room and board increasing by 169% for an undergraduate degree between 1980 and 2020."
 "These findings provide an intriguing insight into where student loan debt is most prominent throughout the country, and where in the country could benefit the most from President Biden's proposed student loan forgiveness plan. At an estimated cost of about \$400 billion, Biden's plan to forgive student debt is one of the most expensive executive actions in history. The Supreme Court is expected to issue a decision before the end of June, providing much-anticipated clarity for millions of eager student loan borrowers."
 Submitted by CreditDonkey

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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CLUES ACROSS

1. ___ fi (slang)
4. Anecdotes about a person
7. Central Standard Time
10. Beverage receptacle
11. Football's Newton
12. Be in debt
13. Tattles
15. Musician ___ Lo
16. Arrange again
19. A binary compound of carbon with a metal
21. Brazilian futbol great
23. Feared
24. Annoy
25. Unit of heredity
26. Small freshwater fish
27. Muscular weaknesses
30. Fined
34. One-time EU currency

CLUES DOWN

1. Put fear into
2. Partner to corned beef
3. Interiors
4. Agrees to a demand
5. No (Scottish)
6. ___ Hess Corp.
7. Ornamental molding
8. Garment
9. Electric car company
13. Decimal digits in binary (abbr.)
14. Gibbon
17. Sun up in New York
18. ___ the line
20. A vale
22. Old Irish alphabet
27. A type of band
28. A team's best pitcher
29. Floor covering

CLUES ACROSS

31. A ___ in the machine
32. Supplement with difficulty
33. Prosecutors
37. Place in order
38. Japanese lute
39. Mongolian city ___ Bator
40. Perceived
41. A cloth for washing dishes
42. Chocolate cookie with white cream filling
43. Grassy plain
44. Barometer
47. Father
48. Of the ear
49. Thomas ___, British dramatist 1652-85
51. After eighth
52. Where golfers begin
53. Time units (abbr.)
58. Basics

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712 Front Ave Salem
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Saturday June 24
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RAIN OR SHINE

Help Wanted - General

Director of Fund Development
Responsible for planning and implementing a comprehensive fund development plan for TAP that includes planned giving and individual and corporate donor development.

Develop, lead, and manage a fundraising strategy and program that includes individual and corporate donations, and a planned giving program to ensure that TAP meets or exceeds its fundraising goals. The Board's Generosity Connections Commission, which is the Marketing and Fund Development committee for the board, will participate in the development and approval of the plan.

Actively identify, cultivate, and close gifts in support of TAP. This includes both financial and in-kind donations.

Build and manage a portfolio of 75-100 individual and corporate donors and prospects with an annual giving capacity of \$1,000+. Within this list, identify, actively cultivate, and close gifts. This portfolio movement will be reviewed monthly with the President/CEO to ensure it reflects significant prospect movement from identification to cultivation to stewardship.

Work in coordination with the President/CEO to seek out and secure quarterly speaking engagements at civic or community events to promote TAP and its programs and cultivate prospective donors.

Must have a bachelor's degree in communications, marketing, public relations, or related field

Must have a minimum of 6 years' experience with demonstrated success in closing gifts of \$1,000+.

Experience in strategic planning for development, major gifts, capital campaigns, corporate and marketing initiatives.

For a full job description please visit Indeed.com or at our website
www.tapintohope.org

Salary: \$60,000-\$75,000/yr.
Submit cover letter and resume to: TAP, Human Resources, Job Code DFD-CA, PO Box 2868, 302 2nd St, SW Roanoke VA 24011 or fax to 540-345-1944

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PUBLIC WORKS/ UTILITIES WORKER TOWN OF BUCHANAN

The Town of Buchanan has immediate opening for two (2) Public Works positions. These are full time positions with excellent benefits package. Responsibilities are maintenance work in Town to include water and sewer system repairs. Position involves work in construction, maintenance, modification and repair of water and sewer lines, maintenance of and meter reading, other duties to include property maintenance, mowing, snow removal, and construction. Manual labor

Help Wanted - General

required. Must possess valid Virginia Drivers License. Heavy equipment/backhoe experience a plus. Supervisory experience a plus.
Training is available. Starting salary \$36,400 to \$41,600 depending upon experience. Go to www.townofbuchananva.gov for applications or pick up at Town Hall at 19753 Main Street, Buchanan, VA. Applications may be dropped off at Town Hall or emailed to townmanager@buchananva.gov.
Positions Open until filled. EOE

Java Developer, Blacksburg, VA.

