



## Tomato Festival treats Buchanan

**Matt de Simone**

mattdesimone@mainstreetnewspapers.com

Buchanan Town Park was the destination for a local tomato tour last Saturday.

The Botetourt Farmers Market presented the return of the popular Tomato Festival celebrating the rich agricultural heritage of the county. Guests were treated to several local vendors offering delicious tomato-themed treats and homemade goods. Attendees also had the chance to learn more about the rich history of tomatoes in Botetourt County.

Tomato Festival activities were enjoyed by attendees throughout the morning that included various children's activities with Botetourt Libraries, a free tomato tasting with Brent Hershey- State Farm, music from Mike Lee and Justin Broughman, a presentation on the history of tomatoes in Botetourt with the Virginia Cooperative Extension, and a vendor salsa contest.

Some of the vendors on hand included: Blue Ridge Barn Quilts, Broken Tiller Farm, Bruce Ingram Outdoors, By the Dozen, C&F Farms, Cutes by Ann, Hillside Plants and Produce, Humble Hen Farms, Kneadful Things, Moonblossom Farm, Mountain Thyme Honey, Sarah's Petals, Scones By Sydney, Sunny Day Designs, Turquoise Thread, Stavroula Borovich, Wildwood Workshop, Varsity Spa, Wilhelm Produce, Woodfairy Signs, Mountain View Candles, Magnolia South, Mountain Valley Art, Ostrom Apiary, Son of a Beekeeper Honey, Cricket's Tie-Dye, Bryant Orchards, Dangles by Angles, Sun & Spruce, Spice Titan, Blue Ridge Microfarm, Eggie Lopes, Judy's Wreaths, Layman Farms, and Little Wasprock Farm.



PHOTOS BY MATT DE SIMONE

The Botetourt Farmers Market welcomed guests to the annual Tomato Festival at Buchanan Town Park last weekend.



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF BOTETOURT CO.

A graphic of the zoning related to the properties of focus located off of Catawba Road in Daleville outlined in red.

## Board approves amendment designating Daleville property as a conservation easement

**Matt de Simone**

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Last Tuesday, the Botetourt County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved a request by the Planning Commission to take action on amending the designations of two parcels of land in Daleville from "Medium Density" to "Conservation," placing the property into a conservation easement.

The two adjacent land parcels total 73.24 acres bisected by a rail line and Tinker Creek. Both properties are split zoned – with portions on Catawba Road-side of the railroad (R-1) and on the Carvins Cove-side zoned A-1. The wooded property abuts Tinker Mountain. The property close to Catawba Road is fielded and also contains the home of the Lee family, who stated that 22 acres of the property is farmed for hay locally.

The property is screened from view at the road by dense vegetation and access is provided via a gravel drive on Catawba Road. The applicants

asserted that there is a variety of wildlife found on the property. In addition to the wildlife and Tinker Creek, there a spring-fed pond. The middle portion of the property contains a 100-year floodplain.

The applicant requests the Comprehensive Plan Amendment to change the future land use designation from "Medium Density Residential" to "Conservation." The applicant, William Calvin Lee, requested the amendment in order to place the property in a conservation easement with Blue Ridge Land Conservancy on their two properties, which is a state code requirement and it is the responsibility of the holder of the easement to ensure conformance.

Lee noted in his letter of intent dated March 21, 2024, that his family offers "this gift unto Botetourt County, to the State of Virginia, and to the benefit of the wildlife

See Easement, page 8

## Botetourt seniors hear from sheriff, fire chief at Social

**Matt de Simone**

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The Botetourt County Sheriff's Office met with local senior citizens at its most recent Senior Social at Fincastle Baptist Church last Friday. Sheriff Matt Ward stated that he was pleased in "an amazing turnout" when asked about the quarterly Botetourt event. Botetourt County Fire & EMS Chief Jason Ferguson served as the event's guest speaker providing a brief presentation on

smoke alarms and home safety tips.

"It was heartening to see such a strong community presence and so many community members come together to support in our efforts to eliminate senior fraud," Botetourt County Sheriff Matt Ward said. "Together we can make a significant impact in safeguarding our seniors from fraud and provide them with the essential services needed to lead independent

See Social, page 8



PHOTO BY MATT DE SIMONE

The Botetourt County Sheriff's Office held a Senior Social event at Fincastle Baptist Church last Friday.

## Botetourt County receives 4th VATI Grant for broadband installation

Governor Glenn Youngkin announced more than \$41 million in Virginia Telecommunication Initiative grants (VATI) for 10 broadband projects serving 20 localities throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia last Wednesday.

This year, the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) received 25 grant applications requesting more than \$170 million in VATI funding. Botetourt County announced that it is receiving funding totaling \$395,411 to work on expanding and establishing

broadband installation with Comcast to 62 addresses in the Blue Ridge area. This VATI proposal follows three previous successful VATI projects in Botetourt County serving a total of approximately 3,070 addresses and culminates the county's work to deliver broadband connectivity to every residence and business, begun in 2017 with the broadband demand study.

Botetourt County will continue to work with DHCD and internet service providers to look for opportunities to ensure that all residents have access to reliable internet, specifically in

the northern part of Botetourt, including the Arcadia community. The county is exploring BEAD (Broadband Equity Access & Deployment Program) funding to complete the universal coverage broadband build.

The VATI program provides targeted funding to extend service to areas that are presently unserved by any broadband provider. An expansion of services like this can have profoundly positive impacts on a community— it provides more educational and

See Broadband, page 8

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AUG 3

Botetourt FARMER'S MARKET

8:30 to NOON

AUG 3

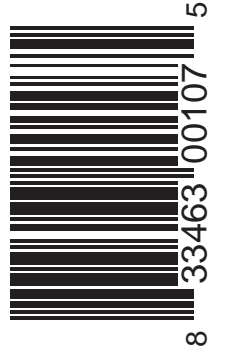
BIG DADDY RAY

5-9PM

AUG 9

THOMAS ROAD

5-9PM



Botetourt County History



PHOTO COURTESY OF BCMHC

Medicine has changed throughout history but being able to stand up and safely walk is important. This iron medical walking aid is heavy and sturdy from the early 1940s.

Basic metal walking frames were invented by William Cribbes Robb in the UK. The first walker with wheels wasn't patented in the U.S. until 1970 by Alfred A. Smith. Blue Ridge resident

Elmer Conrad Spickard used this walker. It was donated to the Botetourt Museum of History and Culture by his granddaughter, Naomi Spickard Rock, on May 31, 2024. Today's walkers are much improved and plastic walkers help babies learn to walk.

- Botetourt County Museum of History & Culture

Board amends county litter control ordinance



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF BOTETOURT CO.

The Botetourt County Board of Supervisors voted to amend the county's Litter Control Ordinance at the monthly meeting last week. The board voted in favor of the amendments, 4 to 1 (Blue Ridge Supervisor Walter Michael voted no). The items amended included:

- (Sec. 20-77) Defining "enforcement agent" to mean "the county administrator or designee"
- (Sec. 20-78) General violations – Unless otherwise specifically provided, a violation of any provision of this article shall constitute a Class 4 misdemeanor. Where expressly provided, the county may elect to issue a civil citation for such offense. Civil enforcement of any violation of this article shall preclude criminal prosecution for the same offense.
- (Sec. 20-86.1) Inoperable motor vehicles – The county's enforcement agent is empowered to issue citations to persons in violation. The fine for a first offense shall be \$200 per day for the initial violation, and \$500 for each subsequent citation for the same violation; provided, however, that a

single violation may not be charged more than once every 10 days. The total of all citations arising from the same set of operative facts may not exceed \$5,000 in any 12-month period.

- (Sec. 20-92) Maintenance of grass, weeds, and foreign growth – The county's enforcement agent is empowered to issue citations to persons in violation. In the event a civil penalty is issued, the fine for the first violation shall be \$50 per day, for each violation arising from the same set of operative facts. For subsequent violations on the same property arising from different sets of operative facts, the fine shall be \$200 per day. The total fines for all violations arising from the same set of operative facts shall not exceed \$3,000 in any 12-month period.

To read all of the amendments to "Article IV. Litter Control," visit the Botetourt County agenda center (botetourtva.gov/AgendaCenter) to access last week's board meeting packet.

- Fincastle Herald staff report



Botetourt County Fair begins Friday night in Buchanan



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF BOTETOURT CO. FAIR

The Botetourt County Fair begins this weekend at Buchanan Town Park.

One of the county's most anticipated weekends begins Friday, August 2, from 5:30 until 8:30 p.m. with a Beer Garden featuring Virginia Mountain Vineyards and live music at the Town Park, sponsored by Colonial Title and 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 this 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 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

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

Registration will be done on Milestat.com.

- Fincastle Herald staff report

ARRESTS

The Botetourt County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests for July 24-28:

- Michelle S. Tucker, 48, of Buchanan, drunk in public, July 24
- Richard J. Banner, 51, of Cana, Va., fugitive from justice, July 24
- Maquazha L. Porter, 23, of Suffolk, simple assault, forgery and uttering, credit card fraud, July 25
- Michael A. Salazar, 47, of Troutville, drunk in public, July 25
- Lindsey N. Barger, 26, of Troutville, domestic assault, July 25
- William K. West III, 55, of Fincastle, violation of a protective order, July 27
- John F. Higgins, 32, of Lexington, property damage, trespassing, July 27
- Marla R. DePriest-Fizer, 53, of Eagle Rock, drunk in public, July 27
- Christian V. Mendez, 36, of Brooklyn, N.Y., fugitive from justice, eluding law enforcement, July 27
- James R. Quillen, 18, of Troutville, disorderly conduct, property damage, July 28
- Karl E. Stoy IV, 46, of Buchanan, simple assault, drunk in public, July 28

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PHOTO COURTESY OF BOTETOVRT LONGBEARDS

# Women enjoy a day of shooting

The Botetourt Longbeards Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTFF) hosted 26 ladies at the chapter's eighth Women In The Outdoors (WITO) Event Saturday, July 27. The event offered the participants the chance to shoot a variety of firearms under the

guidance of certified instructors. They shot shotguns, .22 rifles, .22 pistols, archery and modern .223 rifles, and enjoyed lunch at Blue Ridge Vineyards near Eagle Rock. The vineyard has supported the WITO Event each year by allowing use of the property and

its pavilion. Pictured are participants, and chapter and instructor volunteers. The Longbeards will hold their annual fundraising banquet/gun bash Thursday, September 19 at The Barn at Back Creek, Buchanan. Tickets for the banquet will be available in August. Proceeds are

used to provide frozen turkeys to five Botetourt food pantries at Thanksgiving and Christmas.

- Ed McCoy - Botetourt Longbeards



PHOTOCOURTESY OF BUCHANAN LIONS CLUB

# Smith new member of Buchanan Lions

The Buchanan Lions Club has announced the addition of the newest member, Dorothy Smith. Dorothy has a longtime connection to Buchanan. Her grandmother, Dorothy Smith, and aunt, Elizabeth Ardelia (Dea) Smith, both served on the Town Council at points in the past. Her father, Norman O. Smith, lived in Buchanan and graduated from Buchanan High School. Dorothy

currently works at Bank of Botetourt in the Daleville branch. She joins the Lions with a history of working at the Buchanan Carnival, managing the Bingo stand. Pictured from left, President Tim Heinlein and Lion Danette Heinlein welcome Lion Dorothy Smith at a recent meeting.

- Buchanan Lions Club

# Rising sixth graders attend Botetourt County Youth with Character Academy

Twenty-two rising sixth graders, representing all seven of the elementary schools, participated in the Botetourt County Youth with Character Academy on July 16-18.

The three-day event, sponsored by the Botetourt County Character Counts! Leadership Council, is held annually and provides opportunities for the attendees to further develop good character traits which will help them be successful as they enter middle school. The attendees participated in team-building activities at Camp Bethel on the first day of the academy.

The second day of the academy featured activities that focused on the six pillars of character:

responsibility, respect, fairness, trustworthiness, citizenship, and caring. On the third day, the attendees took Character Counts! into the community by volunteering at the Botetourt Food Pantry, participating in a mock trial with Judge Robert Hagan, and playing Bingo with the residents at the Brian Center. Between the last day of the academy and October, the attendees will put Character Counts! into action by completing a community service project.

The Botetourt County Character Counts! Leadership Council thanks the following sponsors whose monetary support made this year's academy possible: Botetourt

Education Foundation, Botetourt Parks and Recreation, Daleville-Fincastle Lions Club, First Bank, and Lawrence Transportation. Additional supporters included: Botetourt County Public Schools, Botetourt Food Pantry, Botetourt Women's Farm Bureau, Brian Center, Camp Bethel, Fincastle Baptist Church, Judge Robert Hagan, Tammy Riggs, and Three Retired Ladies.

For additional information regarding the Botetourt County Youth with Character Academy, contact Wanda Martin at wamartin@bcps.k12.va.us.

- Submitted by Wanda Martin



PHOTO COURTESY OF WANDA MARTIN

## ABSOLUTE AUCTION

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Numerous Tools Mowers++

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**Directions:** : I64, exit 24 towards Clifton Forge, go to 1st light, left onto Commercial Ave., follow signs to Clifton Forge Armory.

**Terms:** Cash, check or charge (proc. fees apply) day of sale and picture ID required. Announcements day of sale take precedence over printed material. Food will be provided. Bleachers available or bring a chair.

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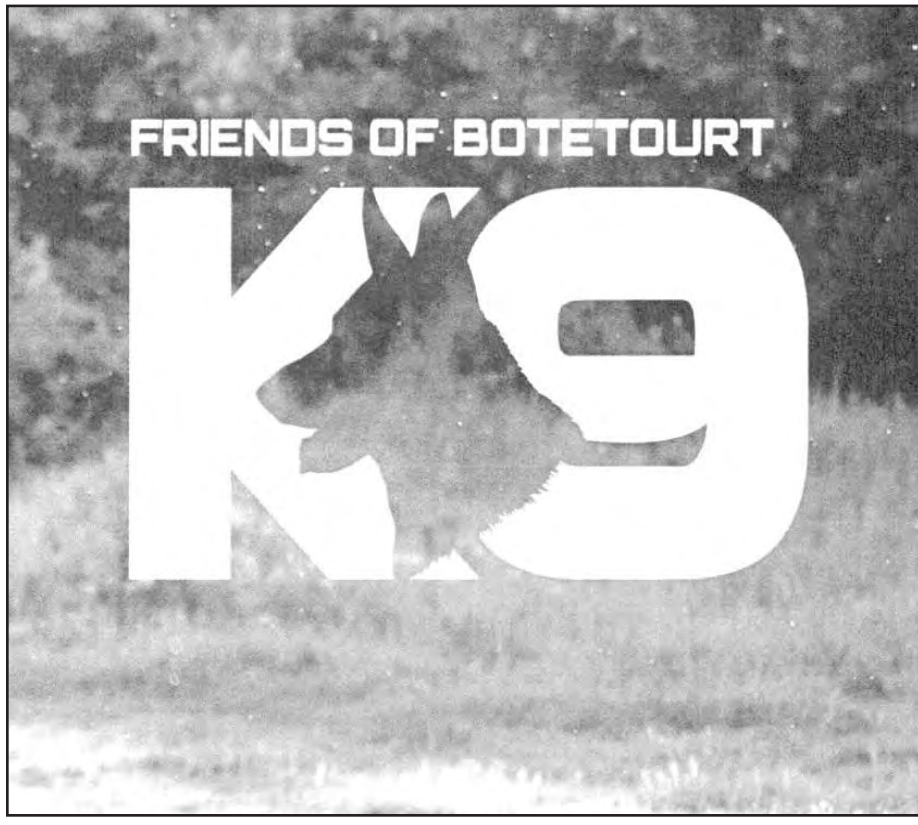
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GRAPHIC COURTESY OF FRIENDS OF BOTETOURT K9

# 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

## DMV Local Heroes series includes Botetourt first responders

Before the first dispatch to the scene. Before the fire trucks and the ambulances and the CPR. Before the rush through the ER doors. Before an officer delivers the news no family wants to hear. There are decisions to be made. Make the right ones.

Buckle up. Slow down. Drive sober.

That's the message Virginia first responders deliver in a powerful new ad campaign from the Virginia

Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). DMV picks up its perennial Local Heroes series with a play-by-play of a crash scene, acted out by real Virginia firefighters, paramedics, law enforcement officers and nurses.

"The vast majority of crashes - and the horrific injuries and tragic deaths they cause - are fully preventable with safe driving," said DMV Commissioner Gerald Lackey, the Governor's Highway

Safety Representative. "Our first responders are passionate about getting this message out to Virginians because they know, if heeded, it will save lives. Please buckle up, slow down and drive sober, whether you're driving five miles or 500."

In 2023, 335 people who weren't wearing their seat belt were killed in crashes in Virginia. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) says proper

seat belt use reduces the chance of suffering a fatal injury in a crash by nearly half. In Virginia, one-in-four people don't wear a seat belt, according to NHTSA's 2023 seat belt use survey. The same year, 449 people died in crashes involving speed and 293 died in alcohol-related crashes across Virginia.

This year's Local Heroes campaign features first responders from Goochland County Fire/EMS, Goochland



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF VA DMV

County Sheriff's Office, Virginia State Police, Botetourt County Sheriff's Office, Virginia Beach General Hospital and Virginia Beach EMS. The multimedia initiative, which includes local and cable TV and radio spots, as well as social and digital

See Heroes, page 8



# Community Service Directory



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# Botetourt Worship Directory

**ANGLICAN**

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

**ASSEMBLIES OF GOD**

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

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

**INDEPENDENT****BAPTIST**

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

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

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

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

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

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

**SOUTHERN BAPTIST**

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

**Buchanan Baptist Church** - 19730 Main Street, Buchanan, Sunday Bible Study for all ages 9:45 a.m.; Worship at 11 a.m. Wednesday Fellowship Meal at 6 p.m. followed by Bible Study and activities for all ages. Facebook - Buchanan

Baptist Church; Web Site - [buchananbaptist.com](http://buchananbaptist.com); Phone - 254-2253, Pastor - Darrell Naff; Minister of Music - Stephen Harris

**Daleville Baptist Church**- Corner of Valley Rd. and Orchard Dr., 992-1570; Senior Pastor Wes Belcher; Sunday School 9:15 AM, Worship 10:30 AM; Wednesday: Prayer & Bible Study - 6:30 PM, Youth - 6:30 PM

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN**

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

**Presence Bread**

Read 2 Chronicles 1:1 through 4:22

Solomon also made all the furnishings that were in God's temple: the golden altar; the tables on which was the bread of the Presence (2 Chronicles 4:19).

The bread of the Presence, also called showbread, was considered sacred. The literal Hebrew name (lechem hapanim) means "bread of the face." Some references make it plural, rendering it "bread of faces." Made with the finest flour, it was baked into twelve loaves. They were set out on a special table, called the table of the Presence, in two rows of six each. The table was made of acacia wood and overlaid with pure gold. Every Sabbath, the priests removed the loaves and replaced them with freshly baked ones. They would eat the old loaves in the holy sanctuary area.

The bread of the Presence, which sat on the table of the Presence, has divine significance for all believers. Besides the obvious connection to the twelve tribes of Israel, the showbread represents a deeper truth about the manifest presence of God: His face is always before His people—and we are always before Him. We can have no greater assurance in Him.

Prayer Suggestion: Thank You, Lord God, for always watching over me.

Quicklook: 2 Chronicles 4:19-22

Pastor; Shawna Burkhart, preschool director.

**Mt. Bethel Church of the Brethren**- 10603 Narrow Passage Rd., Eagle Rock. PO Box. 183 Eagle Rock, VA 24085. Interim Pastor Dreama Osborne. 884-2292 (church), 540-597-8272 (cell). Sunday School, 10 AM; worship, 11 AM; Ladies' Aid meets 2nd Thurs. monthly.

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

**Pleasant Dale Church of the Brethren**, 3732 Breckinridge Mill Rd, Fincastle, Rev. Dr. David A. Tozar - pastor, Sunday worship at 11am, preceded by coffee fellowship at 10:30, Bible Study Sunday at 6pm, 5th Sunday Potluck luncheon, Handicap Accessible, Contact Pastor Davd at [dtozar9@yahoo.com](mailto:dtozar9@yahoo.com). Follow on Facebook, Sunday worship and Thursday Bible study stream live.

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

**CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**Dale Ridge Church of Christ** - Will you "come back to the Bible", learn more and follow Him? If you live locally in this beautiful Roanoke Valley ad Botetourt County area there is a Church, you will know it's the ONE when you see the name on the end of the building that reads Church of Christ. 7165 Cloverdale Rd., NW, Roanoke, VA 24019. We offer a free 3 lesson, open Bible course

entitled "Back to the Bible." (Only available in home or at our Church location). Sign up now on our website, [daleridgechurchofchrist.com](http://daleridgechurchofchrist.com) or email your request to [comeback2thebible@gmail.com](mailto:comeback2thebible@gmail.com). May God bless you in your choices. Choose Jesus.

**ECKANKAR**

**Eckankar, the Path of Spiritual Freedom**, is a simple teaching that focuses on the Light and Sound of God to help people find more love in their life. The Roanoke Eckankar Center is located at 1420 3rd St. SW, Roanoke, VA 24016. A light and sound service is held on the 2nd Sunday of each month at 11:00 a.m. Since contracting COVID-19 may still be possible, please take the health steps that are best for you. It is appreciated that by attending you are taking responsibility for your own health. Visit [www.eck-va.org](http://www.eck-va.org) or call 540-353-5365 for other Eckankar programs and for more information about how the teachings of Eckankar can lead you to spiritual freedom.

**EPISCOPAL**

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

**LUTHERAN**

**Our Savior Evangelical Lutheran Church (WELS)** - 9068 Cloverdale Road, Troutville, VA; Paul Workentine, Pastor; Worship Sunday at 10:00 AM. Sunday School at 11:30 AM. Info and calendar at [osroanoke.com](http://osroanoke.com). Phone: 540-977- 4888. **Wheatland Evangelical Lutheran Church**- 1560 Wheatland Road, Buchanan, 24066; 540-254-1605. Sunday worship service, 10:30 a.m. (in person or parking lot, tune car radio to 88.9 FM). The Rev. Chuck Miller, 540-589-7553. Facebook, <http://www.wheatlandlutheran.org>; [teemwheatland@gmail.com](mailto:teemwheatland@gmail.com)

**NON-****DENOMINATIONAL**

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

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

**Woodland Church-A Place Where You Can Grow** - 45 Woodland Rd. Troutville, VA. Corner of Blacksburg/ Country Club Rds., 3.5 miles W. of Fincastle; 992-1008. Sunday School, 10AM; Worship, 11AM, Wed. Prayer Meeting 6:30PM. Website: [woodlandchurchbc.com](http://woodlandchurchbc.com). E-mail address: [woodlandchurchbc@gmail.com](mailto:woodlandchurchbc@gmail.com).

**PRESBYTERIAN**

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

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

**Fincastle Presbyterian Church** - 108 E. Back Street, Fincastle, VA 24090. The Rev. Dr. David Dickerson, Supply Minister, Lori Turner, Music Director. Worship service in the Sanctuary and via Live Streaming (<https://www.facebook.com/fincastleresbyterianchurch>) at 10:30 AM. Adult Sunday School offered at 9:30 AM. Fellowship time in the Fellowship Hall immediately following morning service. Bell choir practices after Sunday Fellowship, often providing special music in our services. For more information please email [fincastlepresbyterianchurch@gmail.com](mailto:fincastlepresbyterianchurch@gmail.com) or call 540.473.2042.

**Galatia Evangelical**

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

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

**ROMAN CATHOLIC**

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

**UNITED METHODIST**

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

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

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

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

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

# Botetourt Music Academy sponsoring Hymn Sing August 4

The public is invited to a Hymn Sing at 4 p.m. on Sunday, August 4, at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, sponsored by Botetourt Music Academy. Botetourt Music Academy began in the fall of 2021 with a grant from the National Episcopal Church's Roanridge Grant. This grant supports long-lasting projects

in rural areas that will benefit the broader community. Though sponsored by the Episcopal Church and BMA rehearsals are housed at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Fincastle, BMA is simply an outreach for the community at large, regardless of school system or faith. BMA has offered children's choirs for

ages 5-18, and has reached out as far as Roanoke, with collaborations with Southwest Virginia Ballet, and Opera Roanoke. This fall, the great project for BMA is a Community Chorus, for adults and children age 12 and older. Dr. Jeffrey Sandborg will be directing the choir. This is an incredible opportunity for all

in our community, as Dr. Sandborg has so much to offer. For more information, email music@stmarksfincastle.org. Come meet Dr. Sandborg on Sunday, August 4, 4 p.m., at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Fincastle, for a Hymn Sing.

- St. Mark's Episcopal Church

## CHURCH NEWS

### 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

### 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.

### Mt. Carmel hymn sing August 11

Mt. Carmel Church, Eagle Rock, will hold a community hymn sing on August 11 at 7 p.m. with light refreshments following.

### Summer sale at Cloverdale Thrift Store

Cloverdale Church of the Brethren Thrift Store is having a summer sale - all clothes and shoes are half-off the original thrift price. There is an enormous selection, come check it out.

## OBITUARY

### Cronise, Gladys Edwards

Gladys Edwards Cronise, 95, of (Brandon), Sarah Edwards, Emily Roanoke and formerly of Troutville, Dooley (Branden); 13 great-grandchildren, Lucas and Cory Bryant, Jordan and Chase Wimmer, Colton, Grayson and Cooper Haynes, Beau Moore, Mila and Micah Edwards, McKinley, Jack, and Madison Dooley.



She was born on February 13, 1929 in Crumpler, W.Va., to the late Coy and Bessie Shilling, and was also preceded in death by her husbands, Lawrence J. Edwards and Cyrus Cronise; two sisters, Vanola Williamson and Madeline Hall; and two brothers, Carl Shilling and Thomas Maxey.

Gladys is survived by her four children, Douglas Edwards, Crystal Bryant (Jimmy), Tommy Edwards, Barry Edwards (Belinda); seven grandchildren, Jimmy Bryant, Jr. (Debbie), Travis Bryant (Mendy), Chelsea Wimmer (Jacob), Tessa Haynes (Joe), Lauren Moore

A funeral service will be held at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, July 31, 2024 at Oakey's East Chapel with the Rev. Carol Johnston officiating. Interment will follow in Troutville Cemetery. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the funeral at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Troutville Baptist Church Food Pantry. Arrangements by Oakey's East Chapel, 540-977-3909.



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF LIFELINESCREENING

## Life Line offering residents screening information

Screenings for cardiovascular disease, osteoporosis, diabetes, and other chronic, serious conditions will be offered by Life Line Screening on September 9. Troutville Church of the Brethren will host this community event at 5133 Lee Highway in Troutville.

Screenings can check for:

- The level of plaque buildup in arteries, related to risk for cardiovascular disease, stroke and overall vascular health
- HDL and LDL cholesterol levels

- Diabetes risk
- Kidney and thyroid function, and more

According to Life Line, the screenings are affordable and convenient. Free parking is also available.

Special package pricing starts at \$159, but consultants will help to create a package based on age and risk factors. Call 1-877-237-1287 or visit the website at www.lifelinescreening.com. Pre-registration is required.

- Life Line Screening



## State underwater archaeologist to share discoveries from 1856 canal tunnel in Botetourt

The historic Wilson Warehouse in Buchanan welcomes the public to a presentation on Tuesday, August 6, beginning at 7 p.m., "The Marshall Tunnel in Botetourt County: Drilling and Blasting a Canal to the West." Admission is free.

Virginia Underwater Archaeologist Brendan Burke will lead the audience through this fascinating pre-Civil War earth-moving project that was part of a planned expansion of the James River & Kanawha Canal to the Ohio River basin. Up to that point, the canal from Richmond terminated in Buchanan.

The 1,900-foot-long tunnel had been abandoned when funding for the project ran out in 1856. Only recently, particularly through the efforts of Brendan Burke, has the interior of the tunnel been discovered.

It is only fitting that the presentation takes place at the 1839 Wilson Warehouse, as the warehouse played a pivotal role in the function of the canal. This is the first in a series of occasional lectures, presentations and events for Botetourt County and the surrounding region at the Wilson Warehouse. The series will highlight the historical men, women and events that contributed to



Brendan Burke PHOTOS COURTESY OF BUCHANAN TIS

the development of the region.

Brendan Burke joined the Virginia Department of Historic Resources in 2021 as the state underwater archaeologist. He works throughout the public waters of the Commonwealth to document shared maritime heritage. Burke graduated from Longwood University in 2001 and completed his graduate work at William & Mary in 2006. His work with maritime landscapes takes him from the waters and beaches of the Eastern Shore to the inland navigations of the Shenandoah Valley, and even further west.

The Wilson Warehouse, at 421 Lowe Street in Buchanan, is undergoing extensive

revitalization. It is an historic venue for weddings, receptions, service club meetings and community events. The space is available for rental. The warehouse is operated by the Town Improvement Society. For information call (540) 817-5772 or email: tis1903@gmail.com; website: wilsonwarehouse.org.; Facebook: Buchanan Town Improvement Society.

- Town Improvement Society

Buchanan Moose Lodge 218

# FIRST FRIDAYS

# WASTED WAYS

FRIDAY AUGUST 2ND  
+FREE DARTS 5-7PM  
+MUSIC 8-11PM

FREE ADMISSION

FOOD SPECIAL:  
SPAGHETTI & SALAD  
\$\$CASH DONATION

IF NOT A MOOSE MEMBER, ONE WILL SIGN YOU IN  
AND YOU CAN JOIN  
A POWERFUL FUNDRAISING GROUP OF FOLKS WHO  
DO GOOD DEEDS IN YOUR COMMUNITY

GRAPHIC COURTESY OF BUCHANAN MOOSE LODGE

## First Fridays at the Moose

First Fridays at the Moose this week on August 2 features free darts from 5-7 p.m., music by Wasted Ways, 8-11 p.m., and a 50/50 drawing. A spaghetti dinner will be available by donation. The Buchanan Moose Lodge is located at 534 3rd Street.

- Buchanan Moose Lodge

Share Church news today!  
fincastle@ourvalley.org

Serving With Compassion

**Botetourt**  
Funeral Home & Crematory

Buchanan | Eagle Rock  
254-3000 | 884-2276  
14920 Lee Highway | 14777 Church Street

Karen C. Young,  
Funeral Director

Locally owned & operated by  
I. Ray & Bobbi Sloan

# Social

from page 1



PHOTOS BY MATT DE SIMONE

Seniors had the opportunity to learn more about their future needs.

lives.”  
Seniors learned about the many services and resources available that will assist them in living independent lives which included information about daily well-being checks (Senior Connect), general health, and financial well-being. Local government representatives and senior services

were in attendance to give advice and help seniors navigate their future needs. Those services included: The Glebe, Valley Medicare Solutions, Solomon’s Mission, Cora Physical Therapy, Roanoke Area Youth Substance Abuse Coalition, Sentara Health Plans, Congressman Ben Cline’s Office, InnovAge, Jay Kilby, Botetourt

County, Botetourt Sheriff’s Office, Bank of Botetourt, Carilion Clinic, Gentle Shepherd Hospice, Virginia Department of Veterans Services, LifeNet Health, and Local Offices on Aging.  
The next Senior Social will take place November 24, 2024, at Fincastle Baptist Church.

# Letter

from page 4

I won’t stop until we achieve that. I feel that we are making progress, albeit much slower than anyone would like. I am encouraged by the recent announcement confirming the BEAD funding for Virginia. I fully anticipate favorable resolution and will let you know as soon as I have more definitive details to share.

If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to reach out to me at [awhite@botetourtva.gov](mailto:awhite@botetourtva.gov). It is truly my honor to represent each of you.

*Amy White, Vice Chair  
Botetourt County Board of Supervisors*

# Heroes

from page 5

media placements, demonstrates to the motoring public that first responders care about their communities and want them to get home safely.

The Local Heroes campaign, produced by Two Tango and Brian Camp Pictures, will run throughout Virginia through August 12. For more highway safety

information, visit [dmv.virginia.gov/safety](http://dmv.virginia.gov/safety). To view the Local Heroes video, visit DMV’s YouTube page.  
- Virginia DMV

# Public Notice

**BOTETOURT COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD REGULAR MEETING**  
The Botetourt County School Board will hold a Regular Meeting on Thursday, August 8, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m., immediately followed by closed session. The public session begins at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will be held at 143 Poor Farm Road, Fincastle, Virginia with a physical quorum present and electronic access through [www.bcps.live](http://www.bcps.live). Citizens wishing to address the School Board are asked to complete a Request to Speak form prior to 10:00 a.m. August 8, 2024 at: <https://forms.gle/9vZoPXyxZR8bgEoQ6> or by contacting Susan Albert, School Board Clerk, at (540) 473-8263 or by email at [salbert@bcps.k12.va.us](mailto:salbert@bcps.k12.va.us).

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF A PETITION BY MTN INFRASTRUCTURE TOPCO LP, LUMOS TELEPHONE LLC, LUMOS TELEPHONE OF BOTETOURT, LLC AND TRAILBLAZER HOLDCO, LLC AND T-MOBILE US, INC., T-MOBILE FIBER JV HOLDINGS LLC FOR APPROVAL TO TRANSFER CONTROL PURSUANT TO THE UTILITY TRANSFERS ACT, VA. CODE § 56-88 ET SEQ. CASE NO. PUR-2024-00102  
On June 20, 2024, MTN Infrastructure TopCo LP (“MTN Infrastructure” or “Transferor”); Lumos Telephone LLC (“Lumos Telephone”); Lumos Telephone of Botetourt, LLC (“Lumos Botetourt”) (Lumos Telephone and Lumos Botetourt together the “Licensees”); and Trailblazer Holdco, LLC (“Trailblazer Holdco” or “Transferee”); and T-Mobile US, Inc. (“T-Mobile”); T-Mobile Fiber JV Holdings LLC (“T-Mobile Fiber”) (collectively, “Joint Petitioners”) completed the filing of a Joint Petition (“Petition”) with the State Corporation Commission (“Commission”) for approval pursuant to Utility Transfers Act, Chapter 5 of Title 56 of the Code of Virginia (“Code”), requesting approval to transfer control of the Licensees held by wholly owned subsidiaries of MTN Infrastructure to Trailblazer Holdco (the “Proposed Transaction”).

According to the Petition, the Proposed Transaction will result in T-Mobile and the EQT Infrastructure VI Fund, through wholly owned subsidiaries, being 50/50 owners of Trailblazer Holdco, which will indirectly own and control 100 percent of the Licensees. The Licensees are incumbent local exchange carriers (“ILEC”) authorized to provide local exchange and long distance telephone services and paging services in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

In support of the Proposed Transaction, the Joint Petitioners represent the Licensees will continue to have the financial, managerial, and technical resources to provide intrastate telecommunications services under EQT’s and T-Mobile’s joint ownership and control. The Joint Petitioners state that the Transferee is managerially, technically, and financially well-qualified to complete the Proposed Transaction and assume indirect ownership and control of Licensees. The Joint Petitioners further state the Proposed Transaction will strengthen the financial position of the Licensees by providing access to capital from new funding sources, enabling accelerated investment in the companies’ networks and expansion of those fiber networks. The Joint Petitioners also represent that the Proposed Transaction will aid in the deployment of broadband to rural and underserved communities who do not have access to fiber today.

The Joint Petitioners state that the Proposed Transaction is in the public interest, because the Licensees will continue to provide high-quality communications services to their customers without interruption, and will increase competition. The Joint Petitioners further represent that the Licensees’ existing tariffs and price lists will not be affected by the Proposed Transaction and will remain in effect (subject to change in the ordinary course of business) and that any future changes, if any, in rates, terms and conditions of service will be made in accordance with applicable rules and notice requirements.

Copies of the Petition may be downloaded from the Commission’s website: [scc.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information](http://scc.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information), or may be obtained by contacting counsel for the Joint Petitioners: Cliona M. Robb, Esquire, Thompson McMullan, P.C., 100 Shockoe Slip, 3rd Floor, Richmond, Virginia, 23219, [crobbs@t-mlaw.com](mailto:crobbs@t-mlaw.com).

On or before September 4, 2024, any interested person may submit comments on the Petition electronically by following the instructions on the Commission’s website: [scc.virginia.gov/cascomments/Submit-Public-Comments](http://scc.virginia.gov/cascomments/Submit-Public-Comments). Those unable, as a practical matter, to submit comments electronically may file such comments by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the Commission, c/o Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218-211.8. All comments shall refer to Case No. PUR-2024-00102.

On or before September 4, 2024, any interested person may file a request for a hearing on the Petition with the Clerk of the Commission at [scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling](http://scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling). Those unable, as a practical matter, to file electronically may file a request for hearing by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the Commission at the address listed above. Such request for hearing shall include the email addresses of such parties or their counsel, if available. Requests for a hearing shall include: (i) a precise statement of the filing party’s interest in the proceeding; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent then known; (iii) a statement of the legal basis for such action; and (iv) a precise statement why a hearing should be conducted in this matter. All requests for a hearing shall refer to Case No. PUR-2024-00102. Persons filing a request for hearing shall send a copy of their request to counsel for Joint Petitioners. MTN INFRASTRUCTURE TOPCO, LP TRAILBLAZER HOLDCO, LLC, ET AL.

# Broadband

from page 1

connectivity options for residents and opens up economic development opportunities for localities.

**VATI Success to Date**  
Botetourt County has been awarded (3) VATI grants:

- 2019 – Craig-Botetourt Electric

## Stockyard Report

**Monday’s sale at the Roanoke-Hollins Stockyard: 100 Head**

**Head Bulls** \$1,900.00

**Graded Steers**  
400-499 \$283.00-\$286.00  
500-599 \$271.00  
600-699 \$257.00

**Graded Bulls**  
400-499 \$279.00-\$284.00  
500-599 \$255.00-\$269.00  
600-699 \$236.00

**Graded Heifers**  
400-499 \$248.00-\$256.00  
500-599 \$255.00-\$269.00  
600-699 \$223.00

**Kill Cows** \$60.00-\$140.00

**Kill Bulls** \$153.50

Cooperative (CBEC); \$758,998 VATI award matched by \$1,207,999 in county and CBEC funds (61% local/private match) to serve 621 addresses.

• Total Project Cost per Address Served: \$3,167

• VATI Award per Address Served: \$1,222

• 2020 – Lumos Networks; \$1,364,337 VATI award matched by \$1,254,000 in county and

Lumos funds (52% local/private match) to serve 548 addresses

• Total Project Cost per Address Served: \$4,778

• VATI Award per Address Served: \$2,490

• 2021 – Lumos Fiber - \$3,084,796; VATI award matched by \$4,824,937 in county and Lumos funds (61% local/private match) to serve 1,901 addresses

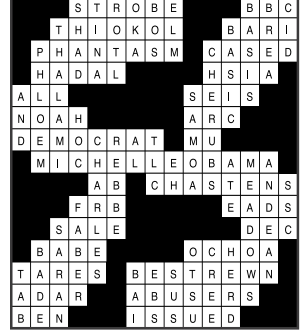
• Total Project Cost per Address Served - \$4,161

• VATI Award per Address Served - \$1,623

• Total VATI grant awards of \$5,208,131 (\$1,697 per address) & \$7,286,936 in county and provider funds to serve 3,070 addresses (total - \$4,070 per address)

- Fincastle Herald staff report

## CROSSWORD ANSWERS



## Botetourt County Public Schools Annual Public Notice Career and Technical Education

Botetourt County Public School’s Career and Technical Education offers a variety of Career and Technical Education programs to all students at the middle and high school levels. The program areas include:

- Agriculture Education
- Business and Information Technology
- Career Connections
- Family and Consumer Sciences
- Health and Medical Sciences
- Marketing
- Technology Education
- Trade and Industrial Education

Dual Enrollment opportunities are available for students who are entering the workforce and/or post-secondary education through agreements with Virginia Western Community College and Mountain Gateway Community College (formerly Dabney S. Lancaster). For more information about Career and Technical Education, call Mike Ketron @ (540) 473-8216.

The Virginia Department of Education and Botetourt County School Board are committed to non-discrimination with regard to sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, race, color, national origin, disability, religion, ancestry, age, marital status, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions, military status, genetic information or any other characteristic protected by law. No person shall be denied educational opportunities solely because of impairment, which is unrelated to the ability to engage in activities involved in the program for which application has been made.

Mike Tetreat, Supervisor of Instruction  
Tim McClung, Supervisor of Instruction  
Tim McEon, Director of Human Resources  
143 Poor Farm Road  
Fincastle, VA 24090  
540-473-8263

For further information on notice of non-discrimination, visit <http://ocracas.ed.gov/contact-ocr> for the address and phone number of the office that serves your area, or call 1-800-421-3481.

# Easement

from page 1

and woodland creatures who rely on our open land and natural water sources for the sanctuary and survival.”

According to the county, conservation easements are a private agreement between a landowner and an easement-holding organization. The organization holding the easement is responsible for ensuring that development of the property is done in accordance with the legal agreement.

State code requires conservation easements to be in conformance with the Comprehensive Plan. A portion of the applicant’s property is within the “Medium Density” Future Land Use category, thus requiring a change to the future land use map to establish a conservation easement on the property.

A public water main and gravity sewer are located on the property, according to county records. An easement on the applicant’s property would prohibit nearly 75 acres from being developed as housing. County staff encouraged careful consideration of the impacts a conservation easement would have on the long-term development of the county.

## PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD OPEN AUGUST 1-15, 2024, REGARDING 72 RAILROAD AVE., EAGLE ROCK, VA 24085

The Botetourt County Office of Community Development is issuing this public notice for the purpose of soliciting public comment concerning proposed work at 72 Railroad Ave., Eagle Rock, VA 24085 that will occur within the regulated floodplain. The project intends to remediate the site. This will be accomplished by removing the debris, grading the site, and stabilizing the soil with grass. The desired result is to create a green space that provides improved flood resilience to the immediate area while removing the safety and aesthetic concerns that currently exist. The removal of the debris will serve to reduce the impermeable surface of the half-acre lot allowing for better rainwater drainage.

The purpose of this project is to secure Federal and State funds through a Virginia Department of Emergency Management FEMA grant opportunity. Utilizing these funds will reduce the burden to the taxpayer by a minimum of 95%. This funding opportunity was able to be explored without additional staffing costs to the County.

Public comment is a requirement of compliance with Executive Order 11988 and a stipulation of receiving FEMA grant funding. The public comment period will open at 8:30 AM on Thursday, August 1, 2024, and will close at 8:30 AM on Thursday, August 15, 2024. Please submit information by filling out an online form at

[www.botetourtva.gov/72railroadavenuepubliccomment](http://www.botetourtva.gov/72railroadavenuepubliccomment)  
or by calling (540) 928-2004 or by mailing your comments to: Botetourt County, attention Tiffany Bradbury, 57 S. Center Dr., Daleville, VA 24083.



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The Vinton Messenger

The New Castle Record

Salem Times-Register

News Messenger

Radford News Journal

### Help Wanted



#### Director of Fund Development

Nonprofit seeks an individual with experience developing, leading, and managing a fundraising strategy and program to increase individual and corporate donations. Must have a minimum of 6 years' experience with demonstrated success in development and managing a portfolio of donors and closing gifts of \$1,000 or more.

Salaried position for enthusiastic self-motivated professional with excellent verbal and written communication skills.

Actively identify, cultivate, and close gifts in support of TAP. This includes both financial and in-kind donations.

Build and manage a portfolio of 75-100 individual and corporate donors and prospects with an annual giving capacity of \$1,000+. Within this list, identify, actively cultivate, and close gifts. This portfolio movement will be reviewed monthly with the President/CEO to ensure it reflects significant prospect movement from identification to cultivation to solicitation to stewardship.

Work in coordination with the President/CEO to seek out and secure quarterly speaking engagements at civic or community events to promote TAP and its programs and cultivate prospective donors.

Must have a bachelor's degree in communications, marketing, public relations, or related field

Experience in strategic planning for development, major gifts, capital campaigns, corporate and marketing initiatives.

For a full job description please visit Indeed.com or at our website [www.tapintohope.org](http://www.tapintohope.org)

Salary: \$60,000-\$75,000/yr. Submit cover letter and resume to: TAP, Human Resources, Job Code DFD-CA, PO Box 2868, 302 2nd St SW Roanoke VA 24011 or fax to 540-345-1944

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### Legals - Craig County

#### Order of Publication

Commonwealth of Virginia VA Code §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316.20-104  
Case No. CL24001130-00 MONTGOMERY COUNTY Circuit Court, 55 EAST MAIN STREET, SUITE 1, CHRISTIANSBURG, VA 24073  
Commonwealth of Virginia, in re CRAIG COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES v. CARMEN COLLINI  
The object of this suit is to: APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIANSHIP. It is ORDERED that BROOKE COLLINI, SHADE COLLINI, CAYENNE COLLINI, TONI COLLINI, CHRISTOPHER CUMBEE

### Legals - Craig County

appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before AUGUST 21, 2024 @ 10:00AM.  
JULY 22, 2024  
TIFFANY COUCH, CLERK

### Legals - Botetourt County

#### TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 362 LOWE STREET, BUCHANAN, VA 24066.

In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated March 12, 2018, in the original principal amount of \$88,065.00 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Botetourt County, Virginia as Instrument No. 180000875. The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for Botetourt County, Main Street, Fincastle, VA 24090, or any such temporary alternative Circuit Court location designated by the Judges of the Circuit Court, on August 30, 2024, at 2:00 PM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: LOCATED IN THE COUNTY OF BOTETOURT, VIRGINIA: TWO-THIRDS OF LOT NO. EIGHTEEN (18), FRONTING 88.92 FEET ON WATER STREET, AND RUNNING BACK BETWEEN PARALLEL LINES 167.77 FEET TO THE REAR LINE OF SAID LOT NO. 18. THE WEST ONE--THIRD OF SAID LOT ADJOINS AN ALLEY KNOWN AS SECOND ALLEY, AND BEING THE SAME LAND THAT WAS CONVEYED TO H.S. HODGES BY J.E. HODGES AND M.F. HODGES, HIS WIFE, BY DEED DATED JUNE 18, 1934, AND RECORDED IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BOTETOURT COUNTY, VIRGINIA, IN DEED BOOK "X" AT PAGE 34. LESS AND EXCEPTING THAT PORTION OF THE ABOVE-DESCRIBED LOT

SECURING 44 FEET ON WATER STREET AND RUNNING BACK BETWEEN PARALLEL LINES 167.77 FEET, THAT WAS CONVEYED TO H. J. SMITH AND EDRA SMITH, HIS WIFE, BY THE SAID HARRY S. HODGES AND LENA S. HODGES, HIS WIFE, BY DEED DATED NOVEMBER 6, 1948, AND RECORDED IN THE AFORESAID CLERK'S OFFICE IN DEED BOOK 100, PAGE 282, TO WHICH SAID DEED REFERENCE IS HERE AND NOW MADE. TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit of ten percent (10%) of the sale price or ten percent (10%) of the original principal balance of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, in the form of cash or certified funds payable to the Substitute Trustee must be present at the time of the sale. The balance of the purchase price will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Purchaser's deposit may be forfeited to Trustee. Time is of the essence. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser may, if provided by the terms of the Trustee's Memorandum of Foreclosure Sale, be entitled to a \$50 cancellation fee from the Substitute Trustee, but shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagee, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. A form copy of the Trustee's memorandum of foreclosure sale and contract to purchase real property is available for viewing at [www.bwwsales.com](http://www.bwwsales.com). Additional terms, if any, to be announced at the sale and the Purchaser may be given the option to execute the contract of sale electronically. This is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. The sale is subject to seller confirmation. Substitute Trustee: Equity Trustees, LLC, 8100 Three Chopt Road, Suite 240, Richmond, VA 23229.

For more information contact: BWW Law Group, LLC, attorneys for Equity Trustees, LLC, 6003 Executive Blvd, Suite 101, Rockville, MD 20852, 301-961-6555, website: [www.bwwsales.com](http://www.bwwsales.com), VA-370006-1.

And being the same real property conveyed to Lucy Campbell and Hazel Terry Justice, as joint tenants, from J. C. Snidow and Lillian L. Snidow, husband and wife, by deed, dated November 14, 1944 and recorded November 16, 1944 in the Montgomery County Circuit Court Clerk's Office in Deed Book 134 at Page 250.

This description is made subject to all easements, conditions, agreements, restrictions, and reservations, of record which affect the property herein described. IT APPEARING that an Affidavit has been made and filed stating that due diligence has been used, without effect, to ascertain the identity and location of certain parties to be served, that the last known addresses for the Respondents herein are as follows: Hazel Terry Justice, who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is unknown; Lucy Campbell aka Lucy Mae Terry aka Lucy Mae Nichols, who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is unknown; Elizabeth Terry Grier, who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is unknown; Robert L. Terry, who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is unknown; James Monroe Terry, who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is unknown; Clarence William Terry, who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is unknown; Mary Terry, whose last known address is unknown; Robert Terry, Jr., whose last address is unknown; Patricia Terry, whose last known address is unknown; and that any officers, heirs, devisees, and successors in title of the Respondent named herein are made parties Respondent to this action individually and/or by the general description of Parties Unknown, it is hereby

ORDERED that the parties herein and all Parties Unknown and/or whose location cannot be ascertained appear on or before August 31, 2024 in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of the County of Montgomery, Virginia, and do what may be necessary to protect their interests in this cause. Entered on the 22day of July, 2024  
K. Mike Fleenor, Jr. Judge

I Ask For This: John A. rife, Esq. (VSB No. 45805)  
Jeffrey A Scharf, Esq. (VSB No. 30591)  
Mark K. Ames, Esq. (VSB No. 27409)  
Andrew M. Neville, Esq. (VSB No.86372)  
Paul L. LaBarr, Esq. (VSB No. 91609)  
Gregory L. Haynes, Esq.

### Legals - Montgomery County

#### Order of Publication

Commonwealth of Virginia VA Code §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316.20-104  
Case No. CL24-1097 VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY OF VIRGINIA, a Political Subdivision of the Commonwealth of Virginia, TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG, VIRGINIA, a Municipal locality of the Commonwealth of Virginia, Complainant, v. HAZEL TERRY JUSTICE, ET AL., Respondent(s).

ORDER OF PUBLICATION  
The object of this suit is to enforce the lien of the Complainant, county of Montgomery, Virginia, for delinquent real estate taxes against certain real property located in the County of Montgomery, Virginia, described as follows: Tax Map No. 526-2404 Account No. 010023

All that certain lot or parcel of land with all improvements thereon and appurtenances thereunto belonging situate, lying and being in the Town of Christiansburg, Riner Magisterial District of Montgomery County, Virginia, designated as Tax Map Number 526-24 4, Parcel ID Number 010023, being located on the south side of Lee Highway (now Radford St) fronting 58 ½ feet thereon and extending back 150 feet.

Copies of the proposed plans, ordinances or amendments may be examined in the Office of Community Development, 21 South Bruffey Street, Salem, Virginia.

At said hearing, parties in interest and citizens shall have an opportunity to be heard relative to the said requests.

THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA BY: Christopher J. Dorsey Executive Secretary

### Legals - Montgomery County

(VSB No. 37158)  
Seth R. Konopasek, Essq. (VSB No. 97065)  
Garrett W. Patton, Esq. (VSB No. 98345)  
Taxing Authority Consulting Services, PC  
P.O. Box 31800  
Henrico, Virginia 23294-1800  
Phone: (804) 545-2500  
Facsimile (804) 545-2378  
TACS No. 495984

### Legals - City of Salem

#### Notice is hereby given to all interested persons that the City of Salem Planning Commission,

at its regular meeting on August 14, 2024, at 7:00 p.m., in Council Chambers, City Hall, 114 North Broad Street, in the City of Salem, Virginia, will hold a public hearing, pursuant to Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia, as amended, to consider approval of the following requests relative to the CODE OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA:

1. Hold public hearing to consider the request of Seaside Heights, LLC, property owner, to rezone the property located at 1590 West Main Street (Tax Map # 140-1-3) from LM Light Manufacturing District to HBD Highway Business District.

2. Hold public hearing to consider the request of Sherwood Memorial Park, Inc., property owner, for a Special Exception Permit to allow for the expansion of the cemetery into the adjacent property located at 1221 Lynchburg Turnpike (Tax Map # 117-1-8) with condition. If approved, Salem City Council intends to adopt the ordinance(s) associated with the above item(s) on first reading, with a second reading of those ordinance(s) at a subsequent meeting.

Copies of the proposed plans, ordinances or amendments may be examined in the Office of Community Development, 21 South Bruffey Street, Salem, Virginia.

At said hearing, parties in interest and citizens shall have an opportunity to be heard relative to the said requests.

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA BY: H. Robert Light Clerk of Council

### Legals - City of Salem

#### Notice is hereby given to all interested persons that the Council of the City of Salem,

at its regular meeting on Monday, August 12, 2024, at 6:30 p.m., in Council Chambers, City Hall, 114. N. Broad Street, in the City of Salem, Virginia, will hold a public hearing, pursuant to Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia, as amended, to consider the following requests relative to the CODE OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA:

1. Hold public hearing to consider the request of Seaside Heights, LLC, property owner, to rezone the property located at 1590 West Main Street (Tax Map # 140-1-3) from LM Light Manufacturing District to HBD Highway Business District.

2. Hold public hearing to consider the request of Sherwood Memorial Park, Inc., property owner, for a Special Exception Permit to allow for the expansion of the cemetery into the adjacent property located at 1221 Lynchburg Turnpike (Tax Map # 117-1-8) with condition. If approved, Salem City Council intends to adopt the ordinance(s) associated with the above item(s) on first reading, with a second reading of those ordinance(s) at a subsequent meeting.

Copies of the proposed plans, ordinances or amendments may be examined in the Office of Community Development, 21 South Bruffey Street, Salem, Virginia.

At said hearing, parties in interest and citizens shall have an opportunity to be heard relative to the said requests.

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA BY: H. Robert Light Clerk of Council

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# Local girls win medals at Commonwealth Games



PHOTOS BY ELIZABETH GARRETT

**BCPS basketball players Grayson Alfano, Abby Kingery, Jaiden Dann and Caitlin Canada**

Botetourt County girls Caitlin Canada of James River High School, Grayson Alfonso of Lord Botetourt/ Hollins University commit, and Abby Kingery of Lord Botetourt brought home gold medals from the recent Commonwealth Games for the third year in a row. They play for Coach Damen Johnson (Coach BRHHM). Jaiden Dann plays for Liberty Premier and she also attends Lord Botetourt High School and she and her team secured bronze medals. The BRHHN team members are (from left) are

Diamond Banks of Patrick Henry High school, Grayson Alfano of Lord Botetourt, Kerabeth Long attending Liberty University this year, Azia Banks of Patrick Henry High School, Mckenzie Harris of Patrick Henry High School, Abby Kingery of Lord Botetourt, MaryBeth Meadows attending West Virginia University Institute of Technology, Ciera St.John of Liberty High School, Katy Hoover of Christiansburg High School, Elizabeth Tuck of Christiansburg High School and Caitlin Canada

from James River High School. Coaches are Damen Johnson and Missy Hazard of Patrick County/ basketball player at Hollins University.

- Submitted by Elizabeth Garrett

## Groendyk reunion August 24 at Limestone Park

All former employees are invited to the annual Groendyk reunion on Saturday August 24, from 4-7 p.m. under the pavilion at Limestone Park in Buchanan. Family members are welcome to attend. The meal will begin about 4:30-5 p.m. Please bring a side dish to share and a 2 liter. The pool will be open and is \$4

per swimmer.

For more information, call Rhonda Cox at 540-529-5689, Missy Dudley at 540-314-9847, Dot Deacon at 540-254-2774 or Jerrah McKeny at 540-784-9868.

Limestone Park is located at 18291 Main Street, Buchanan.

- Rhonda Cox

## Charity golf tournament set for August 11

"Swing It to End It," a captain's choice golf tournament, will be held on August 11 at Botetourt Golf & Swim Club. The tournament is a local charity and has been in existence for 10 years. Golfers can register online at swingittoendit.

org and can pick one of two tee times. First, second, third, fourth and last place will be awarded. There will be closest to the pin awards on every par 3. Raffles, red Solo cup, double circle and a cannon are for some other fun.

The cost is \$400 a team. Lunch, snacks and beverages (including adult) will be provided.

- Botetourt Golf & Swim Club

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**Brian Hoffman**  
Sports Editor

## First look at the Olympics

Column by Brian Hoffman

In the words of semi-celebrity Kelly Clarkson, the first week of watching the Olympics has been “incredibly cool.”

It’s Monday as I write this column and I’ve been glued to the TV since Friday watching the summer Olympics in Paris, taking time out to check on the Yankees and Red Sox. In three days I must have seen the Eiffel Tower 100 times, and Snoop Dogg even more times than that. And, yes, that was actually Spike Lee at the United States basketball game even though no Knicks are on the team.

Friday’s opening ceremonies had to be the most elaborate in the history of the Olympics, even topping Hitler’s Berlin games. Usually the teams march into some stadium dressed in colorful attire and carrying their flag. Then they assemble on the infield after circling a track and when everyone is in the stadium they light a big torch and go home.

Not so Friday in France. These opening ceremonies were like a five-hour Broadway show on the water, as boats carried the teams down the polluted Seine River. There were 85 boats filled with over 10,000 Olympic athletes and there was some kind of music or dance number all along the way, from Lady Gaga to Celine Dion.

The opening ceremonies were hosted by Mike Tirico, who did a really nice job; Peyton Manning, who added insight and backstories to many of the athletes; and Clarkson, who said everything was “cool.” Why she was selected to be on the telecast, I have no idea. I would have understood if she was out on some boat singing, but her obvious lack of knowledge about anything relating to sports or the athletes got annoying after a while. We had Snoop to tell us everything was “cool.”

A couple observations. I was amazed at how many of the countries I’d never heard of. I was never good in geography but I watch Jeopardy just about every night, so I should have come across most of them. I looked it up and there are 54 countries participating from Africa, 48 from Europe, 44 from Asia, 41 from the Americas and 17 from Oceania. I had no idea 48 countries could fit into Europe.

As for Africa, I suspect many of them change their name every couple years. I used to like to look at my Rand McNally Atlas of the World before we had the internet, and I swear most of the countries in Africa had different names when I was growing up in the ‘60s.

I was surprised at how many countries had names ending in “stan,” and I wasn’t sure where most of them were. Included in the list are, in alphabetical order, Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. I’m starting to think Borat came from a real country, but I can’t say for sure.

Then you have the “and” countries, which makes me think two countries combined into one so their high school teams can play in a higher classification. Included in this group are Antigua and Barbuda, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sao Tome and Principe, and Trinidad and Tobago, which sounds like some kind of hot sauce. Honestly, tell me if you know where all those countries are located? And one that I know, Turks and Caicos Islands, didn’t even send a team. You’d think they’d have some kind of boating team at the least.

Let me assure you I’m not making fun of these countries. We have plenty of stuff right here in the USA to make fun of these days, so we don’t need to look elsewhere. I’m sure Saint Kitts and Nevis is a wonderful place, and it was great to see folks from Central and South America on a boat instead of wading through a river.

As for the sports, baseball and softball aren’t in this year’s games but break dancing has been added. Does that make any sense to you? And when are they going to add pickleball?

Getting back to Snoop Dogg, did you see the interview NBC did with Simone Biles’ parents when they were with Snoop? They mentioned how they’d met Snoop once before but he replied that he didn’t recall. Simone’s adopted mother, Nellie, said they saw him at a New Year’s Eve celebration and asked if they could get a picture. She went on to say how Snoop told them to give him a couple minutes and, “in two seconds he was gone.” Sounds like when I witnessed John Riggins blowing off autograph requests from Redskins fans. At least Snoop had an excuse, as he was likely stoned out of his mind on New Year’s Eve.

I’ll be anxious to watch the rest of the games for the next week and a half. I love the track, and I really enjoy watching the basketball. It’s amazing to see how good some of these teams (i.e., South Sudan men) are when we expect our players to blow out everyone else. And isn’t it something to see how good LeBron James can still be?

And my God, the gymnastics!! It’s incredible what those gymnasts can do, remembering my high school games when I could do a “frog stand” and climb a quarter of a way up a rope. When Biles hurt her leg and then came right back and did that floor routine, that was an instant classic right there.

Whatever you think of the games it’s nice to see folks from different countries getting along, even though they did be sure to put the North and South Koreans in different boats. If the United States and Chinese athletes can hug each other after a close race, maybe there’s hope for the world after all.

Maybe.



The 2024 Ashley Plantation Swim Team

PHOTO BY JENSEN IMAGES

## 2024 county swim team photos



The 2024 Read Mountain Swim Team

PHOTO BY AUSTIN & AUSTIN PHOTOGRAPHY



The 2024 Limestone Park Swim Team

PHOTO BY DAN SELL

## High School golf season opens next week

The Lord Botetourt and James River golf teams will officially tee-off the 2024-25 school sports calendar next week and the highlight will be the annual Botetourt Metro Tournament at the Botetourt Golf & Swim Club. The one day event will open with a 10 a.m. start on Tuesday, August 6.

Both the Lord Botetourt and James River teams are figuring out their lineups this week for the early season event. It won’t be hard for Todd Smith at Lord Botetourt as he returns five starters from last year’s team. Seniors Aidan Mitchell, Jeremy

Simmons and Hayden Firestone, junior Garrett Honts and sophomore Alisa Davidova all saw considerable playing time last year and should be ready for a great fall season. Seniors Ethan Taylor and Harper Lewis will compete for a spot, along with senior newcomer Blake Lovern.

“We are still doing tryouts this week, so I’m not sure who else will be playing in the top six,” said Smith. “I won’t know everybody that’s made the team until after Wednesday, but those should be solid.”

At James River, Donna Cox has somewhat of a rebuilding project.

“We have an extremely young team this year,” she said. “We will be led by sophomores Landon Bolling and Mason Gilliland. Rounding out the top four will be sophomore Mason Francis and freshman Elizabeth Johnson.”

River will open Monday with a match at Alleghany, then head to Olde Mill on Thursday of next week for a match hosted by Carroll County. Botetourt will have a week off after the Metro, teeing it up on August 13 at Ole Monterey in a Blue Ridge District event hosted by William Fleming.

## Lord Botetourt will have seven players in ‘The Last Inning’ baseball game Saturday

Lord Botetourt High School will have seven graduated seniors participating in “The Last Inning” baseball game Saturday at Salem Memorial Ballpark. The game is an exhibition, free to the public, for area high school ballplayers to have one last game on the diamond.

The players are split into two teams with one sporting gray shirts and the other in red. Botetourt players are on the Gray team with teammates from William Byrd, Hidden Valley, Staunton River, Eastern Montgomery,

Roanoke Catholic, Cave Spring, Alleghany and Smith Mountain Lake Christian. The Red team will be comprised of players from Glenvar, Liberty, Christiansburg, Northside, Franklin County and North Cross.

Barry Shelton of Franklin County will be the head coach of the Red team, assisted by Dale Nelson of Christiansburg, Jeremy Cromer of Glenvar and Kelly Dampeer and Trent Cundiff of Northside. Randy Boone of Byrd is the Gray coach and he’ll be assisted by Brian and Jake Divers of Staunton River,

Jonathan Hagee of Eastern Montgomery and Kevin Slough of Hidden Valley.

Lord Botetourt will have seven players on the Gray team—Ethan Deschambault, J.J. Tyree, Nolan Medley, Brayden Wells, Cade Lang, Cayne O’Quinn and Lyle Sullivan. Medley, Deschambault and O’Quinn will all get a turn to pitch.

The game is scheduled to begin at 5 p.m. and will be 10 innings so everyone can get ample playing time. After five innings there will be a break to announce the winner

of the Salem-Roanoke Baseball Hall of Fame’s Ray Bellamy Award for the high school Player of the Year in the Hall of Fame area. There are seven finalists and LB’s Medley is among them. Others include Lawson Pasley of Franklin County, Jesse Brown of Staunton River, Trace Monroe of Salem, Brice Abbott of Blacksburg, Caleb Furrage of Salem and Ean Amerson of Franklin County. Recipients of scholarships named for Wayne LaPierre, Sr. and Kelvin Bowles will also be announced.