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& Botetourt County News

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School Board's town hall events conclude



PHOTO BY MATT DE SIMONE

School Board members held their final town hall event at Lord Botetourt on Feb. 13.

Matt de Simone mattdesimone@mainstreetnewspapers.com

Botetourt County School Board members hosted town hall events from the end of January and concluded with their final event at Lord Botetourt High School on Feb. 13.

Meetings were arranged by School Board members' districts, but community members were invited to attend any of them. The School Board member for the hosting district and Superintendent Jonathan Russ were in attendance answering questions and listening to feedback from citizens in each district.

The School Board recently released a statement regarding the town halls. In it, the board told The Herald, "Each town hall event provided valuable insights and diverse perspectives, shaping our understanding of community priorities."

See BCPS, page 3



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF BOTETOURT CO.

Botetourt County general reassessment: what to know

Matt de Simone mattdesimone@mainstreetnewspapers.com

Local residents received their general reassessment results last week. According to a release sent out by Botetourt County, it's "leaving many people with lots of questions."

The Code of Virginia requires the county to reassess properties at 100% of market value every six years, which results in a new value for the properties. According to the county's reassessment info site, Virginia law requires localities to update (or reassess) real estate property values within their boundaries regularly.

The county goes on to explain that the purpose of the property reassessment is to ensure real estate

values used for tax purposes reflect market values as they change over time. Standard assessment cycles for a locality the size of Botetourt is every four years unless the Board of Supervisors votes to change it. This is a statutory law and a law that the assessments reflect market value and that they are not just made up numbers.

The county announced an extension of the property reassessment last December. The board unanimously authorized the county attorney to submit a request to the Circuit Court judge requesting a three-month extension to March 31, 2024 for completion of property reassessment.

See Reassessment, page 7

4-H and FFA 'Share the Fun' at Expo event

Matt de Simone mattdesimone@mainstreetnewspapers.com

Lord Botetourt High School once again played host to the annual 4-H and FFA Youth Expo last Friday in Daleville.

Botetourt's 4-H and FFA welcomed attendees displaying information about their respective organizations and clubs. Guests had the chance to interact with the kids, learning more about 4-H's and FFA's impact on the community. Students performed demonstrations as they shared insight about their club's activities.

"This year's event was great, with so many 4-H Clubs in attendance," Botetourt 4-H Extension Agent Tyler Painter said in a recent email. "We had eight clubs that set up informative displays, with some interactive activities as well. We appreciate the Alumni group for sponsoring this event each year which allows us to showcase our overall program to everyone in Botetourt County."

See Youth Expo, page 3



PHOTO BY MATT DE SIMONE

Botetourt County's 4-H and FFA held their annual Youth Expo at Lord Botetourt High School last Friday.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BCHS

A look at the current state of the Hayth Hotel register.

Botetourt County Historical Society makes VAM Top 10 with Hayth Hotel Register

Botetourt County Historical Society, Inc. (BCHS) is participating in the Virginia Association of Museums' (VAM) Top 10 Endangered Artifacts campaign. This initiative, dedicated to preserving and

highlighting the cultural heritage of Virginia, aims to raise awareness and support for endangered artifacts across the state.

As a main cultural institution in Botetourt County, BCHS is

committed to safeguarding and celebrating the rich history and diverse narratives of the community. Through participation in the Top 10 Endangered

See BCHS, page 7

Two Fincastle public hearings February 29

The Town of Fincastle will hold two public hearings on February 29 at the Fincastle Fire Department. The Planning Commission is looking for public input regarding two applications.

The first application is to allow ground floor residence at 5 South Roanoke Street that is currently zoned as "Commercial." The second is a rezoning application from Heritage Family Market for a property located on the west side of Route 220 (Roanoke Road), rezoning from A1 Agriculture to B2 Business with special exception to reduced lot size for the purpose of building a new location for the market.

For more information about these

proposals, call the Fincastle Town Office at 540-473-2200, or contact Scott Critzer at 540-473-3377.

- Fincastle Herald staff report



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF TOWN OF FINCASTLE

Bank of Botetourt advertisement featuring a Clover payment terminal, a list of services (Relationship Banking, Business Lending, Merchant Services, Treasury Management), the bank logo, website (www.BankofBotetourt.com), phone number (540.591.5000), and social media icons. Includes a barcode on the right side.

Botetourt County History



PHOTO COURTESY OF BCMHC

Pleasant Richardson was born to slave parents in Fincastle in 1845 on the Lauderdale plantation, once owned by the Johnson family. Richardson was not listed in the 1850 census, but in an inventory done of the plantation in 1853, he is listed among 50 other slaves that were on the property. In 1864, he escaped the plantation and made his way to West Virginia, where he enlisted in Company F of the 45th United States Colored Infantry Regiment. He fought in the Union's Red River Campaign and was later reportedly present at Appomattox during Lee's surrender.

After he was discharged, Richardson returned to Botetourt County. He married and had two children. He would also purchase property on Murray Street and later on Water Street in Fincastle. He passed away on Memorial Day, 1935 and is buried in the cemetery of First Baptist Church of Fincastle.

In 2017, the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War honored Pleasant Richardson with a ceremony at his gravesite.

Richardson was belatedly awarded a medal as a "token of respect" for the service he gave to West Virginia and the Union Army. The medal is on view at the Botetourt Museum of History and Culture and was generously donated by Judith Barnett, in memory of her brother, Edward Barnett.

- Botetourt County Museum of History & Culture

Town of Buchanan separates employment with town manager

The Town of Buchanan "separated employment" with Town Manager George Hayfield on Feb. 13, according to a town official. More information will be forthcoming from the town regarding their plans filling the position moving forward.

- Fincastle Herald staff report



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF TOWN OF BUCHANAN



PHOTO COURTESY OF VFW POST 1841

VFW Post recognizes essay contest winners

VFW Post 1841 in Daleville recently presented the winners of the annual Patriots Pen and Voice of Democracy essay contests both certificates and monetary awards. From left are: Post Commander Jerry Jacobsen; Rayna Strowbridge, first place winner at the Post and District levels for middle school Patriot's Pen essay; Silas Whitson, first

place winner at the Post and District level for high school level Voice of Democracy; Drew Whitson, third place winner at the Post level for Voice of Democracy; and Ruby Taylor, president of the VFW Post Auxiliary.

- VFW Post 1841

County School Board revises FY25 budget calendar

Matt de Simone
mattedesimone@
mainstreetnewspapers.com

The Botetourt County School Board made a slight change to the FY25 budget calendar, moving up the public hearing and voting on the budget to March 21 from the originally scheduled date of March 28. The

change was made once the school system's financial department realized the original date scheduled would occur during the Spring Break vacation period. Botetourt County Public Schools Financial Director Brandon Lee noted that he thought they would be "in same boat" as last year by moving up the hearing

despite awaiting more "piece of the puzzle" from the state. The board unanimously voted to change the date of the public hearing to March 21.

For more from the Feb. 8 meeting of the School Board, visit bcps.live to watch the archived stream and www.bcps.k12.va.us/school_board for more information.

Botetourt County Parks & Rec hosts Coaches Cup



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF BOTETOURT CO.

During the winter basketball season, coaches have dedicated their time and effort to teaching the youth of Botetourt County the game of basketball. The county's Parks & Recreation Department wants to thank coaches for all that they have contributed to make this program successful.

Botetourt County Parks & Recreation invites the community to the 2024 Coaches Cup (formerly known as the Botetourt Basketball Coach Tournament).

This year, the single-elimination Coaches Cup has been reimagined and will feature a team from each booster club (up to 6) who will face off to determine the champ. The winning booster club will be the first to be awarded the coveted Coaches Cup

trophy and the associated bragging rights that go with being the champ.

The Coaches Cup will be held at Lord Botetourt High School on Sunday, March 3. Games are scheduled to begin at 2 p.m., with the championship game expected to tip off around 5 p.m.

- Who: The Coaches Cup will feature up to 6 teams (a team from each booster club) who will face off to determine a champion

- Where: Lord Botetourt High School - 1435 Roanoke Road, Daleville

- When: Sunday, March 3

- Time: Games are scheduled to begin at 2 p.m. with the championship game expected around 5 p.m.

- Fincastle Herald staff report



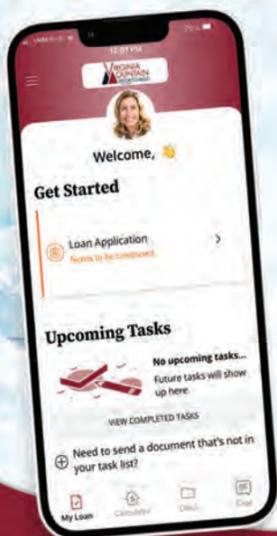
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...just get married?

Send your wedding announcement to

The Fincastle Herald

...just have a baby?

Send a birth announcement to The Fincastle Herald

...celebrate a 25th, 50th or more anniversary?

Send that milestone to the Fincastle Herald

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2024 SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Below is a list of the scholarships currently available for Botetourt County high school seniors. If any local organizations and/or businesses would like to submit any additional scholarship information, please email fincastle@mainstreetnewspapers.com.

AITC announces new scholarship opportunity for students

The Virginia Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC) has introduced the Doug Stoughton Memorial Scholarship opportunity for graduating high school seniors and current college students pursuing a future in agriculture or education.

Scholarship winners will receive \$1,000 to further their studies at a two- or four-year college or university.

Interested students can apply

online at form.jotform.com/VaAITC/AITCScholarship. Applicants are required to submit a high school transcript and two letters of recommendation.

Additionally, applicants will need to submit personal statements describing their extracurricular activities and community service, leadership experience, interest in agriculture and education, and how the scholarship will benefit them.

Applications are due March 31 and can be emailed to aitc@vafb.com. Scholarship winners will be notified by May 31.

For more information about this scholarship and other AITC initiatives, visit virginia.agclassroom.org.

Beaver Dam Farm Sunflower Scholarship

Given out to a senior from JRHS and

LBHS who is attending college for an agriculture-related field of study or to a student entering the workforce right out of school in the ag field.

Please email BeaverDamSunflowers@gmail.com for the application and more information. Recipients are selected by a committee and will be notified via email or phone. Applications are due back April 1, 2024.

WSLS scholarship opportunity

College-bound, graduating high school seniors in Botetourt County have an upcoming scholarship opportunity from WSLS 10.

Students who demonstrated success in academics and sports, including activity competitions, marching band or volunteering are invited to apply for the chance to receive a \$2,000 scholarship that will be awarded

to two college-bound high school seniors.

The WSLS Scholarship will be awarded in April, and students applying need to have their applications postmarked no later than March 31.

Botetourt County Farm Bureau Scholarship

Given to students from JRHS and LBHS who have an interest in agriculture and who have served on FFA, 4-H and other ag related programs.

Please email Ashlee.Nock@vafb.com for the application and more information. Recipients are selected by the County committee and will be notified via email or phone. Applications are due back April 15, 2024.

Youth Expo from page 1



Sullivan Louque-Parrish (left), Sophia Reiner (center), and Lilla Clark (right) performed during the "Share the Fun" talent show.

PHOTOS BY MATT DE SIMONE

The "Share the Fun" talent show portion of the Expo included dance, vocal, showcased the entertainment variety, and instrumental skills of 4-H members. This year's participants included Hayanna Thompson (dance - red ribbon), Sophia Reiner (variety - blue ribbon), Lilla Clark (instrumental - blue ribbon), and Alayna Chen (blue ribbon and overall winner). Acts included Evelyn Milko (vocal - blue ribbon), Melody Bowyer (vocal - blue ribbon), and Sullivan Louque-Parrish (instrumental - red ribbon).

BCPS from page 1

We extend our appreciation to all who attended, engaged with questions, and shared their ideas."

Last summer, Botetourt County Public Schools (BCPS) concluded the study by an Efficiency & Facilities Taskforce led by Dr. Robert Avossa, a strategic planning consultant, who helped put together a community-led engagement in developing scenarios for BCPS facilities moving forward.

The study showed that BCPS facilities are currently experiencing aging and deteriorating infrastructure across all levels and school sites. Aging infrastructure leads to an increase in risk related to finance and safety. Parents of BCPS students and community members who have personal experiences

with high levels of emotional attachment to individual schools, expressed their concerns/fears about change during the community engagement last summer and through the recent set of town hall meetings across Botetourt in January and February.

"The community's dedication to school facilities and capital improvements is unmistakable, and we're committed to addressing these concerns," the School Board's statement went on to say. "Although we have not yet established a specific timeline, our next step as a School Board is to do a thorough review of the options and inquiries presented. We're dedicated to working with the Board of Supervisors and

community stakeholders throughout the upcoming process to implement actionable solutions that enrich the educational experience for our students and foster lasting benefits for Botetourt County."

During last week's town hall, Russ, Board Chair Anna Weddle, Director of Operations Andy Dewease, and Communications Specialist Mike Moser received a number of questions from those in attendance at the Lord Botetourt meeting. Citizens spoke out with some opposing and some supporting possible scenarios, which were presented to attendees prior to the question-and-answer portion of the town halls. The presentation included scenarios that could see BCPS combining a high school

campus with the Botetourt Technical Education Center (BTEC), a combined secondary campus (middle and high school), and consolidating elementary schools.

To view BCPS's 2022-2027 Strategic Direction presentation, please visit sites.google.com/bcps.k12.va.us/strategicdirection/home.

Last summer's task force results can be found here: sites.google.com/bcps.k12.va.us/strategicdirection/progress-reports

Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) guidelines for school facilities: www.doe.virginia.gov/programs-services/school-operations-support-services/facility-construction-maintenance/school-building-regulations-guidelines

LAND TRANSFERS

The following land transfers were recorded in the Botetourt County Courthouse in January 2024. The names of only one seller and one buyer are listed; others may be involved in the transaction.

- American Investment Properties to Joshua M. Rosson, 2.469 acres, Stepping Stone, \$460,000
- Maryann V. Bannwart to Laurie Demarco, lot, The Meadows of Ashley, \$610,000
- Carolyn L. Bayne to Jared Wayne Cochran, 2 parcels, gift deed
- Beahm Family, LLC to Stonegate Properties, LLC, 8.099 acres, \$350,000
- William W. Blessard to Dakota Nathan Peery, 3.60 acres, \$182,500
- Katherine Ransone Booze to L.W. Roth, LLC, Trustee, Central Hotel lot, and 129, portion of lots 115 and 146, \$85,000
- Mark A. Bryant to William D. Woodson, 1.993 acres, \$6,000
- Kimberly D. Cash to JEG Realty, 4.352 acres, \$75,000
- John J. Cohick to Derek A. Thompson, lot, Hawknest Subdivision, \$21,500
- Countryside Land Company to Allen J. Bradley, 1.453 acres, Glades End, \$42,000
- Michael Alan Cox to Thomas Lynn East, 1 acre, \$192,000
- James R. Dall to Carl J. Saunders Jr., 2.103 acres, \$550,000
- DMH Partners VA to BOCO With A View, 4.081 acres, \$695,000
- Amil G. Dorra to Hien Thi Pham, lot, Appletree West, \$460,950
- Rebecca Farmer, Executrix, to William M. Hartsfield, lot, Stoneridge Townhomes, \$240,000
- Linda Carole Lilly Farris to SGD Construction, lot, Cambridge, \$75,000
- FCHB Inc. to Domus Investment Group, lot, Latane Addition, \$42,000
- Earl D. Gamblin to Michelle Gamblin, 0.612 acres, gift deed
- Linda W. Grandy to Britney N. Ayers, lot, J.W. Walters Addition, \$131,000
- Jason L. Hall to Samuel Layne Ross, two parcels, \$28,500
- Patricia C. Hall to MDC Properties, unit, Tinkerview Townhouses, \$150,000
- Mark J. Hepler to Storm V. Creasy, no description listed, \$58,215
- Hungate Fields to William S. Mercer, lot, The Preserve at Ashley, \$90,000
- Robert S. Jamison to Joseph E. Thompson, lot, Glades End, \$83,000
- Nancy B. Jenkins to Laura Lisa Brunn, 2.250 acres, \$212,813
- Gary Lewis King to Kevin Keith King, 1.50 acres, gift deed
- Debbie Mountcastle Lotz to Beth A. Gibbs, 2 tracts, \$164,900
- Matthew Christian Moats to Pedro L. Burrows, 6.691 acres, \$285,000
- Sarah Miller Muth, Executrix, to Christopher Booth, 22.533 acres, \$325,000
- John Parker Nash to Nash Living Trust, 33.91 acres, \$0
- Kevin Ryan Nicely to Nicely Investments, 2 parcels, gift deed
- Sarah Turner Patterson to Andrea Patterson Mikkola, 2.00 acres, gift deed
- Jesse W. Peck III to Franklin Douglas Thurston, parcel, \$4,000
- RAS Trustee Services to Rossello Investments, lot, Blue Ridge Heights, \$148,000
- Carl Saunders Jr. to Michael B. Pastore, 22.829 acres, \$675,000
- Richard D. Schell to Robert Paul McCoy, 1.94 acres, \$64,000
- Marvin Chad Shorter to Clifton Joseph Shorter, lot, Apple Tree Village, \$0
- Virginia Showers to CWRM Real Estate, half of lot, Town of Buchanan,

- \$92,000
- Karen F. Smith to Dennis J. Smith, Trustee, 7.234 acres, gift deed
- Solutions by M&J to Stephen E. Underwood II, lot, \$259,350
- Ethel M. Stevens to A&J Developments, 0.4388 acres, \$58,000
- Mary Lou Z. Sweet to Casstaway Properties, 2.485 acres, \$33,000
- The Crouch Team to Troy J. Mueller, lot, Apple Tree Village, \$445,000
- The Presbytery of the Peaks to Journey Church, 8.771 acres, less 1.33 acres, \$970,000
- The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to Development by M&J, 1.00 acre, \$140,500
- Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church to Valley Ridge District, 2 tracts, gift deed
- Wilson L. Webb to Jason Hogancamp Sr., 2 parcels, \$490,000
- West Oak Properties to Thomas B. Bradshaw, 2 parcels, \$185,000
- Whitecap,ss LLC to Jeffrey L. McCraw, 2 parcels, \$252,852.60
- Brandy R. Witt to Brandon Shane Witt, lot, Botetourt East, gift deed



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UPCOMING COUNTY LIBRARY EVENTS

Carilion Free Health Screenings
 Wed, Feb 28, 10:30am-12:30pm, Buchanan
 Wed, Mar 6, 11am-1pm, Blue Ridge
 Fri, Mar 8, 10:30am-12:30pm, Eagle Rock
 Get a free health screening, including a blood pressure check, from Carilion Community Health & Outreach.

Murder Hole Cave
 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.

Readers' Night Out
 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.

Garden Club
 Wed, Mar 6, 11am-12pm, Eagle Rock
 Dig into all aspects of gardening with guidance from local experts and/or hands-on projects. March: Spring Garden Prep

Raising Chickens
 Tue, Mar 12, 6-7pm, Blue Ridge
 Learn whether to choose heritage or hybrid birds, how to make a chicken illness kit, how to raise chicks, and more with local author and locavore Bruce Ingram.

Eclectic Readers
 Wed, Mar 6, 12-1pm, Buchanan
 Theme is "Winds of Change" - see list of recommended titles
 Thu, Mar 7, 6:30-7:30pm, Fincastle
 Lady Tan's Circle of Women by Lisa See
 Discuss books and authors with fellow readers while enjoying coffee and social connection.

Beginning Engineering
 Wed, Mar 20, 4:30-5:30pm, Eagle Rock
 Thu, Mar 21, 4:30-5:30pm, Blue Ridge
 Get hands-on experience with electrical projects that focus on safety and real-world engineering skills. Presented by engineer David Sproles. Best for ages 10+.

The Singing Cowgirl
 Wed, Mar 27, 11am-12pm, Buchanan
 Wed, Mar 27, 3-4pm, Blue Ridge
 Clap, laugh, sing, dance, and role-play with the "Singing Cowgirl" Aspen Black! Travel through the land, cultures, and history of cowboys and cowgirls. Great for ages 5+.

Find even more events at BOCOLibraries.info.

Report from the House Del. Terry Austin

To the Constituents of the 37th House District:

The General Assembly has passed the halfway mark known as "Crossover," the point on the legislative calendar where each chamber completes work on its own bills except the state budget. In the House, 1,547 bills were introduced and 734 passed. In the Senate, 737 bills were introduced and 452 passed.

Last Monday, the day before Crossover, the House considered more than 275 bills. This is possible because of the committee process. Out of 14 House committees, I serve on four: Appropriations, Transportation, General Laws, and Rules. Most members have a similar number of committee assignments, which my Republican colleagues and I rely on each other to discuss the merits of bills that report out of our respective committees. Though not perfect, it is an efficient operation that allows us to do the work of the Commonwealth in 60 days.

Unfortunately, bills that would have addressed the fentanyl crisis and protected our children from predators joined the list of good legislation that died this Session. On average, five Virginians die every day in this Commonwealth from fentanyl overdose. Bills to increase penalties for those who distribute fentanyl, or manufacture counterfeit pills that contain the drug, did not even receive a hearing. Another bill would have banned anyone convicted of offenses involving children, including

kidnapping, trafficking, and physical abuse, from working or volunteering at schools. It suffered a similar fate.

One of the biggest tasks undertaken each Session is passing the biennial budget. The legislature will use Governor Youngkin's introduced budget from December as a starting point and will now begin the process of finalizing amendments. The governor's budget included \$1 billion in tax reform, and the largest K-12 budget in state history. The reality of the General Assembly's makeup means that the new document will likely look much different than the original. As a member of Appropriations, I will work to ensure that revenues are being appropriated responsibly and benefit our region. Improving Interstate 81 remains a top priority.

As for my bills, I am happy to report that all have passed out of the House and are now being considered in the Senate. These bills promote Virginia's leadership role in the founding of our nation, increase the efficiency of GO Virginia, expand transportation options for K-12 students, conform Commercial Driver's Licenses (CDL) to federal regulations, enhance Virginia's ability to expand rail capacity, and streamline processes for auto franchise dealers and the abandoned vehicle industry. Below is a summary of each, and I look forward to representing them in the Senate over the next two weeks.

The VA250 Commission was established to represent Virginia's leadership role in the founding of our nation and the celebration of its 250th birthday in 2026. As chairman, I carried three bills related to these efforts.

HB839 makes technical changes in line with previous statewide commemorations; HB840 creates a revenue sharing license plate celebrating the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution; HJ84 is a Joint Resolution encouraging public institutions of higher education to display the VA250 logo on men's

and women's athletic uniforms.

HB191 streamlines the sale process for auto franchise operations, creating objective measures for manufacturer approval and establishing a 60-day timeline for which approval can be granted. Many franchisees are family-owned entities, and this bill creates objective measures that make the sale process easier for those that choose to sell their operations.

HB237 adds the Secretary of Labor, a position created after the establishment of GO Virginia, to the state board and reduces the local match so that funds to support these efforts can be more quickly deployed.

GO Virginia identifies and supports regional economic development opportunities. Successful projects include establishment of the Blue Ridge regional health sciences talent pipeline, the Alleghany Drone Zone, and numerous CTE workforce and continuing education training programs.

HB842 expands the availability of alternative public school transportation options for localities that choose to do so, creating efficiencies, expanding options for parents, decreasing barriers for students, and addressing the chronic bus driver shortage we continue to experience. This will be a great tool for parents and for rural school systems to save money should it become law.

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

HB845 creates efficiencies for the abandoned vehicle purchase process.

See Austin, page 8

Put The Classifieds To Work!
 Call 389-9355

League for Animal Protection's Waifs of the Week



Champ is 2 years old, microchipped and tested for feline diseases. He came to the LAP from Friends of Bedford Rescue on January 27. He's a super sweet cat and is all set to join his forever family.
 The shelter is open from 8-11 and 3-5; 540-473-3853. Send donations to LAP, P.O. Box 561, Fincastle, 24090.

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	
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62					63				64			

- CLUES ACROSS**
 1. Golf scores
 5. Shock therapy
 8. Ballplayer's tool
 11. Quench one's thirst
 13. Female relatives
 14. Every one of two or more things
 15. Member of Muslim people
 16. Play
 17. Type of cheese
 18. Type of lounge chair
 20. ___ King Cole, musician
 21. Fellows
 22. North, Central and South
 25. In an early way
 30. Foes
 31. Georgia rockers
- CLUES DOWN**
 1. Pacific Standard Time
 2. Protruding ridge on nematodes
 3. Indian king
 4. Type of milk
 5. One who brings home the bacon
 6. More comprehensible
 7. Connected with sense of touch
 8. Red mineral
 9. Breezed through
 10. Therefore
 12. Supplement with difficulty
 14. Early kingdom of Syria
 19. Satisfy
 23. They confuse doctors (abbr.)
 24. Brass instrument
 25. Domestic animal
 26. Ribonucleic acid
- CLUES ACROSS**
 32. Cryptocurrency
 33. Narrow path along a slope
 38. Disallow
 41. Joyousness
 43. Inaccessible
 45. Evoked emotions
 47. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
 49. Boston Celtic punk rockers (abbr.)
 50. Sword
 55. Actor Idris
 56. Affirmative (slang)
 57. Afflicted
 59. One point north of northeast
 60. Born of
 61. Arabic name
 62. Traumatic brain injury (abbr.)
 63. Extremity
 64. Post
- CLUES DOWN**
 27. Snakelike fish
 28. Woman (French)
 29. Economically-minded aircraft
 34. When you hope to get somewhere
 35. Tease
 36. Actress Gretchen
 37. Midway between northeast and east
 39. Inoffensive
 40. Yellowish cotton cloth
 41. Consume
 42. Does not tell the truth
 44. Improved something
 45. Spiritual leader
 46. Abba___, Israeli politician
 47. Fix
 48. Evergreen tree genus
 51. Swiss river
 52. Prejudice
 53. Major C. European river
 54. Long, narrow strap
 58. Male parent

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Mean Girls

2024) Cady Heron is a hit with the Plastics, an A-list girl clique at her new school. But everything changes when she makes the mistake of falling for Aaron Samuels, the ex-boyfriend of alpha Plastic Regina George. (1 hr 52 min)

Thursday, Feb. 22 7 p.m.

Charlie Chaplin - Tillie's Punctured Love

(1914) A con man from the city dupes a wealthy country girl into marriage. (1 hr 22 min)

Friday & Saturday Feb. 23 & 24 7 p.m.
 Sunday, Feb. 25 3 p.m.
 Thursday, Feb. 29 7 p.m.

www.FincastleHerald.com

See Answers, page 8

CHURCH NEWS

Buchanan Food Pantry open Saturday - 6 p.m.

The Buchanan Presbyterian Church Food Pantry will be open Saturday, February 24, from 9 a.m. till 11 a.m. Volunteers from Buchanan Presbyterian Church will distribute meat, bread, milk and staples at the curb. Anyone who needs food is welcome. The church is at 19559 Main Street, Buchanan.

Pleasant Hill food distribution March 9

Pleasant Hill Baptist Church will have food boxes available March 9 from 9-10:30 a.m. at the church, 4930 Country Club Road, Troutville, and at the Eagle Rock Library.

Galatia Community Meal March 4

Galatia Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 78 Gala Loop Road, Eagle Rock, is having a Potluck Community Meal on Monday, March 4, at 12 noon. Soup and crackers will be furnished by Galatia, along with tea, lemonade, water and coffee. Bring a dish or dessert to share with everyone and come for good fellowship and food.

Lenten Services in Buchanan

Buchanan Area Ministerial Association Community Lenten Service schedule:
 February 27, Lithia Baptist - Noon
 March 5, Buchanan Baptist - Noon
 March 12, Virginia Presbyterian - Noon
 March 19, CommUnity Church

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.

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

See Church News, page 8

OBITUARIES

Eastman, Denvel Thayer

Denvel "Denny" Thayer Eastman, Wilkins and Andrea Preast; special friends, Kenny Meador and David Hylton; and numerous nieces and nephews.



Denvel "Denny" Thayer Eastman, 81, of Buchanan passed away Thursday, February 15, 2024. He was preceded in death by his parents, Egbert and Ruby Eastman; brothers, Dwight and Garland Eastman; and sister, Bernice Hollenbeck.

He retired from Carter Machinery with over 40 years of service.

He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Linda Eastman; children and spouses, Robin Eastman Geisler and Joseph, Daniel Eastman and Lori, Tammy Thompson and David, and Stephen Eastman and Vicki; 14 grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren with 4 in the oven; sisters, Judy (Wilkie)

Funeral services were held 10 a.m. Tuesday, February 20, 2024 in the Buchanan Chapel of Botetourt Funeral Home with Pastor Milton Atkins officiating. Interment was in Mill Creek Cemetery. The family received friends from 6-8 p.m. Monday, February 19, at Botetourt Funeral Home, Buchanan. Those wishing to make a contribution, please consider St. Jude's Children's Hospital. Online condolences can be made at www.botetourtfuneralhome.com or 540-254-3000.

Graybill, Paul C., Jr.



Paul C. Graybill Jr., born August 12, 1969, passed to his heavenly home from cancer on February 16, 2024 at the age of 54.

He was the son of Paul C. Graybill Sr. and the late Gaye

Campbell Graybill. He is survived by stepmother, Margaret Rose Graybill; sisters, Sharon McNeil (Larry) and Bonny Wright (David); step-sister, Veronica Grantham; nieces, Elizabeth Spangler (Darin) and Amanda Wright; nephews, Michael McNeil and David Wright Jr.; and great-nephew, Kaden Wright.

Funeral arrangements were by Valley Funeral Service (Valleyfuneralserviceva.com).

See Obituary, page 8

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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 Sundays 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

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

Cloverdale 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

YOU ALONE

Read Numbers 18:1 through 19:22

Monte had given his son one job: Shovel the walk. Monte returned to see messy piles of snow haphazardly scattered about. The boy had convinced his younger sister—who could barely lift the shovel—to do it for him so he could play video games. Monte promptly unplugged the game and sent the boy out to finish the job.

Similarly, God gave Aaron and his sons enormous responsibility. He expected them—and them alone—to follow through.

“But only you and your sons may serve as priests in connection with everything at the altar and inside the curtain. I am giving you the service of the priesthood as a gift. Anyone else who comes near the sanctuary is to be put to death” (Numbers 18:7).

Has God placed a burden on your heart? Is He pointing you toward work that will expand His kingdom? You are uniquely gifted and in just the right place to effect divine change in this world. Don't wait for someone else to do the job the Lord has given you. He wants you, and you alone, to follow through.

Thought for Today: The work of the Kingdom changes our hearts as it changes our world.

Quicklook: Numbers 18:1-7

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 osroanoke.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.

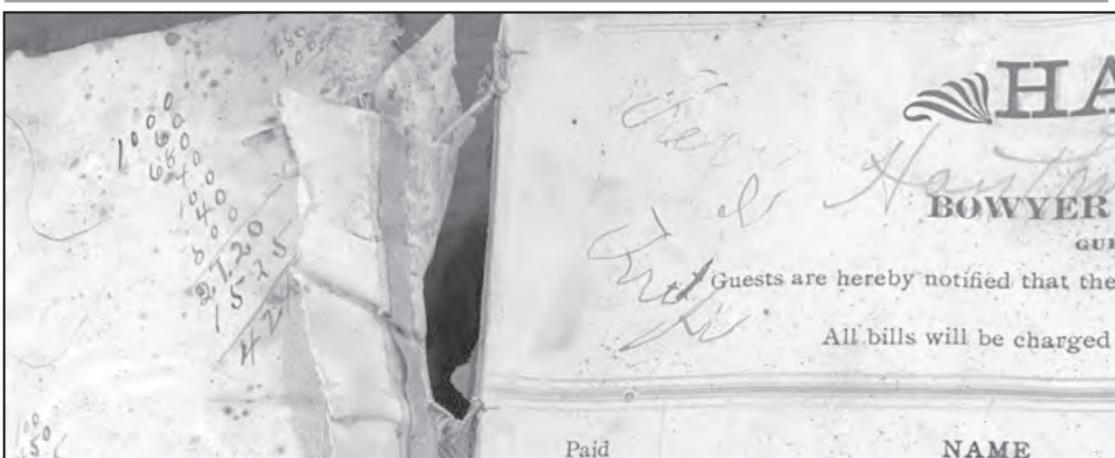
St. Mark's United Methodist Church

- 19 Cedar Ridge Drive, Daleville, Pastor Samuel Plymale, 992-3030. Worship Times: Praise and Worship Service at 9:00, with Blended Worship 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.

BCHS from page 1



Another photo of the Hayth Hotel register

PHOTO COURTESY OF BCHS

Artifacts project, the BCHS seeks to shed light on the invaluable treasures within its collection that are in need of preservation and conservation efforts.

The artifact selected for this year represents a significant piece of the Historical Society's collection that faces various preservation challenges, ranging from deterioration due to age, general wear-and-tear, to lack of funding for conservation efforts. By nominating this artifact for the Top 10 Endangered Artifacts campaign, the BCHS aims to rally support from the community and beyond to ensure their long-term preservation

and accessibility for future generations.

The artifact that BCHS has submitted for this year's Top 10 is a guest register from the Hayth Hotel, circa 1897. Fincastle has been a main hub of Botetourt since the county's founding in 1770. This gave way to the need for lodging for those heading to the county seat to conduct business at the courthouse, as a stop as they travelled onward, or as a leisurely vacation spot near all the healing springs within the county boundaries. What remains of the Hayth Hotel sits across from the courthouse, near the corner of Roanoke and Back Streets; but in

its heyday, the hotel boasted many guestrooms, a ballroom, and all the amenities that visitors might want during their travels. Vote for BCHS's submission at <https://poll.fm/13356456>.

"We are honored to be a part of this year's VAM Top 10 Endangered Artifacts, which provides a platform for raising awareness about the importance of preserving our cultural heritage," said BCHS Executive Director Lynsey Crantz Allie. "Through this initiative, we hope to engage our community in conversations about the significance of the artifacts we house and the need for their ongoing care and conservation."

BCHS invites county residents, supporters, and history enthusiasts to advocate for the preservation

of these endangered artifacts by voting in VAM's Top 10 Endangered Artifacts campaign. "By casting your vote, you will contribute to the safeguarding of our shared cultural heritage and ensuring that these treasures continue to inspire and educate for years to come," Allie said.

To learn more about Virginia Association of Museums Top 10 Endangered Artifacts, visit www.vamuseums.org/virginia-top-10-endangered-artifacts

Follow Botetourt County Historical Society, Inc. on Facebook and Instagram to learn more about what it has going on and how you can support preservation efforts.

- Fincastle Herald staff report

Reassessment from page 1

At the December meeting of the Botetourt County Board of Supervisors, Deputy Administrator David Moorman shared that it was expected that "real estate values determined by Wampler-Eanes will be significantly higher than they were four years ago."

Some members of the Botetourt community saw their property values increase with reported rates rising significantly in areas. Moorman noted at the December meeting that the reassessment notices were not the same as a tax bill. He went on to say that no immediate action is requested by the county, unless property owners have questions or wish challenging the reassessment.

The county reached out to share the accurate information and answers including where to find the frequently asked questions (FAQs), what the reassessment is and how to appeal, and real estate tax relief programs for the elderly and disabled based on income and net worth.

Please visit www.botetourtva.gov/859/ Reassessment for more information. A video presented by Wampler Eanes Appraisal Group that dives into the Botetourt County Reassessment process can be found at this link: <https://youtu.be/qieF2RLI6I8?si=V8yGWescx6ytsX7k>.

PUBLIC NOTICE BOTETOURT COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD WORK SESSION

The Botetourt County School Board will hold a Work Session on Thursday, February 29, 2024, at 8:30 a.m. The meeting will be held at the Central Administration Office, 143 Poor Farm Road, Fincastle, Virginia, with a physical quorum present and electronic access through www.bcps.live.

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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

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

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS BY THE TOWN OF FINCASTLE PLANNING COMMISSION

Pursuant to the provisions of Sections 15.2-2204, as amended, and Sections 601 - 603 of the Town Zoning Ordinance, this shall serve as notice that the Town of Fincastle Planning Commission will hold two public hearings on February 29, 2024 beginning at 7 p.m. in the Fincastle Firehouse for the purpose of soliciting public input on:

1. An application for a Use by Special Exception to allow for ground floor residence at 5 South Roanoke Street (73A (1) 27A), currently owned by Virginia and Erryn Barkett. This property is zoned Commercial and is located in the Mixed Use District of the Town of Fincastle.

2. A rezoning application from the Heritage Family Market for property located on the west side of Roanoke Road (Rt. 220), (tax parcel (72 (2) 13), currently owned by Santillane, LLC. The application is to rezone from A1 Agriculture to B2 Business with Special Exception for reduced lot size, for the purpose of building a new market building.

Copies of these proposals can be obtained by contacting the Fincastle Town Office during regular office hours or by contacting Scott Critzer at 540-473-3377.

Scott Critzer, Chairman
Fincastle Planning Commission

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/Agenda-Center>

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

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If you have questions, email us at registrar@botetourtva.gov or call 540.928.2120

Learn more and apply online at **VDOE Officer of Election** (Elections.Virginia.gov/Officers)



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DEPARTMENT of ELECTIONS



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF AARP

AARP Fraud Alert: A new take on an old scam

One of the oldest scams around involves a criminal getting hold of one of your checks and forging the payee and the amount. Usually this is done by “washing” the check with chemicals to remove the real information you have written on it. Today, with access to new technologies, criminals are “cooking” checks by creating fake versions of real checks using computer programs. These “cooked” checks can be manipulated digitally and either printed or deposited electronically, saving the crook a lot of mess and hassle.

The best way to protect against these scams is to be careful how you send checks. If you use your checkbook to pay bills via mail,

how you send those bills is the key to staying safe. Rather than dropping the bills in your mailbox and flipping up the flag, take them to the post office and drop them off inside. A criminal can't wash or cook a check they don't physically have, so taking this extra step to safeguard your mail can protect your bank account in the long run.

Be a fraud fighter! If you can spot a scam, you can stop a scam. Report scams to local law enforcement. For help from AARP, call 1-877-908-3360 or visit the AARP Fraud Watch Network at www.aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork.

- AARP

ARRESTS

The Botetourt County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests February 3-15:

- James Sherman, 37, of Roanoke, petit larceny, driving suspended, February 3
- Daniel Sine, 39, of Blue Ridge, malicious wounding, February 3
- Salvador Aguirre Frias, 33, of Roanoke, simple assault, February 3
- Rufus A. Lee, 33, of Vinton, driving under forfeiture of license, February 5
- Joshua B. Mays, 40, of Daleville, domestic assault, February 8
- Kenneth L. Meyer, 80, of Troutville, domestic assault, strangling another causing injury, February 9
- Justin S. Robertson, 37, of Troutville, drunk in public, February 10
- Timothy S. Brickey, 30, of Troutville, simple assault, February 11
- Charles A. Robbins, 37, of Roanoke, fugitive from justice, February 12
- Christopher W. Davis, 41, of Fincastle, domestic assault, February 14
- Andrew G. Shelton, 36, of Roanoke, abduction, domestic assault, grand larceny, property damage, February 15
- Frank M. Rodgers, 47, of Montvale, grand larceny, February 15
- Deborah S. Walkup, 63, of Troutville, domestic assault, February 15

Austin

from page 4

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

HB1452 provides an exemption to the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority in the

Uniform Statewide Building Code (USBC) related to the construction and maintenance of bridges and tunnels. This exemption is currently granted to VDOT and acknowledges that the USBC is not the most efficient tool by which to determine safety of these assets as they are constructed and maintained. The upshot is shorter construction timelines without sacrificing safety

protocols. Rail is crucial to taking vehicular traffic off our roads and this bill will help enable this effort.

HB1505 seeks to level the playing field by preventing athletic organizations from limiting how Virginia's institutions can choose to support their athletic programs and brings Virginia to parity with other states for recruitment and the use of Name Image and Likeness (NIL).

As always, 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

Craft Fair at RMMS March 2



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF RMMS

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

Church News

from page 5

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.

Obituary

from page 5

Holliday, Fern Greenway

Fern Greenway Holliday, 67, of Roanoke, and recently of Manor Assisted Living, died Tuesday, February 13, 2024. She was born August 15, 1956, daughter of the late Maynard L. and Dorothy T. Greenway. She was also preceded in death by her husband, Holly "Doc" Holliday, in 2008.

She was a 1974 graduate of Lord Botetourt High School, and a 1978 graduate of Hollins University. She had a wide and varied work career and retired from the United States Post Office. She volunteered time working with various churches, the local Dalmatian rescue group and women's support services.

Fern is survived by her sisters, Donna David, Paula and Greg Hudson, and Nita Eldred; nieces and nephews, Keiana Eldred, Jamie Hudson, Kaylee Eldred and fiancé, Eric Hughes; Brandon David and wife, Nicole; great-nieces and -nephews, Gavin Hudson, Kyra Wright,



and Eason and Emory David; and many friends and extended family members.

Fern held a deep religious faith and looked forward in anticipation to joining her Lord and Savior when it was time. She was a kind soul with a big heart, but she was resilient, and her smile and kindness hid a fierce warrior who overcame many dark moments, but never let those demons turn her cruel or leave her without hope.

The funeral service was held at 12 noon on Monday, February 19, 2024, at Oakey's North Chapel with the Rev. Chris Kingery officiating. Interment followed in Daleville Cemetery. The family received friends on Sunday afternoon, February 18, 2024, from 2 to 4 p.m. at Oakey's North Chapel. Condolences may be shared with the family at www.Oakeys.com.

NOTICE

The next regular meeting of the Botetourt County Board of Supervisors will be held on Tuesday, February 27, 2024, beginning at 2:00 p.m. at the Botetourt County Administration Center at 57 South Center Drive in Daleville, Virginia.

For information regarding this meeting, please see www.botetourtva.gov or contact the County Administrator's Office at 540-928-2006.

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With purchase of a new Safe Step Walk-In-Tub. Not applicable with any previous walk-in tub purchase. Offer available while supplies last. No cash value. Must present offer at time of purchase. CSLB 1082165 NSCB 0082999 0083445

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New orders only. Does not include material costs. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Minimum purchase required. Other restrictions may apply. This is an advertisement placed on behalf of Eric Construction Mid-West, Inc. ("Eric"). Offer terms and conditions may apply and the offer may not be available in your area. If you call the number provided, you consent to being contacted by telephone, SMS, text message, email, pre-recorded messages by Eric or its affiliates and service providers using automated technologies notwithstanding if you are on a DO NOT CALL list or register. Please review our Privacy Policy and Terms of Use on homeservicecompliance.com. All rights reserved. License numbers available at eremetalloofs.com or eric-licences.com. VA License Number: 2705029344

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Marketplace



The Fincastle Herald

The Vinton Messenger

The New Castle Record

Salem Times-Register

News Messenger

Radford News Journal

Auctions



Troutville Estate Liquidation Online Only Auction

Bid on Over 400 Lots of Woodworking Equipment, Tools, Model Railroad, Furniture,

Collectibles and MUCH MORE!

Visit www.CircleCAuction.com to register and bid!

Auction Location: 163 Dale Road, Troutville, Va 24175

Bidding Begins to Close Wednesday, February 21 st @ 7:30pm

Preview will be Tuesday, February 20 th from 4-6pm

Pick-up will be Thursday, February 22 nd from 3-6 pm

Contact Cody Manspile, Auctioneer @ (540) 784-9254 with any questions! VA AF#2908001046

PUBLIC NOTICE The contents of the listed unit will be sold at Public Auction

February 23, 2024 at 11am at

1st Security Self Storage 5 Midway Plaza Dr. Christiansburg, VA. D020 D025

1st Security reserves the right to refuse any bid. Terms: CASH OR CREDIT CARD AT SALE.

Help Wanted - General



Vice President for Planning & Resource Development

Nonprofit seeks an individual with experience in directing the activities of a planning department. Must have a minimum of seven years successful grant writing and supervisory experience. Thorough knowledge of state and federal anti-poverty programs; ability to understand and interpret RFPs, regulations and guidelines. Preferred knowledge of Human Service, Economic Development, Community Development programs at the local, Commonwealth, and federal levels. Performs complex professional and administrative work in directing the activities of the planning department, providing strategic planning, resource development and program development for the antipoverty programs, economic development, and partnership activities of the agency. Assists in gathering and collating pertinent data and program outcomes; identifies and qualifies resources; writes clear and compelling narratives, effective and accurate budgets; and prepares grant applications in response to request for proposals. Leads and trains a team of planners who support the agency's programs. Directs the communications and marketing efforts of the agency.

Disseminates information to program components, CEO, Board of Directors, and other management staff on issues affecting the work of agency.

Recruits, trains, supervises, and evaluates planning staff, marketing & communications staff, and Whole Family Intake staff; organizes department responsibilities and workflow.

Coordinates the preparation of grant applications and proposal writing for all new and renewing agency

Help Wanted - General

program initiatives. Responsible for quality and effectiveness of all proposals.

Writes proposals for funding of specific projects as assigned.

Training, education and experience: Any combination of education and experience equivalent to graduation from an accredited college or university with major work in planning, public administration, journalism or a related field and extensive experience in community, economic development planning.

For a full job description please visit Indeed.com or at our website www.tapintothehope.org

Salary: \$60,000-\$75,000/yr. Submit cover letter and resume to: TAP, Human Resources, Job Code VPPRD-PL, PO Box 2868, 302 2nd St SW Roanoke VA 24011 or fax to 540-345-1944TTY: 540-345-4096 AA/EOE/Drug Free Workplace Bilingual ability is a plus

For Sale - Firewood

FIREWOOD Mixed Hardwood. Call 540-784-3436 or 540-581-4183. Delivery in Botetourt only.

For Sale - Antiques

CORNERSTONE ANTIQUES

Going out of Business SALE

Everything on Sale! Open Tues-Sat 11am-3pm

123 W. Lee Street Vinton VA Across from the Farmer's Market downtown

Legals - Botetourt County

BWW# VA-208643-6 TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 17 KNOLLWOOD DRIVE, TROUTVILLE, VA 24175.

In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated August 1, 2003, in the original principal amount of \$111,000.00 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Botetourt County, Virginia, in Book 0000 at Page 0167 as Instrument No. 0307051. The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for Botetourt County, Main Street, Fincastle, VA 24090, or any such temporary alternative Circuit Court location designated by the Judges of the Circuit Court, on March 29, 2024, at 2:15 PM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: ALL THAT CERTAIN TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN THE COUNTY OF BOTETOURT, STATE OF VIRGINIA, AND MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS, TO-WIT: LOT 1, BLOCK 1, ACCORDING TO THE MAP OF SECTION 1, KNOLLWOOD, MADE BY T.P. PARKER AND SON, ENGINEERS AND SURVEYORS, DATED FEBRUARY 2, 1973, OF RECORD IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR BOTETOURT COUNTY, VIRGINIA, IN PLAT BOOK 7, PAGE 76.

TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit of ten percent (10%) of the sale price or ten percent (10%) of the original principal balance of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, in the form of cash or certified funds payable to the Substitute Trustee must be present at the time of the sale.

The balance of the purchase price will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Purchaser's deposit may be forfeited to Trustee. Time is of the essence. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser

Legals - Botetourt County

may, if provided by the terms of the Trustee's Memorandum of Foreclosure Sale, be entitled to a \$50 cancellation fee from the Substitute Trustee, but shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. A form copy of the Trustee's memorandum of foreclosure sale and contract to purchase real property is available for viewing at www.bwvsales.com. Additional terms, if any, to be announced at the sale and the Purchaser may be given the option to execute the contract of sale electronically. This is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. The sale is subject to seller confirmation.

Substitute Trustee: Equity Trustees, LLC, 8100 Three Chopt Road, Suite 240, Richmond, VA 23229. For more information contact: BWV Law Group, LLC, attorneys for Equity Trustees, LLC, 6003 Executive Blvd, Suite 101, Rockville, MD 20852, 301-961-6555, website: www.bwvsales.com. VA-208643-6.

Legals - City of Radford

Trustee's Sale

133 Monroe Street, Radford, Virginia 24141

(Parcel ID: 6-(9)-50)

Default having been made in the terms of a certain Deed of Trust dated April 13, 2016, in the original principal amount of \$126,678.00 and recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of the City of Radford, Virginia in Instrument No. 201600345, the undersigned Substitute Trustee will sell at public auction on March 11, 2024 at 1:45pm in front of the building housing the City of Radford Circuit Court, 619 Second Street, Radford, VA 24141, the property designated as Lot 50 in Monroe Terrace Subdivision, as shown on a plat in front of the aforesaid Clerk's Office in Deed Book 40, Page 1. Sale is subject to all prior liens, easements, restrictions, covenants, and conditions, if any, of record, or other matters which would be disclosed by an accurate survey or inspection of the premises. TERMS: CASH. A deposit of \$13,000.00 or 10% of the sale price, whichever is lower, will be required of the successful bidder at time of sale. Prior to the sale, interested bidders will be required to register with and must present a bid deposit which may be held during the sale by the trustee. The bid deposit must be certified funds and/or cash, but no more than \$9,900.00 of cash will be accepted. The successful bidder's deposit will be retained at the sale and applied to the sale price. If held by the trustee, all other bid deposits will be returned to the unsuccessful bidders. Settlement is to be made within 15 calendar days. The successful bidder will be responsible for obtaining possession of the property, and for all costs and fees related to recording the Trustee's Deed, including the grantors tax. The successful bidder will be required to execute a Memorandum of Trustee's Sale, available for review on the Foreclosure Sales page of www.glasserlaw.com, outlining additional terms of sale and settlement. A Trustee's Deed will be prepared by Trustee's attorney at high bidder's expense. This is a communication from a debt collector, Glasser and Glasser, P.L.L.C. on behalf of Atlantic Trustee Services, L.L.C., and/or Mr. Brennan Hutt d/b/a H&H Abstracting, and/or NFPDS-VA LLC, Substitute Trustees, Crown Center Building, Suite 600, 580 East Main Street, Norfolk, VA 23510, File No. 233421-01, Tel: (757) 321-6465, between 10:00 a.m. & 12:00 noon only.

Public Notice is hereby given that pursuant to VA State Code 15.2-1719 Radford City Police

Legals - City of Radford

Department

is advertising a list of found and unclaimed property which is currently being stored in our evidence room. If you have lost property and it matches the descriptions below, please call (540)731-3624 to identify and claim your property.

Bicycles, Wallets, Backpacks, U.S. Currency, Cell Phones, Computers, Firearms, Flashlights, Chainsaws, Medical Equipment, Baby Strollers and Carriers, Tobacco Products, Hygienic products, Documents and Paperwork, Machetes, Knives, Personal Defense Devices, Keys, Purses, Jewelry, Coins, Cameras, Clothes, Radios, Electronics, Fishing Equipment, Construction Materials/ Equipment. You must show proof of ownership or provide a detailed description of your property. All unclaimed property will be disposed of after March 16th, 2024.

Legals - Craig County

Trustee's Sale

530 Ellett Road, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073

(Parcel ID: 005695; Tax Map No.: 467-A 42)

Default having been made in the terms of a certain Deed of Trust dated December 4, 2008, in the original principal amount of \$135,327.00 and recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of the County of Montgomery, Virginia in Instrument No.2008012070, the undersigned Substitute Trustee will sell at public auction on March 29, 2024, at 01:00 PM in front of the building housing the Montgomery County Circuit Court, 55 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073, the property designated as Lot 4 of the Brown Ridinger & Gilliam Subdivision, more particularly described as follows:BEGINNING at the southeast corner at a stake in line with Forest Avenue and running with said Avenue, S. 83 deg. W 90 feet to the corner of now or formerly S.E. Basham's lot; thence N. 8 deg. W 160 feet with the Bashow line to the line of now or formerly Frank Ridinger, thence with Ridinger line N. 83 deg. E. 90 feet to a stake; thence a new line running with the land of now or formerly Maud D. Ridinger, S. 8 deg. E 160 feet to the point of beginning. Sale is subject to all prior liens, easements, restrictions, covenants, and conditions, if any, of record, or other matters which would be disclosed by an accurate survey or inspection of the premises. TERMS: CASH. A deposit of \$13,500.00 or 10% of the sale price, whichever is lower, will be required of the successful bidder at time of sale. Prior to the sale, interested bidders will be required to register with and must present a bid deposit which may be held during the sale by the trustee. The bid deposit must be certified funds and/or cash, but no more than \$9,900.00 of cash will be accepted. The successful bidder's deposit will be retained at the sale and applied to the sale price. If held by the trustee, all other bid deposits will be returned to the unsuccessful bidders. Settlement is to be made within 15 calendar days. The successful bidder will be responsible for obtaining possession of the property, and for all costs and fees related to recording the Trustee's Deed, including the grantors tax. The successful bidder will be required to execute a Memorandum of Trustee's Sale, available for review on the Foreclosure Sales page of www.glasserlaw.com, outlining additional terms of sale and settlement. A Trustee's Deed will be prepared by Trustee's attorney at high bidder's expense. This is a communication from a debt collector, Glasser and Glasser, P.L.L.C. on behalf of Atlantic Trustee Services, L.L.C., Auction.com-VA, LLC, Substitute Trustees, Crown Center Building, Suite 600, 580 East Main Street, Norfolk, VA 23510, File No. 233142-02, Tel: (757) 321-6465, between 10:00 a.m. & 12:00 noon only.

Legals - Craig County

Order of Publication

Commonwealth of Virginia VA Code§§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316.20-104

Case No. JJ002260-06-00 CRAIG COMBINED COURT-JUVENILE Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court District Court

Commonwealth of Virginia, in re MANNING, EMILEE ROSE The object of this suit is to: terminate the residual parental rights of the parents, including the right of visitation, right to consent to adoption, the responsibility of support and all other rights and responsibilities remaining with the natural parents of the aforesaid child and to obtain the right to place said child for adoption. And, based on an affidavit filed herein, the court finds that there exists sufficient grounds for causing service of process by publication.

It is ORDERED that the unknown father and any or all others who may be related to Emily Rose Manning, whose actual whereabouts are unknown, appear at the above-named Court on or before the 5th day of April, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. to do whatever is necessary to protect their interests.

We ask for this CRAIG COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES 177 Court Street, New Castle, Virginia 24127

February 8, 2024, Patty Taylor, CLERK

Legals - Montgomery County

Order of Publication

Commonwealth of Virginia VA Code§§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316.20-104

Case No. CL23002018-00 MONTGOMERY COUNTY Circuit Court, 55 EAST MAIN STREET, SUITE 1, CHRISTIANSBURG, VA 24073 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re MELISSA JANE MCPHERSON v. JACOB ANDRE MCPHERSON A/K/A KOBI MAZUR

The object of this suit is to: DIVORCE. It is ORDERED that JACOB ANDRE MCPHERSON A/K/A KOBI MAZUR appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before MARCH 8, 2024. JANUARY 5, 2024 K. MIKE FLEENOR, JR. JUDGE TIFFANY M. COUCH, CLERK

TRUSTEES SALE

PARCEL OF LAND LOCATED IN:

The Riner Magisterial District of Montgomery County, Virginia Containing 1.586 acres, more or less Commonly Known as: 3395 Radford Road, Christiansburg, Virginia IN EXECUTION OF A CERTAIN DEED OF TRUST OF RECORD IN THE CLERKS OFFICE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VIRGINIA, AS INSTRUMENT NO. 2008000295, DATED FEBRUARY 1, 2008, SAID DEED OF TRUST WAS MODIFIED BY MODIFICATION OF DEED OF TRUST DATED FEBRUARY 6, 2020, RECORDED IN THE AFORESAID CLERK'S OFFICE AS INSTRUMENT NO: 2020002980, AND BY SUBSTITUTION OF COLLATERAL AND RELEASE DATED MARCH 10, 2020, RECORDED IN THE AFORESAID CLERK'S OFFICE AS INSTRUMENT NO: 2020002979. DEFAULT HAVING BEEN MADE IN THE DEBT THEREIN SECURED AND BEING REQUIRED TO DO SO BY THE NOTEHOLDER, THE UNDERSIGNED SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE, AFTER GIVING FOURTEEN (14) DAYS DUE NOTICE TO THE OWNERS OF THE REAL ESTATE OF THE DATE, TIME, PLACE AND TERMS OF SALE, WILL OFFER FOR SALE AT PUBLIC AUCTION, IN FRONT OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY COURTHOUSE LOCATED AT 55 EAST

Legals - Montgomery County

MAIN STREET, CHRISTIANSBURG, VIRGINIA, ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2024, AT 10:00 A.M., THE REAL ESTATE WITH IMPROVEMENTS THEREON KNOWN AND DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

All that certain tracts or parcels of land, with the improvements thereon and the appurtenances thereunto belonging, situate, lying and being in the Riner Magisterial District of Montgomery County, Virginia, and described as follows: All of the 1.586 acres as shown on plat of survey entitled; Plat of Boundary Line Adjustment between Tax Parcels 90-(A)-34A & 90-(A)-34E situated along Radford Road, U.S. Route 11 Near Plum Creek Riner Magisterial District Montgomery County, Virginia, dated June 28, 2016 prepared by Ralph O. Clements, L.S. for Gay and Neel, Inc. recorded in the Circuit Court Clerks Office of Montgomery County, Virginia as Instrument Number 2016004742.

Tax Map No: 090-A 34A; Parcel No: 024574

More commonly known as: 3395 Radford Road, Christiansburg, VA 24073

SALE WILL BE MADE SUBJECT TO ALL EXISTING EASEMENTS AND RESTRICTIVE COVENANTS AS THE SAME MAY LAWFULLY AFFECT THE REAL ESTATE.

TERMS OF SALE: CASH, SETTLEMENT WITHIN FIFTEEN (15) DAYS OF SALE. A BIDDERS DEPOSIT OF TEN PERCENT (10%) MAY BE REQUIRED. PLACE OF SALE: FRONT OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY COURTHOUSE, AT 55 EAST MAIN STREET, CHRISTIANSBURG, VIRGINIA DATE OF SALE: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2024 TIME OF SALE: 10:00 A.M.

Daniel D. Hamrick, PC Substitute Trustee

By: Daniel D. Hamrick, Agent

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Daniel D. Hamrick, P.C. 104 South Franklin Street Christiansburg, VA 24073 (540) 382-0131

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Legals - Roanoke County

ABC NOTICE

SAV ON SHOP LLC., trading as CATAWBA GROCERY, 5944 Catawba Valley Dr., Roanoke County, Catawba, VA 24070-2214.

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



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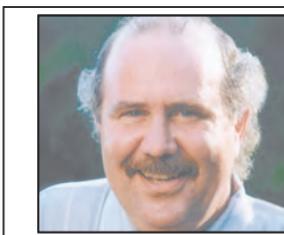
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Brian Hoffman
Sports Editor

Region 3D basketball tournaments are this week at Cassell Coliseum

Virginia Tech's Cassell Coliseum will be the site of Region 3D basketball tournaments for boys and girls and this week. Semifinals are scheduled for Thursday and Friday and both championship games are Saturday. Lord Botetourt's boys and girls were hoping to make the trip to Blacksburg. Both had region quarterfinal games on Tuesday, but results were too late for publication.

The LB boys are the fifth seed and they were scheduled to play at fourth seeded Cave Spring on Tuesday. The survivor will meet the winner of a quarterfinal game between top-seeded Tunstall and ninth seeded Hidden Valley, and that game will be at Tech at 6 p.m. on Friday. The boys' championship is Saturday at Virginia Tech at 8 p.m. and both finalists make the state tournament.

The Lord Botetourt girls are the top seed in the Region 3D tournament and they were scheduled to host eighth seeded Staunton River on Tuesday. The winner will get the Abingdon-Christiansburg winner on Thursday at 2 p.m. at Tech and the girls' championship will be at 4 p.m. Saturday. Again, both finalists make the state field.

Botetourt came into the regional with a 21-3 record after winning the Blue Ridge District tournament last week. The Cavaliers beat William Fleming in the final at Lord Botetourt on Valentine's Day, 57-52.

Botetourt jumped on the Colonels early, taking a 14-5 first quarter lead and pushing the lead to 25-7 midway through the second period. The Colonels rallied to make it close but were never able to catch up.

"That second quarter run is what saved us down the stretch," said LB coach Renee Favaro. "I thought we did an excellent job in the first half, and really all game, in our half-court defense. The majority of their



Botetourt's Maddie Caron works her way around a Fleming defender.

points came off turnovers." LB shot 50 percent from the field and the Cavalier defense held a strong Fleming team to just 25 percent shooting. Maddie Caron and Gracie Huffard both posted double-doubles for LB with 16 points and 10 rebounds each. Madilyn Winterton added 12 points and five assists while point guard Ainsley Anderson



LB's Gracie Huffard sinks a jumper in the BRD final against Fleming.

pulled down a team high 12 boards to go with her six assists and seven points.

Botetourt now goes into the region tournament without a loss to a Class 3 team all season. The Cavs' three losses have been to 5A teams Patrick Henry and William Fleming and Riverside of South Carolina in a very tough Christmas tournament in Tennessee.

Wynn is State Champ in Class 2 wrestling

James River had wrestlers on the first, second and third steps of the podium at the Class 2 wrestling tournament at the Salem Civic Center last weekend. Strasburg High won the tournament with 205 points, 41 more than second place Poquoson.

River had 69 points, all from three individuals, as the Knights finished eighth among 37 teams participating. River had a state champion in Xaiden Wynn at 106 while Nathan Stewart was second at 144 and Brayden Forbes was third at 120. Coach Bobby Stewart calls them his "power three."

"My trifecta of Wynn, Forbes, and Stewart is a trifecta that coaches salivate about," said Stewart. "To have high level performers every year is a thing a lot of coaches envy. These guys are producers and have been since they entered the program. They started

this sport young and that is what it takes to succeed in this sport. It doesn't have to be the only sport you do but you must devote time to it year in and year out, even if it is one day a week that makes a difference."

After receiving a first round bye as the top seed Wynn won by tech fall, then scored pins in the semifinal and finals. He pinned Kam Harrell of Poquoson in the championship match in

3:24. It was his second state championship as Xaiden finished 30-2 on the season and didn't lose to a Class 2 wrestler.

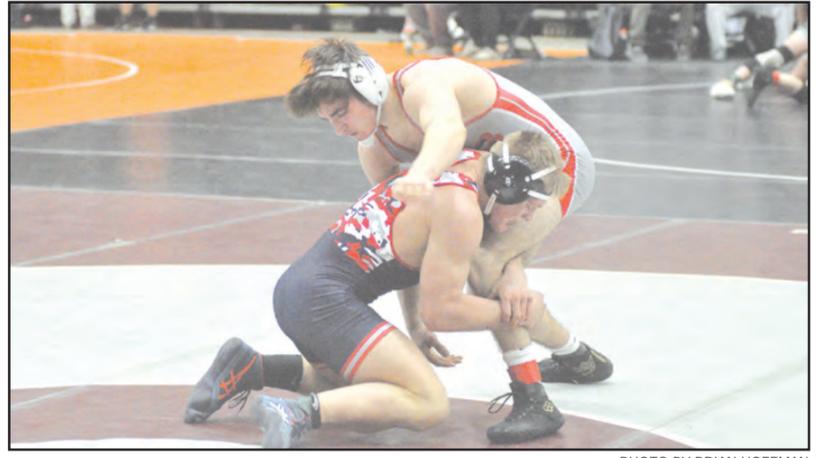
Xaiden is now only one of three individuals in James River wrestling history to win two individual state titles. Wynn follows behind Chance Craft, a three-time state champ, and Carder Miller, a two-time state champ. During the state

See **Wynn**, page 12



Xaiden Wynn of James River puts the finishing touches on a pin in the 106-pound state championship final.

PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN



TJ Piluso of LB, right, battles in the state Class 3 165-pound quarterfinal.

PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Lord Botetourt is 16th in Class 3 wrestling

The Lord Botetourt wrestling team finished 16th in Class 3 and put three wrestlers on the podium at the state Class 3 tournament at the Salem Civic Center last weekend. Fellow Blue Ridge District member Staunton River won the tournament for the second straight year with 230 points, easily outscoring runner-up New Kent with 153.

Botetourt's best finish was a fourth place by junior Aaden Thomas at 215. He won his first two matches by pins before losing in the semifinal to the eventual state champion. He then battled back to make the consolation final where he lost to Joseph Spriggs of Magna Vista, 7-2. Aaden finished the season at 29-4.

"Aaden only weighed 185 pounds," said LB coach Paul Craft. "He's giving up 30 pounds day in and day out and still earned a fourth place spot in the state. Any other

sophomore giving up 30 pounds, I don't like those odds. He's going to continue getting bigger and stronger and grow into the 215-pound weight class."

At 157, junior Cooper Roberts was fifth, going 3-2 on the weekend. He finished his season with a 25-10 record.

"Cooper was a number four seed and knocked off a number one seed in the first round and a number two seed in the quarterfinals," said Craft. "Cooper peaked at the right time. He did his best wrestling from his feet in the last two weeks. A strong off season puts him as a contender next year."

LB's third place winner was senior TJ Piluso with a sixth at 165. He won his first two matches before losing to Jacob Robbie of Christiansburg in the semifinals.

See **LB Wrestling**, page 12

LB girls are 10th in state swimming, River's Persinger places

The Lord Botetourt girls finished 10th among 26 teams in the Class 3 state swim meet at the Swim RVA facility in Richmond last week. The LB boys were 22nd among 32 teams at Western Albemarle despite the team championships.

Botetourt's best finish was a second place in the girls 100-yard backstroke by senior Layne Jones. She finished with a time of 56.27 seconds after making the finals with a 57.39 in the preliminaries.

Freshman Riley Persinger scored in two events at the state Class 1&2 swim meet at the Swim RVA pool in Richmond last week. The Bruton High girls and Glenvar boys won state team



Walker Wilson



Layne Jones

PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING

championships at the meet.

Persinger swam to an eighth place finish in the 100 freestyle in a time of 1:04.67, earning 11 points for James River. She was ninth in the 100 backstroke for nine more points, finishing in 1:08.87. The girls finished 16th as a team.

Also scoring for the River girls were freshman Sarah Lorman with a 10th place finish in the 100 butterfly and senior Drew Whitson, who was 11th in the 100 freestyle. The girls scored 33 total points.

The boys scored 12 total points from two swimmers. Senior Walker Wilson was 11th in the 100 freestyle and freshman Austin Myers was 12th in the 100 backstroke.

Jones also swam on the seventh place 400 free relay team with Isabella Sanchez, Julia Misicko and Hannah Mizuba. They had a time of 3:52.27.

Other notable swims for the girls included a seventh in the 100 free and a ninth in the 50 free by junior Hannah Mizuba. Julia Misicko was 11th in the 100 butterfly and 19th in the 500 free while Oivia Nicely was 19th in the 100 free.

For the boys, freshman Max Mizuba was sixth in the 100 backstroke with a time of 55.95. He also took ninth place in the 200 IM as Max scored all 22 points for the LB boys.

Toliver signs with Brown



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE TOLIVER FAMILY

Lord Botetourt senior Demetri (DJ) Toliver officially signed to continue his education and play football for Brown University in Providence, R.I., at a recent ceremony at Lord Botetourt High School. Left to right are sister Alina, mom Hanna, Demetri and dad Elton Toliver.



PHOTO BY MATT DE SIMONE

River girls advance in region hoops with close win over Martinsville

The James River girls will take on top-seeded Liberty tonight in a Region 2C basketball semifinal game at Bassett High School. A berth in the state tournament will be on the line when the two teams meet at 6 p.m.

River earned a spot in the region semifinal with an exciting 42-41 win over Martinsville on Monday night in Springwood. Audrey Benson's layup in the final seconds put the Knights on top as River came from eight points down after three quarters to pull out the win.

"It wasn't the prettiest of wins but I'll take it," said River coach Ryan Firebaugh. "I could not be more proud of my girls for the way they battled the whole game."

River fell behind 13-7 after the first quarter and the Knights were still down 21-17 at the half. The visiting Bulldogs outscored River 10-6 in the third period to open a 31-23 lead with eight minutes to go, but the Knights clawed back and pulled out the win.

"We had some people step up and hit some key shots and get those key steals when we needed them the most," said Firebaugh. "The girls played hard and were on the ground the last quarter for every loose ball. We were not going to be denied winning that game. When I took my last timeout the girls were talking amongst themselves in



River's Caitlin Canada dribbles around a Martinsville defender as Siera Davis clears the lane.

the huddle and I could see the fire and determination in their eyes."

Caitlin Canada led the Knights with 16 points, four rebounds and four steals. Siera Davis had 10 points and four steals and Benson, Kelsi Maydian and Honesty Liming had six points each. Liming also had 10 rebounds.

Now 14-10, the Knights will play top-seeded Liberty High tonight at 6 p.m. at Bassett. The winner will play for the region championship Friday at the Roanoke College Cregger Center at 6 p.m., and both teams advance to the state Class 2 tournament.

"Liberty is a pretty solid team," said Firebaugh. "They have a girl inside who is 6'3" and she's a pretty good player. They also have a guard who is a pretty



Audrey Benson sinks the game-winning bucket for James River Monday night.

PHOTOS BY LEIGH DOWNEY

good shooter. They play in the tough Seminole District and all they play against are 3A and 4A schools. With us

being in the Three Rivers District and them being in the Seminole District we both are used to tough games."

TRACK NOTES

LB boys are third in Region 3D track

The Lord Botetourt boys took third and the girls were eighth in the Region 3D indoor track meet Saturday. The meet was held at the Roanoke College Kerr-Cregger Fieldhouse in Salem.

William Byrd won the boys meet with 99.5 points, followed by Abingdon with 65, Lord Botetourt with 52 and Christiansburg with 45. The boys were led by the shot put duo of Kendal Howard and DJ Toliver, who finished one-two. Howard won the event with a toss of 54'8" and Toliver was second at 50'4.25", his best distance ever.

TJ McGinnis won the 55-meter dash in 6.62 and teammate Zion Woody was third in 6.75. Sophomore Caleb Miller took second in the 55 hurdles with a personal best time of 8.20.

Ethan Thorne, a sophomore, placed in two distance events. He was third in the 3,200 meters and fourth in the 1,600.

In the girls meet four points separated the top three teams with Abingdon winning with 91 points. Byrd was second with 89.5 and Christiansburg took third with 87. LB scored 25 points to finish eighth.

LB junior Jillian Harris won the 55-meter hurdles with a time of 9.48 while teammate Ratie Jensen was fourth in 9.78. Freshman Anne Thorne won the 3,200 in 12:02.76.

Those individuals will now head to the state meet at Liberty University on February 26 and 27.

River girls take sixth in region track

James River's girls were sixth and the boys were 12th in Region C when Roanoke College hosted the Class 1&2 Region C&D track meets Friday. The Auburn boys and girls swept the meet for Region C.

River had two region champions in the girls meet. Junior Kelsey Firebaugh won the

55-meter dash with a time of 7.61 to win by two one-hundredths of a second. Kaia Binns of River was third in 7.77.

Junior Navaeh VanBuren of River won the triple jump with a hop, skip and jump distance of 34'10.25". Navaeh was also sixth in the long jump, and she's qualified for the state in the long, triple and high jumps.

Binns, Firebaugh and Ripley Barry finished fifth, sixth and seventh in the 300 meters and those three teamed up with VanBuren to finish second in the 4x200 meter relay. Drew Whitson was fifth in the 1,600 and Emma Bobbitt was fifth in the shot put.

In the boys meet River sophomore Gavin Binns was third in the 55-meter dash with a time of 6.83, just 17 one-hundredths of a second off the winning time. Junior Aiden Bartulis also scored for River with a seventh place finish in the 1,000 meters.

The Knights will send five athletes to the state meet at Liberty University on February 28 and 29.



Gavin Binns of James River is off and running in the 55m dash.



Amelia Dietrich runs in the Region 3D track meet Saturday.

PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

LB Wrestling

from page 11

He then dropped two close matches in the consolation bracket by scores of 5-4 and 6-4 to finish the season at a robust 38-5. TJ was undefeated for much of the season and finished his LB career with over 100 wins.

"TJ told me that he didn't think he wrestled his best on Saturday," said Craft. "Sometimes wrestlers have off days, his just happened to be Saturday. But even on an off day TJ is one of the best 165-pound wrestlers in the state of Virginia in any class. He's been a great leader and team captain and we're gonna miss him."

Also competing in the state tournament were Jacob Spence at 113, James Dean at 120 and Gray Arnold at 150. Arnold, a senior, won his first match but suffered a

concussion during the quarterfinals and had to medically forfeit out of the tournament. He finished the season at 27-5.

"He was very upset as any athlete and competitor would be," said Craft. "That's not how you want to end your senior season and especially since he would've probably placed high in the tournament. The VHSL trainer made the call to sit him, and it was the right call."

Spence, a freshman, finished the season at 11-12 and Dean, a sophomore, was 21-9.

"We took six guys and placed three of them," said Craft. "We're happy with that finish but we can do better. We're off a couple weeks and then back at it for next season."

Wynn

from page 11



Brayden Forbes of James River wins his quarterfinal match at 120.

tournament semifinals match Xaiden also earned his 100th career high school win and now sets a goal to accomplish his 100th high school career pin in his senior season for the Knights next year.

Forbes finished third at 120 after coming up short in his bid for an undefeated season. He lost a one-point decision to Brayden Owsley of Central in the semifinals, 7-6, for his first loss. He then finished out with two consolation matches to take third and finish the season at 33-1.

"Brayden faced Owsley in an earlier season tournament called the Bobby Bates Wrestling Classic," said Stewart. "He defeated Owsley in overtime for the championship title. Saturday morning's semifinal was, quite arguably, the rightful state championship match."

Indeed, Owsley went on to win the state championship at 120. Brayden was the champion of all five in-season wrestling tournaments entered and is now a three-time state placer as a junior.

At 144, sophomore Nate Stewart made it to the second year in a row, and for the second time he had to settle for second. Nate finished the year at 27-4 after losing to Reed Booth of Poquoson in the championship match, 8-0.

Nate's match in the Saturday morning semifinal was one of the most exciting of the tournament. Down 7-6, he scored on a reversal in the final seconds on the edge of the mat to beat Andrew Boyd of Richlands, 8-7, to punch his ticket to the finals.

"Nate has nothing to hang his head about," said coach Stewart, who also happens to be his dad.



Xaiden Wynn gestures to the James River faithful from the top step of the state championship 106-pound podium.

Nate finished all in-season tournaments with three second place finishes, two first place finishes, a Three Rivers District champ, and he's a two-time Region C champ as a sophomore.

"With another two years of high school remaining he looks to add to his resume of accomplishments," said coach Stewart.

River's other wrestler, Caiden Martin, lost his first match at 113 before receiving a bye and a win by medical forfeit in the consolation bracket. He then lost to Glenvar's Alan Vu and finished his season at 5-5.

"We entered only four wrestlers in the state tournament," said Stewart. "Unfortunately, our numbers for wrestling were way down this year. We had an unprecedented nine wrestlers not return this year. We lost them to other winter sports for some reason; maybe because our room is hard, maybe for other reasons. Either way, our numbers directly impact our starting lineup and potential to advance kids to the state tournament."

"We were made up of, effectively, first year wrestlers who were thrown to the wolves as varsity starters. Most of these kids only started wrestling in the eighth grade and rolled right into high school to a culture shock. We can do the best we can in these situations but team accolades are tough to achieve when you do not have depth in the lineup."

The season is not totally done for the Knights. Georgia Miller will travel to Garfield High School in Woodbridge for the VHSL All Female Open State Tournament on Friday and Saturday of this week. All six classes of females are combined for competition.

PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN