



Breckinridge Elementary HVAC replacement approved by Board of Supervisors; additional classrooms for Colonial Elementary discussed



PHOTO BY MATT DE SIMONE

The Botetourt County Board of Supervisors approved two new HVAC units for installation at Breckinridge Elementary School later this summer.

Matt de Simone

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The Botetourt County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to approve a \$282,351 request from Botetourt County Public Schools (BCPS) for the replacement of two rooftop HVAC units at Breckinridge Elementary School during the board's monthly meeting in Daleville last Tuesday. The approval follows a report from BCPS detailing the need for the units, which have recently failed, compromising the school's ability to properly heat and cool its classrooms.

The two new units would be for one 20-ton rooftop unit (approximately \$80,000) that would cover three classroom spaces and a hallway, and one 30-ton rooftop unit (approximately \$120,000) that would cover five classrooms, a computer lab, and a

hallway. Additionally, BCPS asked for the county to help cover the cost of 10 rented heating units the school has used since November.

The request exceeded the \$150,000 threshold set by the School Capital Reserve Fund Policy, which mandates that any expenditure over this amount must be reviewed and approved by the Board of Supervisors. With the current balance of the School Capital Reserve Fund (CIP) sitting at \$1,576,609.71, the replacement of the HVAC units will bring the fund's balance down to \$1,294,258.71.

The failure of the two HVAC units at Breckinridge prompted the immediate need for replacements to ensure the school's climate control system is functioning optimally. According to the

See HVAC, page 8



Central Academy Middle School FFA students Brianna Petty, Wren Manbeck, and Harleigh Masters offered free potted shamrock plants and care cards.

Matt de Simone

Managing Editor

4-H/FFA Youth Expo delights Botetourt with fun, learning, and local talent

The 10th annual Botetourt County 4-H/FFA Youth Expo took place last Friday at Lord Botetourt High School in Daleville. Attendees had the opportunity to explore and engage with local youth involved in the Future Farmers of America (FFA) and 4-H programs.

The event featured a variety of activities, including interactive booths with club members, local livestock displays, archery demonstrations, and an exciting silent auction. Botetourt 4-H clubs and FFA members shared their knowledge of their respective clubs that included cooking, beekeeping, robotics, livestock care, horse

See Expo, page 8



PHOTOS BY MATT DE SIMONE

The Share-the-Fun talent competition saw performances by student Colonial Elementary's Karter Prusak playing "Carol of the Bells" on the keyboard.



Construction workers start demolition work on the Dodd Building in Fincastle last Thursday.



PHOTOS BY MATT DE SIMONE

Courthouse construction officially underway in Fincastle

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At long last, official construction has begun moving along in downtown Fincastle. On Thursday, demolition work began on the historic Dodd Building.

Moving forward, the county is looking towards the main structure of the old Botetourt County Courthouse for its next phase of demolition work.

The courthouse is currently being cleared of any asbestos along with the first, second, and third floor ceiling tiles, floor tiles, walls, and HVAC being hauled out.

"Hopefully at the beginning of May, we'll start on the north side of the old courthouse or the back side of the old courthouse and start very slowly demolishing it from there," County Capital Projects Manager Rich Evans said last Thursday.

The Dodd Building stood off of Route 220 in Fincastle's downtown area. Built in the early 1900s, it was

originally designed as a commercial building, serving as a hub for local businesses. Over the years, it has housed various establishments, including offices and retail spaces. The building is named after the Dodd family, who were prominent figures in Fincastle's development during the early 20th century.

The building was particularly significant due to its architectural style. Its design included elements typical of early 20th century commercial architecture, with large windows and a distinctive façade.

Virginia Tech students present map to BCHS

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The Botetourt County Historical Society, Inc. (BCHS) welcomed Virginia Tech Cartography students Hannah Crook, Sarah Cohoon, and Emma Dilic as they presented a digital rendering of a map of Botetourt from 1773-1777 created using ArcGIS Pro. The students were joined by Cartography Instructor Stewart Scales donating a map containing modern and historical locations during that period leading up to America's independence.

"We found a website that showed the counties over time," Dilic explained, "We imported the county layer that we wanted, overlaid it over a map, created it as a layer, and then I just went in and I found the point data, and then Sarah and Hannah help style it."

The students presented the map and a timeline graphic to BCHS President Ed Holt and BCHS Executive Director Lynsey Allie. These visual aids are going to be on display at the upcoming "Remember the Botetourt

See Resolutions, page 5



PHOTO BY MATT DE SIMONE

Virginia Tech Cartography students/teaching assistants (left to right) Hannah Crook, Sarah Cohoon, and Emma Dilic, joined by Cartography instructor Stewart Scales, stand with the map the students created for the upcoming "Remembering the Botetourt Resolutions" event at the Kyle House in Fincastle on March 14.

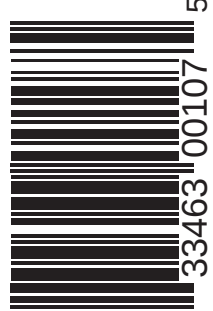


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PHOTO COURTESY OF RMMS

Sixth Annual RMMS Amazing Shake a success

Botetourt County’s spirit of collaboration and commitment to student growth was on full display at the Sixth Annual Read Mountain Middle School Amazing Shake, where eighth grade students refined essential soft skills while engaging with local professionals. The event, held at the school, provided students with the opportunity to practice eye contact, firm handshakes, and meaningful conversations– critical skills for their future success.

This year’s competition had 118 student participants, 51 community professionals, and over 1,500 conversations taking place. Across three competitive rounds, students demonstrated their ability to present themselves with confidence and professionalism, culminating in 10 Amazing Shake champions. The top 10 Amazing Shake Champions were: Beahlen Deacon, Elena Preston, Gabriel Puckett, Jackson Crenshaw, Kambori Weaver, Katelin Dent, Keshun Kemp, Landon Craft, Lucas Higgins, and Macyn Woody.

The success of the event was made possible by the support of generous sponsors, including Blue Ridge Financial

Partners, Mainstream Mental Health Services, Orchard Hills Church, Lenk Orthodontics, and Nathan Stuart and Davis H. Elliot. Their contributions, along with the dedication of numerous community volunteers, played a pivotal role in creating an unforgettable experience for students.

“We are so grateful to the professionals who took time out of their busy schedules to mentor and encourage our students,” said a member of the RMMS Amazing Shake Committee. “Their support makes this event possible, and we truly appreciate it.”

Looking ahead, plans are already in motion for the next year’s RMMS Amazing Shake, and the committee welcomes even more community involvement to expand student participation. If you would like to participate next year or be a sponsor of the event, contact RMMS at 540-966-8655 or Angela Myers, teacher/librarian, at amyers@bcps.k12.va.us.

To watch the event highlights go to: <https://youtu.be/fPNnJkbILEU>.

~ RMMS Teacher/Librarian Angela Myers

Botetourt County History



PHOTO COURTESY OF BCMHC

Small, pocket-sized Bibles were often carried as personal tokens of faith and comfort, especially by soldiers during wartime. Their compact size made them easy to keep close, tucked into a uniform, pocket, or a satchel, serving as both a spiritual guide and a reminder of home and loved ones.

This small linen-covered Bible is from

1756 and published by Adrian Watkins, “His Majesty’s Printer” in Scotland. On the page between the Old and New Testaments is written: “Robert Rieley was born on February 23, 1781.” There is no other identifying information. This is one of the oldest Bibles in the museum’s collection.

This Bible is on view as part of “The Good

Word: Family Bibles from Botetourt County” display that is now up at the Botetourt Museum of History & Culture in Fincastle. Hours are 10-2 Monday-Saturday and 2-4 Sunday. Group tours or other hours may be made by calling 540-473-0148.

~ Botetourt County Museum of History & Culture

Highland County Maple Festival returns March 8-9 and 15-16

Nestled in the peaceful, rural mountains on the western border of the Commonwealth in Monterey, travelers can take a step back in time for a cultural and culinary adventure at the county-wide Highland County Maple Festival during the second and third weekends of March. This year marks the 65th event, set for March 8-9 and 15-16.

Highland County is Virginia’s least populous

county but has been drawing tens of thousands of visitors to the community since 1959 to celebrate the “opening” of the trees and to observe the process of making pure maple syrup. Free “sugar camp” tours provide a unique and educational experience for the entire family to learn how the golden delicacy is made from tree to bottle, ranging from traditional to modern techniques.

Local sugar camps have even expanded to include syrups infused with fruits and spices or even aged in spirit barrels. Other tree syrups can be found at the festival as well, including hickory, birch, and black walnut. Ten local sugar camps will be open on Saturdays and eight on Sundays this year.

Local civic clubs and organizations will be bringing back their food offerings, including fresh

maple doughnuts, pancake and buckwheat cake meals with country side dishes, trout, pork rinds, and just about anything maple-flavored. Local restaurants are ready to serve with special menus of savory and sweet treats. Food vendors on North Water Street in Monterey offer additional meal options.

Over 100 juried arts and crafts vendors will be available in Monterey and McDowell, providing one-of-a-kind treasures, food, and gifts. Browse and shop with new and returning vendors for a variety of handcrafted items, from old-time trades to exclusive artwork to exquisite jewelry. The Highland County Artisans’ Shop will be set up at The Highland Center in Monterey to showcase local crafts for sale as well. Admission to access vendors at the Highland County Public School Gyms and The Highland Center will be \$5 purchased onsite (children 12 and under are free). That \$5 payment comes with a collectible maple leaf keychain that also provides access to 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. entertainment at The Highland Center.

Each day of the festival in 2025 will feature at least two live shows at The Highland Center. On Saturday, March 8, enjoy the popular bluegrass band Southern Rail Express at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. A special acoustic performance from Furnace Mountain Band will take place at 5 p.m. for \$15 for adults (\$5 off with keychain.) On Sunday, March 9, listen to the talented Jack Dunlap play bluegrass at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. During the following weekend on Saturday, March 15, put on your dancing shoes with the Appalachian folk band Mill Creek Cronies at 10 a.m., and stay to hear their heel stomping tunes for a 2 p.m. square dance with callers Ellen and Eugene Ratcliffe. Finish up the festival with two

clogging performances on Sunday, March 16, with the Hi-Horse Cloggers performing at 10 a.m. and the homegrown Little Switzerland Cloggers entertaining audiences at 2 p.m. For more entertainment, visitors can listen to bluegrass music at Southernmost Maple in Bolar starting at noon on Saturdays.

Stop into locally owned shops that dot the countryside and small towns to experience rural charm and a friendly atmosphere. New for 2025, the Highland County Visitor Center is now located in the recently opened Highlander Restaurant at the intersection of Rts. 220 and 250 to provide additional information on area businesses and attractions while enjoying pizza, fried chicken, and subs. Townsend Draft Goods in the Mill Gap area will also be new this year, using maple as a main ingredient in natural remedies and goods like fire tonics. In addition, the Highland County Girl Scouts will be providing indoor dining with baked potatoes, chili, and more at Monterey Presbyterian Church starting at 11 a.m.

This year, a shuttle service in Monterey will be expanded to all four days of the festival to help reduce traffic congestion. B&L’s Mountain Safe Transportation will be providing a complimentary shuttle service from approximately 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays and 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sundays. The route begins at the Monterey Stockyard and runs on a continuous loop with a stop at Rt. 220 near the Highland County Public Schools, a new stop near the Mill Gap Ruritans doughnut trailer, and a stop at The Highland Center. Complimentary parking at the Monterey Stockyard at 1367 Jackson River Road just south of Monterey off of Rt. 220 is first-come, first-served. No reservations

are needed.

In 1999, the Library of Congress designated The Highland County Maple Festival a “Local Legacy,” and in 2014, the Governor of Virginia signed a bill into law designating the festival as the “Official Maple Festival of Virginia.” More recently, the festival has earned several user-voted awards, including the winner of Best Unique Festival in the Best of the Blue Ridge 2024 Reader’s Choice Awards from Blue Ridge Outdoors Magazine and 2024’s first-place place winner for Best Festival of the Shenandoah Valley Region in Virginia Living’s Best of Virginia. An economic impact study in 2023 revealed that the festival generated \$2.4 million in direct spending in Highland County.

The Highland County Maple Festival is coordinated by the Highland County Chamber of Commerce and made possible with the help of countless volunteers and organizations. Top sponsors include the Blue Grass Valley Bank, Burke & Herbert Bank, Kissito Healthcare: The Springs Nursing & Rehab, Pendleton Community Bank (PCB), The Highland Center, and Highland County Arts Council.

Traditional hours of the festival are Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., though visitors can get a jumpstart to the day with maple doughnuts being served at 6 a.m. and pancake meals starting as early as 7 a.m. Full details on all the festival happenings can be found at www.highlandcounty.org/maple-festival, with posts highlighting the festival available at www.facebook.com/HighlandCounty and www.instagram.com/highland_county_va.

~ Highland County Chamber of Commerce



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PHOTO COURTESY OF HIGHLAND COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

DAR: Our Patriot Ancestors

In recognition of the upcoming 250th celebration of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence, the DAR America 250 Committee of the Botetourt County Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution is placing a spotlight on members' Patriot ancestors who helped the country achieve American Independence. Zachariah Lee, Sr. is a Patriot ancestor of members Regeana Darnell Lee Sandidge and Deborah Karen Hedrick. The majority of the following information is taken from an article written by Joyce C. Lee for the Botetourt County, Virginia Heritage Book 1770 – 2000, Millennium Edition, published by the Botetourt Heritage Book Committee.

Zachariah Lee, Sr. was born in Albemarle County, Va., according to his Revolutionary

War Pension Application (National Archives Ref# 6260); he believed he was born in 1765. He married Jean Wright-Bright-Right (different last names come from a variety of records). Their marriage recorded in Rockingham County, Va., December 8, 1781, shows Jean Bright. The marriage bond itself appears to be Right; it is supposed by most genealogists that due to people spelling words as they sound, her name must have been Wright.

A Zachariah Lee was on tax records in Botetourt County from 1795 (1783 -1810). Land was surveyed for Zachariah Lee on May 29, 1835 and he lived in the Catawba Valley area below McAfee's Knob. Grave markers are mostly rocks where he is supposed to have been buried, but one marker shows the name of Zachariah Lee, Jr.'s second wife. Zachariah Lee fathered (of record) five children:

Jonathan R. (W) Lee, 1782, who married (Sarah Brickey); Elizabeth Lee, 1787 (Collin Parrish); Zachariah, Jr., 1791 (Agnes Brickey); William, 1793 (Martha Little), and Mary (Polly), 1795 (Jacob Dooley). Mark Lee, a descendant of Zachariah Lee, and his wife, Karen, have spent countless hours cleaning and protecting the cemetery in Catawba.

From Zachariah Lee comes generations that remain in Botetourt County, Virginia, and other states. Zachariah Lee, Jr. fathered five children (of record), Morgan, Mason, William, Dorcas and Rowland Lee. Many of these earlier ancestors were farmers. These men have many descendants who still live in the area and attend PleasantDale Church of the Brethren on Breckinridge Mill Road in Fincastle. William Jackson Lee, a descendant of Morgan Lee, helped build

this church. Mason Lee and some of the others are buried in the Huffman (also known as the Deeds) Cemetery.

While we are not direct descendants of Robert E. Lee, our family is known for its service and patriotism. For generations, the Lee descendants have served their country in almost every major battle from Zachariah Lee's service during the Revolutionary War through Mike Lee's Navy service during the Vietnam Conflict. Regeana's father, Herman Albert Lee, and Deborah's uncle, Ray D. Lee, were both in the Army. Trudy Lee Musselwhite has often organized Lee family reunions held the first part of October. These are generally advertised in The Fincastle Herald in advance of the reunion.

If you or your ancestors are from Botetourt County, chances are you



may be related to a Lee.

The Daughters of the American Revolution is a non-profit, non-political organization open to any woman who has lineage to a Patriot who contributed to the success of the American Revolution. Founded over 125 years ago, it is focused on service to the community and fosters Patriotism,

Education and Service. If you are interested or have questions about joining the chapter, contact Membership Chair Emily Talbot-Guillote via email at eptg1019@gmail.com or Registrar JoElla John, jjohnregistrar@gmail.com.

~ Botetourt County DAR

Botetourt Retired Educators scholarships available; BRE meeting March 10

The Botetourt Retired Educators will award two \$1,000 scholarships to students from Botetourt County who are planning to enter the field of education. In addition, previous scholarship winners still pursuing a degree in a teacher educational program may apply. Applications are available from James River and Lord Botetourt Guidance Departments or from the school website. All parts of the application, including references and transcripts, must be submitted in order to be considered for the scholarship. There is more information on the application, including how to

submit by April 1.

Retired Educators to meet March 10

The Botetourt Retired Educators will meet on Monday, March 10, at Bellacino's. If you arrive by 10:45, there will be time for you to order your lunch before the meeting begins around 11:15. The speaker will be Kelly Focht, who is the fraud officer at Bank of

Botetourt. She will talk about issues that target seniors and specifically those found in Botetourt County.

Dues (\$45) for 2025-2026 may be paid at the meeting. Donations may be made to the Scholarship Fund and to the Book Fund. Retired school personnel from Botetourt County or other area divisions are eligible for membership. If you have questions, contact Susan Martin at 540-473-2636 or susanmartin730@gmail.com.

~ Submitted by Susan Martin

ARRESTS

The Botetourt County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests February 24-March 2:

- Antonio T. Baez, 44, of Lexington, possession of Schedule drugs, possession of a firearm while in possession of Schedule drugs, possession of a firearm by a felon, February 24
- Miguel A. Aquilar Lopez, 31, of Rockingham, domestic assault, strangulation, prevent access of 911, March 1
- Richard J. Sprinkel, 57, of Fincastle, domestic assault, March 1
- Tiera L. Parson, 30, of Roanoke, simple assault, March 1
- Anise M. McBride, 23, of Roanoke, simple assault, March 1
- T'Nasiah S. Waters, 19, of Roanoke, property damage, March 2

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Botetourt County Republican Commttee Notice of Correction

The Botetourt County Republican Committee does not endorse candidates that are running for nomination of the Republican Party prior to completion of the nominating process. The February 5, 2025 issue of the Fincastle Herald ran an article announcing the candidacy of an individual for the Botetourt County Board of Supervisors, Amsterdam District.

It stated that the Botetourt County Republican Party made the announcement and stated the photo was "Courtesy of Botetourt Republican Party." It could be reasonably inferred that the Botetourt County Republican Committee endorses the candidate. An endorsement of a candidate at this point is contrary to the rules established by the

Botetourt County Republican Committee and the Virginia Republican Plan of Organization. The Botetourt County Republican Committee takes seriously the task of conducting a fair nominating process for its candidates: a process absent smoke filled backroom deals and one open to all supporting the Virginia Republican Creed!

Therefore, be it clearly known, the Botetourt County Republican Committee has not endorsed Tim Snyder for the office of Botetourt County Board of Supervisors, Amsterdam District.

Authorized and Paid for by Danny H. Goad



Raising Chickens

Thu, Mar 6, 5pm, Eagle Rock
Sat, Mar 8, 11am, Buchanan
Learn how to care for chickens, including creating a first aid kit, protecting against predators, what type of chickens to raise, and how to keep birds healthy. Presented by local author Bruce Ingram.

Who Made Those Tracks

Fri, Mar 7, 3:30pm, Blue Ridge
Explore with a Virginia State Park Ranger to learn about wildlife through reading, gaming, and tracking. Registration required; limited to 10. Call (540) 928-2900 to register. Ages 6-12.

Cozy Mystery Author Talk with Krista Davis

Sat, Mar 8, 12pm, Blue Ridge
New York Times bestselling mystery author Krista Davis will visit with us after the newest release in her Paws & Claws mystery series. Join us as we discover how she keeps up with writing three different mystery series and how she stays inspired. Light snacks and refreshments provided.

Community Cafe

Mon, Mar 10, 9am, Fincastle
Mon, Mar 10, 10am, Eagle Rock
This program provides an opportunity for seniors to mingle through coffee, conversation, and a challenging/fun game!

Deciphering Codes in Death Certificates

Thu, Mar 13, 2pm, Buchanan
Tue, Apr 8, 2pm, Fincastle
Learn how to decipher codes on death certificates when researching your family history. Presented by Library Genealogist Rena Worthen.

Area 51 – A Closer Look at the History of the Military Base

Thu, Mar 13, 6pm, Eagle Rock
Join local NASA Ambassador Mark England to learn about the history of Area 51 and developments that came out of this famous military base.

A Jane Austen Afternoon Tea

Tue, Mar 18, 4pm, Fincastle
Celebrate this classic author with a proper English teatime with tea, snacks, and conversation. Period clothing optional but encouraged!

Notary Services

Did you know Botetourt County Libraries offers free notary services? Please contact the library location to schedule an appointment.

Find even more events at BOCOLibraries.info.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Reader questions purpose of Rocky Forge wind project

I imagine that the champagne corks are popping in Charlottesville now that all of the permits have been approved and construction is underway for the Rocky Forge wind energy project. We can now all be happy that Virginia has done its part to save the world from climate change...or have we?

Thinking about this project, I am reminded of the 1950s movie “God’s Little Acre.” The gist of the movie is that a farmer keeps an area of his farm set aside for his church. The crops grown in this, God’s Little Acre, are donated. At some point the farmer learns that gold is buried on his farm. As he looks for the gold, he fears the most likely location for the gold might be in the land he has set aside for the church. So, before he digs, he moves the “church’s area” so if he does find gold there, he won’t have to give it to the church.

So it goes with environmental causes: trees matter, wildlife matters, endangered bats matter, protected eagles matter, and pure mountain streams must be protected. That is until a shiny new penny shows up, namely, wind and solar energy. PMJ, the electric grid manager in this area, predicts that the wind on North Mountain will only produce about 13% of the capacity of the turbines installed. So, when Apex (the developer) says Rocky Forge will generate enough electricity to power

20,000 houses, they know that is not true.

Also, while the project will only produce a small a portion of that amount of energy, the electricity that is produced will go to a Google AI facility, not Virginia homes.

Those of us who live in the area know that the wind only blows at a reliable rate in the winter and early spring, a time when the country already has an abundance of electricity. Power need is peak in the summer, around July and August, when the country needs all the electricity it can get. However, during those months, central Virginia is in the doldrums. While our air conditioners are on full blast, we sit praying for an breeze to cool the afternoon. At those times Rocky Forge turbines will be mostly idle.

If so, why build it? What makes wind energy that shiny new penny so much so that DEQ is willing to sacrifice the trees and the wildlife and allow a concrete batch plant to be constructed on the banks of a class 4 trout stream? Why is it ok to sacrifice endangered bats and golden eagles? Tax credits, that why! The investors in this project qualify for a 12% to 30% investment tax credit.

There is only one question remaining for me: How much did Apex have to donate to the Sierra Club for them to announce repeatedly that this project is “perfectly sited?”

Steve Neas
Lexington

Bingo will benefit Glebe, Lions Club

Bingo to benefit The Glebe Benevolent Fund and the Daleville/ Fincastle Lions Club will be held on Saturday, March 15, at 11 a.m. The doors will open at 10:30 a.m. at The Glebe, 200 Glebe Boulevard in Daleville. All bingo prizes will be Pampered Chef and Thirty One products, with a cover-all grand prize valued over \$197.

Tickets are being sold in advance for \$40, which includes a buffet lunch, by contacting Lowell Skelton at 540-420-2427 or Diane Taylor, 540-520-7967. Due to renovations, the event will not be in the same room and seating is limited to 35 players, so get tickets before they are sold out.



FILE PHOTO

To park, go to the right of the main building entrance and park on the lower lot. A shuttle will be provided so residents do not lose their parking spaces. There will be door prize

drawings and a 50/50 drawing. There are 20 rounds of bingo, a door prize ticket, plus a cover-all (black out) round for the grand prize included for \$40 in advance. Additional bingo cards, cover-all cards, and door prizes tickets will be available for purchase.

- Fincastle Herald staff report

Fish Fry March 7 in Fincastle

The Knights of the Transfiguration, 7624 Columbus will have a fish fry on Friday, March 7, 5-7 p.m. at Church of

Roanoke Road, Fincastle; eat-in or take-out, \$12, ages 7 and under are free.

The meal will consist of two filets of lightly breaded flounder (or six chicken nuggets for children), sweet cornbread, crispy fries, creamy coleslaw, and choice of dessert. A 50/50 drawing will be held. No advance ticket sales.

Proceeds to benefit several Botetourt County charities: Backpack Ministry, Botetourt Food Pantry, Botetourt Resource Center and Quilts of Valor and New Freedom Farm. For more information, call 540-904-3126.

- Knights of Columbus

League for Animal Protection's Waif of the Week

Bandit

Bandit is a beautiful Australian Cattle Dog mix. He is 37 pounds, 4 years old, HW negative and taking prevention, had flea and tick prevention, is microchipped and UTD with all vaccines. Please research this breed before any inquiry. They really need to be busy to be happy.



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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CROSSWORD

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CLUES ACROSS

1. European Common Market
4. Poetic go quickly
7. Parts per thousand (abbr.)
10. Pigeon pea
12. Sao __, city in Brazil
14. Longest division of geological time
15. __ Alto, California city
16. Small terrestrial viper
17. Coming after all others
18. Penetrate with a sharp fork
20. Still-hunt
22. Chinese frying pan
23. Cave-dwelling salamander
24. Any thick messy substance
26. About the moon
29. AKA Tao
30. Jet cabin requirement

CLUES DOWN

35. Prince Hirobumi, 1841-1909
36. An easy return in a high arc
37. Italian commune
38. L. Comfort's illuminator
44. Foot digit
45. Minute tunicate genus
46. Green regions of desert
48. Direct a weapon
49. __ de Janeiro
50. Equestrian animals
53. Acres Tomei
56. Head of the RCC
57. Twines
59. Scientific workplace
61. Minerals
62. Hypothetical original substances
63. Hit with the open hand
64. Political action committee
65. Winged goddess of the dawn
66. W. states time zone

28. Impounds for lack of payment
29. Radiotelegraphic signal
31. MN 55731
32. Sun in spanish
33. Helps little firms
34. Cease living
39. Flames up
40. Egyptian sacred bull
41. To wit
42. Mire
43. Bring two objects together
47. Filths
50. Israeli dance
51. Oil cartel
52. A particular instance of selling
53. Microelectromechanical system
54. Var. of 45 across
55. Goat & camel hair fabrics
56. Soda
58. A firm's operational head
60. Seaport (abbr.)



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Dog Man

Thursday, March 6
7 p.m.

The UnBreakable Boy

(2025) A young boy with both a rare brittle-bone disease and autism transforms everyone around him with his joyous, funny, and life-affirming world view. (1 hr. 49 min.)

Friday, March 7
7 p.m.
Saturday, March 8
7 p.m.
Sunday, March 9
3 p.m.
Thursday, March 13
7 p.m.

Coming Next
Paddington in Peru

See Answers, page 8

Commemorating 250 Years of the Botetourt Resolutions

This year marks the 250th anniversary of the Botetourt Resolutions, a powerful declaration of support for American liberty adopted in 1775 by the citizens of Botetourt County.

The Botetourt Resolutions emerged in response to growing unrest in the American colonies as British rule became increasingly oppressive. Adopted by the freeholders of Botetourt and published in the Virginia Gazette on March 11, 1775 in Williamsburg, these resolutions reflected the bold spirit of the county's leaders, who declared their willingness to stand with their fellow colonists in defense of their rights.

What set the Botetourt Resolutions apart was their firm tone and forward-thinking stance. While many colonial petitions at the time sought reconciliation with the British Crown, Botetourt's leaders — including prominent figures like Andrew Lewis, John Bowyer and John May — went a step further. They stated that if the American colonies were forced to separate from Britain, they would support an independent government rather than submit to continued tyranny.

The Resolutions not only aligned Botetourt with the revolutionary cause but also demonstrated the crucial role of Virginia's backcountry in the fight for independence. These words, forged in the heart of the Appalachian frontier, echoed the growing call for freedom that would soon ignite the American Revolution.

As we commemorate this historic milestone, the Botetourt Resolutions remind us of the courage and foresight of those who dared to envision a free and self-governing nation — a vision that would become a reality just a year later with the Declaration of Independence.

To commemorate this historic milestone, the Botetourt County Board of Supervisors has officially proclaimed March 9-15 as Botetourt Resolutions Week. The week will culminate in the Remembering the Botetourt Resolutions event on Friday, March 14, at 7 p.m. at the Kyle House in Fincastle.

This special evening will feature a live re-enactment by costumed historical interpreters of the events surrounding the Resolutions and the Second Virginia Convention along with period music by Kaeli Berry. A reception will follow.

Attendance is limited and tickets must be purchased in advance at the Botetourt Museum of History and Culture or online at www.bothistsoc.wordpress.com.

~ Lynsey Allie, Botetourt County Historical Society

Lions donate wagon to Food Pantry

Daleville-Fincastle Lions Club members volunteer once each month at the Botetourt Food Pantry at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Fincastle. On Saturday, February 22, in addition to five volunteers, the club also donated a wagon that will be used to transport food out to the Food Pantry clients. Pictured (from left) are Lion Pat Tayloe, Food Pantry Supervisor Ashley Osborne, Lion



Eric Whalen and Lion Lowell Skelton. Not pictured are Lions Betty Reynolds and Mike Jackson who also worked that day.

~ Daleville-Fincastle Lions Club

Resolutions

from page 1

Resolutions" event presented by BCHS and the Botetourt County Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) at the Kyle House in Fincastle on March 14.

Holt spoke to the students about the Battle of Point Pleasant and shared information about the events leading up to Patrick Henry's March 23, 1775 reading of "Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death."

Due to limited space, tickets are required for this event and are \$10/ person and will be available for sale at the museum and online. Tickets allow access to the short program as well as the reception after, where heavy hors d'oeuvres will be available.

For more information, or to reserve a place, contact BCHS or visit online at bothistsoc.wordpress.com or on Facebook and Instagram.



PHOTO BY MATT DE SIMONE
Historical Society President Ed Holt speaks to the Virginia Tech students about the timeline graphic they created and why the period of 1773-1777 was so important to Botetourt County and the United States.

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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

Crossroads Baptist Church - 1128 Wheatland Rd., Buchanan, Pastor Elmer Clemons, (540)761-5074 Home, Sunday School 10:00 A.M., Morning Worship, 11:00 A.M., Sunday Evening 5:30 P.M., Wednesday Prayer & Bible Study 5:30 P.M.

Faith Baptist Church— 4258 Botetourt Rd., Fincastle, VA. 24090, Pastor, Dr. John W. Reynolds, Phone; 540-473-2325, Email: jwr56fbc@yahoo.com, Church website: fincastlefaith.com, Services: 10 A.M. Bible Expositions, 11 A.M. Worship & Children’s Church, 7 P.M. Wednesday Bible Study&Prayer,Messages at www.youtube.com/@faithfbaptistchurch9219. We look forward to meeting you.

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 Cops 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 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.,

WALK IN HIS STEPS
Read Deuteronomy 32:1 through 34.12

“What would Jesus do?” Pastor Charles Sheldon of Topeka, Kansas, asked his congregation this question in 1896 when he preached a series of messages on the topic. Sheldon then wrote a book of fiction titled In His Steps. The book asks what Jesus would do when confronted with poverty, racism, pride, and homelessness. In the 1990s the motto was revived and people wore bracelets and T-shirts with the letters WWJD?

Before he died, Moses reminding the Israelites to consider God’s truths.

“Take to heart all the words I have solemnly declared to you this day, so that you may command your children to obey carefully all the words of this law. They are not just idle words for you—they are your life” (Deuteronomy 32:46-47).

Teaching the next generation is the responsibility of the present generation. We do this best by leading by examples. When we face tough issues, we can be sure people are watching our reactions. At these times, it is good to ask ourselves, “What would Jesus do?”

Prayer Suggestion: God, with Your help, I will walk as Jesus walked.

Quicklook: Deuteronomy 32:44-47

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. We offer a Spiritual Event on the 2nd. Sunday of each month at 2:00 p.m. The program may be a Light and Sound Service, a Spiritual video and discussion, or other topics and techniques to help Raise Your Spiritual IQ. The Roanoke ECK Center is located at 1420 3rd. St. SW, Roanoke, VA 24016. For more information visit www.eck-va.org or call 540- 353-5365. People of all faiths are welcome.

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

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. Service is also live streamed on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/@FincastleUMCMedia> or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100068517955699>. 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

Cahoon, Judy H.

Judy H. Cahoon, 78, of Fincastle passed away on February 21, 2025.

Mom was a kind, generous and loving person who loved her family, friends and kitties, with Sugarpie being one of her favorites. Gardening and cooking were loves that she enjoyed and as many know, she often shared produce from the garden and food dishes and desserts that she prepared for her friends much to their delight! She lived life with joy and loved to make others happy.

Many knew her from her years at the Fincastle Post Office, where she made many friends.

Mom loved her two grandsons, Kaleb and Zac, and was very proud of their accomplishments and the fine young men that they have become. She always looked forward to their calls and visits, and she loved them very much.

Special thanks to Mom's sister, Lynn, and her husband, Ski, as well as her brother, Bobby, and his wife, Linda, for all the help and love they gave Mom over the years. Lynn was there for early morning calls just to talk, and would prepare treats and decorate for her trips home, which made them extra special. Lynn also helped take care of her kitties, and Ski was always available to help. Bobby was there to talk regularly and Mom enjoyed Linda's homemade rolls. Thanks to her nieces, Erika, Katelyn and Carmen, and nephew, Nathan. She loved each one very much as well as her great nieces and great nephews, Ethan, Cole, Ellie, Kori and Henry. They brightened her monthly visits home with drawings, paintings, laughter and love.

We also thank Ann Newman, Becky Sartorius, Bri Fowler, Diana Kessler, Brenda Benge and Greg Theimer for your kindness towards Mom. She loved each of you and thought of you all often. Thanks to Mount Bethel Church for sending cards of encouragement and the Zion Hill ladies class for thinking of her with gifts and cards. The family would also like to extend a special thank you to



the caring staff at Friendship Health and Rehabilitation for their care and support.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Frank Lewis Cahoon, Sr.; her parents, Robert Louis Hambrick and Mabel Edroean Fisher Hambrick; daughter-in-law, Renee Cahoon; sister, Jean Elizabeth Hambrick; brothers-in-law, George Cahoon and wife, Darys; Percy Cahoon and wife, Rosalie; and Carl Cahoon; and sisters-in-law, Lorene Lucas and husband, Fred; Francis Green and husband, Marion; and Ruth Edgumbe and husband, Charlie.

Those left to cherish her memory are her daughter, Lynda G. Cahoon, and husband, Paul Sparks; son, Frank L. Cahoon, Jr.; grandchildren, Kaleb Cahoon and Zacary Cahoon; sister, Lynn Dluzniewski and husband, Ski; brother, Robert E. Hambrick and wife, Linda; sister-in-law, Jennie Cahoon; numerous nieces and nephews; a special cousin, Ann Newman and husband, John Howard; and beloved kitty Sugarpie and all her other precious fur baby kitties.

The family will receive friends at Rader Funeral Home in Daleville on Sunday, March 9, 2025 from 3-5 p.m. A funeral service will be held at 2 p.m. on Monday, March 10, at Zion Hill Baptist Church, 2256 Zion Hill Road, Fincastle, with the Rev. Robert McRae officiating. Burial will follow in the church cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, please consider memorial contributions to Zion Hill Church, 2256 Zion Hill Road, Fincastle, or the League for Animal Protection, P.O. Box 561, Fincastle, 24090.

Her voicemail message greeted you with "You have reached Sunshine, please have a sunny day." She would want us to be happy and to rejoice that her journey here is complete and that she is now reunited with her husband of 55 years, Frank Sr., and her family and friends in Heaven. She is in the sunshine with her Savior, Jesus Christ. Rest easy Mom, knowing you are loved.

Glover, Irving Ray

Irving Ray Glover, 88, passed away peacefully on February 27, 2025, in Roanoke. Born on March 23, 1936, in Detroit, Mich., Irving dedicated his life to faith, family, and service.

Irving pursued higher education with a deep commitment to ministry. He earned his bachelor's degree from Elizabethtown College before continuing his theological studies at Bethany Theological Seminary, where he obtained a Master of Divinity. His calling led him to serve as a minister in the Church of the Brethren for over six decades. He pastored congregations across multiple states, including Shippensburg Church of the Brethren (1962-1964), Canton Church of the Brethren (1964-1968), Decatur Church of the Brethren (1968-1974), Daleville Church of the Brethren (1979-1988), and Midland Church of the Brethren (1988-1995). He also played a pivotal role in establishing a new Brethren church in North Carolina.

After retiring from full-time ministry, Irving continued serving others through his work at Rader Funeral Home from 1996 to 2018. His compassionate presence provided comfort to many during their times of loss. He also spent time as a piano and organ salesperson, sharing his love for music with others.

Music was an integral part of Irving's life. An avid pianist and barbershop singer, he was actively involved with the Blue Ridge Blend Quartet and other musical groups. He also enjoyed cross-stitching, traveling, and was an active member of Kiwanis. Later in life, he developed a deep affection for dogs, finding joy in the companionship of Lady, Ralph, George, and Charlie.

Irving is survived by his loving wife, Carol Glover; sons, Mark Grider (Bobbie), Dale Grider (Faith Ann), Neil Grider, and Dale Glover (Cheryl); daughters, Tina Secrist (Frank), Elaine Wilson (Tad), and Judy Nelson (Andy); along with 19 grandchildren, 32 great-grandchildren, and 11 great-great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his daughter, Carol Glover; son, Gene Grider; first wife, Faye Frisinger Glover; her parents Hiram and Miriam Frysinger; his parents, Fred and Grace Glover; as well as Carol's parents, Elmer and Grace Arnold.

A Celebration of Life will be held on March 8, 2025, at Simpson Funeral Home, 5160 Peters Creek Road in Roanoke. A viewing will take place from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m., followed by services from 2 to 3 p.m. An informal Memorial Gathering will follow at Friendship Retirement Community in the Club Friendship Room at 397 Hershberger Road from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Jude Children's Hospital, Good Samaritan Hospice in Roanoke, Trinity Church of the Brethren in Troutville, or the League for Animal Protection in Fincastle.

Irving's unwavering faith guided him throughout his life. He was a mentor, friend, and leader who touched countless lives with kindness and wisdom. His gentle spirit will be deeply missed but fondly remembered by all who knew him.

Jordan, Judie Strickland

Judie Strickland Jordan, of Buchanan was born on Christmas Day in 1944. She passed away on February 21, 2025 at the age of 80.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Sallie Harlow Strickland and Richard Branson Strickland; brother and sister-in-law, Richard (Polly) Strickland; and husband, James Michael Jordan.

She is survived by her children, Annlea Whittaker and Jonathan (Jan) Whittaker; grandchildren, Lindsey (CJ) Mullins and Zachary (Tess) Whittaker; great-grandchildren, Bianca, Carter, and Cora Mullins, Smith, Clairee, Weston, and Sawyer Whittaker.

Judie was a licensed cosmetologist for many years before moving back to Buchanan where she transitioned to barbering. She bought the local barbershop, renaming it J Jordan's Barbershop. She loved her job and her customers. She loved all her family, neighbors, and friends throughout her life. She loved the Lord and blessed all who knew her.

The family will have a private inurnment at a later date. Condolences may be made at www.botetourtfuneralhome.com or 540-254-3000.



CHURCH NEWS

Buchanan Food Pantry open Saturday
The Buchanan Food Pantry, sponsored by Buchanan Presbyterian Church, will be open Saturday, March 8, from 9 a.m. till 11 a.m. Volunteers from the Mission Team at Mill Creek Baptist Church will be hosts, and will distribute meat, milk and staples at curbside. Eggs are scarce at this time. Mill Creek Baptist Church is the newest partner to the family of food pantry hosts. The food pantry is open on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month at 19559 Main Street, Buchanan.

Andrew Chapel UMC Ash Wednesday service
Andrew Chapel United Methodist Church will observe the first day of the Lenten season with an Ash Wednesday service on March 5 at 7 p.m. This service is open to the community and all are welcome. Andrew Chapel is located at 3936 Beaver Dam Road, just off Springwood Road in Springwood.

Buchanan Presbyterian Ash Wednesday service
Buchanan Presbyterian Church invites all who would like to start the season of Lent with a service of contemplation, song, and prayer, to the Ash Wednesday service on March 5 at 7 p.m. A potluck dinner will begin at 5:45

Men's and Women's Day at Lapsleys Run
Lapsleys Run Baptist Church's Annual Men's and Women's Day will be held on Sunday, March 9, at 11 a.m. The speaker for the service will be Brother Edgar Freeman. The church will have the morning service only, but will serve lunch after the service. Everyone is invited to attend these and all services at Lapsleys Run Baptist Church, 608 Zion Hill Road, Fincastle.

Lenten services, lunches at Fincastle UMC
Fincastle United Methodist Church invites the public to five Wednesday Lenten services and lunches beginning on March 12 in the Family Life Center, 137 S. Church Street, Fincastle. These 20-minute services begin at 12:05 p.m. and will be led by area pastors. A home-cooked lunch will follow each service. The service and meal are designed to last about one hour. Takeout meals will be available.

March 12 – The Rev. Samuel Plymale, St. Mark's United Methodist Church; Ham Biscuits, Potato Salad, Fruit, Desserts

March 19 – The Rev. Dr. David Dickerson, Fincastle Presbyterian; Vegetable-Beef Soup, Potato Soup, Jello Salads, Grilled Cheese Sandwiches, Desserts

March 26 – Pastors Tom and Naomi Powers, Daleville Church of the Brethren; Chicken Salad Croissants, Vegetable Salad, Chips, Desserts

April 2 – Jake Webb, M.Div., St. Mark's Episcopal; Potato Bar, Chili, Green Salad, Corn Bread, Desserts

March 20 – The Rev. Fr. Xavier Banasula, Church of the Transfiguration; Sub Sandwiches, Cole Slaw, Chips. Desserts

Menus are subject to change. If Botetourt County schools are closed because of inclement weather, the service will be canceled. Everyone is invited to these services during the season of Lent.

Fincastle UMC Clothes Closet open March 11
Fincastle United Methodist's Clothes Closet will be open on Tuesday, March 11, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. in the Family Life Center, 137 S. Church Street. Donations of gently worn, clean clothing and shoes are also accepted.

Fincastle Presbyterian Service of Prayer dates
Fincastle Presbyterian Church will be holding a Service of Prayer for Wholeness and Healing at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, March 26.

This special service of prayer, music, silence and scripture is an opportunity to gather in Christian community and draw closer to God and offer prayers for individuals, the community, the country and the world.

A light supper will be served in the fellowship hall after the service. All are invited. The church is located at 108 E. Back Street, Fincastle.

Cloverdale Thrift Store reopening March 15
Cloverdale Church of the Brethren Thrift Store will reopen on March 15. All winter apparel and shoes will be half-off. Donations are greatly appreciated.

The store will be open Saturdays, 9 to 12.



Leading the Worship	
March 12	Rev. Samuel Plymale St Mark's UMC, Daleville
March 19	Rev. Dr. David Dickerson Fincastle Presbyterian Church
March 26	Pastors Tom & Naomi Powers Daleville Church of the Brethren
April 2	Mr. Jake Webb, MDiv St. Fr's Episcopal, Fincastle
April 9	Rev. Fr. Xavier Banasula Church of the Transfiguration Fincastle

Wednesday Lenten Services and Lunch	
Fincastle United Methodist Church Family Life Center 137 S. Church Street • 473-3001	
Join us on Wednesdays in Lent for a short, 20 minute service beginning at 12:05 p.m. with music and messages of faith and hope from area pastors.	
A home-cooked lunch immediately follows each service at 12:30 p.m.	
The service and meal are designed to give you time to return home or to work within one hour.	
Take-out meals will be available.	
Parking is available on the street, at the Masonic Lodge, and at the Health Department on the side facing Church Street.	
If Botetourt schools are closed for inclement weather, the service is canceled.	

Lunch Menus	
March 12	Ham Biscuits, Potato Salad, Fruit, Desserts
March 19	Potato Soup, Vegetable Beef Soup, Grilled Cheese Sandwiches, Jello Salads, Desserts
March 26	Chicken Salad Croissants, Vegetable Salad, Chips, Desserts
April 2	Potato Bar, Chili, Green Salad, Corn Bread, Desserts
April 9	Sub Sandwiches, Cole Slaw, Chips, Desserts

Menus subject to change. Donations gratefully accepted—any money received above the cost of the food will go to help fund the Backpack Buddies at Fincastle United Methodist Church. Thank you!

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Expo

from page 1



The Botetourt County 4-H/FFA Youth Expo took place at Lord Botetourt High School last Friday.

handling, and shooting education.

The Youth Expo served as a fantastic opportunity to learn about FFA and 4-H programs, with each chapter and 4-H club setting up informational tables throughout the cafeteria. The silent auction, benefiting the 4-H program and FFA chapters through the 4-H and FFA Alumni Group, was a key fundraiser for the local youth groups.

One of the highlights of the expo was the 4-H Share-the-Fun competition, where junior, intermediate, and senior members showcased their talents. The competition was hosted by 4-H Leadership Club President Kylee Aaron, who introduced the audience to the student performers that included: Karter Prusak, Cortana Kelly Jedediah Divers, Alayna Chen, Melody

HVAC

from page 1

request submitted to the board, the new units are critical for maintaining a comfortable atmosphere for students and staff, especially as temperatures fluctuate throughout the year.

While the requested funds were well above the county administrator's usual approval limit for the use of CIPs, BCPS emphasized the importance of replacing the HVAC system promptly to avoid any further deterioration of the school's heating and cooling capabilities.

BCPS Director of Operations Andy Dewease told the board that out of the school's seven rooftop units, five of them, installed in 2009, are "functioning properly"

while two that were installed in 2000 need replacing. The usage time for a rooftop unit today is 15-20 years, on average.

"We have been crutching along with these two rooftop units for several years now," Dewease said. "They've come to a place where they have failed. The parts are obsolete."

The School Board made the decision last November to seek the request to have the units replaced at Breckinridge. Over the winter months, Dewease said that BCPS has rented 10 individual one-ton units that provide "adequate" heat for the students in one-third of the school building. The rental rate for each unit is approximately \$900 monthly, totaling approximately \$9,000

Stockyard Report		
Monday's sale at the Roanoke-Hollins Stockyard:		
584 HEAD		
GRADED STEERS		
300-399	\$347.00	\$402.00
400-499	\$286.00	\$359.00
500-599	\$304.00	\$328.00
600-699	\$293.00	\$315.00
700-799	\$262.00	\$275.50
GRADED BULLS		
400-499	\$204.00	\$318.00
500-599	\$219.00	\$305.00
600-699	\$152.00	\$263.00
GRADED HEIFERS		
300-399	\$286.00	\$330.00
400-499	\$257.00	\$286.00
500-599	\$170.00	\$274.50
600-699	\$211.00	\$264.00
700-799	\$194.00	\$213.00
KILL COWS		
	\$83.00	\$151.00
KILL BULLS		
	\$131.00	\$161.00

Town of Fincastle Planning Commission and Town Council Public Hearings

Pursuant to the provisions of Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2285, this shall serve as notice that the Town of Fincastle Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on March 11, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. at the Fincastle Volunteer Fire Department located at 25 Vine Street in Fincastle. This hearing is for the purpose of soliciting public input on:

1. A text amendment to the Town of Fincastle Zoning Ordinance definition to clarify the meanings of public and community utilities. And,
2. The addition of a section (Article VI, Section 613) to the Town Zoning Ordinance for the purpose of describing the procedure for the process of appeals to a decision made by Town Council.
3. A rezoning application received by Flagship Properties to rezone a portion of Lot Tax ID# 73A(1)102 from Residential-Low (RL) to Trade (T). This property is located at 203 Botetourt Road.

The Fincastle Town Council will then have a public hearing on the above items on March 13, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. at the Fincastle Volunteer Fire Department, 25 Vine Street, Fincastle. In addition:

4. The Fincastle Town Council will hold a public hearing to discuss the planned submission of a Community Development Block Grant Community Improvement Grant application to fund the implementation of the previously presented Economic Restructuring Plan.

Copies of these proposals can be obtained by contacting the Fincastle Town Office during regular office hours or by contacting Scott Critzer at 540-473-3377 or the Town Manager at 540-473-2200.

Scott Critzer– Chairman
Fincastle Planning Commission
Melanie McFadyen– Fincastle Town Manager



4-H Robotics had activities ready for younger attendees of the Expo.

Bowyer, Sophia Reiner, Caroline Stull, Teagan Kern, Rosalie Stull, Evan Mundy, Anna Radtke, and Autumn Sparks. The overall winners will compete in the Area competition later this year.

"Overall, it was a great show, and it's always exciting to see our youth display their confidence performing in front of others," 4-H Extension Agent Tyler Painter shared. "I would like to thank our judges, Zaida Cassell and Brittany Turman, as well as our 4-H Teen Club members, who assisted with various parts of the talent show. These members include Kylee Aaron, Kendall Aaron, Lexi Cassell, and Noah Patterson."

Junior winners:
Overall – Teagan Kern (Eagle Rock)
2nd Place – Karter Prusak (Colonial)

importance of maintaining the county's school facilities and recognized that the CIP was designed to support such initiatives. This decision underscores the county's ongoing commitment to supporting education and maintaining high standards for local public schools.

Following the request approval, a citizen comment from a Cloverdale resident questioned the "plan" behind replacing HVAC units at Breckinridge and the subsequent discussion about additional classrooms needed at Colonial Elementary. He suggested "tightening up" the planning process so that other schools don't end up running into similar situations in terms of replacing equipment and the growing capacities at the schools.

Discussion of additional classrooms at Colonial Elementary

A critical discussion unfolded regarding the pressing need for additional classrooms at Colonial Elementary

every month (for 10 units) since November.

Dewease told the supervisors that this installation would be a summer project. The 20-ton unit is "readily available" but will require some additional curbing work that would need to be done. The 30-ton unit has a lead time, but will need a crane and "significant work" from the provider. Dewease said BCPS can continue to rent the dual-functioning units through the remaining cold weather months when asked about the length of the rental from Blue Ridge Supervisor Walter Michael.

"The good thing about these one-ton rental units, not only do they provide heat, they have dual-function– they can provide (air-conditioning) as well. Of course, there is not much of a capacity in the building during the summer months and, really, these classrooms areas may be used for summer programming."

In approving the request, the board acknowledged the

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LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS OF THE BOTETOURT COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

The Botetourt County Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing Tuesday, March 25, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in Room 212 of the Botetourt County Administration Center located at 57 South Center Drive, Daleville, Virginia, to consider and receive comment on the requests listed below.

Blue Ridge District: Kendall Erin and Kylee Ann Lucas request rezoning of 8.637 acres total from the Residential, R-1 Use District to the A-1 Use District, with possible proffered conditions. Located on Laymantown Road (State Route 658) at the Sunnydale Court (State Route 780) intersection, identified on the Tax Map as 108A(5)BK26-5; 108A(5)BK26-4B; 108A(5)BK26-3; 108A(5)BK26-2.

Fincastle District: Wesley A. Hodges requests a Special Exception Permit for a campground, with possible conditions, in the Agricultural, A-1 Use District. This property is located at 191 Bridge Street, Eagle Rock, identified on the Tax Maps as 4A-46.

Information is in the Botetourt County Planning & Zoning Office, 57 S. Center Drive, Daleville, Va., and online at www.botetourtva.gov/planningcommissionagenda. Individuals may comment at the meeting in-person, by email at cparker@botetourtva.gov, via the online form at www.botetourtva.gov, or by mail at 57 S. Center Drive, Daleville, VA 24083. Postal mail comment deadline is the Thursday before the hearing. Website and email comments are due 9:00 a.m., day of the hearing.

Gary Larrowe
Botetourt County Administrator



PHOTOS BY MATT DE SIMONE

FFA state officers were on hand to provide information and engage with visitors.

3rd Place – Caroline Stull (Buchanan)

Intermediate winners:
Overall – Evan Mundy (CAMS)
2nd Place – Rosalie Stull (CAMS)

Senior winners:
Overall – Anna Radtke (LBHS)
2nd Place – Autumn Sparks (LBHS)

"Additionally, I would like to thank all our club leaders, volunteers, members, and parents for their support and for making this year's Expo a tremendous success," Painter continued. "An event like this would not be possible without their incredible participation. To the event organizers, thank you for providing this opportunity to showcase the youth in Botetourt County and their endeavors in the 4-H and FFA programs."

School. As the school's student enrollment continues to rise, BCPS requested funding for expanded infrastructure to accommodate growing numbers. Board Chair Amy White noted that this request was merely in the discussion phase for information, no actions were taken by the board.

During the October and November meetings of the Botetourt School Board, Superintendent Dr. Jonathan Russ and board members discussed the need for additional classrooms at Colonial, and the possibility of moving the item from the school's maintenance plan to the general operations budget as a prioritized project.

The school division emphasized the importance of timely action to prevent overcrowding and ensure that the county's educational facilities continue to serve its students effectively. Russ stated this has been an issue for the last couple of years. Colonial no longer services a preschool at the school, while the division is in the process of creating an additional preschool room at Cloverdale Elementary. Russ added that while moving the Colonial preschool students there wasn't "ideal," but is the school division's best alternative at this time.

"As most of you probably know, off the side of the (Colonial Elementary) cafeteria was a teacher workroom/ lounge," Russ shared. "We had to move the music room... they now meet in that workroom. In that music room, we had to create a regular classroom based on the number of students that had moved into that building."

Russ noted that proper acoustics are needed for a music room. Currently, the music room now neighboring the cafeteria doesn't provide those

acoustics fit for that type of classroom. His concern is moving the Colonial preschoolers out of the elementary school and being less familiar with the building once they arrive for their kindergarten year.

"We would love to be able to bring them back," Russ continued. "If we are granted these additional classrooms at Colonial, we would be able to probably add another preschool classroom... I would tell you, four classrooms would be a great addition. If we open with four new classrooms today, we're actually opening with only two because we're two behind now. We would need to move the music (room) back and we would like to get our preschool back into their classroom as well."

Russ didn't think there would be a need for additional teachers but if another preschool class were added later, then a new preschool teacher would likely be needed.

"Looking at numbers as of today when compared to last year for kindergarten registrations (at Colonial)," Russ added, "we're up above where (the school division was) at this point last year. I think we're in good shape that we will be able to operate with four kindergarten classrooms in that building this year, but I can't promise the number won't keep climbing to get to another request. And if that request comes in this year, I'll just admit to you right now, I don't know where we would put that classroom."

Vice Chair Dr. Mac Scothorn asked about capacities at other elementary schools. Russ said that other schools "are close to the same capacities," but didn't have the exact numbers in front of him but told the board the division is willing to share those. Scothorn then asked how the division will monitor other schools' needs. Russ said, "One school at a time. One request at a time."

For more on last week's Board of Supervisors meeting, visit the "Botetourt County, Va." YouTube channel where live streams of past meetings are available at any time.

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PUBLIC NOTICE
BOTETOURT COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR MEETING

The Botetourt County School Board will hold a Regular Meeting of the School Board on Thursday, March 13, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m., immediately followed by closed session. The public session begins at 6:30 p.m.

The meeting will be held at 143 Poor Farm Road, Fincastle, Virginia, with a physical quorum present and electronic access through www.bcps.live.

Citizens wishing to address the School Board are asked to complete a Request to Speak form prior to 10:00 a.m. March 13, 2025 at: <https://forms.gle/9vZoPXyZR8bgEoQ6> or by contacting Susan Albert, School Board Clerk, at (540) 473-8263 or by email at salbert@bcps.k12.va.us.



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A request by Carriage Road, LLC to rezone 1.571 total acres from Agricultural (A1) to Traditional Neighborhood Development Infill (TND-I), to allow a mixed-use development. The proposed mixed-use development will mainly consist of a community center, coffee shop, and soccer practice facility. The property is located at 1708 & 1714 Carriage Road, Riner, at the intersection of Carriage Road (State Route 704) and Five Points Road (State Route 671). The property is further identified as Tax Maps 119-A 8, 9 (Parcel IDs: 070635, 070611), 1.571 acres, zoned A-1 Agricultural in the Riner Magisterial District. The property currently lies in an area designated as Village Expansion in the 2025 Montgomery County Comprehensive Plan, and is further designated as Mixed Use in the Prices Fork Village Plan. Copies of the proposed plans, applications, ordinances or amendments may be examined at the Department of Planning and GIS Services, County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Suite 2A, Christiansburg, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. or at <http://www.montgomerycountyna.gov/pendingapplications>

AUCTIONS

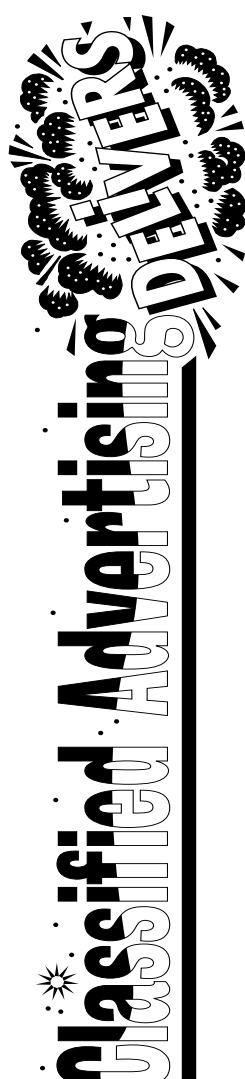
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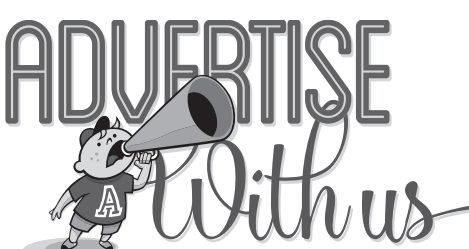
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Carroll eliminates LB boys in hoop region

Carroll County defeated Lord Botetourt in Hillsville last week to knock the Cavaliers out of the Region 3D boys basketball tournament. The host Cavaliers took an 81-64 win.

Botetourt hung tough against a strong Carroll County team through three quarters. The Cavs trailed just 56-50 with eight minutes to go before Carroll finished strong.

“A great game for the first three quarters,” said LB coach Josh

Aliveto. “They were able to execute on their first two possessions of the quarter and we were not, which put us in a spot we couldn’t overcome for the rest of the game.”

Carson Edwards led LB with 16 points, 10 rebounds and seven assists. Blake Lovern had 13 points.

The Cavaliers finished the season with an 11-14 record. Blake Lovern was named first team All-Region 3D and All-Blue Ridge District. Carson Edwards was second team

All-Region and All-District and Landon Hayes and Brady Kish were second team All-BRD.

“We’re disappointed with the loss for sure, but we are more disappointed that we as a team don’t get to work together any more after school,” said Aliveto. “I’m proud and grateful to have been a part of this season. I enjoyed working with this group of players and the coaching staff as we prepared for each game.”



PHOTO BY JIM DEVINNEY
Blake Lovern is a first team All-Region 3D selection.



Angel Rigney poses with his medal and LB coach Paul Craft after taking second place at 157 pounds in the Class 3 state tournament.

LB’s Rigney is runner-up in state Class 3 wrestling

Angel Rigney took second place individually and Lord Botetourt was 21st out of 45 teams competing in the Virginia High School League state Class 3 wrestling tournament Saturday. The tournament was held all on one day at Heritage High School in Lynchburg as Skyline High took the state championship with Staunton River of the Blue Ridge District finishing as runner-up.

Wrestling in the 157-pound class, Rigney opened with a 3:39 pin of Culpeper County’s Eli Croushorn. He pinned Wyatt Eisenbrown of Rockbridge County in the quarterfinals in 2:37, then downed Matt Garland of Heritage in the semis, 8-4, to advance to the championship match. Billy Tyler of Brentsville District defeated Angel in the championship match to take the top step on the podium as Angel finished 32-6 on the season.

“Angel wrestled very well all day and won a nail-biter in the semi-finals,” said LB coach Paul Craft. “He knew what he had to do to get to the finals and he took care of business. He missed the state tournament last season due to an injury and I think he had a chip on his shoulder this time around. He was dialed in as the season progressed.”

Senior Cooper Roberts was one match away from the podium at 175. He finished 25-11.

“We’re going to miss Cooper,” said Craft. “He was a good leader and always gave us his best.”

Sophomore Kevin Gergely went 1-2 in a loaded 150-pound class. Kevin finished the season 26-13.

“He showed heart and promise,” said Craft. “The three guys that finished in front of him in the Region were all on the podium Saturday. He dropped a couple

matches against some very talented wrestlers and he was holding his own in those matches.

Also competing in the state were sophomore Jacob Spence at 126, senior Camden Saunders at 138 and junior Preston Carter at 165. All three dropped their first two matches as Spence finished 16-15, Saunders is 17-1 and Carter ended with a 25-13 record.

“We only graduate five wrestlers so we’ll be returning a bunch of guys and we’re getting some talented kids coming from the middle school,” said Craft. “Two main things we have to work on in the off-season is getting our young guys physically stronger and we have to get more guys in general on the mat each week at Open Mat and in wrestling clubs. The future is looking bright for the entire wrestling program.”



PHOTOS BY SUZANNE WITCHER
Cooper Roberts of LB (left) wrestles in the state tournament.

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LB Girls from page 12

LB coach Renee Favaro. “I’m proud of the girls for continuing to fight and compete even when things were hard. It was certainly not a pretty game for us, but we will take an ugly win over a pretty loss any day.”

Madilyn Winterton led LB with 24 points and Maddie Caron added 13.

The Cavaliers opened the Region tournament with a 79-34 drubbing of Christiansburg in Daleville as Winterton had 21 points, nine steals and four assists. Caron had 20 points and a dozen boards, Maggie Hoover scored 16 points and Abby Kingery had 12 points and four assists. LB

shot 50 percent for the game and forced 32 Blue Demon turnovers.

That set up a Region semifinal with Abingdon and this was a big one as the winner was assured a state berth and the loser saw their season end. LB came out on top, 51-40, at neutral Pulaski County High.

Rebounding was the difference in this one, as the Cavaliers outrebounded the Falcons by 15 boards for the game. Botetourt had 17 second chance attempts while holding Abingdon to three.

“We controlled the pace of the game to keep them from getting transition opportunities and kind

of lulled them into a slower game,” said Favaro. “We then changed our pace in the fourth quarter to push it.”

Caron led the way with 20 points and nine boards while playing excellent defense. Winterton added 16 points and 11 rebounds and Hoover had seven points, seven rebounds and four assists.

Also, Winterton was named the Blue Ridge District Player of the Year and was joined on the first team by Caron. Kingery and Hoover made the second team. The Cavaliers were 23-3 after the Region 3D championship win.



PHOTOCOURTESY JAMES RIVERS SWIMMING
Austin Myers (left) took a sixth place in the state backstroke and Riley Persinger was sixth in both the 200 Freestyle and 100 Backstroke.

she was seeded seventh in finals and finished sixth, dropping a full second in prelims.

Another sophomore, Austin Myers, took a sixth place in the boys 100 Backstroke. Austin was seeded eighth heading into finals and pulled out the sixth place finish. Joel Barber had a 12th place finish in the

100 Breaststroke as a freshman.

“We had an amazing season, and I look forward to continuing to grow our team next season,” said River coach Kit Williams.

Lord Botetourt swimmers were competing in the Class 3 meet as the paper went to press. Results will be included next week.

County girls compete in state wrestling tournament



PHOTO COURTESY JR WRESTLING
Janiya Falls of James River wrestled in the girls state tournament.

Four Botetourt County girls competed in the state wrestling tournament in Richmond last week. Serenity Shearer, Jasmin Andrade and Elizabeth Odell of Lord Botetourt competed along with Janiya Falls of James River. Shearer took a fourth in the tournament for girls of all school classifications in Virginia.

At 145 pounds, Shearer won the Round of 16 by forfeit, then won her second match in the quarterfinals to put her in the semifinals. She dropped that match to the girl that ended up winning the whole thing. Shearer then bounced back and won her next round by pin fall, allowing her to wrestle for third and fourth place.

“She wrestled hard and aggressively but came up short in that match,” said LB coach Paul Craft. “Finishing in fourth place was a huge accomplishment for Serenity. She worked very hard in

the off season and mainly practiced with guys in season. The matches that Serenity lost in the state tournament were to girls that have been wrestling a long time and Serenity didn’t start until she was in eighth grade. For her to have closed the gap over the last two seasons and end up on the podium is a testament to her hard work.”

Andrade, Odell and Falls also competed but were eliminated on the first day of the two-day event.

“The final match of her season was her best,” said River coach Warren Carswell of Falls. “She was up in points and controlled the match for the three periods. With 10 seconds to go, her opponent capitalized on a mistake and pinned her with a few seconds to go.”

Georgia Miller of James River did not compete but finished with a 21-13 overall record.

Wrestling from page 12

Richlands senior Wyatt Spencer in the third place match. Spencer came in undefeated before losing to Latta in a very tough 144-pound bracket.

Stewart finished the season 25-7 and has placed in the state all three years

with two seconds and a fourth. He’s won three District and three Region championships.

Silas Whitson, Josiah Merchant and CJ Mullins also wrestled in the state tournament but did not place.



PHOTO BY JIM & REGINA DEVINNEY
Maggie Hoover of LB defends in the Region championship.

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Ella Hutchens of James River guards a Minutewoman.



Audrey Benson of River floats one to the hole against Liberty.



River coach Donald Eggleston studies the situation at RC Friday.

River girls make state Class 2 basketball quarterfinal

The James River girls were competing in the Class 2 state basketball state quarterfinals as the paper went to press this week. The Knights were at UVA-Wise on Tuesday to play Region 2D champion Central High.

The winner of that game advances to the state semifinal on Friday, and if the Knights won Tuesday they would be on the road again. River would face the winner of a Tuesday game between Ridgeview and Liberty.

The Knights are the Region 2C runners-up after falling to Liberty in the Region championship game last Friday night. That was at Roanoke College and the Minutewomen took a 71-55 win. Liberty improved to 21-4 with the win and River fell to 22-4 with the loss.

The Knights fell behind early at RC. Liberty came out hot and led 18-9 after the first quarter in front of a big crowd at the Cregger Center. The Knights settled down and won the second quarter, 14-12, but still trailed 30-23 at the half. Liberty used a strong inside game to pull away in the second half, outscoring the Knights 41-32 after intermission. Caitlin Canada

had 24 points to lead the Knights and Gillian Smith had 10.

River earned the trip to the state tournament with a 49-40 win over Chatham in the Region 2C semifinal in Springwood last Thursday. Two Knights had “double-doubles” in that game as Canada had 16 points and 15 rebounds and Audrey Benson had 14 points and 14 boards.

The Knights got off to a quick start in this one, taking a 22-8 lead at the half. The Cavaliers made a run in the third quarter but the River girls made their free throws down the stretch and were able to hold them off.

The All-Three Rivers District team was recently announced and Canada made the first team and was named Player of the Year. Benson and Jalen Thompson made the second team.

The Class 2 championship game will be held on Thursday, March 13, at the Siegel Center on the campus of Virginia Commonwealth University. Game time for the girls championship is 6 p.m. in the first game of a doubleheader with the Class 2 boys.



PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Three Rivers District Player of the Year Caitlin Canada is fouled as she goes to the hoop.

LB girls in state basketball tournament this week

The Lord Botetourt girls were three wins away from a state basketball championship as the paper went to press this week. Lord Botetourt was scheduled to host Western Albemarle on Tuesday in Daleville with the winner advancing to Friday’s state semifinal.

The other quarterfinal on LB’s side of the state bracket found Spotswood hosting Staunton River on Tuesday. If LB and Spotswood both won, then Friday’s state semifinal would be at Spotswood. However, if LB and Staunton River prevailed, then the state semifinal on Friday would be in Daleville. The state Class 3 championship is scheduled for Saturday, March 15, in Richmond at the Siegel Center on the campus of Virginia Commonwealth University.

The Cavaliers met Staunton River for the third time this season last Saturday, and this one was for the Region 3D championship at Pulaski County High School. After splitting the first two games with the Eagles, the Cavaliers won the third, 45-39.

This one didn’t start out well. Staunton River scored first and jumped to a 15-6 lead after the first quarter. However, LB battled back and won each of the next three quarters, holding the Eagles to two points in the second, 10 in the third and nine in the fourth with a meaningless three-pointer at the final buzzer.

“We did not do a lot well and shot the ball the worst we have all season from the floor, but we still found a way to grind it out,” said



Blue Ridge District Player of the Year Madilyn Winterton takes it to the hoop against Staunton River.



Maddie Caron (33) guards the point in LB’s win over Christiansburg.



PHOTOS BY JIM & REGINA DEVINNEY

Reagan Meade feeds the post against Staunton River.



Xaiden Wynn celebrates his third state championship.

Wynn makes it a three-peat at State wrestling

Senior Xaiden Wynn won his third straight state championship and the James River wrestlers finished 11th among 35 schools at the state Class 2 wrestling tournament Saturday. Virginia High in Bristol hosted the tournament after a week’s delay and Poquoson High came away as state champion.

River had six wrestlers in the tournament and three placed, including a first place for Wynn at 113. He becomes just the second wrestler in James River High history to win three state wrestling state championships and he placed in the state for all four of his high school years, taking fourth as a freshman.

On Saturday, Xaiden won by tech fall over Kendi Dye of Richlands in the quarterfinals. He decisioned Aiden Swink of Strasburg in the semis, 8-5, then beat Brayden Bunting of Poquoson by a major decision, 12-3, in the final.

Wynn finished the season with a 40-1 record and his four-year record at River is 139-15, with 10 of the losses coming his freshman year. He set a new school record with 104 career pins.

Senior Brayden Forbes finished in third place in the 132-pound weight class. His only loss in the tournament was to the eventual three-time state champion from Poquoson, Jared Goodson, in the semifinals. Brayden wrestled back to finish third, defeating



PHOTOS COURTESY JR WRESTLING

River coach Bobby Stewart gives the “three” sign as Xaiden Wynn holds the bracket after winning his third state championship.

Eli Penix of Lee High in the consolation final, 5-3.

Brayden’s career consisted of four state placements and three Region championships. He finished this season at 42-3 and was 130-20 for his River career, with 15 of the losses coming his freshman year.

Junior Nathan Stewart finished the year with a fourth place state finish at 144. Nate lost to eventual state champion Bryan Latta from Poquoson High School in the semifinal round, then lost to