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For Sale - Cemetery Plots

FOR SALE
2 Burial Plots for sale in Sherwood, Older Section. Turnpike Entrance. Price is \$3,300. Contact (540)389-9544

miscellaneous

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General Information

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Happy Jack

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Legals - City of Radford

Cellco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) propose to collocate wireless communications antennas at a centerline height of 25 feet on a 38-foot building at the approx. vicinity of 200 Jefferson Street, Radford, City of Radford, VA 24142. Public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: Katelyn Belzner, k.belzner@trileaf.com, 8600 LaSalle Road Ste. 301, Towson, MD 21286, 410-853-7128.

Cellco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless

(Verizon Wireless) propose to collocate wireless communications antennas at a centerline height of 52 feet on a 59-foot building at the approx. vicinity of 801 E. Main Street, 226 Heth Hall, Radford, City of Radford, VA 24142. Public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: Katelyn Belzner, k.belzner@trileaf.com, 8600 LaSalle Road Ste. 301, Towson, MD 21286, 410-853-7128.

Cellco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless

(Verizon Wireless) propose to collocate wireless communications antennas at a centerline height of 73 feet on an 82-foot building at the approx. vicinity of 965 E. Main Street, Radford, City of Radford, VA 24142. Public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: Katelyn Belzner, k.belzner@trileaf.com, 8600 LaSalle Road Ste. 301, Towson, MD 21286, 410-853-7128.

Legals - City of Salem

ABC NOTICE
2nd On Main LLC, trading as 2nd On Main , 2 Main St. Salem VA 24153.

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.

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

Legals - Montgomery County

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 204 AMBROSE ROAD, ELLISTON, VA 24087.
In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated January 21, 2004, in the original principal amount of \$64,647.33 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Montgomery County, Virginia as Instrument No. 04000813. The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for Montgomery County, 55 East Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia on July 24, 2023, at 11:00 AM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: ALL THAT CERTAIN TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND, LYING AND BEING IN THE

Order of Publication

Commonwealth of Virginia VA Code §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316.20-104
Case No. CL23001019-00 MONTGOMERY COUNTY Circuit Court, 55 EAST MAIN STREET, SUITE 1, CHRISTIANSBURG, VA 24073 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re AUDREY HUMPHREYS v. COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
The object of this suit is to: NAME CHANGE OF A MINOR: ANGEL JUANDIEGO HUMPHREYS.
It is ORDERED that MIGUEL JUANDIEGO GONZALEZ appear at the

Legals - Montgomery County

COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY, STATE OF VIRGINIA, AND MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT A 1 INCH PIPE SET ON THE NORTH SIDE OF VIRGINIA ROUTE NO. 632, CORNER TO LUTHER LOVERN; THENCE WITH THE LINE OF LUTHER LOVERN, N. 60 DEG. 33 MIN. E. 63.00 FEET TO AN IRON ROD; THENCE CONTINUING WITH THE LINE OF LUTHER LOVERN, S. 46 DEG. 42 MIN. E. 105.00 FEET TO A 5/8 INCH TUBING SET ON HILLSIDE BY W. W. FENCE, CORNER TO CHARLES HENRY; THENCE WITH THE LINE OF CHARLES HENRY, S. 58 DEG. 32 MIN. W. 73.00 FEET TO A 5/8 INCH IRON SET IN W. W. FENCE ON THE NORTH SIDE OF VIRGINIA ROUTE NO. 632; THENCE WITH THE NORTH SIDE OF VIRGINIA ROUTE NO. 632, N. 41 DEG. 05 MIN. W. 105.00 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, AND CONTAINING 0.16 ACRE, ACCORDING TO A SURVEY DRAWN BY WILLIAMS M. LARGEN, C.L.S., DATED FEBRUARY 5, 1970, AND REVISED MAY 27, 1970, A COPY OF WHICH IS OF RECORD IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY, VIRGINIA, ALONG WITH DEED DATED JUNE 18, 1970, FROM C. W. POFF AND N. THOMAS POFF TO LENARD RAY HOWELL, IN DEED BOOK 303, PAGE 180. BY FEE SIMPLE DEED FROM LENARD RAY HOWELL AND JOYCE M. HOWELL, HIS WIFE, AS SET FORTH IN BOOK 406, PAGE 686, DATED 10/13/1978 AND RECORDED 10/20/1978, MONTGOMERY COUNTY RECORDS, COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA. TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit of ten percent (10%) of the sale price or ten percent (10%) of the original principal balance of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, in the form of cash or certified funds payable to the Substitute Trustee must be present at the time of the sale. The balance of the purchase price will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Purchaser's deposit may be forfeited to Trustee. Time is of the essence. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser may, if provided by the terms of the Trustee's Memorandum of Foreclosure Sale, be entitled to a \$50 cancellation fee from the Substitute Trustee, but shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagee, the Mortgagee's attorney. A form copy of the Trustee's memorandum of foreclosure sale and contract to purchase real property is available for viewing at www.bwwsales.com. Additional terms, if any, to be announced at the sale and the Purchaser may be given the option to execute the contract of sale electronically. This is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. The sale is subject to seller confirmation. Substitute Trustee: Equity Trustees, LLC, 8100 Three Chopt Road, Suite 240, Richmond, VA 23229. For more information contact: BWW Law Group, LLC, attorneys for Equity Trustees, LLC, 6003 Executive Blvd, Suite 101, Rockville, MD 20852, 301-961-

above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before AUGUST 21, 2023. JUNE 8, 2023 K.MIKE FLEENOR, JR. JUDGE

Legals - Roanoke

ABC NOTICE
MEERA FOOD LLC., trading as M & M MARKET, 1102 Orange Ave NW, Roanoke, VA. 24017-6324

STATEWIDE ADS

AUCTIONS
REAL ESTATE AUCTION. SATURDAY JUNE 24, 2023 - 11:00AM. 64+ ACRES IN TWO TRACTS HOMESITE W/1576 SF. BEAUTIFUL 5-ACRE POND AND TIMBER. 4108 Sam Powell Dairy Rd -Roanoke Rapids, NC. Info: https://www.stoneauctionandrealty.com/auction-services Auction#: NCAL561

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Legals - Montgomery County

above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before AUGUST 21, 2023. JUNE 8, 2023 K.MIKE FLEENOR, JR. JUDGE

Legals - Roanoke

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

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RADFORD SPORTS

Zhang Virginia's Gatorade soccer player of the year

In its 38th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade has announced Edric Zhang of Blacksburg High School is the 2022-23 Gatorade Virginia Boys Soccer Player of the Year.

Zhang is the first Gatorade Virginia Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Blacksburg High School.

The award, which recognizes not only outstanding athletic excellence, but also high standards of academic achievement and exemplary character demonstrated on and off the field, distinguishes Zhang as Virginia's best high school boys soccer player.

Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Boys Soccer Player of the Year award to be announced in June, Zhang joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Ben Bender (2019-20, Calvert Hall College High School, Md.), Jacob Shaffelburg (2017-18, Berkshire School, Mass.), Jack Harrison (2013-14, Berkshire School, Mass.) and Steve Cherundolo (1996-97, Mt. Carmel High School, Calif.).

The 5-foot-9, 160-pound senior midfielder scored

nine goals and passed for seven assists this past season, leading the Bruins (18-2) to the Class 4 State Tournament quarterfinals.

The 2022 River Ridge District Player of the Year and a two-time All-Region 4D selection, Zhang was invited to train with the U.S. Soccer Under-14, Under-15 and Under-16 national teams in three consecutive summers.

Having previously only played club soccer, he concluded his two-year prep soccer career with 12 goals and 17 assists. In the summer of 2022, Zhang was selected to participate in the Virginia Aerospace Science and Technology Scholars Summer Camp fully funded by NASA. A research intern in Virginia Tech's College of Engineering, he has volunteered locally as the manager of the Blacksburg High School store. He has also donated his time on behalf of a food pantry and as a youth soccer coach.

"We never had an answer for Edric's speed, creativity and ability," said Dave Atkins, head coach of Salem High School. "He has a rare combination of physical size, speed and skill on the ball that make him very hard to defend."

Zhang has maintained a

weighted 4.66 GPA in the classroom. He will attend Princeton University, where he will play soccer, beginning this fall.

The Gatorade Player of the Year program annually recognizes one winner in the District of Columbia and each of the 50 states that sanction high school football, girls volleyball, boys and girls cross country, boys and girls basketball, boys and girls soccer, baseball, softball, and boys and girls track & field, and awards one National Player of the Year in each sport.

The selection process is administered by the Gatorade Player of the Year Selection Committee, which leverages experts including coaches, scouts, media and others as sources to help evaluate and determine the state winners in each sport. Zhang joins recent Gatorade Virginia Boys Soccer Players of the Year Parker Sloan (2021-22, Powhatan High School), Malcolm Brickhouse (2020-21, Charlottesville High School), Michael Meese (2019-20, Jamestown High School), and Clay Obara (2018-19, Frank W. Cox High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Staff reports



Radford Women's Basketball adds six transfers for 2023-24 season

RADFORD – Radford Women's Basketball Head Coach Mike McGuire has announced this week another round of exciting additions in six transfers to the roster for the 2023-24 season.

Pa'Shence Traylor-Walker, a 5'8 guard transferring from Central Arizona College joins the team as a sophomore.

Ellie Taylor is a 5'10 guard coming from Northern Kentucky and joins the team as a senior. Bria Beverly, a 5'11 guard from Millersville, joins the team as a junior. Reniya Jones, a 5'8 guard transferring from UT Arlington, will join the squad as a junior. Taniya Hanner joins the Highlanders

as a 6'1 center/forward graduate transfer from Albany. Rounding out the exciting transfers for Radford is Kirby Brown who comes from the JuCo level and will be a 6'0 forward from Roane State.

Radford University Athletics

Auburn's Fleet, Smoot Region 1C honorees Eastern Montgomery's Bruce player of year

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Pitcher Kirsten Fleet led Auburn to another state title this past week, and Friday, she was named both the region player of the year and pitcher of the year. Her coach, Tim Smoot, was named region coach of the year.

Fleet was joined on the region first-team by teammates Rachel Brotherton (second base) and Avery Zuckerwar (shortstop). Eastern Montgomery's Mary Miller (pitcher) and Mack Hubbard (outfielder) were named second-team softball.

Miller and Hubbard were also named to all-Pioneer District first-team. Eastern Montgomery's Alexis Artrip and Allison Bower were named Pioneer

second-team. Auburn placed three players on the first-team all-Region 1C boys' soccer team. This included: Chase Sutphin, Sam Duncan and Andrew Tickle.

Eastern Montgomery was represented on the first team by Talen Bruce and Kelsey Greer. Their teammates, Jesse Boston, Osman Amaya and Zach Craighead were named to the second-team.

Eastern Montgomery's Maddie Bruce was named both Pioneer District and Region C girls' soccer player of the year. Her coach, Whitney Shaver, was the coach of the year.

Auburn and Eastern Montgomery dominated the all-Region C girls' soccer team with 17 honorees.

First-teamers from Auburn included Stacy Lewis, Grace Harris, Kenleigh Smith, Katie

Light, Logan Mundy and Kelsie Groseclose. Representing Eastern Montgomery were Bruce, Ajia Horne, Madeline Mirolli, Nadya Hubbard, Lilly Underwood, Hannah Blankenship, Olivia Boone and Logan Boone. Teammates, Lacy Davis, Meghan Kidwell and Jordan Hutchinson were named second-teamers.

Auburn's Jared Lavergne was named player of the year in Region C for baseball, while his coach, Eric Altizer, was coach of the year. They were both honored for same spots by the Mt. Empire District.

Lavergne was joined on the first-team by pitcher Brody Hensel, third baseman Damien Boyd and outfielder Kenny Wade. Auburn's Michael Hale and Eastern Montgomery's Kobe Phoenix.

Miro promotes Albert Subirats



PHOTO COURTESY OF VT ATHLETICS

Former Olympian, World Champion, and NCAA Champion Logan Miro has been promoted to associate head coach and men's recruiting coordinator.

The Virginia Tech swimming and diving team has promoted Albert Subirats to associate head coach and men's recruiting coordinator, announced by Sergio Lopez Miro on Thursday.

Subirats first joined the swim and dive team in 2018 when Lopez Miro hired him as an assistant coach, and he recently wrapped up his fifth season with the Hokies.

"I can't thank Coach Albert enough for his tremendous work these past five seasons at all levels; as a person, as a coach and as our recruiting coordinator for the men's team and always supporting our women's recruiting," said Lopez Miro.

Subirats has become one of the top recruiters in the country. Previous swimmers that have not been nationally ranked are swimming competitively at ACC's and NCAA's during their freshman year. Over the past two years, he has brought the first top 10 ranked classes to Virginia Tech, and he's building upon his success with a stellar 2023 class that should be one of the top groups in the country.

"Equally thankful and excited for this opportunity," said Subirats. "I feel very lucky to work with a staff that is passionate about the sport and always puts the athletes' well-being first. I want to thank Sergio Lopez Miro and Danny White for their leadership and their belief in me. Special thanks to the rest of the staff, all the athletes that have come through VT the past seasons, and

their families. Without them, this wouldn't be the same. Can't wait to continue giving everything I have to the athletes and the program. Go Hokies!"

The four-time Olympian competed for Venezuela in the 2004, 2008, 2012 and 2016 Olympic Games. Having won Venezuela's Sportsman Athlete of the Year, Subirats is the most accomplished swimmers in the history of the South American and Central American Games. In 2007, he won Venezuela their first medal at World Championships, earning bronze in the 100m fly. Later in 2010, Subirats was the World Champion in the 50m fly.

Subirats swam for the University of Arizona from 2004-2007, claiming three individual national titles. He also helped the Wildcats claim five relay national titles during that same time. In 2017, Subirats accomplishments were highly recognized when he was inducted into the University of Arizona Hall of Fame.

Contributing to the Hokies' many successes over the past few years, Subirats helped the men accomplish their highest NCAA finish in program history this past season with the team placing ninth. Since Subirats was hired as a Hokie in 2018, the women's team has progressed from 40th to 20th in the past five years and made their highest NCAA finish in over 10 years.

Virginia Tech Athletics

Blue Demons all-3D soccer

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Christiansburg placed six soccer players to the first-team All-Region 3D boys' team announced on Friday.

First teamers were: Luca Pickeral, Nat Selfe, Sami Self and Isaac Prader. Second-teamers were Chase Fister and Caleb Yopp.

the field, Ava Landers and Madison Farley represented Christiansburg on the first-team. Bridgett Miller and Ava Rose were second-team, while Jasmyrn Charlton and Abbey Sanders were honorable mention.

Pitcher Kady Camper and flex players Brailyn Wilburn were named to the region's first-team softball squad. Teammate Addison Reasor was named

to the second team.

In baseball, Mason Selfe was first-team pitcher and first base. His battery mate, Marshall Basham, was first team catcher and Tanner Evans was the first-team utility player. Honorable mentions included Gavin Dow, Jeremiah Thompson, Sam Dudash and Rocco Fizzano. Christiansburg's Kendall Britt was named to the region's first-team for boys' soccer.

Inside the Huddle: Robbie Beran

Robbie Beran, a native of Richmond, Va., is set to play his final season of college basketball at Virginia Tech after competing at Northwestern the last four years.

Another versatile forward, Beran started in all 34 games for the Wildcats last season, culminating with their second-ever trip to the NCAA tournament.

Let's get to know Robbie:

What is your nickname?

Rob

What is your favorite food?

Crab legs or steak

What is your favorite movie or Netflix series?

The Office

Who is your favorite basketball player?

LeBron

What are your favorite basketball shoes?

I don't necessarily have a favorite shoe. I prefer low tops and will typically stick with one style for a whole season.

What is your favorite hobby outside of basketball?

Play with my dogs or play Fortnite

What is your favorite sport outside of basketball?

Golf – I might not be the best, but I'm getting better and you can't beat the immaculate vibes with the boys.

Where is your favorite spot in Blacksburg/Christiansburg?

First Watch. I'm still new

to the area and learning the spots, so I will take any recommendations!

What are you looking forward to the most playing in Cassell?

Everything I've heard about Cassell has me super excited. From members in and around the league, hearing how much energy the place has on a nightly basis. I'm really looking forward to experiencing the energy.

What is your favorite basketball memory?

Going dancing last March

What were some of the key factors in deciding to transfer to Virginia Tech?

I had a pre-existing relationship with the whole coaching staff (they all recruited me out of high school). Once I got on campus and around the guys, I could feel there was something special about this group. It's an opportunity to finish my last year, to get my graduate degree from the OMALS program. Everything was a win-win.

What are three strengths of your game?

Ability to space the floor, versatility guarding multiple positions, vocal on the court

What is one fun fact Tech fans should know about you?

I'm a big dog guy – nine dogs within the family and three live with me

With you being one of them, who is in your

dream starting five?

Magic, Kobe, LeBron, me and Shaq

What's on your pregame playlist?

Rod Wave and Lil Durk

Where is the favorite place you've traveled to?

Paris, France

Describe Coach Young in one word:

Personable

When did you start playing basketball?

Since I came out of the womb

What is the best advice you've ever received?

"Don't allow anyone or anything to take you out of your game." Applicable in sports as well as life.

If you could trade places with anyone for a day, who would you choose?

I really wouldn't want to be anyone else

If you could only have three apps on your phone, what would they be?

FaceTime, Teamworks, Clash of Clans

Virginia Tech Athletics

CROSSWORD ANSWERS									
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Small Children Are Being Poisoned by THC

The number of children under the age of 5 accidentally poisoned by cannabis edibles has soared 1,375% since 2017.

Journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Jan. 2023



JustSayKNOW.org

This message is brought to you by the Radford Youth-Adult Partnership & New River Valley Community Services



Radford Youth-Adult Partnership



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Join the RYAP email list or join our monthly
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Email info@nrvc.org to learn more!*