

# News Messenger

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## Michel Sicardi sculpture exhibit "Finding Paradise in the Woods" coming to Alexander Black House

Michel Sicardi's sculpture exhibit "Finding Paradise in the Woods" will be on display at the Blacksburg Museum and Cultural Foundation in the Alexander Black House main galleries, 204 Draper Road in Blacksburg, from Feb. 10 through March 11, 2023.

Admission is free, and exhibit hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.

An artist reception and talk will be held on Friday, Feb. 10, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. The reception and the talk are free and are open to the public.

Sicardi is a native of the Tarentaise Valley in the French Alps where he grew up on his grandmother's farm and tended the cows on his uncle's land. It was

there that Sicardi began working with wood, as most of the farm's tools were made of it. Those well-used tools, especially the ones used for making cheese, constantly needed repair, and Sicardi learned to carve and shape wood in repairing them.

When he was 15, he was sent to a chef school and left his valley home to work in various resorts in France, eventually becoming a river guide. This work suited him as he loved being in nature. During his time as a river guide, he met his wife, and they moved to Paris where he continued his

See Michel Sicardi, page 4



COURTESY PHOTO

Michel Sicardi grew up in the French Alps on his grandmother's farm. As he grew up, he began working with wood, which most of the farm's tools were made of. The tools needed constant repair, which led him to carve and shape wood.



COURTESY PHOTO

Michel Sicardi's sculpture "Moai Upset"



COURTESY VIRGINIA TECH

A historic high 47,128 first-year applications for admission to Virginia Tech were submitted for Fall 2023.

## Another record high: Virginia Tech receives more than 47,000 applications for first-year admissions 2023

For the third straight year, the number of first-year applications for admission to Virginia Tech rewrites the record books. President Tim Sands shared the news during his State of the University address on Jan. 18 at the Moss Arts Center.

A historic high 47,128 first-year applications were submitted for fall 2023 admission - an increase of 4.4 percent over the previous record of 45,124 set a year ago. First-year applications have increased 47 percent since 2018, shortly after major changes were implemented in the admissions process.

This is the strongest applicant pool in the school's history when measured by academics. The average GPA of all 2023 applicants is 4.06, compared to 4.0 in 2022.

Noteworthy gains include a 5 percent increase in applicants identified as first-generation college students. Gains also were achieved across every underrepresented and underserved group. Black or African American applications surpassed the 2022 mark by 5 percent. Applications from Hispanic/Latino students realized a

See Virginia Tech, page 4



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HISTORIC RESOURCES

Sen. John Edwards (D) and Republican Delegate Jason Ballard have introduced a \$1,000,000 budget appropriations bill to the Senate and the House respectively to preserve and reopen the Edgar A. Long Building. In 2017, CI, Inc., launched a fund drive that raised \$300,000 culminating in the repair and restoration of the building's entire roof structure.

## Sen. John Edwards, delegate Jason Ballard introduce \$1,000,000 appropriation bill for Edgar A. Long Building

Democrat Senator John Edwards and Republican delegate Jason Ballard have introduced a \$1,000,000 budget appropriation to the Senate and the House respectively to preserve and reopen the Edgar A. Long Building.

The Edgar A. Long Building is a two-and-a-half-story, brick structure built in 1927 on the 20th-century campus of the Christiansburg Industrial Institute. The Friends Freedmen's Association of Philadelphia first sponsored education for emancipated slaves by financing construction of the Old Christiansburg Industrial Institute's Hill School and Schaeffer Memorial Baptist Church in the 1880s.

The Friends Freedmen's Association then turned to famed educator Booker T. Washington, who advised them on the

purchase of Montgomery County farmland for a 20th-century campus for the agricultural and industrial instruction of African American students. The Edgar A. Long Building has statewide significance as the only pre-1950 building that stands on its original site at the campus, begun in the early 1900s as a regional center for secondary and higher education of African Americans.

"Our team has been working with both Senator Edwards's and Delegate Ballard's office, advocating for their support in introducing a budget appropriation to the General Assembly for the preservation and reopening of the Edgar A. Long Building," said Chris Sanchez, CI, Inc.'s executive director.

"We're very excited

to see that a bipartisan budget appropriation has been submitted, and we're confident elected representatives in state government will recognize that the meaningful reinvestment and preservation of Black history, stories, and sites of cultural significance in Southwest Virginia is a recommitment to racial and economic justice on this side of the great Commonwealth," said Sanchez.

Since 2017, CI, Inc. has raised approximately \$300,000 towards the historic preservation and rehabilitation project of the Long Building. In 2020, these funds were used to repair and restore the entire roof system on the historic structure.

In 2020-2021, CI, Inc. partnered with Hill Studio to acquire an updated

See Building, page 4

## Chamber music trendsetter PUBLIQuartet explores diverse voices of America



PHOTO COURTESY OF LELAINE FOSTER

PUBLIQuartet is a Grammy-nominated chamber music string quartet that will perform at the Moss Arts Center on Saturday, Feb. 11, at 7:30 p.m. with "What Is American."

## VT geosciences study shows Triassic fossils that reveal origins of living amphibians

The smallest of newly found fossils can upend what paleontologists know about our history.

A team of paleontologists from Virginia Tech and the U.S. Petrified Forest National Park, among others, have discovered the first "unmistakable" Triassic-era caecilian fossil — the oldest-known caecilian fossils — thus extending the record of this small, burrowing mammal by roughly 35 million years. The find also fills a gap of at least 87 million years in the known historical fossil record of the amphibian-like creature.

The fossil was first co-discovered by Ben Kligman, a doctoral student in the Department of Geosciences, part of the Virginia Tech College of Science, at Arizona's Petrified Forest National Park during a dig in 2019. Named by Kligman as *Funcusvermis gilmorei*, the fossil extends the history of caecilians 35 million years back to Triassic Period, roughly 250 million to 200 million years ago.

Prior to this new study, published recently in the journal *Nature*, only 10 fossil caecilian occurrences were known, dating back

to the Early Jurassic Period, about 183 million years ago. However, previous DNA studies estimated evolutionary origins of caecilians back to the Carboniferous or Permian eras, some 370 million to 270 million years ago, according to Kligman, marking that 87-million-year gap. However, no such fossils had been found.

"The discovery of the oldest caecilian fossils highlights the crucial nature of new fossil evidence. Many of the biggest outstanding

See Amphibians, page 4



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# OBITUARIES

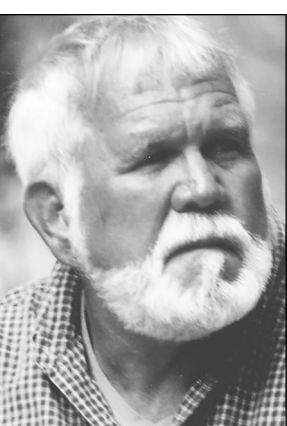
## Bennett, Jr., Charles Odell

Charles Odell Bennett, Jr., 78, of Hiwassee, passed away on Friday, Jan. 27, 2023.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Charles Odell and Delilah Boone Bennett; his sister, Phyllis Simpkins; a brother, Marshall Bennett; and his brother-in-law, Buster Bishop.

Survivors include his wife of 45 years, Peggy Bennett; children and their spouses, Teresa and Bobby Dillon, Kathy Howell and Tim Hodge, and Roger and Debbie Carroll; seven grandchildren; three

great-grandchildren; a special daughter-in-law, Pilar Carroll; brothers



and sisters-in-law, Billy and Gail Bennett, and Jerry and Kathy Bennett;

a sister, Patricia Bishop; a canine companion, Rocky; a sister-in-law, Cookie Hall; and many other relatives and friends.

The family received friends on Monday, Jan. 30, 2023, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Services followed with Pastor Michael Collins and Pastor Adam Frye officiating. Burial with full military honors followed in the Appalachian Conference Cemetery in Dublin.

