

Buchanan spreads the pride and joys of Christmas



Buchanan’s Festival of Lights is open from 6 p.m. until 11 p.m. now through January 6 at Buchanan Town Park.

Matt de Simone

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The Town of Buchanan continued the Christmas festivities last Saturday afternoon presenting its annual Christmas Parade along Main Street to the delight of a large crowd of parade-goers.

A colorful array of festive floats and decorated participants greeted the crowd with candy and holiday wishes. Smiles were seen all around as the chilly afternoon was met with cheerfulness and the Christmas spirit.

This year’s participants in the Buchanan Christmas Parade included Grand Marshals Liz and Charlie Provost, Botetourt 4-H, American Legion Post 93, American Legion Post 93 Legion Riders, Botetourt 4-H Livestock, Bank of Botetourt, James River High School Marching Band, VDOT, Farmview B&B, C&S Disposal, Steve Flint, Cora Moorman, Bobcat Chorus, A Few Old Goats, Chris Deisher, Lord Botetourt Marching Band, Community Church, Stylin’ Shed, Central Academy Middle School FFA, Mary Mundy, Jerry’s Funny Farm, Bank of the James, Rory Benson, Fincastle Baptist Church, Buchanan Lions Club, Michael Carter, Night Crawlers Jeeps, Sink Septic, Shean Bowers, James River High School FFA, Steve Thomas Logging, and T-Mobile.

The event saw a large number of jeeps and motorcycles that totally approximately 80 vehicles and walkers. Judges announced the annual winners of the Buchanan Christmas Parade float contest.



PHOTOS BY MATT DE SIMONE

Newly elected Town Council member Sissy Austin (left) rides along with Santa and some of his local helpers.

1st Place: Night Crawlers (Jeep Group)
2nd Place: Lord Botetourt Marching Band
3rd Place: Titus Machine Repair
Honorable mentions: Fincastle Baptist Church and James River FFA
Additionally, the town’s Festival of Lights located at

Buchanan Town Park is a volunteer effort by members of the Buchanan community. The volunteer committee consisting of Pat Brooks, Debbie Conner, Sissy Austin, and Missy Dudley worked together for the last two years

See **Buchanan Christmas**, page 5



BCPS Employee of the Month Tara Parrish (center) is pictured with Breckinridge Elementary Principal Wyatt Turner (left) and Fincastle District School Board representative Dana McCaleb (right).



PHOTOS COURTESY OF BCPS

BCPS Employee of the Month Brandi Mitchell (center) is pictured with Greenfield Elementary Principal Jen Hawks (left) and School Board Chair Anna Weddle (right).

BCPS announces November Employees of the Month

Matt de Simone

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Botetourt County Public Schools (BCPS) recently announced its Employees of the Month for November during the

School Board’s regular monthly meeting last Thursday night in Fincastle.

The board recognized Brandi Mitchell, an instructional assistant at Greenfield Elementary School, and Tara Parrish, a fourth grade teacher at

Breckinridge Elementary, each receiving certificates of recognition from the School Board.

“Brandi is so dependable and hardworking,” Superintendent Dr. Jonathan Russ read from the submitted

nominations. “She loves each student, works hard to help them succeed, and is so positive and thoughtful... (Tara) is a positive leader at (Breckinridge) and always pulls her weight while helping others.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF BCSO

Dispatcher Kalynda Lasek pictured with her husband, Collin.

Dispatcher Kalynda Lasek receives commendation from the Botetourt County Sheriff’s Office

The Botetourt County Sheriff’s Office recognized Dispatcher Kalynda Lasek on Monday, December 16, and presented her a Certificate of Commendation for her exceptional performance in guiding a family through the successful delivery of a healthy newborn over 911 dispatch.

On October 16, 2024, while working in the Botetourt County Sheriff’s Office Emergency

Communication Center, Dispatcher Lasek received a call of a mother in active labor and was unable to make it to the hospital.

Amid intense circumstances, Dispatcher Lasek displayed remarkable calm and technical expertise. She immediately assessed the caller’s needs and delivered clear and concise instructions, providing a steady voice and emotional reassurance that both the mother

and family needed.

Effectively communicating with first responders and coordinating resources, Lasek demonstrated exceptional skill, composure, and focus while guiding the mother through the successful delivery of a healthy baby boy.

Lasek’s quick thinking and reassuring demeanor during this

See **Lasek**, page 3

Botetourt County History



PHOTO COURTESY OF BCMHC

The 18th century beams that supported the pine floors in the Breckinridge Law Office and former Botetourt County Historical Society Museum have been given a new life. Fincastle woodturner Willie Simmons was given the oak and cedar logs by Botetourt County, which owns the property. Presently, the building is in the process of being moved to make room for a new and larger courthouse. The Botetourt County Museum of History and Culture has six of Willie's

handmade vases in the Bookstore for sale. There is a glass test tube in the center to hold water or to support a dried arrangement. The imperfections and beautiful grain along with their historical value make them a special gift this time of year. All proceeds from the Museum help support the mission of preserving the history of Botetourt County.

- Botetourt County Museum of History & Culture



IMAGE COURTESY OF BCPS.LIVE

BCPS Finance Director Brandon Lee presents the FY 26-30 CIP before the School Board last Thursday night.

School Board adopts FY 26-30 Capital Improvement Plan

Matt de Simone
Managing Editor

Following a discussion about the proposed Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for fiscal years 2026-30, the Botetourt County School Board took action on the item at its December meeting held at the Botetourt County Public Schools (BCPS) Administrative Offices in Fincastle last Thursday night.

BCPS Finance Director Brandon Lee brought back the same plan he presented to the board last month. The board unanimously adopted the FY 2026-30 CIP last Thursday, as presented. Moving forward, the board could make changes to their maintenance priorities, if needed.

Generally, a CIP is a strategic, multi-year plan that outlines major infrastructure projects, improvements, and large capital expenditures for a community or organization. It prioritizes projects such as constructing new facilities, renovating existing buildings, or upgrading essential infrastructure. The plan also identifies funding

sources and timelines to ensure these investments are managed efficiently and align with long-term goals. In a sense, it serves as a roadmap for planning, budgeting, and executing significant, long-term capital projects.

“(The school system’s) Capital Improvement Plan has been an ongoing, developing document that we’ve seen over the last handful of years and a good way for us to highlight the needs we have in the county for our buildings, for our students in the buildings that we provide them to learn in every day,” Lee noted.

Lee added that while the document isn’t “perfect,” it is “capital maintenance” that provides the public to see the things BCPS sees in their buildings and what the school division considers the “needs” for those schools.

Fincastle District School Board representative Dana McCaleb, who has been a member of the School Board for the last four years, suggested providing a maintenance plan for the community, and using the CIP as something completely different.

In the current CIP, the additional classrooms for Colonial Elementary School, as discussed last month, is the only item in the current CIP that is considered a capital project. Superintendent Dr. Jonathan Russ spoke about a consideration to move some of the items from the maintenance plan into the general operation budget. The upcoming budget has yet to be proposed. Russ stated that it all comes down to the funding provided by the county Board of Supervisors.

Valley District representative Tim Davidick suggested adding the maintenance line items into the budget.

“I believe we should put our maintenance line items back into the budget,” Davidick said. “As long as I’ve been here, the

maintenance budget has been called out because of economic woes for the county... It would make a lot more sense for (the School Board) to put (maintenance) into the budget where it belongs... and we could dream with this document because that what this document was supposed to do. It was supposed to step us into a healthy maintenance environment, and then springboard us on to other things – new high school, new elementary schools.”

Davidick added that BCPS currently can’t “dream” because it can’t fix their buildings due to lack of funding from the county. Lee provided an idea to look at the maintenance needs as “major capital” and “minor capital” items to better understand their priorities.

“It’s semantics,” McCaleb said. “We need money for things... I’m incredibly frustrated because, to me, we are a very rich county, but yet we have no money for our school system. Why? Eighty-five percent of our budget goes to personnel. So, I don’t care what we call it as long at the county would give us some money to do the things we need to do... If anybody out there has any ideas about how to get us some money because I get tired of taking calls about how bad our schools are (in terms of maintenance needs). We can’t do it without getting funded, that’s the bottom line... We need money from our Board of Supervisors.”

School Board Chair Anna Weddle directed the public to visit the BCPS website (bcps.k12.va.us). There, visitors can see the CIP prioritized projects planned for this year and the items that were and were not funded. Russ noted the items on the plan cannot be taken off at this point. Although the board approved the plan as presented, there still are changes that can be made in terms of maintenance items.

Botetourt County Parks & Recreation announces changes to spring sports



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF BOTETOURT CO.

Registration for spring sports – softball, baseball, and tee-ball – opens January 1, and Botetourt County Parks & Recreation has some updates that will enhance the experience for recreation sports families. Here’s a quick breakdown of what’s new.

Tee-Ball & Coach-Pitch (Ages 4-8)

Tee-ball and coach-pitch leagues will remain independent with no major changes from recent seasons.

Ages 9 & Up – Changes Ahead

• **Switching to RAYSA & RAYBA**
Starting this spring, the county is moving away from Little League and officially joining the Roanoke Area Youth Softball Association (RAYSA) and Roanoke Area Youth Baseball Association (RAYBA). These leagues

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TUESDAY - DECEMBER 24
9PM

Fincastle United Methodist Church
136 S. Church St., Fincastle

INSPIRED LEARNING

The **Roanoke Valley Governor’s School for Science and Technology** invites prospective students and parents to attend one of the 2025-2026 school year informational sessions listed below to learn about our school and obtain an application. RVGS is a public regional program serving high school students from Bedford, Botetourt, Craig, Franklin, Floyd, Roanoke City, Roanoke County, and Salem.

Tuesday, January 7, 6:30 p.m.	Application info meeting at RVGS
Thursday, January 9, 6:30 p.m.	Application info meeting at Franklin County High School
Tuesday, January 14, 6:30 p.m.	Application info meeting at RVGS
Thursday, January 16, 6:30 p.m.	Application info meeting at Staunton River High School
Tuesday, January 21, 6:30 p.m.	Application info meeting RVGS

Informational sessions & additional information available at www.rvgs.k12.va.us

See **Spring Sports**, page 3

Meet the man behind the Santa in Botetourt County

It's the holiday season in Botetourt County which means we all look for opportunities to spread cheer, sprinkle kindness, and have a little bit of that Christmas Magic. Part of the magic of this time of year is a visit from a jolly old elf from the North Pole. We will get to that story in just a minute.... But first, we want you to meet a man that you see quite often but you might not know much about.

During his day job, County Administrator Gary Larrowe is working to serve the Botetourt community. Whether it's working with county staff on Economic Development initiatives, focusing time on bringing industries and jobs to the county, or working with the Board of Supervisors to enhance the quality of life for our BOCO residents, businesses, and visitors, Gary always gives 110%.

He and his family moved to the county in 2016 and ever since he has been making it his mission to make Botetourt County the crown jewel of the Commonwealth and he is succeeding! Gary also has a few other titles that he holds even more dear: Husband, Dad, and Pops to his almost 2-year-old grandson who he loves babysitting and teaching him about classic trucks at his Buchanan home. But did you know that during December, while he's still keeping Botetourt County moving, he also has one more title?

We want to introduce you to "The Man Behind the Santa."

Since 2021, Gary and his wife Alice have been volunteering their time to spread cheer by taking on the personas of Santa and Mrs. Claus. Gary stepped into the red suit when the Botetourt County



Chamber of Commerce asked him to play Santa during the very popular and ever-growing Tinsel Trail that is held in the Town of Fincastle each year. Since his inaugural Santa stint, Gary and Alice have been invited to events at our local libraries, Carrington Place, and other corporate events around the Roanoke Valley.

When asked why this dedicated family decided to volunteer during this busy time of year the

answer was simple. "We love kids, and this is a chance for us to see kids' excitement and joyful reactions when they see Santa," says Larrowe. "One of our favorite memories has been having special needs children and adults stop by to see Santa and Mrs. Claus. We have had children bring us gifts that they have made which has truly been special and makes us remember what Christmas is all about and that's the joy of family, friends, and fellowship."



PHOTOSCOURTESYOFBOTETOURTCOUNTY

When asked if Santa Gary could grant one wish this holiday season, his answer was really quite simple. "If Santa could bring one thing to Botetourt County, it would be to return to the concept of unconditional love of family, friends, neighbors, and citizens instead of developing unneeded divides. Our county is better than that and my wish is that in 2025 we will all return to being exceptionally kind and united. We are

all on this big ol' planet together and we all love Botetourt County. I hope that Christmas joy can continue far past December."

Happy Holidays, Larrowe family and Gary, thank you from the bottom of all of our hearts for stepping in and being the "man behind the Santa."

Submitted by Tiffany Bradbury, Director of Communications for Botetourt County

Daughters of the Confederacy tour Botetourt Museum

Fincastle Chapter 797, Daughters of the Confederacy recently visited the Botetourt Museum of History and Culture in Fincastle. Emily Talbot-Guillote gave a tour of the interesting museum and all of the artifacts. Pictured are (from left): seated, Harriett Francis, Hazel Bowers, and Treva Campbell; standing, Emily Talbot-Guillote, Loretta Caldwell, Anne Wagner, Judy Lee, Dana Long, Yvonne Cox, and Helen Camper.

~ Fincastle Chapter 797



PHOTOCOURTESYOFFINCASTLECHAPTER797

Spring Sports

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are already home to teams from Roanoke County, Roanoke City, Salem, Craig County, and Clifton Forge. This means more regional competition and better alignment for the athletes.

What's New with Games?

Each team will play 10 regular-season games and will have the option to participate in a playoff tournament (format TBD).

If there are 6+ Botetourt teams in a league, games will stay within Botetourt. For fewer teams, they'll play against teams from nearby localities.

Details on all-star tournament participation are still being finalized.

"Our goal is to give

families the best possible experience," says Victor Morales, Director of Parks & Recreation. "The structure of RAYSA and RAYBA aligns well with our current offerings. Joining will provide balanced competition, foster community connections, and ensure our athletes have fun while learning valuable life skills."

"We know that change can be challenging," says Brittany Crigler, a member of the Botetourt County Parks & Recreation Commission. "But our top priority is creating a more enjoyable playing experience for all our athletes, coaches, and their families. This shift is about fostering an environment

that focuses on developing young players in a way that creates positive memories of playing baseball and softball."

Key Benefits of Joining RAYSA & RAYBA

- Regional Team Formation: Teams can continue to be formed by elementary school zones. Current Little League regulations would require a county-wide player draft for compliance.
- Expanded Options for Older Athletes: Additional opportunities for players age 12+.
- All-Star Access: Botetourt athletes can still participate in regional all-star tournaments.

Lasek

from page 1

highly stressful event were instrumental in ensuring the well being of both the mother and newborn child. Through the phone, she served as the lifeline that guided the delivery with her patience and professionalism. Her ability to remain steadfast in the face of immense pressure is a testament to the training, experience, and professionalism she brings to her role in serving our community.

"We are grateful for Dispatcher Lasek's incredible skills and composure during such a critical moment. Guiding a family through the successful delivery

of a healthy newborn infant is no small feat. We are immensely proud of her and lucky to have her as part of our team, serving our community," said Sheriff Matt Ward.

Dispatcher Kalynda Lasek's actions embodied the highest standards of the Public Safety Telecommunicators profession. Her exceptional performance reflected the values of the Botetourt County Sheriff's Office and exemplified her commitment to public safety.

~ Botetourt County Sheriff's Office



Cindy Bailey, incoming 2025 president, with Hiawatha Nicely, installing officer



PHOTOCOURTESYOFBOTETOURTKIWANISCLUB
Teana Ruppell, 2025 vice president, with Hiawatha Nicely, installing officer

Botetourt Kiwanis Club installs new officers

Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to improving the world one child and one community at a time. The Kiwanis Club of Botetourt County carries out projects during the year to support the Lord Botetourt Key Club, YMCA Swim Program, James River Key Club, DeMolay, Boy Scouts, Botetourt Libraries, dictionaries for third grades, preschool reading books through DPIL, and the Children's

Miracle Network Hospital at Carilion Clinic. The club recently installed new officers for the coming year, including Cindy Bailey, president, and Teana Ruppell, vice president. For information about how to join Kiwanis Club of Botetourt County, contact Cindy Bailey or Teana Ruppell.

~ Botetourt Kiwanis Club

Ready to Sign Up? Secure the early registration discount starting January 1, 2025. Visit www.bocorecreation.info or contact recreation@botetourtva.gov or (540) 928-2130 with any questions.

~ Botetourt County Parks & Recreation

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Holiday Closing
All libraries will be closed Tuesday, December 24 and Wednesday, December 25 for the Christmas holiday. Book returns and Wi-Fi access remain open 24/7.

Genealogy Research Using City Directories
Thu, Jan 9, 2pm, Buchanan
Dig into your family history by using city directories to find out about people, where they lived, and their professions. Presented by Rena Worthen, Library Genealogist.

Breaking Bread, Building Bridges
Thu, Jan 16, 5:30pm, Buchanan
Join your neighbors for light refreshments and talk about things that matter with our host, writer and astronomer Josh Urban. Bring up the things that interest you and engage with ideas in an environment where people can disagree and still get along.

Cozy Mystery Author Talk with Libby Klein
Sat, Jan 25, 11am, Blue Ridge
Join us for a morning of coffee and conversations with author Libby Klein, best known for her mystery series about

gluten-free baker Poppy McAllister and her aunt Ginny at their B&B in Cape May.

Painting Workshop: Season of the Gnome
Fri, Jan 31, 11am, Blue Ridge
Paint your own Valentine's gnome. Supplies provided. Registration required; limited to 10 participants.

Chapter Champions Book Club
Jan 13 & 27, 3:30pm, Blue Ridge
Kids who are just getting started with early chapter books will discuss their favorite books and complete a hands-on activity tied to the monthly theme. January – Humor/Joke Books

Yoga for Beginners
Jan 6, 13, 27, 10:30am, Buchanan
Jan 7, 14, 21, 28, 10:30am, Eagle Rock
Yoga instructor Kathy Austin guides attendees through gentle yoga stretches. Mats and yoga blocks provided or bring your own. This program is offered in partnership with Botetourt County Parks & Recreation. Class size is limited, call 540-928-2900 to register.

Find even more events at BOCOLibraries.info.



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF MGCC

MGCC offering reduced-tuition FastTrack training

Mountain Gateway Community College (MGCC) in Clifton Forge is offering affordable workforce training programs starting in January 2025, helping students gain in-demand skills and certifications for high-paying jobs in fields like healthcare, construction, and manufacturing.

With financial assistance available to reduce tuition costs by up to two-thirds, this is an opportunity to jump-start a rewarding career without the financial burden.

Starting January 13, 2025, Mountain Gateway will offer a variety of in-demand programs, including Emergency Medical Technician, Nurse Aide, and NCCER Core Curriculum, to name just a few. If you're looking for hands-on training in trades, students can take advantage of courses like NCCER Carpentry Level 1, Phlebotomy Technician, and Welding Basics, all beginning in mid-January. Additionally, Clinical Medical Assistant and Massage Therapy programs are available later in the year, offering more opportunities to build a career that matches your interests.

The FastForward initiative makes these career-focused programs more affordable than ever, allowing students to pay a fraction of the full tuition. Additional funding may also be available for qualified students to cover the remaining costs, ensuring that they can access the education needed to thrive in today's job market.

"FastForward is a fantastic opportunity for individuals who want to quickly gain the skills they need to succeed in high-demand industries," said Robin Jennings, FastForward Career Coach at Mountain Gateway Community College. "Our programs are designed to help students get into the workforce faster, with real-world training and certifications that employers are actively seeking."

For more information about available courses, funding opportunities, and how to enroll, contact Robin Jennings at rjennings@mgcc.edu or Kylie Hendrickson at khendrickson@mgcc.edu or visit www.mgcc.edu/workforce.

- Mountain Gateway Community College



PHOTOCOURTESYOFTUESDAYMORNINGCLUB

Tuesday Morning Club prepares food baskets

The Tuesday Morning Club met at Pleasant Hill Baptist Church on December 10 with 16 members. President Ruby Taylor gave thank you gifts to officers Cheryl Wood, vice president; Nancy Waddell, secretary; Faye Kessler, treasurer; and Dot Hillard, historian. Members presented Ruby Taylor a gift for her hard work keeping the club going. Ruby Taylor, Cheryl Wood and Linda Harris had perfect attendance for the year. Ruby had prayer, then they had lunch catered by Rita Goodbar. A Santa game was played after lunch. The December project was food baskets for two families. Pictured are (from left): front row, Cheryl Wood, Dot Hillard, Faye Kessler, Linda Harris, Dorothy Brogan, Nancy Waddell, Rita Bruffey, and Barbara Harris; back row, Barrie Knox, Pam Obenshain, Gale Webb, Ruby Taylor, Nancy Goad, Jill DiFede, and Gwynneth Britt.

- Tuesday Morning Club

League for Animal Protection's
Waif of the Week

Felicity
Felicity, a Yellow Lab mix, is spayed, up to date on vaccines, and heartworm negative. She is very gentle and affectionate and loves going for walks.

Christmas Wish List: Purina One (red bag) dog food, Purina One (blue bag) cat food, Top Job, Mr. Clean, bleach, paper towels, laundry detergent, quality canned cat and dog food, dog pooper scoopers, and cat litter. 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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ARRESTS

The Botetourt County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests December 13-15:

- Richard A. Dowd, 32, of Roanoke, simple assault, December 13
- Dalton N. Broughman, 19, of Clifton Forge, child abuse, possession of controlled paraphernalia, possession of Schedule drugs, December 14
- Henry N. Brogan, 34, of Fincastle, domestic assault, preventing access to 911, December 14
- Cole B. Hall, 23, of Roanoke, driving under the influence, December 15
- Harold V. Davis Jr., 44, of Buchanan, domestic assault, December 15

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CLUES ACROSS
1. Baseball stat
4. Blaze
8. Sea eagles
10. Tails in Italian
11. Monocot genus
12. Mother or father
13. The Jungian inner self
15. Covered with gold
16. Residual oil
17. Signs up for school
18. Furniture for daily meals
21. Extinct flightless bird of New Zealand
22. Lower limb
23. Guy (slang)

24. Get free of
25. Snakelike fish
26. Adult female bird
27. Formal window coverings
34. Break into small pieces
35. "1836 siege" of U.S.
36. Made violet-red
37. Food chopper
38. Removes writing
39. Ethiopian monetary unit
40. Wine bottle containers
41. English prelate Wm. Ralph
42. Small storage structure

CLUES DOWN
1. A brief comment
2. Sultanate of NW Borneo
3. Importune
4. Forelimb
5. Models of ethical behavior
6. Harangues
7. This (Spanish)
9. Springfield Area Mobile Intensive Care
10. Sang at Christmas door to door
12. Partly or nearly blind
14. Posterior pituitary gland hormone
15. American Nurses Association (abbr.)

17. The 7th Greek letter
19. Strives to equal
20. Toff
23. Coleoptera insects
24. The color of blood
25. Slipped by
26. Of she
27. A short musical passage
28. CNN's founder Turner
29. Radioactivity unit
30. Exculation defense
31. Walking back and forth
32. Come forth from
33. Oxalis
34. A soft twilled fabric of silk
36. The two large chest muscles

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The Best Christmas Pageant Ever
Thursday, Dec. 19
7 p.m.

Red One
(2024) After Santa Claus is kidnapped, the North Pole's Head of Security must team up with the world's most infamous bounty hunter in a globe-trotting, action-packed mission to save Christmas.
(2 hours)

**Friday, Dec. 20
7 p.m.**
**Saturday, Dec. 21
7 p.m.**
**Sunday, Dec. 22
3 p.m.**
**Thursday, Dec. 26
7 p.m.**

See Answers, page 8

www.FincastleHerald.com

Buchanan Christmas

from page 1



This year's Festival of Lights was put together by a group of volunteers led by Pat Brooks, Debbie Conner, Sissy Austin, and Missy Dudley. PHOTOS BY MATT DE SIMONE

presenting a joyous drive-thru experience that people can enjoy from now through January 6, 2025.

Planning for the lights begins in the late spring/early summer. This year, the committee started getting the lights ready for 2024's Christmas season this past August and September. Following a windy October that caused a bit of trouble for the ladies leading the way, work continued. They claimed victory over the elements at a recent Buchanan Town Council meeting despite their struggles with the winds of fall. A total of 23 volunteers took time out of their schedules to assist in this year's Festival of Lights.

Recently, members of the volunteer committee shared their thoughts about this year's Festival of Lights. For Pat Brooks, one of the main reasons she volunteers is due to the memories made each year.

"It's all about the memories," Brooks said during a recent interview. "The first Saturday that we were open, the (horse and) buggy rounds went through a course, and we all made a point of being down there."

See Parade, page 8



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

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

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

INDEPENDENT BAPTIST

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- 254-2253, 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; 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 Chidren’s Church. Wednesday evening Worship and Bible study begins with a meal at 6:30 p.m.

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

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

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

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

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

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

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

Mt. Bethel Church of the

ONLY ONE WAY

“I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.” John 14:6

In our culture, almost anything goes. The overwhelming idea is: whatever works for you. It’s okay to believe in God, but it’s not acceptable to suggest there is only one way to know Him.

The problem is that if you believe in Christ, you must also believe His words. He did not say, “I am a way.” He said, “I am THE way.” Think about it. If anything would work, why suffer? If anything else could save us, why would God send His son?

Read Isaiah 43:10-11. First, understand that God does want us to know Him. It’s why He sent His son in the first place. Second, recognize that there is only one Savior and put your trust in Him. Perhaps you have long since accepted that only Christ can save you, but have you really accepted that only He can save somebody else? Knowing how much others need Christ motivates us to tell them about Him. After all, “how, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard?” (Romans 10:14) Tell someone about the Savior today!

Worship: Today, thank God for sending the Savior. Pray for those who do not know Him, those who live and work right around you as well as those in foreign lands. Read Romans 10:14-15. Pray that God will send His people to preach good news and ask Him to give you opportunities today to share His love with someone.

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 4pm, 5th Sunday Potluck luncheon, Handicap Accessible, Contact Pastor Davd at dtozar9@yahoo.com. Follow on Facebook, Sunday worship and 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.

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 or 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 where our Church meets: Sign up now on our website, daleridgechurchofchrist.net

or email us at comeback2thebible@gmail.com and request to be scheduled for lesson #1 of 3 entitled “who has the Authority In Religion today”. You will be contacted promptly. All studies are conducted by 2 individuals, never alone. May God Bless you in choosing this “open book Bible study.

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 or call 540-353-5365 for other Eckankar programs and for more information about how the teachings of Eckankar can lead you to spiritual freedom.

EPISCOPAL

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

LUTHERAN

Our Savior Evangelical Lutheran Church (WELS) – 9068 Cloverdale Road, Troutville, VA; Paul Workentine, Pastor; Worship Sunday at 10:00 AM. Sunday School at 11:30 AM. Info and calendar at osroanoke.com. Phone: 540-977- 4888.

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

NON-

DENOMINATIONAL

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

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

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. E-mail address: 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. Contact 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 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. Mail donations for the building fund to P.O. Box 85, Eagle Rock.

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

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

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

OBITUARIES

Camper, Ruth McDaniel

Ruth McDaniel Camper, 86 of Buchanan, died Saturday, December 7, 2024.

She was born October 3, 1938, in Front Royal, Va. She was preceded in death by her parents, Henry McDaniel and Lucy McDaniel Morris, and nephew, Ronald Patrick McDaniel.

She is survived by her husband, Lawrence C. Camper; sons and daughters-in-law, Henry and Karen Camper of Evington, Gary and Judy Camper of Forest, Carl and Lisa Camper of Goode, and Eric Camper and Janice Hansen of Lynchburg; grandchildren, Lauren Camper, Ryan Camper, Kathryn Camper Shiraishi (Andrew), Kristen Camper, Kyle Camper, and Morgan Camper King (Thomas); step-granddaughter, Kelly Eastman; and great-grandchild, Julian Shiraishi. Also surviving are her sister and brother-in-law, Lois and George

Hodges of Roanoke, and brother, Henry McDaniel of Plattsburgh, N.Y.; nephews, Steve Hodges of Germantown, Md., and Darrell McDaniel of Fredericksburg, and many other relatives in the Crouch, McDaniel, and Camper families.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Buchanan Baptist Church, P.O. Box 537, Buchanan, 24066, or to St. Jude's Research Hospital for Children. The family received family and friends on Friday, December 13, 2024 from 1 to 2 p.m. in the Buchanan Chapel of the Botetourt Funeral Home, with the Memorial Service following the visitation at 2 p.m. with the Rev. Leonard Southern officiating. Interment was private. Condolences may be made at www.botetourtfuneralhome.com or 540-254-3000.

Marcum, Ruth Croson

Ruth ("Ruthie") Estelle Croson Marcum, of Fincastle, was welcomed into His all-consuming presence on Thursday, December 12, 2024, at 85 years of age. Ruthie was born in Arlington, Va., on July 21, 1939 and lived a full life of Faith.

Ruthie was preceded in death by her husband, Donald "Donnie" L. Marcum; her parents, Carroll T. and Ruth B. Croson; brother, Carroll "Sonny" T. Croson, Jr.; and daughter, Kathy Marcum Dorsey.

She is survived by her sister, Ellen Croson Wright; daughters, Lori Dickens-Flemming, Sue Dickens Hindman (Gary), Tracy Dickens Branson (Johnny) and Lainie Marcum DuBose (Jacob). Also honoring her life are her grandchildren, Jessica Dawn Dorsey, C. Tyler Johnson (Kacey), Audrey Blue Flemming (Dan), Jacob Shortt Branson (Meg), Lucas Jennings Branson (Sonya), Kaitlyn Hindman Foltz (Corey), Kyle Matthew Hindman, Lexi Elizabeth Marcum, Josie Beth DuBose; great-grandchildren, Isla, Tyson, Jesse, Lucia; and numerous cousins, nieces and nephews.

Ruthie was a graduate of Loudoun County High School and attended Madison College (JMU). She had a giving heart and often did volunteer work in Loudoun County. While in Loudoun, she was an active member, and part of the family,



of the Hamilton Baptist Church. Many people will have memories of Ruthie, either directing the choir or sharing her beautiful voice in song. She married Donnie Marcum in 1983 and, once retired, moved to Fincastle. There she enjoyed boating with Donnie at Smith Mountain Lake, sunbathing and entertaining by their pool, and vacationing by the ocean in the Outer Banks of North Carolina. Ruthie was an active member of Fincastle Baptist Church and would give of her time to volunteer her services at the church. Ruthie loved her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, with all her heart and it was her desire to share her love with all she met. Her faith was the light that guided her through both hardship and joyful times. She loved her family deeply and was positively radiant when she had her grandchildren or great-grandchildren in her arms. Ruthie was elegant, classy, had a great sense of humor and a little sass. She never met a stranger and to know her was to love her. She will be greatly missed.

Ruthie's Memorial Service will be held at Rader Funeral Home in Daleville on Saturday, February 8, 2025 at 11 a.m. with a reception immediately following. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that a donation be made to the Dementia Society of America in Ruthie's honor.

Peery, Jean Painter

Newassa Jean Painter Peery, 75, of Buchanan, went to be with the Lord on Friday, December 13, 2024.

Jean was a beautiful and loving wife, mother, and love of Butch's life for over 56 years. She retired as secretary for Farm Bureau in Botetourt County, and she loved to read books.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Bill and Loraine Orange Painter; sister, Clara Sue Painter McCullough; brother, Billy Painter, brother-in-law, Jerry Guerra; and grandson Zachary Ryan Sample.

She is survived by her husband of 56 years, Donald Ray "Butch" Peery; daughter and son-in-law, Laurie Beth and Scott Sample; son and daughter-in-law, Kevin Scott and Brooke Peery; grandchildren, Kendra and Jeffery Fralin, Colleen and Bradley Bolton and



Cullen Sample; and great-grandbaby on the way; sister, Kathy Guerra; sister-in-law, Debbie Painter; brothers-in-law, Lewis and Charla Peery, Gary and Karen Peery; sister-in-law, Donna and Tommy Ayers; and numerous nieces and nephews.

The family will receive family and friends on Wednesday, December 18, 2024 from 5 to 7 p.m. in the Buchanan Chapel of the Botetourt Funeral Home, with the Memorial Service following the visitation at 7 p.m. with Pastor Mike Anderson officiating. Interment will be private. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Springwood Baptist Church, 88 Copps Hill Road, Buchanan, 24066. Condolences may be made at www.botetourtfuneralhome.com or 540-254-3000.

Stanley, Kenneth Wayne

In Loving Memory of Kenneth Wayne Stanley, February 16, 1961 - November 25, 2024

Kenneth Wayne Stanley, fondly known as "Ken," passed away peacefully at the age of 63, surrounded by his loved ones, and has earned his heavenly wings.

Ken dedicated 38 years to Rowe Fine Furniture, where his skill and commitment left an enduring legacy. As a gifted auctioneer and business owner for 34 years, he infused every event with energy, charm, and joy, becoming a beloved figure in the community he held dear.

A devoted husband for 36 years, Ken shared a deep, lasting connection with his wife, Susan T. Stanley. Together, they raised two children,



Rachel and Charles "CW," who were the pride and joy of his life, and he was a treasured member of his extended family. His friendships and the many lives he touched will leave a lasting impact for generations.

A memorial service will be held at Mill Creek Baptist Church on December 21, 2024, at 1 p.m. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Mill Creek Baptist Church to support their mission trips.

Ken will always be remembered for his kindness, generosity, and the happiness he brought to everyone he met. His memory will forever live on in the hearts of all who knew and loved him.

Tackett, Donald Clifton, Sr.

With profound sadness, we announce the passing of Donald Clifton Tackett, Sr., a devoted husband, loving father, and a career United States Marine. On December 3, 2024, Donald passed peacefully in his home in Greenbrier, Tenn., leaving behind a legacy of service, love, and strength.

Donald was born November 7, 1951, in Pikeville, Ky., to the late William Goble Tackett, Sr. and Sena Potter Tackett.

Donald was married to Vickie Lynn Reynolds. Their 51 years of marriage were a testament to their enduring partnership and mutual devotion. As a father to Angela, Clifton, and Patricia, Donald was a constant source of guidance, encouragement, and unconditional love. His wisdom and strength were the foundations his family could always rely on, and his pride in his children and grandchildren was immeasurable.

MSgt Tackett proudly served his country as a member of the United States Marine Corps for 30 years. His unwavering commitment to the Corps and his brothers-in-arms was a reflection of his steadfast character and patriotism.

He is survived by a son, Donald



Clifton (Tina) Tackett, Jr.; daughters, Angela (Thomas) Overstreet, and Patricia Laffredo; five grandchildren, Abigail Overstreet, Caleb Overstreet, John Overstreet, Audric Laffredo, and Blythe Lommer; brothers, Doug (Rhonda) Tackett, Chris Tackett, and Hiram (Sandra) Tackett; sisters, Mary (Steven) Cox, Sena (Greg) Skinner, and Sandra (Joel) Kroft; many nieces and nephews, and his beloved dog, Honey.

Semper Fidelis. Rest in peace, Donald; your love, courage, and dedication will remain with us forever.

Donald's life will be celebrated at 12 noon on Friday, December 20, in the chapel of the Austin & Bell Funeral Home in Springfield, Tenn. Military graveside services will follow at Springfield Memorial Gardens. If a donation of remembrance, in lieu of flowers, would like to be made, the family requests that it be made to Greenbrier Animal Control in Donald's honor.

The family will receive friends from 5-8 p.m. Thursday, December 19, and again from 11 a.m. until the service at 12 noon Friday at the funeral home.

CHURCH NEWS

Buchanan Presbyterian Christmas Eve service

Buchanan Presbyterian Church invites all ages to the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, December 24. It will include Scripture, carols, special music, and sharing God's light.

Troutville Brethren Christmas Eve service

Join the Troutville Church of the Brethren on Christmas Eve at 5:30 for a candlelight service. The church is located at 5133 Lee Highway in Troutville.

Eagle Rock

Charge Christmas Eve service

The Eagle Rock United Methodist Church Charge invites everyone on Christmas Eve, December 24, at 2 p.m. for the story of Christmas and joyful caroling. Light refreshments will be served immediately following the service. It will be held at Shiloh United Methodist Church, 519 Shiloh Drive Eagle Rock.

Valley View Baptist Christmas Eve service

Valley View Baptist Church will have a candlelight service Christmas Eve at 6 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

Fincastle Presbyterian special services

Fincastle Presbyterian Church has announced a calendar of special services. See Church News, page 8

Serving With Compassion



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Join us for a
Christmas Day Service!

Celebrate the birth of Christ
the way it should be celebrated!

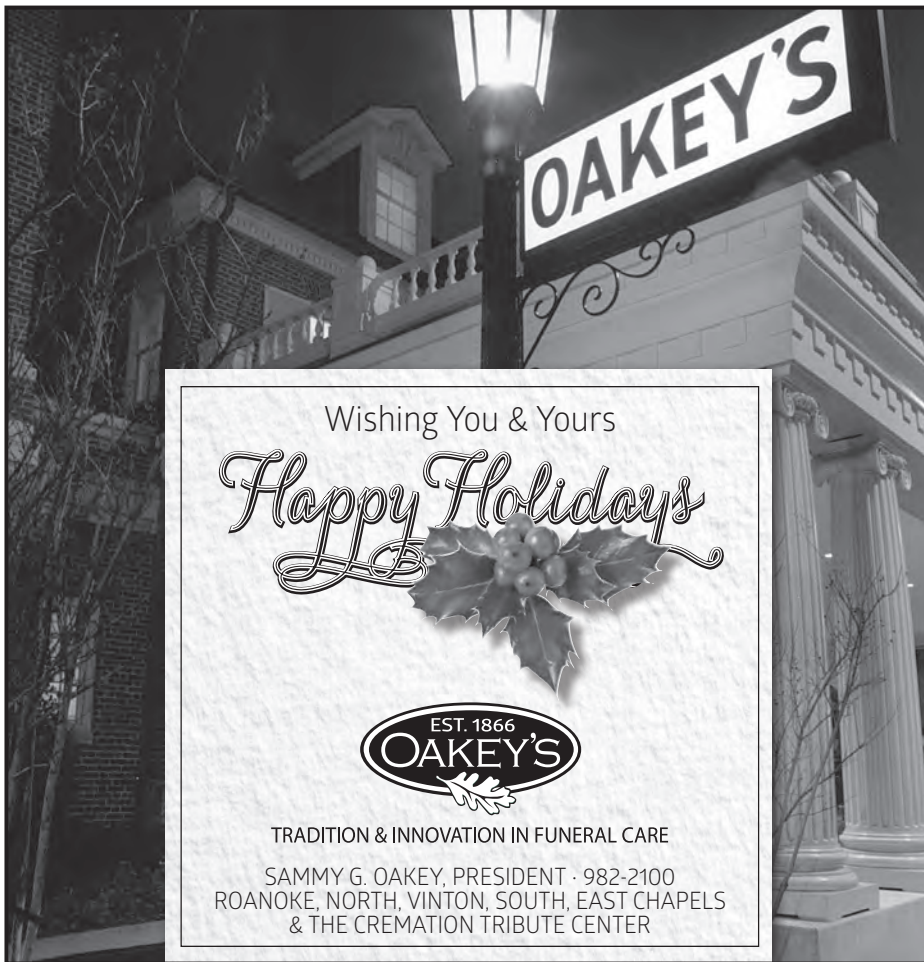
Service at 11am
ALL ARE WELCOME!!

PLEASANT DALE
CHURCH OF THE
BRETHREN

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Share Church news today!
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Wishing You & Yours
Happy Holidays



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Parade

from page 5



Night Crawlers jeep club decorated their fleet for the holidays.



Bank of Botetourt President Michelle Austin hands out candy during last Saturday's parade.



The Christmas parade brought out the canines.



Members of VFW Post 5895 wave to the crowd.



Newly elected Mayor Sue Way (right) celebrates with some of Santa's helpers.



The Central Academy Middle School FFA proudly participated in last week's parade.



Some folks were along for a fun holiday ride through downtown Buchanan by way of tractor, "trike," or truck.

As people rode through, the volunteers thanked them for coming. There was this couple there with a grandson and a man looked at me and said, ‘What are you charging to go through here?’

“I said, ‘Nothing, sir, but if you want to make a donation, feel free, but just enjoy.’ A little while later, the same man came back and he stopped and said, ‘How many times can we drive through here?’ I said, ‘Sir, this is going to be open to the sixth of January. You go as many times as you want as many days as you want and make memories.’ He looked at me with tears in his eyes and said his grandson wanted to do it again. He then thanked us again – this is the joy we get back.

“We see young families that we know are struggling financially and they can go down there with their children and make these wonderful memories. And it’s something they can do that costs them nothing but the little gas to go down there. And you hear the kids. They roll the

windows down and you hear these kids laughing and the parents laughing and it that is one of the reasons we are trying to give back a gift to people to let them know the true meaning of Christmas, but also (making) memories.”

Committee member and newly elected Town Council member Sissy Austin shared, “A lot of people commented on how well they look, how pretty they are, and they really enjoy driving through or walking through, looking at the lights.”

The volunteer committee members have sifted through their share of Christmas lights over the last year. While planning for the event begins in the summer, volunteers went through “loads of lights,” according to Brooks.

“Last January, after we (volunteered presenting the Festival of Lights for the first time), we found a lot of the metal deer that just needed to be refurbishing and a lot of other things that were not in good shape. Debbie, Sissy, and myself spent

hours under the town office down there running lights on them and repairing a lot of things.”

The town provided the committee with a budget and volunteers also provided donations towards this year’s event.

“It’s like taking on another job,” Brooks said. “Our youngest volunteer was the second grader. The oldest volunteers are like 73 or 74. Seven were men, everybody else was women.”

One of the most important notes of this year’s Festival of Lights is a tribute to local veterans. Local nonprofit organizations Sirens and Salutes and New Freedom Farm donated to this year’s project in good faith the veterans would be honored, Brooks added.

“Most of us have had veterans and there families. We take very big pride in our country and we wanted veterans to know when they go through there how proud we are (of them).

“We’ve gotten very good at it. I did

not realize it. I was going to end up with a doctorate in fix and snowman, but I do. You know, uh but we just, you know, and sharing, well, when I share with my customers or friends and at my church (Cedar Bluff Baptist), my minister asked me last week, he said, ‘Pat, would you like me to put a camper down there for you that you can just stay down there?’ I said, ‘I feel like that’s what I need’ because we put a lot of hours in... Every time I drive through them, I get a thrill.”

Austin added, “We’ve all worked (well) together and we’ve had a really good time doing it this year. Last year and this year, we’ve had a good time doing it. It’s just fun doing it and we do it to keep it going and so everybody can enjoy it. To watch the kids come through their faces – it makes you feel good to see their faces light up and enjoy it.”

Enjoy Buchanan’s Festival of Lights open from 6 p.m. until 11 p.m. now through January 6 at Buchanan Town Park.

Church News

from page 7

for the remainder of the year:

- Wednesday, December 18 is the special Wholeness and Healing service at 5 p.m. to spend time in community with prayer, music and silence. Following this short service a light supper is available.
- Sunday, December 22 is the fourth Sunday of Advent and will feature the Advent readings, and the lighting of the Advent Candle of Love. This is a special Sunday in the life of Fincastle Presbyterian to worship with the annual Lessons and Carols Service, a service of scriptures and music. This

year, Two Scales, a multi-instrumental duo (Chloe and Stewart Scales) will perform traditional carols and Celtic music on harp, cello and guitar. They will join Music Director Lori Turner in leading music for this service.

- Tuesday, December 24 is the Christmas Eve service, featuring the Back Street Ringers hand bell choir. In addition to the bells, soloist Lynne Bolton will be adding a special element to a joyful Christmas Eve service.

All services, except the Wednesday Wholeness and Healing service, are live-streamed at <https://www.facebook.com/fincastlepresbyterianchurch/>. Live-streaming starts at 10:20 a.m. and the Sunday services start at 10:30 a.m. Services can be attended in person at 108 E. Back Street, Fincastle.

The office is open part-time. Messages can be left at 540-473-2042, or emailed at fincastlepresbyterianchurch@gmail.com.

Start Christmas decorating – the store has lots of antique and collectible ornaments available. Hours are 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Saturday. Donations are greatly appreciated.

Springwood Baptist Christmas Eve service

Springwood Baptist Church invites the public to a special Christmas Eve Candlelight Service on Wednesday, December 24, at 5:30 p.m. The service will be led by Pastor Mike Anderson.

Glade Creek Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Glade Creek Baptist Church will host its annual Christmas Eve Carols and Candlelight Service on Tuesday, December 24 at 4 p.m. Everyone from the community is invited to take part in this special service that will be held in the historic chapel.

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Stockyard Report	
Monday's sale at the Roanoke-Hollins Stockyard:	
135 Head	
Hogs per lb	\$64.00-\$68.00
Graded Steers	
400-499	\$283.00-\$314.00
500-599	\$253.00-\$307.75
600-699	\$264.00-\$284.50
700-799	\$250.50
Graded Bulls	
400-499	\$275.00
500-599	\$258.00
600-699	\$251.00
Graded Heifers	
300-399	\$244.00
400-499	\$225.00-\$256.00
500-599	\$236.00-\$256.00
Kill Cows	\$74.00-\$122.00
Kill Bulls	\$114.00-\$139.00

NOTICE

Botetourt County governmental offices and Botetourt County Libraries will be closed on Tuesday, December 24, and Wednesday, December 25, in observance of Christmas and closed on Wednesday, January 1, in observance of New Year's.

All Botetourt County Libraries will close at 6:00 p.m. on New Year's Eve.

The Botetourt County Landfill will close at 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 24, and will be closed Wednesday, December 25, and Wednesday, January 1.

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Legals - Botetourt County

NOTICE OF UNSAFE STRUCTURE

Deeded Owner: HOUSMAN LINDA S
Owner Address: 1735 LUGAR LN, FINCASTLE, VA 24090
Subject Property Address: 3770 Blue Ridge TPKE, FINCASTLE, VA 24090
Tax Map Number: 75(1)2&3
Case: CE-24-00067

This advertisement shall serve as notice as required by Section 6-43(b)(1)b. of the Botetourt County Code that the structure listed as 3770 Blue Ridge Turnpike on the subject property has been deemed unsafe by the Botetourt County Building Official. It is the intent of Botetourt County, for the health, safety, and welfare of the community, to have the structure demolished.

The Botetourt County Development Services Department received a complaint concerning the conditions of the property identified as 3770 Blue Ridge Turnpike, Fincastle, Virginia. Our office investigated the complaint on August 2, 2024, and observed an existing unsafe structure. The exterior and interior of the then inhabited, white-colored house were examined and as the structure was identified as unsafe it was immediately placarded as such. The placards were attached to the exterior on all four sides of the structure, at entrances as safe access allowed. The specific issues observed that caused the structure to be unsafe were, without limitation:

Damaged: 1. structural members, 2. foundation and supporting exterior walls, 3. access and egress components, both interior and exterior, as handrails, guards, walking surfaces, railings, ramps, decks, stairs, windows, doors, window frames, and door frames, 4. overhangs, soffits, gutters, downspouts, roofing, and other roof rainwater management components causing water damage to the structure, 5. electrical components 6. Leaking plumbing, either fresh water supply or sanitary drainage, with discharge through the lowest floor exterior into the yard.

Failure to: 1. provide clear egress due to structural damage, inappropriate locking mechanisms (including hasps), and failure to maintain the functionality of openable windows and doors, 2. operate and maintain the woodstove and the venting system of combustion products from the stove, 3. provide sanitary conditions leading to pest infestation of the structure 4. maintain fire protection systems.

Demolition will occur following the timeline outlined in the Botetourt County Code.

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 January 17, 2025, at 1:45 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.

Legals - Botetourt County

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 Mortgagor, 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. 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. VA-370006-1.

Legals - Montgomery County

Notice of Public Hearing Town of Blacksburg Planning Commission Tuesday, January 7, 2025

Notice is hereby given that the Planning Commission of the Town of Blacksburg will conduct the following public hearing on Tuesday, January 7, 2025 during its meeting beginning at 6:30 PM in the Roger E. Hedgepeth Council Chamber, 300 South Main St, Blacksburg, VA on the following item:

801 North Main Street Planned Residential Development with associated Conditional Use Permit request (CUP-24-3) and Right-of-Way vacation request (ROW-24-2) at 801 North Main Street with additional locations on Kabrich Street, Winston Avenue and Progress Street for LV Hokie GP, LLC (contract purchaser). This project consists of three (3) requests, which include (a) RZN-24-2 to rezone the subject properties from (i) GC General Commercial and R-5 Transitional Residential to (ii) PR Planned Residential, which will permit the construction of an 8-story multifamily buildings with commercial space on the ground floor and three (3) townhome-style multifamily buildings, resulting in a total of up to 759 bedrooms (270 bedrooms/acre; (b) ROW-24-2 companion request to

Legals - Botetourt County

vacate a town-owned alley right-of-way of approximately 2,000 square feet extending southeast from Winston Avenue; and (c) CUP-24-3 to use an alley extending northeast from Winston Avenue for access to twenty-two (22) townhome-style multifamily units.

Persons affected by or interested in the rezoning, conditional use permit or right-of-way requests may appear and present their views. After the hearing, the Planning Commission may take action. Copies of the applications, staff report and all related items may be found online at www.blacksburg.gov/public-hearings or reviewed in person at the Blacksburg Planning and Building Department, 400 South Main Street, Blacksburg, Virginia. You may also call the office at (540) 443-1300 for more information. Individuals with disabilities who require special assistance to attend and participate in the public hearing on the above should contact the Planning & Building Department at (540) 443-1300, or (540)-443-1000-TDD.

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY NOTICE OF TAKING PROOF OFDEBTS AND DEMANDS

At the request of the Executor for the Estate of Thomas Daniel Bowles, deceased, as provided by §64.2-550 of the Code of Virginia, I hereby designate 9:15 a.m., on the 3rd day of January, 2025, as the time, and my office located at 104 South Franklin Street, Christiansburg, Virginia, as the place for receiving proof of debts and demands against the estate. Given under my hand this 10th day of December, 2024.

Daniel Hamrick
Commissioner of Accounts
For Montgomery County
104 S. Franklin Street
Christiansburg, VA 24073
(540) 382-0131

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY NOTICE OF TAKING PROOF OFDEBTS AND DEMANDS

At the request of the Executor for the Estate of James P. Wightman, deceased, as provided by §64.2-550 of the Code of Virginia, I hereby designate 9:00 a.m., on the 3rd day of January, 2025, as the time, and my office located at 104 South Franklin Street, Christiansburg, Virginia, as the place for receiving proof of debts and demands against the estate. Given under my hand this 10th day of December, 2024.

Daniel Hamrick
Commissioner of Accounts
For Montgomery County
104 S. Franklin Street
Christiansburg, VA 24073
(540) 382-0131

Order of Publication

Commonwealth of Virginia
VA Code§§ 1-211.1.; 8.01-316.20-104
Case No.**CL24001556-00**
VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY

COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY, VIRGINIA, a Political Subdivision of the Commonwealth of Virginia,

TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG, VIRGINIA a Municipal Locality of the Commonwealth of Virginia, Complainant, v. FRANCES K DICKASON, 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. 497-29 9 Account No. 004978 All that certain tract or parcel of land situate in the Shawsville Magisterial District, Town of Christiansburg, Montgomery County, Virginia, and more particularly designated and

described as follows, to-wit: BEGINNING at a point on the Northerly side of Sunnyside Lane, N.E., at the Southeast corner of (now or formerly) Mary Elizabeth Karr's lot; thence running N 0° 31 ' 00" E 99.94 feet to a point; thence N 81° 00' 30" E 97.50 to a point: thence S 8° 05' 50" E 94.09 feet to a point; thence S 78° 43' 10" W 112.63 feet, parallel to the Northerly side of Sunnyside Lane, N.E.; and being all of Lot No. 9, Sunnyside, Section III, as shown on a plat recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Montgomery County, Virginia in Plat Book 8, Page 127. And being the same real property conveyed to Frances K. Dickason from Poff Construction, Inc., a Virginia corporation, by deed, dated October 7, 1 976 and recorded October 29, 1976 in the Montgomery County Circuit Court Clerk's Office in Deed Book 377 at Page 57. This description is made subject to all easements, conditions, agreements, restrictions, and reservations of record which affect the property herein described including but not limited to those recorded in Plat Book 8 at Page 127.

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: Frances K. Dickason aka Kathleen Dickason Spencer, who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is unknown; Larry Ingram, whose last known address is 525 Sunnyside Ln, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073; 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 January 20, 2025 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 11th day of December, 2024
Honorable Judge K. Mike Fleenor, Jr.

I ask for this:
John A. Rife sq.
(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.
(VSB No. 37158)
Seth R. Konopasek, Esq.
(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.: 779364

Order of Publication

Commonwealth of Virginia
VA Code§§ 1-211.1.; 8.01-316.20-104
Case No.**CL24001914-00**
MONTGOMERY Circuit Court, 55 EAST MAIN STREET, SUITE 1, CHRISTIANSBURG, VA 24073

Commonwealth of Virginia, *in re* BRITTNEY FAYE TILSON v. WILLIAM MATTHEW TILSON
The object of this suit is to: DIVORCE. It is ORDERED that WILLIAM MATTHEW TILSON appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before February 6,2025 @9:00 am
December 4/2024
November 6, 2024
Robert M.D. Turk, Judge



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Legals - City of Salem

LEGAL NOTICE Willingness to Hold a Public Hearing Mason Creek Greenway – Phase 3 (419 Multimodal Improvements)

The City of Salem is proposing to construct a new sidewalk system around Lakeside Plaza. The proposed sidewalk would begin at the trailhead of the Hanging Rock Battlefield Trail, located at 1386 East Main Street. The sidewalk would parallel East Main Street and continue to Electric Road. The sidewalk would continue on the western side of Electric Road (Lakeside Plaza side) to Springfield Avenue. A new pedestrian crossing with ADA accessibility and pedestrian crossing signal will be installed at this intersection. The sidewalk will continue south on Electric Road with sidewalk being installed on both east and west sides of Electric Road. The eastern portion of sidewalk will terminate at McCauley Avenue, while the western portion will terminate at Northern Drive. The City will also install two new Valley Metro Bus Shelters on East Main Street; one on the north side in front of Goodwill and the other on the southern side near the Kroger Fuel Center. This is part of the larger regional Roanoke River and Mason Creek Greenway Trail system. This project is funded through the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) SmartScale Program and being developed through the Locally Administered Projects (LAP) Program. To view plans for the project, visit the web at <https://www.salemva.gov/767/Projects> or go by the City of Salem's Community Development Office, located at 21 S. Bruffey Street. Please call (540) 375-3032 or email Will Simpson (wsimpson@salemva.gov) or Josh Pratt (jpratt@salemva.gov) to schedule a time to view the plans or if you have any additional questions. If your questions or concerns cannot be addressed through discussions with staff, the City is willing to hold a public hearing. You can request that a public hearing be held by sending a written request to: William L. Simpson, Jr., PE City Engineer P.O. Box 869 Salem, VA 24153

Requests for a public hearing must be received on or prior to December 27, 2024. If any requests for a public hearing are received prior to this date, a notice will be posted on the City's website detailing the date, time, and location of the public hearing.

Project Number: UPC 111367; FHWA # EN20-154-251

Legals - Town of Vinton

ABC NOTICE

LND VA STORES LLC., trading as EZ STOP 13, 3348 ORANGE AVE NE, ROANOKE VA 24012-6334

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Retail Convenience Grocery Store, Wine, Beer, Consumed Off Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

JAY PATEL, MEMBER.

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

Help Wanted

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w/Master of Business Administration deg or foreign equiv in Mktg or Content Mktg & 1 yr exp as Mktg Analyst or Mktg Assistant performing following job duties: Prep mktg campaigns, produce content & create new prgm launches, social media, email & other advtg campaigns. Create compelling content incl reporting & writing, photography & photo editing, videography & video editing & graphic campaigns. Dsgn & set-up CRM platform for outreach to existing vendors to maintain engagement. Generate reports on various internal & external mktg campaigns. Coord mktg & community events, incl overseeing logistics, managing registrations, coor'g w/ vendors, creating event prgrms & dsgng mktg collaterals. Managed content for websites & amp; social media. Coord w/ internal depts to create & edit mktg materials using Photoshop, InDesign & Premiere Pro. Benefits: PTO, Health Insurance & 401K. Email Resumes to: cavernsmarket@gmail.com Or mail resumes to: Caverns Petro Inc., db/a Caverns Market 5721 Fallbrooke Dr, Salem, VA 24153. Job Locations: Salem, VA.

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LB girls undefeated after six basketball games, play in Gatlinburg tournament Thurs.



PHOTO BY JON FLEMING
Lord Botetourt's Madelyn Caron scored 19 points against Blacksburg.

The Lord Botetourt girls will take a 6-0 record to Tennessee this week to play in the Smoky Mountain Christmas Classic in Gatlinburg. It will be the second year in a row the girls are in the tournament and they'll play in the "Yellow Bracket" of the big holiday event.

The Cavaliers will open play Thursday at 4 p.m. against Station Camp High of Tennessee. The tournament runs for three days and other schools in the Yellow Bracket include Liberty Creek of Tennessee, Summerville of South Carolina, Lanier Christian of Georgia and three Kentucky high schools, Lafayette, Jackson County and Hopkins County Central. All eight teams are guaranteed three games with games for the championship, third place, fifth place and seventh place on Saturday. Games will be played at several locations in Gatlinburg.

The Cavs are heading to Tennessee on a roll, having played four games in six days and winning all four. The streak started with a 35-28 win over Spotswood in Daleville on December 10. Maddie Caron had 14 points and eight rebounds.

A night later the girls played in Blacksburg and took a 60-48 win as Madilyn Winterton had 24 points, Caron had 19 and Abby Kingery had a dozen.

After a day off the Cavaliers hosted Turner Ashby on Friday and won 44-33. Winterton had 20 points and Maggie Hoover had 10 points and nine rebounds.

"Great matchup against a very well-coached and disciplined team," said LB coach Renee Favaro.

On Monday of this week the Cavs played E.C. Glass in Lynchburg and hammered the Hilltoppers, 80-40. Winterton had 26 points, 10 assists and eight steals while Caron had a career-high 25 points, hitting 12 of 14 shots. Hoover had 14 and all eight girls scored.

"Super proud of this group and their cohesiveness," said Favaro. "We've played a strong schedule and are 6-0. Looking forward to going to Tennessee to face some more strong competition."



PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN
Karleigh Brown of LB sets a new school pole vault record for the girls.

Cavaliers, Knights compete in indoor meet at Roanoke College

The Kerr-Cregger Fieldhouse on the campus of Roanoke College was the site of the East Coast Elite Roanoke #1 track meet in Salem last Thursday. Both Lord Botetourt and James River had athletes competing in the meet.

For LB, Karleigh Brown set the school record in the girls pole vault when she cleared 6'11.75". Jillian Harris placed second in the 55 hurdles in 9.41 and sixth in the triple jump. Alicia Holmes placed fourth in the shot put and the 4x200 team of Morgan Smith, Ratie Jensen, Elizabeth Meadows, and Harris took seventh.

On the boys side, Triston Graves set the school record in the 55 hurdles with a time of 7.98 and



(Left) Jack Beheler of River contests a Bath County shot. (Right) Mark Voight goes high to shoot over a Bath defender.

James River boys will play Craig County in basketball Thursday

The James River boys basketball team will play three games this week before taking a break for Christmas. The Knights come into the week at 3-3 on the young season.

"We have another three-game week with all of them on the road," said Knights coach Ethan Humphries. "We are super grateful and fortunate for the health of our team as we'll need all bodies aboard winding down this crazy stretch of the season. By week's end we will have a great understanding of the type of team we need to be as we enter district play in January."

River opened this week's

schedule with an intra-county game against Lord Botetourt in Daleville Tuesday, with results too late for press deadlines. The Knights are at Craig County on Thursday and at Riverheads Friday. Then they're off until January 3 when they host Faith Christian.

River split two games with Pioneer District teams last week. On December 10 they dropped a 62-46 game to Parry McCluer in Buena Vista. Ryder Ward had 15 points and Kody Park had 11 points and 10 rebounds.

"While the result wasn't what we hoped for, we saw some

improvements," said Humphries. "They hit some tough contested and uncharacteristic shots and that's ultimately what gave them the edge."

On Friday in Springwood, Ward scored a career high 33 points in a 66-46 win over visiting Bath County. Jack Beheler had eight points and nine rebounds and Ben Lawson had nine boards and seven assists.

"Bath was our most complete game yet," said Humphries. "Our guys won every quarter, won the glass, and executed at our best level so far."

River girls will host Knights Winter Classic basketball tournament

The James River girls basketball team will host the Second Annual Knights Winter Classic at James River High School this week. The tournament is for both jayvee and varsity teams and runs from December 18 through December 21.

The tournament opens tonight, Wednesday, with Staunton River playing Auburn in the varsity opener at 6 p.m., followed by Wilson Memorial against Jefferson Forest at 8 p.m. In the jayvee bracket the same schools are matched up, with Wilson Memorial playing Jefferson Forest at 6 p.m. and Auburn taking on Staunton River at 8 p.m. The varsity tournament is held in the main gym and the jayvees will be playing in the old gym at James River.

On Thursday host James River will play Amherst at 8 p.m. in the varsity tournament and take on the Lancers at 6 p.m. in the jayvee tournament. Craig County has a 6 p.m. varsity game against Northside in the main gym and an 8 p.m. jayvee game against the Vikings in the old gym.

All semifinals are Friday and the championship is Saturday. Every team is assured three games as there will be a consolation bracket for both the varsity and jayvee tournaments.

James River was undefeated after three games and had a home game with Waynesboro on Tuesday of this week with results too late for publication. Last week the girls defeated Heritage in overtime in

Lynchburg, 64-55.

River trailed by two with under a minute to go in regulation but Caitlin Canada made two free throws to tie the score at 53-53. She stole the ball and had a chance to win the game but two shots wouldn't fall and the game went into overtime, where River outscored the Pioneers 11-2 to pull away.

"In overtime our defense stopped Heritage and we made clutch free throws to seal the victory," said River coach Don Eggleston. "In overtime we went six for eight from the line."

Canada finished with a game high 29 points and a dozen rebounds, Audrey Benson had 11 and Kelsi Maydian had 10 points before leaving with an injury late in the game.

"She will be out of



PHOTO BY LEIGH DOWNEY
River's Audrey Benson defends the inbounds pass.

action for four to six weeks," said Eggleston of Maydian. "She's an important player who will be missed. 'Next player up' to take up her missed offense and defensive production."

After Christmas the Knights will return to action on Monday, December 30, to host Cave Spring.

Swimmers have last meets before Christmas this week

The James River and Lord Botetourt swim teams have their final meets before the holiday break this week. James River was scheduled to

swim at Hollins University on Tuesday and Lord Botetourt has a meet at the Botetourt YMCA tonight. River had a meet at the Botetourt Y last week. The

boys team out-touched Giles, 39-38, and beat Northside, 40-24, but lost to Glenvar and Carroll County. The girls beat Northside, 29-13, and also

lost to Glenvar and Carroll.

Highlights include a first place in the backstroke and a second in the 50 free for Riley Persinger. Lydia Jones took second in the 100 back and Joel Barber was second in the

100 breast and third in the 100 fly.

Lord Botetourt had a meet at the Bedford YMCA last week against Salem and host Jefferson Forest. The LB girls beat Salem, 60.5 to 25.5 but

lost to Jefferson Forest, 57-36. The Botetourt boys lost to both.

Analise Buyalos swam a personal best in the 200 IM with a time of 2:38.5 and many Cavaliers improved their times.

Wrestling

from page 12

them. I tell ya, man, if we had a combined high school that wrestling team would stand up to anyone in the state. I'd bet the farm on it."

Last Saturday the Cavaliers finished second in the Knights of the Round Table tournament at Cave Spring

High School. Cave Spring beat LB in a close final in the dual tournament.

"We had some injuries and bumped some kids around to make Cave Spring earn it," said Craft. "They were better than us Saturday. Our non-starters had success as well with almost

everyone getting at least one match. Our conditioning is finally starting to come along."

James River was in Richlands last weekend for the Richlands F5 Duals Tournament. Teams attending included host Richlands, Tazewell, Radford, Pulaski County, Riverside,

W.Va., Hurricane, W.Va., and the Knights.

River had six matches, opening with a 52-24 win over Pulaski County. They beat Tazewell, 60-18, and Radford, 51-30, before falling to Riverside, 51-29. The Knights bounced back to beat

Richlands, 45-36, and ended the day with a 59-24 loss to Hurricane High.

Undefeated wrestlers on the day for River included Forbes, Wynn, Evan Byers and Silas Whitson. Forbes achieved his 100th high school career win in the process.

LB basketball

from page 12

On Thursday the Cavaliers played in Salem and dropped a 62-55 decision. The game was tied at the half, 29-29, and a three-pointer by Kish at the buzzer gave LB a 48-45 lead after three quarters. However, Salem scored some big buckets

down the stretch and pulled out the win. Lovern had 18 for Botetourt while Whorley and Landon Hayes had 10 each. Carson Edwards had nine points, 11 rebounds and five assists.

"We were able to play our first complete

game against Salem," said Aliveto. "Our energy, effort, and execution was much more consistent throughout the duration of the game."

The Cavs were scheduled to host James River in an intra-county game

on Tuesday. Tonight, Pulaski will return the trip and this weekend the Cavs are in a two-day Christmas tournament at Hidden Valley. They open Friday with Rockbridge County, then play an opponent to be determined on Saturday.

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Brian Hoffman

Sports Editor

Jack Baker is the new James River football coach

Jack Baker is coming home to coach the James River football team.

Baker, a 1990 graduate of James River High School, was named head football coach at James River High School by the School Board last week. Baker was a standout player for the Knights as an underclassman and grew to love the game as the son of John Baker, who coached the James River team from 1964 to '72.

"I am super excited to be the coach at James River High School," said Baker. "I don't know much about them and that is fine. I plan to coach them hard, believe in them and help them become a competitive football team. I am looking forward to coaching Northern Botetourt County kids, just like I was 35 years ago."

James River athletic director Ryan Firebaugh is also a former athlete for the Knights and he feels the school got a difference maker with Baker. There were several excellent applicants for the position but Jack stood out.

"Jack loves to coach and his passion for the game and passion to teach the game to young athletes is very inspirational," said Firebaugh. "Jack not only loves the game of football but his devotion to the student athletes is through the roof. Jack is a great individual and a great teacher of the game."

Baker grew up in the county and played high school football for Doug Ross, who served as head football coach from 1983 to 1999 and was also the track coach.

"He was a very even-tempered man and coach who I respected a great deal," said Baker. "He served as head football and track coach at James River for 17 years and did a good job in both sports."

Jack played football and basketball and ran track at James River and excelled in all three. He's in favor of kids playing multiple sports like he did.

"I loved all three in high school," he said. "I think multiple sport athletes are critical in small schools. My high school experience in all three sports taught me that."

After high school Jack played football at VMI, graduating in 1995. After graduation he spent a year as an assistant with Ross at James River in 1996, then helped Tony Hart with the Lord Botetourt team in '97. The following year he returned to VMI as an assistant coach with the Keydets from 1998 until 2002.

Baker took his first of five head coaching positions in 2003 when he was hired to coach at Alleghany High School. He spent 10 years there, including a 9-3 season in 2010, before moving to Rustburg in 2013. Jack coached the Red Devils for eight years, highlighted by a 10-3 season in 2016 with two playoff wins.

Jack coached Parry McCluer for one season, 2021, finishing 9-4 with two playoff wins. The following year he moved to Nelson County. He took a team that had won just two games total the two years before he arrived and last year the Governors went 5-5. What's more, Jack was the recipient of the Washington Commanders Coach of the Week award during week five of the 2023 high school season. He got to attend the Commanders game with the Dallas Cowboys and was introduced on the field prior to the game.

In winning the award the Commanders organization cited, "Coach Baker leaves a profound and lasting impact on every program he touches, elevating them to new heights. His commitment to his players extends well beyond high school as he has helped dozens of young athletes achieve their dream of playing college football and attaining a college education."

A history teacher, Jack attributes much of his character to his father. John Baker coached at James River and was on the football staff at Bridgewater College when the Eagles played national Division III power Mount Union in the 2001 Stagg Bowl. Bridgewater battled the heavily favored Raiders



Jack Baker is the new football coach at James River.

PHOTO COURTESY RUSTBURG FOOTBALL

into the fourth quarter before falling, 30-27, in front of one of the largest crowds ever at Salem Stadium. John passed in 2016 at age 79.

"My father had a huge impact on me," said Jack. "I learned to love football because of him. But, more importantly, learned to give my best in all things, respect other people and have high expectations for myself. He gave an enormous amount of himself to those around him. My brother, sister and I were lucky to have parents who pushed us and didn't accept excuses but loved us unconditionally."

Jack is excited to be back in Botetourt County and is anxious to put a staff together and get to work on the 2025 season.

"I can't wait to get started," he said. "I wish I could start working with the team full time immediately. I look forward to meeting the coaches at James River and filling out a football staff. It will be important for me to find good football teachers who care about kids, want to build relationships with them and be proud to coach at James River High School."



Carson Edwards of LB draws a blocking foul from a Salem defender.

Cavaliers pick up first boys basketball win

The Lord Botetourt boys basketball team picked up the first win of the season last Friday when the Cavaliers took a 75-58 win over Pulaski County in Dublin.

LB came into the game at 0-3, looking for their first win under new head coach Josh Aliveto. The Cavaliers were coming off a tough loss to a strong Salem team the night before, leading the Spartans after three quarters but letting it slip away in the late going.

On Friday, that wasn't going to happen. Blake Lovern scored 30 points to lead the Cavaliers to a 75-58 win over the Cougars in Botetourt's third road game of the week. Braydon Whorley had 14 points for the Cavs and Brady Kish contributed a dozen.

"Quite a few players, such as Jase Lisle, Landon Gray and Caleb Muterspaugh, came off the bench to give us quality minutes," said Aliveto. "Offensively, we had our most efficient night against Pulaski. The players were able to handle their pressure and make many right decisions at the right time with the basketball. Our effort and execution on defense continued to show signs of improvement."



LB's Brady Kish drives the lane against Salem.

PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

The Cavs opened the week with a trip to Fishersville to take on Wilson Memorial. The Green Hornets had a good night and took a 68-47 win. Lovern led LB with 15 points.

"This was a good early road test for our program," said Aliveto. "We struggled to get stops early on defense and did not have our best shooting night."

See LB basketball, page 11

Busy week for Lord Botetourt, James River wrestlers

There will be no eggnog and cookies for the county wrestlers as they work to stay under weight for some big holiday tournaments. Both the Lord Botetourt and James River grapplers will be on the mats this week.

James River travels to Wise County for the Bobby Bates Classic at UVA Wise for a two-day tournament on Friday and Saturday. Wrestling starts at 9 a.m. both days as Xaiden Wynn and Brayden Forbes both wrestle to defend their Bobby Bates championship titles in their respective weight classes.

Lord Botetourt will be in the Turner Ashby tournament on Friday and Saturday. There's also a "Lady Cat" tournament for girls at Radford High School.

Last week in Springwood, River hosted Lord Botetourt, Liberty and the Lord Botetourt B team for a quad match. The LB A team beat River, 46-35, and the Cavalier B team edged the Knights, 36-35. James River beat Liberty, 55-18, and LB also beat Liberty.

"We wrestled a bit sloppy against Liberty, but I think we picked it up some against James River," said LB coach Paul Craft. "We knew it was going to be a fight. Hat tip to Bobby (River coach Stewart) and his staff at James River. They always develop top level wrestlers up there."

"We just flat out don't match up well with each other and that's been the case the last few years and maybe more," added Craft. "His lighter weights cause lots of problems for us and our middle and heavy kids cause more problems for

See Wrestling, page 11



LB's Serenity Shearer tries to get out of the grip of River's Josiah Merchant.



Botetourt's Ever Benavidez is upside down in a match with River's Evan Byers.



Brayden Forbes of the Knights (right) battles Botetourt's Cameron Craighead. Brayden won this match, and Saturday in Richlands he picked up his 100th high school win.

PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN