



## Thirteen local veterans receive Quilts of Valor

**Matt de Simone**  
mattdesimone@mainstreetnewspapers.com

Quilts of Valor presented 13 veterans with special handmade quilts to honor their military service last Saturday morning at the Botetourt Event Center in Buchanan. Bill Price, co-founder of Sirens & Salutes, gave opening remarks thanking the guests for attending, the Quilts of Valor organization, and the veterans for their service.

Christina Bradley, a member of Quilts of Valor, gave a special thank you for Sirens & Salutes submitting the nominations before introducing this year's quilt recipients. The Quilts of Valor organization makes quilts and donates them to people who have a tie to the military and have been nominated for consideration.

This year's recipients are:

**Michelle Bergman** served in the United States Coast Guard from 1999-2005 as Petty Officer (E5). She was



PHOTO BY MATT DE SIMONE

**Quilts of Valor held a special quilt presentation ceremony at the Buchanan Events Center honoring local veterans last Saturday morning.**

stationed in Wilmington, N.C., and Morehead City, N.C. She worked as a Marine Science Technician and was responsible for oil spill containment, container inspections, foreign freight ship inspections, waterfront facilities inspections with the environmental division of the Coast Guard. She received the National Defense Service Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Meritorious Unit

Medal, Meritorious Team Medal, Unit Accommodation with Gold Star, Commandant Letter of Commendation with Gold Star, and Marine Safety Insignia.

**Carrol Boblett** served in the United States Army from 1963-1966. He was stationed in Germany. He received

See **Quilts**, page 8



**ReggaeInfinity performs at last Saturday's Reggae by the River in Buchanan.**



**DJ Squeeze spins a set during Saturday's event.**

## Buchanan dances to the reggae

Buchanan Town Park was the site for last weekend's eighth annual Reggae by the River festival. The Town of Buchanan, Sky High Reggae, and LMDB presented the event that featured

Roanoke's Lazy Man Dub Band and DJ Squeeze alongside Floyd's Father Sun and East Coast favorite Reggae Infinity jamming throughout the day and night. Guests also had the opportunity

to purchase items from local vendors and enjoy fresh food and beverages.

- Fincastle Herald staff report



**Attendees enjoy items on sale by local vendors.**



**Many gathered in their lawn chairs to enjoy the evening of music and community.**

PHOTOS BY MATT DE SIMONE

## Botetourt County Fair returns August 2-3

The Botetourt County Fair is just a couple of weeks away and the event's schedule was recently announced.

One of the county's most anticipated weekends begins Friday, August 2, from 5:30 until 8:30 p.m. with a Beer Garden and live music at Virginia Mountain Vineyards sponsored by Colonial Title & Old Republic Title. Food will be available from Ferguson Family Provisions and the Lord Botetourt High School Future Farmers of America (FFA).

Shows and demos take place Saturday, August 3, from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. at Buchanan Town Park, located on Lowe Street.

The traditional portion of this year's fair will include:

- Youth livestock and poultry shows beginning at 10 a.m.
- Agriculture demonstrations
- The annual Draft Horse Pull beginning at 10 a.m.
- Chicken Bingo
- Dwayne Hodges from Woodchucks Wood Carvings in Boones Mill will be on hand to do wood carving demonstrations
- The "Kid's Corner" will offer face painting, tug of war, sack races, blow up slide and youth ag education
- Farmhouse fair contests are located in the Buchanan Community House and will showcase local baked goods, produce, jams/jellies and art entries
- Food booths include walking desserts,

fresh squeezed lemonade, kettle corn, pork chop sandwiches, baked potatoes and burgers/hot dogs

Additionally, Central Academy Middle School student Sariah Jamison was selected as the winner of the 2024 Botetourt County Fair T-shirt design contest. The shirts will be available for purchase at the fair.

The fair's board of directors recently started a new

See **Fair**, page 8



**This year's winning T-shirt design was drawn by Sariah Jamison of Central Academy Middle School.**

GRAPHIC COURTESY OF BOTETOURT CO. FAIR

## Commonwealth Transportation Board awards \$361 million contract for I-81 widening project



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF VDOT

The Commonwealth Transportation Board at its July 16 meeting in Richmond awarded a design-build contract valued at \$361.6 million to Branch Civil Inc. of Roanoke to widen northbound and southbound Interstate 81 to three lanes between Exit 143 in Roanoke County and Exit 150 in Botetourt County. Project design is still being completed, and construction is expected to begin in fall 2025 and to finish in summer 2031.

This widening project is part of the Interstate 81 Corridor Improvement Program (CIP), which aims to improve safety, increase reliability and foster economic growth. It is one of the largest and most complex I-81 CIP projects and includes replacing eight bridges on I-81 and installing more than 8,500 feet of sound barrier along the northbound lanes.

"This is a big step forward," said Dave Covington, I-81 program delivery director for the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT). "It is the largest contract for I-81 to date, and it reinforces our commitment to improving this vital corridor."

"VDOT has a long history of working with Branch Civil, and we look

forward to a continued strong partnership to successfully deliver a project of this magnitude," said Ken King, district engineer for VDOT's Salem District.

The new lanes will be built on the existing right and left shoulders of I-81 with most of widening to take place in the median. At Exit 150, the ramp from northbound Route 220 (Roanoke Road) onto southbound I-81 will be realigned and the southbound I-81 off ramp will be modified to connect with Route 220 at a new signal at Tinker Mountain Road. Interchange lighting will be installed at Exits 141, 143 and 150.

VDOT has produced a podcast and a video to provide more information about the widening project between Exits 143 and 150. Additional podcasts and videos about the I-81 CIP can be found on the News & Multimedia page of Improve81.org.

The I-81 CIP includes 65 capital projects and numerous operational improvements throughout the interstate's 325-mile corridor in Virginia. The \$3 billion program was signed into law in spring 2019. More information is available at Improve81.org.

- Fincastle Herald staff report

The Place to be in 2024

Scan here to Follow us on facebook for complete event schedule, and details.

**AUG 3**

**Botetourt FARMER'S MARKET**

8:30 to NOON

**AUG 3**

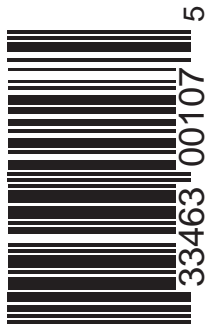
**BIG DADDY RAY**

5-9PM

**AUG 9**

**THOMAS ROAD**

5-9PM



## Botetourt County History



PHOTO COURTESY OF BCMHC

When Botetourt County Historical Society, Inc. moved the museum to 26 East Main Street, Fincastle, a clock was needed. Ed and Betty Holt bought this clock at the Hamilton Outlet in Pennsylvania. They gave it to Ed's parents, George and Betsy Holt, who used it in their kitchen at Hawthorne Hall. Now it hangs in the bookstore of

the Botetourt Museum of History & Culture. It is a 31-day clock with Roman numerals and keeps history alive. We are all a collection of past memories and history has a way of connecting us through moments of time.

- Botetourt County Museum of History & Culture



**BOTETOVRT FARMERS MARKET  
TOMATO FESTIVAL  
SATURDAY, JULY 27  
8:30 AM - 1:00 PM  
BUCHANAN TOWN PARK**

GRAPHIC COURTESY OF BCMHC

## Tomato Festival this Saturday in Buchanan

The Botetourt Farmers Market is thrilled to announce the return of its highly anticipated Tomato Festival, set to take place this Saturday, July 27, from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the picturesque Buchanan Town Park. This beloved community event promises a fun-filled day for all ages, celebrating the rich agricultural heritage of Botetourt County.

The Tomato Festival will highlight the heart of the market – dedicated farmers and their fresh, high-quality produce. Attendees can expect:

- Farm-Fresh Produce: Shop for the freshest seasonal produce, including a wide variety of tomatoes, fruits, vegetables, and more, directly from local farmers.

- Tomato Tasting: Sample a diverse selection of locally grown tomatoes, ranging from heirlooms to hybrids.

- Vendor Salsa Contest: Enjoy the excitement of the vendor salsa contest, where market vendors will compete to create the best salsa using their home-grown ingredients.

- Artisan Vendors: A curated selection of local artisans and crafters offering unique handmade goods.

- Kids' Activities: Engaging and educational activities for children, including crafts and games.

"While we are normally located at the Daleville Town Center every

Saturday from May through October, for this special event, we will move to Buchanan Town Park to celebrate the fourth annual Tomato Festival," said Brandy Underwood, community rep for the Botetourt Farmers Market. "The Tomato Festival is one of our most cherished events, bringing together the community to celebrate the peak of the summer harvest. We're excited to offer a day of fun, food, and family-friendly activities that highlight the importance of local agriculture."

Attendees will also have the opportunity to learn more about the rich history of tomatoes in Botetourt County and support local growers by purchasing fresh, high-quality produce. The market's vendors are committed to providing a diverse array of products, ensuring there's something for everyone.

Admission to the Tomato Festival is free, and ample parking is available at Buchanan Town Park. The Botetourt Farmers Market encourages everyone to bring their friends and family to join in the festivities and support local farmers and artisans.

For more information about the Tomato Festival and other upcoming events, follow the Botetourt Farmers Market on social media at @BotetourtFarmersMarket.

- Botetourt Farmers Market

**BOTETOVRT COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.**

PRESENTS

# HISTORY AFTER DARK

BEGINNING AT 7 PM

Join us for an evening of learning about the seedier & macabre side of history from local professors, authors, & historians.

A portion of food & drink proceeds from the evening will benefit the Botetourt County Historical Society, Inc.

Come enjoy the beautiful rooftop view, a delicious cocktail, & some unsavory history on the last Thursday of every month from May through October!

1772 ON MAIN & ROOFTOP  
18 S. ROANOKE ST, FINCASTLE

GRAPHIC COURTESY OF BCHS

BCHS presents "History After Dark" at The Rooftop at 1772 in Fincastle this Thursday, July 25 at 7 p.m.

## BCHS presenting 'History After Dark' tomorrow

Botetourt County Historical Society, Inc. (BCHS) will host "History After Dark" beginning at 7 p.m. tomorrow, Thursday, July 25. The organization will welcome Dr. Whitney Leeson from Roanoke College who will be discussing "Child Witches in Reformation Germany" at The Rooftop at 1772.

While many associate the term "witch" with adult women, Dr. Leeson is going to look at Hans Gackstatt, a boy from from Rothenburg, Germany, in 1587 and a group of child witches.

The bar stools and sofa on the roof are first-come, first-served, but if you would like a table, call

1772 to make a reservation as space is not guaranteed otherwise.

BCHS expresses that it can't wait to hear about 16th century child witches and hope to see many there.

- Fincastle Herald staff report

## Gracely Hill to host 5K race

Gracely Hill, home of the Beaver Dam Farm Sunflower Festival, will be hosting the first 5K race on the property on Saturday, October 12. It is hoped to be an annual James River High School Knights Invitational. Individual runners are welcome as well as all school teams. This is a very spectator-friendly course.

Registration deadline is Monday, October 7, by noon.

If you and your team are interested in attending, email meet director Butch Lewis, blewis@bcps.k12.va.us, or Chase Davidson, cdavidson@bcps.k12.va.us. Registration will be done on Milestat.com.



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF GRAELY HILL

- Fincastle Herald staff report

## ARRESTS

The Botetourt County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests July 17-20:

- Robert W. Nicholson, 26, of Charlottesville, driving under the influence, July 17
- Zachary T. Overstreet, 32, of Bedford, drunk in public, July 18
- Andrik Josue Huoh Montenegro, 19, of Roanoke, drunk in public, underage possession of alcohol, July 19
- Erik David Argueta-Molasco, 19, of Roanoke, driving under the influence, underage possession of alcohol, July 19
- Jacob M. Shupe, 36, of Fincastle, domestic assault, July 19
- Thomas A. Clouse, 57, of Troutville, driving under the influence, refusing breath test, July 20
- Omar Malaga-Ceballos, 32, of Roanoke, domestic assault, July 20
- Maria L. Artiga-Martinez, 37, of Roanoke, domestic assault, July 20

## Treasury's Unclaimed Property Program Returns Millions to Citizens Each Year!

Look for the 2023 list of unclaimed properties in next week's newspaper.

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FincastleHerald.com



Cheryl Lunsford from The Guitar Dojo in Fincastle plays with budding musicians.



HFI Director Jay Saunders shows his artistry with face painting.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF HFI

# Historic Fincastle, Inc. sizzles with Ice Cream Social

Beating the heat around here has been the name of the game recently. Historic Fincastle, Inc. (HFI) certainly helped on that score with its first Ice Cream Social held Sunday, July 14 at Fincastle's Big Spring Park.

HFI members teamed up to provide free hot dogs and ice cream to anyone who attended, and the event attracted close to 200 participants who enjoyed good food, games, music, and camaraderie with their friends and neighbors

In addition to food, HFI

secretary and board member Meredith Bowman-Shelton, who was also the chief event organizer, led kids in classic games of sack races, three-legged races and egg carries. Those kids who participated apparently had a great time, as their laughter echoed throughout the park. In addition to games, children also were able to have their faces painted by HFI staff members.

Despite the heat, great music was provided by Cheryl Lunsford of The Guitar Dojo in Fincastle, who performed

hits by Glen Campbell, Johnny Cash, Bob Dylan and others. She also brought along her "musical petting zoo," allowing children to touch and discover musical instruments, some for the first time.

Historical re-enactors from the Fincastle Company were on hand to provide a historical Colonial perspective for the event. Their display of 18th century camp life and historical artifacts attracted many viewers.

Several Ice Cream Social guests brought along their

dogs for what is sure to be a future classic: the Fincastle Dog Parade.

"We were happy to provide this free event to the local community," noted HFI President Patsy Dickerson. "It is our way to show our appreciation for the support Fincastle has provided to HFI over the years, and we hope to make this an annual event."

Other upcoming HFI events include the Fincastle Festival, with artists, crafters, music and much more on September 28,

the Ghost Tour of Fincastle on October 25-26, Fincastle's Tinsel Trail starting on December 6 and HFI's Historical Holiday Home Tour and Marketplace on December 14. One other event, another in HFI's "Celebrating Our Historic Churches," will be held on September 29 at 4 p.m. St. Mark's Episcopal Church.

HFI can be found on the web at www. http://hisfin.org/ or on Facebook and Instagram.

- David Lloyd, HFI

# Botetourt DAR receives awards, hears history of Brugh Tavern



DAR members and guests at the Brugh Tavern

The 16 chapters that comprise District VII of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution held their annual meeting Saturday, July 13, at the Vinton War Memorial. Delegates from each chapter participated in a wreath-laying ceremony prior to the start of their meeting. The VFW Post 1264 Honor Guard presented the colors, and each chapter laid a wreath at the "High Ground Monument."

During their business meeting, annual awards were presented to all of the chapters for their service this past year in their communities to foster Patriotism, Education and Historic Preservation. The Botetourt County Chapter was honored to receive 16 awards in the various categories.

On July 20, chapter members gathered for lunch at the Brugh Tavern in Explore Park, now the Twin Creeks Brewpub. Seven members of the chapter are descendants of Daniel Brugh, who came to Botetourt County after the Revolutionary War. The Brugh home served as a tavern for thousands of settlers who migrated south on the Great Wagon Road after the war. Valerie Brugh shared the background of the tavern and information on the Brugh family, and Elmer Hodge, former Roanoke County administrator, recounted details on the formation of Explore Park and how the Commonwealth and the county envisioned the park would benefit the community when it opened in 1998.

The National Society Daughters



PHOTOS COURTESY OF BOTETOURT DAR  
Wreaths were laid July 13 at the "High Ground Monument."

of the American Revolution is a non-profit, non-political organization founded in 1890 to promote historic preservation, education and patriotism. Its members are descended from the patriots who won American independence during the Revolutionary War. To learn more about the work of today's DAR, visit www.DAR.org. If you are interested or have questions about joining this organization, contact Membership Chair Emily Talbot-Guillote via email at eptg1019@gmail.com or Registrar JoElla Hall John at jjohnregistrar@gmail.com. Visit the website at https://bocodar.wixsite.com/bocodar .

- Botetourt County DAR

## BUCHANAN LIONS CLUB

### FREE MOVIE MATINEE



PAID FOR BY BUCHANAN LIONS CLUB  
SATURDAY, JULY 27, 2024, 2:00PM AT  
BUCHANAN THEATER

GRAPHIC COURTESY OF BUCHANAN LIONS CLUB

### Free movie matinee Saturday at Buchanan Theatre

The Buchanan Lions Club is sponsoring a free matinee movie on Saturday, July 27, at 2 p.m. at the Buchanan Theatre on Main Street in Buchanan. This will be immediately following the Back-to-School event at Solomon's Mission that day. The Lions are sponsoring free entrance to the movie, "Second Hand Lions." All snack bar items will be available at the normal Theatre pricing. - FH Staff report



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# NEWS & UPCOMING EVENTS AT BOTETOURT LIBRARIES

## Life of a Revolutionary War Loyalist

Sat, Aug 3, 11am, Buchanan  
Historic interpreter Jeff Briggs wears recreated period clothing and uses various items from the Revolutionary War period to discuss what life was like for a colonist loyal to the King of England. Great for the whole family.

## Garden Club

Mon, Aug 5, 3pm, Eagle Rock  
Dig into all aspects of gardening with guidance from local experts and/or hands-on projects. August project: Houseplant and tropical plant swap

## Botetourt Senior Bingo

Thu, Aug 8, 10:30am, Eagle Rock  
Win fun prizes and enjoy social time with this popular game. Offered in partnership with the Botetourt County Sheriff's Office and Parks & Recreation.

## Eclectic Readers

Thu, Aug 1, 6:30pm, Fincastle  
Once Upon a River by Diane Setterfield  
Wed, Aug 7, 12pm, Buchanan  
Theme: Summer & Love  
Discuss books and authors with fellow readers.

## Story Brush: Artistic Writing for Kids

Starts in August  
Wednesdays 3:30pm, Fincastle  
Dive into a guided art activity, then build a story around your art. August's theme: Fantasy Genre. Best for ages 7+.

## Art Lab

Starts in August  
1st Fridays, 2:30pm, Eagle Rock  
3rd Thursdays, 4pm, Blue Ridge  
Enjoy a story and art from illustrated children's picture books, then create your own picture using the same art medium that the illustrator used. August

illustrator: Mo Willems. Best for ages 6-12. Registration required.

## Youth Chess Club

Resumes in August  
Tuesdays 4-5pm, Eagle Rock  
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.

## StoryTime

Resumes week of August 11  
Tuesdays 10:30-11am, Blue Ridge  
Wednesdays 10:30-11am, Eagle Rock  
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.

Find even more events at [BOCOLibraries.info](http://BOCOLibraries.info).

## Three-day yard sale at Blue Ridge Library

Friends of the Blue Ridge Library will be holding a yard sale July 25-27 inside the library. Hours for the sale are: 4-8 on Thursday, July 25; 10-5 on Friday, July 26; and 10-2 on Saturday, July 27. Items for sale will include electronics, household items, jewelry, clothing, toys, linens, tools, and kitchen items. There will be no books or puzzles or no large furniture such as couches or large appliances such as refrigerators.

Donations for the sale may be delivered to the library's meeting room July 17-23 during regular library hours. Proceeds from the sale will go to the Friends for support of the library's programs and other needs.

Blue Ridge Library is located at 28 Avery Row on US 460 about a half-mile east of the Bonsack Walmart. For directions, call the library at 540-928-2900.

- Friends of Blue Ridge Library

## RCAHD Community Column: Aging and Brain Health

From the moment we are born, our brains are constantly changing. In infancy and adolescence, the neural networks in our brains experience periods of enormous growth. These brain networks are essential—they help us learn, think, remember, and organize our memories. As we age and learn, we develop larger vocabularies and greater knowledge from our accumulated experiences. Yet, by the time we are 30-40 years old, our brains typically start to shrink in different places, and we may experience more challenges finding words, recalling names, multi-tasking or paying attention.

We have learned that the brain maintains its ability to change and adapt so that as we age, we can manage new challenges and tasks. Just as we take care of our heart to live a long life to our best potential, we need to take care of our brain for our cognitive health. While brain health can be affected by age-related changes, other causes of change can include injuries such as stroke or traumatic brain injury; mood disorders such as depression or substance use disorder; and diseases such as Alzheimer's and related dementias, some of which have genetic predispositions.

### Dementia

Dementia is a general term referring to a loss of cognitive function—remembering, thinking, and reasoning—severe enough to interfere with everyday life. Dementia is not a specific disease, but an overall term describing a wide range of symptoms. It is not part of the typical aging process, rather it is caused by damage to the brain from disease or trauma. Alzheimer's disease is the most common cause of dementia. Other causes include vascular dementia, Lewy body dementia, and frontotemporal dementia.

### Ways to Protect Your Brain

- While we cannot control our genes, there are many environmental and lifestyle factors that we can control to reduce our risk of cognitive decline.
- Preventing or controlling high blood pressure in midlife—ages 40s to 60s—helps both our heart and brain.
- Being physically active (adults are recommended to get at least 2-3 hours of walking or other physical activity each week) also helps our hearts and brains.
- Participating in programs that teach people how to move more safely and help prevent falls, a common cause of serious injury, including injuries to the brain.
- Improving specific skills appears to help maintain cognitive health in older adults. While current available evidence does not support claims that playing certain computer or online games can improve your memory and thinking, research does support that some activities such as music, dance, creative writing or learning new skills such as quilting or photography can improve cognitive health.
- And one of the most important things: Staying connected.

### Staying Connected with Social Activities

Data from studies with more than 7,000 participants ages 65 and older determined that social engagement, such as visiting with family or doing volunteer work, was associated with better cognitive health. To strengthen your social connections, consider volunteering or joining a group focused on an activity you enjoy, such as walking.

### Taking Care of Yourself and Your Loved Ones

If you have concerns about your own cognitive health, or you suspect your loved one may be affected, learn about normal changes with aging and those that indicate the need for a checkup:

- Ask your loved one to obtain a complete medical checkup. If they have Medicare, ask their health care professional for the Medicare Annual Wellness exam that includes screenings such as detection of cognitive impairment.
  - Learn how hearing loss can affect memory loss.
  - Make it a priority to complete legal, financial, and advance care planning, including essential planning documents.
  - If you are a caregiver, taking care of yourself is one of the most important steps you can take.
- When your needs as a caretaker are taken care of, your loved one will benefit too. The person experiencing the cognitive changes, caregivers, and other companions on this journey will need information, support, and guidance along the way. Contact your local Area Agency on Aging, the Alzheimer's Association, or visit the Virginia Family Caregiver Solution Center at [vf.virginiannavigator.org](http://vf.virginiannavigator.org) to find resources.

- RCAHD

Send us your community news!  
[Fincastle@ourvalley.org](mailto:Fincastle@ourvalley.org)

FincastleHerald.com

## League for Animal Protection's Waif of the Week

### Buford



Buford was an owner release to the Scott County Pound. He arrived by transport to the LAP Shelter on July 10. He is outgoing, fun and will need a busy family to be happy. Buford is taking HW prevention, has received his flea and tick prevention, he's UTD with vaccines, neutered and chipped. Buford is 3 years old and 44 pounds.  
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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## THE FINCASTLE HERALD & Botetourt County News

Established 1866  
P.O. Box 127  
Fincastle, VA 24090  
USPS 190-680 • ISSN # 8750-7323  
Phone: (540) 473-2741  
Fax: (540) 473-2742  
E-mail: [fincastle@mainstreetnewspapers.com](mailto:fincastle@mainstreetnewspapers.com)  
Office located at 7 South Roanoke Street, Fincastle  
**MATT de SIMONE**.....Editor  
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**JAMES "TUCKER" FRYE**.....Advertising  
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The Fincastle Herald (USPS 160-680) is published weekly for \$46 a year in Botetourt County, \$50 in adjoining counties and \$54 elsewhere by Virginia Media Inc., 122 N. Court Street, Lewisburg, W.Va. 24901. Periodical postage paid at Fincastle, VA. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Fincastle Herald, P.O. Box 127, Fincastle, VA 24090.

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# CROSSWORD

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- CLUES ACROSS
1. Droop
  4. Rested in a chair
  7. Thai (var.)
  10. Draw out wool
  12. Coatis genus
  14. Teige
  15. Baxis
  16. Supplementing with difficulty
  17. Capital of Norway
  18. A personal written history
  21. Cologne
  22. Australian flightless bird
  23. Lowest freeman; early Eng.
  25. 18th C. mathematician
  28. Cabinet Dept. for homes
  29. Languages of Sulu islands
  33. More scarce
  35. Before
  36. Swiss river
  37. Actress & director Lupino
  38. Edges
  41. Thousand Leaves prefecture
  44. Soldier hero of Spain
  45. Gains through work
  47. To the front
  49. I (German)
  50. Price label
  51. Barack's 1st lady
  58. Drench with liquid
  59. Child (scot.)
  60. 'Aba \_\_\_\_ Honeymoon'
  62. Disappearing shade trees
  63. Cricket frog genus
  64. Union busting worker
  65. A priest's liturgical vestment
  66. Previously The Common Market
  67. Upper left keyboard key
- CLUES DOWN
1. Point midway between S and SE
  2. Genus of birds
  3. Personal spiritual leader
  4. Japanese rice beverage
  5. Eared owl genus
  6. Wood oil finish
  7. Hyphen
  8. Compactly
  9. Equal, prefix
  11. Broad-winged soaring hawk
  12. A collection of star systems
  13. Be in accord
  14. Links subject & predicate (linguistics)
  19. Paddles
  20. Asian river between China and Russia
  23. Physicists Marie or Pierre
  24. Excessive fluid accumulation
  26. \_\_\_\_ Dunlap, pageant titleholder
  27. Made again
  28. Norse goddess of death
  30. A waterproof raincoat
  31. Express pleasure
  32. \_\_\_\_ Lanka
  34. Radioactivity unit
  39. Clay blocks for building
  40. Linear unit
  42. Conductor tools
  43. Whale ship captain
  46. Queen who tested Solomon
  48. Good Gosh!
  51. A gangster's girlfriend
  52. Unstressed-stressed
  53. Draw through holes
  54. Old Italian monetary units
  55. Musician Clapton
  56. Ceremonial staff of authority
  57. Fabrics of camels or goats
  58. A very large body of water
  61. Basics

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**Inside Out**  
Thursday, July 25  
7 p.m.

**Despicable Me 4**

(2024) Gru, Lucy, Margo, Edith, and Agnes welcome a new member to the family, Gru Jr., who is intent on tormenting his dad. Gru faces a new nemesis in Maxime Le Mal and his girlfriend Valentina, and the family is forced to go on the run. (1 hr 34 min) PG-13

**Friday & Saturday**  
July 26 & 27  
7 p.m.

**Sunday, July 28**  
3 p.m.

**Thursday, Aug. 1**  
7 p.m.

See Answers, page 8

# Register now for the Run Like Baron 5K August 10

The annual Run Like Baron 5K will be held on August 10 and start at 8:30 a.m.

The event honors Botetourt County's first K-9 officer, Baron, who died on duty on August 31, 2017. The event is organized by Friends of Botetourt K-9 Inc., a non-profit organization that provides financial support to the Botetourt County Sheriff's Department K-9 Unit.

Run Like Baron 5K participants can choose to join the in-person race, virtual race, or fun walk event. The in-person race and fun walk will be held at the Greenfield Sports Complex cross country course in Daleville. The virtual race can be completed from anywhere and the fun walk event is perfect for families and anyone who wants to participate in a non-competitive atmosphere.

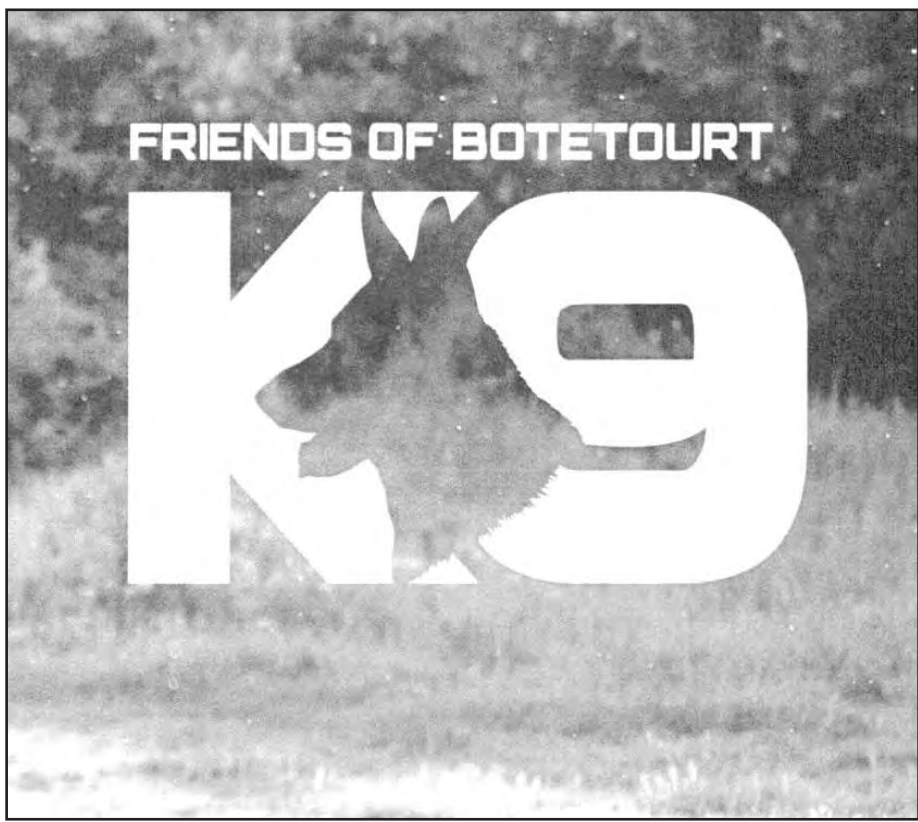
To register, go to <https://runsignup.com/Race/VA/Troutville/>

RunLikeBaron5K.

All proceeds from the Run Like Baron 5K will go towards Friends of Botetourt K-9 Inc., who supports the active and retired K-9 deputies by providing financial aid for equipment, training, and other essential needs. This event is a great way to show your support for the brave K-9 officers who serve and protect the community.

The Run Like Baron 5K is a fun-filled event of fitness, community spirit, and support for a great cause. Whether you are an experienced runner or just starting, there is something for everyone at the Run Like Baron 5K. Register now to be part of this memorable event. If you have any questions about this race, contact the race director at [friendsofbotetourtk9@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofbotetourtk9@gmail.com).

- Friends of Botetourt K-9



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF FRIENDS OF BOTETOURT K9



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF AARP

## AARP Fraud Alert: Homebuyers and Owners Beware

With today's tight real estate market there is often pressure to act quickly when you find that perfect place. Scammers know this and are waiting to pounce. Here are three things to be aware of when shopping for a home.

Wire fraud can happen when a criminal impersonates a real estate or title company and asks you to send the closing costs to them. Before wiring any funds contact your real estate company and confirm the account information, routing instructions and total amount needed.

Criminals are also in the market to take advantage of those at risk of foreclosure. Beware of anyone promising to make your mortgage payment issues go away - especially if they ask for an upfront fee.

Lastly, if you are looking to rent a home, make sure and visit in person before paying a deposit. Rental scams happen often with criminals creating legitimate looking websites offering great deals on homes that aren't really up for rent.

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

The AARP Fraud Watch Network is a free resource for all. Learn how to proactively spot scams or get guidance if you've been targeted. Visit [aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork](http://aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork) or call the dedicated helpline to speak to a fraud specialist at 1-877-908-3360.

-AARP



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# OBITUARIES

## Hylton, Patricia Clemmer

Patricia "Pat" Clemmer Hylton, 80, of Cloverdale, passed away Saturday, July 20, 2024.

She was preceded in death by her parents, William and Dolly Clemmer; sisters, Virginia Hall, Nathalie McCullough, and Ferrell Amos; brothers, Curtis, Bud and J.T. Clemmer.

Pat enjoyed spending time with her friends and family, traveling, playing games, doing puzzles, and she especially loved being a grandmother. She will be deeply missed.

Survivors include her son and daughter-in-law, Jimmy and

Tammy Hylton; daughter, Becky Keller; grandchildren, Cody, Holly, and Trever Hylton, and Sadie Keller; sister, Bernice Campbell; brother, Phillip (Eleanor) Clemmer; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Visitation will be held from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. with funeral services at 11 a.m. on Thursday, July 25, 2024 in the Buchanan Chapel of Botetourt Funeral Home. Interment will follow in Fairview Cemetery. Online condolences may be made at [www.botetourtfuneralhome.com](http://www.botetourtfuneralhome.com) or 540-254-3000.



## Sellers, Walter Edgar, Jr.

Walter "Pete" Edgar Sellers, Jr., 93, of Daleville, passed away Wednesday, July 17, 2024.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Walter, Sr. and Clara Holland Sellers; brothers, William "Bill" and Richard "Dicky" Sellers; sister, Harriett Wright; and grandson, Nathan Dean.

He is survived by his wife of 34 years, Rosanna Phipps Sellers; daughter, Karin S. Dean; sons and daughters-in-law, Walter E. Sellers, III and Maria, Keith R. Sellers and Beverly; step-daughter, Patricia Pearson and husband, Gene, step-son, Elzie Kelley; grandchildren, Ethan Sellers, Esther Sellers,

Hannah Sellers, Isaac Sellers, Josiah Sellers, Nehemiah Sellers, Pearl Sellers, Rachael Sellers, Kimberly Eldredge, Joel Sellers, Zoë Dean, Jordan Dean, and Jesse Pearson; and one great-grandchild.

Visitation was held from 6 to 8 p.m. Monday, July 22, 2024 at Botetourt Funeral Home, Buchanan. Funeral services were held at 11 a.m. Tuesday, July 23, in the Buchanan Chapel of Botetourt Funeral Home with I. Ray Sloan officiating. Interment was in Forest Grove Baptist Church Cemetery. Online condolences may be made at [www.botetourtfuneralhome.com](http://www.botetourtfuneralhome.com).

## Deacon, Leda Jane Dudley

Leda Jane "Janie" Dudley Deacon, 78, of Buchanan, passed away peacefully at her home Sunday, June 30, 2024.

Janie was preceded in death by her parents, Clem Preston Dudley and Leatie Goodwin Dudley; numerous sisters and brothers; daughter, Donna Deacon; and granddaughter, Jessica Kennedy.

Janie enjoyed working in her flowers and watching them grow, spending time with her family, and spending time outdoors.

She is survived by her husband of 57 years, Kenton Deacon; daughters, Brenda Hearn, Roxie Deacon Thacker (Rodney), Carol Clark (Bill), and Connie Woodson (Doug);

grandchildren, Roxanna Carter, Hannah Kline (Kyle), Brandon Hearn, Dillon Hoback, Matthew Woodson, and Emily Woodson; great-grandchildren, Julia and McKayla Ashwell, E.J. and Jaelyn Shumate, Tyler Crabb, Haley Hoyt, Nate Hoyt, Hazel Kline, and Archie Hearn; and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

The family received friends on Tuesday, July 2, 2024, from 6 to 7 p.m. in the Buchanan Chapel of Botetourt Funeral Home. Funeral services were private. Online condolences may be made at [www.botetourtfuneralhome.com](http://www.botetourtfuneralhome.com) or 540-254-3000.



## Memorial held for Leon 'Buttons' McBryde



A memorial service was held last Saturday for Leon McBryde at Fincastle Baptist Church.

Matt de Simone

[mattdesimone@mainstreetnewspapers.com](mailto:mattdesimone@mainstreetnewspapers.com)

Several guests attended a celebration of life for Leon McBryde last Saturday afternoon at Fincastle Baptist Church. The service provided a wonderful look back at the life of McBryde as a clown, Santa Claus, and most importantly, a father.

Leon's son, Adam, welcomed guests to the service and was followed by words from Leon's "brother in Claus" Steve Gillham, and then by friends Theresa "Pinky" Garnett & Cilly, and a closing message from Eugenio "Chagy" Ardon.

Adam showed a brief video encapsulating Leon's impact performing as a clown and as Santa Claus over the years. Following the video, Adam shared a list of what made his father so special to him.

Adam joked that, while performing as a clown (and also as "Dad"), Leon "did all of his own stunts," some of which were not intentional.

"A common household phrase around our home is: Safety third!" Adam joked. "I don't know what first and second are because we never thought that far in advance."

He recalled seeing his father nearly knocked out by power tools, falling trees, and nearly drowned. Another rule Adam explained was that whenever a family member "got a boo-boo" they had to show-and-tell.

"No, not so that you receive immediate medical attention - oh, no," Adam continued. "We had to share so that we all could laugh about it and we did. A lot."

Adam spoke about Leon's ability to find humor in bad situations, to be able to talk to anyone, and sharing that Leon always said that "we're all experts, just at different subjects" - that everyone has value, even if they don't know it yet.

Leon also taught his son about faith and being a family leader, as Adam explained.

"Sometimes he just thought it was amazing that he was forgiven and saved by the grace of God," Adam recalled. "And he said to me one time, 'I guess that's why they call it amazing grace.' More than anything - more than entertaining, more than performing, more than putting on a show... was that he wanted for each and every one of you to know that same peace and to experience 'amazing grace.' His light that continues to shine today proves that the 'Greatest Show' is not on Earth, but in Heaven. Thanks, Dad. I'll see you down the road."

Next to speak was "Santa" Steve Gillham, a good friend of Leon's, who talked about their friendship. Gillham told stories about traveling up from North Carolina to Virginia and spending time with the McBrydes.

Gillham shared a funny story about a kayaking trip that Leon planned for them. Leon was aware of Gillham's time as a scoutmaster and thought it would be fun for them to go out on a pair of kayaks.

As Gillham explained, there were two kayak - one for Leon, and a smaller one for Steve.

"Now, I looked at that boat, I thought, well that's not as big as his," Gillham said. "He said, 'Here, I'll help you out. Get in the river, get on the thing, and I'll push



PHOTOS BY MATT DE SIMONE

Steve Gillham speaks about his good friend.

you out."

As soon as Gillham got out in the water, the kayak flipped him into the water.

"The kayak was like being put on a telephone pole," Gillham said. "Have you every tried to stand on a round telephone pole? It's impossible. He said, 'You must've not had your balance yet,... I got back up and he pushed me out... I never balanced so carefully in my life. I got 50-feet away from shore and 'bloop!'"

Gillham motioned the "flip" into the water once again. He joked that he met every rock during their four-hour float down the river and how "thoughtful" Leon was to follow behind him.

A year or so later, Gillham explained, he saw the same boat he flipped throughout that float. On it was warning label suggestion there should be no riders weighing over 150 pounds.

"At the time I was on that kayak, I was weighting close to 267 pounds," Gillham laughed.

Gillham spoke of the McBryde's beautiful tomato plants, which influenced he and his wife to grow some. During one of the Gillham's trips to Virginia, the McBrydes showed off a plant full of fully grown tomatoes that Steve and his wife couldn't figure out how to grow them properly. The Gillhams soon discovered that the McBrydes actually went to the grocery store and tied store-bought tomatoes to their plants as a prank on the Gillhams.

"That's when we knew - between the kayak and the tomatoes - that this family had accepted us," Gillham said. "I love Leon. He's the brother I never had. I'm going to miss him so much."

Lastly, Gillham shared a story about his last visit with Leon. During their conversation, Gillham asked Leon for a favor.

Gillham said to McBryde, "Leon, listen. I'm going to still need your help when you're dead. He said, 'What?' I said, 'Yeah, just because you're up there doesn't mean you can't influence my thoughts, so if I'm working on a story, I need to know that you're back'... And he smiled.

"I looked at him, and I said, 'What?' And (Leon) used what we call the 'Santa Pause.' He said, 'I got it figured: air horn.'"

Gillham and McBryde would use an air horn in their Santa workshops to wake up their students. Steve said that he has one ordered and on the way. He plans to place it on a bookshelf in his office as a reminder that he'll see his friend again one day, but in the meantime, Gillham joked that he's going to test it out.

## CHURCH NEWS

### Buchanan Food Pantry open July 27

St. Mark's UMC, Daleville, will be hosting the Buchanan Food Pantry on Saturday, July 27, at Buchanan Presbyterian Church. Anyone needing food can stop by between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. to pick up meat, milk, bread and staples. The church is located at 19559 Main Street, Buchanan.

### Fincastle Clothes Closet open Saturday

Fincastle United Methodist's Clothes Closet will be open on Saturday, July 27, in the Family Life Center at 137 S. Church Street, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Donations of gently worn, clean clothing and shoes may be dropped off at that time, too.

### Back-to-School Fun Time at Troutville Park

Area children are invited to Back-to-School

Fun Time at Troutville Park on Saturday, July 27, from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. There will be games, prizes, refreshments and a free bag of school supplies. The event is sponsored by Troutville Baptist Church.

### Free Community Dinner Tuesday in Fincastle

Everyone is welcome to the free Terrific Tuesdays Church and Community Dinner at Fincastle United Methodist Church's Family Life Center, 137 S. Church Street, on Tuesday, July 30. Dinner will be served from 5:30-7 p.m.

### Springwood Baptist VBS

Vacation Bible School is coming to Springwood Baptist Church, Wednesday, July 31-Friday, August 2 from 6-8.30 p.m. There will be fun for all ages, including Bible study, games, crafts and more. Sign up now at [springwoodbc.org](http://springwoodbc.org)

### Eagle Rock Clothes Closet dates

The Eagle Rock Community Clothes Closet located at Eagle Rock United Methodist Church, 14565 Church Street, will be open Saturdays, August 3 and August 10, from 9 a.m. to noon, and Wednesday, August 7, from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Ladies', men's and children's clothing, as well as toys, are offered at no charge. To make clothing donations or volunteer to help with mission, contact Pastor Ray Sandifer at 540-525-0258.

### Back-to-school sale at Cloverdale Thrift Store

Cloverdale Church of the Brethren Thrift Store a fabulous back-to-school special. All children's clothing from newborn to size 16 are 25 cents each. There is an enormous selection, come check it out.

## Portion of Springwood Road closed today

Route 630 (Springwood Road) is closed today (Wednesday, July 24) from 7 a.m. through 6 p.m. for culvert maintenance. The closure is located between house number 2885 and 3954 on Springwood Road. Drivers should use Route

639 (Wheatland Road) and Route 638 (Pine Haven Road) as alternate routes around the closure during the day. Emergency vehicles and residents living between the two culvert locations will have access to and from homes within the closure. Message boards

will be in place to direct traffic.

- Fincastle Herald staff report

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# Training initiative for hardwood industry professionals offered at MGCC



PHOTO COURTESY OF MGCC

Enrollment is underway for the Appalachian Hardwood Training Initiative (AHTI) at Mountain Gateway Community College (MGCC). The program is designed specifically for employers and employees in the hardwood industry.

AHTI, funded through a grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), is committed to providing high-quality training from industry experts, ensuring that foresters and hardwood workers are well prepared from day one. The program offers hands-on training and the opportunity to learn from the best in the field.

This initiative presents a unique chance for businesses to invest in the future by enhancing the skills of their teams, raising the standard of their work and establishing themselves as leaders in the industry. By participating in the AHTI program, employers can guarantee that their workforce is equipped with the essential skills and knowledge to excel in

the hardwood industry.

"I've seen firsthand how partnering directly with employers allows us to tailor training programs that perfectly match their specific needs," said AHTI Workforce Coach David Shofstahl. "The AHTI grant has been a game-changer, providing cost savings that incentivize companies to invest in workforce development while fostering a culture of continuous learning within the industry." Participants in the AHTI program can gain valuable expertise, practical skills, and industry-specific knowledge that will distinguish them in the competitive hardwood market.

For more information about the Appalachian Hardwood Training Initiative and enrollment details, as well as funds available to reduce training expenses, contact Shofstahl at dshofstahl@mgcc.edu. Learn more about AHTI at mgcc.edu/ahti.

- MGCC

## Quilts

from page 1

the European Occupation Medal.

Chris Carr served in the United States Marine Corps from 1974-1976 as PFC. He was stationed at Camp Pendleton and San Francisco and worked in communication bunkers as a Communications Specialist. He received the Sharp Shooters Medal.

Shane Cole served in the United States Navy from 1993-1997 as E3. He was stationed at the Naval Air Station Oceania, Orlando, Fla., and USS George Washington 143rd Fighter Squadron (Puking Dogs). He worked as an Aviation Machinist Mate Airman and completed sea service deployments. He received the National Defense Service Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal with Bronze Star, Armed Forces Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal with Bronze Star, Navy Unit Commendation, Meritorious Unit Commendation, and Battle E Ribbon.

Howard Cote served in the United States Navy from 1965-1968 as Petty Officer Second Class. He was stationed in Vietnam, Gai (located in central Vietnam), Laos, and San Diego. His military occupation specialty was Electronics Technician. He served two tours of duty in Vietnam totaling 22 months. He participated in several missions as a Navy Seal in Vietnam and Laos where he was wounded in action. Following discharge, he was the first Vietnam veteran to join VFW Post 8849 in Maryland and is a member of the American Legion. He received the Purple Heart, National Defense Service Medal, Navy Cross, Bronze Star, Good Conduct Medal, and US Navy Seal Badge (Seal Trident).

Maurice Lucas served in the United States Air Force from 1962-1966 as Airman Second Class. He was stationed at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas; Lowery Air Force Base; Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, Goldsboro, N.C.; Adina, Turkey, and Incirlik Air Base (during Vietnam). He worked as a Flightman Weapons Control Tech Mission Systems Rockets, Electronics Tech, and Armament Tech. He maintained sight system radar with a tactical fighter wing on aircrafts that had been designed during the Cold War that had internal bomb bays that could

carry nuclear weapons. He received the National Defense Service Medal.

William Moskowitz served in the United States Army from 1960-1963 as Sergeant. He was stationed in Vietnam, Fort Dix, N.J., Aberdene Proving Grounds, Crailsheim, Germany, Magee Barracks, and San Diego. He worked as an Infantryman and was a scout sniper with the 4th Infantry Division in Pleiku, Vietnam. He received the Expert Marksmanship Badge, National Defense Service Medal, and Vietnam Service Medal.

David Palmer served in the United States Marine Corps from 1968-1972 as Sergeant, Specialty was O3-31 Machine Gunner. He was participated in patrols while stationed in Vietnam. He was also stationed at Marine Barricks 8 and I Street SE, Washington, D.C. He was also Military Police and on Honor Guard stationed at Naval Yard, Blair House, and White House, as well as Arlington National Cemetery. He received Vietnam Service Medal with 2 devices, National Defense Service medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, Vietnam Cross of Gallantry, and Good Conduct Medal, and Meritorious Unit Citation.

Arthur Price Simpson served in the United States Army from 1959-1962. He was stationed in Japan and was transferred to Airborne. He drove a tractor-trailer carrying equipment and supplies to put in planes for drop-off.

Dennis Stack served in the United States Navy from 1989-1992 as E4. He was stationed in San Diego, Calif., Bremerton, Wash., and Guam. He worked as a Radioman at a relay station receiving and transmitting messages to various places around the world. He received the National Defense Service Medal.

Scott Stevens served in the United States Army from 1990-1993 as Specialist. He was stationed at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

Homer Warden served in the United States Army from 1965-1967 as Spec 4. He was stationed in Vietnam, Fort Jackson, S.C., Fort Gordon, Ga., and Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. He worked as a Combat Engineer and was a truck driver with a panel bridge company. He was a launch bridge operator in



Veteran Carrol Boblett receives his quilt.



PHOTOS BY MATT DE SIMONE

The veterans of the Vietnam War received special commemorative pins for their service.

a combat theatre. He was in a hostile fire area that received heavy fire where his unit lost several members during his service in Vietnam. He received the Army Commendation Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with 2 Service Stars, National Defense Service Medal, and Sharp Shooter Medal.

David Wright served in the United States Coast Guard from 1971-1976 as PFC. He was stationed in New York City, Oregon Coast, Seattle, Wash., and

San Francisco. He was a Telephone Technician Second Class who worked on Telephone Carrier Gear, spliced submarine cable, and had to retrieve and repair cable from beneath Japanese Lumber Ships. He was the youngest Telephone Tech Second Class in the Coast Guard. He also played in the Coast Guard Band at Governors Island and Lincoln Center, Battery Park and Band Bowl. He received the National Defense Service Medal and Good Conduct medal.

For more information about Quilts of Valor, please visit www.qovf.org.

## Fair

from page 1

mini grant project using a portion of the proceeds from the "Feather to Fork" poultry chain project and the local food walk at the fair to provide a grant of funds to Botetourt youth who have participated in the Botetourt County Fair who wish to start or expand a future agricultural project.

Mini grant funds may be used to purchase

supplies, equipment, animals, and/or educational materials, etc. to support the project. Funds may be used to start, grow, or expand their project to become a more productive enterprise operation. This is open to Botetourt County 4-H and FFA youth aged 9 to 19 who have participated in the Botetourt County Fair. The board will be awarding

this year's recipients at the conclusion of the Youth Livestock Show on Saturday.

The community is invited to bring along friends, family, and a lawn chair for a fun weekend in Buchanan. Anyone interested in volunteering may learn more by visiting botetourtcountyfair.com.

- Fincastle Herald staff report

# Botetourt County Historical Society meets at Rader farmhouse

The Botetourt County Historical Society (BCHS) met this past weekend at the George Washington Rader house in Fincastle last Sunday. The group discussed new incoming artifact donations

the BCHS received, 2024 Founder's Day, technology upgrades, upcoming events, and educational tours happening in the fall. For more information about BCHS, please visit their website at bothistsoc.wordpress.com.

- Fincastle Herald staff report



PHOTO COURTESY OF BCHS

**Stockyard Report**

Monday's sale at the Roanoke-Hollins Stockyard:

**161 Head**

**Graded Steers**  
500-599 \$271.00-\$272.00  
600-699 \$253.00  
700-799 \$240.00

**Graded Bulls**  
400-499 \$273.00  
500-599 \$256.00  
600-699 \$240.00

**Graded Heifers**  
400-499 \$230.00-\$252.00  
500-599 \$222.00-\$239.00  
600-599 \$212.00-\$236.00

**Kill Cows**  
\$60.00-\$130.00

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## Forty years ago Edgar Castro had RC students in his corner



**Brian Hoffman**

Sports Editor

Edgar Castro never made it to the big leagues, but for one season 40 years ago he was a big star on the local baseball diamond.

A left-handed hitting first baseman, Castro played for the Salem Redbirds in the Carolina League. He hit .243 with three home runs for Salem in 1981, then spent the next two years struggling in the Florida State and California Leagues in the San Diego Padres system.

Edgar found himself back in Salem for the 1984 season, 40 years ago this summer, for possibly his last chance in professional ball. He got off to a tough start, batting under .200 for the first month of the season and drawing the ire of the Salem fans. Then, he turned his season around with the help of what would be known as "Castro's Corner."

How Castro's Corner came about started with Mark Miller, a history professor at Roanoke College. Mark put a bid on a house on High Street in Salem that had been donated to the college. His bid was accepted but the house needed lots of work, and Mark enlisted the help of a few Roanoke College students to renovate the house in the summer of '84.

Steve Olausen and Paul Anderson, who had both graduated that spring, and rising senior Tony Chrusniak were

hired to work on the house while Mark, wife Linda and young daughter Kirsten remained in their home on Hemlock Street until the renovations were completed.

"The house was gutted," recalls Miller. "There was one live plug in the whole place and no running water. They made the best of it. They went to Bowman Hall (on the RC campus) to shower and lived in the house all summer long."

The house needed a total paint job and before starting the boys spray painted "Future Home of Pi Lambda Phi Fraternity" on the outside of the house as a joke. That got the attention of the neighbors on High Street, a very nice, quiet section of North Salem.

Which leads us to the ballpark.

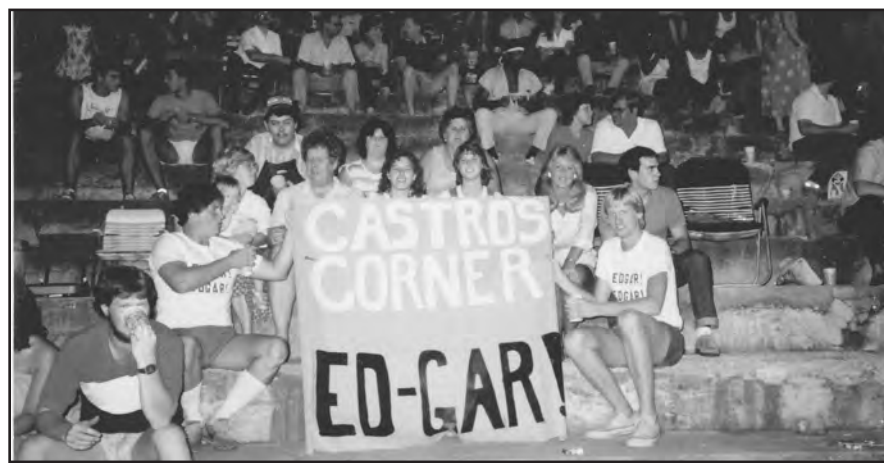
"Mark and his family went on a trip and left us a pack of tickets to the baseball games so we'd have something to do at night," said Olausen, who is now president of a large company in Rhode Island involved in "Culture Resource Management." Originally from New Jersey, Steve is a Yankee fan and Anderson and Chrusniak are also baseball fans, and they enjoyed spending evenings at the Salem Redbirds games.

"We started going near the end of the first half of the season," recalls Olausen. "There weren't big crowds and we sat on the first base side with what they called 'Rowdy Ridge.' The atmosphere was kind of 'old South,' and we'd start cheering and getting the 75 people or so to start doing the wave. I remember we drank a lot of beer."

Edgar Castro was the Redbirds' regular first baseman and he was struggling, as was the team. Salem finished the first half 14 games under .500 at 28-42, in last place in the Carolina League's Northern Division. The college students started riding Castro



Edgar Castro is on first after getting a hit in 1984.



PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Roanoke College students cheer for Edgar Castro. Professor Mark Miller is right above the "C" in the sign. To his right are wife Linda and daughter Kirsten, who is now a teacher in North Carolina.

pretty hard as he slumped at the plate, but then Salem general manager Bob Kitchen made them a proposition.

"Edgar was right in front of them and the college guys were getting on him," recalls Miller. "They would yell 'catch Redbird fever and die.' One night a staffer talked to the ringleaders and said, 'We're happy you're here, and maybe you can help us out.' He said they could come as their guests if they didn't rag on Edgar, and maybe even help him out."

And thus, "Castro's Corner" came to pass. The college kids made up signs to cheer for Edgar and he quickly became their favorite player.

"The team would give us leftover food coupons and stuff if we'd cheer for Edgar," said Olausen. "He was struggling and we decided to see what we could do to help him. I remember the first time he came to bat and we started screaming his name he stepped out of the batters' box and looked up at us with a big smile. Then he got back in the box and laced a double."

The second half of the season belonged to Castro. With Miller and his crew joining the college fans to form "Castro's Corner," Edgar went on a tear the second half. He raised his batting average from under .200 to a season ending .264, the highest average he had in any of his six minor league seasons. He hit 18 home runs in 121 games that season in Salem and drove in 61 runs, by far the best totals of his career.

Edgar went from an also-ran on a poor Redbirds' team to one of the most popular guys ever to play here.

The team responded as well, posting a winning record of 36-32 in the second half of the season and finishing second to Lynchburg in the Northern Division. Even the concession manager said Edgar's improved hitting brought fans to the park and his profits went up. He gave the college boys free food in appreciation.

During the last homestand of the season the fans showed their appreciation to Edgar with a special "Edgar Castro Night." He was driven into the ballpark in a convertible prior to the game and Steve gave a little speech about how loved he was in Salem. Edgar was touched as the founders of his "Corner" presented him with a plaque and a few gifts.

That proved to be the last highlight of Edgar's career. In 1985, with no one in his corner, Castro played 50 games in the Carolina League for the rival Hagerstown Suns, a Baltimore affiliate, then went to Double-A and played six games for the Charlotte Orioles. He was then traded to Texas and played 33 games for the Double-A Tulsa Drillers, where he hit .193 in 83 at bats.

By 1986 Castro was out of baseball. In his six-year minor league career he hit .236 with 42 total home runs for seven different teams, with the 1984 Salem season far and away being the best.

"He was a good guy," said Olausen. "He was right there at first base and we talked to him a lot, and I'd like to think we had something to do with his success that season. I know we had a lot of fun."

## Lord Botetourt Athletic Hall of Fame

Nominations for candidates for induction to the Lord Botetourt High School Athletic Hall of Fame are currently being accepted. The individual must have graduated at least ten years ago from Lord Botetourt High School before being eligible for induction. Coaches, patrons, and others who have contributed to athletics at the school need not be graduates of LBHS. The Hall of Fame committee will make the final decisions as to who will be inducted. The 2024 induction ceremony will take place on the morning of the football game on Friday, October 18, 2024.

If you would like to nominate someone for this honor, please fill out the following information and send it to:

Lord Botetourt High School  
Attention: Tim Fulton, AD  
1435 Roanoke Road  
Daleville, Virginia 24083

All nominations must be submitted by July 31, 2024. Please include the following:

- Name of Nominee
- Year of Graduation
- Address
- Telephone Number
- Name of Nominator
- Address
- Telephone Number
- Brief Explanation of Nominee's Credentials and Awards

- Fincastle Herald staff report

## Swim from page 12



Read Mountain's Alayna Adkins swims in the 7-8 25-yard butterfly.

website, "All recipients of this award share common characteristics; they are special, dedicated individuals who have demonstrated their love for children and the great sport of swimming."

"This was a pretty big deal for me," said Williams, who was recently named to return as swim coach of the James River High School team. "Our swimmers had a great meet, swimming best times and achieving personal success. It was many people's first City-County Meet and first meet at a facility like that."

The Ashley Plantation team was 10th with 5,064.5 points. Ashley had 14 first place finishers.

"We had 32 swimmers compete for the weekend," said Karen Williams of the

Ashley team. "As a team the swimmers improved their times by four minutes and 16.6 seconds from their previous best times. It has been a great season for our small but competitive team."

Right behind Ashley, in 11th place, was Limestone Park with 4,397 points. Colton Cunningham had a first gold in the 50 Backstroke and Austin Nielsen swam to a first gold in the 100 IM.

Howard Butts of the Barracudas was recognized for swimming every year of the RVAA's 60-year existence. At 83, he is the oldest member of the league. Also Al McPhearson, at age 72, had a perfect meet as he scored 350 points and swam to three meet records, breaking two he set last year.



Read Mountain's Emily Stakor races in the final heat of the 9-10 year-old 50-yard butterfly at the RVAA City-County meet.



Limestone Park's Tatum Arbogast races in the women's 7-8 25-yard butterfly at the RVAA championship meet.

PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING

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www.fincastleherald.com



**Brian Hoffman**

Sports Editor

# City-County Swim Meet wraps up summer season

The annual Duane Whitenack City-County Swim Meet was held at the Christiansburg Aquatic Center last weekend, capping off a season that began on June 3. Three Botetourt County swim teams participated in the meet. This year's City-County champion is the Stonegate Swim Club from Salem. The Gators scored 18,335 points over two days to out-swim Olympic Park, who

had 16,396. Hunting Hills edged Castle Rock for third, 13,895.5 to 13,596.5. Spring Run was fifth and Read Mountain was sixth among the 13 teams competing. The local Muskies finished the meet with 10,014 points. "We had a lot of new swimmers this summer," said coach Susan Bleeker. "Read Mountain works to encourage the fun of swimming and team camaraderie."

Katrina "Kitt" Williams of Read Mountain was awarded the prestigious Duane Whitenack Memorial Award. In 1980 the RVAA established a special award in memory of Duane Whitenack, who worked to help the RVAA expand and grow and who established the plans for a year-round pool for the use of the traveling team. The RVAA designated the year-end championship meet,

"The Duane Whitenack City/County Championship Meet." Also each year, the RVAA gives a special award in his memory to the person or persons who have contributed in an exceptional manner through their time and efforts to promote swimming in the Roanoke Valley. According to the RVAA

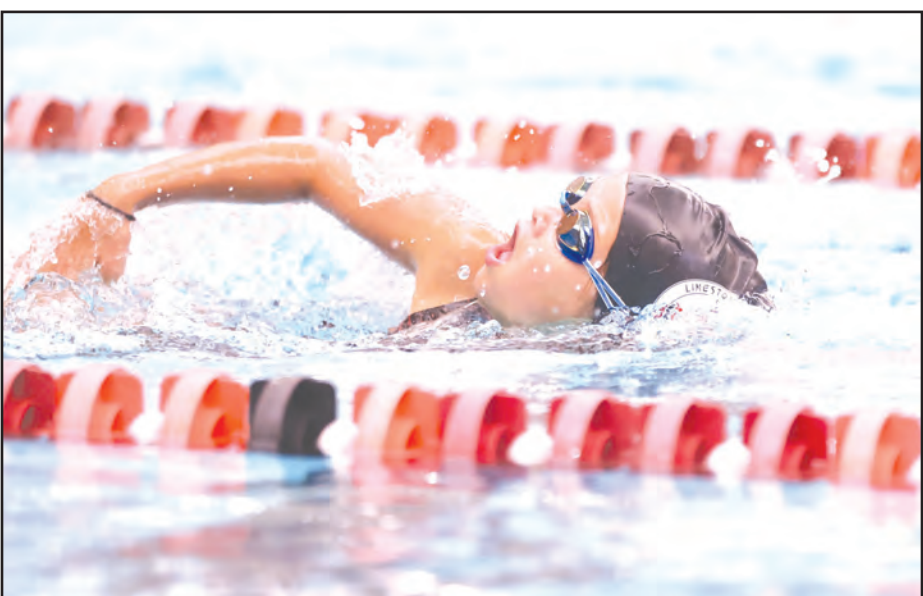
See Swim, page 11



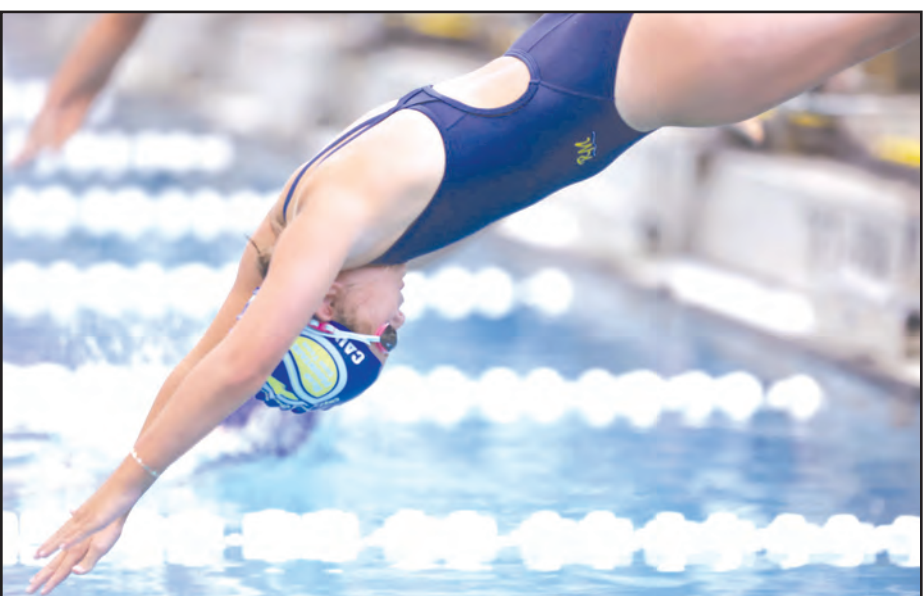
Samuel Scroggins swims in the fast heat of the men's 9-10 50-yard butterfly for the Ashley Plantation swim team.



Ashley Plantation's Ben Williams placed second in the men's 7-8 year-old 25-yard breaststroke on Saturday.



Limestone Park's Peyton Clarke swims in the women's 9-10-year-old 100-yard freestyle.



Read Mountain's Adeline Causey gets started in the fast heat for the women's 7-8-year-old 50-yard freestyle.

PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING

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