The Bennett family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home and Crematory in Radford.

## Duncan, Sally Anne

Sally Anne Duncan, 81, of Christiansburg, passed away Wednesday, Jan. 25, 2023.

She retired from Hubble Lighting after 34 years of service. She was preceded in death by her father, William McKinley Sutphin; her mother, Mary Etta Spaulding Sutphin; a sister, Martha Ellen Sutphin; brothers Grover Lee Sutphin, James Edgar Sutphin, and Carl Henry Sutphin; a grandson, Michael Scott Snider; a granddaughter, Chelsea Anne Snider; a daughter, Nancy Marie Snider; and her ex-husband and best friend, Curtis McKinley

Snider, Sr.

Survivors include her children and their spouses,



Becky Loretta Akers and husband Wayne, of Riner, Patricia Mae Snider Koran and husband Gary of Roanoke, Linda Sue

Snider of Willis, Curtis McKinley Snider, Jr., of Colorado, Russell Steven Snider of Christiansburg, and Connie Anne Snider Widner and husband, Ricky, of Christiansburg; a sister, Ethel Mae Sutphin Fizer; six grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; and many other relatives and friends.

The family would like to thank the entire staff of nurses and CNA's at Carilion New River Valley Medical Center and Dr. Nicholas L. Karo MD.

Services will be private. The Duncan family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford.

## Moore, Sr., Randy Monroe

Randy Monroe Moore, Sr., 74, of Radford, passed away Thursday, Jan. 19, 2023.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Alonzo Moore and Edith Moore Mills; his wife, Laura "Cissy" Moore; a sister, Janet Moore; and a brother, Wallace "Tony" Mills.

Survivors include his sons, Randy Moore, Jr., and James Matthew Moore; stepson, Neal McClellan; a stepdaughter, Shawnea Gravelly; granddaughters Chalei Albert and Brooke Moore; numerous great-

grandchildren; brothers Danny Hamilton, Stanley



Moore, and Robert Mills; a sister, Candace Mills; and numerous nieces,

nephews, other relatives and friends.

The family sends special thanks to Duke University Medical Center for the care they provided Randy.

The family received friends on Tuesday, Jan. 31, 2023, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services followed with Pastor Danny Newman officiating. Interment followed in West View Cemetery in Radford.

The Moore family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home and Crematory in Radford.

## Wilson, Karen Hazel Monica Fowler

Karen Hazel Monica Fowler Wilson, 71, of Pulaski, passed away on Thursday, Jan. 26, 2023.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Frank Vernon and Katherine Vargo Fowler; her husband, Edwards Arnold Wilson; a daughter, Carhi Huges; brothers Rick Fowler, Raymond Fowler, William Fowler, and Russell Fowler; and her sister, Christine Williams.

Survivors include

her daughters, Dana



Guynn and Roni Trull;

grandchildren Ashley and Lee Alley, John Hughes, Ryan Melton, Kelsey Currin, and Autumn Melton; sister Peggy O'Neil; cousin Frank Kluges; and many other family members and friends.

Per her request, no services will be held at this time.

The Wilson family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home and Crematory in Radford.

## Flynn, Maria Luise

Maria Luise Flynn, 74, passed away on Saturday, Jan. 21, 2023.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Martin and Frida Ryssell; her husband, Muriel Carlile Flynn; and a sister, Astrid O'Connor.

Survivors include her sons, Antoine Flynn (Erin Powell) and Chris Flynn; grandchildren Rachel Flynn Shanklin (Derek), Raven Snidow, Helena Flynn, and

Mahogany Flynn; her



best friend, Vera Carter; nephews Mark and Evan

O'Connor; and many other relatives and friends.

Maria will be interred with her husband in the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin.

A private service for close friends and family will be held on Saturday, Feb. 4, 2023, at 3:30 p.m. at her place of business.

The Flynn family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home and Crematory in Radford.

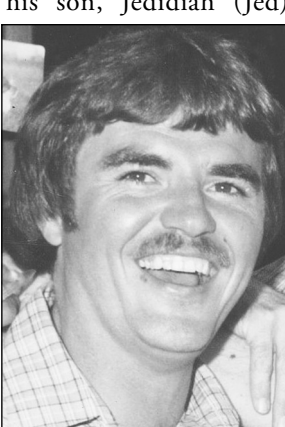
## Singleton, Raymond (Ray) L.

Raymond (Ray) L. Singleton, 72, of Pulaski, went home to be with the Lord on Wednesday, Jan. 25, 2023.

He was a member of Unity Christian Church in Radford. Ray was an avid sportsman who loved hunting, fishing, and baseball. He was preceded in death by his father, Earl G. Singleton, Sr.; his mother, Evangeline H. Singleton; and a brother, Michael A. Singleton.

He is survived by

his son, Jedidiah (Jed)



L. Singleton and wife Callie and a much

loved granddaughter, Rory; two brothers Don (Kay), and Earl, Jr.; and many other relatives and friends.

The family will gather to greet friends and share memories of Ray from 4 until 6 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 3 at Unity Christian Church.

Ray loved the outdoors, so in his honor please dress casually.

The Singleton family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home and Crematory in Radford.

## Noonkester, Michael Gibson

Michael Gibson Noonkester, loving husband, brother, father of four, and grandfather of four-and-a-half, passed away at the age of 51 on Saturday, Jan. 28, 2023.

Mike was preceded in death by his father, David Noonkester; his mother, Sandra; and an older sister, Beth.

He is survived by his

wife of 30 years, Joan; daughters Sarah, Kelcie (Pat) Aders, and Megan (Terrell) Thomas; son William Noonkester and his girlfriend Breanna May; a loving sister, Julie Bryant; a cousin, Pat Cole; and several other nieces, nephews, and cousins.

The family would like to thank everyone for the thoughts and prayers

they all provided to Mike and their family. They would especially like to express their gratitude to Intrepid Hospice and the home healthcare nurses who cared for Michael.

A celebration of Michael's life will take place on Saturday, Feb. 4, 2023, at 3 p.m. at The Prices Fork Grange, 4248 Prices Fork Road, Blacksburg.

## Jones, Carl David

Carl David Jones, 83, of Christiansburg, passed away peacefully and entered his heavenly home, on Jan. 28, 2023. Carl was born on August 13, 1939, to the late James and Gladys Jones. He was preceded in death by his wife of 56 years, Deloris "Darlene" Jones. Carl retired from Reeds Lumber Co. and

was a skilled carpenter. Carl is survived by his son, Darrell (Shelby) Jones, of Shawsville; stepson, Michael Wheeling, of Christiansburg; granddaughter, Mattie Wheeling, of Christiansburg; brother, James (Elva) Jones, of Riner; sister, Barbara (Wesley) Atkinson, of

Christiansburg; several nieces and a nephew. Visitation will be held Feb. 2, 2023, from 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. with funeral services following at McCoy Funeral Home Chapel, with Hosea Blankenship officiating. Interment will follow in Roselawn Memorial Gardens.

# Slim Randles: Home Country: Of Windy Wilson, Dud Campbell, and computers, clouds, a mouse, and apps

Wellsir ... ol' Dud did 'er again, he shore 'nuf did. This here's Alphonse Wilson, known around these parts as Windy Wilson, esquire, LTD and DDT at your service as always. Free to you and worth every blessed dime.

See ... t'other day I got into a little chat with Dud Campbell, and he says to me that I need to get me one a-them computers so I can be moderate like ever'body else. Had the nerve to just come out and say that!

Well, friend, that's when I made a big mistake. I asked him what I needed to get the ol' ball rolling and I should've shut 'er down right then. Yessir, your ol' pal Alphonse occasional makes mistakes.

Now you can dip my hat in sheep dip and paint

Mary Lou's name on the barn with it if he didn't obsolete hisself right into a foreign language!

Didn't have nothin' to write with, so here's what he said, near as I recollect: I need a cloud, he said. A cloud stores stuff. Well ... shore it does! It stores rain!

But he said, no, a cloud isn't in the computer, but floats around somewhere and you get to it by buying an app.

Wellsir, I 'splained to Dud that apps are okay, but I've always pressurized my priorities 'long Quarter horse lines. Told him them spots don't make the horse go any faster. He started wavin' his arms then, and said I get these apps with a mouse.

And he 'spects me to believe that?!!! Right!!

Had a app oncet. Nice big ol' Appaloosa he was, too. But ugly? I was tellin' Dud about him. Them apps today are pretty horses, but back when I was younger, they all looked like they needed to pull manure carts. It's a fact.

Why, this old pony I had ... I hate to admit this ... but his ol' head was the size of a door, and you could stick his butt in a bottle!

So I think I'll mebbe just use the computer down at the library for a while. Nice girl down there helps me out with it.

And you can tell 'em I said so.

-----  
Say thank you to the nice girl down at your library who helps old guys with the computer, will you?

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# Michel Sicardi from page 1

education and eventually started his own business. Then in 2018, his wife was offered a job with Volvo at their truck production plant in Dublin, VA, and the family relocated and settled in Blacksburg with their two youngest sons. At first, beginning in the new place was rough for Sicardi and his family. He didn't speak English, didn't know anyone, and for the first time in his life, he didn't have a job. He began walking in the woods near his home, initially foraging for mushrooms. "My inspiration was often in the forest where I

picked up wood and a lot of mushrooms too," he said. "No one was in the woods; it was quiet, almost paradise, but I was surprised by the American lifestyle and the pollution I saw, especially plastic bags, cups, and straws." Sicardi said that at home in France he was not as conscious about the environment in France, and not until he was living in the United States did he become conscious of the environmental damage caused by plastics, and Americans' propensity for using plastic bags.

During his walks in the woods, reflecting on his growing concerns about the earth and pollution, he began selecting wood for sculpting. All of the wood he collected was already felled or had fallen. "I started creating in wood, as it had a relation with Mother Nature, who was defending herself against us," Sicardi said. "I wish that more people were aware of the effect their actions have on nature and that we should do our best to lessen our impact." -Submitted by Janean Williams, Curator, Blacksburg Museum Cultural Foundation

# Virginia Tech from page 1

9 percent increase while Native American applications rose 14 percent. "Three record years of first-year applications continue to affirm that the transformational changes made in 2018 have made Virginia Tech a top destination for students," said Juan Espinoza, associate vice provost for enrollment management and director of undergraduate admissions. "Our innovative recruitment strategy continues to find ways to connect students to the university with a strong focus on access and affordability." In 2018, Virginia Tech put into effect changes in its admissions process including the development of a

more holistic review process and the introduction of a shared application platform, the Common Application. In addition, Virginia Tech began collecting self-reported academic information and streamlined the fee waiver application process. These changes resulted in a larger, higher quality, and more diverse pool of applicants seeking admission to Virginia Tech. Early Decision applications jumped by 17 percent for 2023. Early Decision is recommended for first-year applicants who have strong academic qualifications, select Virginia Tech as their first-choice school, and intend to enroll if admitted. "Great things are happening at Virginia Tech and

students are attracted to the impact that Virginia Tech is having," said Espinoza. "We can't wait to welcome the Class of 2027." Admission decisions for those who applied for early action will be announced in late February. Regular decision applicants will be notified in early March. Early decision applicants were notified in December. Applicants who have been accepted to Virginia Tech will have until May 1 to respond. Students seeking to transfer to Virginia Tech for the summer or fall sessions will have until March 1 to apply. For more dates and deadlines, visit the Admissions section on vt.edu.

# Building from page 1

Master Site Plan. This work included hosting a series of community stakeholder meetings and listening sessions designed to gather community feedback about the potential reuses of the Long Building and historic campus properties. The Edgar A. Long Building will rehouse the 'Christiansburg Institute Museum & Archives (CIMA), an immersive museum highlighting the 100-year story of Christiansburg Industrial Institute

and that reinvestigates the experiences of African Americans in Southwest Virginia from Slavery to Civil Rights. The building features a research center, a makerspace podcast studio, collaborative work units, leasable offices, a commercial-grade kitchen, and a large flexible community event space. The site plan includes an outdoor amphitheater, large open green spaces for events and recreational activities, memorial

gardens, and an interpretive legacy trail. CI, Inc., is a grassroots cultural heritage and historic preservation 501(c)3 nonprofit organization located in Montgomery County with a mission of education and intergenerational empowerment, and the responsible stewardship of African American history, stories, and culture in Southwest Virginia. -Submitted by Chris Sanchez, Executive Director, CI, Inc.

# Amphibians from page 1

questions in paleontology and evolution cannot be resolved without fossils like this," said Kligman, who previously discovered a 220-million-year-old species of cynodont or stem-mammal, a precursor of modern-day mammals. "Fossil caecilians are extraordinarily rare, and they are found accidentally when paleontologists are searching for the fossils of other more common animals," said Kligman. "Our discovery of one was totally unexpected, and it transformed the trajectory of my scientific interests." The discovery of the fossils was made in 2019 by Kligman and Petrified Forest National Park student intern Xavier Jenkins, now a Ph.D. student at Idaho State University, while the duo was processing fossiliferous sediment from the park's nicknamed Thunderstorm Ridge via a microscope. Fungusvermis was found in a layer of the Chinle Formation dated to approximately 220 million years ago, when Arizona was positioned near the equator at the central part of the supercontinent Pangaea, Kligman said.

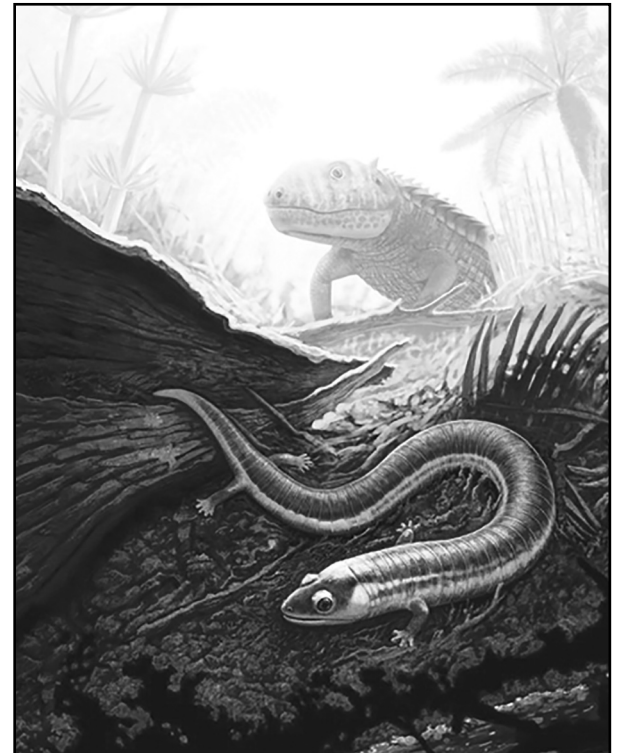


IMAGE COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE AND THE PETRIFIED FOREST MUSEUM ASSOCIATION **Artistic reconstruction of Fungusvermis gilmorei (foreground) and the crocodile relative Acaenasuchus geoffreyi (background) in the tropical forest of Petrified Forest National Park about 220 million years ago. Artwork by Andrey Atuchin.**

"Seeing the first jaw under the microscope, with its distinctive double row of teeth, sent chills down my back," Kligman said. "We immediately knew it was a caecilian, the oldest caecilian fossil ever found, and a once-in-a-lifetime discovery." Modern caecilians are limbless amphibians with cylindrical bodies with a compact, bullet-shaped skull that helps them burrow underground. Now exclusively home to South and Central America, Africa, and southern Asia, caecilians spend their lives burrowing in leaf-litter or soil searching for prey such as worms and insects. This underground existence has made studying caecilians difficult for scientists. Kligman, tongue in cheek, describes modern caecilians as an "eyeless sock puppet with the body of a worm." Now, here's the fun part: The genus name 'Fungusvermis' was inspired by the Ohio Players' 1972 song "Funky Worm" from their album Pleasure, a favorite song of the authors that was often played while excavating fossils at Thunderstorm Ridge. 'Fungus' is derived from the Latinized form of the English word Funky for the upbeat, rhythmic form of dance music, while 'vermis' is derived from the Latin word for worm. (It's an excellent song, by the way. Instant earworm, so to speak.) "As the eponymous song says, it's the funkier worm

in the world," quipped Adam Marsh, the project's lead paleontologist. "Since its discovery in 2017, the Thunderstorm Ridge site has produced a diverse assemblage of over 60 animals ranging from freshwater sharks to dinosaurs," Kligman said. "Several other new species discovered at this site have been recently described. Many other new species from this site are currently under study and will be published in upcoming years." In other words, fully expect more unspending of what paleontologists know about the history of fossils.

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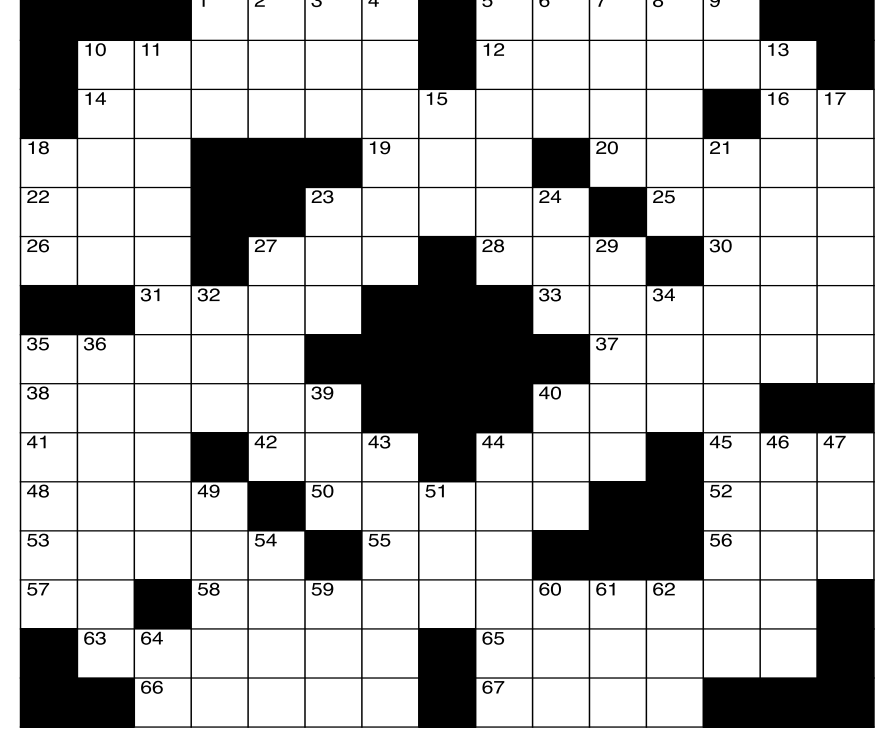
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# CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- |  |  |   |  |
|--|--|---|--|
| CLUES ACROSS                           | 37. Plate for Eucharist                                | 66. Kids' snow toys                                 | 24. A baglike structure in a plant or animal |
| 1. Shed tears                          | 38. Train line   | 67. Flip side to yin                                | 27. Small boats used in the Black Sea        |
| 5. Luxury jewelry designer             | 40. Russian pop duo                                    | CLUES DOWN  | 29. Small savory Spanish dishes              |
| 10. Goddess of wisdom                  | 41. Stake  | 1. Global public health agency                      | 32. Body part                                |
| 12. Plant by scattering                | 42. Plant by scattering                                | 2. Snake-like fish                                  | 34. Touch lightly                            |
| 14. Working-class people               | 44. Female sibling                                     | 3. Midway between north-east and east               | 35. Popular grilled foods on a stick         |
| 16. It borders Canada (abbr.)          | 45. City of Angels hoopsters (abbr.)                   | 4. Dabbed   | 36. ___ Hess: oil company                    |
| 18. A princess can detect its presence | 48. Popular cookie brand                               | 5. TV show  | 39. Antelope with a reddish coat             |
| 19. Red-brown sea bream                | 50. Group of Niger-Congo languages                     | 6. Folk singer DiFranco                             | 40. Pharaoh of Lower Egypt                   |
| 20. Defunct retail empire              | 52. A team's best pitcher                              | 7. Canadian flyers                                  | 43. Pink Floyd's Roger                       |
| 22. Vase                               | 53. Vomits   | 8. Of the dowry                                     | 44. Short and thick                          |
| 23. Demeter's equivalent               | 55. 19th letter of Greek alphabet                      | 9. Commercial                                       | 46. Small, sac-like cavities                 |
| 25. Monetary unit of the Maldives      | 56. Men's fashion accessory                            | 10. The act of imitating                            | 47. Performer ___-Lo                         |
| 26. French and Belgian river           | 57. Its capital is Pierre (abbr.)                      | 11. Equipment used to broadcast radio or TV signals | 49. Entrails of animal used as food          |
| 27. Small amount                       | 58. Expensive cut of steak                             | 13. Lands of an emir                                | 51. ___ King Cole, musician                  |
| 28. High schoolers' test               | 63. Popular James Cameron film                         | 15. Swiss river                                     | 54. Where construction is done               |
| 30. Animal's foot                      | 65. A ___ relating to knowledge gleaned from deduction | 17. Island  | 59. Chap                                     |
| 31. Some is red                        |  | 18. Monetary unit of Afghanistan                    | 60. Investment vehicle                       |
| 33. Per ___ each                       |  | 21. One who surrenders under agreed conditions      | 61. Often mixed with tonic                   |
| 35. Swedish jazz pop duo               |  | 23. Garfield is one                                 | 62. Holiday beverage egg ___                 |
|  |  |   | 64. Against                                  |

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# Marketplace



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## Legals - Botetourt County

**Affordable Mini Storage, LLC**  
1250 Lee Highway  
Roanoke, VA 24019  
Date: Saturday, February 4, 2023 Time: 10:00 a.m.  
Units: G33, D10, D06, H30, W14, J28, W48  
Cash only.  
Buyer has 24 hours to remove items from unit.  
Cody Manspile, Auctioneer, VAL# 2907004430

## ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Commonwealth of Virginia VA CODE §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316, -317, 20-104 **CASE No. CWF210000261** BOTETOURT Circuit Court 1 W. Main Street, Fincastle VA 24090 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re ARTHUR BERNHARDT HENSLEY, JR., DECEASED. The object of this suit is to: authorize the Administrator of the Estate of Arthur Bernhardt Hensley, Jr. to distribute the entire estate to the descendants of the decedent's mother. It is ORDERED that any unknown heirs, devisees, successors and assigns of Arthur Bernhardt Hensley, Jr. appear at the above named court and protect his/her interests on or before MARCH 6, 2023. January 13, 2023 TOMMY L. MOORE; CLERK

## Legals - City of Radford

### Order of Publication

VA Code Ann. §§8.01-316, -317 Commonwealth of Virginia City of Radford Circuit Court located at 619 2nd Street # 149 Radford, VA 24141 **Case no. CL22-6839 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re Estate of Charles Preston Hall, DECEASED.** The object of this suit is to: Establish a copy of a will as the true Last Will of Charles Preston Hall. It is ORDERED that any interested children/ descendants of Charles Preston Hall appear in the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before February 28, 2023 Entered: 12/20/22 by: Melissa White, Deputy Clerk

## ADVERTISE!

## Legals - Craig County

### TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 3484 DICKS CREEK RD, NEW CASTLE, VA 24127

In execution of a Deed of Trust in the original principal amount of \$107,100.00, with an annual interest rate of 4.250000% dated April 30, 2014, recorded among the land records of the Circuit Court for the County of Craig as Deed Book 192, Page 584, the undersigned appointed Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction all that property located in the County of Craig, on the courthouse steps at the front of the Circuit Court building for the County of Craig located at 182 Main Street, New Castle, Virginia on February 28, 2023 at 2:00 PM, the property with improvements to wit:  
LOT 3, BLUE HEALING SPRINGS  
Tax Map No. 66-1-3  
THIS COMMUNICATION IS FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR. TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit of 10% of the sale price, will be required in cash, certified or cashier's check. Settlement within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Trustees may forfeit deposit. Additional terms to be announced at sale. Loan type: USDA. Reference Number 21-288873. PROFESSIONAL FORECLOSURE CORPORATION OF VIRGINIA, Substitute Trustees, C/O LOGS LEGAL GROUP LLP, 10021 Balls Ford Road, Suite 200, Manassas, Virginia 20109 (703) 449-5800.

### ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 **CRAIG COMBINED COURT- JUVENILE Case No JJ002185-16-00** Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Commonwealth of Virginia, in re EVANS, JACOB LUCAS The object of this suit scheduled to be heard on February 17, 2023 in the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court for Craig County located at 182 Main Street, New Castle, Virginia 24127 is to terminate the residual parental Rights of the father of Jacob Lucas Evans thought to be either Ryan Quinlin, Mark Evans, Kevin Scott Minnix, or Unknown Father pursuant to Virginia Code Sections 16.1-283 B and C, and which child is five (5) years of age and was born to Katlin Daniel Evans. Residual parental rights are defined in Section 16.1-228 of the Code of Virginia (1950, as amended) as the rights and responsibilities remaining with a parent after the parent loses custody of a child, including but not limited to the right to visitation, consent to adoption, the right to determine religious affiliation, and the responsibility for support. The termination of your residual parental rights will permanently end all of your rights and responsibilities to the child named in the petition. The ties between you and your child are severed forever and you become a legal stranger to the child. It is ORDERED that UNKNOWN FATHER appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before 02/17/2023 10:30AM signed by Patty Taylor, Clerk 12/19/2022

### ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 **CRAIG COMBINED COURT- JUVENILE Case No JJ002184-18-00** Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Commonwealth of Virginia, in re EVANS, Mason Gray The object of this suit scheduled to be heard on February 17, 2023 in the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court for Craig County located at 182 Main Street, New Castle, Virginia 24127 is to terminate the residual parental Rights of the father of Mason Gray Evans thought to be either Ryan Quinlin, Mark Evans, James Cook, or Unknown Father pursuant to Virginia Code Sections 16.1-283 B and C, and which child is seven (7) years of age and was born

## Legals - Craig County

to Katlin Daniel Evans. Residual parental rights are defined in Section 16.1-228 of the Code of Virginia (1950, as amended) as the rights and responsibilities remaining with a parent after the parent loses custody of a child, including but not limited to the right to visitation, consent to adoption, the right to determine religious affiliation, and the responsibility for support. The termination of your residual parental rights will permanently end all of your rights and responsibilities to the child named in the petition. The ties between you and your child are severed forever and you become a legal stranger to the child. It is ORDERED that James Cook appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before 02/17/2023 10:30AM signed by Patty Taylor, clerk 12/19/2022

### ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 **CRAIG COMBINED COURT- JUVENILE Case No JJ002184-19-00** Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Commonwealth of Virginia **EVANS, Mason Gray** The object of this suit scheduled to be heard on February 17, 2023 in the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court for Craig County located at 182 Main Street, New Castle, Virginia 24127 is to terminate the residual parental Rights of the father of Mason Gray Evans thought to be either Ryan Quinlin, Mark Evans, James Cook, or Unknown Father pursuant to Virginia Code Sections 16.1-283 B and C, and which child is seven (7) years of age and was born to Katlin Daniel Evans. Residual parental rights are defined in Section 16.1-228 of the Code of Virginia (1950, as amended) as the rights and responsibilities remaining with a parent after the parent loses custody of a child, including but not limited to the right to visitation, consent to adoption, the right to determine religious affiliation, and the responsibility for support. The termination of your residual parental rights will permanently end all of your rights and responsibilities to the child named in the petition. The ties between you and your child are severed forever and you become a legal stranger to the child. It is ORDERED that UNKNOWN FATHER appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before 02/17/2023 10:30AM signed by Patty Taylor, Clerk 12/19/2022

### ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 **CRAIG COMBINED COURT- JUVENILE Case No JJ002185-16-00** Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Commonwealth of Virginia, in re EVANS, JACOB LUCAS The object of this suit scheduled to be heard on February 17, 2023 in the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court for Craig County located at 182 Main Street, New Castle, Virginia 24127 is to terminate the residual parental Rights of the father of Jacob Lucas Evans thought to be either Ryan Quinlin, Mark Evans, Kevin Scott Minnix, or Unknown Father pursuant to Virginia Code Sections 16.1-283 B and C, and which child is five (5) years of age and was born to Katlin Daniel Evans. Residual parental rights are defined in Section 16.1-228 of the Code of Virginia (1950, as amended) as the rights and responsibilities remaining with a parent after the parent loses custody of a child, including but not limited to the right to visitation, consent to adoption, the right to determine religious affiliation, and the responsibility for support. The termination of your residual parental rights will permanently end all of your rights and responsibilities to the child named in the petition. The ties between you and your child are severed forever and you become a legal stranger to the child. It is ORDERED that UNKNOWN FATHER appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before 02/17/2023 10:30AM signed by Patty Taylor, Clerk 12/19/2022

## Legals - Montgomery County

### TRUSTEE'S SALE OF PROPERTY

3692 Alleghany Spring Road, Shawsville, VA 24162 Tax Map No. 112- A 58C, Parcel No. 140170 In execution of a Deed of Trust dated April 26, 2007, in the principal amount of \$123,731.30, recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Montgomery County, Virginia, of record as Instrument Number 2007004988 and corrected in Instrument Number 2011007896, Woods Rogers Vandeventer Black PLC, Trustee, will offer for sale at public auction outside the main entrance of the Montgomery County Circuit Court, 55 East Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073, on February 9, 2022 at 12:00 noon, the property described in said Deed of Trust lying in Montgomery County, Virginia, and more particularly described as follows:  
All that certain tract or parcel of land, with all improvements thereon and appurtenances belonging, lying in the Shawsville Magisterial District of Montgomery County, Virginia, being more particularly described as New Tract A1, containing 2.478 Acres, as shown on that certain plat entitled, "PARTIAL SURVEY AND MINOR SUBDIVISION FOR JONATHAN D. LINKOUS SHOWING THE RESUBDIVISION OF NEW TRACT "A" (3.518 Ac.) AND CREATING NEW TRACT A1 (1.040 Ac.) AND NEW TRACT A2 (2.478 Ac.)

## Legals - Montgomery County

SITUATE ON ALLEGHANY SPRINGS ROAD," dated February 25, 2007, Job No. 1847, prepared by David A. Perfater of DOC Land Surveying, LLC, which plat is recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court, Montgomery County, Virginia, in Plat Book 27, page 78. TOGETHER WITH New 40' Ingress/Egress Easement as shown on the above mentioned survey of record in Plat Book 27, page 78. Pursuant to Section 8.9A-604 of the Virginia Code, a 2007 Oakwood Manufactured Home, Serial No. RIC241988NCAB will be sold with the real property. TERMS: Cash – Bidder's deposit of ten percent (10%) of the sales price by cashier's or certified check may be required. Balance of purchase price shall be due and payable not later than ten (10) days after sale. **WOODS ROGERS VANDEVENTER BLACK PLC, Trustee**  
For Information Contact: Woods Rogers Vandeventer Black PLC, P.O. Box 14125, Roanoke, VA 24038-4125, Telephone: 540-983-7729

### Public Notice

Under Provisions of Article 55.1-2902 of the Lien Law of the State of Virginia, Bolt Storage LLC, (814) 983-0099, will sell the personal property stored by the following tenants. Three occupants at 1579 Depot St. NE Christiansburg, VA 24073: Charles Estep-B3; Blair Deskins-D16; Justin Golden-A23. Five occupants at 2860 Roanoke St. Christiansburg, VA 24073: Charles Estep-23B, Adam Goodall III-52B, Elizabeth Palmer-47B, Jennifer Crawford-45F, Mindy Nance-63B. Payment from the buyer will be taken by credit or debit card only. Auction will be held online through storagetreasures.com with open bidding starting on Friday, February 10, 2023 at 8:00 am. Bolt Storage LLC reserves the right to bid at the sale; refuse any or all bids, and to cancel the auction at any time for any reason. To settle this claim please call (866) 300-2658.

## City of Salem

### ORDER OF PUBLICATION

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA VA CODE §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316, 20-104 **CASE No. CL23-40** ROANOKE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT 305 E. MAIN STREET, SALEM, VA 24153 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re CHLOE GRACE DUNN v. The object of this suit is to: change the minor's name. It is ORDERED that MICHAEL MATTHEW DUNN appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before March 14, 2023 @2:30pm. JANUARY 11, 2023 STEVEN A. MCGRAW, clerk

### Public Notice – Environmental Permit

PURPOSE OF NOTICE: To seek public comment on a draft permit from the Department of Environmental Quality that will allow the continued release of treated wastewater into a water body in Roanoke County, Virginia. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: January 19, 2023 to February 18, 2023 PERMIT NAME: Virginia Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit – Wastewater issued by DEQ pursuant to applicable water laws and regulations APPLICANT NAME, ADDRESS AND PERMIT NUMBER: Roanoke Moose Lodge #284, PO Box 538, Salem, VA 24153; VA0077895 FACILITY

## City of Salem

NAME AND LOCATION: Roanoke Moose Lodge #284 STP; 3233 Catawba Valley Drive, Roanoke County. PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Roanoke Moose Lodge #284 has applied for issuance of a permit for the private Roanoke Moose Lodge #284 STP. The applicant proposes to release treated sewage wastewaters from the Lodge at a maximum rate of four-thousand seven-hundred gallons-per-day into a water body. Septage from the treatment process septic tank will be disposed by transfer and further treatment at the Roanoke Regional Water Pollution Control Plant. The facility proposes to release the treated wastewaters in Masons Creek in Roanoke County in the Roanoke River watershed. A watershed is the land area drained by a river and its incoming streams. The permit will limit the following pollutants to amounts that protect water quality: physical and chemical properties, nutrients, organic matter, solids, and bacteria. HOW TO COMMENT AND/OR REQUEST A PUBLIC HEARING: DEQ accepts comments and requests for public hearing on the draft permit by hand-delivery, e-mail, fax or postal mail. All comments and requests must be in writing and be received by DEQ during the comment period. DEQ must receive hand-delivery and postal mail by close of business and email and fax comments by 11:59 p.m. on the last day of the comment period. Submittals must include the names, mailing addresses or email addresses of the commenter/requester and of all persons represented by the commenter/requester. A request for public hearing must also include: 1) The reason why a public hearing is requested. 2) A brief, informal statement regarding the nature and extent of the interest of the requester or of those represented by the requestor, including how and to what extent such interest would be directly and adversely affected by the permit. 3) Specific references, where possible, to terms and conditions of the permit with suggested revisions. A public hearing may be held, including another comment period, if public response is significant, based on individual requests for a public hearing, and there are substantial, disputed issues relevant to the permit. CONTACT FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS, DOCUMENT REQUESTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Susan Edwards; Blue Ridge Regional Office, 901 Russell Drive, Salem, VA 24153-3068; Phone: (540)795-9749; E-mail: Susan.Edwards@deq.virginia.gov; Fax: (540)689-4178. The public may review the draft permit and application at the DEQ office named above by appointment or may request copies of the documents from the contact person listed above.

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# Local college students graduate, achieve academic honors

## Blacksburg student earns PhD at University of Alabama

Marcos Mason of Blacksburg has received his Doctor of Philosophy degree (PhD) from The University of Alabama during commencement exercises on Dec. 10, 2022

The University of Alabama is the state's flagship university. UA shapes a better world through its teaching, research, and service. With a global reputation for excellence, UA provides an inclusive, forward-thinking environment and nearly 200 degree programs. A leader in cutting-edge research, UA advances discovery, creative inquiry, and knowledge through more than 30 research centers. As the state's largest higher education institution, UA drives economic growth in Alabama and beyond.

## Riner student earns president's list honors at Freed-Hardeman

Jessica Musselman of Riner was named to the President's List for the Fall 2022 semester. She is earning a Bachelor of Science in degree in biochemistry.

To be on the President's List, a student must

be full-time and have a 4.0 grade point average. Students on the Dean's List have earned a minimum 3.4 grade point average for the semester.

The mission of Freed-Hardeman University is to help students develop their God-given talents for His glory by empowering them with an education.

## Christiansburg student earns masters degree from Maryland Global Campus

Joslyne Le Blanc of Christiansburg earned a master of science in cybersecurity technology from the University of Maryland Global Campus in fall 2022.

Le Blanc was one of more than 7,600 students worldwide who earned degrees from UMGC in the fall. Graduates came from all 50 states, five U.S. territories, and 18 countries.

Celebrating its 75th anniversary, the University of Maryland Global Campus (UMGC) was established in 1947 to serve adults in the workforce. Today, UMGC enrolls some 90,000 students annually, offering bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degree programs, as well as certificates in more than 125 fully online, hybrid, and face-to-face programs and

specializations.

## BHS grads earn academic honors at Clemson, Wake Forest

Blacksburg High School graduate Paul Duncan was named to the President's List for the Fall 2022 semester at Clemson University. He is a sophomore in the Clemson University Honors College seeking a Bachelor of Arts degree in architecture. The Presidents List is one of the most prestigious honors a student can earn. It is awarded to those who achieve a 4.0 grade point average on a minimum of 12 semester hours.

Also, BHS graduate Georgia-Kathryn Duncan received academic honors at Wake Forest University by being named to the dean's list for the Fall 2022 semester. She is a sophomore at Wake Forest pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in communications and art history. Students who achieved at least a 3.4 grade-point-average were named to the list.

Paul and Georgia-Kathryn are the son-in-law and daughter of Edith-Anne and David Duncan of Blacksburg. They graduated from Blacksburg High School in 2021.

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# MONTGOMERY SPORTS

## Tech women's basketball player out for blood

Jimmy Robertson

VT Athletics

When it comes to basketball, Ashley Owusu never has been afraid to roll up her sleeves and get to work.

But these days, the Virginia Tech women's basketball standout is encouraging teammates, students, friends, and those in the local community to roll up their sleeves for a different and more important reason.

Owusu serves as an ambassador for the American Red Cross, an organization primarily known for collecting blood to be used in medical facilities throughout the world. January is National Blood Donation Month, and Owusu is using her platform as a college athlete to share her story in a video promoting the importance of giving blood.

"I've always known what the Red Cross was about — donating blood — but I never really knew how much of an impact blood donors can have and how important it is," Owusu said. "So I thought it was pretty cool, especially with the story."

"The story" took place last year when Owusu competed as a women's basketball player at the University of Maryland before transferring to Virginia Tech. Toward the end of the season, she felt poorly and extremely fatigued.

Maryland participated in the NCAA Women's Tournament last March and played Stanford in a Sweet 16 matchup in Spokane, Washington. The team left several days in advance of the game, and while there, Owusu's symptoms grew worse.

"I started feeling sick, was sleeping a lot, wasn't really eating, and then after we lost to Stanford, I got home, and I was feeling a lot worse," Owusu said. "I was super sick, had a temperature, wasn't eating, my throat was swollen, and my parents took me to the hospital."

The doctors ultimately diagnosed her with mononucleosis, a virus that often leads to extreme fatigue. Tests revealed Owusu's hemoglobin levels (iron) in her blood to be dangerously low, and doctors ordered a blood transfusion.

Usually one blood transfusion takes care of iron-deficiency anemia, a condition in which blood lacks the healthy red cells needed to carry oxygen throughout the body. Owusu's iron levels fell so low that she needed eight transfusions.

The Woodbridge, Va., native, who transferred to Virginia Tech over the summer and is pursuing a degree in religion and culture, is convinced that the blood transfusions saved her life. That motivated her to get involved with the American Red Cross.

"I always knew what it was, but I never really looked into it, never really donated blood," Owusu said. "Once that [her sickness] happened, I just got more serious about it. During that time, my aunt had actually told me there was a shortage of blood donations, so I thought it'd be pretty cool to try to shine some light on it."

A camera crew came to Blacksburg to get video of Owusu and to capture her story as to why she wanted to be an ambassador for the American Red Cross.



PHOTO BY LEE FRIESLAND FOR VIRGINIA TECH.

**Ashley Owusu needed blood transfusions to overcome an illness last spring, and now she's using her platform as a college athlete to encourage others to donate blood to the American Red Cross.**

Owusu, her parents, and the person who handles her name, image, and likeness (NIL) opportunities — NIL is a policy that allows college athletes to make money off sponsorships without repercussions from the NCAA — reached out to the American Red Cross about helping with the organization's promotional efforts.

Organization officials listened to her story and were eager for her help. They put together a story about Owusu for the Red Cross website and a video about her for its YouTube channel.

"The stories of why blood donation is so important for people like Ashley are the reasons why people choose to donate," said Jonathan McNamara, communications director for the American Red Cross of Virginia. "Her willingness to share her story and to be a public advocate on this topic is vital to our being able to reach new donors and hopefully inspire them to roll up their sleeves and give. It's incredibly helpful to the organization and something we're grateful for, both the opportunity we had to work with her and hopefully the opportunities we'll have to work with her in the future."

Both sides hope to continue the relationship. A former All-American at Maryland, Owusu already brings name recognition to the topic with her status as a college athlete. That name recognition could expand if she plays professional basketball in the WNBA, which, in turn, could benefit the American Red Cross.

"The more she has her name out there in the

community, the more potential she has of expanding her audience," McNamara said. "And we're always grateful to introduce our story to audiences not only throughout Virginia, but across the country. Ashley's role in that is one that we see as very important in the months and years to come."

For now, Owusu's focus remains more local as she spotlights the American Red Cross's efforts to the Virginia Tech community. College populations tend to give blood more frequently, and Virginia Tech always has been involved with the organization's efforts, hosting blood drives throughout the academic year.

Owusu wants to see those efforts continue. Her message to students is simple.

"Just look into it," Owusu said. "I know some people may have a fear of seeing blood and stuff like that, but I think donating blood is a lot more important than we might think," she said. "And I think it can save people's lives in an instance. So just look into it and take it seriously."

Owusu said she will help in any way possible, though she won't be participating in National Blood Donation Month. Tech's sports medicine staff wants her to wait until after the basketball season. Her past medical history and the basketball team's combination of practices and games lead all parties to be cautious.

Owusu understands that and accepts it. She said she will wait until after the season.

At that point, she'll be more than ready to roll up her sleeves for her passionate cause.

## Tech announces seven transfers, date and time for spring game



PHOTO COURTESY OF VT ATHLETICS

**The Hokies have announced the transfer of seven players into the football program: (top row, left to right) long snapper Griffin Armstrong, defensive back Derrick Canteen, quarterback Kyron Drones, (bottom row, left to right) wide receivers Da'Quan Felton, Ali Jennings, and Jaylin Lane, and running back Bhayshul Tuten.**

Virginia Tech football head coach Brent Pry announced Saturday that the team has added seven transfers into the program: long snapper Griffin Armstrong, defensive back Derrick Canteen, quarterback Kyron Drones, wide receivers Da'Quan Felton, Ali Jennings, and Jaylin Lane, and running back Bhayshul Tuten.

Long snapper Griffin Armstrong spent two seasons at Louisiana Tech, redshirting in 2021, before playing in all 12 games in 2022. He was named to the Conference USA Commissioner's Honor Roll in 2022. He was born in Fairbanks, Alaska, as a member of a military family, before living in Valencia, Spain, and eventually South Korea where he graduated from Osan American High School. He played rugby throughout middle school and high school.

Defensive back Derrick Canteen joins the Tech program from Georgia Southern where he played in 30 career games, making 25 starts. Over the course of the past three seasons, Canteen recorded 117 tackles, including 2.5 for loss and one sack. He also had seven interceptions, 22 passes defended, one fumble recovery, and one touchdown.

In 2020, Canteen started all 13 games, recording 48 tackles and tying the FBS lead with six interceptions. He was named a Freshman All-American by the Football Writers Association of America and The Athletic. He was also a first-team All-Sun Belt Conference selection. After playing in just two games the previous season

because of an injury, Canteen returned in 2022, making 64 tackles and finishing with 12 passes defended and one interception.

He played at Evans High School in Evans, Georgia, and ranked as the No. 268 cornerback in the country and the No. 207 player in Georgia by 247Sports. A first-team all-region selection and the Athlete of the Year for the 3-A region, Canteen was named the county's defensive player of the year after recording 61 tackles, two interceptions and eight pass breakups as a senior on defense to go along with 14 catches for 473 yards and four touchdowns, averaging 43 yards per catch. He was selected for the Sixth Annual Border Bowl.

Quarterback Kyron Drones arrives in Blacksburg following two seasons at Baylor. As a redshirt freshman in 2022, he played in five games off the bench as a reserve quarterback. Drones was 14-of-23 passing with a touchdown and 219 yards. He threw one interception and rushed eight times for 49 yards and two touchdowns. He rushed for a nine-yard touchdown and was 5-of-7 for 100 yards in his collegiate debut in the season opener vs. UAlbany.

Drones was pressed into service early in the third quarter at West Virginia after an injury to quarterback Blake Shapen. He completed 7 of 14 passes for 95 yards and a touchdown and rushed twice for 24 yards, including a career-long of 17 yards. He appeared in

two games as a freshman in 2021 before redshirting. Drones was a member of the 2022 Second-Team Academic All-Big 12 team and was named to the Big 12 Commissioner's Honor Roll.

Drones prepped at Shadow Creek High School in Pearland, Texas, where he passed for 1,239 yards and 16 touchdowns as a senior in six games while rushing for 228 yards and two scores helping his team to the 2019 UIL state championship and a 16-0 record. He earned Offensive MVP honors in the championship game and was named as the 10-5A Overall MVP as well as a Third-Team All-State selection. Drones was rated four stars by 247 Sports, the No.-7 dual-threat quarterback, the No. 20 player in Texas, and No. 125 nationally. He was the No.-10 dual-threat quarterback, earning a four-star rating from ESPN and was ranked No. 60 overall in Texas. He had a three-star rating by Rivals, which ranked him the No. 45 player in Texas and the No. 15 dual-threat quarterback. Drones also played basketball.

Wide receiver Da'Quan Felton comes to Tech from Norfolk State. He appeared in all 11 games and started six times as a redshirt freshman in 2022. He ranked second on the team with 28 catches for 492 yards with two touchdowns. He ranked seventh in the MEAC in receiving yards per game and 10th in receptions.

His best outing with the Spartans came at South Carolina State where he racked up nine catches for 163 yards and three touchdowns, all career highs.

The Portsmouth, Va., product played at Churchland High School, garnering first-team All-Region 4A honors as a senior. Felton caught 43 passes for 741 yards and 10 touchdowns while helping the Truckers advance to the regional playoffs.

Wide receiver Ali Jennings comes to the Hokies from Old Dominion where he made the All-Sun Belt first team and earned Phil Steele All-American honors in 2022. He led the team with 54 receptions for 959 yards and nine touchdowns and ranked third in the country, tops in the Sun Belt with 106.6 yards per game. His nine touchdowns led the conference. Jennings had five 100-yard receiving games and a stretch of seven straight games catching a touchdown pass.

In 2021, Jennings earned Conference USA Honorable Mention accolades after starting all 13 games at wide receiver. He finished second on the team with 62 receptions and led the squad with 1,066 receiving yards.

The Richmond product spent two seasons at West Virginia following a standout career at Highland Springs High School where he earned VHSL All-State First Team, All-Richmond Metro Area First Team, and All-Class 5A (Region B) First Team Offense honors as a senior. Jennings helped lead Highland Springs to a perfect 15-0 record and the 2018 VHSL Group 5A State Championship and was selected to the North roster of the 2018 Virginia Big River Rivalry All-Star

# Transfer from page 7

Game. He was rated as a three-star prospect by ESPN, Rivals and 247Sports. Rivals also ranked him as the No. 19 player in the state of Virginia., ESPN ranked him No. 28, and 247 Sports had him at No. 29. He was rated the No. 78 receiver in the nation by Rivals.

Wide receiver Jaylin Lane (WR, 5-8, 183) joins the Hokies from Middle Tennessee where he made the All-Conference USA second team as a punt returner and earned honorable mention as both a receiver and kick returner in 2022. Lane had 69 catches for 940 yards and five touchdowns as a third-year sophomore this past season. He averaged 8.4 yards on 18 punt returns and 23.1 yards on 11 kick returns. Lane had 10 catches for 110 yards and one touchdown in the team's Hawaii Bowl win over San Diego State last month. In 2021, he made the All-Conference USA first team as a punt

returner.

Lane was rated a three-star recruit by 247 Sports out of Clover High School in Clover, SC, where he was a team captain and also lettered in basketball and track. He earned all-state and all-region honors in football and owns every receiving record at the school. As a senior, he caught 76 passes for 1,611 yards and 30 touchdowns, including a 14-catch, 281-yard performance with four touchdowns in the state playoffs versus top-ranked Dorman.

Running back Bhayshul Tuten comes to Blacksburg from North Carolina A&T where he rushed for 1,363 yards and 13 touchdowns on 208 carries as a sophomore last fall. His rushing performance was the fifth-best single-season rushing performance in school history. He also broke the school and conference records for

consecutive 100-yard games in a season while adding 31 catches. He earned FCS third-team All-America honors, as well as All-Big South first-team honors.

The Paulsboro, New Jersey product played high school football at Paulsboro High School, finishing his career with 3,768 yards rushing and 77 touchdowns on 429 carries for an average of 8.8 yards per carry. He also caught 35 passes for 437 yards (12.5 ypg) and hauled in seven touchdowns. Tuten made the Phil Simms North/South All-Star Game and was named the Jersey Times Offensive Player of the Year in 2020. He ran the eighth-fastest 60-meter time in South Jersey history in 2021 at 7.03.

Virginia Tech has also announced that the 2023 football spring game will take place on Saturday, April 15. Kickoff is set for 3 p.m. in Lane Stadium.

# East Montgomery Lady Mustangs defeat Auburn 38-32



COURTESY PHOTO  
Senior Lilly Underwood scored 25 points in the Lady Mustangs' defeat Wednesday of the Auburn High Eagles.



COURTESY PHOTO  
Mustang senior Maddie Bruce chipped in with nine points in the defeat of Auburn. With the win, the Lady Mustangs improved to 17-2 for the season.

# Traylor scores 25 points in Virginia Tech's 72-60 victory over Virginia

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. — Kayana Traylor scored 25 points to lead the Virginia Tech women's basketball team past the Virginia Cavaliers 72-60 on the road Sunday.

The Hokies (17-4, 7-4 ACC) had two players score in double figures, led by Traylor, who had 25 points and two steals. Elizabeth Kitley added 16 points, seven rebounds, and four blocks and Georgia Amoore added nine points and five assists.

Virginia Tech collected 32 rebounds in Sunday's game compared to Virginia's 29, led by Kitley's seven boards.

Virginia Tech did a great job disrupting Virginia shots in the contest, coming away with six blocks. Kitley's four rejections led the way individually for the Hokies.

### How It Happened

After falling behind 5-0, Virginia Tech went on a 12-0 run with 8:18 left in the first quarter, culminating in a three from Cayla King, to take a 12-5 lead. The Hokies then added six points to that lead by the end of the period and entered the

quarter break with a 26-13 advantage. The Hokies capitalized on five Virginia turnovers in the period, turning them into eight points on the other end of the floor.

The Hokies maintained their lead in the game's second frame and entered halftime with a 37-31 edge. Virginia Tech dominated in the paint, scoring eight of its 11 points close to the basket.

Tech wasted no time building on its lead, going on a 5-0 run to expand its lead further to 42-31 with 8:08 to go in the third. Before the conclusion of the third period, the Cavaliers had cut into that lead somewhat, but the Hokies still entered the fourth quarter with a 48-41 edge. Virginia Tech played well near the basket, scoring six of its 11 points in the paint.

The Hokies kept their lead intact before going on an 8-0 run to grow the lead to 68-55 with 1:57 to go in the contest. The Cavaliers narrowed the margin somewhat before the game was over, but the Hokies cruised the rest of the way for the 72-60 win. Virginia Tech pulled down two offensive

rebounds to score five second chance points out of 24 total in the period.

### Game Notes

» The Hokies shot well from three-point range, knocking down six of 15 long-range attempts.

» Tech never trailed after taking a 26-13 first-quarter lead.

» The Hokies shared the ball well, recording an assist on 70 percent of made field goals.

» Virginia Tech had a 32-29 edge on the boards in the win.

» The Virginia Tech defense forced 13 turnovers.

» The Hokies were active in affecting shots on the defensive end, recording six blocks as a team.

» Virginia Tech got a game-high seven rebounds from Elizabeth Kitley.

The win gives the Hokies a half of a point in the Commonwealth Clash, presented by Smithfield. The score for the Commonwealth Clash currently is 1.5.-5.0 in favor of Virginia.

Up next, the Hokies will play host to Syracuse on Thursday, Feb. 2 at 7 p.m.

# NRCC offering free health screenings

New River Community College practical nursing students will hold a Love Your Health event on Wednesday, February 15 and Friday, February 17.

Love Your Health is an event where anyone can stop by several free health stations run by NRCC practical nursing

students for health information, educational games for kids, vitals checks, and Covid-19 vaccine administration. The event will be from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Uptown Christiansburg Mall, near NRCC's location.

For more information

about the Love Your Health event, contact Misty Rice, associate professor of nursing, at [mrice@nr.edu](mailto:mrice@nr.edu) or (540) 674-3600, ext. 4349.

Submitted by Kelly Kaiser, Public Relations Assistant; New River Community College

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