



News Journal

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New River Community Action celebrates new space

RADFORD – New River Community Action recently celebrated its new space at 206 Third Ave., Radford, which brings together all its programs and offices under one roof.

The Radford Chamber of Commerce, joined by the Pulaski County Chamber of Commerce, celebrated with a ribbon cutting ceremony at the new office and resource space. All of the departments and resources will now be housed under the same

roof, allowing for resources to be better utilized for their clients.

With speeches all around, Dan McKinney, Executive Director for Radford Chamber, welcomed everyone to the ribbon cutting. McKinney introduced the Rev. Gina Rhea, a board member for New River Community Action and a retired local pastor, who provided a convocation for the event. Radford Mayor David Horton spoke about the

bridges this organization provides to struggling people and how this new space will provide for greater things to happen. Next up, Bill Cunningham, Vice President for the Pulaski Chamber of Commerce, highlighted the benefits of New River Community Action services to the workforce, emphasizing the positive impact and aiding families in need to regain

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PHOTO COURTESY OF THE RADFORD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

New River Community Action staff members join with city and county officials and the Radford Chamber of Commerce for a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate NRCA's new headquarters, at 206 Third Ave.

Field of Honor flags now on display at Glencoe Mansion



PHOTO BY DAVID HORTON

The Radford Noon Rotary Club's Field of Honor flag display is adorning the grounds of Glencoe Mansion and will be on display through July 4. A ceremony was held on Memorial Day to kick off the display period. "A beautiful day at Glencoe Mansion, Museum & Gallery to celebrate and rededicate the field of honor put together in partnership with Radford Noon Rotary," wrote Radford Mayor David Horton. "Thank you to Dick and Kathleen Harshberger for coordinating and hosting a beautiful ceremony, thank you to Delegate Jason Ballard, Scott Gardner, John C. Nemeth, Jan Nicholson Angle, Casey Anton, Laura Buzzard, Shana Buzzard, Radford VFW Post 776 and the American Legion for Radford and Dublin and to bagpiper Jayna Sallis. It was an honor to participate and help represent Radford. Thank you also to Congressman Morgan Griffith for attending today as well. A beautiful tribute to so many in our community."

Help stop the invasive spotted lanternfly



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ERIC DAY

(From left) The spotted lanternfly in the nymph stage, as an adult, its egg masses, and with its wings fully spread.

It's visually striking. When fully grown, open wings display showy hind wings with bright red near the abdomen, black spots, and black-and-white bars.

But the spotted lanternfly, an invasive insect that came to the United States from its native habitat of Southeast Asia in 2014, is destructive. Despite its name, though, the spotted lanternfly is not a fly. It belongs to the order Hemiptera, which includes true bugs, aphids, and cicadas.

These insects colonize quickly, disrupt native ecosystems, and potentially cause problems to agriculture and forest health. The spotted lanternfly is also a significant threat to Virginia's grape and wine industries.

The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Virginia Tech, the Institute of Agriculture at the University of Tennessee, and the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences at the University of Georgia are working together to build public awareness about these most unwanted visitors

through collaborative videos, social media posts, and stories.

In Virginia, the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services are partnering to empower residents of the commonwealth to act themselves on the spotted lanternfly.

"We need to prevent spotted lanternfly from going somewhere else and becoming a bigger problem," said Eric Day, manager of the Insect ID Lab in the Department of Entomology. "Make sure it does not move on vehicles or plants and remove and squish any you find."

In late spring and early summer, look for the immature stages and control them early on grapes or in backyards. Also, look in your backyard for the spotted lanternfly's favorite host tree - the tree of heaven. If possible, remove those trees as they function as a host that enables the insect to spread further and quicker.

As the summer heat ramps up, check car wheel wells,

boat trailers, or box trucks to make sure the unwanted hitchhikers haven't found a free ride. Everyone can play a part by stomping the spotted lanternfly.

"I've been impressed with the citizens of Virginia in their efforts to reduce the impact of the spotted lanternfly," Day said. "Active citizens and businesses in quarantine areas have helped slow spread significantly. Now, to stop this insect from becoming a bigger problem, we must take action to make sure this hitchhiking insect doesn't get any free rides through our state."

In addition to the actions that everyone can take, Virginia Cooperative Extension has an abundant library of digital and online publications and resources geared toward providing our communities with specialized information tailored to local environments and challenges, such as resources to help with the spotted lanternfly.

Tom Soladay for Virginia Tech



PHOTO COURTESY OF FOOD LION

Eric Epperly, Perishable Manager at the Tyler Avenue Food Lion, is being recognized by the company for 40 years of service.

Food Lion recognizes long-term associates for service

SALISBURY, N.C. – Food Lion is recognizing more than 350 associates are celebrating more than 30 years of service this year, including Eric Epperly, Perishable Manager at the Tyler Avenue Food Lion, who is being recognized by the company for 40 years of service.

In April, associates were honored during an annual event where the retailer shares appreciation and gratitude for long-term associates, presenting them with the Years of Service Award. These individuals bring Food Lion's brand, strategy and culture to life and have served their towns and cities for 30, 35, 40, 45 and 50 years. At the event,

each associate's name, position, location and service milestone were read aloud and celebrated. Collectively, their tenure is 12,320 years. "Recognizing the dedication and contributions of our associates who have served Food Lion for many years is a true honor for us," said Meg Ham, President, Food Lion. "Their commitment to excellence, care for our customers and impact in the towns and cities we serve is invaluable. We are incredibly fortunate to have such passionate and dedicated associates who continue to make a positive difference every day."

Food Lion

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, June 5:

Market Square Jam

Blacksburg's Market Square Jam is an official Crooked Road affiliated venue that provides fun and entertainment on Wednesday evenings, June through September. The Jam takes place at Market Square Park from 7-9 p.m. Host Band: The Jug Busters (Russ Boyd). For more information and a list of hosts, please visit blacksburg.gov/marketsquarejam.

Blacksburg Farmers Market

At Market Square Park, 100 Draper Rd SW, Blacksburg; 2 – 6 p.m. The Blacksburg Farmers Market is a local, family-friendly gathering place in downtown Blacksburg featuring farmers of locally grown produce and meats, alongside artisans of baked goods and handmade crafts. For more information, visit <http://blacksburgfarmersmarket.com>.

Thursday, June 6:

American Legion meeting

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

Friday, June 7:

Friday night outdoor concert

Featuring: The Blacksburg Community Band. The summer of 2024 lineup of outdoor concerts offers six bands throughout June and July. Live music will take place Friday evenings on Henderson Lawn at the corner of Main Street and College Avenue, from 6-7:30 p.m. In case of inclement weather, the event will be canceled.

Friday, June 7 and Saturday, June 8:

Arts NRV Market at The Montgomery Museum of Art & History

Join the Montgomery Museum of Art & History for the Arts NRV Market, featuring artists and vendors from throughout the region, as well as the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts traveling art exhibit. The Arts NRV Market will also feature multiple smaller events, including the Paint Night at the Museum. Dates are June 7 noon - 6:30 p.m., and June 8 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. For more information, visit their website.

