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Land Transfers - Page 3

The Fincastle Herald



& Botetourt County News

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VT Extension Office hires new Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent



PHOTO BY MATT DE SIMONE

Anne Jones is the new Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent in the Botetourt County office of Virginia Cooperative Extension.

Matt de Simone

mattdesimone@mainstreetnewspapers.com

Anne Jones is the new Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent in the Botetourt County office of Virginia Cooperative Extension.

Jones is a Bedford County resident who helps operate her family's cattle farm. She's worked in the beef industry from most of her life including time spent with the Virginia Cattlemen's Association. Jones also taught agriculture and acted as a Future Farmers of America (FFA) advisor at Staunton River High School.

"I have a really strong farming background,"

Jones said during a recent interview. "I wanted to make a change in the audience as to where the level of where I was working in the classroom. I felt that in serving the community and a little different audience that was maybe more venturesome to me. In this job, I can do that plus I can still be involved with the youth that are in livestock by being involved with 4-H.

"There's a lot of energy, excitement, and support in agriculture. It's exciting for me to be a part of that. (Botetourt) is a community that really wants to continue that

tradition. I hope I can be an asset in that."

She looks forward to working with local landowners to make their operations more profitable through marketing opportunities and helping expand agritourism.

"If you're going to maintain your farmland and the beauty of Botetourt County, sometimes you're going to need to look outside the box," Jones explained. "I know that in neighboring Bedford County, there is a similar situation. We have people that are moving into the county that may not have an agriculture background. They buy a

See Jones, page 8



FILE PHOTO

Pomegranate Restaurant will hold a Valentine's Day event Wednesday, Feb. 14 from 5:30-9 p.m.

Pomegranate Restaurant now open for events

Pomegranate Restaurant in Troutville recently announced plans to hold upcoming community events in 2024. Restaurant owner Diana Dixon revealed that Wednesday, Feb. 14 will be the first event held at the popular Botetourt eating establishment since the venue closed during the Covid-19 pandemic.

This Valentine's Day dinner will feature food provided by Schaal's Catering, piano music, and singers during the dining portion of the event. A DJ will also be on hand providing

dance music. Dance instructors Dave and Donna Spangler will attend the event to help coordinate a lesson with willing participants following dinner.

Dixon shared that she hopes this event will be the first of many more to come. For more information please call 540-966-6052.

Pomegranate's Valentine's Day dinner event takes place from 5:30 until 9 p.m. at 106 Stoney Battery Road in Troutville.

- Fincastle Herald staff report

Attic Youth's play begins January 26



PHOTO COURTESY OF ATTIC PRODUCTIONS

From left, Oscar Seitz, Hailey Vandergrift, and Sylvia Hartvigsen are rehearsing a Yellow Brick Road scene from the play "Bad Things Happen to Good Actors."

Attic Productions' Youth Ensemble will present "Bad Plays Gone Wrong" at the D. Geraldine Lawson Performing Arts Center January 26-28 and February 2-4. This youth production has over 50 cast and crew members from age 6 to 17, and is a combination of two one-

act plays. Both are comedies that are actually a play within a play. "All I Really Need to Know I Learned from Being in a Bad Play" by Werner Trieschmann and directed by Kailee Weiman, is a comedic retelling of Romeo and Juliet. It follows the disastrous backstage

drama involved in producing the play from auditions and rehearsals to the final performance. "Bad Things Happen to Good Actors" by Ian McWethy and James Pizzarello, and directed by Kerry Williams, is a very lively and energetic

See Attic, page 8



Mountain Castles SWCD to host winter banquet

Mountain Castles Soil & Water Conservation District will host a winter banquet on Monday, February 5, at the Fincastle Fire House. Dinner begins at 6 p.m. and will be catered by the Mill Creek Baptist Church Alaska Missions Team.

In addition to providing updates to ongoing conservation efforts, the district will recognize its "Clean Water Farm Award" winners and its "Educator of the Year."

The banquet is free, but reservations are required; RSVP with Tim Miller at (540) 797-0217 or tim.miller@mountaincastles.org.

- Fincastle Herald staff report



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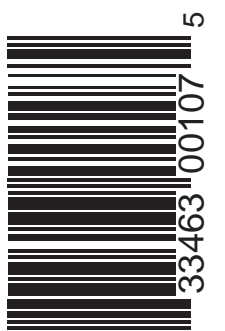
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Botetourt County History



PHOTO COURTESY OF BCMHC

This limited edition “Solo in the Spotlight” clock was part of the Barbie exhibit at the Botetourt Museum of History and Culture. It was given to Mary Ann Layman Miller by her aunt, Sandra Sue Layman Bolton, in 1995. Margot Robbie, who played Barbie in the 2023 movie, wore an exact copy of this black dress complete with black gloves, red rose, scarf and necklace when she walked the red carpet in Hollywood on July 9, 2023. It was custom designed by Schiaparelli. The iconic Barbie has survived hatred and love and is still celebrated all over the world.

- Botetourt County Museum of History & Culture

Former RVBA president suing Botetourt County Administrator

As reported from other local media outlets, Frank Marshall Smith, former president and chief executive officer of the Roanoke Valley Broadband Authority (RVBA), filed a lawsuit against Botetourt County Administrator Gary Larowe on January 12 in Roanoke District Court.

Smith is seeking \$10 million, alleging that Larowe was critical of him to the

point that, Smith claims, the criticism was damaging to his reputation.

Smith’s legal representation did not provide a copy of the lawsuit nor did county communications respond when asked about the lawsuit by press time.

- Fincastle Herald staff report

2024 Gauntlet Business Program & Competition Kickoff In-Person Networking Event
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5TH
5:30 PM - 7:00 PM

Please join us for a special evening of networking, fun, refreshments, & some special surprises!
 &
 We will be introducing the 2024 Gauntlet cohort!

VINTON WAR MEMORIAL

814 E Washington Avenue
 Vinton, Virginia 24179

GRAPHIC COURTESY OF THE ADVANCEMENT FOUNDATION

County residents still have time to sign up for Gauntlet competition

As of last Friday, only two Botetourt businesses applied to participate in this year’s Gauntlet competition. The event’s kickoff in-person networking event takes place on Feb. 5 from 5:30-7 p.m. at the Vinton War Memorial at 814 E. Washington Avenue in Vinton.

There is still time for local entrepreneurs to register with a chance to be awarded part of the \$300,000 cash/in-kind prize pool.

New program participants can learn more by visiting The Gauntlet’s Facebook page (www.facebook.com/TAFGauntlet). There, visitors can find out how to register for the competition and sign up for the upcoming kickoff event.

This dynamic 10-week business development program that helps entrepreneurs at any stage start or expand their business. As Virginia’s largest event of its kind, the Gauntlet teaches aspiring or existing entrepreneurs every aspect of owning a business, and provides networking with passionate entrepreneurs—in addition to winning a variety of cash and in-kind prizes.

This year the Gauntlet, founded by The Advancement Foundation (TAF) and President and CEO Annette Patterson, is celebrating its 10th anniversary.

The first class—a virtual one for orientation—takes place on Jan. 30, followed by an in-person kick-off event at the Vinton War Memorial on Feb. 5. Classes then continue weekly on Tuesdays through April 2 on a virtual platform. Entrepreneurs who wish to compete for awards submit and “pitch” their business plan. The winners are announced at the Graduation and Awards Ceremony at the Vinton War Memorial on May 23.

The Gauntlet program works with local community leaders in over 50 communities across Virginia to identify and foster business development and entrepreneurial ecosystem building goals in alignment with local, regional, and state priorities.

The Gauntlet is open to everyone—whether they are just in the idea stage or ready to expand an existing business.

The program includes a network of over 300 business professionals and industry experts who provide specific and critical support to the participating entrepreneurs—one of the most valued aspects of the program.

Gauntlet organizers say that over \$3 million in cash and in-kind awards have been distributed over their 10 years to entrepreneurs who are investing in properties which may have long been vacant, creating local jobs, and contributing to growing tax bases in their communities.

Some of the primary objectives of the Gauntlet program include:

- Uncovering and developing entrepreneurial talent in small and rural communities all across Virginia
- Providing a meaningful and substantial learning experience for entrepreneurs who are interested in starting or growing a business
- Connecting program participants with other business talent (over 1,000 Gauntlet Alumni and over 300 industry experts)
- Identifying local and regional business professionals and industry experts who support entrepreneurs and their activities
- Identifying local stakeholders and service providers who have an interest in donating cash and/or in-kind services to be awarded directly to their local entrepreneurs who participate in the program
- Identifying and attracting venture and other types of capital investment (e.g. grant opportunities, loan funds, etc.);

The primary benefits of the Gauntlet program to participants include:

- Access to Intellectual Capital: the program provides the opportunity for exposure and development of the skills necessary to create or grow a successful business venture;
- Access to Financial Capital: the program provides an opportunity for cash and in-kind awards to for new or expanding business ventures and access to other local, regional, state, federal funding opportunities that have been identified;
- Access to Social Capital: the program provides connections to over 1,000 Gauntlet Alumni (entrepreneurs), industry experts, mentors, and community leaders who foster opportunities to share business experiences, create collaborations, and encourage innovative thinking.

There are also benefits of the Gauntlet for the communities involved:

- Fostering innovation and promoting economic development (job growth, property purchase/lease, local money, circulation, additional tax revenues, increase in the tax base, stronger property values, etc.)
- Enhancing the community vibrancy and quality of life in communities through the establishment and promotion of new/expanding technology, agriculture, main street retail, service, entertainment, and food/beverage, outdoor recreation and tourism, gig and many other types of business that help attract and retain new visitors, residents, and workforce members.

For more information or to register, visit <https://theadvancementfoundation.org/the-gauntlet>.

- Fincastle Herald staff report



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Bank of Botetourt promotes Seay, Cole, Focht



Jerrica Seay



Beverly Cole



Kelly Focht

IMAGES COURTESY OF BANK OF BOTETOURT

Bank of Botetourt has promoted three of its employees, Jerrica Seay, Beverly Cole, and Kelly Focht.

Seay has been promoted to Assistant Vice President and Operations Officer, and is located at the bank's Care Center in Buchanan. In her new role, Seay will oversee and assist with Electronic Banking, Card Services, and Loan Operations for the bank. Seay joined the bank 12 years ago after graduating from Mary Baldwin University. She was born in Lexington, and currently resides in Glasgow with her husband, Adam, and their two daughters.

Cole was promoted to Credit Administration Officer, where she will work to help manage the entire credit process within the bank. She has over 40 years of experience in the financial industry and received her degree from Virginia Western Community College. A Virginia native, she resides in Botetourt County with her husband, Jeff, and their family. In her spare time, Beverly is an active member of Relay for Life of Virginia's Blue Ridge, Heart Walk for the American Heart Association, and her church.

Focht assumes the role of Fraud Officer and is based out of the bank's Care Center in Buchanan. Focht was born and raised in Buchanan and received her degree from Ferrum College. She has been with the bank for nearly 13 years and has recently participated in several local events on behalf of the bank to spread awareness regarding customer fraud prevention. In her spare time, Focht is a leader of the Botetourt County 4-H Livestock Club and a first grade Sunday School teacher at Mill Creek Baptist Church. Kelly resides in Buchanan with her husband,

Jason, and their two daughters.

Bank President and COO Michelle Austin expressed her congratulations to Seay, Cole and Focht on their promotions. "We are proud to be able to promote from within and are confident that they will each continue to thrive in their respective positions. We are fortunate to have such a great team here at the bank and look forward to seeing what they will accomplish!"

- Bank of Botetourt

ARRESTS

The Botetourt County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests January 8-19:

- Luis A. Corcino, 31, of Buchanan, abduction, January 8
- Ricky L. Mundy, 39, of Troutville, credit card theft, possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine, January 8
- Brandon L. Vicars, 35, of Roanoke, distributing methamphetamine, January 8
- Bonny J. Lee, 41, of Roanoke, distributing methamphetamine, January 8
- Dustin J. Reid, 34, transient, drunk in public, January 13
- Claudie M. Painter, 44, of Buchanan, driving under the influence, driving with a revoked license, breath test refusal, January 16
- Christopher M. Wilson, 46, of Bluefield, W.Va., fugitive from justice, January 18
- Ricky L. Mundy, 39, of Troutville, credit card fraud, January 19

The Fincastle Herald
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2024 Freshwater Fisheries, Recreational Boating, and Nongame & Endangered Species Regulation Cycle

The Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) has announced the commencement of its biennial process for revising the regulations governing recreational fishing, non-game wildlife management, and boating. The new regulations are set to take effect on January 1, 2025.

The scoping period will run from January 11 through February 25. During this period, citizens will have the opportunity to propose potential

regulatory changes directly to DWR.

DWR encourages all interested parties to actively participate in this important process. By providing their input, citizens can help shape the future regulations that govern recreational fishing, non-game wildlife management, and boating in Virginia.

For more information, go to dgifweb@dgif.virginia.gov.

- DWR

LAND TRANSFERS

The following land transfers were recorded in the Botetourt County Courthouse in December 2023. The names of only one seller and one buyer are listed; others may be involved in the transaction.

- Sandra G. Arrington to Randy L. Arrington, 2 lots, Vise Subdivision, \$45,000
- Ronald E. Biggs to VPP Land Holdings, 2 parcels, \$33,000
- John Eric Blankenship, Executor, to Aaron Chadwick Blevins, lot, Hearthland Subdivision, \$185,000
- Dustin S. Borgerding to Jessie A. Slough, lot, North Buchanan, \$235,000
- V. Price Brown to Afterburner Inc., 2.852 acres, \$175,000
- James E. Bryant Jr. to Caleb T. Bryant, 0.204 acres, gift deed
- Traci Burton to Jon Patterson, lot, Ashley Plantation, \$645,000
- Kathryn Louise Bush to Peak Vista Properties, three parcels, \$1,050,000
- Joe Douglas Carter to Thomas N. Langhorne Jr., lot, Ashley Plantation, \$585,000
- CFF Properties to Devora Marie Wilson, lot, Rainbow Forest, \$379,900
- Benjamin Charlet to Keith L. Moore Sr., lot, Tinkerview Gardens, \$422,500
- Joseph T. Cockfield to BUP Holdings, 0.5328 acre, \$72,889
- Justin C. Cook to J and N Apartments, 1.00 acre, quit claim deed
- Countryside Land Company to Rocky D. Nicely, 2 lots, Thornblade, \$60,000
- Pamela Plunkett Dodge to Summit to Sea Ventures, 2.52 acres, \$105,000
- William C. Faddis to Walter D. Cunningham, 2 parcels, \$849,950
- Fralin & Waldron Inc. to Daleville Town Center, new easement, 1.432 acres, gift deed
- Fralin & Waldron Inc. to Daleville Town Center, 16 parcels, gift deed
- Michael L. Gibson to Jeffrey L. Mayhew, 1.250 acres, \$34,000
- Milton Robert Hale Jr. to Cox Real Estate Enterprises, parcel, \$110,000
- Elijah B. Harlow to Jeffrey L. Harlow, 3.771 acres, gift deed
- Jeffrey Lynn Harlow to Jeffrey Lynn Harlow, 2 acres, gift deed
- Dale R. Harris to AEC Property, 2.252 acres, \$37,500
- Alice Hartberger to Julian Lee Hampton, part of lot, Ross Addition, Town of Buchanan, \$6,000
- Kevin Haynes to Kevin Haynes, 2 acres, \$57,000
- Jerry D. Hughston to Jerry Daniels Hughston, parcel, \$0
- Hungate-Fields to Susan E. Haisley, lot, The Preserve at Ashley, \$598,750
- John A. Carter Rental Properties to Donna Barker, 3 lots, \$160,000
- Reid W. Johnson III to Linda J. Schlosser, 10.193 acres, \$457,000
- Daniel E. Jones, Trustee, to Robert D. Dye, three parcels, \$395,000
- Jacob R. Kinzie to Michael C. Bousman, 13.136 acres, \$107,000
- Michael S. Kinzie to Jacob R. Kinzie, 13.136 acres, \$0
- Seth R. Konopasek to Tiffany P. Rochay, 0.5300 acres, \$1,000
- Seth R. Konopasek to Alderson Family LLC, 0.055 acres, \$700
- Seth R. Konopasek to James Deskins, 39.0475 acres, \$102,500
- Robert S. Laucher to Nathan Yandrick, 2.74 acres, Pine Hills, \$515,000
- Scott N. Lavering to Shu Zhen Chen, lot, Greenacres, \$340,000
- Welsey G. Lucado to Anthony David Lucado, 4.365 acres, gift deed
- Joyce D. Martin to Laura Ursula Ann Thompson, lot, Rainbow Forest, \$272,000
- Roger McMurray to Tom Megow, 4.00 acres, \$295,000
- David W. Miller to The Ikenberry Family LLC, 7.393 acres, \$100,000
- Judy Deel Mills to Elite Estate Solutions, 154 square poles, School House Hill, \$53,900
- Aaron M. Musselwhite to Fieldstone Farm, 4.07 acres, \$250,000
- Christopher L. Newton to John E. Bailey, lot, White Oak Estates, \$0
- Shannon Newton to Colton John Mycock, lot, Rainbow Forest, \$310,000
- Samantha Baker Nix, Executor, to Coleman Osborne, 0.669 acres, \$275,000
- Christi Norfleet to Janeane E. Lawrence, 25.1 acres, \$370,000

- David E. Pactor to Philip L. Floyd, 3.692 acres, \$50,000
- Brittany Ann Painter to Jonathan Laprade, 1.413 acres, \$110,850
- Colby J. Payne to Travis Herald, lot, Santillane, \$450,000
- Pentagon Properties to P&L Holdings, 4 parcels, \$1,150,000
- Danny M. Perdue to Timir Patel, 1.0 acre, \$150,000
- Relax Inc. to RYT LLC, lot, \$75,000
- Danny Ray Sanderson to Anthony C. Wheeler, 1.772 acres, gift deed
- Samuel A. Scott to Timothy Q. Helmick, 0.035 acre, \$19,000
- Larry E. Seay to Christopher L. Mize, 5981.78 square feet, \$200,000
- Mark S. Shifflett to Leslie E. Shifflett, lot, \$2,600
- Robert W. Sigman to Julia Wadolowska, lot, Chadwick, \$625,000
- Bryan Michael Slagle to James Dean, lot, Ashley Plantation, \$600,000
- Denise H. Spangler to Henry E. Eggleston Jr., lot, Brookfield, \$460,000
- Betty L. Steineke to Timothy J. Johnson, 8.40 acres, \$350,000
- Barbara Stevenson to Craig V. Dukes, lot, Daleville Town Center, \$327,500
- Tammy Stultz to LJJB Properties, lot, Botetourt East, \$228,000
- Harry E. Sutherland to Jeannine H. Keffer, 1.365 acres, \$55,000
- James H. Tenser to Brad Delseni, 2.72 acres, Shawnee Village, \$755,000
- Michael James Villa to Vandelay Industries Properties, 2.805 acres, \$69,950
- VPP Land Holdings to Phat T. Nguyen, 2 parcels, \$50,000
- David L. Weddle to Kathleen Erin Borlik, lot, White Oak Estates, \$245,000
- Franz-Josef Wesner to Valhalla Development, parcel, gift deed
- Merle Leketa White to Eric C. Moore, 1.597 acres, \$299,800
- John David Wine to Joseph A. Overbay, lot, The Orchards of Ashley, \$112,000
- 849 Dawnridge Lane LLC to Jonathan A. Stewart, 21.09 acres, \$400,000

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UPCOMING COUNTY LIBRARY EVENTS

Murder Hole Cave

Tue, Jan 30, 6-7pm, Blue Ridge
 Learn about the history and science of Murder Hole Cave, a local natural formation, as well as caves' importance, safety, and conservation. Start with a short documentary, then enjoy a Q&A session with Marian McConnell, property owner, educator, and spelunking guide. Copies of McConnell's book *Murder Hole: Catawba Murder Hole Cave* will be available for purchase and author signing.

Little Explorers

Tuesdays 10:30am, Fincastle
 Toddlers explore the world around them through educational and soft play toys while parents and caregivers get grown-up social time.

Youth Chess Club

Tuesdays, 4-5:30pm, Eagle Rock
 Tuesdays, 5:30-6:30pm, Blue Ridge
 Learn the basics of chess while expanding your critical-thinking and problem-solving skills. Offered in partnership with Botetourt County Parks & Recreation. Call 540-928-2900 to register.

Beginning Engineering

Tue, Jan 30, 4:30-5:30pm, Eagle Rock
 Thu, Feb 8, 4:30-5:30pm, Fincastle
 Get hands-on experience with electrical projects that focus on safety and real-world engineering skills. Presented by engineer David Sproles. This first class will focus on basic skills and a transistor project. No prior experience required - just curious minds! Best for kids age 10+. Registration required due to limited class size. Call 540-928-2900 to sign up.

Everybody's a Detective

Thu, Jan 25, 4-5pm, Blue Ridge & Eagle Rock
 Fri, Jan 26, 3-4pm, Fincastle
 Sat, Jan 27, 11am-12pm, Buchanan
 On the 48th anniversary of Agatha Christie's death, join a deputy from the Botetourt County Sheriff's Office to try your hand at detective skills: Morse code, fingerprinting, yarn laser obstacle course, detective-themed crafts, and more. Great fun for the whole family!

Garden Club

Wed, Feb 7, 11am-12pm, Eagle Rock
 Dig into all aspects of gardening with guidance from local experts and/or hands-on projects. February project - Seed Tape.

True Crime Book Club

Mon, Jan 22, 6:30-7:30pm, Blue Ridge
 Discuss "whodunnit" books and authors with fellow true crime enthusiasts while enjoying free coffee and social connection. Choose your own books or find one from the list of recommendations. January's theme: When the Mafia Comes to Town.

Eclectic Readers

Thu, Jan 25, 11am-12pm, Eagle Rock
 Carnegie's Maid by Marie Benedict
 Thu, Jan 25, 1-2pm, Blue Ridge
 Daisy Jones & the Six by Taylor Jenkins Reid
 Thu, Feb 1, 6:30-7:30pm, Fincastle
 The Violin Conspiracy by Brandon Slocumb
 Wed, Feb 7, 12-1pm, Buchanan
 Theme: "Luminous Life" - Choose a title from a list of recommendations. Discuss books and authors with fellow readers while enjoying coffee and social connection.

Report from the House Del. Terry Austin

To the Constituents of the 37th House District:

The first full week of the 2024 General Assembly session has concluded. More than 1,500 bills have been introduced in the House, and the process of hearing them in committee and subcommittee has begun in earnest. Public safety, constitutional rights, and transportation infrastructure policy were the themes of the week.

Republicans have introduced legislation that will begin the process of holding fentanyl dealers accountable for the lives they take with this poison. On average, five Virginians a day die from a fentanyl overdose. Under our legislation, anyone who gives or sells a lethal dose of fentanyl is liable for murder. Unfortunately, the Senate has already voted down one version of this legislation.

Firearms are also at the forefront, as Democrats have introduced a raft of legislation about guns. One example requires Virginians to obtain a license from the State Police before they can legally purchase a firearm of any kind. It is important to remember that the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision in Bruen significantly restricts the limits that can be placed on our Second Amendment rights. It is my understanding that most, if not all, of the bills proposed are unconstitutional, and I will not vote for them.

Republicans are also working to end the mandate tying Virginia to California's emission standards and requiring that all new cars sold be electric vehicles by 2035. This policy is unrealistic, and industry

experts have stated that it is impossible to implement. The technology requires long charging times, works poorly - or not at all - in the cold, and is more expensive than gas-powered vehicles. The dearth of charging stations and transmission line capacity further exacerbates the problem. Republicans will continue to point out these flaws.

As for my bills, I am carrying three that promote the VA250 Commission, of which I am chair. Virginia is the birthplace of our nation, and the VA250 Commission is responsible for implementing and promoting Virginia's leadership role in the founding of our nation and the celebration of its 250th birthday in 2026. It is a privilege to serve as chair and I look forward to leading the Commission's efforts to acknowledge and honor our shared history and progress. In today's world, it is vital that we ensure our future generations understand how we developed as a country and why it should not be taken for granted.

The first bill, HB839 makes technical changes in line with previous statewide commemorations. The second, HB840, creates a revenue sharing license plate celebrating the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution. The third bill is a Joint Resolution encouraging public institutions of higher education to display the VA250 logo on men's and women's athletic uniforms. College sports are a major part of our culture and there are few better opportunities to promote positive discussion of our nation's founding than through these venues.

To that point, the popularity of college athletics and the revenue generated for institutions and ancillary business has grown to the point that there is broad agreement in the nation that student athletes should have the opportunity to share in the economic success. As of 2022, Virginia allows student athletes to benefit from their Name, Image, and Likeness, otherwise known as "NIL." But in the year since, states like Missouri have passed laws

to give more flexibility for NIL opportunities, leaving Virginia's athletic programs at a significant disadvantage when it comes to recruiting in-state and out-of-state students. HB1505 seeks to level the playing field by preventing athletic organizations from limiting how Virginia's institutions can choose to support their athletic programs.

As former chairman of Transportation I am also carrying bills that expand transportation options for K-12 students, conform Commercial Driver's Licenses (CDL) to federal regulations, enhance the ability to expand rail capacity, and streamline processes for auto franchise dealers and the abandoned vehicle industry. HB842 expands the availability of alternative public school transportation options for localities that choose to do so. The bill allows vehicles other than school buses to be used for transporting students to and from school to CTE centers, governor schools, and extracurricular activities, all while maintaining safety standards. Doing so will create economic efficiencies for school systems, especially those in rural areas with logistically challenging bus routes. Expanding transportation options will decrease barriers for students and address the chronic bus driver shortage we continue to experience.

HB844 places into State Code federal regulations related to drug violations and CDL training. Failure to conform to State Code would result in lost federal funding for the Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program (MCSAP) Grant Program. This federal program provides financial assistance to states to reduce the number and severity of crashes and hazardous materials incidents involving commercial motor vehicles.

HB1452 provides an exemption to the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority in the Uniform Statewide Building Code (USBC) related to the construction and maintenance of bridges and tunnels. This exemption is currently granted to VDOT and

See Austin, page 8

League for Animal Protection's Waif of the Week

Speaker

Speaker is a super sweet senior Beagle, heartworm negative, up to date on vaccines, neutered, and ready to find his forever home. Speaker is getting older and has some arthritis, but he medicine to help him is inexpensive.

The LAP Shelter is open from 8-11 and 3-5; 540-473-3853. Send donations to LAP, P.O. Box 561, Fincastle, 24090.

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CLUES ACROSS

- Tax collector
- Fishes without the line touching water
- Brooklyn hoopsters
- Actress Lathan
- A metric for athletes
- Food storage location
- Colossus
- Desolations
- Accustom to something unpleasant
- ___ Kubrick, filmmaker
- You might ask this at Thanksgiving
- Arkansas city
- Gave food to
- Request
- V-shaped open trough
- Make lively
- It accompanies feather
- Blonde bombshell
- One who revolves
- Bluish greens
- Charity
- Having the shape of a cube
- Unwind
- Believed by some to be the supreme being
- Checks or guides
- Leak slowly through
- Top-quality
- Midway between south and southeast

CLUES DOWN

- Part of your foot
- It's at the back of the eyeball
- Where things stand together
- Offers pollen
- Boisterous get-together
- Asserts out loud
- They're in the sky
- Canonized
- A politician's official stances
- It can catch fish
- British thermal unit
- Helps little firms
- Where patients go for treatment
- Large red deer
- Pokes holes in
- "Star Wars" hero
- One in a hospital
- Scandinavian god of battle
- Famous cat
- ___ Angeles: City of Angels
- Type of drug (abbr.)
- City along the Rhine
- Animal disease
- Martini ingredients
- Get away
- Rare species of rodent
- Suppress

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Migration

(2023) A duck family tries to convince their overprotective father to go on the vacation of a lifetime. (1 hr 23 min)

**Thursday, Jan. 25
 7 p.m.**

Aquaman & the Lost Kingdom

After failing to defeat Aquaman before, Black Manta wields the powerful Black Trident to unleash a malevolent force. Hoping to end his reign of terror, Aquaman forges an alliance with his brother, Orm, former king of Atlantis. Setting aside their differences, they join forces to protect their kingdom and save the world.

**Friday & Saturday
 Jan. 26 & 27
 7 p.m.**
**Sunday, Jan. 28
 3 p.m.**
**Thursday, Feb. 1
 7 p.m.**

The Fincastle Herald (USPS 160-680) is published weekly for \$46 a year in Botetourt County, \$50 in adjoining counties and \$54 elsewhere by Virginia Media Inc., 122 N. Court Street, Lewisburg, W.Va. 24901. Periodical postage paid at Fincastle, VA. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Fincastle Herald, P.O. Box 127, Fincastle, VA 24090.

On The Web At www.fincastleherald.com

www.FincastleHerald.com

See Answers, page 8



PHOTO COURTESY OF DONNA H. FLOWERS

Helms 60th Wedding Anniversary

Donald and Susie Helms of Buchanan celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on January 12, 2024. Their family commemorated the occasion with updated family pictures, dinner out and delivered roses. Their children are Donald Helms, Jr., wife, Jennifer, of

Roanoke, and Donna Helms Flowers, husband, James, of Stantonburg, N.C. Their grandchildren include Grant Helms, wife Elizabeth, Emmalee Helms of Los Angeles, Calif., and James Boyce Flowers, II of Stantonburg, N.C.

- Fincastle Herald staff report

LAP receives donation from MKB Realtors



PHOTO COURTESY OF LAP

League For Animal Protection (LAP) Director Pat Shaver (left) received a very generous check from MKB Realtors, presented by Laken Vail on January 8. This check will be used towards the

huge expense solving the erosion issue at the shelter in Fincastle.

- Fincastle Herald staff report



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OBITUARIES

Booth, Barbara E.

Barbara E. Booth, born in Craig County to Russell and Martha Elmore, was called to be with her Lord and Savior at her home in Daleville on January 13, 2024. Barbara was preceded in death by her parents; husband, JT Robertson (27 years); husband, Barrie Booth (34 years); and step-grandchildren, Amanda Henderson and Kristin Atkinson.



Barbara was blessed with an abundance of friends and neighbors who cared deeply for her. She lived a full and fruitful life, but this past year she faced death with grace and dignity because of a long bout with a rare ovarian cancer. Barbara's family wishes a special thanks to Gentle Shepherd Hospice and especially Maggie, Mary Lou, Donna, and Sara for their kind and sympathetic care.

Barbara is survived by her son, David Robertson and wife Kathy; step-children, Scott Booth and wife, Bonnie, Michele "Mitzie" Booth; sister, Brenda Switzer and husband, Richard; step-grandchildren, Forrest Booth and wife, Erin, Ashlyn Wolstenholm and husband, Alex, and Chandler Booth; step-great-grandchildren, Bailey Atkinson, Connor Johnson, and Emmy Booth; sister-in-law, Connie Collins; niece, Alicia Lovern and husband, Christian; and nephew, Jason Switzer and wife, Melinda.

A celebration of Barbara's life was held at 2 p.m. Saturday, January 20 at Rader Funeral Home, Daleville with Pastor Chris Cadenhead officiating. The family received friends at the funeral home one hour prior to the service. Memorial contributions may be made to Bonsack Baptist Church Food Pantry, 4845 Cloverdale Road, Roanoke, 24019. Online condolences may be offered to Barbara's family at www.rader-funeralhome.com/tributes/Barbara-Booth.

Barbara moved to Botetourt County in 1968 and retired from Allstate Insurance Company after 37 years of loyal service. She loved to travel and especially to the beaches

Mengel, Bruce Robert

Bruce Robert Mengel, 86, of Botetourt County, passed away unexpectedly January 19, 2024 at Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital.



Bruce was born November 14, 1937 in Frackville, Pa., and lived in Botetourt County since 1985. He was the son of the late Roy E. and Dorothy E. Gradwell Mengel and served in The United States Army. He graduated from Penn State University with a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering and retired from General Electric in Salem after 35 years of service. Bruce enjoyed hunting, vegetable gardening, tennis, woodworking, playing bridge and was very active in his church. He also served on the board of Child Evangelism Fellowship.

Bruce (Tim Smoot) of Riner, and Catherine Blankenship-Martin (Mike Breedlove) of Salem; grandchildren, Brook (Grandin), Erynn (Robbie), Austin, Rachel (Cody), Jared (Lexi), Margo, and Olivia; great-grandchildren, McKenna and Brooklyn; brother, Roy (Shirley) Mengel; and sister, Nancy Weitz, all of Frackville, Pa.; sisters-in-law, Ruth Korth of Daleville, and Faith White of Sunderland, Mass. The family would like to thank Sue Loeschen for the joy and companionship she brought Bruce during the past 18 months.

In addition to his parents, Bruce was preceded in death by his wife of 56 years, Betty Ann White Mengel. He is survived by his daughters, Susan (Chris) Harrell of Cary, N.C., Jennifer

A celebration of Bruce's life with military honors was held at 2 p.m. Tuesday, January 23 at Rader Funeral Home, Daleville. A private burial followed in Sherwood Memorial Park. Friends were received two hours prior to the service. Memorial contributions may be made to Child Evangelism Fellowship, P.O. Box 27723, Richmond, 23261.

Weeks, Larry Allen

November 4, 1952 - January 11, 2024

Larry Allen "Ike" Weeks, 71, of Buchanan entered Heaven's Gate to be with his Lord and Savior on January 11, 2024



He was a loving father to Christopher and Rebekah Weeks, losing them both at the age of 41. Larry was passionate about his hometown of Buchanan. Where she strolled many miles throughout his 71 years of life here. The simplest pleasures of

life brought great joy to Larry. He was an outdoorsman who adored camping and fishing. Larry was a quiet, humble, and happy gentleman who always wore a huge smile. Never an unkind word did Larry speak.

A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date. Those wishing to send condolences may do so at www.botetourtfuneralhome.com. Larry entrusted his care to Botetourt Funeral Home, Buchanan, 540-254-3000.

Wells, Norma Preston

Norma Jean Preston Wells, 94, of Buchanan passed away peacefully on Sunday, January 14, 2024. She was preceded in death by her husband, Clifford Eugene Wells; son, Roger Wells; parents, Hopwood and Mary Preston; brothers and sisters, S. Balthus Preston, Frances Graham, Betty Cook, and Frank Preston; nieces, Teresa Mitchell and Dana Titta; and beloved dog, Mandy.



She was a member of Trinity UMC, United Methodist Women, Aglow International, and Jefferson School of Nursing Alumni Association. Norma grew up in Herndon Heights, West Virginia, attended Berea College, and graduated as a Registered Nurse from the Jefferson Hospital School of Nursing, Class of 1952. She married Cliff in June 1953 and settled in Buchanan where she lived until her death. She enjoyed gardening, reading, bowling, community service, caring for her pets, farming, and spending time

with her family and friends. She is survived by her son, Joe Wells (Charles Chapin); grandson, Zachary (Irene) Hardy; great-grandchildren, Avery, Davis, and Luke; nieces, Linda Gooding, Betty Means, Susan Wilder, and Sue Osborne-Bailey and their spouses; nephews, John Preston, Stephen Graham, David Graham, and Kenneth Graham and their spouses; numerous grand nieces and nephews; many friends from her church family and community; and her beloved cat, Sam.

Memorial services were held at 12 noon Saturday, January 20, 2024, in Trinity United Methodist Church. Flowers are beautiful, however those wishing to make a contribution, please consider Trinity UMC, Botetourt Resource Center, Buchanan, or Solomon's Mission, Buchanan. Online condolences may be made at www.botetourtfuneralhome.com or 540-254-3000.

CHURCH NEWS

Buchanan Food Pantry open Saturday

The Buchanan Presbyterian Church Food Pantry will be open Saturday, January 27, from 9 a.m. till 11 a.m. Volunteers from St. Mark's United Methodist Church will distribute meat, bread, milk and staples at the curb. Anyone in need is welcome. The church is at 19559 Main Street, Buchanan.

Thrift Store having household sale

The Cloverdale Church of the Brethren Thrift Store is having a household sale every Saturday in January. There is everything from sheets, towels, small appliances to rugs. Prices are low. Open Saturdays from 9 to 12. Donations are accepted.

Joyful Journeys travels for 2024

Joyful Journey Travels is an outreach program of St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Daleville, offering trips geared to senior citizens, but any age is welcome. Children sometimes accompany their grandparents. The overnight trips are arranged by White Star Tours in Reading, Pa. White Star is a family-owned Christian company, celebrating 53 years of specializing trips for senior citizens.

The trips range from 3 days/2 nights to 6 days/5 nights. Prices cover motorcoach transportation, lodging, breakfasts, dinners and occasionally lunch, sightseeing, professional guides, luggage handling, taxes and meal gratuities, and the driver's tip.

The 2024 trips are:

- The Parade of Nations & Va. International Tattoo, Norfolk, April 18-21; 4 days/3 nights, \$746 per person double occupancy \$1,015 single occupancy.
- There are only 5 international tattoos in the world and is a ceremonial performance of military music by massed bands from the NATO countries. The International Tattoo in Virginia incorporates groups from around the world including acrobats, choral groups, precision military drill teams, and much more.
- Three Belles of the South Savannah - Golden Isles (including St. Simons & Jekyll Islands), Beaufort, June 17-21; 5 days/4 nights, \$723 per person double occupancy, \$922 per person single occupancy. Guided tours of all of the above and much more.
- Sights and Sounds of Lancaster, Pa. featuring a performance of "Daniel," August 5-7; 3 days/2 nights, \$514 per person double occupancy, \$662 per person single occupancy. Includes guided tour of Historic Hershey, Hershey's Chocolate Tour and Chocolate Tour Ride and much more.
- The Grand Canyon of Pa., Oct. 14-17; 4 days/3 nights; \$699 per person double occupancy, \$941 person single occupancy. Enjoy the fall foliage as you tour the canyon by covered wagon. Includes Susquehanna River Cruise, Millionaires Row Tour and much more.

For flyers detailing each trip, go to the church website at stmarksmethodist.com, pick-up flyers at the church 19 Cedar Ridge Dr., Daleville, or call Julia Greer at 540-330-7933 or email her at julia.short.greer@gmail.com. The church secretary only works part-time so call the church at 540-992-3030 before going to the church.

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& COAL MINES**



January 25 at 6:00
Fincastle Library

GRAPHIC COURTESY OF BCHS

Edwards to speak about Catawba Iron Furnace Thursday

Local author Rachel Nicole Edwards will give a presentation about the Catawba Iron Furnace and coal mines this Thursday night at the Fincastle Library. The presentation begins at 6 p.m.

The presentation will include many photos of Edwards' hikes up North Mountain, which will show the appearance of the property, furnace, and mines on National Forest today. In addition, Edwards

will read a couple of her poems about Catawba and share a video peeking inside one of the coal mines.

Edwards is the author of "Gollachrist: Lighting the Candle," a story that's setting was partly inspired by visiting the old coal mines with her grandfather.

Botetourt County Historical Society Director Lynsey Allie recently shared that this lecture is the first in a series that began prior to the pandemic.

In March, Brook Allen is scheduled talk about her new historical fiction series about Santillane and Julia Hancock.

For more information about the Botetourt County Historical Society, visit www.bothistsoc.wordpress.com or visit the BCHS Facebook page at www.facebook.com/BCHSM.

- Fincastle Herald staff report

AARP Fraud Alert: Utility Bill Scams

With winter temperatures plummeting in many areas, keeping the heat on is critical – a fact that fraud criminals try to take advantage of. Each winter, utility scams spike as scammers claiming to be from the utility company say you haven't been paying your bill and they threaten to cut off service if you don't make an immediate payment.

The goal of these crooks is to create a sense of panic – when we react first with emotion, it's hard to access logical thinking, and the criminals are adept with using this tactic. Their hope is that we stay in that state of panic long enough to complete a payment.

If you get a surprise call from the

"utility company" threatening to shut off your service, hang up the phone. Contact your provider using the customer service number on a recent bill (or log into their website or app if that's an option). Chances are high you will find out your payments are up to date.

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

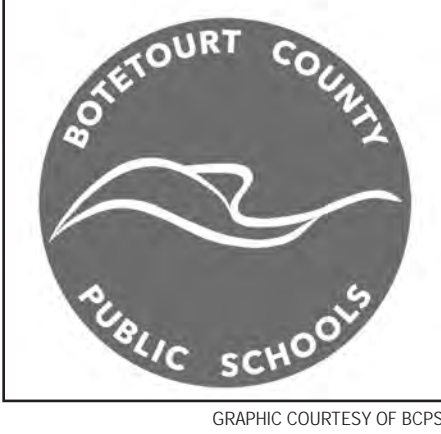
Report scams to local law enforcement. For help from AARP, call 1-877-908-3360 or visit the AARP Fraud Watch Network at www.aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork.

-AARP

BCPS Eagle Rock town hall event rescheduled

The postponed Botetourt County Public Schools (BCPS) town hall event originally scheduled last week at Eagle Rock Elementary School has been rescheduled for this Monday, January 29, 2024 at 6 p.m. Tonight, a Blue Ridge District town hall takes place at Colonial Elementary School. These meetings will be followed by 6 p.m. meetings Jan. 30 at Buchanan Elementary, Feb. 6 at Central Academy Middle School, and Feb. 13 at Lord Botetourt High School.

- Botetourt County Public Schools



Obituaries from page 7

Marano, Joyce Elaine

Joyce Elaine Marano, 79, of Buchanan, passed away Saturday, January 20, 2024. She was preceded in death by her husband, Frank Marano, Jr.; parents, Alexander and Margaret Reilly; and daughter, Lynda Carol Marano.

She is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Lee Ann and Michael Rogers; grandchildren, Shannon Rogers, Courtney Rogers; brother and sister-in-law, Robert

and Mary Reilly; and numerous nieces and great-nieces, Christine and Geoff Raymond, Caitlyn, Seth and Zac, Heather and Ryan Oseil; and Mikeala and Robbie.

A Celebration of Life followed by a reception will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, February 3, 2024 in the Buchanan Presbyterian Church. Online condolences may be made at www.botetourtfuneralhome.com or 540-254-3000.

Austin from page 4

acknowledges that the USBC is not the most efficient tool by which to determine safety of these assets as they are constructed and maintained. The upshot is shorter construction timelines without sacrificing safety protocols. Rail is crucial to taking vehicular traffic off our roads and this bill will help enable this effort.

Two of my bills seek to streamline economic processes related to auto franchise sales and transactions concerning

abandoned vehicles. Many auto franchise operations are family-owned businesses spanning multiple generations. Currently, franchise sales must be approved by the manufacturer and these approvals have not been occurring in a reasonably timely manner, causing friction in the market between buyers and sellers. HB191 aims to streamline this sale process, creating objective measures for approval and establishing a 60-day timeline for which

approval can be granted.

HB845 creates efficiencies for the abandoned vehicle purchase process. Currently, DMV must contact other jurisdictions to obtain lienholder and owner information for abandoned vehicles. This process often takes up to six months. This bill allows for third-party databases to be used, significantly reducing purchase times and costs for the salvage industry.

It is an honor to serve you in the Virginia House of Delegates. If I can be of assistance to you, or you would like to share your position on legislation, please do not hesitate to contact me at DelTAustin@House.Virginia.gov or 804-698-1037.

*Delegate Terry L. Austin
37th House District*

Attic from page 1

retelling of The Wizard of Oz, where everything that could go wrong on stage actually does. Show times on Fridays are 7:30 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays at 2:30. Doors to the auditorium open for seating 30 minutes prior to performance time.

These shows are produced with special permission from Dramatic Publishing and Stage Partners. Partial

funding support comes from the Virginia Commission for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Attic Productions is located at 7490 Roanoke Road, Fincastle. This is a general admission show, with seating on a first-come basis, and all tickets are \$15 when paid in cash or by check at the box office. Children under 3 are free. There is a \$2 convenience fee per ticket for

card purchases. Tickets may be purchased at the door or in advance on the website, www.atticproductions.info. For questions, call the box office at 540-473-1001 and a volunteer will return your call as soon as possible.

- Attic Productions

Jones from page 1

parcel of land, and want to live in that type of environment but don't really know how.

"I hope that I may be able to work with (new farmers in Botetourt) setting goals and some financial planning for them to be successful.

I know that's a part of Botetourt County. We always have new people moving in that are attracted to this area and we are here to help them."

Jones, a Virginia Tech graduate, takes over the vacant position from Kate Lawrence, who left the

position in 2022 and is proud to be representing her alma mater in the county.

"I've been here a week and everybody has just been really welcoming," Jones added. "I really look forward to working here."

The Virginia

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**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
TOWN OF BUCHANAN, VIRGINIA**

The Town of Buchanan gives notice of a public hearing of the Buchanan Planning Commission on February 5th, 2024 and a public hearing by the Buchanan Town Council on February 12th, 2024, each at approximately 7:00 p.m., or as soon as possible thereafter, in Buchanan Council Meeting Room at 19753 Main Street, Buchanan, Virginia for consideration of:

Mac Westland is seeking a Special Use Permit under Zoning Ordinance Article III, Section 303-L Sign Regulation for placement of a mural on the façade of 19384 & 19386, Main Street, Buchanan Virginia 24066, Tax Map Parcel 65A-64.

Any citizen may bring comments to Buchanan Town Hall at 19753 Main Street, Buchanan, VA or mail written comments to P.O. Box 205, Buchanan, VA 24066 or email comments to townmanager@buchanan-va.gov on or before noon Monday, February 5th, 2024. Or attend via phone 701-802-5423 (access code 3474425) or in person to present their views on these matters. Copies of the Special Use Permit application are available for review at the Town Office, weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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Botetourt girls are 14-2 after beating Blacksburg

The Lord Botetourt girls played host to Blacksburg in a non-district girls basketball game on Monday and came away with a 68-43 win. With the victory LB improved to 14-2 overall.

"We did not shoot the ball well from three at all, but made up for it with our hustle," said LB coach Renee Favaro. "We scored 15 points off turnovers and 15 points off offensive rebounds to help pick up the slack of some cold outside shooting. We are very fortunate that when one thing is not working for us, we have so much talent and depth that we can look for other ways to score. I think we were able to do that even though we did not play particularly well."

Madilyn Winterton led the way with 15 points, seven rebounds and six assists. Maddie Caron stuffed the stat sheet with 10 points, nine rebounds and seven steals. Taylor Orange added 14 points and Gracie Huffard had 11.

a great spark for us to add seven points, all in the first half, and three assists," said Favaro.

Last Thursday the girls remained unbeaten after one trip through their Blue Ridge District schedule as they had little trouble downing visiting Franklin County, 57-22. Botetourt outscored the Eagles 21-0 in the third quarter to blow the game wide open after a slow start.

Orange led the Cavs with 16 points, Grayson Alfano had 13 and Caron had seven points and seven rebounds. LB had 18 assists on 20 made field goals.

Botetourt was scheduled to begin the second half of the BRD schedule on Tuesday at home against Staunton River. On Friday the girls are at William Byrd and next Tuesday they host William Fleming in a big district game. The Colonels have lost just one district game, the first time around against LB, and are 11-4 coming into the week.



Taylor Orange lines up a three-pointer.



Gracie Huffard hits a jump shot for LB.

PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN



River's Maddox Pichay backs in against a Glenvar defender.



Matthew Alderson is fouled as he goes to the hoop in last week's game.

PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

River boys will host Alleghany tonight in hoops

The James River boys are home tonight as they entertain Alleghany in a Three Rivers District basketball game. The Knights are 1-6 in district games after opening the week with a loss at Floyd County Monday night.

Although River lost Monday's game, the 55-45 final score was a huge improvement over the first meeting when Floyd won 76-26 in Springwood. On Monday the Knights were as close as seven points with four minutes remaining in the game.

"I thought our care factor was the highest it had been all year," said River coach Ethan Humphries. "We had guys taking charges, we were valuing the ball, and everyone was leading on the court. Floyd is likely to make it back to the state-semis again this year so we knew going in we'd have to win the care factor to compete. I think our guys are starting to figure out how hard you have to play to even have a chance at the varsity level."

Mark Voight led the Knights with a dozen points and Kody Park had 11.

Last week, River split two district games, both at home. The Knights lost to Glenvar on Thursday but bounced back to beat Patrick County on Saturday for their first district win.

The Knights trailed Glenvar by just two points at the half, 25-23, and just six after three quarters, 40-34, before the Highlanders finished strong for a 67-45 win. The Knights had a season-high 29 turnovers and that was a big factor in the game.

Matthew Alderson led River with 13 points and seven boards in one of his best games of the season. Trey Taylor and Maddox Pichay had nine points each.

"Our guys gave the amount of fight and toughness required against Glenvar, but when we turned it over at the rate we did, it was mathematically impossible to win," said Humphries. "Regardless of the score, I thought our guys represented the toughness we want to be known for on the defensive end. Alderson played about as hard as one could possibly play

and it was a joy to watch him empty the tank."

On Saturday the Knights were back home to host Patrick County and took a 62-53 win. River led throughout the entire game and was up 27-15 at halftime and 40-29 after three quarters, scoring at the buzzer to end the first, second and third quarters.

"Patrick was a big game for us and our guys showed up ready to compete," said Humphries. "Whether we made shots or we didn't, we knew the prerequisite was the fight we'd have to bring. To lead from start to finish the first time all year showed some growth upon our group. We had guys doing things they weren't a month ago, and it's encouraging to see."

Taylor had a game-high 31 points, hitting eight of 12 field goals attempts, including four of five from behind the arc. Voight had 12 points, five rebounds and a couple steals.

River is now 4-13 overall. After tonight's home game with Alleghany the Knights will be at Carroll County on Friday for a Three Rivers District game.

Busy week for LB boys

The Lord Botetourt boys basketball team will be back in action this week after getting snowed out of two games last week. The Cavaliers will have four games in five days.

Botetourt was scheduled to play at Staunton River Tuesday, followed by a home game with Floyd County tonight. After a day off Thursday, LB will host

William Byrd on Friday, then play an afternoon game in Rocky Mount against Franklin County Saturday. The jayvees will play at 2 p.m. with the varsity to follow at approximately 3:30 p.m.

The Cavaliers come into the week with a 7-7 record, including a 2-2 record in Blue Ridge District games.

Hicks will play golf at King University



James River High School senior Dylan Hicks has committed to attend and play golf at King University in Bristol, Tenn. Dylan had a signing day in the fall at James River, and he's excited to further his education and become a part of the King University Tornados family. Shown at the signing ceremony are Dylan's mother Ginny, Dylan, and father Jeff.

JR wrestlers will host Three Rivers tournament

There should be a good crowd of students for the Three Rivers District wrestling tournament next Tuesday. There should be, as the James River students can get out of class to attend.

River will host the Three Rivers tournament at 1:30 p.m. on January 30 and the student body has been cleared to miss class and attend the wrestling event.

"This is a great opportunity for the students to see the sport and support the team and individuals," said River coach Bobby Stewart.

The Knights have been battling to get matches in for the past week due to the inclement weather. They were iced out of a trip to Northside last week for a quad and Saturday they planned to host a tri-match at River, but it turned into a dual when Bath County was not able to travel.

Instead, the Knights went head-to-head with Liberty and won 39-36.

On Monday, River picked up a date at Bath to wrestle the host Chargers and Buffalo Gap. With a couple of their top wrestlers out of the lineup the Knights lost to Bath, 42-30, and to the Bison, 42-24.

"We gave up 30 points in forfeits to our opponents," said Stewart.

Georgia Miller had some very good performances in the past couple events.

"Georgia is the reason we won against Liberty Bedford on Saturday," said Stewart. "Georgia and her 'Girl Power' secured a win by pin over Dakota Jarels of Liberty, which secured the victory. Georgia also recorded a win by pin

See **Wrestlers**, page 12

River girls have three basketball games this week



Honesty Liming of James River scores against Glenvar.



Siera Davis of River shoots behind a Caitlin Canada (44) screen.



River's Jalen Thompson shoots over a Glenvar defender.

PHOTOS BY JIM & REGINA DEVINNEY

The James River girls will play three games in four days this week as they try to get back to even, or better, in the basketball season. River is 7-8 overall and 1-3 in Three Rivers District games coming into the week.

The Knights were scheduled to host Floyd County on Tuesday in a district game. Then they play back-to-back games on Thursday and Friday, with a trip to Alleghany on Thursday and a home game against Radford Friday.

River split two Three Rivers District games last week. Last Wednesday they

traveled to Patrick County and dropped a 41-29 decision to the Cougars.

"We didn't play well at all," said coach Ryan Firebaugh. "We struggled from the tip. We missed a lot of easy shots early in the game. I thought if we made those shots we would have been up 16-4 after the first quarter."

Instead, the Knights trailed 9-4 after the first quarter and 22-11 at the half. They played the Cougars even in the second half but couldn't quite catch them.

"We were only down by three early

in the fourth quarter before Patrick hit a couple of key shots to stretch their lead back to nine," said Firebaugh. "These girls don't quit. They could have very easily laid down and said 'I don't want to battle back,' but they didn't."

Caitlin Canada led the Knights with 15 points, 11 rebounds, seven steals and two blocks. Kelsi Maydian had five points, Kiera Crawford had four and Honesty Liming had 11 rebounds. Liming and Audrey Benson had four steals each.

On Friday at Glenvar the girls bounced back with a 51-11 victory over the winless Highlanders. River led 26-6 at the half and never looked back. Canada had 13 points, Jalen Thompson had 10 and Benson had nine.

"We came out from the tip and dominated the game," said Firebaugh. "We had some different girls step up and score for us, which is big for us moving forward. Overall, a very good win for us. Getting that first district win is always big."

LB wrestlers win Rural Retreat tournament



The Lord Botetourt wrestlers won the Rural Retreat tournament last weekend.

LB WREST COURTESY PHOTO

The Lord Botetourt wrestlers traveled to Rural Retreat last Saturday for a tournament and came out on top. LB's closest rival finished 44 points behind the Cavaliers in a dominating performance.

"That gym was cold, but it warmed back up after a couple rounds," said LB coach Paul Craft. "When we got off the bus it was minus eight, and I think it was minus two when we got

back on at the end of the day."

It was the first time LB had participated in the Rural Retreat tournament and it included mostly smaller schools from Southwest Virginia.

"Size of the school doesn't mean much in wrestling and there are some very tough kids and teams in that part of the state that we never get to see," said Craft. "I explained to our guys that we were

the biggest school there and everyone wanted a shot at us. We were going to get their best. We talked about not taking anyone lightly and to wrestle every match like it's a state championship."

Botetourt had four champions, Gray Arnold at 144, TJ Piluso at 165, Ty Hensley at 175 and Aaden Thomas at 215. Second places went to Jacob Spence at 113, Morgan

Parr at 132, Camden Saunders at 138 and Cooper Roberts at 157. Winning consolation finals for third place were James Dean at 120, Declan Sullivan at 126, Kevin Gergely at 150, Preston Carter at 157, Kayden McClure at 165 and Tyler Butler at heavyweight. Landenn Crawford, at 150, and Alex Clarke, at 190, placed fourth.

"Our guys wrestled well,"

said Craft. "There are 14 weight classes and we medaled in 13. Some of our backup guys medaled as well. That tournament certainly made us better and we're glad we went."

This week the Cavaliers will wrestle a tri-match with Carroll County and host Pulaski County, then head to Staunton for the "Big Red" tournament at Riverheads High School on Saturday.

Blue Ridge District swim meet is postponed

The Blue Ridge District swim meet, scheduled for Friday at the Gator Center in Roanoke, has been postponed to a later day. The meet is being postponed due to a lack of judges and officials, and a makeup date was not announced at press time.

Lord Botetourt is scheduled to swim in the BRD meet whenever a time is decided. The Cavaliers swam against Staunton River, William Fleming and Roanoke Catholic last Thursday at the

Botetourt YMCA and had some strong performances.

LB's 200 medley relay team of Layne Jones, Julia Misicko, Sam Bishop and Ella Johnston took first. Botetourt also won the 200 Free relay with Olivia Nicely, Misicko, Jones and Hannah Mizuba.

Individually, Misicko won the 200 Free, Jones won the 200 IM and 100 Backstroke, Nicely won the 100 Breast, Johnston won the 500 Free and Mizuba won the 50 Free and 100 Butterfly.

For the LB boys, Max Mizuba won the 200 IM and 100 Back.

The Cavaliers are scheduled to swim at Hollins University on Thursday.

James River was weathered out of a meet at the Bedford YMCA last week. The Knights were scheduled to swim at the Salem YMCA on Tuesday, but results were too late for publication. River has a home meet with William Fleming at the Botetourt YMCA on Thursday.

Northside Middle School hosts big wrestling tournament

Central Academy and Read Mountain Middle Schools were among 13 middle school wrestling teams that participated in the annual "Norse Invitational" tournament at Northside High School last Saturday. The tournament is the traditional end-of-the-season tournament for area middle school teams.

Glenvar Middle School won the tournament with 229 points, followed by Cave Spring with 203.5. Read Mountain tied host Northside for sixth place with 131 points and Central Academy was 10th with 50.

Read Mountain's David Aldrich won the 175-pound class, finishing 12-0 on

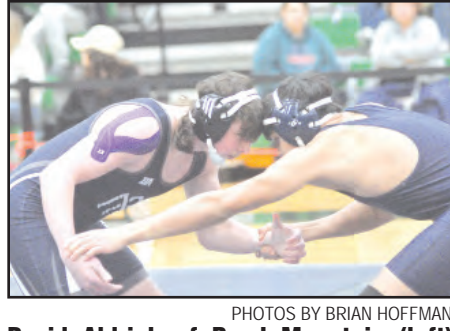
the season, and Blake Markham of the Stars took a second at 190. Thirds went to Cael Burton at 120 and Evan Grant at 152, and placing fourth were Camden Dudding at 70 pounds and Deacon Witt at 160.

For CAMS, Fredrick Murray took fourth in the 144-pound weight class. Bryson Spence and Easton Arnold also wrestled well, with Arnold scoring seven points and Spence six.

"Even though we started with forfeiting four weight classes, the Central Academy Patriots beat out William Byrd, Ben Franklin and Hidden Valley," said coach Mike Hall.



Central Academy's Fredrick Murray (right) wrestles a Glenvar Middle School opponent.



David Aldrich of Read Mountain (left) squares off in a middle school match. Aldrich won this match and was undefeated on the season at 175.

PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN