



Benches were recently built along the trail of Big Spring Park, located on East Back Street in Fincastle.



PHOTOS BY MATT DE SIMONE

The town has recently planted fruit trees along Big Spring's walking trail.

Fincastle Town Council prepares for spring and summer

Various additions added to Big Spring Park including benches and fruit trees

Matt de Simone

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Look, there's now a place to take a load off along the Big Spring Park trail.

Fincastle Town Council met for the monthly meeting at the Fincastle Volunteer Fire Department Training Room last Thursday night praising the work of the volunteer trail builders who dedicated time to build new wooden benches along the trail in Big Spring Park.

"(The trail builders) have continually been a gift to us as far as what they've been willing to do," Town Council member Ed Bordett said during last week's meeting. "Depending on weather, we pretty much have all the parts—we're hoping to get benches in for the (outdoor) classroom soon."

The area of the trail neighboring Breckinridge Elementary School was recently cleared as work on the outdoor classroom will begin to ramp up soon. Eagle Scout Carter Baka-

Collins from Troop 211 in Troutville will begin work building the entry gate and fencing between the walking track and outdoor classroom in the next couple of weeks.

Bordett shared that fruit trees have been planted and another trail is slowly formulating along the creek. "It's spring—walk (the trail) and see the changes," Bordett added.

"For a town and a community of our size, I think we are very blessed in how we are able to get volunteers to come do a whole lot of stuff... it's a good thing," Mayor Mary Bess Smith said of the ongoing work on the trail at Big Spring Park.

Smith and Town Manager Melanie McFadyen updated council on the status of the Community Development Block Grant Program (CBDG) Planning Grant. Currently, the town is trying to build a calendar to be proactive in how to spend the grant but are simultaneously waiting to learn more about active projects in town like

See **Fincastle**, page 7

School Board meeting citizen comments continue regarding Lord Botetourt track team

Matt de Simone

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The citizen comment period of the Botetourt County School Board last Thursday night in Fincastle was met with another batch of observations from parents, students, and coaches about the current state of Lord Botetourt High School's track program. Last month, a group representing LB's coaches and parents spoke out about the recent separation of the track team into a boys team and a girls team. More comments followed Thursday night.

LB track coach Marquita Holmes commented about choices made by the school "that are limiting (her) daughter, and other track athletes' potential by giving preferential treatment to offseason football training."

She referred to last week's article which explained LB's head track coaches choose their assistants. Holmes refuted that information explaining, "that's not true. We had assistants chosen back in August, which were deep-sixed by, I don't know, school administration,

See **LB track**, page 7

Meeting dates set by Board of Equalization to hear from residents about reassessments

A public notice is advertised in this week's edition about upcoming meeting dates scheduled by the Botetourt County Board of Equalization to hear resident complaints regarding the recent property reassessments.

The notice states that the board will meet on nine different dates "for the purpose of hearing complaints of inequalities, errors, or that the real

property is assessed at more than fair market value." From there, the board will consider to increase, decrease, or affirm such assessments.

Residents may pose their objections to the board by appointment only, scheduled every 30 minutes to minimize wait times. To appear before the Board of Equalization,

See **Meetings**, page 8

Eagle Rock Ruritan Club presents:
Eagle Rock Festival
FREE Admission!!
May 11th
11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
@ the Blue Ridge Vineyard
Science Fair open to all ages, STEM activities, food trucks, axe throwing, food trucks and much more!
Register by April 15th to get a free t-shirt!

GRAPHIC COURTESY OF EAGLE ROCK RURITAN CLUB

Showcase Your Discovery at the Eagle Rock Science Festival on May 11

The Eagle Rock Ruritan Club is gearing up for a celebration of science, innovation, and discovery. The Second Annual Science Festival is promising a day of science fair exhibits, hands-on experiments and captivating demonstrations that will ignite the imagination of all ages. The Blue Ridge Vineyard will again host the free event on May 11 from 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

The main highlight is the science fair which is open to all ages and any category of

experimentation. The only rule is that entrants follow the scientific method to design and execute an experiment. Display the work on a tri-fold poster board and bring props if you'd like. Every participant who registers by April 21 will receive a festival T-shirt! Registration forms are available from leffel4botetourt@gmail.com or via QR code (Page 8).

"We have many returning exhibitors and

See **Sci Fest**, page 8



Lord Botetourt swimming coach Ashley Safrit and All-State swimmer Layne Jones



Emily Duncan (left), Laila Alam, and Buchanan District representative Jenny Wilson

BCPS student athletes, spelling champions, science fair winners, VSBA Business Honor Roll recognized

Matt de Simone

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The Botetourt County School Board handed out certificates of recognition last Thursday night

to several Botetourt students for their recent accomplishments on the field and in the classroom.

Lord Botetourt High School athletes Kendal Howard and Layne Jones were recognized

for their recent performances. Howard is the Region 3A Indoor Track Shot Put State Champion.

Jones was recognized for being

See **BCPS**, page 5

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MAY 4
FUZZY LOGIC
5-9PM

MAY 5
Botetourt FARMER'S MARKET
8:30 to NOON

MAY 10
RED DIRT REVOLUTION
5-9PM

33463 00107 5

Botetourt County History



PHOTO COURTESY OF BCMHC

This is a large portrait of Janelle Mildred Shelor Wilson (1917-1997) as a little girl. It is a hand-colored black and white photograph in an ornate gold frame. She was born in Albemarle County to George Malcolm and Ella Crush Shelor. Her wedding to Clarence "Sam" Cecil Wilson was in Fincastle on November 6, 1948, and was described in *The Fincastle Herald*. Janelle and Sam lived in Covington before purchasing their historic 1871 home at 26 Main Street in Fincastle. They lived there for many years and enjoyed entertaining. Janelle taught fifth and sixth grade at Cloverdale Elementary School and history at Botetourt Intermediate before it

became Central Academy. Their home was put up for auction on November 10, 1999, by their Executor, C. Lewis Wilson, after their deaths. In 2021, Botetourt County Historical Society, Inc., was able to purchase her home at 26 Main Street from Judge Robert C. Hagen, Jr. Janelle's portrait was donated to the Botetourt Museum in September of 2023 by Leigh Harris Clark. Ed Bordett was able to repair the frame so that Janelle can soon be on display in her former home.

- Botetourt County Museum of History & Culture



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF SUSCOM

Earth Day Event this Saturday at the Fincastle Library

The Fincastle Sustainability Committee (known as SusCom) and the Friends of the Fincastle Library are excited to be partnering an Earth Day Event planned for Saturday, April 20 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Fincastle Library. The event being held in conjunction with a book and bake

sale taking place at the Fincastle Library at the same time. The book and bake sale is also being held on April 18, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and April 19, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Earth Day Event is Saturday only and is free and open to the public.

- Fincastle Herald staff report

Earth Day market Saturday in Daleville

The Botetourt County Farmers Market opens Saturday, April 20, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the Daleville Town Center for an exciting Earth Day Market.

The market's regular season opens May 4 and runs through the end of October. Those markets will run from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon, also at the Daleville Town Center.



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF BCMHC

This year's new market board members include: Jared Frye - President; Kelsey Bryant - Secretary; Jill Albers - Treasurer; Sarah Melendy - Vendor Representative; and Sydney Smith - Parliamentarian. Sarah Sowers (Vice President) and Brandy Underwood (Community Representative) are serving the second year of their terms.

- Fincastle Herald staff report

Greenfield students experience the solar eclipse



Students at Greenfield Elementary School gathered outside just before dismissal time on April 8 to view the solar eclipse. Here, Kindergarten students Sadie Hughes (front) and Axel Dillon take a glimpse.



Second grade students Bellamy Blessard, Kaidence Sutherland, Kate Rickman, Caroline Pritt and Olivia Pritt



Second grade students Finn Gray, Hudson Crigler and Cooper Bennett



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CAROLYN MCLUCAS

Second grade students Charlie Laucher, Charleigh Isley and Rachel Hutson

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Historical Society holding annual meeting of membership April 25

Botetourt County Historical Society, Inc. will hold its annual meeting of the membership on Thursday, April 25 beginning at 7 p.m. in the Fincastle United Methodist Church Family Life Center. Michael Hudson, Executive Director of Historic Smithfield, will also

be on hand to give a short presentation, titled "A Spy Unmasked: 250 Years Later," about a Revolutionary War-era spy that called Botetourt home.

- Botetourt County Historical Society

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ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HONOR ROLLS

Botetourt County elementary schools have released the following honor rolls for the third nine weeks grading period:

BRECKINRIDGE

A HONOR ROLL

THIRD GRADE: Weston Albright, Weston Baker, Kate Brady, William Burton, Bromlee Coben, Jedediah Divers, Piper Herrig, Ava Horne, Cylas May, Carly McVey, Jackson Monaghan, Luis Morales-Tomas, Lukas Moyers, Justin Petty, Eleanor Rushing, Addison Sprinkle, Paul Turman

FOURTH GRADE: Shajeania Aronson, Sadie Davidson, Harold Davis, Lennox Duty, Elizabeth Earnest, Logan McVey, Charlotte Moulton, Heidi Rusgrove, Camryn Sartorius, Reece Saunders, Aida Simmons, Sydney West

FIFTH GRADE: Rilee Erickson, Anna Henry, Jaden Herrig, Sadie May

A-B HONOR ROLL

THIRD GRADE: Wyatt Beavers, Henry Bergeron, Heatherlyn Garland, Braelyn Horn, Avalyn Justice, Kensie Kaufman, William Ronk, Stella Rusgrove, Peyton Stump, Alyssa Ware, Liam Wood

FOURTH GRADE: Lawson Beavers, Leya Crawford, Autumn Cuddy, Dennon Dudding, Amelia Duff, Easton Firebaugh, Madeline Groves, Novah Long, Cora Lowman, Madison Meador, Oleksii Mostovyi, Amelia Neighbors, Caden Rucker

FIFTH GRADE: Jamie Arthus, Jameson Brady, Ava Burton, Tanner Goyer, Ryder Hall, Kirra Kitt, Logan Moyers, Ronan Snyder, Luke Sprinkle, Jocelyn Theimer

BUCHANAN

A HONOR ROLL

FIFTH GRADE: Lindsey Branch, Bruce Kelley, Wren Manbeck, Maci Silva, Rosalie Stull, Adalyn Whitney,

FOURTH GRADE: Josee Armentrout, Colton Haynes,

THIRD GRADE: Brylan Coleman, Sophie Dunbar, Maggie Tolley,

A-B HONOR ROLL

FIFTH GRADE: Kyle Asbury, Xavier Basham, Ruby Boblett, Liam Camper, Jovie Franklin, Autumn Ginapp, Robin Haburn, Sedley Jeter, Brantley Smith, Tucker Tate, Abigail Topkin, Roy Trivellin, Natalee Vassar

FOURTH GRADE: Elowen Anderson, Kasey Ayers, Berkley Carroll, Lily Fix, Jaxson Flannagan, Imelda Graham, Olivia Graves, Madeleine Huddleston, Avery Kelly, Henry Kinion, Rosalee Lash, Cullen Prill, Parker Tate, Hayana Thompson

THIRD GRADE: Tatum Austin, Harley Bray, Barrett Breeden, David Caldwell, Sullivan Capriani, Jacklyn Dooley, Olivia Falls, Bailee Flint, Blake Fridley, Zoey Gibson, Cooper Haynes, Elizabeth Martin, Sawyer Neale, Lainey Parker, Carson Peck, Joyce-Anne Poff, Analeigh Smith, Alexandra Tacilla Powell, Travis Thomasson, Ricky Tolley

CLOVERDALE

A HONOR ROLL

FIFTH GRADE: Luke Davis, Grace Jensen, Taryn Kincer, Jackson Kish, Leona Wilhoit

FOURTH GRADE: Adam Barbour, Kyra Davis, Afton Patrick, Raelyn Steinruck, Link Thacker, Ryder Watson

THIRD GRADE: Jack Arvisais, Jakob Bishop, Grayson Bruch, Matthias Brummer, Crosby Cundiff, Charles Salmon III, Emily Stakor, Kaylee Tran, Jocelyn Williamson

A-B HONOR ROLL

FIFTH GRADE: Macey Caldwell, Andrew Collins, Garrett Helms, Bailey Higgins, Micah Laffoon, Grayson Markham, Gabriel Mutter, Hannah Myers, Charlie Pruitt, Aubree Rogers, Jordan Smyers, Aubrey Witt

FOURTH GRADE: Harrison Akers, Nova Bailey, Everlie Beckner, Evelyn Brummer, Yitong Chen,

Anna Cobler, Jaxon Hodges, Charles Jones, Alhan Khan, Nikolas Klaus, Emma Markham, Natalyn Meador, Mason Nichols, Augusta Payne, Maelie Pritt, Ethan Reolizo, Hunter Ristine, Denver Thompson, Carley Vaughn, Katelynn Wagner, Josi Whitaker, Roman Wilhoit, Finley Williams

THIRD GRADE: Tessa Barnes, Mason Baskcomb, Joseph Engels, William Foster, Jaxon Gusler, Aiza Khan, Jack Laffoon, Isabella Lennartson, Kellan McCormack, Colin Moon, Ansey Naff, Major Perdue, Kilee Reynolds, Joanna Sorrell, Ava Truxillo, Elizabeth Unroe, Hannah Wagner, London Westervelt, Lauren Yates

COLONIAL

A HONOR ROLL

FIFTH GRADE: Jackson Cockfield, Savannah Colleluori, Braeden Daniels, Cohen Grant, Kalin Guilliams, Gwenna Hartvigsen, Grayson Johnson, Kaylee Kammerer, Shea Legon, Nicholas Meyer, John Nancarrow, Ember Persing, Kylie Pippert, Scharlotte Rock, Trevor Rock, Caleb Slaughter, Alexa Thomas,

FOURTH GRADE: William Booth, Stephanie Brown, Natalie Buehring, Cooper Dooley, Wesley Hilgers, Norris Johansen, Olivia Karabin, Olivia Kirby, Evelyn Milko, Claire Miller, Sophia Reiner, Madelynn Roberts, Roman Spencer, Maci Walls, Abigail Williamson, Charlotte Woody

THIRD GRADE: Felix Anduiza, Jamison Blackmon, Jace Clary, Camille Cockfield, Nolan Colleluori, Berkley DeHaven, Corrina Drew, Tyler Duckworth, Arwen Gibson, Holly Hatfield, Ashton Hinds, Bryson Howery, Eli Loflen, Reilly Madden, Kaleb Martin, Lilliana McCloud, Henry Moore, Camden Ratliff, Aria Ribble, Greyson Smith, Tessa Thompson, Sailor Vinson, Emily Walker, Kyra Walrond, Raylin Weddle, Ella Wise

A-B HONOR ROLL

FIFTH GRADE: Yalda Atayi, Cayden Bengel, Emmalin Butler, Colton Carter, Noah Church, Wagner Collins, Levi Crockett, Autumn Dale, Micah Eggleston, Easton Epperly, Brooks Ferguson, Emma Garcia, Jesse Grooms, Bryson Harless, Tristan Hinds, Reese Holloman, Curtis Law, Brooklyn Leek, Brynn Nunley, Kinley Oliver, Brooklyn Orange, Paisley Purdham, Madison Reynolds, Presley Russell, Layla Samuel-Bolt, Daniel Sanchez Campos, Paisli Saunders, Caleb Sherman, Griffin Spalding, Alizabeth Tribbett, Liam Ward, Roman Wheeler, Nate Wilson, Jamie Wright

FOURTH GRADE: Cooper Anderson, Henry Badgley, Layla Beard, Riley Boyd, Braeden Brown, Ashlyn Corey, Chadwick Dales Jr., Mason Dalglish, Riley Dallos, Jackson Duncan, Annalyn Gilbert, Kolby Gillespie, Lillian Halsey, Reese Huffman, Arianna Irons, Raven Johnson, Finn Keleher, Landon Knick, Liam Lavinder, Isaac Lewis, Logan Maddox, Brooklyn Morgan, Alyona Parrish, Katelyn Pierce, Josiah Powers, Bryson Prusak, Jack Roginski, Serena Smith, Grayson Starks, Cora Tolbert, Robert Triplett, Brady Tyler, Emma Willmott, Elijah Wright

THIRD GRADE: Khalilullah Atayi, Alessia Baradat, Easton Byrd, Gwyndolyn Cavinder, Sawyer Deacon, Adalyn Dooley, Chandler Graybill, Jackson Green, Brantley Hamilton, Emilia Harless, Sawyer Harrison, Adaline Higgins, Briana Jimenez Morales, River Kelly, Noah Laster, Camden Lewis, Effie McCrady, Paisley McCune, Madilyn Moore, Brently Muse, Benjamin Myers, Emily Nancarrow, Emily Purves, Brody Radford, Natalie Scott, Willow Sisson, Skyler Sitman, Samuel Spencer, Ashlyn Stout, Lakyn Turner

EAGLE ROCK

A HONOR ROLL

FIFTH GRADE: Mia Thurston, Micah Tingler, Adelyn Tribble, Ellymae Windsor

FOURTH GRADE: None

THIRD GRADE: None

A-B HONOR ROLL

FIFTH GRADE: Brady Benoit, Jackson Lowe, Mason Mays

FOURTH GRADE: Charles Ayers, Serena Beard, Elise Cason, Alayna Johnson, Kayleigh Morris, Elijah Neal

THIRD GRADE: Alexandria Bryant, Katalaya Dunbar, Zayden Eroh, Kennydi Lamb, Kiara

Landram, Kyree Nance

GREENFIELD

A HONOR ROLL

FIFTH GRADE: Harper Beckner, Molly Bogen, Gavin Bondurant, Charles Burnette, Reese Burns, Jericho Daniel, John Davis, Lucy Dubbe', Bryson Garner, Tyler Gilmer, Kaylen Hull, Noah Koon, Kyra Lake, Jalen Lin, Anastasia Lupiya, Leah Meadows, Haden Murphy, Claire Nagle, Gabriel Papenfuse, Kiyan Patel, Cooper Pritt, Nora Salsgiver, Lucy Shawn, Eleanor Shively, Julian True, Cadence Wood, Bodhi Woodson

FOURTH GRADE: Cameron Allison, Dalilah Bridgen, Anthony Coolick, Jake Delp, Lilia Hoover, Kellan Ives, Charlotte Lee, Owen Leftwich, Ansey McMeans, Jace Newman, Elias Reynolds, Sofia Russ, Kade Underwood, Lila-Rose Waddell, Avery Wertz, Caleb Wright

THIRD GRADE: Avery Wertz, Caleb Wright, Benjamin Bowden, Porter Brock, Emma Burns, Silas Delseni, Ella Foskey, Austin Hatchett, Jaxon Hughes, Jack Keogh, Luke Layman, Callahan MacBrien, Collin Murphy, Grant Pendleton, Nora Pinkerton, Emma Pry, Katherine Roberts, EmmaRose Scherrep, Olivia Shively, Kyle Simmons, Brielle Smith, Caleb Wypych

A-B HONOR ROLL

FIFTH GRADE: Emma Allison, Easton Barrett, Aoife Case, Layah Combs, Bear Delseni, Ethan Dooley, Norbin Figueroa Diaz, Kyrie Gardner, Allison Graham, Matthew Hankins, Gavin Hill, Dillon Hollins, Corinne King, Ella Marshall, Madison Mathews, Benjamin McMeans, Alexander Olin, Gerard Pablo-Damian, Adriana Reyes Gomez, Nicholis Robtison, Rex Rucker, Logan Simmons, Cooper Taylor, Christopher Vail, Olivia Woodruff

FOURTH GRADE: Averi Alderman, Eli Boggs, Daniella Carillo, Jackson Daniels, Patrick Dent, Kannon Dively, Joshua Dunker, Vivian Estes, Elora Farmer, Scarlett Hunt, Rieley Lisle, Tucker Lisle, Giuseppe Lopez, Matthew Lupiya, Stacy Mejia, London Merchant, Katelyn Moore, Jordan Murray, Benson Nicely, Colton Osborne, Olivia Poff, Adeline Rupe, Isaac Sampson, Aaron Shelton, Isaiah Tribble, Ethan Tucker, Danny Ulloa Mancia, Jayden Ward, Wren Wiley, Dannica Wise, Paul Yopp

THIRD GRADE: Kim Barber, Elizabeth Blosser, Bryce Campbell, Emma Douthat, Austin Evans Jr, Rowan Flannigan, Jackson Foutz, Emily Fringer, Adlee Kennedy-Mackay, Lealan Kessler, Brielle King, Heidi Longley, Ivy Molter, Abby Poff, August Rivers, Wyatt Troutt

TROUTVILLE

A HONOR ROLL

FIFTH GRADE: Landyn Foster, Ruby Martin, Dawson Simmons

FOURTH GRADE: Colby Beckner, Rylan Borba, John Cruise, Levi Frederickson, Grayson Houseman, Parker Lough, Luke Mullins, Benjamin Saville, Bria Scharf, Isabelle Williams

THIRD GRADE: Karolina Akers, Kohen Anderson, Parker Brugh, Eleanor Daly, Carson Ferguson, Lili Fernatt, Madilyn Horton, Riley Martino, Marshall Rives, Whitney Slaughter, Everly Turner, Annabelle Vargas, Brooke Williams

A-B HONOR ROLL

FIFTH GRADE: Lily Alls, Makenna Carswell, Ryan Cunningham, Mason Gilliam, Samuel Jackson, Alex Mattarocchia, Brantley McMillion, Caroline Powell, Aubrey Spence, Flora Stump, Cora Wimmer

FOURTH GRADE: Nevaeh Adams, Reese Cecil, Liam Cooper, Caleb Dogan, Everley Duns-Spiteri, Dawne Guthrie, Emmet Hamre, Adam Lawson, Sherman Macias-Chavez, Aleyda Ponce, Emerson Race, Kendall Roberts, Riggins Rutledge, Tate Rutledge, Kristin Stuart, River Whitaker, Autumn Wright

THIRD GRADE: Charlie Ballew, Eleanor Bishop, Macy Botkins, Jaimeson Broughman, Gavin Burns, Raven Candelaria, Mikenzie Cao, Wyatt Crotty, Azaria Foreman, Ava Greer, Lucas Kessler, Kayla Kidwell, Mason Lyle, William Scott, Caleb Umberger, Reilly Winfield, Kinsleigh Young

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UPCOMING COUNTY LIBRARY EVENTS

Podcast Club

Thu, Apr 18, 11am-12pm, Buchanan
Choose from a list of recommended podcasts (or find your own) on the month's theme, then discuss your takeaways and podcast suggestions with fellow curious listeners while enjoying coffee and social connection. April's theme: Travel.

Wed, May 14, 10-11:30am, Fincastle
Win fun prizes and enjoy social time with this popular game. Offered in partnership with the Botetourt County Sheriff's Office and Parks & Recreation.

Choose Your Own Adventure

Thu, Apr 25, 4-6pm, Fincastle
Tue, Apr 30, 4-6pm, Eagle Rock
Based on the popular book series, follow a story and choose your own plot twists to create a unique adventure! Follow your adventure to craft stations inspired by the first four original books in the "Choose Your Own Adventure" series. Best for ages 7-14.

StoryTime

Tuesdays 10:30-11am, Blue Ridge
Wednesdays 10:30-11am, Eagle Rock
Wednesdays 6-6:30pm, Fincastle
Thursdays 10:30-11am, Blue Ridge & Fincastle
Fridays 10:30-11am, Buchanan
Enjoy books, songs, and tactile activities that build literacy, motor, and social skills. Best for preschoolers.

Youth Chess Club

Tuesdays 4-5pm, Eagle Rock
Tuesdays 5:30-6:30pm, Blue Ridge
Learn the basics of chess while expanding your critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Offered in partnership with Botetourt County Parks & Recreation. Best for ages 10-17. Registration required.

Bird Watching for Beginners

Sat, Apr 27, 10:30-11:30am, Blue Ridge
Sat, Apr 27, 12:30-1:30pm, Buchanan
Dive into a hands-on bird watching lesson from the Roanoke Valley Bird Club. Learn about birds in our area, why they are important to the ecosystem, issues our birds face, as well as tips and tricks for spotting them.

Intro to Genealogy

Mon, Apr 22, 2-3pm, Fincastle
Learn basic genealogy research skills, including where to start your research and what resources are available, particularly for the Botetourt area. Presented by Library Genealogist Rena Worthen.

Eclectic Readers

Thu, Apr 25, 11am-12pm, Eagle Rock
The Dutch House by Ann Patchett
Fri, Apr 26, 11am-12pm, Blue Ridge
The Night Watchman by Louise Erdrich
Discuss books and authors with fellow readers while enjoying coffee and social connection.

Senior Bingo

Thu, Apr 25, 10-11:30am, Eagle Rock

Find even more events at BOCOLibraries.info.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Donations needed for Fourth of July fireworks

There are two and a half months before the Fourth of July fireworks display at Breckinridge Elementary School in Fincastle will be held. Last year's fireworks display was wonderful. The fireworks display will cost \$7,000 this year because we had to hire a professional fireworks company. We will be using the same company, Master Display, as we had last year.

Donations will be needed. We appreciated all who donated to the wonderful event in the Town of Fincastle last year.

Our Fourth of July fireworks display has been enjoyed by many people in Botetourt and other counties. Let your friends, co-workers, and families know about the Fincastle Fourth of July fireworks. Come and have an enjoyable time together with family and friends.

Donations can be taken to the Fincastle Town Office or sent to Town of Fincastle, P.O. Box 250, Fincastle, 24090. You can call the Town Office at 540-473-2200 to use your debit or credit card to make a donation.

Let's make the 2024 Fincastle Fourth of July fireworks display the best show of the year.
Paige Ware
Fourth of July Fireworks Committee

intense that it can only be assuaged by personally attacking one who states the facts. Notice how she and others who may have contributed to her sad diatribe don't contradict anything said in my letter because everyone knows it is all true. So, the only retort is to deflect.

As it has been awhile, and we've been subjected to a few attempted rebuttal letters which contain only personal attacks, let me refresh your memory about the assertions she made in her March 13 letter regarding why the assessment on her property should not be increased. First, she has no kid(s) in school; second, she lives on a private road, she lives on a private road, thus no county money is spent on asphalt sealing/ resealing of her road; third, she doesn't need to tie up EMS, police, fire department or courts, etc.; and fourth, her house requires maintenance.

On March 13, these were illogical statements and, today, they are still illogical statements. The facts are that many of us don't have children in the schools; her county taxes and those of all other county residents don't fund road repairs (these come from VDOT's budget, and neither VDOT, nor the county, repair private roads); emergency services are the very last thing you would want to be without when you need them (and eventually, you will) and, unfortunately, a part of home ownership, along with paying real estate taxes, is doing maintenance. I won't bore you with the tutorial on calculating an assessment

increase percentage again - we've already been over that.

Sadly, this grumpy old coot is left puzzled over how to bridge a communication and information gap as wide as this one. Perhaps a Civics 101 lesson is in order?

Bob Patterson
Fincastle

Letter writer clarifies reassessment figures

I now realize I must explain how we reached out reassessment value at 93%. It seems that we are being called liars and chronic complainers because of the figure.

I should have been specific that the increase was on our house and buildings, not our land. Our land was assessed at the same figures, but the house and buildings went up from over \$55,000 to \$106,000. I will let our fellow citizens calculate the increase.

I have yet to see why the letter writer thinks the citizens should be happy to see the large increases. We have talked to many citizens who are upset about the increase. It is not just us. I also now that no one has responded to the reassessment of the home in Eagle Rock going up over 60%. The owners are eager to sell to anyone willing to pay over \$250,000.

Barbara Fridley
Eagle Rock

See Letters, page 7

Put The Classifieds To Work!
Call 389-9355

Submit all Letters to the Editor to Fincastle@ourvalley.org

League for Animal Protection's Waif of the Week

Cypress is a 1-year-old Beagle mix. He came to LAP on February 22 from Scott County where he was taken in as a stray. He appears to be housetrained and is fine with other dogs. He is heartworm negative, 22 pounds, UTD with vaccines, neutered and chipped. He is an escape artist and will require very secure fencing. Doors will have to be carefully closed or he'll be off and running. He is the cutest little fellow. Fencing is required!

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

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Book sale at Blue Ridge Library

Friends of the Blue Ridge Library will hold a book sale April 25-27. The sale begins on Thursday, April 25, from 5-8 p.m. The sale continues Friday, April 26, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturday, April 27, from 10 a.m.-1:45 p.m. There will be a large variety of books for sale. Hardcover books are priced at \$1 each and paperback books are priced at 50 cents each. Saturday is Bag Day when you may purchase a bag of books for only \$3.

Proceeds from the book sale help the Friends to support library programs such as the annual Summer Learning Challenge or to purchase materials that the library needs, especially those not covered in the annual operating budget. Blue Ridge Library is located at 28 Avery Row on US 460 about a half-mile east of the Bonsack Walmart. For directions, call 540-928-2900.

- Friends of Blue Ridge Library

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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CLUES ACROSS

- Product or ___ (abbr.)
- Zodiac sign
- S. China seaport
- Former OSS
- Early English printer
- Aphid genus
- General's assistant (abbr.)
- Aussies
- Dissuades
- Make law
- Drench
- Soak in a liquid
- Male child
- It cools your home
- Small constellation
- To call (archaic)
- Explores beneath the Earth
- Commercial
- W. hemisphere organization
- You can find it in a can
- "Land of the free"
- 36 inches
- Footwear
- Challenges
- They hold things together
- Partner to flow
- Not connected by kinship
- Worries
- Garlic mayonnaise
- A way to take by force
- Legendary English rockers
- Your consciousness of your own identity
- Fencing swords
- Silly
- Actor DiCaprio
- Male parents
- Mails a message
- Longing
- CLUES DOWN
- Horse mackerels
- It can be viral
- Prickly plants
- Consciousness
- Type of sarcoma
- Tax collector
- Sun up in New York
- One who scorches
- Influential psychotherapist
- Situated at an apex
- Communicative
- Forearm nerve
- Former CIA
- Folk singer DiFranco
- Employee stock ownership plan
- Large-scale
- School environment
- Remove
- Midway between northeast and east
- Large rodent
- Weighed down
- Held tightly
- ___ route: going there
- Explains again
- Exclamation of surprise
- Courteously
- Lying down
- Judge
- Forcefully took
- Loosely compacted sediment
- Cereal grass
- Dining utensil
- Thoughtful
- Helps you walk
- Indicates near
- Midway between northeast and east
- Local area network

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One Life

London broker Nicholas "Nicky" Winton (Anthony Hopkins) helps rescue hundreds of predominantly Jewish children from Czechoslovakia in a race against time before the Nazi occupation closes the borders. Fifty years later, he's still haunted by the fate of those he wasn't able to bring to safety.

Friday, April 19
7 p.m.

Saturday, April 20
7 p.m.

Sunday, April 21
3 p.m.

Thursday, April 25
7 p.m.

See Answers, page 8

Subscribe!
389-9355

BCPS

from page 1



Lord Botetourt's state shot put champion Kendal Howard and Blue Ridge District representative Matt East



2024 Roanoke Valley Regional Science fair Grand Award recipient Kane Keczek and Buchanan District representative Jenny Wilson (not pictured Hannah Mizuba)



PHOTOS COURTESY OF BCPS

Colonial Elementary School Principal Tammy Riggs (left), 2024 Division Spelling Bee Champion Savannah Collelouri, and School Board Chair Anna Weddle

picked for the First Team All-State Swim and Dive Team (100-yard Backstroke).

Colonial Elementary student Savannah Collelouri received a certificate for becoming the 2024 Division Spelling Bee Champion during the February 19 contest at Lord Botetourt High School. Finn Wilkinson was the division runner-up representing Read Mountain Middle School.

The board also held recognitions for Botetourt students that competed in the 2024 Western Virginia Regional Science Fair. Grand Award projects were awarded to Lord Botetourt High School students Kane Keczek and Hannah Mizuba for "Evaluation of Cuscuta interaction with Arabidopsis thaliana Expressing RUBY Reporter" in the category of "Plant Sciences A." Laila Alam and Emily Duncan took home first place honors for "Using

Montmorillonite Clay to Remediate Algal Blooms" in the "Materials Science/Chemistry" category. These students will advance to the Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair May 11-17 in Los Angeles, Calif.

The board recognized students who took home High School Category Awards at the 2024 Western Virginia Regional Science Fair which include Botetourt students Kaeli Berry and Adison Mayhue.

Rounding out Thursday's recognitions, the board announced members of the Virginia School Board Association (VSBA) Business Honor Roll. Three businesses made the honor roll this year: Industries, Inc., MAAG Gala, Inc. and the Virginia Cooperative Extension. Later this year, VSBA will publish the Business Honor Roll in the association's newsletter and recognize the businesses or organizations on the VSBA website.



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CHURCH NEWS

Springwood Food Pantry open Saturday

The Springwood Baptist Food Pantry will be open on Saturday, April 20, from 9-10:30 a.m. The pantry is located at 88 Capps Hill Road, Buchanan. This pantry is a drive-through pantry, so clients may remain in their cars and volunteers will load the food for them. The pantry is open each month on the third Saturday from 9-10:30 a.m. It is a partner with Feeding America Southwest Virginia and anyone in need of food is invited.

Fincastle UMC Chicken BBQ April 20

Fincastle United Methodist Church will have its annual Chicken BBQ with Percy Bolton's "Special Sauce" on April 20 from 4-7 p.m. at the VFW on Route 220. The dinner is available as dine in or take out. Dinner includes half a BBQ chicken, potato salad, baked apples, roll, and drink. Dessert items will be sold separately. Tickets are \$15 per person. For questions and/or tickets, contact Gayle Ross at (540) 473-2437; leave a message and your call will be returned.

Spring Fashion Show in Cloverdale

Cloverdale Church of Brethren, along with the Heaven Sent Thrift Shop, will host a Spring Fashion Show with refreshments on Saturday, April 27, from 11a.m.-1 p.m.

New outreach program at Fincastle United Methodist

Fincastle United Methodist Church is starting a new

outreach program, "Terrific Tuesdays," beginning April 30. Terrific Tuesdays will be a church and community dinner, taking place on the last Tuesday of each month, year-round. The dinner begins at 5:30 p.m. and is free to all. Donations will be accepted. Plan to come to a meal and enjoy visiting with the community.

Cowbell Service at Mt. Joy

Mt. Joy Church of the Brethren will host a Cowbell Service at 7 p.m. Saturday, April 20. Everyone is welcome. The church is located at 2565 Buffalo Road, Buchanan.

Spring Bazaar at Mount Olivet

Mount Olivet United Methodist Church's Spring Bazaar will be held from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. on Saturday, May 4, with breakfast and lunch, a bake sale, yard sale (space, \$5), and items for sale made by the Mt. Olivet Quilters. The church is located at 26310 Lee Highway, Buchanan. Come and enjoy the food and fellowship. For information, call 540-254-1353 or 540-798-8192.

Top Dawg Food Truck coming to Ebenezer UMC

The Top Dawg Food Truck will be at Ebenezer United Methodist Church, 85 Nace Road, Troutville, every Monday from 5-7 p.m. at least until June. All are welcome to stop by for great food.

Cloverdale Church of the Brethren Thrift Store

Spring has sprung at the Thrift Store. There is summer apparel for the entire family – name brand clothes for only \$1. The Thrift Store is open on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon. Donations are welcome.

Wesley Chapel Cemetery Fund needs donations for upkeep

Donations are needed for the upkeep of the Wesley Chapel Cemetery in Eagle Rock. Those who wish to help may send checks to Wesley Chapel Cemetery Fund, c/o Doris Johnson, 1906 Salt Petre Cave Road, Eagle Rock, 24085.

Mother's Day Tea at St. Mark's UMC

St. Mark's United Methodist will be hosting a Mother's Day Tea on Saturday, May 11 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. You can dine in for a "High Tea" experience or get a box to go. Traditional tea foods will be served including finger sandwiches, scones and dessert. The cost is \$20 for one meal and tea; \$36 for two meals; \$48 for three meals; and four or more meals are \$16 each. Children under 12 are \$10. To reserve meal/meals, go to the church website, www.stmarksmethodist.com, or call 540-966-3629 and leave a message.

Springwood Baptist yard sale May 4

Springwood Baptist Church is sponsoring an indoor yard sale on May 4 from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. in the fellowship hall. A variety of gently used clothing items and household goods will be available for purchase at reasonable prices. From noon until 1 p.m. on the day of the sale, a \$1 Bag Sale will take place – items that can be placed in a single bag may be purchased for \$1 during this hour. Fill as many bags as you would like for the price of \$1 each. Additionally, a bake sale will be held with homemade baked goods and drinks. All proceeds from this sale will be donated to the church's Community Emergency Relief Fund and the Patricia S. Shiflett Scholarship Fund.

ARRESTS

The Botetourt County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests for April 8-14:

- Calyn G. Powell, 29, of Fincastle, contributing to the delinquency of a minor, April 8
- Linda M. Grandy, 65 of Fincastle, contributing to the delinquency of a minor, obstruction of justice, April 8
- Travis M. Smith, 32, of Fincastle, contributing to the delinquency of a minor, April 8
- Bruce E. Fay, 61, of Fincastle, drunk in public, April 11
- Franco Montuori, 22, of Vinton, simple assault, violation of a protective order, April 12
- Judah Matheny, 50, of Roanoke, drunk in public, April 13
- Michael A. Wynne, 29, of Boones Mill, reckless driving, eluding law enforcement, April 14

Knights of Columbus Friday Fish Fry

The Knights of Columbus Fish Fry is April 19, 5-7 p.m., with little-to-no-wait. Eat in or take out until 7 p.m. at the Church of the Transfiguration, 7624 Roanoke Road, Fincastle. Cost is \$12 (ages 7 and under are free) for two filets of lightly breaded flounder (or six chicken nuggets reserved for children or adults who do not want fish), crispy fries, sweet cornbread, homemade coleslaw, and choice of one dessert. A50/50 drawing will be held. There are no advance ticket sales. Proceeds will benefit Botetourt Food Pantry, Backpack Ministry at Greenfield Elementary, Botetourt Resource Center, and other local charities. For more information, call 540-904-3126.

- *Knights of Columbus*

Longaberger Bingo April 20 in Fincastle

Longaberger Basket Bingo to benefit the Friends and Family Relay For Life Team of the American Cancer Society will be played Saturday, April 20, at the Fincastle Fire Department. Bingo begins at 10 a.m. with doors opening at 9:30 a.m. Cost is \$20 for 20 games for assorted Longaberger Baskets of all sizes. Food will be for sale, along with a bake sale and door

prizes. A Chinese Auction will include Longaberger Baskets, Longaberger Wrought Iron and Longaberger Pottery along with other items. Pre-register by April 15 by contacting Andrea Mundy at 540-330-8902 and to register for a drawing for a Longaberger Basket.

- *Friends and Family Relay For Life Team*

Letters

from page 4

This is Work Zone Awareness Week

Each spring, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and other state DOTs recognize Work Zone Awareness Week to remind drivers of the importance of avoiding distractions and driving safely through work zones. Join us at VDOT as we promote National Work Zone Awareness Week, April 15-19, with our theme this year, "Work zones are temporary. Actions behind the wheel can last forever." Whether you work on our roads or drive them every day, work zone safety is everyone's responsibility.

Our employees and contractors put their lives on the line in work zones every day while working to improve travel for motorists in Virginia. This is true in mobile operations like mowing, paving and plowing snow, short-term work zones set up to replace bridges and culverts, as well as in our established work zones

for long-term construction projects. Although signs, cones and safety vests can be effective in warning motorists of a work zone, these tools are no protection against a fast-moving vehicle or an inattentive driver. In fact, most work zone deaths are motorists, not workers, so slowing down, eliminating distractions and paying close attention in work zones can help all of us.

All motorists — whether a seasoned driver or someone new behind the wheel — should follow these instructions when driving through a work zone:

- Work zones are a sign to slow down.
- If you see the orange work zone warning signs, be alert for changing conditions ahead.
- Eliminate distractions and stay aware of your surroundings at all times.
- Follow Virginia's phone down and move over laws.
- In addition, to show support for National Work Zone Awareness Week, VDOT encourages you

to participate in these activities during the week:

- Show us your Orange! Wednesday, April 17 is national "Go Orange Day." Everyone is encouraged to wear orange in support of work zone safety across the country. Share your pictures with us on Twitter and Facebook! #GoOrangeVa
- Attend the vigil at the VDOT Workers Memorial on Afton Mountain on Wednesday, April 17 at 4 p.m.
- Follow us all week long and share our Facebook VDOT Salem District group page at www.facebook.com/groups/VDOTsalem and ReTweet with us @VaDOTsalem.

Join our team to keep our roads and work zones safe for everyone. Let's work together so we can all arrive at home safely each and every day.

*Ken King, P.E.
District Engineer
VDOT Salem District*

Fincastle

from page 1

the delayed renovations/construction of the new county courthouse. The town is seeking input from citizens about how to spend the grant and plan on holding meetings in the coming months to learn more from the community.

Smith shared in the Mayor's Report that the town plans to meet with VDOT this week about "No Through Trucks" signage in town and also addressing

concerns of the speed limit surrounding Fincastle on Route 220. Council continues to work on the upcoming budget for 2024-25 and has paperwork left for the last reimbursement for the Big Spring Park grant. The town has been able to match volunteer time with cash outlays, having no issue hitting the 20% thresholds.

"The idea of the grant was an 80/20 match," Smith shared. "We've

been overwhelmed with the amount of volunteer time that we've been able to apply towards that grant... I've been able to bank some time that we can use as we go through these reimbursements."

McFadyen spoke about the recent driving tour with representatives of CDBG and said they are "anxious for the courthouse project to get rolling so (CDBG) will have a better idea of their planning process." The

public design charette was originally planned for May, but has now been pushed back to June 11-12 in hopes there may be an official plan released by then via the county about the future of the courthouse's construction. The town will continue to provide updates about their grant planning.

The town is planning "clean up days" for leaf litter and fall for leaf litter pick up around

town. McFadyen and town groundskeeping attendant Cole Crowder are looking for feedback from the town in planning a day for the cleanup. McFadyen said the plan is for a truck and trailer to be located in town where people may dump their leaf litter.

Bess Madonna, a representative of the Friends of Fincastle Library, welcomed the community to the Earth Day Event this Saturday

at the Fincastle Library from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Their goal for 2024 is to provide information to the community on environmental issues.

To view last week's April 11 agenda, visit the Town of Fincastle's website at <https://www.townoffincastle.org/agenda-minutes-packets.php>.

LB track

from page 1

maybe people on the board here, to pave the way for hand-picked candidates for, again, preferential treatment of offseason football training over track and field... We expect and pay for competent leadership that works for the good of all, not just offseason football."

Holmes claimed school leadership could be initiating "bias policies" and that "things need to be changed."

The track coach was joined by parents and student athletes who also addressed the track team's climate that one student referred to as a "toxic environment."

The Fincastle Herald reached out last week to representatives from Lord Botetourt to comment on the matter to which a response wasn't given by press time.

To watch the public comments from last week's School Board meeting, visit bcps.live/archives.

Legals - Montgomery County

THE NRV MPO SEEKS PUBLIC INPUT FOR THE ROUTE 460 BUSINESS CORRIDOR BICYCLE, PEDESTRIAN, AND TRANSIT STUDY

Find out about the study progress and potential safety improvements along Route 460 Business in Blacksburg, Christiansburg, and Montgomery County. The meeting will be held at the New River Community College, Christiansburg Site located at 782 New River Road NW Suite 400, Room 149 on Thursday, April 25, 2024, from 4:00 to 6:00 pm. In addition to the in-person meeting, public meeting materials will be posted by

Legals - Montgomery County

April 22nd on the New River Valley MPO's website at www.newrivervalleympo.org. They will also be available for review at the offices of the New River Valley MPO. Please give your written comments at the meeting or submit them via USPS to the NRV MPO's office, located at 755 Roanoke St. Ste. 21, Christiansburg, VA 24073. You may also e-mail your comments to 460study@rkk.com. Please reference "460 Study" PH Comments in the subject line. Comments for this study will be received until 5:00 PM, May 9th, 2024.

This public notice and opportunity to comment on the Route 460 Study meets the program of projects requirements as established by the FTA pursuant to 49 U.S.C. Section 5307(c). The NRV MPO ensures

Legals - Montgomery County

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 need more information or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact Dan Brugh at: brughjd@montgomerycountyvva.gov or 540-394-2145, TTY/TTD 711.

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Commonwealth of Virginia VA Code §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316.20-104
Case No. **CL24000530-00**
MONTGOMERY COUNTY
Circuit Court, 55 EAST MAIN STREET, SUITE 1, CHRISTIANSBURG, VA 24073 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re ERIC

Legals - Montgomery County

RANDALE BRYANT v. CHRISTINA MARIE BRYANT
The object of this suit is to: **DIVORCE**. It is ORDERED that CHRISTINA MARIE BRYANT appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before JUNE 5, 2024. APRIL 2, 2024

Legals - Montgomery County

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Cavaliers drop district softball opener to Eagles

The Lord Botetourt softball team opened Blue Ridge District play at Staunton River last week and dropped an 11-1 decision. The Cavaliers were rained out of a Friday home game with William Byrd.

Autumn Russell blasted a solo home run for the Cavs at Staunton River to account for LB's run. Grace Thomas and Bry Orange had one hit each.

"We made solid contact offensively but just could not get any baserunners going for us," said LB coach Megan Cook. "Staunton River has always been a strong team offensively and defensively. Ultimately we could have done better collectively as a team."

The loss dropped LB to 3-5 overall and the Cavaliers were scheduled to play at William Fleming on Tuesday. A busy week continues with a non-district game at Hidden Valley today and a trip to Northside for a BRD game Friday, the third away game of the week.



PHOTO BY REGINA DEVINNEY
Jackson Kemper makes the catch for the Cavalier girls softball team.

River soccer girls will play at Radford Monday

The James River girls will take on arch rival Radford next Monday in a Three Rivers District soccer game at Radford High. The girls are 4-4-1 after splitting two close games in the past week.

Last Friday in Springwood the girls lost to Riverheads in a non-district game, 2-0.

"This game was all about missed opportunities," said River coach Bill Smith. "The girls played some good soccer and made several good scoring opportunities, but good defensive pressure and a top notch goal keeper combined with a little bad luck to keep us off the board."

On Monday the Knights bounced back with a 5-3 win over Patrick County in Springwood. Sophia Martin scored early off an assist from Rhaya Kitt to take the lead for the Knights, but the visiting Cougars scored three unanswered goals to take a 3-1 lead into the break.

That score stood until 20 minutes remained on the clock. Then the floodgates opened as the Knights found a second wind. Konner Myer finished two in short



PHOTO BY LEIGH DOWNEY
Annabelle Peay controls the ball for the Knights.

order, the first unassisted and the second set up by Martin to tie the game at 3-3. Minutes later, Alise Orent drove hard past the defense and fired a shot on goal. The keeper deflected it, but Victory Race-Waller was there to finish as River took a 4-3 lead with 11 minutes remaining. Orent found the back of the net again with three minutes remaining in the match, assisted by Myers, to seal the victory.

Kylee Aaron made eight saves for the Knights and came out of the box to break up multiple attacks. Skye Ayers made 13 saves for the Gladiators.

Botetourt Sports Complex is home base for Chance Crawford Softball Tournament

The always-anticipated Chance Crawford Benefit Softball Tournament is back this weekend with 189 teams from 10 states competing on fields throughout Virginia's Blue Ridge region. The Botetourt Sports Complex will again serve as the home base for the

charitable tournament while the final stages of renovation are completed at the Moyer Complex in Salem.

The tournament begins Friday, April 19, and runs through Sunday. This year's games will be played on various diamonds in the cities of Salem and Roanoke and

the counties of Bedford, Roanoke, and Botetourt. Contests are scheduled for the Botetourt Sports Complex and fields at the Salem Civic Center, Arnold R. Burton, Whispering Pines, Wasena Park, Huff Lane, Norwich Field, Bedford Moose Lodge, and Oakey Field.

JR Softball

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Ripley Barry battled on the mound to get the complete game win for the Knights, striking out nine batters, walking seven and hitting two. The Patriots only managed four hits. Caitlyn Downey, Sydnee Breeding and Keira Crawford had two hits each for River.

On Monday in Springwood the Knights hosted new district member Patrick County and dropped a 2-1 decision in a well-played game. Patrick County pitcher McKenzie Holt pitched a two-hitter, striking out eight, walking four and hitting two batters.

"It was a really well played high school softball game," said River coach Steve Austin. "They played flawless defense and we had a couple of hiccups that didn't factor in. It's another close game that we let get away, but it wasn't for the lack of effort. We played hard and I'm proud of that."

Barry threw a complete game four-hitter for River with seven strikeouts and four walks. Breeding had a double, a walk and a run scored while Downey had a single and a walk for River.

The Knights fell to 3-4 overall and 0-3 in the Three Rivers with the loss. The Cougars improved to 8-3, 3-1.



PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN
James River shortstop Sydnee Breeding catches a pop up.



PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Will Hall of LB goes high for a header in last week's game with William Byrd.

LB boys open BRD soccer schedule with two wins

The Lord Botetourt boys opened their Blue Ridge District soccer schedule last week and picked up two wins. The Cavaliers beat Staunton River in Moneta, 5-0, then edged arch rival William Byrd in Daleville, 3-2.

The Cavaliers came out swinging at Staunton River with Will Hall finding Kalob Daniels, who made a quick run down the sideline before draining the shot to make it 1-0. Soon after, goalkeeper JB Cook played a deep ball that made it over the back line where Hall took possession and beat the keeper one-on-one to take a 2-0 lead.

Later in the first half the Cavaliers were in Eagles territory when Daniels took the ball down the sideline and passed it to Andres Barroso, who hit a beautiful left-footed shot to give the Cavaliers a 3-0 lead. Robbie

Sanchez converted a penalty kick to make it 4-0 at the half, and LB put some icing on the cake when Anthony Foster scored his first career goal off an assist from Isaac Alderman for the final score.

Last Friday LB had a nail-biter with William Byrd. Hall got things started when he made a beautiful run down the left side of the pitch and got into the box to cross the ball. The cross deflected to the middle of the 18 where Barroso cleaned up the loose ball and scored the Cavs' first goal of the evening.

The Cavaliers saw multiple chances in the first half but the score remained 1-0 at the half. The Terriers were quick to respond after halftime with a goal of their own in the first three minutes to level the score at 1-1.

With about 10 minutes left in regulation, Hall broke down the right side

of the field from a beautiful through ball to Alderman, who tapped it into the back of the net. The Terriers then tied the game off a direct kick and the contest was all knotted up at 2-2 after regulation time.

The Cavaliers held most of the momentum in the two overtime periods, but it came down to the final seconds to decide the match. LB recovered a goal kick and was able to knock the ball around to switch the field, then Barroso found Hall at the back post to give the Cavaliers the game-winning goal right before the final whistle.

With the win LB improved to 2-4 overall. The Cavaliers were scheduled to play at William Fleming on Tuesday, then host Salem on Thursday followed by an away game at Northside Friday.

Patrick boys edge River in soccer

The James River boys traveled to Stuart on Monday to take on the newest member of the Three Rivers District and home-standing Patrick County took a 2-1 win.

"We came out strong and controlled the pace of the game," said River coach Jared Whiting. "That is a game we should have won, but we gave it away in a few minutes of let down play. We out shot them and out worked them but we were off the mark with our shots."

Josiah Clark scored River's goal with an assist from Matthew Alderson.

"I was very pleased with how we controlled the ball and look forward

to the rematch with them," said Whiting. "It should be a close and exciting game."

The Knights played at Riverheads last Friday and took a 5-1 win. Clark had a three-goal hat trick and added an assist. Aiden Bartulis and Tristan Capo also scored, Cayden Hoyt had two assists and Alderson had one.

"We played strong and dominated in the final third," said Whiting. "Every game we get closer and closer to a complete package. The guys are working hard and steadily improving."

River is now 2-6 overall and the Knights won't play again until next Monday, April 22, when they host Radford in a big district match.

Mixed bag for LB tennis teams

The Lord Botetourt tennis teams played William Byrd last Friday with mixed results. The girls took an 8-1 win over the Terriers at Hollins University while the boys dropped a close one, 5-4, in Vinton.

Botetourt number one Reagan Meade led the Cavaliers in their win. She lost the first set, 6-1, but rallied to win the next two sets, 6-2, 6-3.

"I am very proud of her perseverance," said

coach Sam Belcher.

Mali Ruppel started at number six for the first time in her tennis career and won in two sets, 6-1, 7-6.

"It was awesome to celebrate with her as she won her first ever seeded match," said Belcher.

The boys got singles wins from Ridge Radtke at number one and Tyler McCarren at number three. Also winning for LB were the first doubles team of Radtke and Chase Dozier and third doubles of McCarren and Payten Arnold.

Both teams were scheduled to play William

Fleming counterparts on Tuesday. On Thursday the boys will host Staunton River at Hollins with the girls taking on the Golden Eagles in Moneta, then on Friday the boys host Northside and the girls go there.



PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN
Reagan Meade

LB girls open district soccer with a win

The Lord Botetourt girls defeated Staunton River last week to open their Blue Ridge District soccer season with a victory. The Cavaliers took a 6-1 win on the Daleville pitch.

The Cavs led just 1-0 at the half on a goal by Emma Rice, assisted by Bria

Harvey. Staunton River tied the game early in the second half, but from there it was all LB. Rice scored two more goals to polish off a three goal "hat trick" and Ella Fletcher, Amelia Dietrich and Harvey all scored second half goals.

With the win LB is 2-3 overall. The Cavaliers

have three home games this week. They were scheduled to play at home against William Fleming Tuesday, at home against Salem Thursday and home to Northside on Friday. On Northside, April 22, they have a fourth straight home game when they host E.C. Glass.

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Brian Hoffman
Sports Editor

Julie Conner stepping down as LB's volleyball coach

After a dozen years as head coach, including three state championships, Julie Conner is stepping down as Lord Botetourt volleyball coach to spend more time with the family. Conner announced her decision last week.

"This was a difficult decision and it did take time to reach it," she said. "Coaching volleyball has been a big part of my life for a long time, but coaching a varsity sport requires a great deal of time and energy, both in and out of season. I felt that it was best for my family right now to step away."

Julie was an assistant coach for two seasons, 2010 and '11, before becoming head coach in 2012. In the following 12 years her teams won 258 matches and lost only 53. The Cavaliers were Blue Ridge District regular season champions eight times, BRD tournament champs seven times, region champs three times and state champions three times in 2017, '18 and '19.

During the three championships years LB lost just once and was undefeated in 2017 and '19. The Cavaliers had a school record 56 match winning streak that stretched over the 2018 and '19 seasons.

"There have been many great memories over the years, and there's always something that makes each team special," said Conner.

Julie's husband, Chad Conner, was the head basketball coach at LB but he stepped down in 2019 to help Julie with their growing family. Chad has since returned to the bench as an LB girls assistant and will continue in that role. Julie will continue to teach business and marketing classes at Lord Botetourt High School, and has not ruled out the idea of coaching again when the kids get older. The Conners have two children, a boy and a girl ages 4 and 6, who were born while mom and dad were coaching high school sports.

"I am not closing the door on coaching," said Julie. "I love the game and I enjoy coaching, so if there's an opportunity and the timing is right then I'm sure it's something I would consider. If my daughter, Jordan, plays I think it would be neat to coach her one day."

Conner is a "volleyball lifer." Her sister, Sherry Millirons, is the head coach at perennial state Class 1 contender Auburn, and several years Auburn and LB played each other



Julie Conner is stepping down as the LB volleyball coach after a dozen seasons.

and that was a highlight of the season for both. "I am grateful for the opportunity to lead the volleyball program for the past 12 seasons," said Julie.

Cavaliers are tied for the top in BRD baseball

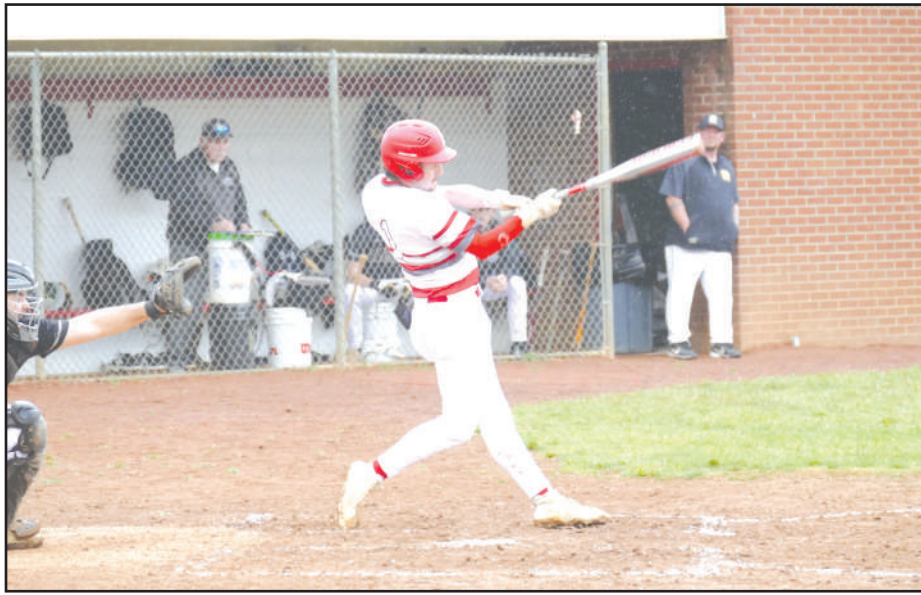


PHOTO BY JENNIFER KING

Ethan Deschambault of Lord Botetourt smacks a double in last week's win.

The Lord Botetourt baseball team comes into the week tied for first place in the Blue Ridge District. LB and Franklin County were both 2-0 prior to Tuesday's games, with LB scheduled to host a winless William Fleming team Tuesday while Franklin County was scheduled to host 2-1 William Byrd.

The Cavaliers picked up two wins last week. On Tuesday they played host to Staunton River and

took a 7-1 win as Caleb O'Quinn pitched a seven-inning complete game one-hitter. He struck out 10, walked two and allowed one unearned run. Nolan Medley was three-for-four with a triple and three runs batted in and Cody McConnaughey and Brayden Wells had two hits each.

A day later they traveled to Brookville and picked up a 9-6 win over the Bees. Medley pitched

the first four innings and got the win, while Ethan Deschambault pitched last three for a save.

Medley was the hot hitter again, going three-for-five with a double. Wells had two hits and two RBIs and Noah Donaho tripled and walked three times.

Now 4-2 overall, the Cavaliers will host Hidden Valley today in a non-district game, then play another home game against Northside Friday.

Knights fall to Patrick in baseball

The James River baseball team took on the newest team in the Three Rivers District on Monday and dropped a 10-1 decision to Patrick County in Springwood.

"We hung around this one for a while as Kody Park really threw well to get us off to a good start," said River coach Chance Henry. "Patrick County threw some really good arms, it was the best pitching we've faced all year."

The game was tied 1-1 after three innings before the Cougars scored four in the fourth inning and three in the fifth to break it open. Park allowed just two earned runs in four and a third innings on the mound before Zeal Hammons and Hunter Mays finished up. The Knights had just one hit, a single by Gabe Staton.

Last week in Springwood the Knights hosted Salem and dropped an 8-1 decision, which was a much closer game than the first meeting in Salem when the Class 4 Spartans mercy ruled the Knights. Four River pitchers held Salem to seven hits after allowing 20 plus in the first meeting. Jeremiah Mays had two hits for the Knights.

"At the end of the day sometimes you just get beat," said Henry. "Salem is a good team and we hung around



PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Logan Joyce of James River runs down a long fly ball in last week's game with Salem.

much better this time around. We competed much better and played solid defense.

"We've had a big turnaround these last five games. Our record hasn't necessarily reflected it, but we've had some buy in to our team goals."

The Knights will be at Carroll County Saturday at 3 p.m. for a rescheduled district game.

Cavs, Knights run first meet on new LB track, girls run on new track at Liberty Christian



PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Jashen McLean (left) of LB and Gavin Binns of James River steam around the turn in the 200 meters in the first track meet on the new track at Lord Botetourt last week.

Lord Botetourt and James River track teams found the surface to their liking as the boys and girls inaugurated the new track in Daleville last week, then the LB girls competed on another new track at Liberty Christian Academy in Lynchburg.

Lord Botetourt, James River and Parry McCluer ran a meet on the new LB track last Wednesday and there were rave reviews for the new surface. The Botetourt Unified team, for special athletes, also participated in the meet.

"That made it all worthwhile, to see the smiling faces of the special needs kids," said LB boys coach Jamie Harless. "That was the highlight of the meet for me. Everything ran smoothly, and it was nice to see two county schools on the new track."

First places for James River in the meet included Gavin Binns in the 100 and 200, Aiden Bartulis in the 800 and Ryder Ward in the high jump for the

boys. For the girls, Kai Binns won the 100 and 200, Drew Whitson won the 800 and Naveah Van Buren mopped up with wins in the long jump, triple jump, high jump and discus.

The highlight for LB was Kendal Howard breaking schools records in the shot, at 53'10", and the discus, at 175' 10".

On Friday the LB girls team traveled to LCA for the "Bulldog Under the Lights" meet.

"LCA has a new track and their facilities are beautiful," said LB coach Michelle Gantzhorn. "The girls did amazing despite the gusty winds and cold temps. For a first meet it was run very well, especially for how many teams were there. I am looking forward to running there in the future."

Over 20 teams were in the meet and among the highlights for LB was a fifth place finish in the triple jump and a sixth in the 100m hurdles

by Jillian Harris, who competed despite being ill for most of the week. Anne Thorne took ninth in the 800.

Alicia Holmes had personal records in the 100m with a time of 13.69 and the 400m with a time of 1:09.87, while Madeleine Gantzhorn PR'd in the 200m with a time of 28.99. Other girls who had personal bests were Meredith Allen in the 1,600, Janai Compton in the 400, Ratie Jensen in both the 100 and 300 hurdles as well as the high jump, Emily Maddox in the 800, Anna Moore in both hurdle races and Alina Poudel in the 1,600.

"The girls are growing each day and every milestone is a major achievement," said Gantzhorn. "As their coach I could not be prouder."

The girls were scheduled to run at William Byrd on Wednesday of this week. On Saturday the girls are at Northside and the boys will be in Abingdon.

James River softball team at East Mont today

The James River softball team will play the first of three straight road games when they travel to Elliston to take on Eastern Montgomery in a non-district game today. River will be at Floyd County for a Three Rivers game next Tuesday, followed by a trip to Alleghany on April 26.

River played a couple of Patricks in the past week and went 1-1, defeating Patrick Henry but falling to Patrick County. River defeated Class 5 PH last Wednesday in Roanoke, 9-5, as the Knights put eight on the board in the first inning and held on.

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