

The FINCASTLE HERALD

& Botetourt County News

www.fincastleherald.com



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WEDNESDAY, JULY 12, 2023

\$1.00

Botetourt County announces changes to July meetings, plus addition of live streaming

Due to scheduling conflicts, there will be some changes to the Botetourt County Board of Supervisors meetings in July. The amended schedule is as follows:

- **Monday, July 17, 6 p.m.:** Botetourt County Board of Supervisors meeting continued from June 27. Agenda will be posted by Wednesday, July 12, at 5 p.m. Agendas can be accessed by visiting www.botetourtva.gov/agendacenter.

- **Monday, July 31, 6:30 p.m.:** Pending approval after the July 17 meeting, it is expected that the July Botetourt County Board of Supervisors meeting will take place on Monday, July 31, at 6:30 p.m. (rescheduled from July 25). Closed Session will start at 5:30 p.m. The July regular agenda will be posted by Wednesday, July 26, at 5 p.m. Agendas can be accessed by visiting www.botetourtva.gov/agendacenter.

- **Meetings will resume on a normal schedule in August (fourth Tuesday of the month at 2 p.m.)**

In addition, the monthly Board of Supervisors meetings will be live-streamed. Botetourt County is making it easier to watch board meetings and public hearings live or at the citizens' convenience. The board made the decision to start streaming services as an internal goal for fiscal year '24. Now, videos of the monthly meetings will be

available live and also on-demand in a YouTube playlist for anyone who may not be able to watch the livestream as it happens.

To achieve this goal, beginning July 17, the Board of Supervisors and public hearings will be live-streamed. Find out more information at www.botetourtva.gov/livestream. Meetings will be recorded and published on the Botetourt County YouTube channel (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC91r38woDSOQWv4H7y_ipmQ).

Important Note

Citizens will not be able to provide public comments on digital platforms while viewing the livestream. Persons wishing to make comments during the Citizen Comment Period portion of the meeting may attend the meeting in person, mail their comments to the Botetourt County Administrator's Office (57 South Center Drive, Suite 200, Daleville, 24083), email their comments to the clerk, or submit comments through the Citizen Comment Form. Make sure to sign up for county notifications at www.botetourtva.gov/notifyme. If you have any questions, email the Communications Department at communications@botetourtva.gov.

- Fincastle Herald staff report



PHOTO BY MATT DE SIMONE

Botetourt County sent out a press release Monday detailing the changes in upcoming meeting dates of the Board of Supervisors. The upcoming July 31 board meeting will be the first that the county will livestream on YouTube. County residents now have the opportunity to attend the monthly meetings remotely and to stream on-demand.

Virginia Cooperative Extension
Virginia Tech • Virginia State University

Household Water Testing

Does your water come from a well, spring, or cistern?
Do you want to learn more about the quality of your water?

Testing includes:

Iron	Manganese	Sulfate	Hardness
Sodium	Copper	Nitrate	Arsenic
Fluoride	pH	Total Dissolved Solids	
Coliform bacteria	E. coli bacteria	Lead	

GRAPHIC COURTESY OF VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Drinking water clinic in August

Does your water come from a well, spring, or cistern? Do you want to learn more about the quality of your water?

The Virginia Cooperative Extension invites Botetourt residents to pick up a household water testing kit Monday, August 7, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Botetourt Extension Office at 9 West Main Street in Fincastle. Alternative arrangements can be made to pick up a kit if anyone is unavailable to stop by during pick-up hours. The cost of the test is \$60 per kit.

Water testing will study the levels of: iron, sodium, fluoride, coliform bacteria, manganese, copper, pH, E. coli bacteria, sulfate, nitrate, total dissolved solids, lead, hardness, and arsenic.

The following Wednesday morning, August 9, water samples are to be

dropped off at the Extension Office from 7:30 a.m. until 9 a.m.

Results and water system care and maintenance information will be sent September 23 to each participant either by email or mail and a pre-recorded or live video presentation or personal phone conversation will be made available to help explain the summary results and recommendations to address problems.

Pre-register to reserve a kit by July 31 because space is limited. For further information, contact Sherrye Fleshman at the Botetourt Cooperative Extension Office at 540-928-3210 or sherrye@vt.edu.

- Fincastle Herald staff report

'Little Critters' visit the county



PHOTO BY MATT DE SIMONE

Little Critters Traveling Petting Zoo of Troutville visited the Eagle Rock Library on Monday morning.

Little Critters Traveling Petting Zoo stopped by the Eagle Rock and Fincastle Libraries on Monday. Guests had the opportunity to visit with familiar animals from a traditional farmyard that included sheep, miniature horses, miniature donkeys, chickens, rabbits, pygmy goats, llamas, and alpacas.

The zoo will be at the Blue Ridge Library this Wednesday afternoon, July 12, from 4 p.m. to 5

See **Critters**, page 8



PHOTO COURTESY OF FINCASTLE LIBRARY

Guests of the Fincastle Library has the chance to meet the animals Monday afternoon.

senior FOCUS II

GRAPHIC COURTESY OF BOTETOURT CO. SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sheriff's Office announces July Senior Social event with the sheriff

The Botetourt County Sheriff's Office Senior Focus Outreach Program has announced its next "Senior Social" event. The event is focused on bringing seniors and law enforcement together to provide a platform to showcase the many services available to the 50+ community.

This event will be held on Friday, July 21, from 11 a.m. to 2

p.m. at Fincastle Baptist Church, 7330 Roanoke Road, Fincastle. A free buffet style lunch will be served by the Botetourt County Sheriff's Office. Sheriff Matt Ward will present an overview of preventative measures that will help seniors from becoming victims of crime. The sheriff will be followed by guest speaker Robbie Boyd, Director of Elder

Rights and LTC Ombudsman with the Local Office on Aging during the lunch.

Seniors will be able to visit with many of the public and private services available. Services such as daily wellbeing checks, general health, and financial wellbeing will be on site. Governmental

See **Senior Social**, page 5

The Place to be in 2023!

daleville town center

Scan here to follow us on Facebook for complete event schedule, and details.

JULY 14

BOTTOM OF THE BARREL

5-9PM

JULY 15

Botetourt FARMER'S MARKET

8:30 to NOON

JULY 22

FIVE SHADES OF GRAY

5-9PM

Botetourt County History



PHOTO COURTESY OF BOTETOURT COUNTY MUSEUM OF HISTORY & CULTURE

“Gaming” used to mean playing with marbles. Historians believe marbles started with cave people playing with natural balls of clay. The Golden Age of marbles spanned from the late 1920s to 1930s. This leather bag and marbles are displayed in the Botetourt History Museum along with the book “Fincastle Random Small Town Memories” by Robert Archer Preas Waid. Robert or “Bobby” Waid was an expert and taught children how to play marbles at the museum when it was behind the courthouse. In his book Bobby wrote about growing up in Fincastle and how marbles in those days was strictly a masculine sport. “They came from every background, in every color, to clean house or go home with an empty marble sack.” Marbles are still played and collected today.

- Botetourt County Museum of History & Culture

Seamans celebrate 50th anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Seaman of Roanoke celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 24 with a trip to

Atlantic City, N.J. They were married June 24, 1973 at Ashwood United Methodist Church in Ashwood, Va.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF SEAMAN FAMILY

Board approves FY24-29 Secondary System Six-Year Plan, FY 23-24 budget approval resolution



PHOTO BY MATT DE SIMONE

Matt de Simone
mattedesimone@mainstreetnewspapers.com

The Botetourt County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved the FY24-29 Secondary System Six-Year Plan (SSYP) at its June 27 meeting following a public hearing on the recent changes. No comments were made about the recent additions. VDOT’s Brian Blevins went over the recent changes made following the May board meeting.

The plan’s funding is provided through TeleFees (\$91,808) and District Grant – unpaved funds (\$425,211 in FY 24). The proposed FY24-29 Secondary System budget totals \$3,593,911 across all six years.

The proposed priority list now includes:

1. Route 646, Back Creek Lane (Underway)
2. Route 645, Fringer Trail**
3. Route 712, Stevens Road**
4. Route 685, Ball Park Road
5. Route 643, Mountain Valley Road
6. Route 658, Laymantown Road
7. Route 677, Roy Road
8. Route 638, Old Hollow Road**
9. Route 728, Redbud Lane**
10. Route 600, Haymakertown Road**
11. Route 767, Blue Ridge Drive**
12. Town of Fincastle One-Way Street**

(** - newest additions to the SSYP)

The board additionally approved the appropriation of the FY 24 county budget and the adoption of the Capital Improvement Plan for 2025-2028. Required tax rate and budget public hearings were conducted on May 15 (school budget) and June 15 (county budget). There was also remote access to both the public hearing and the ability to address the proposed budget by a call-in process.

There are no tax increases proposed for 2023. The proposed \$129.9 million budget reflects an anticipated 18.4 % decrease in revenues and an 18.4% decrease in expenditures, due primarily to the FY23 budgets’ inclusion of \$30 million in bond proceeds to be used for the Circuit Courthouse and Virginia Western Community College capital projects. The FY24 budget for the remaining proceeds for these projects will be re-appropriated in July 2023.

The tax rates per \$100 of assessed value for tax year 2023 are set as follows:

- Personal Property \$ 2.71
- Machinery & Tools \$ 1.80
- Mobile Homes \$ 0.79
- Real Estate \$ 0.79
- Motor Homes \$ 2.71
- Wind Farms \$ 0.99

The Botetourt County budget for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 is \$129,943,034 in total revenues.

Important dates for upcoming November 7 general election

In-person absentee voting begins Friday, September 22. The Botetourt County Election Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

On Monday, October 9, the office will be closed for the Columbus Day holiday. The following Monday, October 16, is the final deadline to register or update voter registration for the election. All registrations and updates are due by 5 p.m. that day (or 11:59 p.m. if done online).

The deadline to request a mailed absentee ballot is at 5 p.m. on Friday, October 27. Requests must be received in office by 5 p.m. or online by 4:59 p.m.

The Election Office



PHOTO BY MATT DE SIMONE

will be open on Saturday, October 28, for in-person absentee voting from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. The following Saturday, November 4, the office will be open (and the deadline) for in-person absentee voting from 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m.

Tuesday, November 7, is Election Day. Polling places will open at 6 a.m. and close at 7 p.m.

County residents may register to vote, update

registration information or apply for a “Vote by Mail” ballot at Virginia Department of Elections website: <https://www.elections.virginia.gov/>, or call Registrar’s Office at 540-928-2120.

The office is always looking for election officers as the 2024 Presidential election approaches. Please contact the office, if interested.

- Fincastle Herald staff report

NOTICE OF DELINQUENT TAXES AND JUDICIAL SALE OF REAL PROPERTY

On August 12, 2023, or as soon thereafter as may be affected, actions will be commenced under the authority of Virginia Code §58.1-3965, et seq., to **begin proceedings** to sell the following parcels of real estate for the payment of Botetourt County and, where marked with an asterisk, The Town of Buchanan delinquent real estate taxes:

Property Owner	Tax Map No.	RPC No.	TACS No.
ADIO, LLC	101B(A)3	11259	924003
Armentrout, J. Lewis	47-43	19560	924004
Austin, Christine R.	101B(4)11B-1	11191	216302
Bayne, Travis E.	38-29	18881	839829
Bayne, Travis E.	38-36A	18898	839829
BRJCB, LLC	72(13)2	31662	924017
BRJCB, LLC	72(13)3	31661	924017
BRJCB, LLC	73-39A	31429	924017
Byrd, Sarah Anne, Estate	54-7A	20955	924015
Crawford, Kimberly D.	77-61C	25305	924024
Church, Danny R. & Patricia E.	108A(1)BK24-7	15433	924010
Coffey, Brenda G.	27A-67	18254	924026
Conner, Gregory A.	10-52D	10090	216324
Edwards, Elsie E., Estate	109-220B	16272	924036
Edwards, Elsie E., Estate	109-220D	16274	924036
*Eubank, Jordan & Pauline	65A(1)1&2	22291	924032
*Eubank, J R & Pauline	65A(1)3	22313	924032
*Eubank, J R & Pauline	65A(1)4	22321	924032
F & F Investment Group, LLC	52-40	20743	924037
*F & F Investment Group, LLC	65A(15)BK207-1	22401	924037
*F & F Investment Group, LLC	65A(5)23A	22736	924037
*F & F Investment Group, LLC	65A(5)24	22737	924037
Foutz, Eric S.	90-79	27639	924053
Gibson, Martha L., Estate	89-153	27073	924050
H & L Construction, Inc.	88F(12)45	30446	924054
Harlow, Janis Dee	27A(3)4	18156	216298
Hartman, Janet M.	80(1)4	25427	924062
Hubbard, Marla R. DePriest	40-32	19171	924066
Justice, James C., III	18(2)1D	17456	639626
Kitt, Leonard O., Estate	16-27A	17137	924069
Kitt, Leonard O., Estate	25-13	17871	924069
Lacks, Roy N., Sr.	89-45	27288	365807
Langhorne, Cora & Cantrell, Christine Antoinette	106(3)5	12734	924089
Lucado, Wyleman R. & Wesson, Michelle Lynn	4(2)6	19093	924084
Mason, Kevin J. & Susan Marie J.	90(3)13	27465	924080
Oyler, Cindy C.	109-282	16356	319456
Oyler, Cindy C.	109F(1)7W	29042	319456
Raz M Taz, LLC	62-7E	32204	924096
Rhodes, Susan J.	97-33	27760	924092
Sabin, Walter & Cynthia H.	108D(2)BK1-2	15779	924101
Scaggs, Ronald Wayne Omer, Jr. & Lauren Smith, William H.	74-114	24536	924100
Smith, William H.	102(2)4	11709	924110
SNK Investments, LLC	106-166	30509	924112
Ware Property Holdings, LLC	73A(1)99&100	24281	924109
Ware Property Holdings, LLC	73A(1)101B	24083	924109
Wiley, James L.	60-95B	21292	924117
Zell, James William, IV	38-31B	18891	924116
Town of Buchanan Only:			
Moseley, John L. & Karen H.	65-62	22246	397569

Properties subject to delinquent real estate taxes may be redeemed by paying all accumulated taxes, penalties, interest, costs and fees. Payments should be made payable to **Botetourt County and/or Town of Buchanan** and mailed to **Taxing Authority Consulting Services PC, Post Office Box 31800, Henrico, Virginia 23294**. Interested bidders and inquiries regarding the above-listed properties should be directed to TACS at (804) 545-2500 or www.taxva.com or by email to taxsales@taxva.com or by mail to:

John A. Rife, Esq.
Re: Botetourt County and/or Town of Buchanan Delinquent RE Taxes
Taxing Authority Consulting Services, PC
Post Office Box 31800
Henrico, Virginia 23294

ARRESTS

The Botetourt County Sheriff’s Office reported the following arrests for June 26-July 8:

- Steven F. Costanzo, 50, of Buena Vista, possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine, June 26
- Sabrina A. Bell, 41, of Buena Vista, possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine, June 26
- Paul Clayton Jr., 30, of Birmingham, Ala., simple assault, June 28
- Gregory D. Townsend, 26, of Kentwood, Mich., drunk in public, June 28
- Caitlin D. Wright, 30, of Covington, driving with a revoked license, June 29
- Ronnie J. Sawtelle, 33, of Troutville, simple assault, June 30
- Mark K. Worth, 64, of Buchanan, driving under the influence, July 1
- Sundiata C. Nkunta, 52, of Roanoke, reckless driving, July 1
- Michael E. Craighead, 36, of Troutville, domestic assault and possession of Schedule I/II drugs, July 2
- Daniel T. Morris, 56, of Roanoke, driving under the influence, July 8
- Austin D. Hickson, 18, of New Castle, underage possession of alcohol, July 8

Put the Classifieds to work!
Please call 389-9355

Buchanan RERC workshop this Thursday and Friday

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, the Northern Border Regional Commission, and the Appalachian Regional Commission have selected Buchanan as a community to receive planning assistance through the Recreation Economy for Rural Communities (RERC) program, which aims to help communities enhance outdoor recreation opportunities and strengthen downtowns. The Town of Buchanan was one of 22 other small communities in the U.S. to be awarded this planning grant.

Citizens are invited to a community workshop on July 13 and 14 to envision how the Town of Buchanan can enhance outdoor recreation to become more vibrant for its residents, business owners and visitors.

To register, visit <https://bit.ly/RERC->

BuchananVA
 July 13: Community Meeting - 5:30 p.m., refreshments, 6-8:30 p.m., meeting
 July 14: Action Planning Sessions - 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Location: Wilson Warehouse/Community House, 421 Lowe Street, Buchanan

Questions: Harry Gleason, Community Development Planner, hgleason@buchanan-va.gov

Workshop goals
 • Physical Outdoor Recreation and Other Critical Infrastructure

Invest in priority projects for new parks, trails, river access, campgrounds, wayfinding/signage, and other needed physical infrastructure, so that residents, visitors, and especially youth can enjoy all that Buchanan has to offer.

• Business and Organizational Support and Connections:



Buchanan's RERC program kicks off on July 13. PHOTO COURTESY OF TOWN OF BUCHANAN

Support existing and new businesses and organizations in the outdoor recreation realm, including hospitality, lodging, retail, and the arts and heritage sectors.

• Authenticity and Downtown Revitalization:
 Consider placemaking strategies to

make Buchanan's downtown a pleasant and authentic place to live and visit, with an intent to retain and conserve the culture, character, and small-town charm of Buchanan for existing residents and visitors alike.

- Fincastle Herald staff report

LAND TRANSFERS

The following land transfers were recorded in the Botetourt County Courthouse in May. The names of only one seller and one buyer are listed; others may be involved in the transaction.

- Francis L. Andrews to ZRK LLC, 4 parcels, \$68,300
- Howard S. Ash Jr. to Jonathan L. Mills, lots, \$33,000
- Janice B. Ashworth to James Todd Trail, lot, Botetourt Forest, gift deed
- Scott D. Aylor to Gregory Surbaugh, lot, Grandview Acres, \$750,000
- Melissa J. Barofski to William Wills, Jr., lot, Cottages at Steeplechase, \$319,950
- Robert Drew Biggs to Liliane Balbach, lot, Fairview, \$499,995
- Bob Laucher Custom Building to Terri Jean Turner, lot, Glades End, \$615,890
- Sherry Boothe to Jeffery Boothe, 7.0 acres, gift deed
- Sherry Boothe to Jeffery Boothe, 14.625 acres, gift deed
- David L. Bowers to Justin C. Bowers, 4 parcels, 2 tracts, gift deed
- Loren D. Bruffey Sr. to Nicky Galan Houchins, 3.151 acres, \$215,000
- Buchanan Oak Farm to Michael L. Amos, two parcels, \$1,100,000
- Douglas Wayne Buchanan to Kelly A. Albert, lot, \$170,000
- Melvin Camden to Christopher L. Mize, lot, \$50,000
- Lorraine E. Cooper to Myra Godfrey, lot, \$5,000
- John A. Costanzo to David Lucas Properties, three parcels, \$180,000
- Countryside Land Company to Robert F. Monteiro Jr., 2.010 acres, \$74,000
- James A. Deacon to Fred A. Ross, 0.83 acre, \$75,000
- Patricia Hall Dietrich to Roger Flinchum, 2.025 acres, \$60,000
- Lorraine K. Dill to Kenneth C. Dill, 1.721 acres, Deer Haven, \$0
- Timothy D. Dillman to Jacob T. Mauldin, 2 parcels, \$475,000
- ERBO Construction to Paul V. Ierardi, lot, The Preserve at Ashley, \$599,950
- Dorsey Martin Etzler Jr. to Timothy Shawn Jones, lot, Grandview Acres, \$122,000
- Robert G. Ferguson to Aimee F. Dudley, parcels, \$0
- Roger L. Firebaugh to Anthony Atkinson, 3.348 acres, \$110,000
- Fralin & Waldron to Stateson Homes, lot, Daleville Town Center, \$76,141
- Fralin & Waldron to Stateson Homes, lot, Daleville Town Center, \$76,902
- Mark Wayne Fralin to Charles T. Clemens, 2 parcels, \$1,500,000
- Carl Friedman to Joseph Schuyler, parcel, gift deed
- Robert A. Fulgaro to Christopher C. Kessler, lot, Hunter's Green, \$415,000
- Dreama Ann Goad to Timmy W. Noell, 2.237 acres, \$126,000
- John M. Green III to Brittany Buchanan, lot, \$500,000
- Robin L. Green to Bryant Adam Self, unit, Tinkerview Townhouse, \$124,950
- Roger K. Hammack to Jessica Weber, 0.90 acres, \$178,000
- Kristen Nichole Hartman to Michael Anthony Rossetti, 2.250 acres, \$585,000
- Joshua Scott Harvey to Phillip S. Haly, lot, Tinkerview Gardens, \$334,000
- Donald E. Hathaway to Blaine A. Bobby Jr., lot, Steeplechase, \$540,000
- Herb Smith Inc. to Madison Claire Robertson, 2.266 acres, \$324,950
- Elizabeth Hoke Windle to Sierra Frosell, 2.00 acres, gift deed
- Jarrold Bronson Huff to Paul A. Huff, 1.00 acre, gift deed
- Howard S. Hylton to KAH LLC, 2.630 acres, gift deed
- JMB Investment Company to Bezjian Family Trust, 0.839 and 0.712 acres, \$1,850,000
- Dennis E. Keith to Derrike E. Walker, lot, Botetourt South, \$245,000
- Linda R. Kelly to Esther F. Russell, 1.250 acres, gift deed
- Jeffery Daniel Kestner to Rickie Bobbie Holdings, 2 acres, \$136,600
- Gregory D. Krepps to Frank L. Spetich II, 1.966 acres, Diamond Crest Hills, \$409,000
- Raymond Leon to Jodi M. Harpster, 2.267 acres, Longview, \$70,000
- Joel B. Leonard to Barry D. Moats, lot, Rainbow Forest, \$400,000
- Fara V. Long to Shelby L. Houston, lot, Rainbow Forest, \$285,000
- Phillip Lee Luckado to Travis James Preston Sisson, lot, Jefferson Hills, \$196,000
- John R. Mandeville Jr. to Daniel L. Deskins, 1.647 acres, Wheatland Subdivision, \$465,000

- Ramon Sanchez Mata to Tucker Casa, 0.411 acre, gift deed
- Anna Basham Merchant to Wilfred C. Basham, two parcels, \$55,100
- Edwin E. Moreno to Timothy C. Carpenter, 4.95 acres, \$493,000
- Priscilla A. Myers to Joshua Clay Isley, lot, Cambridge, \$300,000
- William R. O'Connor to Christopher M. Rivers, 6.050 acres, \$890,000
- Tina L. Paquette to Jordan Robinson, lot 1 & 2, gift deed
- Peter M. Pearl to Teresa Craft Fridley, lot, Santillane, \$19,950
- Peter M. Pearl to Botetourt County Public Schools, lot, Santillane, \$21,000
- Peter M. Pearl to Botetourt County Public Schools, lot, Santillane, \$6,300
- Mark E. Proctor to Kenneth Peevy, 2.266 acres, \$205,000
- Bonnie B. Riddle to Stephen L. Riddle, 4 parcels, gift deed
- Bonnie B. Riddle to Stephen L. Riddle, lot, Rainbow Forest, \$0
- Linda Saville Roberts to D and T Residential Properties, 3.589 acres, \$245,000
- Philip Douglas Rodes to Cynthia P. Rodes, 2.325 acres, gift deed
- Stephen C. Rossi to Brett Keenan, lots, Stratford Place, \$333,200
- Sean Michael Routin to Linda Reagle, lot, Ashley Plantation, \$575,000
- Samuel I. White PC to Pennymac Loan Services, lot, Mill Creek Acres, \$112,970
- Carl J. Saunders Jr. to Owen Fry, lot, Mt. Union Estates, \$205,000
- Ronald E. Scott to Stephen W. Hansen, 15.12 acres, \$450,000
- William D. Shaw to Lee A. Whitaker, 1 acre, Autumnwood, \$435,000
- David Clay Smith to Christopher L. Ribble, 9.933 acres, \$21,490
- Nancy Richardson Smith to Anne H. Huffman, 4.991 acres, \$225,000
- Terry Allen Smith to Christopher L. Ribble, 19.164 acres, \$46,500
- Star Catcher Beverages to New Belgium Brewing Company, 81 acres, Center at Greenfield, \$7,000,000
- Christopher Todd Stevens to Michelle Deana Norton, 1.710 acres, \$515,000
- Virginia Ann Stevens to E.H. Stevens III, 95.17 acres, gift deed
- James Wyndham Stokes to William Hamlin, lot, Creekwood, \$318,000
- Ben C. Strozier to Homs Family Revocable Trust, 21.19 acres, \$0
- Pamela F. Stump to Carrie Michelle Stump, 1.2514 acres, gift deed
- Jessie R. Tate to Gordon A. Ewald, lot, Cypress Court Townhomes, \$369,950
- Walid Y. Thabet to Malek Thabet, 2.041 acres, \$0
- The Secretary of Veterans Affairs to Natalie N. Gerdung, 3 acres, \$185,000
- Rachel Thomas to Hickory Hill Properties Group, 1 acre, \$155,000
- Randal W. Thompson to Brandon S. Evans, 2 parcels, \$525,000
- Michelle Lynn Vandergrift to Ryan A. Greenway, 0.77 acre, \$174,000
- Bryan M. Vess to Paige R. Charboneau, lot, Apple Tree Village, \$543,000
- William G. Walker Jr. to William Z. Walker, 106 acres, \$116,700
- Susan S. Wilson to Fieldale Properties LLC, parcel, \$150,000
- Rachel Blankenship Wimmer to KAA Holdings, lot, Rainbow Forest, \$290,000
- Karen A. Windsor to Sharon Tinley, lot, \$192,000
- Karen A. Windsor to Crystal Mullins Fink, 2.36 acres, \$36,000
- William J. Winningham to Virginia Kent Vaughn Duckworth, 2.823 acres, \$545,950
- Monica F. Wolfe to Shannon A. Hoopes, lot, Steeplechase, \$525,000
- Derrick W. Wright to Lindsey E. Tyree, 2 parcels, gift deed
- 838 Properties to Consolidated Pipe & Supply Co., 5 parcels, \$833,000



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Senior Social from page 1

services will be on hand to answer questions and help seniors navigate their future needs. The event and all services are provided free of charge to the senior community.

"We remain committed to partnering with our senior community through our Senior Focus Outreach Program,"

said Sheriff Ward. "Our Senior Social event allows us to network with our seniors, allows our seniors to network with each other, and it facilitates the opportunity for us to provide information to our senior communities in order to prevent them from becoming victims of crime". Sheriff Ward invites

the senior community to join him at the Senior Social event Friday, July 21, at Fincastle Baptist Church at 11 a.m. For more information on the event, contact Andrea Mundy in the Services Division at 540-928-2233.

- Botetourt County Sheriff's Office



PHOTO BY MATT DE SIMONE

Botetourt citizens gathered at Fincastle Baptist for a senior social event in April.

Letters from page 4

books are just a symptom.

One group is calling for the removal and banning of books that present graphic sexual images and gender ideology to children who are so young they read cartoon illustrations. The other group is declaring that any removal or any restriction is a violation of the freedom to access information. False dichotomies are very dangerous. If either group gets their way, we lose.

One group says children should have open access to graphic LGBTQ+ literature because they value it. The other group says that their parental rights are violated because they see it as harmful. In a way, both sides are right. Instead of a dichotomy, it is the balance.

Both sides are declaring this issue a matter of freedom, but the real issue is lost in the discussion. Real freedom is at risk, even here in Botetourt. But most battles for freedom are fought locally and personally. It is time for us to focus on the two real issues: adult rights and responsibilities.

Who actually has the freedom and responsibility that comes with it? Not the child, but the parents. The adults. It is not just adult choices, but parental choices; the adults who are held responsible for their child's behavior, good or bad, regardless of their age.

Freedom is the right and the responsibility to decide for yourself. But your freedom ends when you try to push your choices on someone else. They have the same freedom that you have. One parent says, "I want my child to be able to walk in and read anything they want." The other parent wants to restrict what their child reads because of the basic moral values they want to instill in their children. In short, it comes down to parental choices, not the children. If one set of parental

values overpowers another and "wins," real freedom is lost. This is critical.

We must maintain balance to maintain real freedom. That balance is difficult because no one really gets what they want. Let's face it. We all want the world to operate the way we think! But when that balance is lost, only evil wins.

I can't support book banning because that allows one group to determine what is right and wrong for everyone. I would not want LGBTQ+ or Marxists to have that power, so I shouldn't have it either. However, saying the only other choice, public display sexually graphic materials to children, is foolish and is violating the rights, freedom and responsibilities of other parents and is contrary to valid research, so that is also unacceptable. One person's morals cannot dictate another's. The library cannot be allowed to establish what is right and what is wrong. The Internet argument is irrelevant to this discussion because it is beyond the influence of the library and ignores current technology.

The library policies are also contrary to established legal precedence on several other social issues. In fact, our society as a whole disagrees with the current library thinking and policy. Minors can be legally charged for having tobacco products, consuming alcohol, distributing pornography, driving vehicles and owning guns. They have to have permission to buy certain games or music. In many places, they can't even be out alone after a certain hour! Those laws were enacted because of the developmental stages of minors. Society agrees that they cannot fully understand the risks that exposure to certain things, although acceptable for adults, is harmful to their developmental stages. Major studies from around the world, (including Harvard and NIH) show the mental health damage of

early sexualization of children.

But there is a far greater risk than the library and its supporters have recognized. Their policy is great in theory, but we, and our children, live in the real world with some sick people. In case you don't know, Google "Sex before 8 or it's too late." NAMBLA isn't gone, it simply merged with the other gay rights groups in the 1990s. Even some in the LGBTQ community have spoken against this group! I am not saying the library is intentionally supporting pedophilia but it is providing grooming tools and opportunities for them!

As a mandated reporter for most of my life, I have had to protect children from abusers. I had to learn how to protect children from predators. Do you know that statistically, 93% of childhood sexual abuse is committed by people the victims and their families know and trust? Do you know that by the time a pedophile is convicted; they have already abused several victims? Do you know how pedophiles get their victims? How do they get by with it so often?

As a protector, I have to understand, set policies, and even take direct action to stop them. They have patterns. First, they get themselves into position of trust (children's workers, scout leaders, teachers, family friends, etc.). When they have the parents' and children's trust, they show "love." Then they slowly introduce the idea that sex is love and that if the child loves them....

This is where the books come into play. Some of the identified books could have been written by pedophiles to use to "normalize" sex as love! They keep their victims silent by blaming them, threatening to tell the parents, or even convincing the parents that the child is lying if the child mentions it. If you doubt me, talk to sexual trauma counselors. Many of the

books in the library, due to child-focused writing and pictures, provide child-focused materials to support their pattern. Whether you like it or not. Children are always at risk and it is up to the parents and the community to protect them as much as possible.

Putting the books in a location in the library where children must have parental approval to access them seems to be the best balance. Notice I said "parents," not "adults" as the current policy states. Parents who are okay with their children seeing cartoons of naked adults and mature body parts and explanations of and descriptive stories of sex, can provide permission to that location. If parents trust a pedophile, the consequences are on them. (*See the above paragraph). That section, to actually be honest to the library's stated position, must also include books opposed to or questioning the LGBTQ+ material. The ALA has openly opposed such fairness. If you don't, you are joining ALA's hypocrisy.

Failure to implement a policy and practice that protects the parental rights of all parents is essential to freedom. The LGBTQ+ community is pushing their social agenda, obviously targeting young children (grooming). Parents have the responsibility to defend their children from such targeting. The library has no right to circumvent that responsibility and should be held accountable if it does. Putting the books in a restricted location doesn't mean the library staff is functioning as parents because access is based on the parents' choice.

The library staff should not even have to be forced to act!

Freedom is teetering. Children are at risk!

Rick Painter
Blue Ridge



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OBITUARIES

Mason, Douglas Browning

Douglas Browning Mason, Sr., Dunbar, Douglas "Bucky" Mason III, Olivia Gilliam, Madison Bedell; great-grandchildren, Cora and Jameson Eanes; and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.



Douglas Browning Mason, Sr., Dunbar, Douglas "Bucky" Mason III, Olivia Gilliam, Madison Bedell; great-grandchildren, Cora and Jameson Eanes; and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Doug's funeral service will be held Wednesday, July 12, 2023 at 11 a.m. in the Buchanan Chapel of Botetourt Funeral Home with the Rev. Robert McRae and Elder Cleatus Newcomb officiating. Interment will follow in Eagle Rock United Methodist Church Cemetery. The family received friends Tuesday, July 11, 2023 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the funeral home. Those wishing to make a contribution in his memory, please consider the Buchanan Fire and Rescue. Online condolences may be made at www.botetourtfuneralhome.com or 540-254-3000.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Sylvia Stinnett Mason; his parents, William B. and Irene Browning Mason; and brother, William B. Mason, Jr. Doug had retired from Verizon Telephone Company. He enjoyed the outdoors by hunting and fishing and was a lifetime member of the Buchanan Moose Lodge.

Survivors include his daughters and sons-in-law, Kim and Alan Bedell of Midlothian, Kristie and Mark Winand of Buchanan; son and daughter-in-law, Douglas, Jr. and Laura Mason of Fincastle; grandchildren; Crystal and Ryan Eanes, Dustin and Katelyn Winand, Evan Gilliam and Chelsea

Buchanan fireworks dedicated to Burleigh Gilliam



PHOTO COURTESY OF TOWN OF BUCHANAN

Buchanan's 2023 Community Carnival Fireworks were dedicated this past Fourth of July to Burleigh Gilliam who passed away on March 27. Burleigh headed up the Buchanan fireworks display for 42 years. During his tenure, Burleigh trained two generations of pyro-technicians in safe performances and sharing in the love of the smoke and fire. These technicians include Burleigh's sons, Dan and Ben, who took the lead this year providing an incredible fireworks display dedicated to Burleigh. The show was something he always took great pride and satisfaction in.

- Town of Buchanan

CHURCH NEWS

Springwood Food Pantry open Saturday

The Springwood Baptist Food Pantry will be open on Saturday, July 15 from 9-10:30 a.m. The pantry is located at 88 Copps Hill Road, Buchanan. This pantry is a drive through pantry, so clients may remain in their cars and volunteers will load the food for them.

The pantry is open each month on the third Saturday from 9-10:30 a.m. It is a partner with Feeding America Southwest Virginia and anyone in need of food is invited.

Mt. Joy Church Homecoming

Mt. Joy Church of the Brethren will celebrate Homecoming on Sunday, August 4. Sunday School will be at 10 a.m. and worship service at 11 a.m. There will be special music by Family Circle. A potluck meal will be served after the worship service. The church is located at 2565 Buffalo Road, Buchanan. Everyone is welcome.

Andrew Chapel ice cream/picnic July 22

Andrew Chapel UMC will hold its ice cream/picnic on Saturday, July 22, beginning at 5 p.m. This year's event will include hot dogs and Bratwurst, with full fixings and chips, and homemade ice cream and desserts. Music will be provided by Mike Lee and the Mill Creek Players. Proceeds benefit the church building fund. Andrew Chapel is located at 3936 Beaver Dam Road, just off Springwood Road, in Buchanan.

Zion Hill Baptist VBS starts Sunday

Twists & Turns Vacation Bible School at Zion Hill Baptist will be held Sunday, July 16 through Wednesday, July 19 from 6-8 p.m. for ages 4 to rising high school seniors. Adult Bible study will also be provided. Light meals will be offered to all participants.

Mill Creek VBS July 16-20

Mill Creek Baptist Church will host "Stellar" VBS Sunday, July 16, through Thursday, July 20, from 6-8:30 p.m. At "Stellar," kids from age 3 through fifth grade will discover how they can shine Jesus' love and hope in everyday life. Online registration and more information are available on the church website millcreekbc.com. Mill Creek Baptist Church is located at 11475 Lee Highway, Fincastle.

VBS at Springwood Baptist

Springwood Baptist Church will have Vacation Bible School on Wednesday, July 26, through Friday, July 28, from 6-8:30 p.m. The theme is "Carnival Under the Big Tent with God!" for all ages. Go to the website website to register: Springwoodbc.org. There is a VBS registration to click on and fill out.

'Noah' coming to Woodland Church

Woodland Church is presenting the spectacular "Noah" by Sight & Sound Theater, Lancaster, Pa., on Thursday, August 3, at 7 p.m. The three-hour video presentation includes an intermission with light refreshments. A church spokesman said this is a wonderful opportunity to see this production at no cost - it's the church's gift to the community

Gaslight & Gingerbread Christmas time in New Jersey

The Joyful Journey Travel of St. Mark's United Methodist Church invites you to join them on their trip to Cape May, N.J., December 4-6; 3 days, 2 nights, \$565 per person double occupancy (\$734 per person single occupancy). The package includes: 2 nights lodging at the Grand Hotel, 2 breakfasts, 2 dinners, tour of 1879 Physick Estate, trolley tour of historic district, Holly Trolley Lights Tour of Cape May, free time on Washington Street Mall, visit to Towne of Historic Smithville, luggage handling, taxes and meal gratuities, motorcoach transportation and driver's tip.

Flyers and registration forms can be found on the church website, stmarksmethodist.com, or the church Facebook page or by calling Julia Greer at 540-330-7933.

A \$25 deposit (non-refundable unless the trip is cancelled), which is part of the total price, is required with the registration form.

Deadline for payment in full is due by October 13. Payments may be made in increments so that the final payment is not so large.

For more information and reservations contact Julia Greer, Joyful Journey Travel, St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 19 Cedar Ridge Drive, Daleville, 24083; 540-330-7933.

BUCHANAN EVENTS

Reggae By the River

Save the date of Saturday, July 22 for Buchanan's Reggae By the River. Gates open at 4:30 p.m. with bands performing from 5 p.m. until 10 p.m. This year's event features Sol Roots and Lazy Man Dub Band. Additional activities include sprinklers for the kids, make your own tie dye shirt, food and adult beverages from PA Short and Virginia Mountain Vineyards. More information to come in The Fincastle Herald or check the town website and Facebook page.

Buchanan Farmers/Community Market Vendors Wanted

Be part of Buchanan's Saturday, July 29 Shop Small, Shop Local efforts as a vendor during the monthly Farmers/Community Market. The town is

accepting application for locally produced food and goods. The market also offers opportunities for educational and charitable activities for the area. For additional information or an application, call 540-254-1212, Ext. 5, or download an application from the town website at www.townofbuchanan.com.

Third Sunday Dinner

Join us this Sunday, July 16 at the Historic Wilson Warehouse for the Third Sunday Dinner fundraiser. The menu includes chicken Marsala, creamed potatoes, mixed vegetables, dinner roll and dessert. Dine in or carry out from 12 noon until 1:30 p.m. Place your reservation to dine in or orders for carry out by 12 p.m. on Saturday, July 15, by calling 540-580-8944 or text message 540-510-0780. Include your name, phone number or email, and the number of meals you wish to order. You will receive a follow up confirmation.

AARP FRAUD ALERT: Threats behind online quizzes

Let's be honest, most of us have done it: taking one of those viral social media quizzes or threads that seem so fun and innocent. Post a picture of your first car. What cartoon princess are you? What record was number one the year you graduated high school?

They may seem like harmless fun, but the Better Business Bureau and digital security companies warn that criminals sometimes use quizzes to pry loose personal data. Launching a quiz app may give its creators permission to pull information from your profile, offering hackers an opening to steal your online identity.

Here are three social media scams to avoid.

Avoid queries about innocent-sounding things like your high school mascot or first car that might be linked to common security questions that banks and financial firms use to protect accounts.

Be suspicious of any personal messages appearing to come from celebrities you follow. Criminals often impersonate celebrities online and offer special access for a price or ask for help with a new investment or charitable contributions.

Another classic social media scam involves a direct message from one of your personal contacts asking "Is this a picture of you" with a link to click on. Clicking the link takes you to a site that mimics one of the popular social networks and prompts you to log in, a ploy for hackers to get your credentials and access your account.

Be a fraud fighter! If you can spot a scam, you can stop a scam.

Visit the AARP Fraud Watch Network at www.aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork or call the AARP Fraud Watch Helpline at 1-877-908-3360.

- AARP

New resource guide is now available for county residents

Botetourt County Communications recently updated a printable BOCO Resource Guide for county residents including phone numbers and email addresses for all departments including the Board of Supervisors, constitutional officers, county departments,

facilities, emergency services, schools, and utilities.

This resource provides a one-stop webpage for residents to have access to all pertinent county contact information. To see the new printable guide, visit www.botetourtva.gov/DocumentCenter/View/2584/Citizen-Resource-Guide.

gov/DocumentCenter/View/2584/Citizen-Resource-Guide.

- Fincastle Herald staff report

Bible Time at Colonial Baptist

What time is it? It's Bible Time! Ready to dino stomp to a place kids dream about? Join the whimsical adventure at Colonial Baptist Church in Blue Ridge in the upcoming Colonial Bible Time July 23-26. The theme this year for boys and girls age 4-grade 6 is "Stompers & Chompers" where they can hop on a triceratops, run with a raptor, and soar with a pterosaur.

Kids will enjoy crafts, snacks, games, and a nightly stomp & chomp jungle assembly. Kids will meet Sunday-Wednesday from 6:45-8:30 p.m. An adult class is also offered each night from 7-8:15 p.m. entitled "A Faith Worth Fighting For." Call the church office at 977-5683 for a ride. Pre-registration is optional at www.cbcbleridge.org. CBC is located at 221 Hillcrest Street in Blue Ridge just off Rt. 460 at Mountain Pass Rd.



In Memory

In loving memory of Tina Bishop, who left us on June 27, 2022. Always loved, never forgotten. Love, Larry & Family

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Order of Publication
 Commonwealth of Virginia VA Code §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316, Case No. JJ019985-03-00 MONTGOMERY COUNTY Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court, 55 EAST MAIN STREET, CHRISTIANSBURG, VA 24073 Commonwealth of Virginia, *in re* Baby Girl Doe v. Unknown Father
 The object of this suit is to: Terminate the residual parental rights of Unknown Father, legal parent of Baby Girl Doe, a minor, in that said parent has, without good cause, failed to correct the conditions which resulted in the child entering foster care and it is not reasonable likely that they will be able to do so in a reasonable amount of time, failed to maintain continuing

Legals - Montgomery County

contact with the child and substantially plan for the child's future. Residual parental rights include, but are not limited to the right to visitation, consent to adoption, the right to determine religious affiliation, and the responsibility for support. The termination of your residual parental rights will permanently end all of your rights and responsibilities to the child named in the petition. It is ORDERED that the t Unknown Father appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before AUGUST 21, 2023. JUNE 29, 2023 Amie Blankenship, CLERK

Legals - Montgomery County

NOTICE OF HEARING ON SEIZURE PETITION Case No. GC23007715-00 PLEASE TAKE NOTICE
 that the Montgomery County Animal Control found a Black Angus Cow with a yellow ear tag on the right ear with #41 on the tag, in the I-81 right-of-way at mile marker 127.4 in the Pedlar Road area in the Elliston Community, Montgomery County, Virginia and a

Legals - Montgomery County

Seizure Petition has been filed by the County of Montgomery, Virginia pursuant to Section 3.2-6569 of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended. The Seizure Petition shall be heard by the General District Court of the County of Montgomery, Virginia sitting in Christiansburg, Virginia on the 18th day of July, 2023 at 10:30 a.m. or as soon thereafter as counsel may be heard.

Legals - Montgomery County

ABC NOTICE
 HAMRO KITCHEN LLC, trading as HAMRO KITCHEN LLC, 403.DRAPER RD. BLACKSBURG VA 24060.
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 ANUP GAUTAM, OWNER
 NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from

Legals - Montgomery County

the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

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LB grad is nationally renowned in golf course design

By Jimmy Robertson
Virginia Tech

Growing up on a farm in a rural county that, at one time, lacked a single spotlight generally gives one a healthy respect for natural resources. Andrew Green is no exception.

With a job that takes him around the country, Green admires a beautiful piece of property and all it offers. Then, perhaps out of habit, he starts envisioning fairway contours, plotting bunker placements, mapping out green locations, and implementing hazards in a way to create memorable experiences for golfers of all skill levels.

A 1996 graduate of Lord Botetourt High School and a 2022 inductee in the Roanoke Valley Golf Hall of Fame, Green has come a long way since playing on the Cavalier golf team. Retired Cavalier athletic director Chuck Pound has fond memories of Andrew.

“Andrew is awesome,” said Pound. “Now I can say I know someone that is famous.”

Indeed, Green has made quite a name for himself since his days at LB. A 2001 graduate of Virginia Tech, Green is the president and principal architect of A.H. Green Design/Green Golf and Turf, Inc. He established his business with a focus on being at the forefront of the next generation of architects.

Green ranks as one of the world’s top golf course architects, specializing in renovations of existing courses. He uses tools such as specialized software applications and drone footage to craft 18 holes of wonderfulness, but unlike many course designers, he occasionally hops on a Caterpillar D6 bulldozer and brings his vision to life.

“I love to play in the dirt,” Green admitted in a recent phone interview. “I’m a big kid. There’s more to it [course

renovations] than just that, but certainly it’s great therapy to get in the bulldozer and create the vision.”

Green’s ability to see a golf course for what it can be and not what it currently is led to one of his greatest career accomplishments. In 2016, Green and his company were chosen to renovate the East Course at Oak Hill Country Club in Rochester, N.Y., in preparation for this past May’s 2023 PGA Championship, one of professional golf’s four major tournaments.

Green possessed extensive course design and project experience, and in 2014, he struck out on his own and started his own company, Green Golf and Turf. He took meetings with clubs and courses throughout the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast, worked on projects of all scales, and started to earn his reputation as a restoration expert. In 2016, he made his pitch to the Oak Hill Country Club leadership, gently proposing renovations that would reflect the course’s glory days.

A humble approach befitting of his rural Botetourt County roots – he grew up in Daleville, an hour north of Virginia Tech’s campus – and his love of golf history led to the leadership at Oak Hill taking a chance on him.

“I kind of approached it [his pitch for the job] differently than maybe some other individuals,” Green said. “I certainly didn’t approach it with a lot of ego. I try to do that everywhere I work. I approach it asking, ‘What’s the best thing for the project? What’s the best thing for the golf course? What respects the past and pushes them toward the future?’”

In meeting with the leadership at Oak Hill, Green’s vision connected the course’s past to its future. His presentation referenced the legacy of Donald Ross, Oak Hill’s original architect who designed the course in the 1920s. Green studied the original layouts



PHOTO COURTESY OF VIRGINIA TECH

Andrew Green and wife, Jennifer, took time for a selfie following the 2023 PGA championship at Oak Hill Country Club. Green oversaw the restoration of the course and has built a thriving career in golf course design.

and drawings of the acclaimed architect to inspire his renovation plan.

“That seemed to resonate with that group,” Green said. “By being different, I stood out. It took them really a leap of faith to trust me that I could do it.”

Fall 2019 marked the tee time for the Oak Hill project, and Green’s company spent approximately four months renovating the course – a gorgeous layout originally designed by Ross. In mid-May at the 2023 PGA Championship, Green’s work led to him earning unanticipated global recognition.

Those in charge at Oak Hill spoke glowingly of his efforts. He received positive attention from media outlets and numerous fans even asked for his autograph, which, in his words, was “a little mind-blowing.”

More importantly, though, the players told Green that he had aced his project.

“Everything I’ve heard has been very positive,” Green said. “I don’t know if, after a little reflection, there have been additional conversations, but for everything that I’ve heard, it had been received really well.

“All the members were just so proud of

what their club has become again. Being on the world stage in such a good light certainly was great to see for them.”

Green credits much of the success in his current profession to what he learned in Southwest Virginia, first as a teenage cart boy and maintenance worker at Botetourt Country Club and later as an undergraduate at Virginia Tech. Green was a good golfer in high school, but admittedly not good enough to earn a scholarship, so he pursued what he considered the next best thing – course architecture.

Dean Bork, an associate professor in architecture at the time, cautioned Green of the pitfalls of that career. Bork, who is now retired, brought credibility to the conversation – he worked in the industry before becoming a professor at Virginia Tech. But Green remained undaunted, graduating with a degree in landscape architecture, a five-year program in what is now the College of Architecture, Arts, and Design, and earned a second degree, this one in crop soils and environmental science – turfgrass option – in the College

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PHOTO BY LEIGH DOWNEY

Heath Andrews is a finalist for the Ray Bellamy Award, given annually to the top high school player in the Salem-Roanoke Baseball Hall of Fame area.



PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Abe Naff, middle, at his 1999 Hall of Fame induction between presenters Posey Oyler (left) and Kelvin Bowles.

Naff will be speaker at Baseball Hall of Fame Banquet, James River’s Andrews is finalist for Ray Bellamy Award

Abe Naff, a 1999 Salem-Roanoke Baseball Hall of Fame inductee who won over 600 games at Ferrum College, will be the guest speaker for the Hall of Fame banquet on Sunday, July 23. The Hall of Fame has also announced the six finalists for the high school Player of the Year Ray Bellamy Award as well as the recipients of two special scholarships awarded annually by the Hall of Fame.

Naff served as baseball coach at Ferrum for 23 years, beginning with the 1985 season through

2007. During that time he coached 22 players who went on to play professional baseball while running up a record of 643-236-3, a winning percentage of .731. Abe also served as the college athletic director for 15 years.

A Rocky Mount native and standout catcher at Franklin County High School, Naff went on to play college baseball at Lynchburg College, now the University of Lynchburg. He was selected to the All-Old Dominion Athletic

Conference team two years at catcher while helping lead the Hornets to a national ranking.

The 31st annual Salem-Roanoke Baseball Hall of Fame Banquet will be held at the Salem Civic Center on July 23, beginning with a social hour at 5 p.m. and dinner is at 6 p.m. The Class of ’23 includes Roy Clark, Nick Jones, Randy Lawrence, Reggie Poff and Matt Trent, and Gary Oyler will receive the Wayne LaPierre, Sr. Community Service

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The colorful game of baseball



Brian Hoffman
Sports Editor

It’s all-star week for Major League Baseball and that always brings back some fond memories.

I started out as a child in southeast Pennsylvania, and it wasn’t long before I became a baseball fan. I was 7 years old, in fact, when my dad took me to my first game at old Connie Mack Stadium in Philadelphia on a bus sponsored by our church. From that point, I was hooked.

Growing up in an area served by Philadelphia television stations I was able to watch the Phillies on TV, but it’s not like it is now. Today I have the baseball package on DirecTV and, for about 30 dollars a month, I can watch any game on the MLB schedule. And, I can watch the games on a big screen, high definition TV that makes you feel like you’re at the game. In fact, sometimes it’s even better as there’s no line for the bathroom, the refrigerator is filled with much cheaper food, I don’t have to crawl over people to get to an

aisle from my recliner and, if I record the first 45 minutes before watching the game, I can fast-forward between innings. You can’t simulate the roar of the crowd, but then again I’m not paying \$25 for parking at my house.

It wasn’t like that in the ’60s when I was growing up. Our TV was black and white and about a third of the size I have now, and that was a good-sized box at the time. As for the Phillies, they were our local team but all the games weren’t televised. The Phils wanted you to come to the ballpark and buy tickets, which ranged anywhere from \$5.50 for box seats to 50-cent bleacher seats in the left field pavilion, so they didn’t put the home games on TV. Every once in a while there was a Sunday afternoon home game televised, but never during the week.

And, all the road games weren’t on TV either. For some reason they seemed to carry all the games from Cincinnati and Chicago, but only selected games

from other cities and never a late night game from Los Angeles or San Francisco. When the “UHF” boxes came about that increased the number of games I could watch, and doubled the number of stations available from three (ABC, NBC, CBS) to six. The UHF stations were big on reruns and sports, and stuff like wrestling and roller derby. I loved it.

At the time, I was quite happy to have what we had. The Phillies games were in black and white but I was just glad to be able to watch them. Never in a million years did I imagine there’d be a day when I could watch any game on the schedule in color on a high def TV with a screen as wide as a coffee table, or even wider.

And then there was the all-star game. My Uncle Bob and Aunt Alice were the first people I knew who had a color TV, and the all-star game was in color. If you’re my age or older you can remember when having a color TV was a big deal. I can still remember people saying, “You have to see Bonanza in color!”

Well, I had to see the all-star game in color. My aunt lived about a half-hour walk away, or 10 minutes by bicycle, and back then parents weren’t worried about their kids getting kidnapped or shot. The all-star game was always in the daytime in the ’60s and I would forego an afternoon at the local pool to watch the game in color at Aunt Alice’s house.

I can still remember it all these years

later, how the teams were introduced and lined up on first and third base and you could see all the different uniforms in living color. It doesn’t sound like a big deal now but for a 10-year-old kid it was exciting ... even better than Bonanza!!

The all-star game was a little more exciting back then, because the two leagues never played each other except in the World Series. There was a lot of pride in which league was better, and about the time I was growing up the National League dominated, mostly due to the fact that National League teams were quicker to embrace African American and Latino players. On one side, you had Whitey Ford pitching to Willie Mays, Hank Aaron or Roberto Clemente and on the other side you had Bob Gibson or Juan Marachal pitching to Mickey Mantle. Both leagues had some great players but the National had, by far, the better minority players. I didn’t think about that at the time but looking back it was quite obvious.

I had almost forgotten how far we’d come watching sports on TV until COVID hit and the sports channels were searching for things to put on the air. To fill air time the MLB channel ran a broadcast of the 1960 World Series game seven between the Pittsburgh Pirates and the New York Yankees, just

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Good turnout for Cavalier basketball camp



PHOTOS COURTESY OF LB BASKETBALL

Lord Botetourt basketball coach Andrew Hart, along with staff and players, held the annual "Future Cavs"

basketball camp at Lord Botetourt High School the last week of June. There was a good turnout for the camp and the future

looks bright for the Cavaliers. Here, the campers gather for a group photo, and the week's "Outstanding Campers" show

off their certificates. Left to right are coach Hart, Wagner Collins, Evan May and junior varsity coach Robert Hudson.

Green

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of Agriculture and Life Sciences. "I told him what the likely consequences of pursuing it might be, and he was determined," Bork said. "That's what he wanted to do, and from all sides, he's really made a good show of it. "I do know that to be successful in the golf business, you have to be capable of networking with the right people. I think Andrew was acquainted with a few PGA Tour professionals when he was still a student ... and those kinds of connections helped propel his career forward because it's really tough to get those kinds of clients without the right network of contacts." Green's brother, Sam, helped him start that network. Sam

Green, '94, worked as a golf course superintendent for several years, including a stint at Congressional Country Club in Bethesda, Md., the site of the 1997 U.S. Open. At that event, Sam helped his brother secure a volunteer spot assisting with course preparation, thus introducing him to the professional golf world. Andrew Green eventually worked for McDonald & Sons, a company that builds golf courses, for 14 years, learning every aspect of the business before striking out on his own. A job renovating the bunkers at Country Club of York in York, Pa., helped him break through in the profession. Throughout his career, Green has been involved in

the restoration or renovation of several famous courses, including Inverness Club in Ohio; the Blue Course at Congressional Country Club, Scioto Country Club in Ohio; Whitmarsh Valley Country Club in Pennsylvania; Indian Creek Country Club in Miami; and of course, Oak Hill. During all those projects and others, Green found himself reflecting on Virginia Tech's impact on him. "Every step of the way, Virginia Tech helped me," Green said. "There's a level of pride and perseverance that you have from being in Blacksburg. It's that grassroots or blue-collar mentality. It is certainly with the football

team, right? Coach [Frank] Beamer and coach [Bud] Foster built that mentality that we're going to get up and go to work every day and we're going to overachieve. We're going to be great by working together. Those things certainly resonated. "Within the landscape architecture program, I was very laser focused on wanting to do this, but they helped show me the value of all the other things within that discipline that have benefited me in so many ways that I didn't even realize at the time. ... Then in the turf grass department, the relationships I've built, the hard work and camaraderie in that side of the

world, was phenomenal." Green's success at Oak Hill has given him the honors for other projects. He and his team just started work at Interlachen Country Club in Minnesota – the site of the 1930 U.S. Open won by legendary golfer and seven-time major champion winner Bobby Jones. Later this fall, he will be overseeing the renovation of East Lake Golf Club in Atlanta, Jones' home course. Green is excited to tee off on those and others, though they may slice into time reserved for wife, Jennifer, '00, and three children. His listing of projects stretches to 2026-27 – an accomplishment in a profession prone to volatility.

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HOF

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Award. For information on tickets or tables contact Hall of Fame President John Montgomery at jmonty@cox.net or Gary Walthall at 540-427-1977. The Salem-Roanoke Baseball Hall of Fame has also announced the finalists for the Ray Bellamy Award, symbolic of the high school Player of the Year in the area covered by the Hall. That area includes the counties of Alleghany, Roanoke, Bedford, Botetourt, Craig, Floyd, Franklin and Montgomery and the independent cities located within the boundaries of those counties. This year's finalists are Heath Andrews of James River, Jesse Brown of Staunton River, Preston Crowl of Franklin County, Trey Ludy of Cave Spring, Mason Self of Christiansburg and Brekin Nace of Jefferson Forest. The winner will be announced in conjunction with a baseball doubleheader for the area's recently graduated high school seniors at Salem Memorial Ballpark on Saturday, July 22. Game one of the doubleheader is scheduled for 4 p.m., followed by the announcement of the Bellamy winner and the scholarship presentations. Game two will then follow. "The Last Inning" was initiated in 2020 when the COVID pandemic cancelled the high school season. It gave the seniors a chance to get on the field, and it was such a success it was decided to make it an annual event for senior players. The doubleheader is sponsored by the Salem Red Sox and the Salem-

Roanoke Baseball Hall of Fame. There is no charge for the players and the event is free to the public. On that day two scholarships will also be awarded by the Hall of Fame. The scholarships honor two deceased men who were charter members of the Hall of Fame's Board of Directors as well as past inductees, Posey Oyler and Kelvin Bowles. Oyler was the first president of the Hall of Fame and served for 17 years before passing in January of 2008. An annual scholarship in his name goes to an area player of good character, nominated by his high school coach, who plans to play college baseball. This year's winner is Damien Boyd of Auburn High School. Bowles was a charter member of the Hall of Fame Board of Directors who passed away in 2022 after serving for over 30 years. He owned the local Carolina League baseball team for 21 years and served as a professional scout for several big league teams. His scholarship goes to a senior who has shown a great love for the game, and this year's winner is Preston Crowl of Franklin County High School. The Hall of Fame building is located on the grounds of the James E. Taliaferro Complex, next to the Salem Red Sox administrative office behind the third base seating area of Salem Memorial Ballpark. It is open to the public on selected nights during the 2023 season and upon request.

Hoffman

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as it was at the time. It was the first World Series I remember watching, and I specifically recall rushing home from school and seeing Bill Mazeroski hit the walk-off home run that won the series. All the World Series games were also in the daytime back then, and school interfered with the weekday games. It was fun to watch Game 7 of that series again and see how things have changed. There was no replay at the time, and I found myself instinctively waiting for a home run or a good catch to be replayed, but to no avail. The game was in black and white and

not all that sharp, and graphics were elementary. When a batter came up his name was briefly on the screen, in a font that looked like it was done on a typewriter. No stats, no pitch speed, no little box with the outs, pitch count and infield diagram showing who was on base. It was just a black and white ballgame shown from two camera angles with two guys talking, but it was all I knew at the time and I loved it. As I mentioned, the game was shown just as it was in 1960 and the commercials were much different as well. Most of them appealed to men,

as you might expect, with beer, cigarettes and shaving cream being the prime sponsors. And there was nothing fancy, just 60 seconds of why their product was better than the other guy. Now, you can watch two or three minutes of commercials and when they're done you might not even know what they were advertising. That's the kind of stuff I think of every year when the all-star game comes on, good times watching Uncle Bob and Aunt Alice's TV and loving baseball in living color. Back then I didn't think it could get any better than that.