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High School Honor Rolls - Page 5

The FINCASTLE HERALD

& Botetourt County News

www.fincastleherald.com



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Fincastle Town Council holds February meeting

Matt de Simone
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Fincastle Town Council met for its monthly meeting at the Fincastle Fire Department Training Room last Thursday. Council discussed various town matters including the current cost of town pump operations. Mayor Mary Bess Smith noted during the town financial report that it is there was a spike in sewage pump electrical fees in the months of December and January.

Smith said that the town previously talked with the Western Virginia Water Authority about trying to install solar panels

to generate additional electricity. At the time, Smith said "the technology hadn't caught up" with the town, but they will begin to look into that option once again.

Town Manager Melanie McFadyen recently explained in a recent email that the sewage plant operator will soon be "checking to make sure there isn't some faulty equipment that is running excessively and should find out something soon." The town's Sustainability Committee has been discussing the use of solar panels as well as

other environmentally sustainable projects, according to McFadyen.

Fruit trees have been planted at Big Spring Park. The town recently received wood for the benches located in the outdoor classroom. Additionally, the Appalachian Trail Builders will also build benches that will be located along the trail.

"So, come a little bit warmer weather, there should be a lot more going on," Councilman Ed Bordett added when discussing the trail's winter preparations for spring. Council also discussed an upcoming volunteer clean-up day for anyone interested in helping out

clearing branches and trash along the trail this spring. Signage for the park is currently in the design stage. Bordett said he is currently looking around at pricing for the signs.

Last week, Smith completed the last reimbursement request for the trail work. She explained that other than attorney's fees on surveys and similar work, the town has been "blessed and surprised" in the amount of volunteer work on the trail. The town didn't have "a lot" to file for reimbursement, according to Smith, who said she's pulling out items and once the town



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF TOWN OF FINCASTLE

accumulates enough money, she'll submit that amount. Smith reiterated her appreciation for the group of people who donated their time to help out building the trail.

The town recently signed a contract with Hill Studios and a subcontract with the Alleghany

Regional Planning Commission to help oversee the disbursement of the \$50,000 CDBG planning grant for planning activities that will be transferred into an application for a community development

See **Council**, page 10



PHOTO BY MATT DE SIMONE

Cloverdale students Bailey Higgins, Franklin Klaus, and Tessa Barnes stand with their art teacher Tabitha Connell (right) last Friday at the County Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court.

Cloverdale students donate their art to JDR courthouse

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Students from Cloverdale Elementary School visited the Botetourt County Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court to donate the next collection of artworks displayed in the atrium. The most recent additions come from Cloverdale fifth grader Bailey Higgins, fourth grader Franklin Klaus, third grader Tessa Barnes, and second grader Marie Jensen.

The students brainstormed to create a list of their ideas of Botetourt County landscapes, sketched their ideas, and then practiced. After visualizing their ideas, the students then chose their colors and imagery for their final projects.

Cloverdale art teacher Tabitha

Connell, alongside her students, shared the pieces of art and presented them to Judge Paul Tucker.

"It's really been a pleasure having these students in class and I'm so happy they have the opportunity to have their work displayed," Connell said. "It's not an opportunity that comes up too often and I know they are so excited for this. Great kids."

Additionally, James River student Jenna Tucker most recently donated "Landscape," a painting depicting a winter setting using acrylics.

The art project was an idea Judge Tucker had after seeing student artwork adorning the wall of the Roanoke City

See **Art**, page 10

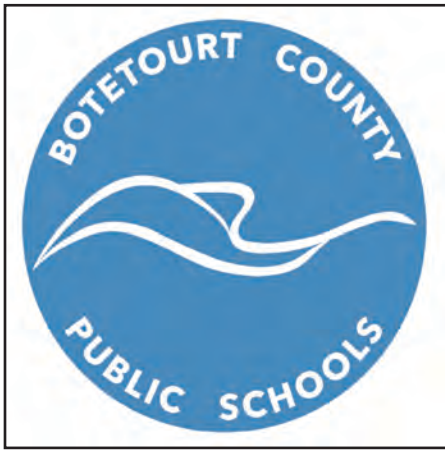
School Board discusses JROTC program possibilities in schools

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During the monthly Botetourt County School Board meeting last Thursday, Superintendent Dr. Jonathan Russ discussed division leaders and high school principals recently observing two local JROTC programs on January 23. The site visits provided an opportunity to learn about the structure and requirements for establishing a JROTC program in Russ's monthly report.

Buchanan District representative Jenny Wilson then asked Russ about where BCPS is in terms of having a JROTC in Botetourt schools moving forward.

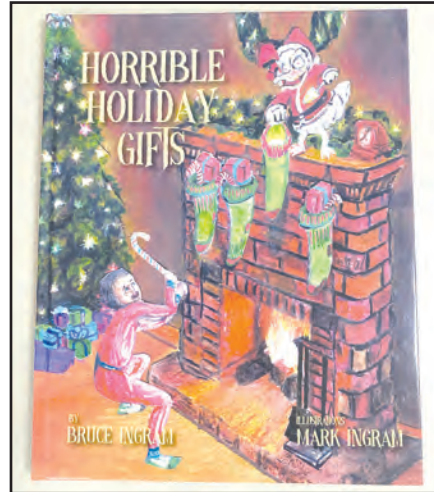
Russ explained that one of the focus points of the Strategic Direction Survey last year was to get students ready for work, school, or military following graduation. BCPS is "in the very early stages of observing and getting to see how these programs operate in other schools," Russ said. He noted that



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF BCPS

the instructors of the observed programs were willing to answer any questions BCPS may have about a JROTC program.

Russ recommended to have a JROTC program through the Botetourt Technical Education Center (BTEC). He thinks it is more "advantageous" for the division to bring students to a central location as opposed to the expense of having JROTC programs at Lord Botetourt and James River High Schools. Russ said those decisions would be made "down the road" and that further discussions amongst the School Board about bringing a JROTC program to Botetourt will be planned for the future.



Bruce Ingram's new book, "Horrible Holiday Gifts," is now available.

Father and son work together to offer new, fun storybook to young readers

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Local author Bruce Ingram recently teamed up with his son, Mark, to put together a whimsical tale for elementary

school children aged 6 to 9 years old.

Ingram has written over 2,600 articles for magazines and other publications. He also is the author of books on river fishing and floating, young adults

novels, and healthy living and recipe books. Ingram's recent release is his most recent foray into a new genre.

"Horrible Holiday Gifts" is an illustrated

See **Ingram**, page 10



PHOTOS BY MATT DE SIMONE

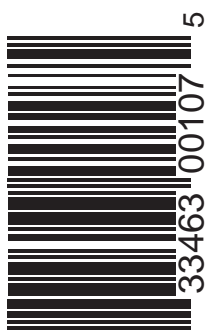


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Botetourt County History

The Murder of Fincastle's Daniel Pegee

Antebellum Free Black Entrepreneur, Preacher

by David W.C. Bearr

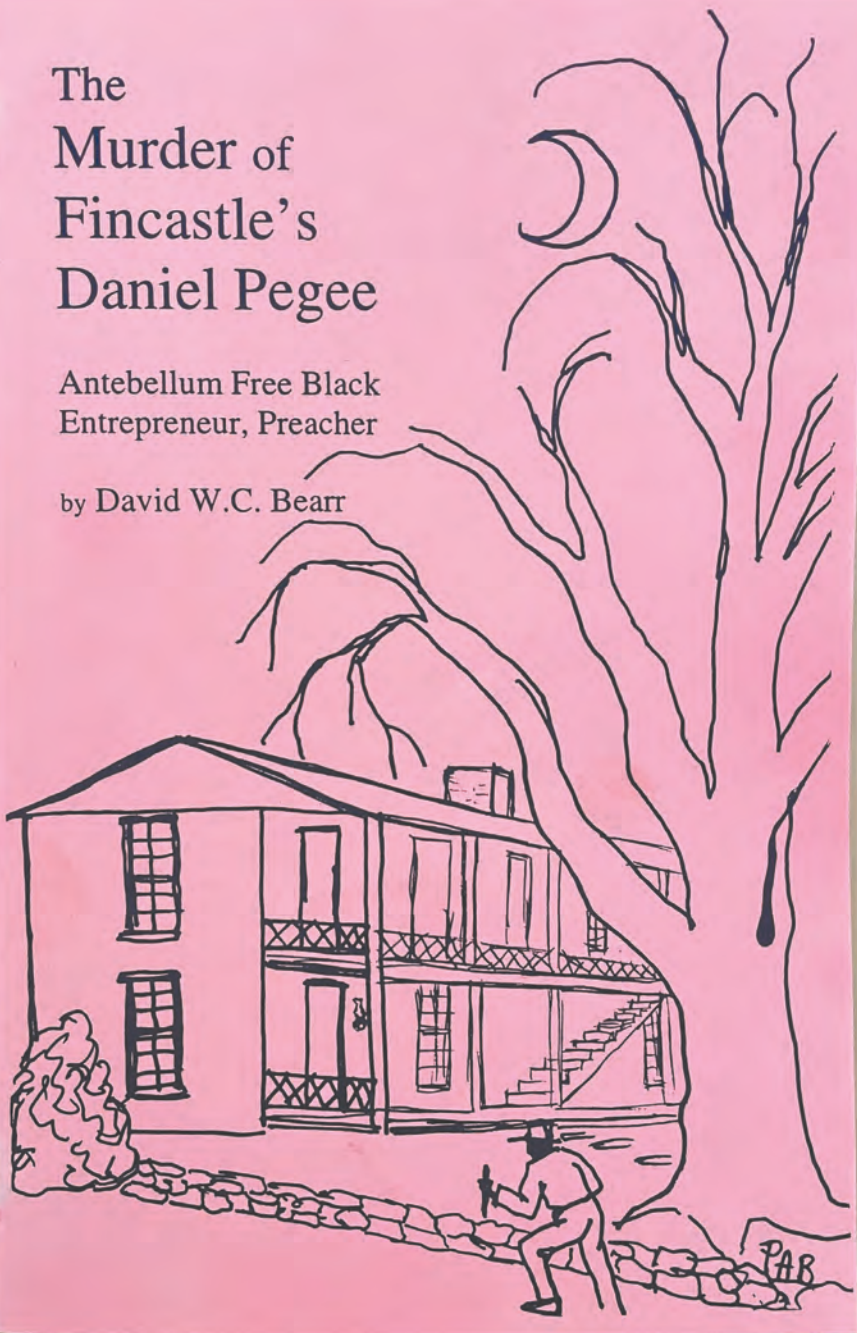


PHOTO COURTESY OF BCMHC

"The Murder of Fincastle's Daniel Pegee, Antebellum Free Black Entrepreneur, Preacher" is a booklet that is for sale in the Botetourt Museum of History and Culture. It was written by David W. C. Bearr and published by Historic Fincastle, Inc. The cover was designed by Phyllis Austin Burch. It tells the history and importance of free blacks in Botetourt during the 1800s.

Many family names and ages are given from the 1850 census. The fight and murder took place in Fincastle over an order of oysters. The true story was well researched and is a fascinating collection of dates and laws. It tells how life was before the Civil War and about the courthouse trial for the murderer.

- Botetourt County Museum of History & Culture



Will and Ginny Barkett accept their Clean Water Farm Award from Daniel Naff.

Mountain Castles SWCD holds winter awards banquet

Mountain Castles Soil & Water Conservation District recognized four local farms with Clean Water Farm Awards at the winter awards banquet in Fincastle. Ginny and Will Barkett and Greg and Barbara Teets were the Botetourt County award winners. Jeannette Kremer and Graylen Alley were the Craig County winners.

"Due to several factors, we weren't able to recognize the 2022 Clean Water Farm Award winners last year, so it was great to recognize four very deserving farms on the same night," said Dan Naff of Mountain Castles SWCD. Each year, the conservation district recognizes farmers who have demonstrated a commitment to conservation through Best Management practices such as livestock stream exclusion, rotational grazing, and planting cover crops.

Mountain Castles also recognized Beth Wiegandt of Camp Bethel's Your Outdoor Classroom as the district's

Educator of the Year. "Beth has been an instrumental part of our outdoor program over the years, particularly our seventh grade canoeing program," said Tim Miller, district coordinator. "We knew from the beginning that if we wanted to provide an experience on the James River for every Botetourt County student, then Beth was the person to do that safely and with passion."

The district also premiered a new video highlighting local farmers. The video was directed by Jess Wiegandt, a graduate of Lord Botetourt High School. "We need to do a better job of storytelling instead of just bombarding people with facts," said Miller. "We're thrilled with the way it turned out."

The link to the six-minute video can be found at <https://www.mountaincastles.org/>.

- Fincastle Herald staff report



Beth Wiegandt is the district's educator of the year.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF SWCD

Town Improvement Society Executive Committee announced



PHOTO COURTESY OF TOWN IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY OF BUCHANAN

The Town Improvement Society of Buchanan has announced new leadership. As the organization that preserves the historic 1839 Wilson Warehouse in Buchanan and makes it available for events, the Town Improvement Society has embarked on a massive effort to upgrade the facility's interior, exterior

and grounds all while expanding its facility rentals for community groups, weddings, private parties and town events.

Leading a group of over 30 volunteers, a new Executive Committee has been announced. They are pictured from left: Sherry Crumley, vice president; Joyce Newcomb, secretary; Steve Grigg, president;

Pat Jasper, Immediate Past President; and Kathy Austin, treasurer

Those interested in helping with the preservation effort are invited to call (540) 817-5772.

- Town Improvement Society

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BCPS announces December and January Employees of the Month



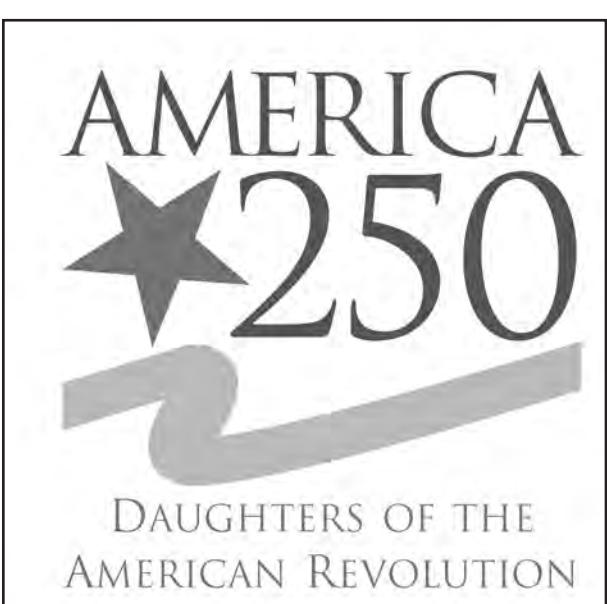
The Botetourt County School Board announced its Employees of the Month for December and January at last Thursday's meeting in Fincastle. Master Electrician Dwayne Martin (not pictured) from the school system's maintenance department and Lord Botetourt math teacher Julie Burton (top left, center) received honors for

December 2023. Cloverdale Elementary School head custodian Derrick Parker (top right, center) and Greenfield Elementary School first grade teacher Jody Rago (bottom right, center) received recognitions for the month of January.

- Fincastle Herald staff report



PHOTOS COURTESY OF BCPS



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF DAR

Our Patriot Ancestors

In recognition of the upcoming 250th celebration of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence, the DAR America 250! Committee of the Botetourt County Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution is placing a spotlight on members' Patriot ancestors who helped the country achieve American Independence.

Thomas Maxwell is the Patriot ancestor of member Dana Manos.

Thomas Maxwell was born September 8, 1742 in Middlesex County, Va. He was a Revolutionary War soldier in the Blankenbaker, Culpeper militia class. Before and during the war, he preached the Baptist faith and was arrested many times during the reign

of religious persecution. Many were arrested during that time if they did not follow the beliefs of the Church of England.

According to tradition, Thomas rubbed away part of his prominent nose by preaching through the bars of the jail and was once able to convert the jailer and his family. When he was arrested in Culpeper County, Va., he was defended by none other than Patrick Henry. After the war, he moved his family to Elbert County, Ga., where he founded the Falling Creek Baptist Church. The Rev. Thomas Maxwell died in 1837 at the age of 95.

- Botetourt Chapter of the DAR

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF PETITIONS BY VIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER COMPANY AND APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY, FOR DETERMINING THE TREATMENT OF RENEWABLE ENERGY CUSTOMERS' RENEWABLE ENERGY CERTIFICATES FOR PURPOSES OF EACH UTILITY'S RPS PROGRAM COMPLIANCE CASE NO. PUR-2024-00010

During its 2020 Session, the Virginia General Assembly enacted Chapters 1193 (HB 1526) and 1194 (SB 851) of the 2020 Virginia Acts of Assembly. These duplicate Acts of Assembly, known as the Virginia Clean Economy Act ("VCEA"), became effective on July 1, 2020. The VCEA, *inter alia*, established a mandatory renewable energy portfolio standard ("RPS") program ("RPS Program") in § 56-585.5 of the Code of Virginia ("Code"), which requires Virginia Electric and Power Company ("Dominion") and Appalachian Power Company ("APCo") to procure and retire renewable energy certificates ("RECs") for an increasing percentage of the utility's total electric energy sold in the previous calendar year. The VCEA directed that all costs related to compliance with the mandatory RPS Program, including costs related to the retirement of RECs, shall be recovered from all retail customers as a non-bypassable charge, regardless of generation supplier, with certain limited exceptions.

Additionally, Code § 56-585.5 D requires Dominion and APCo to submit annually to the State Corporation Commission ("Commission") plans and petitions for approval of new solar and onshore wind generation capacity ("RPS Filing"). In APCo's 2023 RPS Filing, two proposals were presented relating to the proper calculation of total electric energy for the prior compliance year. The first proposal was to count the RECs from Rider WWS and Rider REC towards APCo's RPS Program compliance, and the second proposal was to remove the 100 percent renewable customers' load from the calculation of "total electric energy," thereby reducing the number of RECs required for RPS compliance. In its Final Order in that proceeding, the Commission found that the issue warranted additional consideration and directed APCo and Dominion to make a filing addressing these issues and presenting specific proposals for approval, including any proposed mechanism for netting the benefits of such RECs. Specifically, the Commission determined:

On or before January 16, 2024, APCo and Dominion shall make a filing, either jointly or separately, containing the proposed treatment of RECs associated with (i) customers taking service under each [utility's] voluntary renewable tariffs [{"Renewable Utility Customers"}] and (ii) shopping customers purchasing 100 percent renewable energy, for purposes of RPS Program compliance [{"Renewable Shopping Customers"}]. Such filing shall include any associated proposal for netting the benefits of such RECs, including applicable tariff language.

On January 16, 2024, in Case No. PUR-2024-00009, APCo submitted its petition ("APCo Petition"), which stated that the Commission should exclude the load associated with the Renewable Utility Customers and Renewable Shopping Customers from the calculation of APCo's annual RPS requirement, thereby allowing them to bypass VCEA compliance costs, if the Commission finds that approach to be permissible under current law. APCo asserts that using RECs to meet the utility's RPS requirement that have either been dedicated to one of its voluntary renewable energy riders or have been purchased by Renewable Shopping Customers is an impermissible double-counting of the RECs. Further, APCo claims that participants in voluntary renewable energy programs would effectively subsidize non-participants to meet the utility's RPS compliance requirement.

Also on January 16, 2024, in Case No. PUR-2024-00010, Dominion submitted its petition ("Dominion Petition") (collectively with the APCo Petition, "Petitions") requesting that the Commission reconsider its decision in Case No. PUR-2020-00164, in which the Commission held that RPS Program compliance requires recognition of RPS eligible renewable sales from competitive service providers ("CSPs"). Dominion requests that the Commission instead find that the RECs of Renewable Shopping Customers cannot be used by the utility for its RPS Program compliance. Dominion further asserts that, if the Commission determines that Renewable Shopping Customer RECs may be used for a utility's RPS Program compliance, their load should be deducted from the utility's calculation of "total electric energy" and they should be excluded from paying Rider RPS. Dominion further states that if the RECs of Renewable Shopping Customers can be used for compliance, the RECs of other similarly-situated customers, specifically Renewable Utility Customers, should also be used to reduce the utility's compliance obligations.

Interested persons are encouraged to review the Petitions and supporting documents in full for details about these and other proposals.

The Commission entered an Order for Notice and Hearing in this proceeding that, among other things, consolidated the two Petitions into one case, Case No. PUR-2024-00010, and scheduled public hearings on the Petitions. A hearing for the receipt of testimony from public witnesses on the Petitions shall be convened telephonically at 10 a.m. on July 31, 2024. On or before July 24, 2024, any person desiring to offer testimony as a public witness shall provide to the Commission (a) your name, and (b) the telephone number that you wish the Commission to call during the hearing to receive your testimony. This information may be provided to the Commission in three ways: (i) by filling out a form on the Commission's website at scc.virginia.gov/pages/Webcasting; (ii) by completing and emailing the PDF version of this form to SCCInfo@scc.virginia.gov; or (iii) by calling (804) 371-9141. This public witness hearing will be webcast at scc.virginia.gov/pages/Webcasting.

Beginning at 10 a.m. on July 31, 2024, the Hearing Examiner will telephone sequentially each person who has signed up to testify as provided above.

On July 31, 2024, at 10 a.m., or at the conclusion of the public witness portion of the hearing, whichever is later, in the Commission's second floor courtroom located in the Tyler Building, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, the Hearing Examiner will convene a hearing to receive testimony and evidence related to the Petitions from the Petitioners, any respondents, and the Commission Staff ("Staff").

To promote administrative efficiency and timely service of filings upon participants, the Commission has directed the electronic filing of testimony and pleadings, unless they contain confidential information, and required electronic service on parties to this proceeding.

An electronic copy of the Dominion Petition may be obtained by submitting a request to counsel for the utility: Elaine S. Ryan, Esquire, McGuireWoods LLP, Gateway Plaza, 800 East Canal Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, or eryan@mcguirewoods.com. An electronic copy of the APCo Petition may be obtained by submitting a written request to counsel for the utility: Noelle J. Coates, Esquire, American Electric Power Service Corporation, Three James Center, 1051 East Cary Street, Suite 1100, Richmond, Virginia 23219, or njcoates@aep.com. Interested persons also may download unofficial copies of the Petitions from the Commission's website: scc.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information.

On or before July 24, 2024, any interested person may submit comments on the Petitions by following the instructions found on the Commission's website: scc.virginia.gov/casecomments/Submit-Public-Comments. Those unable, as a practical matter, to submit comments electronically may file such comments by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the State Corporation Commission, c/o Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2118. All such comments shall refer to Case No. PUR-2024-00010.

On or before March 28, 2024, any person or entity wishing to participate as a respondent in this proceeding may do so by filing a notice of participation at scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling. Those unable, as a practical matter, to file a notice of participation electronically may file such notice by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the Commission at the address listed above. Such notice of participation shall include the email addresses of such parties or their counsel, if available. The respondent simultaneously shall serve a copy of the notice of participation on counsel to the Petitioners. Pursuant to 5 VAC 5-20-80 B, *Participation as a respondent*, of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure ("Rules of Practice"), any notice of participation shall set forth: (i) a precise statement of the interest of the respondent; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent then known; and (iii) the factual and legal basis for the action. Any organization, corporation, or government body participating as a respondent must be represented by counsel as required by 5 VAC 5-20-30, *Counsel*, of the Rules of Practice. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2024-00010.

On or before June 5, 2024, each respondent may file with the Clerk of the Commission, at scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling, any testimony and exhibits by which the respondent expects to establish its case. Any respondent unable, as a practical matter, to file testimony and exhibits electronically may file such by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the Commission at the address listed above. Each witness's testimony shall include a summary not to exceed one page. All testimony and exhibits shall be served on the Staff, the Petitioners, and all other respondents simultaneous with its filing. In all filings, respondents shall comply with the Rules of Practice, as modified herein, including, but not limited to: 5 VAC 5-20-140, *Filing and service*, and 5 VAC 5-20-240, *Prepared testimony and exhibits*. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2024-00010.

Any documents filed in paper form with the Office of the Clerk of the Commission in this docket may use both sides of the paper. In all other respects, except as modified by the Commission's Order for Notice and Hearing, all filings shall comply fully with the requirements of 5 VAC 5-20-150, *Copies and format*, of the Rules of Practice.

The Petitions, the Commission's Rules of Practice, the Commission's Order for Notice and Hearing, and other documents filed in the case may be viewed at: scc.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information.

VIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER COMPANY and APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY

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UPCOMING COUNTY LIBRARY EVENTS

Blind Date with a Book
February 5-17
Stop by any library branch and take a chance on an unknown book! Select books will be wrapped so you can't see the title, only a short teaser/hint. Unlike a real blind date, you don't have to stick around reading it if you don't hit it off right away. But like blind dates, there's a chance you'll meet your new best friend (author, genre, etc.). Give it a try!

Libby: eBooks & eAudiobooks
If you love books-on-the-go or reading on a device, you're in luck: you can find a wide array of ebooks and audiobooks through the library! Download the Libby (by Overdrive) app to your mobile device (including smartphone or Kindle), log in with your library card, and enjoy an entire library at your fingertips.

Readers' Night Out
Wed, Feb 14, 5-7:30pm, Blue Ridge
Tue, Feb 27, 4-6pm, Eagle Rock
Tue, Feb 27, 5-7:30pm, Fincastle
In this casual drop-in event, explore a sampling of books and authors from the Fantasy genre. Sign up for the Adult Reading Challenge and commit to reading 12 books in 2024, and you'll receive your own personal reading journal that you can decorate at the event.

Murder Hole Cave
Sat, Feb 10, 11am, Eagle Rock
Tue, Feb 13, 4pm, Fincastle
Sat, Feb 24, 11am, Buchanan
Learn about caves and the history and science of Murder Hole Cave, a local natural formation with Marian McConnell, the 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.

Eclectic Readers
Wed, Feb 14, 10:30pm, Fincastle
The Cartographers by Peng Shepherd
Thu, Feb 22, 11am-12pm, Eagle Rock
The Paris Library by Janet Skeslien Charles
Thu, Feb 22, 1-2pm, Blue Ridge
Black Cake by Charmaine Wilkerson
Discuss books and authors with fellow readers while enjoying coffee and social connection.

Outdoor Book Club
Tue, Feb 13, 11:30am, Troutville Town Park
Join a leisurely 20-minute group walk around Troutville Town Park, then discuss what you're reading and share book recommendations over warm (or cool) beverages at One Love Coffee across the street (group discount provided).

Adult Reading Challenge
Adults age 18+ are invited to commit to reading 12 books in 2024. Pick up a challenge tracker bookmark at any library branch, and/or sign up for the challenge at Beanstack (download the app or go to botetourtva.beanstack.org). Earn rewards along your reading journey, including a reading journal, coffee mug, and tote bag. Participate in special activities, such as book tastings or readers' nights out, throughout the year.

Where's Waldo?
Wed, Feb 21, Blue Ridge & Eagle Rock
Thu, Feb 22, Buchanan & Fincastle
Inspired by the popular look-and-find book series, dive into activities that encourage exploration and curiosity about the world. Embark on a scavenger hunt for Waldo and friends around the library, navigate mazes, and create Where's Waldo binoculars and hats. Best for ages 5-12, drop in anytime during the library's regular service hours.

Find even more events at BOCOLibraries.info.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Reader questions conduct at recent public hearing

I saw the letter by Karen Clark that was published on January 31. If I were to copy the last two sentences of her first paragraph, word for word, I would be accurately stating why I am writing to you, although I would state it more firmly! It is what is stated thereafter which makes it sound as if I attended a totally different meeting and I might have, as I attended only the public hearing at 6 p.m. and not the afternoon session at 2 p.m.

I attended the public hearing on the request for two Special Exception Permits (SEPs) at Daleville Town Center for a Wawa to be built there, my first attendance at such a meeting in quite some time. I left in disbelief! It was if I were attending a sporting event when Supervisor Michael (Karen Clark calls him "Walt Michael" - maybe a close friend?) was introduced - an outbreak of clapping, cheering, yelling, whistling as if their team had just scored the win. I found that strange as I would have thought that both new supervisors (Mr. Michael being the "newest," per Karen Clark) would have been introduced at the 2 p.m. meeting and that would have been the ceremonial occasion, but once that was over, I thought the meeting would proceed with orderly conduct of governmental business. I could not have been more mistaken.

During the public comment part of the public hearing which soon followed, the same type conduct occurred after each person spoke opposing the granting

of the SEPs, after any vote made by Supervisor Michael and after he muttered anything. If anyone were to speak in favor of the matter, they were rudely interrupted or personally attacked. It appeared as if they were Supervisor Michael's private cheerleading squad, and their conduct was quite disruptive and well out of place at such a meeting.

As the hearing went on, it almost appeared as if the method of conduct by those in opposition were an effort to intimidate or bully the Board of Supervisors into making its decision their way. Before I spoke, someone commented that few, if any, were there who supported the matter being heard. No wonder! When I spoke in favor of it, one or two blurted out and interrupted my comments because I was actually presenting sound reasons for granting the SEPs, and they did not want my voice heard! Another unsuccessful attempt to bully and intimidate.

The Board of Supervisors has "Procedures and Governing Rules for Public Hearings and Meetings," copies of which are posted and made available to all in attendance. Governing rule No. 8 reads "Recognized speakers and the audience should exercise courtesy at all times." Apparently, there were many there who either can't read, can't understand or think this rule does not apply to them. Truly shameful!

And now we get to what Karen Clark said about Supervisor White. After the public hearing was closed and supervisors were asked for comments, Supervisor Michael announced that he had done three surveys and that they were all overwhelmingly opposed to granting the SEPs. That announcement was the first I and many

others in attendance had ever heard about any such survey. Why did Supervisor Michael not make everyone aware of these surveys while the public had an opportunity to comment about them? Nevertheless, Supervisor White asked him a very relevant question about whether or not his surveys had been scientifically conducted. His response fell far short of answering that question just, as I suspect, his surveys fell far short of having been scientifically conducted.

Opinions can certainly differ about whether or not such a question is condescending and/or disrespectful. I thought it was quite pertinent. The question she should have asked is why he did not share the existence of same at some time during the public hearing. Frankly, she could have asked many more questions about the "surveys" he conducted on Facebook and on his personal website such as (1) How were the survey question(s) developed? (2) What methods were used to ensure that whatever questions were asked were neutral, unbiased and clear? (3) What software/collection platform was used to perform the survey(s)? and (4) How were survey respondents selected, and how were they determined to be representative of the overall population of Botetourt County? Answers to those questions should have been a part of Supervisor Michael's answer to Supervisor White's question, as they could have been the basis for determining whether or not the "surveys" were scientifically conducted. They were not a part of his response and probably for obvious reasons. I hope they are forthcoming.

I did not notice what Karen Clark says "was

See Letter, page 10

League for Animal Protection's Waifs of the Week



Bailey **Molly**
Bailey (left) and Molly are full-blooded Labs that were surrendered due to no fault of their own. Both are super friendly and full of love. Bailey is 7 and Molly is 3. They came from a loving home and are up to date on all vaccines, spayed and HW negative.

The shelter is open from 8-11 and 3-5; 540-473-3853.
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On The Web At www.fincastleherald.com

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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CLUES ACROSS
1. Revolutions per minute
4. Hymns
10. Brew
11. Did not acknowledge
12. Atomic #77
14. Partly digested food
15. Not one
16. Lesotho capital
18. Copyreading
22. Living organism that feeds on organic matter
23. One's biological father
24. An aggregate of molecules
26. Equally
27. Khoikhoi people
28. Jump in figure skating
30. Lantern
31. TV network
34. Georges __, French philosopher
36. Sharp, shrill bark
37. Albanian monetary units
39. Launched Apollo
40. One who graduated
41. Exist
42. Passed by
48. Very unpleasant smell
50. Graduates
51. Seedless raisin
52. Self-protection
53. Clue
54. Life-savers
55. Ingest too much
56. Misrepresented
58. Small Eurasian deer
59. Most mocking
60. Soviet Socialist Republic

CLUES DOWN
1. Flower cluster
2. A form
3. Inner organ regions
4. Local law enforcement
5. A citizen of Senegal
6. Positively charged electrodes
7. Connects granules
8. Business practice
9. The Mount Rushmore State
12. Leader
13. Hindu queen
17. Proofreading mark
19. European country
20. Greek mythological nymph
21. Grandfather
25. Clears
29. Amount of time
31. Mollusks
32. German municipality
33. Body part
35. City of Angels
38. Suffocate
41. Pleasing to the eye
43. Poplar trees (Spanish)
44. Ship officer
45. Individual investment account (abbr.)
46. Prefix meaning within
47. Ceased to live
49. Day by day
56. Not color
57. Condition of withdrawal (abbr.)

Buchanan Theatre
Main Street, Buchanan
\$6 Adults
\$3 Children under 12
254-1155
www.buchanantheatre.com
Visit our website for list of movies and live entertainment

The Color Purple
(2023) A woman faces many hardships in her life, but ultimately finds extraordinary strength and hope in the unbreakable bonds of sisterhood. (2 hr 21 min)

Thursday, Feb. 15
7 p.m.

Information on upcoming movies at the theatre was unavailable at press time.

www.FincastleHerald.com

See Answers, page 8

HIGH SCHOOL HONOR ROLLS

Botetourt County high schools have released the following honor rolls for the second nine-weeks:

JAMES RIVER

A HONOR ROLL

SENIORS: Carter Baka-Collins, Ripley Barry, Emma Bobbitt, Cain Bowyer, Derrick Bryant, Alexis Chocklette, William DeSouto, Katelynn Furry, Jennifer Hensley, Jaden Kitt, Grant Kovar, Kaeden Lehman-Knepprath, Natalie Lemon, Chase Lester, Sara McFadyen, Silas Miller, Damien Mitchell, Paiton Moore, Alise Orent, Annabelle Peay, Makayla Petty, Vianey Ramirez-Bautista, Tanner Reid, Kaela Riddle, Ethan Sherman, Aiden Shotwell, Braylin Snider, Ethan Spickard, Gracelyn Stump, Paul Theimer, Zachary Vernon, Angela Vish, Lily-Ann Waddell, Drew Whitson, Corban Wilhelm, Abigail Wilson, Titus Wilson

JUNIORS: Kylee Aaron, Breanna Anduiza, Kaeli Berry, Sasha Birckhead, Isaiah Campbell, Caitlin Canada, Laikyn Crawford, Roselyn Dayton, Kailin Duty, Zoe Entsminger, Kelsey Firebaugh, Koleman Harvey, Kambrie Hight, SarahGrace Laughridge, Nevaeh Marks, Savanna Martin, Ella Monaghan, Jared Monaghan, Konner Myers, Daniel Slusser, Lucas St.Clair, Isabelle Stewart, Ava Thacker, Catalyne Webb, Avery Williams, Jonathan Wolcott, Emily Woodson

SOPHOMORES: Nicole Baker, Gavin Binns, Sydnee Breeding, Elise Buchanan, Regan Childs, Colt Cook, Keira Crawford, Grace Curtis, Caitlyn Downey, Aeris Hawkins, Gwendolyn Kincaid, Kenadi Kovar, Conor McFadyen, Dallas Miller, Ella Moran, Abbey Parker, Makenna Saville, Savannah Teaford, Silas Whitson, Mia Williams

FRESHMEN: Jeremy Albright, Olivia Ayers, Tristen Brown, Evangelyn Clonch, Isaiah Coleman, Sydney DeMarco, Brennan Firebaugh, Emily Griswold, Adeline Hanna, Jay Hipes, Louisa Jamison, Ayden Jennings, Paisley Kitt, Rhaya Kitt, Joran Little, Sarah Lorman, James Martin, Cora Mullins, Brianna Patterson, Riley Persinger, Reagan Peterson, Keegan Price, McKinley Sink, Gillian Smith, Leanna Steger, Charles Stull, Kyra Taylor, Vivian Vernon, Mark Voight, Samuel Wilson

A-B HONOR ROLL

SENIORS: Matthew Alderson, Kaylee Chappell, Deanna Draper, William Dulaney, Lydia Dunbar, Iliannah Graham, Joshua Halsted, Zeal Hammons, Dylan Hicks, Caden Hoyt, Anna Lakes, Honesty Liming, Aaron Mejia, Dylan Metheny, Keegen Mundy, Elle Norris, Kadin Overfelt, Haden Parker, Colt Race-Waller, Madisen Radford, Gabriel Staton, Madeline Stull, Faith-Elizabeth Worsley

JUNIORS: Taylor Albright, Wyatt Bankert, Chase Britnell, Ethan Bryant, Josiah Clark, Logan Deel, Avia Fochtman, Cassidy Gauvin, Nathaniel Graff, Shea Hubbard, Adelynn Jones, Eric Jullien, Noah Longley, Leighauna Lotts, Emma Lowe, Griffen Lucas, Hunter Mays, Katherine McClung, Jadyn Miller, Kody Park, Halee Puffenbarger, Kendal Rutrough, Adam Smith, Andrew St.Clair, Lainey Stephenson, Amber Stevens, Brianna Torres, Nevaeh Van Buren, Jordan Wilhelm, Isaiah Wright, Xaiden Wynn

SOPHOMORES: Hannah Albers, Miley Austin, William Ballard, Brian Barger, Audrey Benson, Walker Bierer, Kaia Binns, Aiden Byrd, Xander Carlough, Chase Clemons, Siera Davis, Carli Edwards, Ellie Eubank, Olivia Eubank, Landon Flores, Donald Griffin, William Haymaker, Chloe Helmandollar, Anna Hensley, Cameron

Hosey, Ella Hutchens, Rylee Jordan, Eli King, Kally Lawhorne, Jennah Lynch, Josiah Merchant, Georgia Miller, Madison Muncey, Aaron Petty, Nathaniel Powell, Hayley Rader, Jacob Reese, Jazmyn Rinehart, Addisyn Rodgers, Madeline Rutledge, Maddox Smith, Mitchell Snare, Jalen Thompson, Lillian Tingler, Jenna Tucker, Ryder Ward, Maddox Woodyard, Liliana Wymer

FRESHMEN: Kaeley Benjamin, Clayton Bia, Samuel Bolton, Aaron Britnell, Avery Carr, Gracie Cash, Alexis Cassell, Conor Childs, William Clark, Aidan Davis, Hailey DeMarco, Declan Duncan, Rylee Forbes, Richard Francis, Mason Gilliland, Kaylee Harlow, Brooklyn Hayslett, Amiah Higginbotham-Sandidge, Gretchen Huffman, Selene Kelley, Kristen Kessler, Cheyenne King, Ashtyn Kitt, Caleb Longley, Jeremiah Mays, Molly McGee, Parker Melson, Brennen Monaghan, Crystal Muncey, Austin Myers, Kyleigh Napier, Noah Riley, Jason Rose, Avery Saunders, Holden Saville, Ryleigh Scott, Abilene Simmons, Lacey Smith, Cooper Stewart, Trenton Taylor, Abigail Thomasson, Pierce Woodyard

LORD BOTETOURT

A HONOR ROLL

SENIORS: Grayson Alfano, Alexis Amos, Ainsley Anderson, Aidan Appicello, Allison Argabright, Evan Bannwart, Samantha Bishop, Mason Bolinsky, Emily Bowling, Sophia Burbridge, Alexa Carillo, Alexander Clarke, Eisen Colon-Arroyo, Owen Cooper, Sarah Crain, Jack Crawford, Tyler Cronise, Amelia Dietrich, Erna Dietrich, Benjamin Ferrell, Bryce Finney, Aurora Fitzgerald, Kaitlyn Fitzgerald, Hunter Gilbert, Donavan Goad, Samuel Grooten, Madison Guy, Nicholas Hall, Elizabeth Hodges, Mary Hodges, Garrison Hornback, Seth Huard, Abigail Huffard, Aniyah Johnson, Ella Johnston, Daniel Kidd, Spencer Krimski, Sarah Leonard, Emily Lewis, Keaton Lucas, Juliana Manello, Christopher Martin, Greyson Mayo, Casey McFarling, Ryan Meadows, Nolan Medley, Sarah Miles, Chase Mitchell, Jakari Nicely, Kaitlyn Nichols, Bryanna Orange, Kadence Overstreet, Rey Pablo, Preston Palmer, Emmerson Perdue, Harriett Polinsky, Amber Puckett, Ridge Radtke, Kelli Reed, Mikayla Reed, Chase Richmond, Missiha Roberts, Cheyenne Robertson, Isabella Sanchez, Samantha Shields, Riley Shupe, Avrey Smith, Brianna Teaford, Katen Tetreault, Grace Thomas, Emily Thompson, Kyle Thompson, Tyler Towe, Briana Waldron, Matthew Wheeling, Emma Williamson, Seth Williamson, Mackenzie Willmott, Hezekiah Wolfe, Emma Yates

JUNIORS: Grayson Adkins, Cameron Bailey, Connor Barnes, Brayden Burns, Addison Cadenhead, Mia Camp, Emma Campbell, Madelyn Caron, Rayden Chrimes, Meredith Claterbaugh, Brayden Coleman, Ella Conner, Joshua Crigger, Kalob Daniels, Danny Dominisac, Noah Donaho, Madelyn Dooley, Chase Dozier, Carson Edwards, Janey Farrar, Cameron Ferguson, Hunter Ferguson, Hayden Firestone, Campbell Franco, Joshua Frate, Sarah Frederickson, Erica Gergely, Kevin Gibson, Noah Hale, Jackson Harless, Jillian Harris, Bria Harvey, Ty Hensley, Ryley Hoffman, Lola Hollett, Grayson Hooven, Abigail Humphries, Walker Johnson, Evan Klampfer, Blake Lovern, Mia MacCormack, Jacob Malue, Ava Martin, Jasmine McDaniel, Skylar Morris, Lillian Mosley, Maya Mouglin, Kyle Nordgren, Lea Norris, Cameron Pannell, Oscar Ramos Cedillo, Kane Reczek, Nathan Robinson, Emma Ruhlman, Autumn

Russell, Toby Schaal, Aaron Scher, Merridith Schmeidler, Ena Sejtanic, Carson Shell, Aiden Siracusa, Hannah Slate, Brett Smith, Emberlea Sprouse, Raimee Sykes, Kailey Teaford, Gavin Walker, Madeleine Whitacre, Katherine Woodward, Michael Yamatani, Azlynn Zini, Nathaniel Zuraw

SOPHOMORES: Meredith Allen, Srijal Baniya, Andrew Boitnott, Raegan Bolling, Taylor Bowling, Jacob Brown, Amelia Caballero, Alice Cahoon, Maggie Caldwell, Gracelynn Clark, Titus Close, Tayler Cronise, Joseph Crowley, Caitlin Curran, Lorenzo Dean, Graham Dietrich, Nickolas Edmondson, Kennedy Fender, Leah Fitzgerald, Ella Fletcher, Austin Gardner, Joseph Germain-Norton, Jaxon Guilleams, Alexa Gurley, Olivia Harvey, Catherine Hedrick, Alicia Holmes, Garrett Honts, Rachel Huard, Hayli Huffman, Kelley Ingle, Emily Jones, Gabriel Jones, Chloe Kelly, Ella Kirk, Brady Kish, Norah Lavinder, Angel Lawson, Chloe Lawson, Nevaeh Lawson, Devin Lindsay, James Lisle, Rhiley Lumpkin, Max Lusk, Emily Maddox, Jonathan Malue, Thomas Marden, Ryan Markham, Rylee Mauck, Hannah McFarling, Stevie Megow, Cub Miller, Breely Mitchell, Jesse Mitchell, Olivia Nicely, Griffin Osborne, Hala Othman, Esther Phillips, Soren Rosine, Robert Sanchez, Emilia Sanford, Emma Spangler, Jacob Staton, Jack Stelter, Sydney Stevens, Regina Thomas, Maxwell Vanover, Ashlee Walker, Sara Weckel, Morgan Wilmer, Hannah Wilson, Logan Winger

FRESHMEN: Lilah Barker, Lauren Barns, Asher Bolinsky, Kaylin Bousman, Elaina Brown, Jayden Brubaker, Emily Buehring, Callie Byrd, Noel Caballero, Lucas Carswell, Skyla Corkins, Evelyn Damian-Ambrocio, Alisa Davidova, Ryan Dominisac, Makenna East, Daniel Estep, Jake Flannigan, Noah Frederickson, Madeleine Gantzhorn, Kevin Gergely, Fallon Gibson, Leahbella Gillian, Adyson Greathouse, Owen Hilgers, Ava Horne, Riley Howell, Gracie Huffman, Sedona Humphrey, Rose Janosz, Madison Jones, Torrence Jones, Briana Keith, Paxton Kirby, Corra Lasek, Aaron Lyle, Abigail Maddox, Marley Mazurek, Craig McLucas, Samuel Meadows, Sarah Meadows, Sydney Meadows, Kinsley Milko, Julia Misicko, Maxton Mizuba, Anna Moore, Kendall Nixon, Rianna Ortiz, Daisy Osborne, Camdyn Robertson, Serenity Shearer, Callie Shuler, Riley Sink, Jordan Smith, Matthew Smith, Ryan Staton, Sadie Stowe, Addalyn Underwood, Preston Vaughn, Abigail Walls, Kaylee Warren, Ember Wiley, Chloe Williams, Meredith Willmott, Morgan Winger, Abigail Wright, Austin Wyrick

A-B HONOR ROLL

SENIORS: Laila Alam, Donavan Alvarado, Isabella Antivero, Hunter Atkinson, Taylor Bell, Diego Benavidez, Aubrey Born, Daniel Bowling, Jacob Brewbaker, Keely Caldwell, Lauryn Campbell, Lillian Cox, Kendra Craddock, Kallie Deel, Kalei Delp, Tegan Dunman, Christina Ellis, Autumn Estrada, Hadley Evans, Anthony Foster, William Galbraith, Colette Germain-Norton, Meredith Griffin, Stephanie Gutierrez, Geneva Hall, Karis Hambrick, Emily Hanson, Cameron Hayes, Zane Hess, Aliyah Honaker, Kendal Howard, Lilly Iacovone, Ethan Ikenberry, Rye Jackson, Layne Jones, Jackson Kemper, Juliette Landeros-Anaya, Cade Lang, Ava Lowe, Alexander Lucia, Landin Lyle, Lily Manier, Rowen Mays, Avary Michalski, Ryan Mosdell, Ashlyn Musselman, Bryan Nida, Taylor Orange, Danny Palma-Santos, Sydney Parr, Carson Peery, Tucker Peery, Theodore Piluso, Benjamin Prescott, Emma Rice, Gavin Rosenberger, Alyssa Rupe, Sydney Schwallenberg, Kaylee Sell, Olivia Sell,

Chloe Shrewsbury, Jayden Smith, Joshua Smith, Walker Sutton, Olivia Terry, Demetri Tolver, Joel Vance, Connor Weddle, Brayden Wells, Ethan Wells, Austin Wertz, Jeffrey Whitacre, Jayden Widner, Benjamin Wilkinson, Kenzie Wilson, Amy Woodson, Zion Woody, Lily Yager

JUNIORS: Natalie Alban, Aidan Alderman, Warren Basham, Savannah Beckner, Michael Bennett, Blake Bolling, Sarah Bralley, Olivia Carswell, Raymond Cobb, Jonathan Cook, Maisy Cook, Tory Cox, Sean Crane, Ethan Cunningham, Corey Curran, Olivia Davidson, Matthews Dorra, Emily Duncan, Kristin Engels, Dakod Ferguson, Seth Fitzwater, Braelyn Folks, Abigail Foster, Makayla Fralin, Emily Gomez-Castaneda, Isabella Gray, Cole Griffin, Charles Grimes, Morgan Gross, Hilary Gutierrez-Cortez, Hannah Hamdan, Lindsey Hamilton, Rebecca Huddleston, Morgan Huffman, Tiana Irons, Abigail Kingery, Charles Kumar, Matthew Lee, Harper Lewis, Kendyll Lewis, Caden Marshall, Journi Maxey, Tyler McCarren, Jackson Miller, Aidan Mitchell, Kirsten Mitchell, Hannah Mizuba, Cody Orange, Jocelyn Osborne, Noell Overbay, Tristan Overbay, Ian Park, Gracyn Poff, Ryan Quesenberry, Seth Reiter, Abigail Roseberry, Mali Ruppel, Christopher Saunders, Isabella Shelton, Ella Shuler, Symelia Smart, Morgan Smith, Avrie Stevens, Connor Stultz, Declan Sullivan, Garrett Sutton, Brayden Underwood, Carter Vassar, Dean Webb, Claire Williams, Marisa Wilson, Madilyn Winterton, Bridgette Wissemann, Natalie Wolfe

SOPHOMORES: Alyssa Alban, Isaac Alderman, Jasmin Andrade, Gavin Bowles, Angelie Brader, Kendall Brennan, Karleigh Brown, Xavier Brummer, Tyler Butler, Joshua Carter, Sylvana Cavinder, Chloe Clemmer, Caralyn Collins, Trinity Conner, Grace Corey, Peyton Creasy, Jaiden Dann, Brendan Dolinger, Kennedy Dorsey, Daniel Doss, Ava Duff, Olivia Gantzhorn, Leigha Gray, Kaylee Hale, Landon Hayes, Caleb Holloway, Ryan Hooven, Kayla Horne, Ratie Jensen, Callie Kidd, Taylor Lawson, Alexis Le, Leone Ledikwe, Liam MacMackin, Kaiden McCoy-Teaford, Reagan Meade, Lilliana Mercedes, Evelyn Michael, Emily Murry, Caleb Muterspaugh, Anyeli Orellana-Rodas, Morgan Parr, Blake Peery, Jennifer Peters, Brian Phillippi, Alina Poudel, Nathan Preston, Rafaella Rodrigues, Taygen Sanchez-Huerta, Leia Simurina, Gabrielle Smiley, Rhiannon Stowe, Chloe Taylor, Aaden Thomas, Abrianna Thompson, Alina Tolver, Jackson Truax, Gabriella True, Ian Villa, Forest Wagner, Allison Wertz, Austin Williamson, Ashley Wilmer, Jacob Winfield, Zechariah Wolfe, Riley Wolford

FRESHMEN: Makayla Akers, Stephanie Akers, Sophie Bailey, Derek Bond, Abigail Booth, Aman Boston, Hayden Bushnell, Joel Butler, Maria Carrera Lazaro, Gavin Christian, Dalton Close, Alexis Collins, Lillian Crenshaw, Olivia Dameron, Brooke Deacon, Cody Dooley, Reilly Eason, Landen Gray, Ethan Hardin, Addison Harper, Kori Harris, Bryce Heizer, Lucas Hipes, Maggie Hoover, Arianna Houston, Noah Johnson, Margaret Johnson-Koroma, Ian Keister, Marilyn Kelley, Joesiah Lavinder, Rylan Lavinder, Lila Leon, Angelina Martin, Isaac Mays, Michael McCray, Logan Meador, Nathaniel Moore, John Moughrabi, Minh Ngo, Bryce Nichols, Brody Nunley, Jacob Orange, Krish Patel, Chase Peck, Jairdan Pennix, Jace Pippert, Peyton Poff, Addison Purser, Bryson Reimer, Ava Rich, Summer Sharp, Jerry Smith, Tristan Sorbara, Jacob Spence, Abigail St. Clair, Elliott Stump, Gabriel Towe, Jocelin Underwood, Lucas Vargo, Isis Velasquez, Alexis Wagner, Brody Wilhoit, Alexia Willard, Simon Williams, Connor Woodruff, Sydney Yates, Asher Zuraw



Bank of Botetourt

Celebrates & Congratulates Honor Roll Recipients




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A Tale of Romance

Judy Gayle Rader and Gene Randall Kelly dated for 17 months. Their dates were on Fridays and Sundays for movies. On Saturdays, they sat in Judy's living room and listened to "Record Romp" to see if they would play their requests. One night, the station dedicated "Come Softly to Me" by The Fleetwoods to the young couple.

On one Friday in February of 1960, it began to snow in Botetourt County. Lord Botetourt High School let out and Valentine's Day plans were put on hold. Gene wasn't able to see Judy that Friday night due to the heavy snowfall and she was missing her blonde blue-eyed doll, as she called him.

The snow finally stopped, peaking at 18 inches, but then the wind started to blow at an intense rate. The snow began to drift over roads and fences. When Judy opened the front door of her parents' home, all she could see was snow that drifted off of the roof and onto the front porch.

Judy and her father felt the need to check on her grandparents, who lived over the hill off of what is now Reynolds Drive in Troutville. Judy's father made her snowshoes out of plastic clothesline.

It was tough walking but Judy and her father got up to the house and retrieved a grocery list from her grandparents for supplies.

They made their way, trudging through the snow on their way to L.D. Brugh and Sons. Along their journey, they saw a five-foot drift over what is now Reynolds Drive clearing a nearby neighbor's fence. Someone had carved out stairsteps on each side of the drift.

At the store, Judy and Gene gathered supplies from the list, grabbed the mail, and newspapers. The store became the delivery station for everything since U.S. Route 11 was open. Most people walked to the store.

Judy and her father walked back to her grandparents' house. They salvaged some wood and water for them and walked back to their home. During the week, Judy and her father continued to go to the store.

One week later, it was Valentine's Day. Snow stilled covered Botetourt County. Judy sat by the fire, missing Gene. It had been almost two weeks since she the last time she saw him. She began to realize how much she needed him in her life.

Suddenly, there was a knock at her



PHOTO COURTESY OF JUDY KELLY

door. Gene had returned, her love. He rode the bus 10 miles and over mountains of snow just to come and see her. He was cold and wet up to his knees. Gene greeted Judy with a kiss and a box of candy. She helped him take off his soaked shoes and socks and softened a place in front of the fire to warm him up.

Judy and Gene sat by the fire drinking Pepsi and eating candy. It was a most memorable Valentine's Day that year, but the best thing about that week was Judy realized how much Gene cared for her too.

They sat side by side dreaming of the life they had already shared, and knew that they must be together forever. They were in love and married three years later in 1963.

Submitted by Judy Kelly with Matt de Simone



PHOTO BY MATT DE SIMONE

Farmers Market is currently seeking nominations for essential board positions. The 2024 market kicks off on April 20.

Botetourt Farmers Market seeks nominations for board; 'Earth Day' market on April 20 will begin the season

As the Botetourt Farmers Market prepares for the upcoming season, nominations are being sought for essential positions on the board, including president, treasurer, secretary, and parliamentarian. This is an opportunity for community members to play a vital role in the success of the Botetourt Farmers Market. Interested individuals are encouraged to contact botetourtvafarmersmarket@gmail.com for further details.

The annual meeting is scheduled for March 5 at the Blue Ridge Library at 6 p.m.

The Botetourt Farmers Market will hold a special "Earth Day" market on April 20 at the Daleville Town Center. This unique event will serve as the kickoff for the highly anticipated 2024 season, which officially begins on May 4.

- Botetourt Farmers Market

Chamber donates to BCSO

Sheriff Matt Ward accepted a donation last Friday from the Botetourt Chamber of Commerce for the wonderful support and assistance to the successful 2023 Tinsel Trail in Fincastle. Pictured here are Ward, with Teresa Fridley, Shawna Linthicum, and Bobbie Bowman.

- Fincastle Herald staff report



PHOTO COURTESY OF BOBBIE BOWMAN



PHOTO COURTESY OF LAP

LAP receives donation

Linda and Mark Miller of Salem recently visited the League for Animal Protection in Fincastle, delivering supplies that they and the 44 people who attended their annual Groundhog Day party donated to the no-kill shelter.

- Fincastle Herald staff report

VDOT Virginia Department of Transportation

Northbound Interstate 81
Exit 162 (Buchanan)
Ramp Extension
Botetourt County

Find out about a project to extend the ramp onto northbound Interstate 81 at exit 162 (Buchanan) in Botetourt County. The on ramp will be extended approximately 1,000 feet and a new concrete barrier and retaining wall will be constructed adjacent to the right shoulder.

Review the project information and National Environmental Policy Act document in the form of a Programmatic Categorical Exclusion at VDOT's Salem District Office located at 731 Harrison Avenue in Salem, 540-387-5353 1-800-FOR-ROAD, or TTY/TDD 711. Please call ahead to ensure the availability of appropriate personnel to answer your questions.

If your concerns cannot be satisfied, VDOT is willing to hold a public hearing. You may request that a public hearing be held by sending a written request to Eli Mannon, Virginia Department of Transportation, 731 Harrison Avenue, Salem, VA 24153, on or prior to **February 29, 2024**. If a request for a public hearing is received, notice of date, time and place of the hearing will be posted.

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you have questions or concerns about your civil rights in regards to this project or need special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact Eli Mannon at the phone numbers listed above.

Federal Project: NHPP-0812(336) UPC: 116199
State Project: 0081-011-835, M501, P101, R201
From: Mile marker 162.44 To: Mile marker 163.84

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Letters to the
Editor to
Fincastle@
mainstreetnewspapers.com

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SOUP MIXES, JELLIES AND CAMPING SUPPLIES

Upcoming KoC fish fries

Friday Fish Fries - Feb. 23, March 22, and April 19, 5-7 p.m.

Increased capacity to 450 patrons. Little-to-no-wait. Eat-in or Take-out. Church of the Transfiguration, 7624 Roanoke Rd., Fincastle. \$12, Ages 7 and under are free. Two filets of lightly breaded flounder or six chicken nuggets, crispy fries, sweet cornbread, homemade coleslaw, and choice of one dessert. 50/50 drawing. No advance ticket sales. Proceeds to benefit Botetourt Food Pantry, Backpack Ministry at Greenfield Elementary, Botetourt Resource Center, and other local charities yet to be determined. Questions, call 540-904-3126.

- Knights of Columbus

Report from the House from Del. Terry Austin

To the Constituents of the 37th House District:

Week five of the 2024 General Assembly has concluded, and the House of Delegates is working through hundreds of bills as Session approaches Crossover – the point where the House and Senate complete work on their respective legislation, and successful bills “crossover” to the other chamber. This was a difficult week, and not just because of the grueling schedule. Legislation that would allow some of the worst criminals in Virginia to be released before serving their full sentences moved forward, while bills to extricate Virginia from California’s unrealistic automobile standards failed to report out of committee.

Victims of violent crimes drove from all over Virginia to testify and ask House Democrats to withdraw HB834, which enables those convicted of the most serious offenses to have a “second look” at early release. Families pleaded for violent criminals to remain behind bars and prevent the need to

repeatedly relive these traumatic experiences at “second look” hearings. Unfortunately, they were given a total of six minutes combined to tell the tragic stories of their loved ones. A mother whose son died in her arms sought just one minute to talk and was turned away. The bill continues to advance, and Republicans will continue to highlight the significant impact of everyone affected.

Legislation passed by the Democrat majority in 2021 linked Virginia to California’s emission standards and mandated that all new vehicles sold be electric by 2035. This aspirational piece of legislation has proven itself to be unrealistic and Republicans introduced two bills that would have eliminated, or at least delayed, its implementation. Unfortunately, they both died in committee.

Numerous examples of impracticality abound. Only 9 percent of new car sales in Virginia last year were EVs, and sales growth would need to increase at an exponential rate for Virginia to meet this

target in 10 years. Consumers have made it clear that cost, limited driving range, and long charging times have not met expectations. Manufacturers are adjusting to this reality. Ford recently announced major cuts in EV production, a pause in \$12 billion of EV investment, and a halving of its electric F-150 production targets. General Motors declared a delay in plans to expand EV production in Michigan and is discontinuing its best-selling EV in 2023. Half of all Buick dealers across the country recently took a buyout rather than invest in the brand’s all electric plans.

Furthermore, the Commonwealth’s charging infrastructure is both inadequate for the EVs already on the road and biased toward higher income communities. Virginia has a little more than 1,400 charging stations, with the majority in Northern Virginia. Almost two-thirds of these stations are in census tracts above the median household income. The paucity of these stations elsewhere in the Commonwealth make predictable and timely

road travel impracticable. Aspirational legislation is not practical, and it has become increasingly apparent that electric vehicles are not realistic option for consumers, manufacturers, or the current state of our infrastructure.

As for my bills, I am pleased to report that HB191 and HB1425 passed out of the House unanimously, while HB843 passed out of the House 89-11.

HB191 improves the predictability of the automobile dealer franchise sales by establishing objective measures for the process.

HB843 supports the equine industry by enabling the distribution of revenues generated by Historical Horse Racing machines. A portion of these revenues will be directed to support the Virginia Horse Center in Lexington and Virginia Tech’s College of Veterinary Medicine.

HB1425 exempts the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority (VPRA) from the Statewide Uniform Building Code, and the Fire Prevention Code

Act. These code standards are meant for occupied buildings, not bridges and tunnels, and VDOT has the same exemption for this reason. The purpose is to give VPRA the clarity it needs as it advances critical rail infrastructure projects, including extending rail west to Bristol.

Lasts week I had the pleasure of visiting with constituent Tammy Coffey on behalf of Donate Life Virginia, an organization that educates people on the benefit of being an organ donor. I also enjoyed speaking with local members of the Asphalt Association and the Virginia Beer Wholesalers Association.

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

4 P.M. Burning Law takes effect tomorrow

Virginia’s 4 PM Burning Law is in effect from February 15 through April 30 each year. It is important to note that some localities may have even more restrictive regulations on outdoor burning than the state’s 4 PM Burning Law. All burners are encouraged to check with their locality before starting any outdoor burning.

The 4 PM Burning Law bans open-air burning prior to 4 p.m. if the fire is within 300 feet of the woods or dry grass which could carry fire to the woods. Burning is allowed between 4 p.m. and midnight as long as the burner takes proper precautions and attends the fire at all times.

It is critical that burners take precautions before using fire, as there may be legal and financial implications. Even if a person

takes all proper precautions and obtains any locally required permits, whoever started the fire is responsible for suppressions costs should the fire escape. Violation of the 4 PM Burning Law is a Class 3 misdemeanor with a fine of not more than \$500.

Debris burning is the number one cause of wildfires, closely followed by intentionally set or “arson” fires. The 4 PM Burning Law

was adopted during the 1940s to reduce the number of wildfires which occurred each spring, when Virginia has traditionally seen an increased number of fires.

Fires are more likely during late winter and early spring because winds are usually elevated, the relative humidity is lower,

See Burning, page 9



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Botetourt Worship Directory

ANGLICAN

Orchard Hills Church - 6032 Cloverdale Rd. next to Read Mountain Fire Station. Worship at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sundays. Home group Bible studies available throughout the week. Pastor Scott McLucas, 977-6800. To find out more about Orchard Hills Church go to the website at www.orchardhillschurch.org.

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

New Beginnings Assembly of God, 1317 Narrow Passage Rd., 43 North. Sunday School, 10:00a.m.; Worship, 11a.m.; Wednesday Prayer & Bible Study, 6:00p.m., Pastor Steve Tremblay, email: pastorstevetremblay@gmail.com. Everyone welcome.

Troutville Assembly of God, 118 Conner Lane, P.O. Box 728, Troutville, VA 24175, Pastor Dennis Carroll, 540-960-1224, Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 a.m., Children's Church 11:00 a.m., Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 p.m., Everyone welcome.

INDEPENDENT BAPTIST

Colonial Baptist Church - 221 Hillcrest St., Blue Ridge, VA 24064. Phone 540-977-5683. Senior Pastor Joel A. Wegner; Sunday: 9:30 a.m., Sunday School & Adult Bible Fellowships; 10:30 a.m. Worship (Nursery, Tots' & Children's Church) - broadcast on Facebook Live; One Sunday evening worship per month at 6 p.m. Wednesday schedule during the school year: 11 a.m. & 7 p.m. Adult Prayer & Bible Studies; 6:45 p.m. WOL Teens, 7 p.m. WOL Gopher Buddies & Olympians (Age 3-Grade 6), 7 p.m. MERGE (College Age). E-mail: office@cbcblueridge.org; website: www.cbcblueridge.org; On Facebook, Instagram, YouTube

Crossroads Baptist Church - 1128 Wheatland Rd., Buchanan, Pastor Elmer Clemons, 761-5074 Home, Sunday School 10:00 A.M., Morning Worship, 11:00 A.M., Sunday Evening 6:00 P.M., Wednesday Prayer & Bible Study 6:00 P.M.

Faith Baptist Church- 4258 Botetourt Rd., 4 miles N. of Fincastle; Dr. John W. Reynolds, pastor- teacher, 473-2325, jwr56fbc@yahoo.com. Sunday School, 10 AM; Worship, 11 AM. Wed. Bible study, 7 PM. fincastlefaith.com.

Lapsleys Run Baptist Church- Rev. David W. Halsey, Sr., Pastor. 608 Zion Hill Road, Fincastle. 540-556-3504. Worship: 2nd & 4th Sunday at 11:00a.m.

New Hope Baptist Church- 2315 Blue Ridge Blvd. (US 460), 977-6610, Pastor David McNeill; Sunday School, 9:45AM; Worship, 10:45AM, 7PM; Wed., Bible Study 7PM; Kings Kids, 7PM; Daycare and Preschool, Mon-Fri. 6:30AM-6PM.

Valley View Baptist Church- 17471 Main St., Buchanan; Rev. Daniel Boone, 254-2760 (church), 254-2570 (H). Sunday School, 10 AM; worship, 11 AM, Sunday Evening, 6:30 PM; Wednesday: Prayer and Youth Ministries, 7 PM, Word Of Life youth ministry for 4 year olds-12th grade Wednesdays at 7 p.m.

SOUTHERN BAPTIST

Bonsack Baptist Church - 4845 Cloverdale Rd. (Alt. 220) Dr. Chris Cadenhead, 977-5701, Sunday School, 8:30a.m. and 11a.m.; Worship 9:45a.m.; Wed. Bible study, 6 p.m.

Buchanan Baptist Church - 19730 Main Street, Buchanan, Sunday Bible Study for all ages 9:45 a.m.; Worship at 11 a.m. Wednesday Fellowship Meal at 6 p.m. followed by Bible Study and activities for all ages. Facebook - Buchanan Baptist Church; Web Site - buchananbaptist.com; Phone - 254-2253, Pastor - Darrell Naff; Minister of Music - Stephen Harris

Daleville Baptist Church-

Corner of Valley Rd. and Orchard Dr., 992-1570; Senior Pastor Wes Belcher; Sunday School 9:00 a.m., Worship 10:30 a.m.; Wednesday: Youth 6:30 p.m., Children (age 4-5th grade) 6:45 p.m., Bible study & prayer 7:00 p.m.

Fincastle Baptist Church- Located at 7330 Roanoke Rd., Fincastle, Rt. 220, 1 mile south of Fincastle, 540-473-2861; www.fincastlebaptist.org; Sr. Pastor Kevin B. Cummings. Sunday Mornings, we offer a dual Bible Study/Worship Service at both 9:00 am and 10:45 am. On Wednesday evenings, we offer events for the entire family: Kids Club (3 years-5th grade) 6:15-7:30 pm; Middle School Ignite (Grades 6-8) 6:15-7:15 pm; Adult Bible Study 6:30-7:30 pm; Ignite High School Group (Grades 9-12) 7:45-8:45 pm; and childcare (birth-36 months).

Forest Grove Baptist Church- 693 Mt. Moriah Rd. (Rt. 681), Eagle Rock, Rev. Jerry Marsh, Pastor. Sunday School, 9:30 a.m., Worship 10:35 a.m., Wed., Bible Study 7 p.m.

Glade Creek Baptist Church - 3148 Webster Road, Blue Ridge, Virginia 24064. Pastor Steve McChesney. Phone 540-977-1686 or 540-798-7462. Sunday School 9:45 a.m., Sunday Worship Service 11:00 a.m., to include Children's Church. Wednesday evening Worship and Bible study begins with a meal at 6:30 p.m.

Mill Creek Baptist Church - 11475 Lee Hwy., Fincastle, 992-3474. Danny Quirin, Pastor. Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; Worship 8:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.; Wednesday night activities begin at 6pm: Bible study, children and youth activities, choir and handbell rehearsals follow. office@millcreekbc.com

Pleasant Hill Baptist Church - 4930 Country Club Road (corner of Country Club & Haymakertown Roads), 540-992-5556. Pastor Danny Barham. Sunday School, 10 a.m.; Worship Service, 11 a.m. Worship can also be viewed online at the PHBC Facebook page or on Youtube (PHBCtube). Other activities and schedules can be found at www.phbcweb.com.

Springwood Baptist Church - 88 Copps Hill Rd., Buchanan; Rev. Mike Anderson, 540-819-4616, email pmike09@outlook.com. Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship 11 a.m.; Wednesday night bible study will be held every first and third Wednesday of the month from 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

Troutville Baptist Church -P.O. Box 309, Troutville, VA 24175; 992-1026, Pastor Dr. Jeff Ritchey. Sunday School 9:45 AM; Worship 11 AM. Wednesday: Adult Prayer & Bible Study, 6:30PM; Youth & Children Activities 6:30PM.

Zion Hill Baptist Church- Intersection of Zion Hill Road and Old Fincastle Road. Pastor Donald Goforth (540) 884-2285. Sunday School -10 AM Worship 11AM. Youth Activities (grades 6-12) and Kingdom Kids (preschool-grade 5) Wednesdays at 5:30 PM.

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

Cloverleaf Church of the Brethren- 4708 Read Mtn. Rd., 992-1060; Sunday School, 9:15 a.m., worship, 10:30 a.m.; Wed. (Sept.-May), Family Dinner, 6 p.m., Bible study, 6:45 p.m. Preschool, after-school care & summer day camp for preschool and elementary age children. Patrick Starkey, Pastor; Shawna Burkhardt, preschool director.

Mt. Bethel Church of the Brethren- 10603 Narrow Passage Rd., Eagle Rock. PO Box. 183 Eagle Rock, VA 24085. Interim Pastor Dreama Osborne. 884-2292 (church), 540-597-8272 (cell). Sunday

PLACE OF REFUGE

Read Numbers 32:1 through 36:13

Select some towns to be your cities of refuge, to which a person who has killed someone accidentally may flee. They will be places of refuge from the avenger, so that a person accused of murder may not die before he stands trial before the assembly (Numbers 35:11,12).

God commanded that if anyone died because of violence, and murder was assumed, the murder suspect was not automatically to be considered guilty. Instead, he was allowed to flee to a city of refuge (one of six to be chosen in the Promised Land) that would assure the accused would be treated justly and justice would be done. In this way God provided justice in a culture where protecting the innocent was not a typical response.

When we hear accusations of guilt against others, our first response should be to provide them with a place of refuge in our hearts. That is, we should not rush to judgment, assume their guilt, and be careless in our speech about them. We should treat them fairly, as God intended.

Prayer for Today: Ask the Lord to make your heart and mouth a place of refuge rather than a fount of accusation for others.

Quicklook: Numbers 35:6-15

School, 10 AM; worship, 11 AM; Ladies' Aid meets 2nd Thurs. monthly.

Mt. Joy Church of the Brethren- 2565 Buffalo Rd., 10 miles N of Buchanan, 254-2298. Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m. Pastor Michael Tabor, (540) 309-7595.

Pleasant Dale Church of the Brethren, 3732 Breckinridge Mill Road, Fincastle Virginia 24090, Pastor Dr. David A. Tozar, Worship service 11:00am every Sunday, Potluck Luncheon every 3rd Sunday of the month.

Troutville Church of the Brethren - 5133 Lee Hwy., 992-1571; Terry R. Johnson, Pastor; Don Obenshain, Choir Director. Sunday Morning Services: Sunday School, 10 am; Worship Service, 11 am. Sunday Night Meetings: Rainbows, 5:30 pm; Christ Seekers, 6:00 pm. Wednesday Night Meetings: Bible Study, 6:30 pm, Choir practice, 7:00 pm. Family Fellowship Time will be held each 3rd Sunday of the month. Handicap Accessible. Our email address is: Troutvillecob@hotmail.com.

CHURCH OF CHRIST

Dale Ridge Church of Christ - 7165 Cloverdale Rd., NW Roanoke, 24019; office: 992-4385. Sunday Bible Study, 9:30 a.m., Worship, 10:30 a.m., Wednesday Bible Study, 6 p.m. Ladies class - Thursdays 10:00 a.m. Visit our new web page: daleridgechurchofchrist.net, it's updated each week from local, national and international sources with news of interest to Christians. Take a video tour of our facilities. Read articles taken from the word of God that apply to our lives today. View a new sermon each week. Dale Ridge is reaching out to the Roanoke/Botetourt area with the good news of Jesus Christ. Come join our plea to return to the Bible. We believe in the inspired Word of God which is as relevant today as it was when it was written. We believe in the Holy Spirit is a gift, given to every Christian when we respond to the Gospel as taught in the context of Acts

2 and emphasized in verse 38. We believe Jesus is the only means of our salvation. (Acts 4:12) Is this your time to make a choice? (John 16:13) Have you been looking for a church family that's led by the Holy Spirit into all truth? (John 13:35) You will know we are His disciples by our love for one another. Follow the advice of Philip when he told Nathanael about Jesus in (John 1:46) "Come and See."

ECKANKAR

Eckankar, the Path of Spiritual Freedom, is a simple teaching that focuses on the Light and Sound of God to help people find more love in their life. The Roanoke Eckankar Center is located at 1420 3rd St. SW, Roanoke, VA 24016. A spiritual event is held on the 2nd Sunday of each month at 10:30 a.m. Since contracting COVID-19 may still be possible, please take the health steps that are best for you. It is appreciated that by attending you are taking responsibility for your own health. Visit www.eck-va.org, www.meetup.com/Roanoke-Spiritual-Experiences*Group* or call 540-353-5365 for other Eckankar programs and for more information about how the teachings of Eckankar can lead you to spiritual freedom.

EPISCOPAL



St. Mark's Episcopal Church -111 S. Roanoke St., Fincastle. P.O. Box 277 Fincastle, VA 24090. The Rev. G. Willis Logan, Rector. 473-2370. Worship in the sanctuary and by Zoom on Sunday mornings at 10:00am, with Adult Education on Sunday mornings from 9:00 to 9:50am. Evening Prayer is Wednesday evenings at 7:30pm by Zoom. Brown Bag Bible Study on Thursdays at 12 noon in the Ministry Center and by Zoom. Links for Zoom can be found on our website, www.stmarksfincastle.org.

LUTHERAN

Our Savior Evangelical Lutheran Church (WELS) - 9068 Cloverdale Road, Troutville, VA; Paul Workentine, Pastor; Worship Sunday at 10:00 AM. Sunday School at 11:30 AM. Info and calendar at osloanoke.com. Phone: 540-977- 4888. Mailing address PO Box 916, Blue Ridge, VA 24064.

Wheatland Evangelical Lutheran Church- 1560 Wheatland Road, Buchanan, 24066; 540-254-1605. Sunday worship service, 10:30 a.m. (in person or parking lot, tune car radio to 88.9 FM). The Rev. Chuck Miller, 540-589-7553. Facebook, <http://www.wheatlandlutheran.org>; teemwheatland@gmail.com

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

Grace Bible Church of Botetourt - 148 Amsterdam Rd. (beside the south lane of 220 in Amsterdam, 1.5 miles north of LBHS). Sunday Worship, 10 a.m. Pastor Jay Robinette - 855-4620.

Mt. Carmel Church, 6 miles south of Eagle Rock at intersection of Rt. 43 and 688; pastor, Richard Ronk; phone # (540) 884-3653; Sunday School at 10:00 A.M., Worship at 11:00 A.M., Wed. Prayer Meeting at 7:00 P.M., 4th Sunday Evenings at 7:00 P.M.

Woodland Church-A Place Where You Can Grow - 45 Woodland Rd. Troutville, VA. Corner of Blacksburg/Country Club Rds., 3.5 miles W. of Fincastle; 992-1008. Sunday School, 10AM; Worship, 11AM, Wed. Prayer Meeting 7PM (Call for more information).

PRESBYTERIAN

Buchanan Presbyterian Church - 19559 Main St. Buchanan. 540-254-1390. Donna Hopkins Britt, Pastor. Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. with background checked approved teachers, Choir practice at 9:30 a.m. Worship at 11 a.m. with children's nursery with background

checked approved staff. Videotaped services can be viewed on YouTube. The Food Pantry is open from 9-11 a.m. on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month. Handicap accessible. Facebook page or website: www.buchananpresbyterian.org. Contact www.admin@buchananpresbyterian.org

Fincastle Presbyterian Church - 108 E. Back Street, Fincastle, VA 24090. The Reverend David Dickerson is the minister with the Worship Service held from 10:30 - 11:30 Sunday mornings. Services are now being held in the sanctuary with no restrictions...unvaccinated individuals are still requested to wear their masks. The service will also be live-streamed via Facebook at (<https://www.facebook.com/fincastlepresbyterianchurch>). New members are welcome to join our hand bell and vocal choirs. (No musical experience is required...just a desire to worship the Lord and to have fun!) The church is handicapped accessible. For more information: fincastlepresbyterianchurch@gmail.com or (540)473-2042.

Galatia Evangelical Presbyterian Church - 78 Gala Loop Road, Eagle Rock, VA 24085. Rev. Emily B. Hook, pastor, 804-516-6552. Sunday School at 10 a.m. each Sunday. Morning Worship & Praise at 11a.m. each Sunday. Communion once each quarter.

Virginia Presbyterian Church - 918 Pico Road, Buchanan, 24066. Worship 9:30 a.m. (nursery provided), Sunday School, 10:30 a.m.

ROMAN CATHOLIC

Church of the Transfiguration- 7624 Roanoke Rd., Fincastle, VA 24090; Fr. Paul Lagco. 473-2656. Saturday Mass at 4:30pm & Sunday at 8:30am; Christian formation after Mass on Sunday.

UNITED METHODIST

Andrew Chapel United Methodist Church- 3936 Beaver Dam Road, just off Springwood Road, Springwood. Rev. Morris A. Bennett. Sunday School, 9:15 a.m. followed by Worship, 10 a.m.

Eagle Rock United Methodist Church - 14565 Church St. Eagle Rock 10:15 AM; Glen Wilton UMC, Main St. Glen Wilton, 9:00 AM; Shiloh UMC, Shiloh Rd, Eagle Rock, 11:15 AM. Pastor Ray Sandifer (540) 525-0258.

Fincastle United Methodist Church - Sunday School at 9 a.m. in the Family Life Center. In person services Sunday, 10 a.m. in the sanctuary, 136 S. Church St., Fincastle. Pastor Reverend Jim Bollinger, office, 473-3001. E-mail: office@fincastleumc.org.

St. Mark's United Methodist Church - 19 Cedar Ridge Drive, Daleville, Pastor Samuel Plymale, 992-3030. Worship Times: Praise and Worship Service at 9:00, with Blended Service which celebrates Communion on the first Sunday of every month, with music led by our Praise Band. Traditional Worship Service at 11:00am. Traditional worship often with presence of the choir--this service is live streamed and celebrates Communion on the first Sunday. Children and Youth Ministries meet for Sunday School at 10Am each Sunday! Shipyard Youth meets every Sunday 4 to 6pm unless we are doing a special monthly mission. Frogs and Tadpoles Childrens Ministry meets on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month from 4 to 6pm!

Trinity United Methodist Church - 19637 Main St., Buchanan; Rev. Doug Mitchell, 254-2475 (O). Sunday School, 9:45AM, worship 10:30 AM.

OBITUARIES

Allen, Dr. Robert W., Jr.

Robert Wilson Allen, Jr., "Dr. Bob," beloved husband, father, grandpa, pediatrician/neonatologist, moved to his heavenly home on Monday, February 5, 2024. In his final days, he was surrounded by his loving family who held his hand until his final breath.

Born September 29, 1944 to Robert Wilson Allen and Helen Inge Allen, he was raised in Charlottesville and Portsmouth. Bob graduated from Wilson High School in Portsmouth, attended University of Richmond, Medical College of Virginia and University of Utah. In the Army he served for 3 years in Bremerhaven, Germany. He settled with his family in Botetourt County in 1980 to practice neonatology and retired from Carilion/Pediatrics in 2009.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brother, Benjamin Inge Allen, and grandson, Andrew Christian Allen.

Bob is survived by the love of his life, Margaret Anne Whitley Allen to whom he was married for 56 years; his daughter, Ginny Barkett (Erryn), and their children, Anne Chappell McAllister (Caleb), Will, Abe and Olivia; and his son, Rob Allen (Kathleen), and their children, Robert (Austin), Caroline, Mary Catherine and Charlie; his sister, Ann Smith; sister-in-law, Carolyn Allen; brother-in-law, Ernest Whitley (Kathy); and many special nieces, nephews and



cousins. Those who knew Bob loved him and he made a difference in the lives of not only his family, but his community and the world. He was an encouraging, compassionate doctor working alongside a strong team of NICU nurses who sent countless babies home so they could grow up. Others knew him as "Dr Bob" as he taught Sunday School, ministered on mission trips, prayed with inmates in prison, read to kindergartners, and served as an advocate for children. He was active in the Gideons, Kiwanis and WRE.

As "Farmer Bob," he loved farm life, hunting, teaching his grandchildren, and being with his family.

A Celebration of Life will be Saturday, February 17 at 1 p.m. at Bonsack Baptist Church, with reception following. A Columbarium Service will be Saturday, April 13 at 3:30 p.m. at the University of Richmond, with reception following.

Bob's favorite color was red and we invite you to wear red.

In lieu of flowers please consider a donation to: Bonsack Baptist Church (Missions), 4845 Cloverdale Road, Roanoke, 24019; Gideons Botetourt Camp, P.O. Box 135, Daleville, 24083 or The Glebe (Benevolent Fund), 200 The Glebe Boulevard, Daleville, 24083.

Arrangements are by Oakey's East Chapel and Crematory, 540-977-3909.

Link, Sandra Wills

Sandra Wills Link made her transition to Heaven on Saturday, February 3, 2024 with her family by her side.

She was born September 8, 1949 in Lexington, daughter of the late Charles "Buddy" Wills and Nancy Wills. Sandra was also preceded in death by her husband of 51 years, Leonard Link, and her brother, Charles Phillip Wills.

Like a butterfly emerging from its cocoon, she transformed from her tired earthly vessel to her healed and pure heavenly form.

Sandra was a devoted wife, mother, MeeMaw, sister, aunt and friend. She had a sincere and kind heart and was known to frequently provide a home for God's creatures that she found in need of help and love. She never met a stranger and brought joy and sunshine wherever she went. Sandra loved flowers but her favorite was the poppy. In many cultures, the poppy is seen as not as a symbol of beauty but also resurrection and eternal life. We can take comfort in knowing that in heaven, she is whole again and with her loved ones who went before her. We hope in life that she knew



that the beauty of the poppy was pale compared to her own. Her love will live on in the memories and stories her family shares.

Sandra is survived by her daughter, Laurie Ann Link-Wines and husband Gregory; son, Chris Link and wife Carman; granddaughter, Chloe Wines and boyfriend, Stephen; step-grandsons, Jordan, Sam and Blake; sister, Angie Henson (Steve); sister-in-law, Frances Wills; numerous nieces, nephews, and great-nieces and -nephews who all loved and adored their loving "Aunt Sissy."

The family would like to extend its sincere gratitude to the staff at Shenandoah Valley Health and Rehab for the wonderful care and love that they provided to Sandra.

A memorial service will take place at Ben Salem Presbyterian Church on Friday, February 16, 2024 at 11 a.m. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in her memory to Furever Friends Lodge, 2463 Beech Avenue, Buena Vista 24416. Online condolences may be made at www.botetourtfuneralhome.com or 540-254-3000.

CHURCH NEWS

Springwood Food Pantry open Saturday

The Springwood Baptist Food Pantry will be open on Saturday, February 17, 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.

Andrew Chapel UMC Ash Wednesday service

Andrew Chapel United Methodist Church will observe the first day of the Lenten season with an Ash Wednesday service on February 14, at 7 p.m. This service is open to the community and all are welcome. Andrew Chapel is located at 3936 Beaver Dam Road, just off Springwood Road in Springwood.

Buchanan Presbyterian Ash Wednesday service

Buchanan Presbyterian Church invites everyone to the Ash Wednesday service at 7 p.m. on February 14. It will include scripture, hymns, and imposition of ashes or a verbal blessing, to remind us of humility and hope.

Pleasant Hill Baptist Church news

February 25, Solid State (bluegrass gospel) will be leading worship at PHBC at 11 a.m. Music may start at 10:45, so get there early to enjoy this amazing band.

March 3, Loren Bruffey, Sr. and Stone Coal Gap will lead worship at PHBC beginning at 10:45 a.m. Don't miss this fun event.

PHBC will host Movie Night on Friday, March 8 at 6:30 p.m. The featured movie will be "The Hill," the remarkable true-life story of Rickey Hill's improbably journey to play major league baseball.

Every second Saturday of the month, the PHBC Food Pantry gives out free boxes of food. These boxes are filled with over \$50 in food staples and paper products. You may pick up the free boxes of food at Pleasant Hill Baptist Church (4930 Country Club Road) or at Eagle Rock Library. If you know someone in need, please let them know about this event or contact the church line at 540-992-5556.

Botetourt Beekeepers Association offering scholarship

The Botetourt Beekeepers Association scholarship was established to encourage youth to explore and support apiculture in the community. The \$500 scholarship will be awarded annually to a qualified graduating senior.

Applicants must be residents of Botetourt County. The applicants must have been enrolled or be currently enrolled in Botetourt County Public Schools, a private school, or an approved homeschool program during the award year. They must have experience keeping honey bees for a minimum of 9 months within the previous three years

On March 23 at 11 a.m., PHBC will host the annual Easter Egg Hunt for children ages toddler-5th grade. There will be a separate egg hunt for littles. Refreshments will be provided and the Easter Bunny will be available for pictures.

PHBC will be holding the following Easter Services:

- Good Friday - March 29, 6 p.m.
- Early Morning Easter Service - March 31, 8 a.m., followed by breakfast
- Easter Choral Celebration - March 31, 10 a.m.

Fincastle UMC Lenten services

Fincastle United Methodist Church invites you to five Wednesday Lenten services and lunches beginning on February 21 in the Family Life Center, 137 S. Church Street, Fincastle. These short, 20-minute services begin at 12:05 p.m. and will be led by area pastors. A home-cooked lunch will follow each service. The service and meal are designed to last about one hour. Takeout meals will be available.

February 21 - Speakers - Pastors Tom and Naomi Powers, Daleville Church of the Brethren; Lunch - Ham Biscuits, Potato Salad, Fruit, Desserts

February 28 - Speaker - The Rev. Dr. David Dickerson, Fincastle Presbyterian; Lunch - Vegetable-Beef Soup, Potato Soup, Jello Salads, Grilled Cheese Sandwiches, Desserts

March 6 - Speaker - The Rev. Samuel Plymale, St. Mark's United Methodist Church, Daleville; Lunch - Chicken Salad Croissants, Vegetable Salad, Chips, Desserts

March 13 - Speaker - The Rev. Willis Logan, St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Fincastle; Lunch - Potato Bar, Chili, Green Salad, Corn Bread, Desserts

March 20 - Speaker - The Rev. Fr. Paul Lagco, Church of the Transfiguration, Fincastle; Lunch - Sub Sandwiches, Cole Slaw, Chips, Desserts

Menus are subject to change. If Botetourt County Public Schools are closed because of inclement weather, the service will be canceled. Everyone is invited to these services during the season of Lent.

Denim sale at Cloverdale Thrift Store

Cloverdale Church of the Brethren Thrift Store is having a ladies denim sale, all sizes and all colors, only \$2. Ladies shoes were \$1, now only 50 cents. Hours are Saturdays, 9 to 12; donations accepted.

Burning

from page 7

and the fuels on the forest floor are extremely dry, having "cured" all winter without the shade of tree leaves. After 4 p.m., winds usually calm down and the relative humidity levels rise, both of which reduce the potential for a debris fire or any outdoor open-air fire to escape.

The 4 PM Burning Law applies to open-air burning, which means any outdoor fire that is not covered and/or contained within non-flammable barriers and the smoke from the fire does not pass through a chimney. For example, a typical campfire is considered an open-air fire. However, an open-air fire MAY be acceptable if it is completely contained within a ring of rocks, cinderblocks, metal ring, or a similar device and is covered by a 1/4 inch or smaller metal screen.

If these criteria are met, the fire still must be attended at all times, and all flammable material should be cleared from a 20-foot area around the fire. Campers must also have ready access to water, a rake and shovel.

Fires built in commercially-available chimineas or fire pits, which are completely contained, with a 1/4-inch or smaller metal screen across the top of the fire box are

not considered open-air fires and are therefore legal, IF they are in good condition to prevent the spread of fire to surrounding areas. Check with local authorities and/or DOF with any concerns or questions.

This law does not apply to charcoal or gas-fired barbecue grills. However, open-air charcoal grills like those found in a park setting are considered open-air fires and must comply with the 4 PM Burning Law. Users are still encouraged to take proper care and precaution by clearing all flammable material from around the grill and stay with it until it is completely extinguished

or turned off.

If burning operations are greater than 300 feet from the woods or flammable grass/vegetation that would allow the fire to spread to the woods, the 4 PM Burning Law does not apply. Otherwise, there are few exceptions to the 4 PM Burning Law.

Vineyards and orchard owners are allowed to set fires in an attempt to protect their crops from damaging frost.

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First Baptist Church of Fincastle would like to recognize Minister Dollie Adams as we celebrate her 8th year in the ministry. In the absence of a pastor, Minister Adams has truly filled the role as a leader for our congregation. In addition, she serves as Deaconess, Clerk, Sunday School Superintendent, Youth Sunday School Teacher, and Co-founder of the Women's Ministry. Minister Adams is married to Deacon Chester Adams and is a retired teacher from Botetourt County Public Schools. She enjoys her affiliation with Bible Study Fellowship and participating in other Bible study groups with her family and friends. She is a devoted mother and grandmother and is truly a woman of God. We are thankful for her and sincerely appreciate all she does for us and the community.

God bless you, and Happy 8th Anniversary Minister Dollie Adams!



Craft Fair at RMMS March 2

Read Mountain Middle School is hosting its second annual Spring Craft Fair on Saturday, March 2 at the school.

This year's event will have approximately 50 local vendors plus food trucks and a chance to

win prizes. Family and friends are invited to welcome the spring season with a little shopping at RMMS. Admission is free. The craft fair is a fundraiser for the RMMS PTA Spring Dance and promises to bring lots of fun, goodies, and food for sale.

- Fincastle Herald staff report



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Ingram

from page 1

story about a child who wreaks havoc with his siblings once a month when a holiday occurs by sending various creatures, as gifts, to torment them. Among the “gifts” featured in the story include “Nasty Gnome Nosepit Gnats in a Hat” and “Sneezed Striped Skunk Snot in Their Socks.”

“I wanted to write something different again,” Bruce said when asked about the inspiration behind his most recent tale. When it came to visualizing the story, Bruce ended up finding the visionary from an unlikely source, his son.

“We were having trouble finding an illustrator that gave the book the flair the publisher and I wanted,” Bruce explained. “The publisher opened up a ‘competition’ to various places. My wife Elaine and I asked Mark to do some illustrations of what we wanted the pictures to look like. Once the editor saw that the professional artists were doing and what Mark was doing, he objectively chose Mark. There was no nepotism. I told (the publisher): you’re a capitalist. You hire the best person. The publisher felt that Mark had the best illustrations and that’s Mark’s cover.”

This book is Mark’s first published work as an artist, who has never received formal training as an artist.

“I do (artwork) as a hobby,” Mark said of his art. “More so, I like (drawing) architectural stuff and landscapes but I don’t have a background in that. I’m self-trained. I got more into it in the last 10 years as more of a serious hobby.”

Mark’s initial submissions were all hand-drawn on colored paper, then pieced images together as a collage. He then scanned the collages and sent them to the publisher. Previously, Mark assisted his dad editing some of Bruce’s prior releases, but this is their first collaboration as father and son.

To purchase Ingram’s new book, send an email to bruceingramoutdoors@gmail.com.

Letter

from page 4

how blatantly obvious it was that Supervisors White and Nicely had their minds made up how they would vote before even entering the Greenfield building.” I did notice that no supervisor made a motion to grant the requested SEPs, and I noticed that the vote was 4-1 to table the matters for “up to” 60 days instead of “for” 60 days as Supervisor Michael wanted to do. I think what she accuses Supervisors White and Nicely of having done is exactly what her team leader may have done, maybe even before he took office.

I think many more citizens are involved than those who show up to complain about everything, and they do not attend these meetings as they are not interested in observing or enduring the type of blatant conduct which was on full display at the public hearing on January 23, 2024!

*John R. Patterson
Fincastle*

Art

from page 1

JDR Court and thought a similar motif would brighten up the JDR court in Fincastle. A sign on the wall displaying the student artwork notes, “Collectively

and individually, these exhibits showcase talented and imaginative young people of whom Botetourt County should be justifiably proud.”



James River student Jenna Tucker’s recent addition titled, “Landscape.”

PHOTO BY MATT DE SIMONE

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE BOTETOURT COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Pursuant to the provisions of Sections 15.2-1427(F) and 58.1-3378 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, the Botetourt County Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, February 27, 2024, beginning at 2:45 p.m. in Room 212 of the Greenfield Education and Training Center located at 57 South Center Drive in Daleville, to establish a deadline for the receipt of applications for the review of real estate tax assessments by the Botetourt County Board of Equalization and a deadline for the disposition of such applications. The proposed deadline for the receipt of applications to the Botetourt County Board of Equalization shall be May 10, 2024, and the proposed deadline for disposition of applications by the Board of Equalization shall be June 28, 2024.

A copy of the proposed ordinance is available in the Botetourt County Administrator’s Office and the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court during regular business hours, Monday through Friday. The proposed ordinance may also be viewed via the online agenda packet that will be posted on the County website on February 23, 2024. (www.botetourtva.gov/AgendaCenter)

Persons wishing to make comments may attend the hearing, mail their comments to the Botetourt County Administrator’s Office, 57 South Center Drive, Daleville, VA 24083, email their comments to lbess@botetourtva.gov, or submit comments through the online form on our website at www.botetourtva.gov. Comments by postal mail must be received by Thursday, February 22, 2024. Website and email comments must be received by 9:00 a.m. on February 27, 2024.

Gary Larrowe
Botetourt County Administrator

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS OF THE BOTETOURT COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 15.2-2204 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, the Botetourt County Board of Supervisors hereby gives notice of public hearings to be held on February 27, 2024, at the times shown below, or as soon thereafter as the agenda permits, in Room 212 of the Botetourt County Administration Center at 57 S. Center Drive, Daleville, Virginia, to consider the requests listed below. Information may be viewed at the Community Development Planning and Zoning Office at 57 South Center Drive, in Daleville, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding holidays, and is available online by scrolling down to the Planning Commission section at: <https://va-botetourtcounty.civicplus.com/AgendaCenter>

3:00 p.m. - The Botetourt County Board of Supervisors have authorized consideration of a Comprehensive Plan amendment to show certain Western Virginia Water Authority CIP projects on the Sewer & Water Infrastructure Map #37 in accordance with Section 25-581.4

Comprehensive plan amendment and review of the Botetourt County Code.

3:10 p.m. - Consideration of text amendments to Chapter 25, Zoning of the Botetourt County Code that would amend standards associated with Large Format Retail Uses.

3:20 p.m. - Consideration of text amendments to Chapter 25, Zoning of the Botetourt County Code that would amend standards of the sign ordinance to address content neutrality and amend standards associated with electronic message board signs.

Persons wishing to make comments may attend the hearing, mail their comments to the Botetourt County Administrator’s Office, 57 South Center Drive, Daleville, VA 24083, email their comments to lbess@botetourtva.gov, or submit comments through the online form on our website at www.botetourtva.gov. Comments by postal mail must be received by Thursday, February 22, 2024. Website and email comments must be received by 9:00 a.m. on February 27, 2024.

Gary Larrowe
Botetourt County Administrator

Council

from page 1

block grant. “We started this (grant) process over a year ago,” Smith explained. “Since we started it, we’ve had some changes to the landscape. Obviously, we’ve had personnel changes in town. The courthouse construction is nowhere near where we thought we would be (at this time)... We’re thinking that we really need to sit down with

this planning group at the outset to kind of go back and think about what we need to do... and what we can do to try and help economic development in town.

“There will be community meetings and lots of opportunities for input. We want people to be involved. We want people to come to us with their visions of what you want the town to be. Hopefully, we’ll be able to start scheduling those meetings soon. More to come on that. It’s exciting. It’s overwhelming when you think about all the

possibilities of what we could do. We need to get a good focus and get some good projects that we can complete.”

In anticipation of the upcoming “DAR 250” celebration, the town is planning on closing Main Street from Roanoke Street to Church Street from 2-5 p.m. on May 18. Smith said it’s a bit “tricky” but wanted to make council aware of the upcoming closure on that Saturday afternoon.

The town is asking for residents to notify them about any street lights that burn out. Please

call the office (540-473-2200) to notify them so any future outages can be repaired.

McFadyen updated council on town operations. She recently met with the infrastructure committee about ongoing town issues and resident complaints. McFadyen also noted that the focus of the Sustainability Committee for this year is composting. A brochure will be distributed throughout the year to better educate the town on composting tips. The town also thanks the Botetourt County Sheriff’s Office work crew for their help putting away the town’s Christmas décor and will continue assisting the town putting up banners and cleaning up the trash around town.

For more information about Fincastle Town Council and their upcoming meeting schedule, visit townoffincastle.org.

Stockyard Report

Monday’s sale at the Roanoke-Hollins Stockyard:

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Kill Cows
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\$50.00-\$120.00

NOTICE

Botetourt County governmental offices and libraries will be closed on Monday, February 19, 2024, in observance of Presidents’ Day.

The landfill station will remain open regular hours.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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Sports

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Brian Hoffman

Sports Editor

Lord Botetourt, James River will compete in state wrestling tournaments in Salem



TJ Piluso is joined by his parents after his 100th wrestling win at LB last weekend.

PHOTOS BY SUZANNE WITCHER



CJ Mullins (on top) of James River battles in the region tournament last Saturday.



River's Jayden Alston (left) spins out of trouble in the region tournament.

PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

The Salem Civic Center will be the site of the "Big Dance" for Class 1, 2 and 3 state wrestling tournaments once again this weekend. Lord Botetourt will send six wrestlers to Salem for the Class 3 tournament, including a Region 3D champion, while James River will send four wrestlers to the Class 2, three of whom won Region 2C championships at James River High School last Saturday.

The three state tournaments begin in Salem at 10 a.m. Friday with first round bouts. At 1 p.m. Friday, Class 1-3 quarterfinals will be held along with first round consolation matches for Class 3. Consolation matches for all three classes will be from 4:30 to 8 p.m. Friday night. Semifinals for all three classes will

begin at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, followed by semi-final consolations at 11:30 a.m. and consolation finals at 1 p.m. to determine places third through sixth in all three classes. Championship finals are scheduled to begin at 4:30 p.m.

Xaiden Wynn, Brayden Forbes and Nate Stewart of James River will all be top seeds after winning Region 2C championships in Springwood last Saturday. The Knights finished fifth as a team out of 10 schools with Glenvar winning the Region 2C championship.

At 106, Wynn, a junior, earned his third Region 2C championship with a major decision over Jacob Flowers of Glenvar in the final. Wynn goes to Salem with a 27-2 record. Xaiden has racked

up over 20 pins this season and has not lost to a Class 2 opponent all season.

At 120, Forbes, also a junior, earned his second Region 2C championship with a win by major decision over Tanner Atkinson of Dan River High School, 13-2. Forbes enters the state tournament with an undefeated record of 30-0. Brayden is the only undefeated 120-pounder in the state tournament.

At 144, sophomore Nathan Stewart earned his second Region 2C championship with a win by pin over Martinsville's Jordan Draper early in the second period at two minutes and 18 seconds. Stewart's record improved to 25-3 after winning back-to-back region championships. Nathan's only

losses this season came from close final championship losses in the best wrestling tournaments in the valley.

Freshman Caiden Martin qualified for the state with a third place finish at 113 and sophomore Jayden Alston will be an alternate at 175 after finishing fourth in the region. Also scoring for the Knights, but falling short of advancing, were sophomore CJ Mullins with a fifth at 215 and two freshmen with sixth place finishes, Ryan Daniels at 132 and Efraim Echavarria at 150.

"We had a good tournament," said River coach Bobby Stewart. "Our young guys and girl got some experience out

See Wrestling, page 14



James River's Sarah Lorman raced to a third place finish in the 100-yard butterfly at the Region 2C championship meet at Christiansburg.

PHOTO BY JON FLEMING

State swim meets in Richmond this week

Qualifying swimmers from Lord Botetourt and James River will be heading to the Swim RVA facility in Richmond this week for state swim meets. The Class 2 meet, including James River swimmers, will be on Thursday and the Class 3 meet, with Lord Botetourt, is scheduled for Saturday.

James River qualified five swimmers for the state meet at last Thursday's Region 2C meet at the Christiansburg Aquatic Center. For the boys, senior Walker Wilson was the region runner-up in the 50 freestyle and he also took a third in the 100 free. Freshman Austin Myers placed fourth in the 100 backstroke.

Three girls advanced from the region meet, including freshman Riley Persinger with third place finishes in both the 100 freestyle and 100 backstroke. Freshman Sarah Lorman was third in the 100 butterfly and senior Drew Whitson swam to a fourth place finish in the 100 free.

In the Region 3D meet in Christiansburg on February 6, Lord

Botetourt finished fourth among 11 schools in the girls meet and seventh in the boys meet. The Cave Spring girls and Hidden Valley boys were team winners and the top five in each event advance to this Saturday's state meet in Richmond.

Botetourt had two double winners in the girls meet. Senior Layne Jones won the 200 free and 100 backstroke and junior Hannah Mizuba won both the 50 and 100 freestyle races.

Freshman Julia Misicko qualified in two events, taking fourth in the 100 butterfly and fifth in the 500 freestyle. Sophomore Olivia Nicely was fifth in the 100 free and just missed a state time with a sixth place finish in the 50 free.

The girls also had two relay teams place in the top five. The 400 free team of Misicko, Isabella Sanchez, Jones and Mizuba was runner-up while the 200 free team of Sarah Frederickson, Ella Johnston, Sanchez and Nicely was fifth.

The boys had one state qualifier, freshman Max Mizuba. He won the 200 IM and took second in the 100 breaststroke.

LB boys will open region hoops at Cave Spring

The Lord Botetourt boys will open the Region 3D basketball tournament with a game at Cave Spring next Tuesday, February 20. LB is the fifth seed in the 10-team tournament while Cave Spring is fourth, earning a chance to host the quarterfinal game.

The seventh and eighth seeds in the tournament will host opening round games on Friday of this week. The top six, including the Cavaliers, got a first round bye and will open next Tuesday after the field is pared to eight. The winner of the LB-Cave Spring game would most likely play top-seeded Northside at Virginia Tech in the semifinal round with a berth in the state tournament on the line.

Botetourt comes into the regional with an overall record of 11-12 after dropping their Blue Ridge District tournament opener to Franklin County in Daleville last Friday. The Cavs had beaten the Eagles by 13 and 14 points in their two regular season meetings but Friday the Birds came to play and upset LB, 52-36. Botetourt led 34-31 after three



Evan Bannwart shoots a three for the Cavaliers.

PHOTO BY JIM DEVINNEY

quarters but were outscored 21-2 in the fourth quarter.

"Franklin County played much tougher and harder than they did in our previous matchups. They were eager and ready to get a win, so they deserve a lot of credit for pulling this one out," said LB coach Andrew Hart. "It was a rough second half, especially the fourth quarter. I thought our guys fought hard and played well on defense for about three and a

half quarters."

Conner Dowdy led LB with 14 points but no one else had more than seven. Carson Edwards had eight rebounds.

"Offensively, we just had an off night and weren't able to overcome the mistakes that we made," said Hart. "Hopefully, as the case with all of our setbacks, we can use it as a learning experience. We will be fresh and ready to go for our region tournament matchup."

James River girls will open Region 2C basketball tourney at home Monday

The Region 2C girls basketball tournament will get underway next Monday, February 19, and the James River girls will have a home game. The Knights will be the fourth seed in the tournament

and host the fifth seed.

"As of right now the fifth seed is Martinsville, but that could change with teams behind them having two games left this week," said River coach Ryan Firebaugh. "We'll know the

bracket by the end of this week."

The Knights closed out the regular season on a high note with Three Rivers District wins over Patrick County and Glenvar. That gives River a 13-10 overall record heading

in the region and the Knights finished district play at 7-5.

Last Tuesday in Springwood the girls beat visiting Patrick, 43-24. River jumped out to a 19-3 first quarter lead and never looked back. Junior Caitlin

Canada scored her 1,000th career point in the third quarter and finished with a double-double, scoring 21 points to go with 12 rebounds. Honesty

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LB girls play for BRD championship tonight



Ainsley Anderson looks to pass against Jefferson Forest. PHOTO BY REGINA DEVINNEY

The Lord Botetourt girls will be home tonight, Wednesday, to host William Fleming with the Blue Ridge District basketball tournament championship on the line. Tip-off is 6 p.m. in Daleville.

The Cavaliers are 20-3 on the season after defeating Staunton River in the tournament semifinal on Monday, 66-41. Top-seeded LB had a first round bye, as did second place Fleming. The district rivals split head-to-head matches during the regular season and Fleming comes to town with a 19-4 overall record after defeating Franklin County in the other semifinal Monday night, 65-25.

Whatever happens tonight, LB won't have to contend with the Colonels in the region tournament as the Cavaliers are Class 3 and Fleming is Class 5. The 10-team Region 3D tournament opens Friday with the seventh and eighth seeds hosting the 10th and ninth. LB gets a first round bye and will host a

quarterfinal game next Tuesday, February 20. The region semifinals are Thursday, February 22, at Virginia Tech and the championship is Saturday, February 24 at Tech with the two finalists qualifying for the state tournament.

Monday at LB, Madilyn Winterton led the Cavaliers with 17 points. Grace Hufford had a dozen, Maddie Caron had seven points and 11 rebounds and Ainsley Anderson had seven points, seven boards and seven assists.

Last week the girls wrapped up a great regular season with two more wins. On February 6 they defeated Franklin County in Rocky Mount, 60-21, as Caron had 14 points and a dozen rebounds. Then, a night later, LB downed Jefferson Forest in Daleville, 66-40. LB had four girls in double figures with Caron scoring 15, Winterton 13, Taylor Orange 13 and Hufford 12. Orange scored her 1,000th career point during the game.



Kody Park handles the ball for James River against Glenvar.



Mark Voight of River studies a free throw. PHOTOS BY JIM & REGINA DEVINNEY

James River boys fall short of region basketball tournament

The James River boys saw their basketball season come to an end with a 71-60 loss at Glenvar last Friday night. With the loss the Knights finished 5-18 on the season and 1-9 in Three Rivers District play.

The top eight teams in Region 2C make the post-season tournament, and River finished 10th in the rankings and did not make the field. However, coach Ethan Humphries saw a lot of improvement in the team during the season and is already excited about next year.

"We've come a very long way since scoring 15 points in a varsity game to open the season," said Humphries. "We

improved each week regardless of the outcomes and I think that speaks a lot to the character of our guys and the way they were raised. They showed up to work every day.

"We'll reflect on everything we've learned the last three months and use it the next nine as we prepare for next season. Hopefully, having our young guys thrown into the varsity level this year will give us an edge in the future. I can't wait to start that journey again this spring."

Last Friday at Glenvar the Highlanders jumped out to a 15-3 lead in the first quarter. Glenvar led 30-25 at halftime but the Knights cut the lead to 30-29 in the third

quarter and the Highlanders led the rest of the way.

Trey Taylor led River with 26 points, including five of seven on three-pointers. Matthew Alderson scored a career high 20 points to go with seven rebounds and five assists, which was also a career high. Mark Voight had a dozen points.

"Our guys finished the right way," said Humphries. "We fought well enough to give ourselves a chance, but in the end the things we needed to be great at we were just good and there is no shame in that. I loved that our seniors played well to finish out their careers."

Botetourt football players commit to colleges



Three Lord Botetourt football standouts committed to further their education and play college football at a ceremony at Lord Botetourt High School last week. Noah Glenn (left) is headed to the University of Charleston while Zion Woody (center) and Jakari Nicely (right) will be playing for the Keydets of VMI. PHOTOS BY MATT DE SIMONE

River Girls from page 13



Honesty Liming of River (30) battles for a rebound against Glenvar.

Liming had eight points, nine boards and three steals.

"We avenged a loss earlier to them," said Firebaugh. "We came out from the tip and played lights out. Our defense played really good. When you get out. Team to only six points in a half and only 24 points for the game you're playing some defense."

Last Thursday at home the girls wrapped up the regular season with a 53-9 win over Glenvar in Springwood. The Highlanders had five points at the half and didn't score in the third quarter as they finished a winless season at 0-20.

Ten different girls scored for River, led by Canada and Kelsi Maydian with 18 each. Liming had five steals and Audrey Benson had five assists and three steals.

"Super proud of my girls on how we played," said Firebaugh.



River's Kelsi Maydian pushes the ball in last week's home win. PHOTOS BY LEIGH DOWNEY

Wrestling from page 13

of the region. Although they did not qualify for the state tournament the experience with help them next year.

"Our three power wrestlers are the best in the state. Xaiden Wynn, Brayden Forbes and Nate Stewart all have a very good chance of leaving Salem with a state championship under their belt. James River will have a presence in the championship finals this weekend."

Lord Botetourt finished third as a team in the Class 3D

tournament at Abingdon last Saturday. Staunton River won the region team championship and William Byrd finished second.

"Our region is very difficult," said coach Paul Craft. "Most of the guys that win our region will win the state tournament."

LB had one region champion, Aaden Thomas at 215.

"Aaden is just a sophomore and only weighs about 190 pounds, but he's been on a mission all season," said Craft.

"He'll probably end up being the number one seed in the state tournament this weekend. Aaden wasn't even a starter for us last season as a freshman, now he's put himself in a position to win a state title. His dad (Danny Thomas) is an assistant coach for us and I know he's very proud of Aaden's effort and focus."

Senior Gray Arnold took second at 150 and TJ Piluso, another senior, was third at 165. Piluso won his 100th high

school match in his first match of the region tournament.

"That's no small task by itself, but what makes it incredible is that his freshman season was the COVID season and he only wrestled a couple matches. He pulled off 100 plus wins in just three seasons!"

Sophomore James Dean also picked up a third at 120. He just moved to Botetourt County in late December from South Carolina.

Also qualifying for the state

tournament with fourth place finishes were freshman Jacob Spence at 113 and junior Cooper Roberts at 157. Also scoring for LB with fifth place finishes were Kevin Gergely at 144, Seth Williamson at 175 and Ty Hensley at 190 while Declan Sullivan was sixth at 126.

"Overall, we wrestled well over the weekend, but it isn't over yet," said Craft. "We've got to finish the season strong. The hay is in the barn."