

# News Journal

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## Additional development coming to 177 corridor

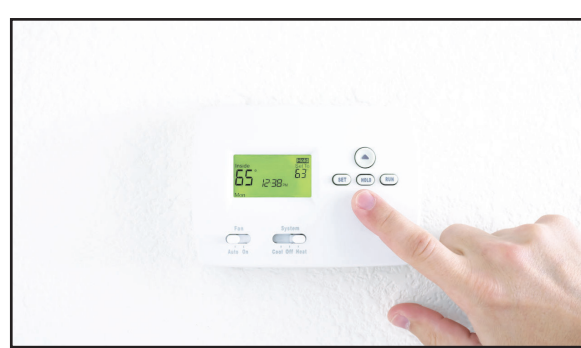
**Marty Gordon**  
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

A hotel, restaurant and convenience store are being planned for a section of the 177 corridor near Carilion New River Valley Hospital. This past week, the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors reviewed a conditional change in zoning from agriculture to general business for an extended stay hotel. The corridor includes a diamond interchange with I-81, southeast of Radford. The road continues south as SR 600 (Tyler Road) past Carilion New River Valley Medical Center.

SR 177 heads northwest as Tyler Road, a four-lane divided highway. Most recently a new gas station opened near the Vintage Virginia antique mall. Food City grocery opened at the edge of the corridor near Rock Road, and additional development has been rumored for in and around that location. The new businesses would be located off Meadow Creek Road. A 177 corridor agreement dates to 1993 when a three-judge circuit court panel approved the plan between Radford and Montgomery County.

The corridor pact outlines cooperation between the city and the county in developing the 6.2-square-mile area of the county straddling Virginia 177, which joins Tyler Avenue and connects Radford with Interstate 81. NRV Carilion medical center was the first development on the corridor. The recent discussion with Montgomery County would allow for a convenience store directly to the left of the hospital with an

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LOCAL EXPERTS' TIPS FOR KEEPING WARM WITHOUT RAISING YOUR BILLS

## Local experts' tips for keeping warm without raising your bills

Cranking up your heat on a cold winter's night could end up putting a chill on your bank account.

People across the U.S. are paying, on average, almost 10 percent more on utility bills than they did last winter. Why? In the Commonwealth, regulators approved gas and electric rate hikes to cover grid upgrades for the expansion of data centers in the state.

"Northern Virginia has the highest concentration of data centers in the world," said Virginia Tech electrical engineering expert Saifur Rahman. "To serve the growing power load, Dominion Energy needs to bring electricity from somewhere else, which needs new transmission lines."

As winter weather ramps up and demand spikes, Rahman and fellow expert Scott Dunning offered tips for lowering your energy bills while keeping warm.

### Turn the temperature down

"If your home is heated and cooled by a heat pump, consider setting your thermostat cooler in the winter to 68 degrees Fahrenheit," said Rahman.

### Turn on the fan

"Ceiling fans can help distribute our air more effectively, so run your ceiling fans

at a comfortable speed, clockwise to draw heat from the ceiling," Dunning said.

### Reduce the load

"When was the last time you wiped down your refrigerator condenser coils? You should do that twice a year with dust rags or a vacuum cleaner," said Dunning. "Dust on the coils acts like insulation, making the refrigerator work harder and shortening its life."

### Monitor your water

"Lower your water heater temperature to 120 degrees Fahrenheit. Many people run higher temperatures than necessary. Run full loads in washers and dishwashers and take shorter showers to reduce hot water consumption. Wash your clothes in cold or warm water instead of hot," said Dunning.

### Audit your energy

"For future energy savings, consider having a professional energy audit," said Dunning. "Utilities offer rebates to help customers reduce their load. For example, Dominion Energy offers a home energy assessment program and provides you with rebates on energy-efficiency upgrades for thermostats, air purifiers, bathroom vent fans, dehumidifiers, etc."

Virginia Tech

## Snow blankets New River Valley once again



PHOTO BY VIRI BELL

A Dark-eyed Junco holds a sunflower seed in its beak on the snowy ground on Sunday. Last weekend's storm continued the closing of area schools, which were not in session for the entirety of last week and into his week.



PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING

Saturday's snow collects on a holly bush. The New River Valley got several inches of snow over the weekend. The weekend weather exacerbated the effects of the previous weekend's storm, which brought a mixture of snow and ice.

## Glencoe Mansion hosts art show by The Radford Photo Club

RADFORD — The Glencoe Mansion Museum & Gallery will open a new art show of photographs by members of The Radford Photo Club. The show will be on display February 5 through February 28. There will be an opening reception Thursday, February 5, from 5 to 6:30PM.

The Radford Photo Club is made up of professional and amateur photographers from throughout the New River



PHOTO COURTESY OF GLENCOE MANSION

The work of the Radford Photo Club will be on display at Glencoe Mansion Feb. 5 – 28 with an opening reception Feb. 5.

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## Campus Kitchen feeds the New River Valley, aligning surplus with need

Radford-Fairlawn Daily Bread board member Izzy Largen making an impact



PHOTO BY MAX CATALANO FOR VIRGINIA TECH

Izzy Largen (at right), assistant director for food access initiatives, loads a box of food into a van for the Campus Kitchen program.

Every day, thousands of students eat thousands of meals across Virginia Tech's dining centers. As with all restaurants, there are often leftovers —

but thanks to Campus Kitchen, those leftovers feed the community

See Kitchen, page 2



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# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Thursday, Feb. 5:

### American Legion meeting

The American Legion, Harvey Howe Carper Post 30 will meet at 6p.m. at the VFW Post Home on 102 Watts St. in Radford. If Radford City Public Schools are closed on Thursday or Friday of this week due to weather, the meeting is cancelled. For further information, please call 540-250-2283 or 540-239-9864.

## Friday, Feb. 6:

### Friday Forum with VTWC

The Virginia Tech Women's Club (VTWC) will host Dr. Nancy Metz at the First Friday Forum. Her talk will be "Dickens in America, 1842: A Haunting." Metz is a Professor Emerita in the Department of English at Virginia Tech. In 1842, Charles Dickens visited America. He was confronted by justice issues everywhere and grew to question his youthful idealism. Metz has published extensively on how the American experience impacted Dickens. Friday Forums welcome the community to come to the Fellowship Hall at the Lutheran Memorial Church, 500 Prices Fork Rd., Blacksburg. Event begins at 10 a.m., but come a little earlier to enjoy coffee, treats, and conversation. The event is free.

## Friday, Feb. 6 and Saturday, Feb. 7:

### Book Sale

Book sale at the Radford Public Library, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Among the selection will be many teen and YA fantasy and science fiction books. Come and support the Radford Library and get many good deals.

## Saturday, Feb. 7:

### Mount Tabor Ruritan Biscuit Breakfast

Mount Tabor Ruritan Club will be serving up hot biscuits topped with delicious sausage gravy or with the latest batch of our "world-famous" apple butter, 8 - 10 a.m. We will also have scrambled eggs, juice and coffee. Breakfast will be served in the Fellowship Hall of Slusser's Chapel, 1543 Mount Tabor Rd, Blacksburg, below the sanctuary, on the lower church parking lot level. This is a fundraiser for the club to help serve the community,

## Kitchen

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instead of becoming waste or compost. Campus Kitchen, a VT Engage program, relies on student volunteers to divert food from dining centers to food pantries across the New River Valley. Three times a week, staff and volunteers load a cargo van with quality, unserved food and deliver it to community food access organizations. To date, Campus Kitchen has diverted over 263,000 pounds of unserved food to Virginians in need, with 11,000 pounds diverted in the first 12 weeks of the fall 2025 semester alone.

"It's such a simple design in terms of the system, but it's so impactful," said Izzy Largen, assistant director for food access initiatives. "It's hard not to feel good about what you do. Dining is so happy, partners are so happy, and the environment is really happy."

Campus Kitchen has operated since 2015 and has a staff of two: Largen and a graduate student assistant — currently Olivia Vowell. Dining Services is a vital partner, as employees carefully prepare, package, store, and manage food designated for donation, following strict health and safety standards at every stage of the process. The program relies on the help of 16 scheduled student volunteers for pick up and drop off, plus additional staff and student volunteers to help before holiday breaks.

"From a student perspective, it's really fulfilling to volunteer," said Vowell. "You can see the effects of your work almost immediately. You see the quantities of food you're preventing from turning into waste, and it's extremely helpful for local pantries."

Lester Schonberger, associate Extension specialist in the Department of Food Science and Technology, was the first graduate assistant for the Campus Kitchen program from 2016-19. His experience with the program was formative.

"It inspired the focus of my entire dissertation, studying the intersections of food recovery and donation and food safety," he said. "It also gave me a greater appreciation of the larger systems that influence addressing community identified needs, which has been extremely useful in my current role."

In recent years, he said, the program has

and donations will be accepted for the breakfast. More information at <https://fb.com/MtTaborRuritan>.

### Blacksburg Farmers Market

At Market Square Park, 100 Draper Rd SW, Blacksburg; 10 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 [blacksburgfarmersmarket.com](https://blacksburgfarmersmarket.com).

### Music of the Civil War

At the Alexander Black House, 204 Draper Rd., Blacksburg, 1 p.m. Musician and historian Geoff White will perform songs written and played during the Civil War, sharing their stories and historical significance along with way. Event is free and open to the public.

## Monday, Feb. 9:

### Montgomery County Board of Supervisors meeting

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

### Radford City Council meeting

The Radford City Council will hold its regularly scheduled meeting at 7 p.m. in council chambers at the Radford Municipal Building, 10 Robertson St., Radford. Citizens are invited to attend and allowed to speak at each meeting. See the agenda at [www.radfordva.gov](https://www.radfordva.gov).

## Tuesday, Feb. 10:

### Blacksburg Town Council meeting

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

### Christiansburg Town Council meeting

At 7 p.m. at Town Hall, 100 E. Main St., Christiansburg. This is a regular meeting of town council. The meeting will be live streamed to the Town's YouTube page at [www.christiansburg.org/YouTube](https://www.christiansburg.org/YouTube). Please copy and paste the URL into your browser and be sure

to become more streamlined and effective, distributing more food to more partners and reaching more people. Largen credits improved communication and a shared commitment to sustainability with helping Campus Kitchen and dining streamline their work.

"I'm really proud of the relationship between dining and Campus Kitchen," said Largen. "We're at a point now where we're so in sync that the process takes care of itself."

Emily Williams, assistant director of sustainability for dining and housing, handles ongoing coordination between Dining Services and Campus Kitchen. Her role includes working closely with Largen and Vowell to prepare for each semester, communicating pick-up schedules, and supporting dining units when questions arise.

"Through consistent communication and collaboration, the partnership has grown into a well-organized, reliable process — one that staff is proud of and excited to continue," said Williams.

Campus Kitchen currently serves six community partners across the New River Valley, including Agape, a community service organization based in Christiansburg. Agape offers a range of support services including food access, and it is one of Campus Kitchen's oldest partners.

"If someone shows up at Agape and can show that they live in the New River Valley, we will give them food," said David McEwen, food pantry manager at Agape. "We also take care of diaper needs, clothing needs, and mentoring as well. We provide a safe place, and Campus Kitchen makes that possible, because if the food is all handled, then we can focus on other stuff."

McEwen said Campus Kitchen's regular supply of high quality, ready-made meals from dining centers makes it easier to serve community members, as many food pantry donations are individual food items, such as sliced bread and canned goods.

"Campus Kitchen is on a different level of what they provide," he said.

An easy way to make a difference Ruthie Buehrer, a senior studying environmental policy and planning, has volunteered with Campus Kitchen

to select Live videos to view. Agendas and minutes can be viewed at [www.christiansburg.org/agendasandminutes](https://www.christiansburg.org/agendasandminutes).

## Wednesday, Feb. 11:

### Birds of WoodsEdge and Warm Hearth

Exhibition Reception at Warm Hearth Village Center, 3 - 4 p.m. Sumi-e is a Japanese monochrome ink wash painting style, meaning "black ink painting," emphasizing simplicity, spontaneity, and capturing the essence of a subject through subtle brushstrokes and gradations of black ink on paper. Originating in China and introduced to Japan by Zen Buddhist monks, it focuses on expressing spirit and form with minimal strokes, often depicting nature, and is deeply connected to mindfulness and Zen philosophy, going beyond technique to a spiritual practice.

WoodsEdge resident Lee Musgrave practices Sumi-e art and finds inspiration in the natural landscapes of the Village and its animal inhabitants. Collection features the birds of WoodsEdge. Lee has graciously donated the works, and all are available for purchase with proceeds benefiting the Warm Hearth Foundation.

## Thursday, Feb. 12:

### Ninth District Traveling Staff Office Hours

Congressman Griffith's Ninth District staff will be available at the Radford Recreation Building, 200 George St., Radford, 12:30- 2 p.m. In the event of inclement weather (heavy snow, sleet, icy rain, etc.), traveling office hours may be rescheduled to avoid putting constituents at risk. If city schools are closed, then its office hours will be closed as well. Please contact the Christiansburg Office at 540-381-5671 or the Abingdon Office at 276-525-1405 with any questions or to schedule an appointment time in the event of office hour closure.

## Thursday, Feb. 19:

### Sons of Confederate Veterans

The Sons of Confederate Veterans, Stuart Horse Artillery Camp 1784 will meet at 7 p.m. at the NRV Super Bowl on 375 Arbor Dr. NE in Christiansburg. Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) are also invited to attend. April Martin will speak on

for the past two semesters. She started volunteering because she was inspired by her studies on food access and wanted to get involved with the local community. It's an experience she highly recommends to other students.

"It is a fun way to give back to the community, lower food waste, and meet people you would never have interacted with," she said. "My shift at Campus Kitchen is one of my favorite activities of my week."

Alex Cohen is a junior majoring in food science and technology. Her work in campus dining inspired her to volunteer with Campus Kitchen. Like Buehrer, what started as a meaningful volunteer opportunity for her has grown into a source of connection and fulfillment.

"Dropping off and unpacking the food is always such a fun experience because of

"Love Letters from the War Between the States". If Montgomery and Floyd County Schools are closed on Thursday or Friday of this week due to weather, the meeting is cancelled. For further information, please call 540-320-4315 or 540-239-9864.

## Friday, Feb. 20:

### Winter Beach Blast

Do the recent cold temperatures have you dreaming of sunshine? If so, stop by the Christiansburg Recreation Center on Feb. 20 from 7-9 p.m. for an indoor escape that brings the warmth in the middle of winter! This family friendly event will feature beach themed fun including: Live music by Shooobies food catered by Bull and Bones, beach-inspired games and activities, including volleyball, spike ball, cup pong, and limbo. Alcohol will be available. Please bring your ID if you plan to purchase. Lawn chairs are encouraged.

## Saturday, Feb. 21:

### 9th Annual Soul Food Sampling

Celebrate Black History Month and take a step back in time at the 9th annual Soul Food Sampling at historic St. Luke & Odd Fellows Hall, 203 Gilbert St, Blacksburg, where generations met to enjoy delicious food, music and fellowship. In this spirit, you will receive generous portions of traditional soul foods at dinner table settings, learn about the history of soul food and enjoy discussions with former New Town residents. There are three time slots for the event, all of which are capped at 18 people: 12 - 1:45 p.m.; 2 - 3:45 p.m.; 4 - 5:45 p.m. Each time slot serves three menu samplings, including catfish, black-eyed peas, fried chicken, green beans, chili, collard greens, biscuits, cornbread and savory desserts. For tickets, go to: <https://blacksburgmuseum.org/event/slofn-soul-food-sampling-4/>.

## Ongoing:

### Blacksburg Police Citizens Academy

Join the Blacksburg Police Department for a Citizens Academy. The 2026 program dates are: Tuesday evenings, Mar. 31 - May 5, 6 - 7:30 p.m. Participants will learn about patrol techniques, criminal investigations, SWAT operations, and various other operations important to police work in town. This program has limited space. Register today by emailing Ofc. A. Jones at [ajones@blacksburg.gov](mailto:ajones@blacksburg.gov), or calling 540.443.1439.

how friendly everyone is," Cohen said. "I also enjoy being around the other student volunteers and forming a connection through helping our community."

Student volunteers can commit to helping up to a semester at a time. Vowell said that for a volunteer opportunity, it's low maintenance. Volunteers work one shift per week, with shifts available Monday, Wednesdays and Fridays. Each shift lasts one to three hours.

"It's a great way to see what's happening in the community and help," said Vowell. "You just show up, and you serve the community through this recurring connection that you don't have to build on your own. You're always with a crew. It's a good, easy way to get involved."

Virginia Tech

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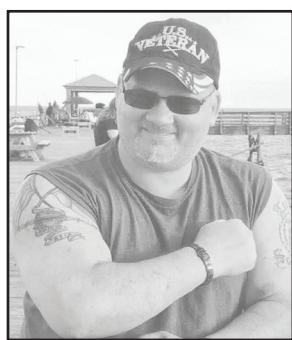
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# OBITUARIES

## Marunich, Jr., George Milton

George Milton Marunich, Jr., 56, of Fairlawn, passed away Wednesday, Jan. 28, 2026. He was a dedicated member of the Radford VFW Post #776 and Community Life Church in Radford. Born Dec. 11, 1969, George was a proud Army veteran of 13 years, spending time boxing and being stationed in Germany. He loves his Philadelphia Eagles and Radford Bobcats. George was preceded in death by his parents, George Milton, Sr. and Violet Catherine Quinn Marunich; his beloved grandson, Nolan; uncle, Eric Marunich; and beloved canine companion, Lulu. Survivors include his loving wife, Jennifer Smithson Marunich; children, Lakita Marunich, Kimberly Marunich, Jeffery



(Katherine), Cordell McGuff, Charlie McGuff, Asia Marunich and Colton Andrews; grandchildren, Luis, Oliver, Clara, Kayden, Emilio, Molly and Avery; children of his heart, Kadince Cales, Maurice, Milena and Emily Marunich; aunts, Shelby, Jean and Emma; special dogs, Rocky and Adrianna; and many other nieces, nephews, cousins, relatives and friends.

The family will receive friends 2-4 p.m. Monday, Feb. 9, 2025, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services will begin at 4 p.m. with Pastor Rod Hidalgo officiating. Inurnment with full military honors will take place at 12p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2026, in the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin.

Special thanks to Carilion New River Valley Medical Center ICU & PCU for all of the care given over the years; and to the CAMC Transplant Center in Charleston, West Virginia for their wonderful care. If you haven't already, please consider organ donation.

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

## Bayes, Thomas E.

Thomas E. Bayes, 89, passed away with family at his bedside at his home in Hiwassee on Sunday, Jan. 25, 2026. He was preceded in death by his wife, Bonnie and his parents Earl Franklin Bayes and Glennie Gruber Bayes, sisters Ruth Freeman and Shirley Fishaber.

He was born in Alma, Michigan on Jan. 9, 1937. He married Bonnie Jean Mayle in St. Louis, Michigan in 1955 and they were together for 68 years until she passed away. Tom worked hard as a foreman at GM in Saginaw, Michigan while also farming with his dad. He proudly served his country in the U.S. Marines. He loved being outside. In



his younger years he spent countless hours hunting, fishing, camping and snowmobiling. In the past few years, you would find him on his John Deere lawn mower doing whatever he could outside. He never met a stranger – as they were immediately friends.

Survivors include his son, Tom Bayes; daughter

and son-in-law, Kim and Paul Marcotte; six grandchildren and 16 great grandchildren; his best friends, Mollie and Buddy; and numerous other family members and friends.

The family would like to thank the staff of Medi Hospice for their exceptional care. A special shout out to Jacqui, Bailey, Heather, Danny and Robbie. He loved each of you so much. Also, to his friend Hope for brightening his world once a week.

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

The Bayes Family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford.

## Woolwine, Christine Gilmer

Christine Gilmer Woolwine, 79, of Christiansburg, passed away peacefully Jan. 29, 2026, surrounded by her niece and husband Doug, and a very special nurse by her side. Christine was born on July 17, 1946, to the late Milton and Myrtle Gilmer.



her passing. She was an amazing aunt, showering her nieces and nephews with many special gifts and time spent with them. She was a selfless person and provided warmth and love to all who knew her.

She loved her flowers and had an amazing green thumb. She enjoyed the outdoors and watching birds and butterflies. She enjoyed sewing and made clothes for her nieces and nephews. She also enjoyed crafting and creating new things. She was passionate about pictures and home movies. If she was at a family gathering, you could guarantee she would have a camera in hand. Christine loved

her Heavenly Father. Her faith never diminished.

The family would like to express their gratitude to ACG Hospice as well as the nurses and staff of Radford Rehab, including a very special nurse, Hannah, who even on her day off came to be with her until her passing.

Graveside services were held Tuesday, Feb. 5, 2026, at Roselawn Memorial Gardens Mausoleum in Christiansburg with Pastor George Bulson officiating and special music by Dee Dannewitz Wallace

In lieu of flowers the family ask you to make a donation to a charity of your choice. Christine loved to support many charities throughout her lifetime.

If love could have saved you.... you would have lived forever! Thank you for all the amazing memories! Until we see you again.

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

## Textile Artists of Virginia reception Feb. 6



PHOTO BY DANIELLA ARMON

### Anne Panella's Finding Balance

RADFORD - This Friday, Feb. 6 from 4 to 6 p.m., join The Radford University College of Visual and Performing Arts at the Radford University Art Museum on Tyler, located at 214 Tyler Ave., for a reception for the Textile Artists of Virginia exhibition currently on display called Balance.

By definition, "balance" describes a condition in which forces are evenly held, opposites find accord, and the mind remains open to multiple

perspectives. However, in these works, TAVA members consider balance as more than mere steadiness or grace, understanding it as fundamental to well-being and communication. When balance is lost, confusion, strain, and discord often follow.

The public is welcome to come by, meet the artists and enjoy some refreshments.

Radford University

## Whichard, Karl Douglas

On Friday, Jan. 16, 2026, at 4:57 p.m., Karl Douglas Whichard, 80, decided it was time to end his "work week." He passed away peacefully, with his wife of 58 years at his side. After 15 years battling COPD, his body was ready to rest.



on his movie-watching while donating plasma with the Red Cross, and he served with the Census. At age 50, Doug was inspired by his son, Karl, to run marathons. He succeeded in running three before being diagnosed with COPD. He also received his pilot's license, flew radio control model planes as a hobby, and was active in Toastmasters, where he received a regional award.

Doug was a quiet warrior whose favorite mantra was: "The main thing is not to get excited." No matter what came his way, he lived by those words.

Special thanks to Dr. Maria Cirino, Pulmonologist, for taking him as her patient. In 2020, Doug was the first recipient of the Zephyr Valve at Roanoke Memorial Hospital. Dr. Margo King worked closely with Doug to supplement his care, so that he maintained agency over his own health. With steadfast tenacity, patience, and prayer he enjoyed precious years with his extended loving family and he welcomed his first great grandchild, born on his own 80th birthday, Oct. 16, 2025. His children gathered his family, friends, and coworkers from across

the decades to create a video sharing the gentle, deep impact Doug had on each of their lives. Doug and Darlene loved walking the Huckleberry Trail with their beloved beagle, Buddy. Look for our Memorial Bench in Doug's honor, coming in 2026.

Doug is survived by his wife, Darlene; daughter, Cheryl (Bill) McCarthy; son, Karl Whichard (Michele Chang); grandchildren Caela (Morgan) Edwards, Isabella McCarthy, Daniel (Haley) and great grandson, Daniel, Jr.) McCarthy, George Whichard, Samantha Whichard, Gracie (Jase) Lamartiniere and Charlie McCarthy; siblings Louise Whichard (wife of David Whichard); Teddy (Tracy) Whichard; Jonathan (Kristina) Whichard; Michael (Becky) Whichard; brother-and-sisters-in-law: Paul (Debra) Brickhouse and Susan Brickhouse; and many loving nieces and nephews. Doug was preceded in death by his brother David; sister, Barbara and brother-in-law, Oscar Thornsbury.

Doug's Celebration of Life Mass will be held Feb. 28, 2026 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Blacksburg with visitation at 10 a.m., Mass at 11 a.m., and Repast at St. Mary's to follow. Come with stories to share.

In lieu of flowers, please, consider giving to the COPD Foundation (www.copdfoundation.org). The family in the care of McCoy Funeral Home.

## Appalachian Secularization: Photography exhibit by Jeremy Riffe

The Blacksburg Museum and Cultural Foundation is hosting an Opening Reception with the artist at the Alexander Black House, 204 Draper Rd SW, Blacksburg, this Friday, Feb. 6, 5-7 p.m.

Jeremy Riffe's work examines the changing role of churches throughout the Appalachian region. Photographed in black and white at night, these images rely on light and shadow to reveal the historic and architectural character of each structure while emphasizing their quiet presence within the landscape. Darkness allows form, texture, and illumination to take precedence, transforming familiar buildings into contemplative spaces.

### Photos from page 1

Valley. The members meet monthly to share photographs, explore new techniques and subject matter and often create assignments to work on both as a group and independently. The club also hosts guest speakers, presentations, and educational workshops relating to photography.

The new exhibit at Glencoe Mansion will feature twenty-four pieces, which include both black & white and color images. The works are by thirteen local photographers, including Tracy Burlingame, Bob Daniels, Allison Franklin, Mike Gummer, Rebecca Harris, e.n.hinrichs, Gary Mallery, Dave Notter, Joseph Pack, Adi Ben Senior, Joyce Sims, Susan Trulove and Linda Waggaman.

Members of The Radford Photo Club

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extended stay. A restaurant would be located next to the convenience store and gas station.

The City of Radford has reviewed the new application and expressed no objection to the requested changes.

Approximately four parcels totaling three acres would be built over the next two years. A developer has said the extended stay hotel agreement was waiting for the rezoning.

The property is located at the intersection of Tyler Road (US Route

The exhibition presents both active and abandoned churches, placing them in visual conversation with one another. Through this juxtaposition, Riffe offers a reflection on secularization in Appalachia—highlighting churches that remain centers of community alongside those that stand unused, weathered, or forgotten. Together, the photographs explore themes of faith, memory, and cultural transition, documenting how belief and tradition continue to evolve across the Appalachian region.

The exhibit will be on display Feb. 6 – 28.

BMCF

enjoy outings that provide opportunities to practice their artistic craft. They always welcome new people at meetings, held monthly at Radford Public Library. For more information about the club and meeting times, please find them on Facebook at "The Radford Photo Club." For more information about the show, please visit Glencoe Mansion on Facebook or at www.glencoemansion.org.

All are welcome to attend and admittance to the Glencoe Mansion Museum & Gallery is free. Glencoe Mansion, Museum and Gallery is open Wednesday through Saturday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. and Sunday 1- 4 p.m.

Glencoe Mansion

177) and Meadow Creek Road (State Route 658), identified as Tax Parcel No(s). 104-A-27B (Parcel ID Number 008939), in the Riner Magisterial District.

The property is currently zoned Agricultural (A1) and lies in an area designated as Urban Expansion in the 2025 Comprehensive Plan and Planned Commercial in the Route 177 Corridor Plan.

By a 7-0 vote, supervisors approved the change in zoning.

# OPINION

## Public Works departments deserve our sincere appreciation

The title Public Works is not very exciting to readers, but in this case the words “public works” are very important to everyone in the New River Valley as we received our second major snowstorm in two weeks.

For us Sotherners this terrible weather is something just “Yankees” get. As I write this on Sunday, Feb. 1, 2026, the temperature is 10 degrees, with wind chill factor below zero. It is just miserable, schools have been closed for six days in a row, with the chances of another two days next week.

Life is not good for anyone. I feel sorry for the animals who grace my yard; the squirrels, rabbits, birds, and all the rest of the gang that live in my backyard.

I tell you this so you can fully appreciate the job and the conflicts the public works crews have been going through these last 10 days. The snow, ice, wind and sleet make everyone think twice about getting out of bed,



**Steve Huppert**  
Columnist  
*Hupps440@aol.com*

much less going outside, while the public works crews put in 15-hour days.

I was planning on going to the VT vs. UVa. women’s basketball game at Va. Tech today. Both teams have the same record. The winner of today’s game has a better chance of going to the NCAA Tournament. Even with that pull, I am not going to make the move of going outside even if we have a chance to beat Virginia.

That is what makes the job of people working in public works even more impressive, as they have been putting in long days for the last two weeks, eating wife-prepared peanut butter sandwiches while pushing and plowing one snow covered road after another.

This morning at 1:30 a.m. I heard the snowplow on the road in front of my house.

Peanut Butter sandwiches at any time are not that great, but 1:30 in the morning is certainly not a winning treat.

Public Works are not restricted to snow; year-round they are the people who protect us from floods, hurricanes, and an extended list of support duties. We are definitely getting our tax money from the public works department.

We should all be appreciative and give them another sandwich.

## Bipartisan leadership is rare, but something our best people can accomplish

Not surprisingly, last week’s paper included a highly partisan editorial complaint that the majority party in Virginia’s legislature wants to raise taxes unnecessarily even though the minority party had done a wonderful job with the budget in previous years. I can’t take such statements seriously. No one simply wants to raise taxes without purpose, and the strong economic climate before 2025 made budgeting much easier. It is important to adjust to the massive loss of federal funds in 2026 leaving us with a very different and quite challenging budget situation this year. We also have a very different government this year. In addition to a Democrat governor, there was a massive change in the House of Delegates with 13 Republican seats becoming Democrat seats. Clearly, the majority of voting Virginians wanted government to do things differently. Many in our region didn’t like the political party change – but it is important to go forward knowing that the majority in our democracy wanted this change.

Simply complaining about taxes does not accomplish much. Instead, useful would be coming up with ideas to make up for loss of billions of dollars of federal funding. It seems clear that there are two ways to do this. One way is to cut programs. I wish it were required that anyone promoting a tax cut would also identify which programs are no longer going to be funded. Almost everyone likes paying fewer taxes, but



**Gary Silverman**  
Columnist

almost everyone also enjoys good social programs too (would anyone complain about good schools or an effective fire department?). It is impossible to please everyone about the best tradeoff between taxes and programs. But only dealing with half of the issue – cut taxes! – does nothing to move us forward.

Another way to make up for the tremendous loss of federal support is to increase local funding. One way to do this is through taxes. That can mean increasing taxes, or attracting more business to Virginia that will pay taxes. I hope that any tax increase is clearly accompanied by details on what the money will be used for. To attract more business, consider that Virginia used to be rated as the best state in the nation to do business, with our rating dropping meaningfully last year.

Perhaps our legislature can come up with good ideas to again strengthen our business environment? Is this something that representatives from both parties can help accomplish? It is important too to consider the lag between attracting business, and their contributing to our tax base.

Representatives from legislative minority parties can take a couple of different approaches to their jobs. All too often, they take the approach of simply bad-mouthing everything the other side is trying to do. Often too, they will try to introduce legislation that has no chance of passage, perhaps simply to justify their work to their followers. But they get nothing done. Sometimes though we see members of a minority party who actually make a difference! They find ways to move forward through compromise, and in generating ideas that both sides support. This is more difficult than saying no – but it shows someone really doing their job rather than just going through the motions. A good example of local nonpartisan work is the new rail connection almost completed in Christiansburg – both parties worked together. Let’s hope that we get more bipartisan ideas from our legislators, while also recognizing that the voters of Virginia overwhelmingly voted for change. Change will happen – will our local leaders help ensure that it helps everyone?

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## Delegate disagrees with redistricting, provides updates on bills

While the General Assembly Building was generally quiet last Monday due to the winter storm that left Richmond covered in ice, House Democrats wasted no time pressing forward with their attempt to bypass Virginia’s non-partisan redistricting process. Their bill to authorize an April vote to gerrymander Virginia’s congressional districts passed the House floor on Monday. As you may recall, Democrats wish to ignore



**Delegate Jason Ballard**  
Virginia General Assembly

and undo Virginia’s non-partisan redistricting reform that voters passed in 2020 and instead install a 10-1 Democratic congressional delegation. This action would come

with a \$5 million, taxpayer-funded price tag for the gerrymandered election.

The bill is remarkable for how brazen it is – not only does it set a time for the vote, but it also sets the ballot question for the referendum in the most biased way possible. Worse yet, it takes concrete steps to derail a lawsuit against this action

See Ballard, page 5

## A trip down the News Messenger’s memory lane

Over New Year’s weekend, I discovered that my lady friend who was in for the holiday was not quite as excited as I was about watching three college football playoff games back-to-back-to back on New Year’s Day. While an enthusiastic and knowledgeable sports fan, this apparently was sensory overload for her. So, midway through the Rose Bowl game, the “Granddaddy of them all” for gosh sakes (although over by half time this year), she asked if I minded if she went through several boxes of old photographs and



**Evans “Buddy” King**  
Columnist

news clippings she had found in my attic and brought into my den. I said, “have at it” and “don’t get between me and the screen.”

I had never gone through some of these heirlooms myself, having moved them straight from my grandmother and aunt’s house on Junkin Street in

Christiansburg (where my mom and dad had lived with them during the post WW II housing shortage) to my home in Clarksburg. My friend Joanne found many treasures in killing her time immersed in Weaver and King family detritus, one item of which is the subject of this column.

Among the old and yellowing photos and clippings was the January 22, 1953 edition of the Montgomery News Messenger, published the day after my arrival into the world. I

See King, page 5

**CROSSWORD PUZZLE**

1	2	3			4	5	6	7				
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**CLUES ACROSS**  
1. One point south of due east  
4. Coagulated blood  
8. Fortifying ditch  
10. Devotee of Hinduism  
11. Trunk of a tree  
12. Bank note  
13. Capital of Guam  
15. Study again  
16. Covered with hoarfrost  
17. Opening  
18. Legendary Rolling Stone  
21. Stray  
22. Computer storing system  
23. Signal  
24. Pitching statistic  
25. Human being  
26. Malaysian isthmus  
27. The “Blonde Bombshell”  
34. A gland  
35. Bluish greens  
36. Endangered  
37. Three-dimensional  
38. In a way, precipitated  
39. God associated with dissolution  
40. Blemished  
41. Flow or leak slowly  
42. Disco legends The Bee  
43. Midway between south and southeast

**CLUES DOWN**  
1. A way to board  
2. Get down  
3. Highly seasoned sausage  
4. First day of month  
5. Eurasian shrubs  
6. The organ that bears the ova of a flower  
7. Small lake  
9. Belief  
10. Sunrooms  
12. Metric weight unit  
14. Vasopressin  
15. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!  
17. One-time family room staple  
19. Got back together  
20. Anger  
23. Sang merrily  
24. Sea eagle  
25. Military men  
26. Kilo yard (abbr.)  
27. Found in the sea  
28. Protects from weather  
29. Type of medicine  
30. City along the Rhine  
31. Animal disease  
32. Martini ingredients  
33. Get away  
34. Lack of disunity  
36. One-time European Commission officer

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# King

from page 4

do not recall having seen it before, but obviously it had been saved for posterity. So, I thought it might be fun to write about the news in town that week (as I recall, the Messenger published once a week back then, on Thursdays).

This particular edition was published two days after the inauguration of President Eisenhower and one of the front-page stories, above the fold, was surely a great source of local pride. The article reported that “Virginia Polytechnic Institute’s” marching band, the “Highly-Tighties,” had won first place among “all adult bands” in the Inaugural Parade. (This was a frequent occurrence at Presidential Inaugurations during my childhood). The article said that the Highly-Tighties were directed by Thomas Dobyns of Radford and that “the little group of Pershing Rifles [marched] perfectly behind them” (presumably the rifles were actually carried by members of the Corp of Cadets and didn’t march on their own - I remember seeing this drill squad many times as a kid). It was also reported in the article that “[m]any persons from this county stole time off Tuesday to watch...”

Another major headline directly beneath the masthead related to the “[t]otal value of Christiansburg’s building for 1952” - “released that morning at the Municipal Building”. It was the staggering sum of \$268,650! The article did not say how Wall Street reacted.

Of perhaps more interest were front page articles about a flu epidemic that had closed the schools the week before, the approval by the County Board of Supervisors of “a decent war memorial” for the town square in Christiansburg (it was not reported what was indecent about the existing memorial), and “Three Big Name Bands” were announced as playing at upcoming dances at VPI - the bands of Tex Beneke, Ralph Martieri and Johnny Long.

Another “above the fold headline” reported startling news on the local weather - “Should Be Cloudy During Weekend, Says Forecaster.” The article did not name the Nostradamus who predicted cloudy weather in Montgomery County in January; however, the article itself was written with a sense of style and elegance lacking in most journalism of today. For example, in writing about

the unpredictability of the weather in southwest Virginia:

“Rightly taken, these alterations of nature are reckoned as the good gifts of God. The great pattern of life is not monotonous. We are constantly stimulated by these changes.”

A couple of other front-page stories featured Christiansburgers near and dear to the hearts of many of my contemporaries and to me. Local lawyer Bentley Hite was recommended for the post of US District Attorney for the Western District of Virginia, Paul Hall scored 17 points in CHS’s victory in basketball over Wytheville, and Nelson Ridinger and Nat Shifflette were reported as being invited to be the guests of the Roanoke Chamber of Commerce for a dinner at The Hotel Roanoke. Of further interest to my generation of locals was the issuance of a marriage license to Robert Lee Swain and Mattie Evangeline Coker, who ended up parenting part of the great Swain clan I grew up with.

There was also an article on my Wahoos beating the Gobblers in basketball 108-95 to “give the Cavaliers undisputed possession of second place in the State Big Six College Race” (I had known that UVA, Tech, William & Mary, Richmond and VMI had made up the “Big Five” when I was a kid - apparently Washington & Lee was the sixth member and was soon to be relegated).

The Messenger, in giving what I can only assume were year-end governmental summaries of interest, reported that there were 1746 deeds recorded, 244 marriage licenses issued, and 42 divorces granted in 1952 by the county clerk. Emphasizing the priorities of Montgomery Countians of the era, there were 3545 hunting and fishing licenses issued and 412 big game stamps.

In news from outside the county, there was a report on the murder indictment of “a prominent Bluefield, W. Va. traveling salesman” who had engaged in a close-quarter gun battle” in a hotel room in Grundy, with the “men firing a total of 10 shots while standing within six paces of each other” following an argument over room rent.” The “prominent traveling salesman” had apparently won the battle but lost the legal war.

There were also the mandatory “social”

reports on matters like the birthday party of an eight-year-old girl, a patient recuperating nicely from an appendectomy and another from cataract surgery, and one poor fellow who was “still indisposed” (thankfully, we were not told from what). My favorites were about a gentleman who hosted a “luncheon and TV party” for his teenage son and a daughter who had her parents over for lunch.

A complete column could be written about the several pages of advertising in the Messenger that week - from “Ladies’ Blouses” for “67 Cents Each” at Leggett’s to “Johnny of Philip Morris Fame” appearing IN PERSON at Mick or Mack in

## Ballard

from page 4

that was already decided in Tazewell County, which ruled against their gerrymandering efforts. The attempt went poorly for House Democrats, with a judge deriding the Democratic case. So, they are now attempting to change that law and court decision, in addition to forcing a venue change from Tazewell to the City of Richmond. While we do not know how an appeals court would react to this, we do know that courts tend to look poorly on forum shopping. At the end of the day, Democrats started their gerrymander scheme too late, and they are now desperate to change the rules to let their poor planning become policy.

I mentioned last week the legislation filed by House Democrats that would raise sales taxes on services and admissions to certain businesses, and troubling legislation continues to be sponsored by the majority party. For example, HB 1369 would prohibit a state agency responsible for the administration of federal funds from imposing any requirement on a nonprofit charitable organization providing a federal public benefit to determine, verify, or otherwise require proof of eligibility of any applicant for such benefits. I cannot understand how this legislation would not cause a rife situation for waste, fraud, and abuse in administration of public benefit funds – it is truly astounding.

I’m pleased to announce that some of my legislation passed through the House of Delegates last week, and in particular, House Bill 101 and House Bill 107. HB 101 updates Virginia Code to make clear

Christiansburg and Blacksburg, presumably to hawk cigarettes.

As I suggested earlier, the writing and feel of the “reporting” was folksy and neighborly and even erudite at times - here is a closing example from the risky forecast of “cloudy weather”:

“There is a limit set to the rain and a blessed extreme beyond which the cold may not blow. If winter comes, can spring be far behind? There is beauty and comfort in this unfailing rhythm.”

All this news for only “TEN CENTS A COPY!” God bless the Messenger and its legacy.

that applicants for Concealed Handgun Permits (CHPs) may apply for them electronically, and it passed the House of Delegates on a 98-1 vote. HB 107 seeks to streamline the process in which you may receive payment if involved in a catastrophic auto accident with an underinsured motorist, and it passed the House of Delegates on a unanimous vote. I also presented my 2026 budget priorities to the House Appropriations Committee, to include funding for the Andrew Johnston House in Giles County, and funding for a Veterans Honor Guard fund to ensure our Honor Guards have the financial support they need to continue serving our Veterans and their families at military funerals. While legislators were not given enough time to speak to all our priorities, I would also like to mention that I requested state funding to assist Pulaski County recoup funds related to the cost of responding to emergency calls on the I-81 corridor, among other items. Stay tuned for more information on what is happening in the House of Delegates in next week’s update!

As the Delegate representing the 42nd House District in the Virginia General Assembly, your concerns are my greatest priority. If ever I may be of assistance to you and your family, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at DelJBallard@House.Virginia.Gov. You can also follow me on Twitter @JasonBallardVA or like my Facebook page, Jason Ballard for Delegate, to keep up to date with what I am doing in Richmond and in our community on your behalf.

### BAPTIST

**First Baptist Church**, 555 West Rock Road, Radford, 639-3873. Worship with us: 9:45 a.m.; Sunday School: 10:45 a.m.; Praise and Worship: 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship Service; Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord. 1 Corinthians 15:58.

**First Baptist Church on 3rd Ave.**, 215 Third Ave at the corner with Downey St. We nurture meaningful connections to God and others through worship, spiritual growth, and community ministry. We celebrate the dignity and worth of all persons, created in the image of God. Sunday Bible Study Groups - 9:45, Sunday Worship - 11:00. Website: fbradford.org 540-639-4419. Worship is in-person and live-streamed on Facebook and on our YouTube channel: First Baptist Church Radford.

### CHURCH OF GOD

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

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

### (DOC - DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

**Snowville Christian Church**, 5436 Lead Mine Road, Hiwassee, VA. 24347, Website: http://www.SnowvilleChristianChurch.com & Facebook. Email: Office@Snowvillechristianchurch.com, Sunday School: 9:30, Worship Service: 11:00, Bible Study: Thursdays @ 6:00pm. We are: “Inspiring hope, helping people grow their faith and sharing God’s love with others.”

**Unity Christian Church**, 400 Tyler Ave., Radford, VA, 540-639-3696, Email: office@unitychristianchurchradford.org, Facebook: unitychristianchurch, YouTube: unitychristianchurchradfordVA, Instagram: @unity\_christian2012, Worship at 11:00 am, Children’s Worship 11:00 am. Sunday School 9:45 for Adult Bible Discussions seasonally. We are a church that reaches up to worship God, reaches in to grow in discipleship, and reaches out to serve our community. ALL are welcome to participate in our ministries together.

### EPISCOPAL

**Grace Episcopal Church**, 210 Fourth Street Radford. Welcoming and accepting, we have been a part of the Radford community for more than 130 years. ALL ARE WELCOME. Grace offers an 8:00am Contemplative Eucharist and a 10:30am Eucharist with organ music and a choir, with refreshments served afterwards. The 10:30am service is also available on YouTube for those unable to leave their house. Find us on Facebook and www.graceradford.org.

### LUTHERAN

**St. Michael Lutheran Church**, 2308 Merrimac Road, Blacksburg, VA 24060. Worship service each Sunday at 10 AM, Sunday School 9 AM. We are a community of God’s people where we gather for worship, learning and service. Visitors

# Radford

## WORSHIP DIRECTORY

### WORDS OF RELIEF

Read Job 15:1 through 22:30

Justin sat in Caleb’s apartment, hoping his big brother could provide some words of encouragement. An official letter from his college had arrived, announcing that Justin was on academic probation. Justin never realized those two words would cause his parents so much pain, anger, and disappointment.

Caleb was frustrated. He knew the sacrifices his parents made so that Justin could attend college. College loans, scholarships, and money did not come easy. His parents worked hard at obtaining all the financial aid they could gather. His dad picked up extra shifts at work to cover the cost of books. Now, to hear that Justin “blew it” was more than Caleb could bear. He wanted to explode, but the Holy Spirit urged him to listen. After several moments, Caleb sat down beside Justin and placed his arm around him. Caleb whispered, “Mind if I pray for you?”

Justin grinned, “Thanks, man. I sure could use it!”

But my mouth would encourage you; comfort from my lips would bring you relief (Job 16:5).

Do your words bring comfort or condemnation?

Challenge for Today: Provide comfort and encouragement to someone close to you.

Quicklook: Job 16:4-6

**If your church is not listed and if you are interested, call Wendi Craig at 276-340-2445 or email at advertise@mainstreetnewspapers.com**

and new members are always WELCOME! Google comments: “Wonderful, welcoming congregation.” A place where all are truly welcome.” You’ll love our minister, Pastor James Henricks, who is a guiding light for our lives. St. Michael started and administers Micah’s Caring Initiative which includes Micah’s Backpack, Soup for Seniors, Garden, Closet, and Mini Pantry, with tremendous community impact. Partnering with Rainbow Riders and Total Action for Progress, we opened the first Early Childhood Head Start in our community (6 weeks to age 3). We sponsor an awesome Scouting program of Scouts Boy & Girl Troop, Venture Scouts for older youth, and a Cub Pack for girls & boys kindergarten - 5th grade, amongst many other programs. Directions:

From Price’s Fork Road, turn onto Merrimac Road. St. Michael is ~quarter mile on the left. For more information: Phone 540.951.8951; Email hope@stmcl.us; Website www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org

### PRESBYTERIAN

Join us at **The Presbyterian Church of Radford (PC-USA)**, 201 4th Street, at the corner of 4th and Randolph Streets - Phone 540-639-2585. Sunday School at 10 am and Worship at 11 am. Find us on Facebook: The Presbyterian Church of Radford and our Website: www.pcradford.org. The mission of our church is to exhibit our belief in God’s love to all of our brothers and sisters. Rev. Doctor Morgan Whitfield, Jr., Pastor.



# Marketplace



The Fincastle Herald    The Vinton Messenger    The New Castle Record    Salem Times Register    News Messenger    RADFORD News Journal

**Legals - Botetourt County**

**Trustee's Sale 187 SPRING HOLLOW RD, TROUTVILLE, VA 24175 (Parcel ID: 11123)**

Default having been made in the terms of a certain Deed of Trust dated 1/5/2024, in the original principal amount of \$264,926.00 and recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of the Botetourt County, Virginia on 1/8/2024, as Instrument No. 240000041, the undersigned Substitute Trustees will sell at public auction on 3/4/2026 at 2:00 PM, Front of building of the Circuit Court Building For Botetourt County, 1 West Main Street, Fincastle, Virginia 24090, the property designated as 187 SPRING HOLLOW RD, TROUTVILLE, VA 24175.

Located in the County of Botetourt, Commonwealth of Virginia: Lot 15, Block 2, according to Map No. 2 Subdivision, Portion of Property of S. E. Wilkinson and G. W. Wills, made by C. B. Malcolm & Son, S.C.E., dated November 21, 1951, recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Botetourt County, Virginia, in Plat Book 3, page 184, and being further described as follows: BEGINNING at the intersection of Lot 14 and Lot 15 at an iron pipe in the edge of Spring Hollow Road; thence along the property line of Lots 14 and 15, N. 30° 22' W. 203.14 feet to an iron stake in the property line of Lots 2 and 3; thence N. 58° 44' E. 100.01 feet to an iron stake in the property line of Lots 15 and 16; thence S. 30° 22' E. 204.71 feet along the property line of Lots 15 and 16 to an iron stake in Spring Hollow Road; thence S. 59° 38' W. 100 feet along Spring Hollow Road to the point of Beginning; and BEING the same property conveyed to the Grantor herein by Deed dated January 4, 2024, recorded contemporaneously with this Deed of Trust.

TERMS: CASH. A deposit of \$26,492.60 or 10% of the sale price, whichever is lower, will be required of the successful bidder at time of sale. Prior to the sale, interested bidders will be required to register with and must present a bid deposit which may be held during the sale by the trustee. The bid deposit must be certified funds and/or cash, but no more than \$9,900.00 of cash will be accepted. The successful bidder's deposit will be retained at the sale and applied to the sale price. If held by the trustee, all other bid deposits will be returned to the unsuccessful bidders. Settlement is to be made within 15 days. The successful bidder will be responsible for obtaining possession of the property, and for all costs and fees related to recording the Trustee's Deed, including the grantors tax. The successful bidder will be required to execute a Memorandum of Trustee's Sale, available for review upon request before the sale, outlining additional terms of sale and settlement. A Trustee's Deed will be prepared by Trustee's attorney at high bidder's expense. This is a communication from a debt collector. Vylla Solutions - Virginia, LLC, 283 Constitution Drive, Suite 102, Office B, Virginia Beach, VA 23462, File No. 25-37622, Tel: 888-313-1969

**TRUSTEE SALE OF 1131 2nd Street, Blue Ridge, VA 24064**

In execution of the Deed of Trust dated November 30, 2017, in the original principal amount of \$148,265.00, recorded as Inst. 200004619, assigned as Inst. 200000435, in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court for the County of Botetourt, Virginia, default having occurred in the payment of the indebtedness thereby secured and at the request of the holder of the note, the undersigned, as Substitute Trustees, either of whom may act, will sell at public auction at the front entrance of the Circuit Court for the County of Botetourt on February 24, 2026, at 1:00 p.m., the property located at the above address and described as Lot 5, Block 7, Section 5, Blue Ridge Heights, County of Botetourt. TERMS: CASH. PROPERTY SOLD AS IS WITH SPECIAL WARRANTY OF TITLE. A deposit of \$10,000.00 or 10% of the successful bid

**Legals - Botetourt County**

amount (whichever is lower) will be required immediately of the successful bidder, in cashier's check or certified funds only payable to or signed over to "DOLANREID PLLC, TRUSTEE", no person checks accepted. Balance due within 15 days from date of sale VIA BANKWIRE ONLY. Sale is subject to post sale confirmation and audit of the status of the loan including, but not limited to, determination of whether the borrower filed for and obtained bankruptcy protection, entered into any repayment agreement, reinstated or paid off the loan prior to the sale. In any such event, or if trustee is unable to complete the sale, or if it is set aside or not fully completed for any reason except purchaser's default, the sale shall be null and void, and the purchaser's sole remedy, in law or equity, shall be the return of the deposit without interest. Upon purchaser's default, the deposit shall be forfeited and the property resold at the risk and costs of the defaulting purchaser. Sale is subject to all prior liens, easements, restrictions, covenants, reservations and conditions, if any, of record, as well as inchoate liens and any other matters which would be disclosed by an accurate survey or inspection of the premises. Real estate taxes will be adjusted to the date of sale. All costs of conveyance, deed, examination of title, recording charges, grantor's tax and possession will be at the expense of the purchaser. All risks of casualty immediately pass to the successful bidder. Time is of the essence. Winning bidder must sign a memorandum of sale immediately upon completion of sale. Additional terms may be announced at the time of sale. Trustee's affidavit and a copy of the notice of sale available at the foreclosure sale. The opening bid is not announced until the sale. Current sale status available at [dolanreid.com/foreclosuresales](http://dolanreid.com/foreclosuresales). THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. For Information Contact: DolanReid PLLC and G. Benny Moore, Substitute Trustee(s) 12610 Patrick Henry Dr., Ste. D, Newport News, VA 23602; (757) 320-0255, ext. 220 or ext. 260

**TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 1449 LAKERIDGE CIRCLE, TROUTVILLE, VA 24175.**

In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated January 4, 2006, in the original principal amount of \$175,000.00 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Botetourt County, Virginia as Instrument No. 060000421. The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for Botetourt County, Main Street, Fincastle, VA 24090, or any such temporary alternative Circuit Court location designated by the Judges of the Circuit Court, on March 19, 2026, at 10:30 AM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: ALL THAT CERTAIN LOT OR PARCEL OF LAND, WITH ALL THE APPURTENANCES THEREUNTO BELONGING LYING AND BEING THE COUNTY OF BOTETOURT, STATE OF VIRGINIA, AND MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS, TO-WIT: BEING LOT 17, BLOCK 5, ACCORDING TO THE MAP OF RAINBOW FOREST, PROPERTY OF BOTETOURT DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, BOTETOURT COUNTY, VIRGINIA, MADE BY C.B. MALCOLM AND SON, S.C.E.'S, DATED AUGUST 15, 1960 OF RECORD IN TILE CLERK'S OFFICE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BOTETOURT COUNTY, VIRGINIA, IN PLAT BOOK 4, PAGE 102. TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit of ten percent (10%) of the sale price or ten percent (10%) of the original principal balance of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, in the form of cash or certified funds payable to the Substitute Trustee must be present at the time of the sale. The balance of the purchase price will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Purchaser's deposit may be forfeited to Trustee. Time is of the essence. If the sale is set

**Legals - Botetourt County**

aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser may, if provided by the terms of the Trustee's Memorandum of Foreclosure Sale, be entitled to a \$50 cancellation fee from the Substitute Trustee, but shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. A form copy of the Trustee's memorandum of foreclosure sale and contract to purchase real property is available for viewing at [www.bwvsales.com](http://www.bwvsales.com). Additional terms, if any, to be announced at the sale and the Purchaser may be given the option to execute the contract of sale electronically. This is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. The sale is subject to seller confirmation. Substitute Trustee: Equity Trustees, LLC, 8100 Three Chopt Road, Suite 240, Richmond, VA 23229. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Virginia Pre-Sale Department of counsel for Equity Trustees, LLC at 301-961-6555, website: [www.bwvsales.com](http://www.bwvsales.com). VA-372477-1.

**TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 1302 LAYMANTOWN ROAD, TROUTVILLE, VA 24175.**

In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated January 26, 2022, in the original principal amount of \$303,750.00 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Botetourt County, Virginia as Instrument No. 220000407. The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for Botetourt County, Main Street, Fincastle, VA 24090, or any such temporary alternative Circuit Court location designated by the Judges of the Circuit Court, on April 3, 2026, at 10:45 AM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: ALL THAT CERTAIN TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND, WITH IMPROVEMENTS THEREON AND EASEMENTS AND APPURTENANCES THEREUNTO APPERTAINING, LYING AND BEING IN BOTETOURT COUNTY, VIRGINIA, AND MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS, TO-WIT: PARCEL 1: BEING LOT 4, BLOCK 24, ACCORDING TO MAP NO. 3 OF BLOCKS 11-24, RAINBOW FOREST, PROPERTY OF BOTETOURT DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, BOTETOURT COUNTY, VIRGINIA, MADE BY C. B. MALCOLM & SON, SCE, DATED JUNE 29, 1962, CONSISTING OF SHEETS 1 THROUGH 5 RECORDED IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF BOTETOURT, VIRGINIA, IN PLAT BOOK 4, AT PAGE 143. PARCEL 2: LOT NO. 5, BLOCK 24, ACCORDING TO MAP NO. 3 OF BLOCKS 11-24, RAINBOW FOREST, PROPERTY OF BOTETOURT DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, BOTETOURT COUNTY, VIRGINIA, MADE BY C. B. MALCOLM & SON, SCE'S, DATED JUNE 29, 1962, CONSISTING OF SHEETS 1 THROUGH 5, RECORDED IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF BOTETOURT, VIRGINIA, IN PLAT BOOK 4, AT PAGE 143. TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit of ten percent (10%) of the sale price or ten percent (10%) of the original principal balance of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, in the form of cash or certified funds payable to the Substitute Trustee must be present at the time of the sale. The balance of the purchase price will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Purchaser's deposit may be forfeited to Trustee. Time is of the essence. If the sale is set

**Legals - Botetourt County**

aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser may, if provided by the terms of the Trustee's Memorandum of Foreclosure Sale, be entitled to a \$50 cancellation fee from the Substitute Trustee, but shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. A form copy of the Trustee's memorandum of foreclosure sale and contract to purchase real property is available for viewing at [www.bwvsales.com](http://www.bwvsales.com). Additional terms, if any, to be announced at the sale and the Purchaser may be given the option to execute the contract of sale electronically. This is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. The sale is subject to seller confirmation. Substitute Trustee: Equity Trustees, LLC, 8100 Three Chopt Road, Suite 240, Richmond, VA 23229. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Virginia Pre-Sale Department of counsel for Equity Trustees, LLC at 301-961-6555, website: [www.bwvsales.com](http://www.bwvsales.com). VA-380025-1.

**Legals - City of Salem**

**Order of Publication**

Commonwealth of Virginia VA Code §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316.-317,20-104 Case No. CL25000427-00 CITY OF SALEM 2 EAST CALHOUN ST SALEM VA 24153 MICHAEL EUGENE MORAN v. AMBER NICHOLE MORAN, The object of this suit is to: OBTAIN A DIVORCE It is ORDERED that AMBER NICHOLE MORAN appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before April 15, 2026 Entered January 9, 2026 Stacy L. Owen Deputy Clerk

**TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 11505 Countyline Road, Bent Mountain, VA 24059 Tax Map No. 117.00-01-91.01-0000**

In execution of a Deed of Trust dated February 7, 2011, recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court for the County of Roanoke, Virginia, as Instrument No. 201101629, the Trustee will offer the above-described property for sale to the highest bidder at public auction on February 18, 2026 at 9:00am, at the Roanoke County Circuit Court, 305 East Main Street, Salem, VA 24153.

That certain lot or parcel of land with all appurtenances thereto, being a parcel of land containing 0.655 acres more or less lying and being in the west side of Virginia Secondary Route No. 644, fully shown on a map attached to and made a part of the certain deed recorded in Deed Book 1217 at page 926 of the records of the Circuit Court Clerk of Roanoke County, prepared by Buford Lumsden & Associates, Engineers & Surveyors, dated February 20, 1985, the description being incorporated herein by reference.

Date of Sale: February 18, 2026 at 9:00am at 305 East Main Street, Salem, VA 24153.

Terms: CASH; a deposit in the form of certified funds in the amount of \$10,000 or 10% of the sale price, whichever is lower. Settlement within thirty (30) days of date of sale. Time is of the essence.

**OPTIONS:**

- All costs of conveyance, examination of title, recording charges, etc. will be at cost of purchaser with the exception of the grantor's tax. Neither the Trustee nor any other party guarantees or covenants to deliver or in any way to obtain possession of the premises for any third-party purchaser.
- The Trustee reserves the right to reject all bids, extend the time to receive bids or withdraw the

**Legals - City of Salem**

property from sale at any time. In addition, should the Trustee be unable, for any reason, in its sole discretion, to convey title, the successful bidder's sole remedy in law or equity shall be the return of his deposit. Upon refund of the deposit, the sale shall be void and of no effect.

Additional terms may be announced at the time of the sale. The Trustee will convey the above-described property to the purchaser(s) by Special Warranty deed at settlement and makes no additional representations or warranties of any kind regarding the title to said property.

John K. Prillaman, Esq. Trustee  
For Information Contact: John K. Prillaman, Esq. OPN Law, PLLC 3140 Chaparral Drive, #200-C Roanoke, Virginia 24018 (540) 725-8194

**Legals - Montgomery County**

**ABC NOTICE**

TANGLED WISDOM LLC, trading as TANGLED WISDOM, 4287 & 4289 North Fork Road, Elliston, Montgomery Co. VA 24087.

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Farm Winery license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

Sean Burrows, Managing Member

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

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN**

By the Board of Supervisors of the County of Montgomery, Virginia that the Board of Supervisors hereby schedules a public hearing for Monday, February 23, 2026 at 7:15 pm or as soon thereafter, at the Montgomery County Government Center, 755 Roanoke Street, Christiansburg, Virginia, in order to receive citizen comments on the proposed Ordinances Temporarily changing the A-3, E-3 and F-3 Precinct Polling Place from Squires Student Center located at 290 College Avenue, Blacksburg, Virginia, to Johnston Student Center located at 920 W. Campus Drive, Blacksburg, Virginia, for the June 16, 2026 Primary Election Only.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Angela M. Hill County Administrator

**LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG PLANNING COMMISSION**

The Town of Christiansburg Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, February 17, 2026, at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073 pursuant to Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia, as amended. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments concerning:

A. Rezoning request by LZM-BAM, LLC, Applicant and Property Owner, for an amendment to proffers on property located at 2886 Roanoke Street, identified as Tax Parcel 501 - (111) - 24A (Parcel ID 011123), consisting of approximately 0.968 acres. The property is zoned General Business District (B-3) with proffers, and the request is to amend the proffers accepted with the 2001 rezoning action. The property is designated as Business/Commercial on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.

B. Conditional Use Permit request by Rockstep Christiansburg LLC, Property Owner, to allow operation of a Carnival from March 26, 2026 through April 5, 2026 on the

**Legals - Montgomery County**

property located at 782 New River Road NW, Tax Parcel 435 - ((A)) - 41, Parcel ID 007741, zoned General Business District B-3. The property is designated as Business/Commercial on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.

Town Hall will be open and available to receive public comment in-person at the time of this Public Hearing. A copy of the application, the Town's Zoning Map, Zoning Ordinance, and Future Land Use Map may be viewed in the Planning Department Office, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073, during normal office hours of 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contact the Planning Department, by phone at (540) 382-6128, Ext. 1902 or by email at [planning@christiansburg.org](mailto:planning@christiansburg.org), with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations.

**Legals - City of Radford**

**ABC NOTICE**

VYY WOODMUJI, INC., trading as FUJIYA RAMEN 103 3RD AVENUE, RADFORD, VA 24141-4703.

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

YUJIE YANG, OWNER

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

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# RADFORD SPORTS

## Christiansburg running back commits to Shenandoah



FILE PHOTO

Christiansburg's Sean McMurray (right) heads for the goal line earlier this season before being overcome by the Cave Spring defense.

**Marty Gordon**

*NRVsports@ourvalley.org*

Christiansburg High School's Sean McMurray has announced plans to continue his playing career at Shenandoah University.

The 5-10, 176-pound running back had 104 carries this past season for 610 yards with six touchdowns. He missed three games because of injuries.

McMurray said he chose Shenandoah because it felt like the right fit for him and his family. "The culture, campus, and overall atmosphere felt like it aligned with my values and where I wanted to be the next four years," he said. "They were one of the only colleges to come to my high school and actually sit down and talk to me. Knowing they took the time to drive down and see me in person truly meant a lot to me."

Shenandoah University is located in Winchester, Virginia, and has a current enrollment of 4,488 students.

The Shenandoah Hornets are the athletic teams that represent the university in intercollegiate sports. The Hornets are members of the NCAA's Division III and the Old Dominion Athletic Conference (ODAC). Shenandoah joined the ODAC in 2012.

Shenandoah's football team was co-

champion of the USA South twice, sharing the title both times with Christopher Newport in 2003 and 2004. Additionally, Shenandoah has made one appearance in the NCAA Division III Football Championship.

This past season, the Hornets' football team finished 8-3 overall. The 2025 season came to an end with a 37-35 loss to Wilkes University in the Chesapeake Challenge Cape Henry Bowl Game.

Scott Yoder is the third head coach since Shenandoah reinstated football in 2000, taking over the program 12 years ago.

"I want to win an ODAC title and have a playoff run. I know this team can do it and I believe I can help them get to that," said McMurray. "Of course, I have my own goals of being a captain and potentially being an All-American, but I feel like the accomplishments we gain as a team will leave a longer lasting legacy."

McMurray also played defense at CHS but has the intention to play running back in college. "I love the game and will do anything they ask to make the team successful. My goal is to be the best teammate I can be while also being a leader to get the team to reach the common goal which is to win."

McMurray hopes to major in Business Administration.



PHOTO COURTESY OF VT ATHLETICS

Carys Baker is averaging 12.6 points and 6.3 rebounds per game this season for Virginia Tech.

## Baker emerging as an elite presence

True junior Carys Baker has become an undeniable force on the hardwood for the Virginia Tech women's basketball team.

Hailing from West Hartford, Conn., Baker's multifaceted toolkit has allowed the Hokies (14-5, 4-3 ACC) to find a groove in competition this season, especially in the team's recent three consecutive wins by an average of 26.3 points. As conference play continues with less than half of the season remaining, Hokie fans should be sure to keep their eyes peeled as to how Baker will impact the team in a variety of positive ways.

Now in her third season with the Hokies, Baker first arrived in Blacksburg after a wildly successful high school career with the Loomis Chaffee Pelicans. During the five-year stint in Windsor, Conn., the forward played an integral role in hoisting the NEPSAC Class A Championship trophy both in 2021-22 and 2022-23, exemplifying the talent Baker had early in her professional basketball career. In the second of two championship contests, Baker's 24 points, six rebounds, two assists and three steals would be essential in the team's 64-60 victory.

As the No. 58 player in the 2023 ESPN HoopGurlz national recruiting rankings, Baker first saw the hardwood for the Hokies in a secondary role off the bench. In 32 appearances in the 2023-24 season, Baker averaged a consistent 11.7 minutes per game while logging 3.4 points per contest. However, a pair of performances – an 18-point showing against LIU on Dec. 6, 2023, and a 13-point game against William and Mary just over two weeks later – would give Hokie fans a glimpse into what Baker could provide as an asset to the Hokies.

Women's basketball head coach Megan Duffy saw Baker's potential

early into her first year in Blacksburg. The forward, under Duffy's guidance, went on to start every game for the Tech women's team in 2024-25 while averaging 12.6 points and 6.3 rebounds per game. Baker expanded on her pair of impressive showings in her freshman season with a plethora of games in her second year, including a double-double against Campbell on Dec. 21, 2024, seven three-point baskets against Miami on Jan. 5, 2025, and a career-best 24-point game against Syracuse on Feb. 6, 2025.

Now in her third year with the team, Baker has continued to build off the leap she took in her sophomore season. The Connecticut native has started every game for the Hokies this winter, posting a team-high 14 points per game alongside 6.1 rebounds, and has posted in double figures in 14 of 19 matchups. Key performances from the 6-foot-2 junior's season include a dominant 23-point, 10-rebound double-double against Florida on Dec. 4, 2025, and a stretch of three 20+ point performances against ETSU, Florida State, and Radford to close out December competition.

While a good percentage of Baker's production comes from her forceful nature in the paint, the forward also possesses a unique ability to dismantle opponents with her three-point shot. Her 36.4 shooting percentage from beyond the arc this season is the highest on the team, a metric that emphasizes Baker's talent at many levels on the hardwood. Defensively, Baker also shines, using her 6-foot-2 frame to her advantage to the tune of 15 blocks this season. She's only one of three athletes on the Tech women's basketball team with a block total in double figures (Freelon, Trent).

*Virginia Tech Athletics*

# Hokies 2026 football schedule unveiled

Virginia Tech football's 2026 schedule was officially announced last week on ACC Network and is highlighted by a nine-game Atlantic Coast Conference slate that features nationally prominent matchups and multiple Friday night contests.

The Hokies open the season at home on Sept. 5 against VMI before hosting Old Dominion on Sept. 12. Virginia Tech will then play its first road game of the season on Sept. 19 at Maryland, followed by an ACC road contest at Boston College on Sept. 26.

October brings the start of conference play at Lane Stadium on Oct. 2 with a Friday night matchup against Pitt. The Hokies return to the road on Oct. 10, venturing to the west coast to face California before hosting Georgia Tech on Oct. 17. Virginia Tech travels to Clemson on Oct. 24, ahead of its open date on Oct. 31.

Following the bye week, the Hokies will play at SMU on either Friday, Nov. 6, or Saturday, Nov. 7, with the date and kickoff time to be announced. Virginia Tech returns home on Nov. 14 to host

Stanford before closing its road schedule with a Friday night game at Miami on Friday, Nov. 20.

The Hokies will close the regular season once again with the Smithfield Commonwealth Clash, taking on in-state rival Virginia on Nov. 28 in Blacksburg.

Ahead of the 2026 ACC Football schedule release, the Atlantic Coast Conference has announced the 2026 ACC Football Championship Game will kick off at noon ET on Saturday, December 5, on ABC. This positions the ACC Football Championship Game as the first game to kick off Championship Saturday.

"We are excited this year's ACC Football Championship Game will be a noon kickoff on ABC as it places our game in an exceptional television window and allows for our attending fans the opportunity to experience an afternoon game in Bank of America Stadium," said ACC Commissioner Jim Phillips, Ph.D. "Being the first conference championship to kick off on Championship Saturday allows us to lead the day on a national stage, showcase



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF VIRGINIA TECH ATHLETICS

our student-athletes and programs and deliver a marquee event to fans across the country."

The appearance on ABC continues a long-standing broadcast partnership, as 2026 marks the 14th consecutive year, and the 18th time overall, that the ACC Football Championship Game will air on the network. The title game has been televised on either ABC or ESPN every year since its inaugural season in 2005.

The shift to a noon kickoff moves the championship game

from its traditional Saturday night window for the first time since 2020,

when the game kicked off at 4 p.m. The title game also kicked off at 1 p.m. in

2006, 2007 and 2008.

*Virginia Tech Athletics*

## Artrip named EMHS softball coach

**Marty Gordon**

*NRVsports@ourvalley.org*

Eastern Montgomery High School has announced the appointment of Neil Artrip as its new head softball coach.

Artrip had previously served as the program's junior varsity coach.

"When the opportunity to become the varsity head coach presented itself, I felt this was my opportunity to not only advance myself as a coach, but to also have the opportunity along with the help of the coaching staff to advance our softball program at all levels," he said.

Artrip became the junior varsity coach in 2024 after previously coaching softball in the local recreation department for over 12 years.

Eastern Montgomery finished last year at 11-7 but is 39-46 in the past five years as a member of the Pioneer District.

"As always your goal is to win games, but as a coach I want to also continue to help our softball program grow in both strength and numbers," said Artrip. "We as a coaching staff want our program to be competitive not only in our district but also at the region and state levels."

Both Blacksburg and Christiansburg high schools still have softball openings.

# Sports notes: Preseason ranking for RU softball

**Marty Gordon**

*NRVsports@ourvalley.org*

D1 Softball announced Friday afternoon the Radford University softball program has been ranked 23rd in their preseason rankings.

The D1 Softball Mid-Major Rankings are currently in their second season and release weekly throughout the season on D1 Softball's website and socials. In 2025, Radford appeared in the rankings over four weeks on their way towards a Big South Regular Season championship. Radford climbed as high as 24th, making their check-in at 23rd this season a new program high.

In the Big South's preseason honors, Radford was predicted to finish first by the conference's head coaches picking up Preseason Pitcher of the Year (Dakota Redmon) and five all-conference honors (Redmon, Morgan Cooper, Grace Bechtol, Amanda Lee and Kelley Feigen). It was Radford's first time being picked preseason favorites in the Big South since the 2012 season.

## Former Hokie to Appy State

Justin Harper has been hired to be Appalachian State Mountaineers' wide receivers coach. Harper was drafted into the NFL following a standout collegiate career as a Virginia Tech receiver and played professionally from 2008-13, spending the first three seasons with the Baltimore Ravens.

He began his coaching career in 2013 and served on Bob Chesney's staff as James Madison's wide receivers coach from 2024-25.

Prior to joining JMU's staff, Harper coached at joining Sun Belt East Division program Old Dominion (tight ends from 2022-23), Towson (wide receivers/pass game coordinator from 2018-21), Central State (wide receivers in 2017), Virginia State (wide receivers from 2015-16, with a stint as the interim head coach in the 2016 preseason) and Lenoir-Rhyne (wide receivers from 2013-14).

He caught 83 passes for 1,338 yards and eight touchdowns as a member of the Hokies, scoring twice in the 2008 Orange Bowl, and was a seventh-round draft pick of the Ravens before finishing his pro career in Canada with the Saskatchewan Roughriders and BC Lions.

## RU duo honored

Radford University women's basketball standouts Joi Williams and Georgia Simonsen were named to the Big South weekly award list, as announced by the conference on Monday afternoon. Williams was the Player of the Week for January 19-25, while Simonsen was named Co-Freshman of the Week.

Williams led the Highlanders to two huge conference wins and helped move Radford up to a tie for second place in the standings. On Wednesday versus Longwood, the junior only missed two shots to lead all scorers with 23 points. In Friday's win over UNC Asheville, Williams came through to end a late Bulldogs run with a three-point play with under five minutes left. She also set a new career best with a pair of blocks. With 21 points scored against UNC Asheville, Williams became the first Radford player to score 20+ in consecutive games since Destinee Walker during the 2018-19 season (20 vs. Longwood on Feb. 16, 2019, and 26 at Winthrop on Feb. 19, 2019).

Simonsen set a new career high with 18 points and eight field goals in Radford's 15-point win over Longwood on Wednesday. She also tied a career-high with three blocks, adding a key role in slowing down the Lancers offense. Simonsen followed that with 10 points against UNC Asheville, again shooting better than 50 percent from the floor. She also grabbed a team-high six rebounds.

## Erichsen freshman of week

The Big South Conference announced Monday afternoon Radford University's Frederik Erichsen has been named the Freshman of the Week for the second straight week after another pair of solid performances in two tough games.

The reigning freshman of the week didn't miss a beat, averaging eight points per game in two tough battles at Winthrop and at home against High Point. Erichsen did most of his work this week in a quick turnaround against the Panthers, coming off the bench to score 11 points on a limited shooting performance with just five takes from the floor.

## Gate City golfer to RU

VHSL Class 2 state champion golfer Carter Wolfe of Gate City will play golf Radford University beginning in the fall. Wolfe will join four other freshman at Radford for Coach Mike Grant.

# Hokies softball preseason rankings

Virginia Tech softball is ranked in all four of the preseason polls ahead of the start of the 2026 season.

The Hokies check in at No. 19 (NFCA/GoRout), No. 20 (D1 Softball), No. 21 (ESPN/USA Softball) and No. 24 (Softball America).

The Hokies finished the 2025 campaign at 43-13 – Tech's third 40-win season in the past four years. Tech returns five All-ACC selections and three NFCA All-Region Mid-Atlantic honorees from last season.

Kylie Aldridge, Michelle Chatfield, Jordan Lynch and Zoe Yaeger return offensively as all four hit above .300 in 2025. All four were honored as All-ACC selections, with Chatfield a First Team honoree.

In the circle, Cassie Grizzard, Sophie Kleiman and Emma Mazzarone are back for the 2026 slate. The trio combined for 190.2 innings pitched, 186 strikeouts and 25 wins last season.

The Hokies open up the season at No. 12/14 South Carolina for the Gamecock Invitational, where Tech also faces Binghamton and Winthrop (Feb. 5-7).

The Hokies' signing class features six newcomers. The Hokie signing class is the 19th-best recruiting class, according to D1 Softball.

"We're excited with this incoming class," D'Amour said. "All six of these young ladies will bring something unique on the field and they embody the character traits that our program demands. I'd like to thank all the signees and their families for trusting us with their future development on and off the field. I also am thankful for the work that Coach Lewis, Coach Johnson, and Coach Mata have put in to ensure that we're continuing to bring in the right types of kids to Blacksburg to help keep elevating Virginia Tech softball. Gobble Gobble!"

## Anna Bardeen

A utility player from Woodstock, Ga., Bardeen was a star at Kell High School. She is Kell's all-time leader in hits (157), RBIs (140) and home runs (31) and was a two-time team captain. Bardeen was also a four-time All-Region and two-time All-State honoree.

Playing travel ball for Nationals 16U Sars and Stars Gold 18U Bunn, Bardeen has a .463 career batting average with 57 home runs. She is hitting .301 with six home runs and 36 RBIs in her current season of travel ball.

## Angie Eakman

Eakman arrives in Blacksburg from Mercer, Pa. as a right-handed pitcher. Playing for Mercer Area High School, Eakman was tabbed her area's Rookie of the Year as a freshman. She finished high school with 590 strikeouts and also posted a career .517 batting average.

Ranked as high as No. 43 by Softball America, Eakman played travel ball for Beverly Bandits Freeland 16U and FP Select 18U. Last season, she hit 11 home runs with a .435 batting average, as well as tallying 153 strikeouts. She currently

has a .402 career batting average with a .450 on-base percentage, as well as 965 strikeouts as a pitcher.

## Mylic McCoy

An outfielder from Virginia Beach, Va., McCoy was tabbed a First Team VHSL 5A All-Region selection. She aided her team to a 23-2 record, a VHSL 5A Regional Championship and a state semifinals appearance. In her junior season, she hit .347 with a .435 on-base percentage.

Ranked as high as No. 27 by Extra Innings Softball, McCoy played travel ball with Unity Johnson 2026 and Starz Gold National. Twice, McCoy and her travel ball teams finished as the runner up at Triple Crown Nationals. She has a career .352 batting average in travel ball with 25 home runs and 121 RBIs.

## Ryleigh Perks

Perks arrives to Blacksburg after playing four years of varsity softball at Douglas S. Freeman High School. She was named a First Team All-Region and a Second Team All-Metro selection in 2025. Through her first three years of high school softball, Perks hit .533 with 14 total home runs and a 1.626 OPS.

Perks, who played travel for Starz Gold 18U Bunn, was named a 2021 USA All-American. The PVS Overhand Velocity leader (77.1 mph), Perks was crowned the 2024 Alliance Nationals OVH 16U Velocity Champion. This season with Starz Gold, Perks is hitting .481 with a 1.421 OPS. She has also tallied five home runs and 17 RBIs.

## Grace Swedarsky

Swedarsky, who was named to the Class of 2026 National High School Player Watchlist, was a First Team All-State selection as a junior (2025). She aided Hamilton Southeastern to an Indiana 4A State Championship, earning MaxPreps First Team Underclassman All-American honors in the process. She is a three-time First Team All-Hoosier Crossroads Conference honoree. Through three high school seasons, Swedarsky has 709 strikeouts over 367 innings pitched with a career 1.24 ERA.

Ranked as high as No. 9 by LineDrive Media, Swedarsky played travel ball with Indiana Magic Gold and Louisville Lady Sluggers. She has amassed nearly 2,000 career strikeouts in travel ball and finished her most recent season with 112 strikeouts and a 2.87 ERA.

## Tegan Tripp

An infielder from St. John, Indiana, Tripp played high school softball at Lake Central High School. She aided Lake Central to three conference championships and two semifinal appearances in the state tournament. In her most recent season, Tripp hit .379 with a 1.259 OPS and 30 RBIs.

Tripp played travel ball with Illinois Chill Gold and was tabbed to the 2025 PGF All-American National Watch List. She hit .340 this past season with Chill Gold with nine home runs and 27 RBIs.

*Virginia Tech Athletics*

# RU predicted to finish fourth

The Big South Conference has announced the preseason poll, players of the year, and all-conference members for the upcoming 2026 season. Three Radford University players earned preseason honors including Hunter Keen, Breckin Nace, and Trey Ludy all on the Big South's Preseason All-Conference team.

For the second consecutive year, High Point University has been voted the Big South Conference's preseason baseball favorite by the league's head coaches, it was announced today by the Conference office. In addition, the coaches voted Panthers' infielder Landen Johnson (Haubstadt, Ind.) the conference's Preseason Player of the Year and HPU hurler Wade Walton (Lithia, Fla.) the league's Preseason Pitcher of the Year. Both players also earned spots on the preseason All-Conference team, which is listed below.

The Panthers are the preseason favorite for the third time overall (2017, 2025, 2026). HPU finished with the conference's most overall wins last season with 39 and finished second in the league standings at 18-6. High Point received three first-place votes and 75 total points to win the league title in 2026.

Defending Big South Champion USC Upstate was second in this year's preseason poll with 71 points (four first-place votes), while Winthrop finished in the third spot with 60 points (one first-place vote). Radford landed in the fourth spot with 51 points and received the remaining first-place nod -- marking the Highlanders' highest spot in the poll since 2022 (third). Charleston Southern was fifth in the voting with 49 points, while Presbyterian College finished sixth with 35 points. Longwood followed in the seventh position with 28 points, Gardner-Webb was eighth with 25 points, and UNC Asheville finished ninth in the voting with 11 points.

Johnson is the first High Point baseball player to be voted Preseason Player of the Year since 2016 and the second overall. Last season he was the NCAA Division I leader with 86 runs batted in and was third nationally in RBI per game (1.51), and batted .362 with 18 doubles, 16 home runs, 81 hits and an OPS of 1.105. Johnson started all 57 games he played in, slugged .656, scored 60 runs, tallied 22 multi-hit games and posted a team-leading 23 multi-RBI game. The 2025 Second-Team All-Conference honoree had four multi-home run games, recorded a season-high four hits and six RBI vs. Charleston Southern on May 22, and finished with a .989 fielding percentage at his first base position. Johnson batted .352 with six home runs and 38 RBI in 27 league games. He received four first-place votes and 19 points in the Preseason Player of the Year voting, just ahead of USC Upstate's Johnny Sweeney (three first-

place votes and 18 points) and Radford's Breckin Nace (nine points, one first-place vote).

Walton is High Point's second Big South Preseason Pitcher of the Year honoree in three seasons, and third overall. The 2025 Big South Freshman of the Year, Walton made 15 starts and pitched to an 8-3 record and a 5.18 earned run average. He tossed two complete games -- one of which was a shutout against NJIT on Feb. 14. Walton led the Big South with 91 strikeouts in 83.1 innings pitched, held opponents to a .252 batting average in 318 plate appearances, and recorded a season-high 11 strikeouts against Charleston Southern on March 14. He fanned at least six batters in 10 of his 15 outings, and went 4-1 with a 4.70 ERA and 54 strikeouts in 46.0 innings of conference action. Walton was a near unanimous selection for Preseason Pitcher of the Year, as he received seven of the possible eight first-place votes and 23 points in the voting, ahead of USC Upstate's Chris Torres (17 points and the two remaining first-place votes).

The Highlanders enter the 2026 campaign predicted to finish fourth in the Big South, a significant rise after being ranked eighth just a year ago. With momentum on their side, Radford returns half of their roster from last season to provide a strong foundation of leadership and experience across the lineup. That veteran presence will be crucial as the Highlanders push through conference late in the season with sights on returning to the postseason.

After earning First-Team All-Conference honors in 2025, Keen is projected to be play a large role for the team once again. Keen led the Big South in assists (164), turned the second-most double plays (36), and recorded 85 putouts during the season. A consistent presence for the Highlanders, Keen looks to build on an impressive year and continue his role as a starter.

Nace looks to build on his 2025 Second-Team All-Conference performance with his selection to the 2026 preseason all-conference squad. A 2024 All-Freshman honoree as well, Nace continues to develop both offensively and defensively. After batting .359 and logging 45.0 innings on the mound in 2025, Nace is expected to remain a key weapon for the Highlanders.

Ludy's breakout performance during the 2025 season earned him a spot on the 2026 all-conference team. Posting a team-best 5-3 record along with a team-high four saves, Ludy has developed into a reliable option out of the bullpen for the Highlanders. His presence on the mound is expected to continue posing problems for opposing batters.

*Radford University Athletics*

# Join the Great Backyard Bird Count

Nature lovers, bird enthusiasts and the public-at-large can participate in the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC), taking place Feb. 13-16, 2026.

The annual global event brings together millions of people to observe and record bird species, helping scientists track bird populations and migration patterns.

The GBBC is a simple yet impactful way to contribute to conservation science, and you don't have to be a scientist to join in on the fun. Participants are asked to spend just 15 minutes on one or more days during the count observing birds in their backyard, local park or favorite outdoor space. Observations can be logged using the Merlin Bird ID app for identification or the eBird Mobile app for submitting sightings.

"Your participation matters and your bird count contributes to a global study that helps protect bird populations all over the world," announced the Virginia Department of Conservation and Wildlife. "The Great Backyard Bird Count is a great way to connect with nature, discover the birds in your area, and contribute to vital science—all from your own backyard. Every bird you identify helps researchers track populations and

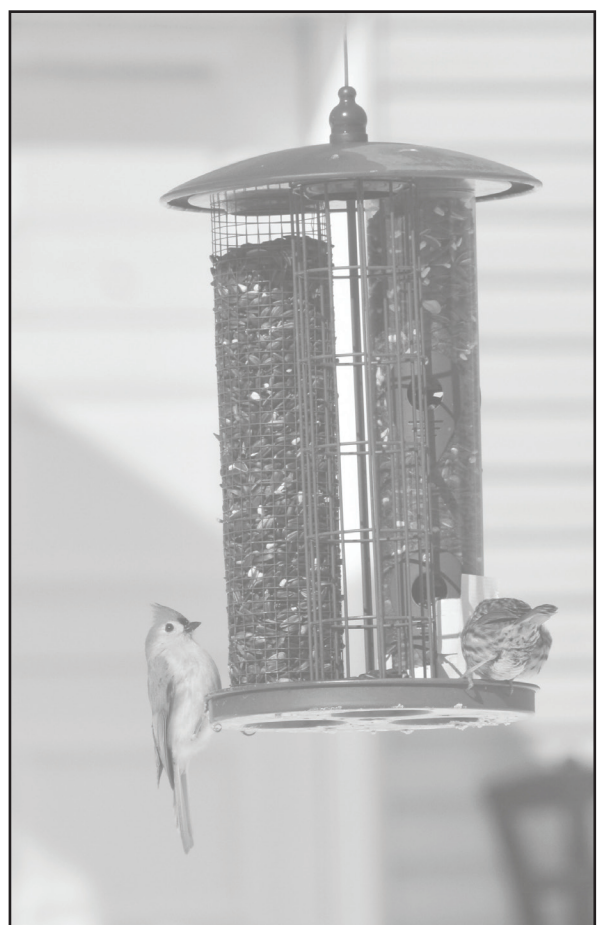


PHOTO BY VIRI BELL

## Birds get a meal at a bird feeder in Radford Sunday.

protect species for the future."

Participating is easy, fun to do alone or with others, and can be done anywhere you find birds.

Step 1: Decide where you will watch birds.

Step 2: Watch birds for 15 minutes or more, at least once over the four days, Feb. 13-16, 2026.

Step 3: Identify all the birds you see or hear within your planned time/location and use the best tool

for sharing your bird sightings:

If you are a beginning bird admirer and new to bird identification, try using the Merlin Bird ID app to tell us what birds you are seeing or hearing. Record numbers and species of birds, try the eBird Mobile app or enter your bird list on the eBird website. Find out more at [www.birdcount.org/participate/](http://www.birdcount.org/participate/).

*Staff report*

# 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.

*Happy girl Beijing can't wait to meet you. Look at that smile! Not only is she photogenic, Beijing also seems to know about sitting for a tasty treat and will gladly do so when something delicious is headed her way!*



*Puff is a friendly gal who is ready to head to her furever home. She's a smaller dog who spunky and playful. Puff may know some basic commands, too. Stop by the Animal Care and Adoption Center to get to know her.*

## Montgomery County moves to biennial tax assessment

**Marty Gordon**  
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Montgomery County is changing property tax reassessments from four to two years.

The board approved the measure during its regularly scheduled meeting this past week.

Currently, Montgomery County is the largest county in Virginia conducting reassessments on a four-year cycle.

The question for the public is how they will be affected by the change. There were pros and cons on both sides, but the county believes it will be better for everyone.

For the most part, county staff feels it would make the assessment more efficient and provide a better snapshot of the value of property.

"Reassessments are intended to restore equity within the county so that values

are at a uniform percentage of market value," according to information provided by staff.

More frequent reassessments will provide a better reflection of the current market value of real estate, which results in more equitable tax bills throughout the county. One of the other pros show the new plan will smooth out real estate value adjustments versus potential abrupt large adjustments when values are set every four years. It will follow the established practices of peer counties, and in-house reassessment offers greater accountability and transparency, which supports the county's desire to provide superior customer service.

In Virginia, real estate assessments are conducted to ensure properties reflect 100 percent of their fair market value.

According to a staff presentation, the overall plan would push all the work internally to county staff at a cost an estimated \$856,000, which would include staffing, training and vehicles for assessors. The amount would be spread out over the next two years' budgets.

The steps would include the following: create real estate valuation department; develop departmental budget and staffing plan; include costs in FY 27 budget proposal; recruit and train staff in fall 2026; and reassessment begins early 2027, concludes by the end of 2028.

The new assessed values would be effective Jan. 1, 2029 with values utilized for the June/December 2029 tax bills.

The overall goal is to physically inspect a third of all properties in the county each year. It had been relaxed in recent years due to technological advancements.

Field workers from the company Vision Government Solutions are currently visiting Montgomery County properties.

Property owners will receive notice of the new assessed value, which is not a tax bill but is the basis for future tax bills. If a property owner feels the assessment does not reflect fair market value or is not equalized with similar properties, they have the right to appeal.

Due to high demand, low inventory and rising construction costs, many Virginia localities saw significant increases over the four-year period that ended in 2024.

The final tax bill is calculated by taking the assessed value and multiplying it by the locality's tax rate.

The county's current real estate tax rate is \$0.76 per \$100 of assessed value.

# Rise Above panel discussion set for Feb. 11

The New River Health District's mobile outreach service, Rise Above, the NRV Peer Coalition, along with the Virginia Department of Health, Carilion Clinic, and other community partners is hosting open, welcoming conversations on substance use in the New River Valley, grounded in public health, lived experience and real solutions.

These free events, held at public libraries, bring together community members, families, providers and leaders

to discuss overdose prevention, available resources, and how we can work together to strengthen and save lives in the NRV.

The final Rise Above Panel, Substance Use in the NRV, is scheduled for Feb. 11 from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. at the Radford Library, 30 W. Main Street, Radford.

For more information contact, Erika Slagel-Perry, eslagelperry@nrvc.org.

*New River Valley Regional Commission*

# Legendary Danish Radio Big Band launches limited U.S. tour in Blacksburg



PHOTO COURTESY OF EMILIA THERESE

## Danish Radio Big Band

January 28, 2026 — For over 50 years, the Danish Radio Big Band has been a driving force in Copenhagen's thriving jazz scene, earning its reputation as one of the world's most dynamic and innovative ensembles. Now led by one of today's most sought-after young jazz composers and conductors, Miho Hazama, the band brings its powerhouse sound to the United States for the first time in 30 years, performing with jazz vocalist Cécile McLorin Salvant.

The band kicks off this exclusive, four-date run with a performance at the Center for the Arts on Friday, Feb. 20, at 7:30 p.m. The tour culminates with a stop at New York City's famed Jazz at Lincoln Center.

In Blacksburg, the Danish Radio Big Band and current Grammy nominee Hazama will present a mix of the composer's newest works alongside music from the band's extensive archive. Salvant, a three-time Grammy-winning jazz vocalist and composer known for her electrifying interpretations, returns to the center after her unforgettable 2023 debut.

### About the artists

#### Danish Radio Big Band

The Danish Radio Big Band, often referred to as the Radioens Big Band, is a jazz big band founded in Copenhagen in 1964, when the Copenhagen jazz scene was particularly active and the city was regularly visited by prominent jazz artists from the U.S. Originally called the New Radio Dance Orchestra, in the early years the band was led by Ib Glindemann. Over the next few decades, many new faces joined — a succession of striking

bandleaders, musicians, and guest soloists such as Chris Potter — who helped to develop the band into the experienced ensemble whose record releases and concerts have a devoted following all over the world.

### Cécile McLorin Salvant

A composer, singer, and visual artist, Salvant has developed a passion for storytelling and finding the connections between vaudeville, blues, theatre, jazz, baroque, and folkloric music. She is an eclectic curator, unearthing rarely recorded, forgotten songs with strong narratives, interesting power dynamics, unexpected twists, and humor.

Salvant won the Thelonius Monk competition in 2010. She received Grammy Awards for Best Jazz Vocal Album for three consecutive albums - "The Window," "Dreams and Daggers," and "For One to Love" - and was nominated for the award in 2014 for her album, "WomanChild." In 2020 Salvant received the MacArthur fellowship and the Doris Duke Artist Award.

Nonesuch Records released the two-time Grammy-nominated "Ghost Song" in 2022, and in 2023 the follow up "Mélusine," which was also nominated for two Grammys. Released in September, "Oh Snap" includes 12 very personal songs composed and produced by Salvant. The album features longtime collaborators Sullivan Fortner, Yasushi Nakamura, and Kyle Poole, as well as cameos from singers June McDoom and Kate Davis. The songs reflect Salvant's wide-ranging musical influences from her 1990s childhood in Miami — from boy bands to grunge to classical to folk — and include party tracks with beats, samba grooves, and quiet folk songs.

### Miho Hazama

In 2019 Hazama took up the post as the Danish Radio Big Band's chief conductor, following Thad

Jones, Bob Brookmeyer, and Jim McNeely. Hazama released the first album featuring Danish Radio Big Band, "Imaginary Visions," in 2021.

Lauded in Downbeat as one of "25 for the Future," Hazama developed her signature jazz chamber orchestra, m\_unit. Now having three full-length record releases, she has written for and expertly showcased the abilities of guest artists such as Joshua Redman, Lionel Loueke, Christian McBride, and Gil Goldstein. "Dancer in Nowhere," the third album for m\_unit, was nominated for a Grammy.

Composition is Hazama's true calling, and in addition to her effort with m\_unit, she has created works for many different musical contexts and ensembles, most notably Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra, Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra, and Metropole Orkest.

This performance is supported in part by a gift from Catherine Karp Breske. Donor support makes it possible for the Center for the Arts to present world-class performances and meaningful engagement opportunities for students and the community.

### Tickets

Tickets are \$25-65 for general audience and \$10 for students and youth 18 and under. Tickets can be purchased online; at the Center for the Arts box office, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, or by calling 540-231-5300 during box office hours.

### Venue and parking information

The performance will be held in the center's Anne and Ellen Fife Theatre, located within the Street and Davis Performance Hall at 190 Alumni Mall. Convenient parking is available in the North End Parking Garage on Turner Street and in downtown Blacksburg.

*Virginia Tech*

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