Saturday, June 8:

Space

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stability and re-enter the workforce. Lastly, Laura Walters, doing double duty as chairperson for both the Pulaski Board of Supervisors and New River Community Action, thanked all the people who were dedicated to this project. She also recognized Jennifer Smith, the new Chief Executive Officer for New River Community Action. Walters spoke of Smith's energy and experience and is looking forward to what she and her team can do.

Congratulations to New River Community Action for this great new building.

NRCA is a private, non-profit organization serving Radford City and the counties of Montgomery, Giles, Floyd and Pulaski.

"A well-known proponent of self-sufficiency, NRCA offers "A Hand Up, Not a Hand Out" to local families in need," stated NRCA. "We strive to achieve our purpose through community organization and empowerment, helping local communities to recognize and alleviate their own poverty conditions."

"NRCA works with our community's most vulnerable residents including the homeless, ex-offenders, the disabled, and struggling young families," according to NRCA.org. "We coordinate with approximately 1,000 local volunteers to offer a variety of programs to improve the lives of over 9,000 people each year. Some services address basic needs such as food, shelter, and employment. Comprehensive early childhood programs promote school readiness, healthy families, and effective parenting."

NRCA programs include Head Start, Children's Health Improvement Partnership (CHIP), Homeless and Housing Programs (Rapid Re-housing, Homeless Prevention, Housing Counseling, Renter Education Workshops), VA CARES services to ex-offenders, Emergency Assistance and Food Pantries Programs, Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA), Floyd County Backpack Program and To Our House homeless thermal shelter.

You can learn more at <https://newrivercommunityaction.org/>

Staff Report

Rockin' Main Street Concert

The Town of Christiansburg is hosting Rockin' Main Street, a fun-for-all event with live music from two exciting artists on East Main St. Start the evening off with country music singer/songwriter, Drew Pace taking the stage at 5 p.m. At 7 p.m., country/Americana act, Lyn Avenue will perform. Lyn Avenue brings catchy, compelling stories driven by rich vocals, electrifying leads, and boot stomping rhythms. Beer, wine, and food trucks will be available at the event. Attendees are encouraged to bring lawn chairs to sit watch the live music. Be sure to bring your IDs if you plan to purchase beer or wine.

Adventure of the Lost Treasure: An Interactive Storytelling and Science Show

At the Radford Public Library; 11 a.m. Science and stories collide for this exciting and hands-on show. Adventure of the Lost Treasure is a storytelling scientific adventure that will take us deep within the jungle...can you help the adventurer hunt the treasure? This event is full of both live, interactive science experiments and educational value.

Red Cross blood drive

At St. Thomas Episcopal Church, 103 E. Main St., Christiansburg; 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Appointments: <https://www.redcrossblood.org>.

Blacksburg Farmers Market

At Market Square Park, 100 Draper Rd SW, Blacksburg; 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. The Blacksburg Farmers Market is a local, family-friendly gathering place in downtown Blacksburg featuring farmers of locally grown produce and meats, alongside artisans of baked goods and handmade crafts. For more information, visit <http://blacksburgfarmersmarket.com>.

Radford Farmer's Market

Every Saturday through October; 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. on the grounds of Glencoe Mansion, 600 Unruh Dr. Visit weekly for an ever-changing supply of homemade goodies, crafts, plants, meats, produce, and more.

Fish Fry

Mount Tabor Ruritan Club will hold its June Fish Fry, 5 - 7 p.m. at Slusser's Chapel Picnic Shelter, 1543 Mount Tabor Rd, Blacksburg. Serving fish, fries and slaw; homemade desserts; and beverages. Adults-\$12, children under 12- \$6, children under three-free and carry-outs-\$12. This month, the Blacksburg Community Band will be playing. Held rain or shine. Call or text 540-449-6178 for further information. On Facebook at MtTaborRuritan.

Sunday, June 9:

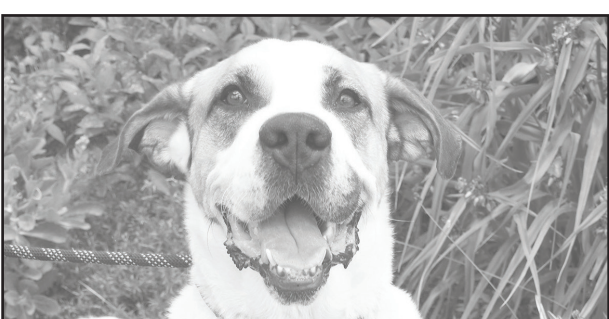
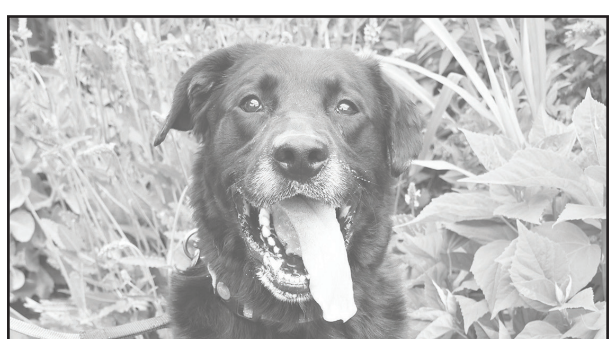
Vintage Market

At Market Square Park, 100 Draper Rd SW,

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.

Yeah, baby! Austin Bowwowers is a groovy dog. This smart guy has a few commands under his belt, including "sit" and "stay." He enjoys taking walks and, oh, behaves so well when treats are involved. Stop by the Animal Care and Adoption Center to meet him.



Ruby is a diamond in the woof that could use a little polishing. She's a playful, friendly gal who would benefit from learning doggie manners. Ruby is house trained and did not need to be crated in a previous home. She would do best in an environment where she is the only pet.

Virginia Tech professor debuts memoir at Blacksburg Books

Angelica Ramos

Contributing writer

BLACKSBURG - Virginia Tech herpetology and mammalogy professor, Dr. Donald M. Linzey, held a reading at Blacksburg Books May 30, 2024 to debut his memoir Rescued!

Linzey discussed his new book and presented a slide show explaining some of the photos in the memoir. Linzey is a wildlife biologist, so his memoir explores how he shared his love and passion for wildlife with his two sons, David and Thomas, ultimately inspiring them as they grew and now into their careers. David Linzey

is a veterinarian in Boone, North Carolina, where he and his wife have opened a 24-hour emergency animal hospital. Thomas Linzey has been practicing environmental law for over 20 years. In the memoir, Donald's sons say their career choices are because of their father's passion for nature.

Donald Linzey has taught science, ecology, herpetology and other related courses at universities like Cornell University, the University of South Alabama, and Virginia Tech for over 55 years. He conducts extensive research and has written 14 books including

A Natural History Guide to Great Smoky Mountains National Park and Snakes of Alabama. Linzey received both his master's and Ph.D. degrees from Cornell University and now is a board member for the Montgomery County Humane Society.

During his reading, Linzey recounted stories highlighted in his memoir about rehabilitating two raccoons named Blacky and Rascal who went on to be released and have kits of their own; as well as rehabilitating flying squirrels who, at one point, flew around his home and one of them learned how pick the lid off of the cookie jar. Linzey also discussed the two caves on his property, 35 acres that is now a wildlife reserve, that he found with his sons. One cave, Dave's Cave, was found to have contained a species of millipede that was thought to have been extinct but is not and lives on Linzey's property. From the wild creatures Linzey loves so much, like mountain lions, to the domestic creatures

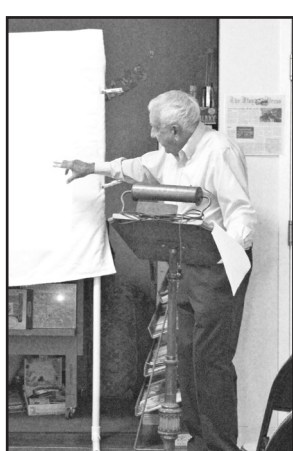


PHOTO BY ANGELICA RAMOS

Dr. Donald M. Linzey speaks about his new memoir, Rescued! at Blacksburg Books.

he held dear, like his dogs Blacky, Candi, Nellie and Brandi, Linzey's memoir and reading were full of not only scientific information, but also the joy of someone who loves and respects nature.

Attendees of the reading and Blacksburg Books staff enjoyed hearing Linzey's stories and had first-hand exposure to his extensive wildlife knowledge.

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Virginia gas prices down from last week

Average gasoline prices in Virginia have fallen 4.5 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.42/g today, according to GasBuddy's survey of 4,081 stations in Virginia. Prices in Virginia are 5.3 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 10.6 cents per gallon higher than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has fallen 1.8 cents in the last week and stands at \$3.82 per gallon.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Virginia was priced at \$2.99/g yesterday while the most expensive was \$3.99/g, a difference of 100.0 cents per gallon. The lowest price in the state yesterday was \$2.99/g while the highest was \$3.99/g, a difference of 100.0 cents per gallon.

The national average price of gasoline has fallen 5.8 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.50/g today. The national average is down 15.9 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 1.9 cents per gallon lower than a year ago, according to GasBuddy data compiled from more than 11 million weekly price reports covering over 150,000 gas stations across the country.

Historical gasoline prices in Virginia and the national average going back ten years:

June 3, 2023: \$3.31/g (U.S. Average: \$3.52/g)

June 3, 2022: \$4.58/g (U.S. Average: \$4.81/g)

June 3, 2021: \$2.94/g (U.S. Average: \$3.04/g)

June 3, 2020: \$1.80/g (U.S. Average: \$1.99/g)

June 3, 2019: \$2.54/g (U.S. Average: \$2.80/g)

June 3, 2018: \$2.74/g (U.S. Average: \$2.94/g)

\$2.94/g)

June 3, 2017: \$2.16/g (U.S. Average: \$2.37/g)

June 3, 2016: \$2.19/g (U.S. Average: \$2.35/g)

June 3, 2015: \$2.53/g (U.S. Average: \$2.76/g)

June 3, 2014: \$3.47/g (U.S. Average: \$3.67/g)

Neighboring areas and their current gas prices:

Roanoke- \$3.32/g, down 4.9 cents per gallon from last week's \$3.36/g.

Richmond- \$3.46/g, down 5.5 cents per gallon from last week's \$3.51/g.

West Virginia- \$3.43/g, down 5.3 cents per gallon from last week's \$3.48/g.

"The calendar has closed on May, and so too has the door closed on rising gas prices, with the national average declining to its lowest level since March. Thankfully, gas prices are unlikely to be moved by OPEC's meeting and agreement to extend production cuts into 2025, leading the national average to fall below \$3.50 in the next week," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy. "With GasBuddy data showing gasoline demand plummeting after Memorial Day, and refiners inputting the largest amount of oil into their facilities in years, it's very likely we'll continue to see gas prices fall as we approach July 4. Diesel prices also continue to decline to their lowest level in nearly 11 months. The future looks bright for falling fuel prices across the board, though we'll have to keep our eyes on hurricane season."

GasBuddy

Artists' bold color and dynamic composition capture moments in time

Using bold color, dynamic composition, and fragments from life's experiences to preserve moments in time, contemporary artists Erika Raneë and Michiko Itatani explore themes of place, perception, and memory using their own distinct styles and approaches.

Experience the artists' captivating works in the Moss Arts Center's summer exhibitions.

Raneë's "How Are Things on My End" and Itatani's "Cosmic Encounters" open on Thursday, June 6, with a reception from 5-7 p.m. in the center's Grand Lobby. Moss Arts Center Curator Brian Holcombe will lead a tour of the exhibitions at 6 p.m. The galleries and all related events are free and open to the public.

"Erika and Michiko use color on an immersive scale to bring viewers into their worlds," said Holcombe. "Both push the plastic qualities of paint and application, whether squeezing thick paint lines through a syringe to break the picture plane or embedding flora and studio detritus into thick applications of shellac and acrylic to expand their palette. Each artist builds a color-saturated world of human experiences and emotional memory through materiality and an absence of figuration."

"How Are Things on My End" features mixed-media paintings and works on paper. These bold, abstract tableaux are comprised of sinewy lines, puddles, and smears of translucent bright colors, broken up by flat shapes of opaque and sometimes muddy colors reminiscent of artist Henri Matisse's use of cut paper to form compositions. With a mix of the soft and hard edges of the natural and industrial world, Raneë observes and inserts into her fluid compositions a synthesis of the cacophony of city and country life, as well as her own daily gatherings and seclusion.

Raneë pokes fun at selfie culture and the narcissism inherent with being an artist and making art about oneself through the titling of her exhibition and artworks. In the show title, "How Are Things on My End," she switches "your" with "me." In doing so, Raneë said, it "flips the switch on typical caring comments" and serves as a "play on selfie/me/vain culture."

Raneë's colorful abstract paintings are built through a push-pull application of painting, collage, and décollage methods, which create layered surfaces that embody the raw urgency and physicality reminiscent of action painters and art brut, with a density and flatness seen in graffiti art. Yet Raneë's interlocking bands of paint and paper produce a luminous, translucent quality like the airy expanses of color field painters. In the painting "I Wonder if I Know What You Mean," 2022, an ethereal gradient of red-orange to yellow-green radiates behind a field of flat white shapes overlaid with a web of gray and blue lines, as well as drawings of plants and the artist's niece's braids. Raneë's observations of nature and family float suspended in the glowing open spaces of the painting with a stained glass window-like effect.

"Cosmic Encounters" consists of seven large-scale oil paintings depicting imagined interiors of stately concert halls, observatories, libraries, and

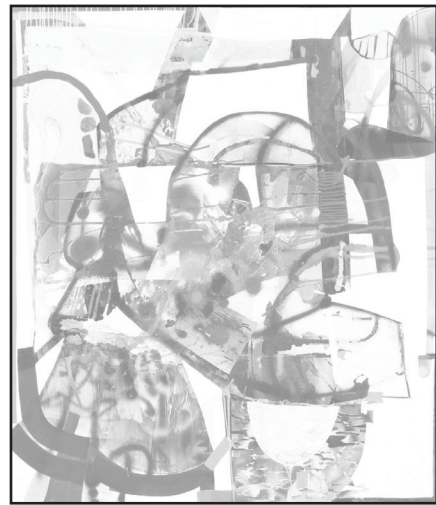


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ARTIST AND KLAUS VON NICHTSSAGEND GALLERY, NEW YORK

Erika Raneë, "Grandma," 2021; acrylic, shellac, spray paint, and paper collage on canvas; 84-by-72 inches.

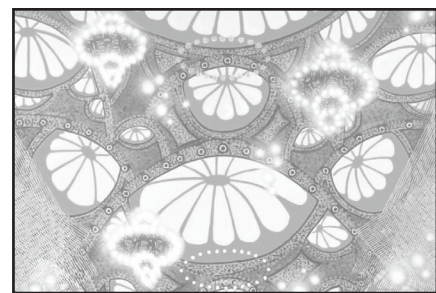


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ARTIST AND STORAGE

Michiko Itatani, "Bluelift" painting from Cosmic Theater 23-B-5, 2023; oil on canvas; 84-by-72 inches.

cathedrals punctuated with otherworldly light and celestial phenomena. Itatani's imagined architectural spaces, seemingly devoid of human presence, are shrouded in mystery. Under the veil of night, the interior floors come alive with a collection of globes, constellation maps, scientific and musical instruments, and other curiosities placed under starry skies, peering through the glass ceilings of the exaggerated linear perspectives in Itatani's compositions.

The animated characters in these worlds are patterned luminescent orbs that organize themselves into cascading rings and floating chandeliers or appear as theatre lights. The radiating orbs can be otherworldly or natural phenomena. In several paintings, a trio of chandeliers with rings of glowing orbs resemble alien craft. In others, the hovering yellow orbs mimic fireflies, infiltrating a Gehry-like glasshouse from the forest outside. The lights appear as the only living entities, independent from the fixed interiors. Set against the nighttime scenes, they imply cosmic encounters — like the alien visitations depicted in science fiction stories searching humanity's caverns of knowledge and seeking contact. Each painting's upward view makes the viewer look to the heavens, reinforcing the feeling that these lights are otherworldly.

The exhibitions will be on view through Friday, Aug. 30.

Visiting the galleries

Located at 190 Alumni Mall, the Moss Arts Center's galleries are open on Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. The center offers many opportunities for students, faculty, and community members to engage with artists and their work. To arrange a group tour of the galleries, contact Laura Higgins.

Katie Gehrt for Virginia Tech

OBITUARIES

Addison, Stephen Allen

Stephen Allen "Steve" Addison, 59, of Roanoke, passed away May 31, 2024.

He was a loving and caring father, known for his sense of humor and his open-hearted nature. Steve was a good friend to many and always willing to lend a helping hand to those in need.

Steve was preceded in death by his father, Claude Junior Addison, and his mother, Phyllis Ann Jenkins. He is survived by his sons, Shane Addison and Dusty Addison; stepsons, Zachary Dunford and Dustin Walters; daughters-in-law, Wynoka Wickline



and Crystal Addison; granddaughter, Kaydence Addison; brothers, Robert Addison and Jeffery Addison; sisters-in-law; stepbrothers, Michael Dowdy and Robert Dowdy; stepsister, Doris Dowdy; special

friend, Gretta Walters, and numerous other beloved friends and family members.

A service to honor Steve's life will be held at McCoy Funeral Home in Blacksburg Friday, June 7, 2024. Visitation will begin at 1 p.m., followed by the service at 2 p.m. McCoy Funeral Home is assisting with the arrangements for the ceremony, providing support and guidance during this difficult time.

Steve will be deeply missed by all who knew him, and his memory will forever live on in the hearts of those he touched.

Caldwell, Peggy Jean

Peggy Jean Caldwell completed her earthly journey in her hometown of Radford May 30, 2024, at the age of 65.

Death brings joyful reunion with her father James Roosevelt Caldwell, brother Larry Franklin Caldwell and her beloved shar-pei dog Maggie May.

Peggy was a proud and strong-willed individual with a kind heart and a sardonic wit.

She was a longtime member of Christ Wesleyan Church,



cultivating a profound faith and forming meaningful friendships.

Peggy's love for strawberries and Tweetie

Bird were an example of how much happiness simple pleasures can bring.

With heavy hearts, we bid farewell to Peggy Jean Caldwell, but we find solace in knowing that her memory will forever be etched in our minds, inspiring us to live life with purpose and love.

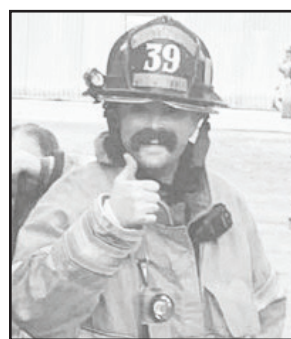
A celebration of life gathering will be announced at a later date.

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

Compton, Jeremy Lathan

Jeremy Lathan Compton, 35, of Christiansburg, passed away Wednesday, May 30, 2024. He was born in Radford on July 18, 1988. He was preceded in death by maternal grandparents, Carl and Faye Winters, paternal grandparents, Roy and Mae Compton, and an aunt, Elaine Farrier.

Jeremy began his firefighting career as a volunteer firefighter with Elliston Volunteer Fire Department in 2006. He would always say he was living the dream and his dream was to be a member of the Christiansburg Volunteer Fire Department. He realized this dream in 2014 and remained a member until this day. Jeremy went on to become a career Firefighter/EMT with the City of Radford in 2022 and retired in 2024. Jeremy also served the



community as a Deputy with the City of Radford from 2016 to 2019. He was one of the first Crisis Intervention Team deputies who helped develop the program. Jeremy was a member of Alleghany Church of Christ. Everyone who knew Jeremy knew he had a wonderful sense of humor.

Jeremy is survived by his wife, Kara Compton and children Wyatt Compton, Mason Cullop, and Cassidy Bond; parents Richard and Susan Compton;

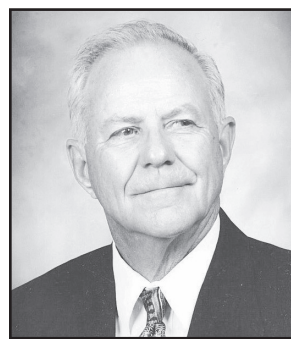
brother Trevor Compton and wife, Callie Compton, and nephew, Jack Compton. He is also survived by many special aunts, uncles, and cousins, too numerous to mention but nonetheless very much loved by Jeremy. In addition to his family members, Jeremy is survived by a special friend from childhood who was more like a sister, Alicia Gates and his "adopted" grandmother, Barbara Waugh. Finally, Jeremy is survived by his many brothers and sisters in the fire service.

Fireman's funeral services will be conducted today, Wednesday, June 5, 2024, at 11 a.m. in the Blue Ridge Church, with the Rev. Neal Turner officiating. Interment will follow in Sunset Cemetery. The family received friends Tuesday, June 4, 2024, 3-7 p.m. at the Blue Ridge Church.

Tyndall, Sterling Wright

Sterling Wright Tyndall, 91, of Florida, passed away Monday, May 27, 2024, at Commonwealth Assisted Living in Radford. He was a U. S. Navy veteran and a member of Central Church in Radford. Sterling was preceded in death by his parents, Percy and Virginia Tyndall.

Survivors include his wife, JoAnn R. Tyndall of Radford; daughter, Linda Walsh of Knoxville, Tenn.;



sons, David Tyndall of Melbourne, Fla. and Steven Tyndall of Calif.; three grandchildren; and

many other relatives and friends.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, June 14, 2024, at First United Methodist Church, 1500 S Kanner Hwy, Stuart, Fla. 34994, with Nick Blount officiating. Entombment will follow in Forest Hills Memorial Park Mausoleum in Palm City, Fla.

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

AARP Virginia fraud alert: Crypto ATMS

If you're like most Americans, you walk right past a tool used to steal a reported \$35 million from US consumers last year each time you go out for groceries.

Cryptocurrency ATMs are often colorful kiosks that are popping up in supermarkets, convenience stores, gas stations, restaurants, liquor stores and even laundromats across the U/S. There are more than 49,000 crypto ATMs in the United States, up from only about 1,200 at the end of 2017.

Criminal scammers are always looking for the quickest way to get money from their victims. As awareness and protections around other payment methods increase, crypto ATMs have become their tool of choice. Because these kiosks look similar to



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF AARP VIRGINIA

regular ATM machines, they seem more legitimate to victims who are directed to them. The AARP Fraud Watch Network Helpline has heard from countless victims who have been directed to insert thousands of dollars in cash into these machines to address an

"urgent" financial matter.

While there are many different scams, there are only a handful of ways that criminals can get paid. If you are directed to a crypto ATM to address an urgent financial matter, it is a scam.

AARP Virginia

OPINION

Sometimes spontaneity leads to great things

The late, great golf course designer Pete Dye wrote in his autobiography that before he came to Bridgeport, West Virginia to design and develop his signature course, The Pete Dye Golf Club, for the LaRosa family, he thought there were two ways to do things - the right way and the wrong way. He says he learned there was a third way to do things - the Italian way. Mr. LaRosa, "James D." to all who knew him well, reportedly gave Pete an "unlimited budget" and by all accounts Mr. Dye exceeded it.

Well, as I reflect on the way I have lived my life so far, I believe there are essentially two ways to go about things - planned or spontaneous. I have tended to err on the side of spontaneity. I am not a good planner. I follow the two stages of planning - procrastination and then panic. I can execute other's plans, but mine occur usually only a few minutes or hours or days out, depending on what's happening.

For instance, my decision to apply to law school came about on a Wednesday afternoon in mid-February, during my first year of marriage when I got home from my job at a local bank and complained to Mary Jane about how dull my work was. I had always hoped to go to law school but I was now two years out of college, married, had a decent job, and was living in the area I grew up in, near our families and close friends. But the time seemed right - at my wife's suggestion, I drove over to the library at Tech that very afternoon, looked at the catalogues of the two in state law schools - UVA and William and Mary - and determined that the deadline for UVA had passed but W & M's was not until the end of the month. I applied the next day and the rest is history, as they say.

My second marriage is another example. We decided on Thursday morning to get married on Thursday night. We even managed to get married in our church, but needless to say the guest list was very short. Please RSVP by 4:30 today. Spontaneous decision again. But it worked.

There are many other examples of spontaneity in less important events in my life. I remember in law school waking up early one beautiful autumn



Evans "Buddy" King

Columnist

Saturday morning and telling my wife it would be fun to drive to Chapel Hill to watch Virginia play the Tar Heels that day. I had no idea how long it would take or how to get there from Williamsburg or if we could get cheap tickets, but we made it. Should have stayed at home.

And there was a summer Sunday morning about 15 years ago when I decided my wife and I needed to go to Fenway to see the Red Sox. I had not been since my Dad took me there as a kid and Joyce had never been. So, by the time she comes downstairs I had plane and hotel reservations and game tickets. For games the next week.

(As an aside, I was quite amused a few years ago when "flash dances" became popular. Planned spontaneity - which, were they though?)

All of this is to say that I am partial to doing things on impulse and I love seeing spontaneous events happen around me. This past week was a great example.

I have a great group of friends I meet pretty much every Wednesday around 4 at a local watering hole, Brickside, work permitting. Most are retired, a few of us still work. It's an eclectic gathering, an amalgamation of two groups that did not hang together until the last five years or so - the remnants of an Irish bar and an Italian bar that drifted together when our old spots changed hands and thus character. Ironically, as I think about it, the old Irish bar is now owned by an Italian family and the old Italian bar is now owned by an Irish family.

Back to the spontaneous event of the past week. Our Wednesday afternoon group consists of a couple

of retired barbers, a retired plant engineer, a retired union rep from a local factory, two or three guys who work for the Department of Highways, an environmental engineer, a few guys who owned local businesses, a couple of golf course groundskeepers, a stock broker, an oil and gas landman, a shoe salesman, and a car salesman, with names straight from a Damon Runyon story, like Tweets, Kelly, Spike, Duke, Ernie, Tony the Bookie, D'Amato, Mikey, Tucker, Casto, Buddy - 16 or so of us in all. Most of our guys are in their 60's and 70's, with Ernie leading the way at age 90, since our 101-year-old friend Pete can no longer make it out.

We get together and have a few beers and run football and golf and baseball pools, the winner usually breaking even after paying for the pizzas. We have our own long table at "the Brick" in a screened in area and our own waitress, Victoria. She's our age, more or less, and a former bartender in Vegas and tremendous.

Our friend Duke, one of the youngest of our crowd and a land man for the Highway Department, has been dealing with cancer and chemo and radiation for the last six months or so. Hopefully he has put it all behind him, and he returned to the "Brickside group" this past Wednesday. Obviously, we were overjoyed to see him. We were standing around our table welcoming him back when our friend Pat, as he loves to do, wanted to recognize the significance of the moment. He started yelling "Duke, Duke, Duke" and everyone joined in. Suddenly our crowd became a doo wop group and the chant of "Duke" became the singing of "Duke of Earl."

Here on a lazy Wednesday late afternoon was a bunch of old guys sounding like a street corner gang from Philadelphia in the 1950's. Ernie, the 90-year-old retired barber, being hard of hearing (as are a bunch of us) says to Tony, "I don't know the words, I don't know the words" - Tony yells, "there are no #%&#ing words!" Priceless.

It was truly a moving and spontaneous moment for our little group, a nice welcome back for the Duke. I had a tear, as did Duke.

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Michael Showell, *Publisher*
Heather Bell, *Editor*..... hbell@mainstreetnewspapers.com
Aila Boyd, *Executive Editor*..... aboyd@ourvalley.org
Wendi Craig, *Advertising Consultant*..... advertize@ourvalley.org

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Emergency Fund: What it is and why it matters

Josh Smith, CRPC
Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC

Major car repairs, surprise medical bills, and loss of income are events we don't tend to give much consideration to until they happen to us. While it may not be as fun as saving for vacation or a home remodel, having an emergency fund in place can make the difference between managing a short-term setback and experiencing long-term financial repercussions. What constitutes an emergency fund and why is it so important to have one, particularly in times like this? Here's a primer.

Financial solvency matters. Financial experts generally encourage you to set aside three to six months' worth of living expenses in an emergency fund. Without it, you are at risk of losing what you've worked hard to achieve if life throws a curve ball. A stash of funds can help you meet your monthly obligations, keep your credit report clean and preserve your way of life.

Put your priorities in order. An emergency fund deserves to be at the top of your list of financial priorities. Emergency reserves are designed to provide a safety net to prevent financial disaster. Saving for your retirement comes next, to help protect your financial future. It's even better if you can save for both priorities at the same time. If you're currently saving for your future, consider allocating a portion of monthly contributions to go toward an emergency fund. Once your emergency account is funded at a satisfactory level

and you regularly contribute to a retirement account, you can start setting money aside for discretionary items such as new furniture, a vacation or a vehicle upgrade.

Set a goal. Determine how much you would need to stay afloat for an extended period of income disruption. At a minimum, how much would you need on hand to pay your bills and buy groceries each month if your paychecks stopped coming? Then multiply this amount by six.

Start where you can. If you don't have a large chunk of money available to establish your emergency fund right now, don't let it prevent you from starting an account and working toward your target. Any amount is a step in the right direction - even if that's \$50 or \$500. Your next tax refund, bonus, or raise are other potential sources of cash to grow an emergency fund. Revisit your current budget to see where you can trim expenses and put more into savings.

Create and stick to your guidelines. Your emergency fund should be reserved for times of financial crisis. It's not an account to pay for life's extras, however tempting that may be. With guidelines in place, you can avoid dipping into these funds unless necessary.

Keep emergency funds within safe reach. When uncertainty strikes, you may need money in a hurry. For this reason, emergency savings should be held in cash or easy-to-access investments like a money market fund. You also may want to open a dedicated interest-bearing savings account, potentially in a bank separate from your other accounts, to keep your emergency funds at a safe distance if you're one who may be tempted to spend it.

Working with a knowledgeable financial advisor who understands your savings goals can help you prepare for unforeseen circumstances that can change your life and your family's life in an instant.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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		34			35		36		37		
	38				39		40		41		42
43					44		45		46		47
48			49	50				51		52	
53							54			55	
56								57			
	58								59		

CLUES ACROSS
1. Slovenian mountain
5. Growl
9. Where things stand
11. Made a sharp sound
13. Female spirit in Irish folklore
15. Deteriorate with age
16. A way to save for retirement
17. The Big Apple
19. Intestinal pouches
21. City in New Hampshire
22. Giving a bad impression
23. Samsung laptops
25. Without (French)
26. Scientist's tool (abbr.)
27. System of one more computers
29. Captures
31. Authentic
33. Female mammal's nipple
34. Pandemonium
36. Satisfy
38. Arrived extinct
39. Shipborne radar (abbr.)
41. Network of nerves
43. Monetary unit
44. Showed old TV show
46. They help you hear
48. One who eliminates
52. Congress' investigative arm
53. Parties
54. Most supernatural
56. Takes illegally
57. Breathes while asleep
58. Sea eagles
59. German surname

CLUES DOWN
1. Looks at for a long time
2. Solution for diseases
3. Belonging to a thing
4. Former Packers fullback
5. Contemptible person
6. One billionth of a second (abbr.)
7. Helps
8. Final section of the large intestine
9. Invests in little enterprises
10. Look for
11. Unbeliefs
12. Susan and Tom are two
14. Female sheep
15. A poet writes it
18. Affirmatives
20. "Full House" actress Barber
24. Traveled rapidly
26. Long upholstered seat
28. Set wages
30. Peter Gabriel song
32. Sides of a jacket
34. More beautiful
35. Actress Kate
37. Furniture with open shelves
38. Indicate
40. The cost of a room
42. Gets rid of something
43. Impudence
45. No No No
47. Drunkards
49. Middle eastern country
50. High energy lasers (abbr.)
51. Primary component of ribosomes
55. An informal debt instrument

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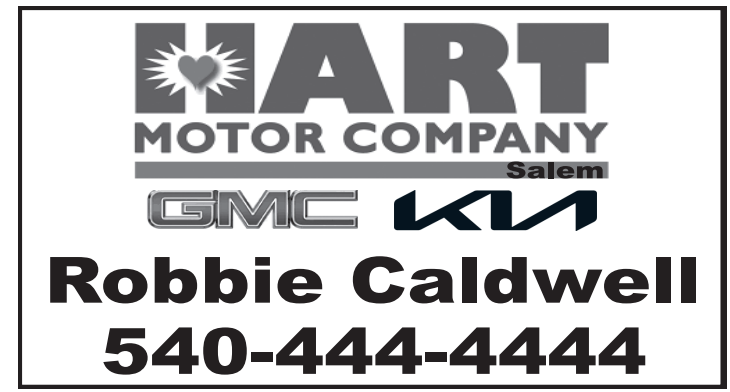


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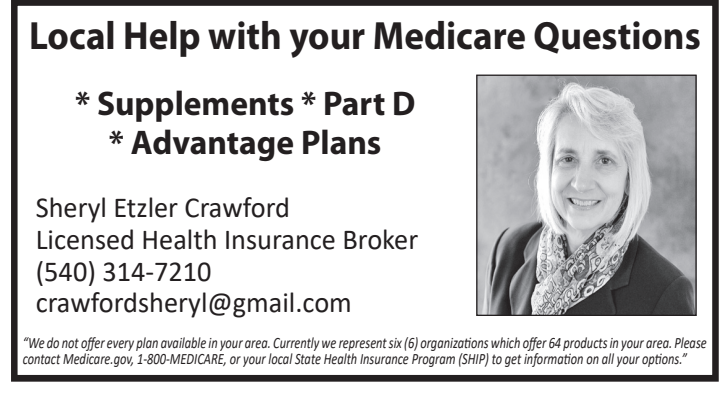


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RADFORD SPORTS

Lady Bruins capture 4A track championship

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

The Blacksburg High School girls' track knew they trailed the top team in the Class 4 track meet this past weekend. A third-place finish in the final event of the day, 4X400 meter relay, meant the Lady Bruins would win the state title by a 3/4th point.

The crowd was on edge at the Liberty University track as the relay team began the last race. Blacksburg would tally 74 points to second place Atlee's 73.5 and third place Manor's 52.

Layla Boyle won the pole vault, and Kionna Grubb took an individual title in the 300 hurdles.

Mia Littlejohn was a multi-winner with second in the high jump and third in the 100 hurdles. The Lady Bruins also finished second in the 4X800 relay.

Grubb recorded a photo finish in the 300 hurdles, narrowly beating her opponent at the line.

But it was the relay of Mirra Bowman, Tess Dickhans, Allie McDonald and Cameron Lee, who saved their best for the end.

Over in Class 3, Christiansburg's Donovan Richardson carried the school's lone flag in the finals with fourth place in the boys' triple jump with a mark of 45-07.

Auburn's boys would finish fourth in Class 1, while the girls' squad was third on their side of the

track. Auburn's Kasey Rosenbaum would take second in the 3,200 and third in the 1,600 for the Lady Eagles, while teammate Megan Earnest finished third in the high jump.

Auburn's fourth place finish (49 points) comes behind first-place Lancaster's 87.5 and second place Parry McCluer's 67 points.

The Auburn girls would tally 54 points to barely be out of second with Northhampton with 57 points. Brunswick took the team competition with 84 points.

In Class 2, Radford's Javier Wade took third in the 200 meters.

Christiansburg boys win regional title



Sami Seife takes a penalty kick for the Blue Demons. Seife scored on another penalty kick late in the second half cinching the 1-0 win for Christiansburg. The win was a regional championship in Class 3C.



Christiansburg goalkeeper Joseph Baines makes one of his critical saves during the game.



PHOTOS BY KYMN DAVIDSON

Luca Pickeral (center) outpaces three William Byrd players to bring the ball into scoring territory for Christiansburg.



Christiansburg's Makaylee Hughes connects with a Staunton River pitch during the Region 3D championship game on Friday night. Christiansburg defeated Staunton River 5-1 for the Region 3D championship.

Area softball teams claim regions

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Seann Gaynor has taken Christiansburg High School to a regional title in his first year on the school's softball sidelines.

After the win, they will play on the highest stage for the first time in school history. This past week, Christiansburg downed Staunton River 5-1.

Pitcher Kady Camper threw six strikeouts and only walked one. The defense made the plays and had no errors on the night.

Offensive fire power came from

leadoff hitter Kyrstin Lowe who had two hits and an RBI. Camper and Sophia each had a hit and two RBIs. Tyleigh Dillard had two hits, and freshman Aubrey Davis had a hit on the night.

Meanwhile in Riner, where Gaynor teaches and his daughter plays for the Auburn Eagles, they too are regional champs. Both schools were scheduled to open the state quarter finals on Tuesday night.

Also, the Christiansburg High School boy's tennis team brought home the region 3D team title, and the girls' double team of Lucy Burningham and Nora Cross brought home a championship to the school.



Christiansburg senior Kady Camper pitches against Staunton River in a 5-1 Region 3D championship win.



Christiansburg shortstop Addison Reasor throws to first to cut down a Staunton River baserunner.



PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING

Christiansburg second baseman Kyrstin Lowe catches an infield fly to record an out against Staunton River.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NEW RIVER BOWLING CONGRESS

The New River Bowling Congress has new members for its 2024 Hall of Fame, which were honored at a recent banquet. Pictured (left to right) Danny Perdue, Connie Price and Ricky Helvey.

Four named to bowling Hall of Fame

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

The New River Bowling Congress held their annual induction ceremony on May 3 for four new honorees.

The group included Ricky Helvey, Danny Perdue and Connie Price. Carl Shrader was recognized posthumously.

Helvey has had multiple 300 games and held over a 200 average for many years. He has bowled in the NRV for over 20 years and is a very competitive bowler, and according to the group, shows great sportsmanship in his game.

Perdue has been bowling in

multiple leagues in the NRV since 2001. He has carried an average of 200 since 2007 and has two 300 games in the 800 series and several 299 games.

Price has been bowling competitively since 1999 and always participates in local and state tournaments.

Shrader has bowled for many years and held an average of 175. The induction said he loved bowling and it was one of the his favorite things to do. He always showed great sportsmanship and had a smile on his face.

Shrader unfortunately lost his battle with Alzheimer's but dreamed of being inducted into the Hall of Fame.

Tech's Galt named master coach



PHOTO COURTESY OF VT ATHLETICS

Dwight Galt IV

Virginia Tech Senior Director of Strength and Conditioning, Dwight Galt IV has achieved a significant milestone in his career, earning the title of Master Strength and Conditioning Coach from the Collegiate Strength and Conditioning Coaches Association.

This prestigious milestone marks the highest recognition in the strength and conditioning profession, and is a tribute to Galt's professionalism, knowledge, experience, expertise, and longevity in the field.

Galt is one of 334 coaches at the collegiate and professional level who have earned the honor since the award's inception in 2001.

"To be mentioned in the same breath along with some outstanding strength and conditioning coaches, is humbling and an honor," said Galt. "To see an athlete improve in their sport and be successful has been an extremely rewarding experience."

To be eligible, a coach must be an active CSCCA member, currently practice full-time strength and conditioning coaching on the collegiate level, be Strength and Conditioning Coach Certified (SCCC) by the Collegiate Strength and Conditioning Coaches Association and have been a full-time strength and conditioning coach on the collegiate and/or professional level for a minimum of 12 years.

"This is an incredible honor for Coach Galt that signifies a commitment to the student-athlete, Virginia Tech athletics and the strength

and conditioning profession," said head football coach Brent Pry. "Coach Galt is committed to the holistic development of our student-athletes, empowering them to perform in all aspects of their lives."

Galt is in his third season in Blacksburg after serving as director of sports performance at Old Dominion for three years where he oversaw the Monarchs' football program.

Prior to his time in Norfolk, Galt worked as assistant director of strength and conditioning for Penn State football for seven seasons, helping the Nittany Lions achieve back-to-back 11-win seasons in 2016 and 2017, including the program's Big Ten Championship in 2016.

Galt went to Penn State following a two-year stint at South Carolina where he started as a graduate assistant and then worked as an assistant strength coach for the Gamecocks. He began his coaching career at his alma mater, Maryland, as a strength and conditioning intern following his playing career with the Terrapins.

Galt is the second member of the Hokies' strength and conditioning staff to earn the MSCC honor, along with assistant director of strength and conditioning, Jarrett Ferguson who received the honor in 2017. He also joins his father, Dwight Galt III, in earning the distinction in 2005. He spent nearly 40 years in the profession at Maryland, Vanderbilt, and Penn State.

Virginia Tech Athletics

Cianelli has gone the distance at Virginia Tech

As he strides toward the finish line of an illustrious career, Dave Cianelli contemplates life without hurdles and hammers, legs and laps, spikes and starting blocks.

Instead, Virginia Tech's director of track and field envisions a future in Oak Island, North Carolina, perhaps as a Harley Davidson mechanic. The owner of two such beloved American icons, Cianelli foresees wrenching on his prized possessions on hot, lazy afternoons, with a frosty beverage easily within arms' length.

"I really enjoy working on them more than I do riding," Cianelli admitted. "For whatever reason, I really like mechanical things, taking things apart and putting them back together and figuring out how things work."

That should come as no surprise to anyone familiar with Cianelli. After all, he has built the Virginia Tech men's and women's track and field programs into two of the nation's best. Yet now, after 23 years as the leader of both, the 68-year-old is running the anchor leg of a 42-year coaching career.

Cianelli announced his retirement this past August and concludes his coaching days when a contingent of Hokies compete later this week at the NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships in Eugene, Oregon. He stayed for this season to aid the athletics department in the transition process, and his final day is

June 30.

"I just felt like the time was right," Cianelli said. "I made this decision a little over a year ago, and I just felt like it was the right time to move on and let someone else take over. It's hard to explain it. You get that feeling that you've had enough of what you're doing, and you want to do something else and go on to the next phase. So that's where I got in my head."

"I wanted to give the administration plenty of time to plan whatever transition that they wanted to execute. I didn't want to spring it on them at the last second. That was important to me, just so it would be a pretty smooth transition. But it [why he's retiring] wasn't like one thing. It was just kind of that's long enough to be doing something."

Cianelli will be handing the baton to assistant Ben Thomas '92, a former Virginia Tech distance runner who was on Cianelli's original staff and worked with him for 17 of Cianelli's 23 seasons. Thomas, who was named Cianelli's successor last August, spent 2018-22 as an associate head coach at Oregon before returning to Blacksburg last summer.

Cianelli stands at the top of the podium among all Virginia Tech sports coaches, both current and past. That's not hyperbole. The numbers say so.

Under his watch, Virginia Tech won 20 NCAA individual championships and 22 ACC team titles. His teams finished in

the top 10 in the team standings 13 times at NCAA championship meets. He won the ACC Coach of the Year honor 20 times.

He's coached national champions, All-Americans, and Olympians while at Virginia Tech. He even coached a Bowerman Award winner when Queen Harrison Claye, known then as Queen Harrison, won the award - track and field's equivalent of college football's Heisman Trophy - in 2010.

These are lofty accomplishments for a man whose coaching career started rather modestly. He went to California to continue training after graduating as a decathlete from Bowling Green State University in 1977. While there, he took a job as a volunteer track coach at San Marcos High School in Santa Barbara. Needing money to pay rent and other life necessities, Cianelli once ran a commercial fishing boat, hoisting crab pots out of the Pacific and taking the catch to market. At other times, he hauled away trash for \$30 a truck load and toiled as a day laborer on a construction site.

Such a humble beginning undoubtedly influenced his coaching style. Opposing coaches often said that Virginia Tech's track student-athletes reflected his blue-collar mentality. They were willing to work and unafraid to embrace competition.

"Dave's one of those old-school coaches that can coach every event in track and field, but his greatest skill has

been program building," said Bob Braman, Florida State's track and field coach. "He's mentored great young coaches and has been sure to develop athletes in all 19 events. When you compete against a Cianelli squad, you know they're going to come at you in waves. That's what made them such a tough ACC adversary."

Cianelli spent 13 seasons as an assistant at Southern Methodist University and was interested in the Virginia Tech job in part because it brought him and his family to the East Coast and closer to his native Maryland. He won over then-Director of Athletics Jim Weaver and top lieutenant Tom Gabbard, both of whom hired him in 2001 to oversee the track and field and cross country programs. Cianelli showed up to the interview with a folder that included a step-by-step plan on how he wanted to build the programs. After the interview, Weaver and Gabbard came to the same conclusion: "This is our guy."

The Hokies, though, got out of the blocks slowly under Cianelli, finishing no better than ninth at any Big East meet during his first two seasons. At that time, a lack of funding left most of Virginia Tech's Olympic sports struggling in the Big East.

Two things turned around the track and field programs' fortunes, according to Cianelli. The university's entry into the ACC in 2004 led to increased name recognition, which in turn enabled Cianelli and his staff to land standouts like Harrison Claye and Kristi Castlin. Harrison Claye, a native of Richmond, developed into a three-time national champion and the university's first female Olympian, competing in the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing. Castlin, a native of Douglasville, Georgia, was a seven-time All-American who won a bronze medal in the 100-meter hurdles at the 2016 Summer Olympics held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

"I'll always be thankful to Coach Cianelli both during my time at Tech and even once I graduated," Harrison Claye said. "During my time in school, he helped instill confidence in our women's



PHOTOS COURTESY OF VT ATHLETICS

Dave Cianelli has hurdled nearly all challenges in his 23 years overseeing Virginia Tech's track and field programs, and now the decorated coach is retiring, having enjoyed immense success in a sport that hinges mostly on survival of the fittest.

squad and made sure we always felt appreciated and taken care of."

In 2007, Weaver decided to fully fund the men's track and field program. Cianelli was able to hand out 12.7 scholarships - the maximum allowed by the NCAA and up from a previous 4.5. Four years after that, the men's team finished fifth in the country at the NCAA outdoor meet.

Both programs have been good, arguably great, ever since.

"We've been consistent, being a contender, and that was my goal," Cianelli said. "I didn't want to just have one great year and then not be able to repeat it. I wanted to have consistency in our program."

Cianelli downplays his role in the programs' successes, crediting instead the student-athletes and his coaches, most of whom have been on his staff for lengthy tenures. Nearly every full-time assistant on his staff has been with him since at least 2017 and some much longer. Detail oriented and organized almost to obsession level, Cianelli let them coach while he handled the administrative part, overseeing scholarships, financial aid, academics, eligibility, and recruiting. Most coaches dislike what to coach, but for a man who likes to take the parts and build something creative and special, the role was perfect.

Cianelli has set the pace for the Virginia Tech track and field programs and turns over these well-established entities to Thomas.

"I'm happy that the administration decided on him, because I felt like he was the best fit for the program moving forward for so many different reasons - being an alum of Virginia Tech, being a part of this program, coaching here for 17 years of my tenure with a lot of success," Cianelli said. "I felt

like the transition would be smooth with him, and so I'm happy that that's how it ended up.

"He'll build it the way he wants to build it, and it won't be the same. I'm sure he'll do some things similar, but everyone's a little different in how they model what they want to do, and the conference is changing."

The ACC is adding Stanford University, the University of California, Berkeley, and Southern Methodist University - coincidentally Cianelli's previous employer - for future seasons, bringing forth additional competition. The college athletics landscape continues to change, too, especially with the evolving of name, image, and likeness legislation.

Cianelli plans to keep up with Virginia Tech's future, but from the Oak Island home that he and wife, Ellen, purchased in 2020.

"I'm excited for his next chapter in life and the legacy he's left at Virginia Tech forever," Harrison Claye said. Cianelli and his wife bought that home with an eye toward his career's bell lap and a future filled with whatever he wants. Perhaps a Harley mechanic. Perhaps a track and field official. Maybe a consultant of some sort.

Or maybe just frequent rides around the island, his version of a victory lap, sporting a sweet leather riding jacket that his staff gave to him as a retirement gift.

"I've been blessed, all the way from when I started coaching in high school and Division II, and then as a Division I assistant, and then to this job," Cianelli said. "Every job has been really rewarding."

"I'll miss it, but I feel at peace. I don't have any regrets about this being the time."

Jimmy Robertson, Virginia Tech Athletics

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