



Google was welcomed into Botetourt County by the Board of Supervisors and local officials last week at the Greenfield Administration Center in Daleville.



County Administrator Gary Larrowe (left) and Senator Chris Head (right) spoke during last week’s announcement.



PHOTOS BY MATT DE SIMONE

Google purchases land in Botetourt County for potential data center campus

Matt de Simone
Managing Editor

Botetourt County officials announced that Google has purchased land zoned for industrial use and data centers in the Botetourt Center at Greenfield. The announcement came during the June 24 meeting of the Botetourt County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday afternoon. A packed conference center heard comments from County Administrator Gary Larrowe, Amsterdam Supervisor Steve Clinton, John Hull of the Roanoke Regional Partnership, and Virginia Senator Chris Head welcoming Google to Botetourt County.

“Today, BOCO just won the ‘Super Bowl of Economic Development’ and the new industrial sector announcement here in this part of the world,” Larrowe said during the presentation last Tuesday.

According to a county-issued press release, Google will be responsible for covering any expenses associated with bringing utility services to the site. Local officials say that tax revenue from a facility of this scale could support a wide range of public priorities, including school facility improvements, infrastructure upgrades, first responder equipment, and other critical services.

As part of the deal, the Botetourt County Board of Supervisors and the Economic Development Authority (EDA), in collaboration with Google, have entered into a performance agreement that will span 20 years of taxation for the server equipment associated with the potential project. If developed, the data center campus could generate substantial long-term

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Experts yet to decide on future of Breckinridge Law Office and Hotel



PHOTO COURTESY OF BOTETOURT CO.

Paul Whitney of Jamerson-Lewis Construction shows issues in the brick structure of the old Breckinridge Law Office and Hotel in a video presented to the County Board of Supervisors last week.

Matt de Simone
Managing Editor

The future of the old Breckinridge Law Office and Hotel is still yet to be determined, despite last week’s initial update on the matter at the Botetourt County Board of Supervisor’s June 24 meeting.

On Monday, a group

met that included Del. Terry Austin, Botetourt County administration, Fincastle Mayor Mary Bess Smith, and others to discuss other routes to possibly still physically move the building elsewhere on courthouse property in the future. It was first determined last week by the county that the building could potentially be demolished.

Last week, County Capital Projects Manager Rich Evans revealed to the board that the old Botetourt County Historical Museum, also known as the Breckinridge Law Office and Hotel, would likely not be physically moved due to structural deficiencies. This move was initially part of

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PHOTO BY KAITLYN DEHARDE, OFFICE OF GOVERNOR GLENN YOUNGKIN

Gov. Glenn Youngkin (seated) visited the Botetourt County Public Schools Administration Offices to sign a bill allowing rural school districts with fewer than 4,500 students to explore alternative student transportation methods.

Gov. Glenn Youngkin visits Botetourt, signs student transportation bill

Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin signed HB 2720 on June 26, patroned by Delegate Terry Austin, allowing rural school districts with fewer than 4,500 students to explore alternative student transportation methods. Virginia is now one of 10 states to allow this level of

flexibility in small school divisions.

“Today we’re breaking down barriers that have limited our communities for far too long,” said Gov. Youngkin. “House Bill 2720 represents the

See Youngkin, page 3



PHOTO BY MATT DE SIMONE

Martin Farms farm store is located at 818 Martins Lane in Fincastle. Lindsey Martin represents the farm’s fourth generation.

Farming in Botetourt – Martin Farms’s 70 years of tradition and agricultural evolution

Matt de Simone
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Martin Farms, located in Fincastle, is owned and operated by Joe Martin, who took over the farm’s day-to-day responsibilities from his father, Hubert Martin. Hubert started the farm in 1955, and over the decades, it has become a staple in the region’s agricultural community.

The farm specializes in pork products – including sausage, ham, pork chops, and liver pudding. In addition to its pork offerings, Martin Farms raises around 70 Angus cow/calf pairs and maintains a commercial feedlot. Cattle are sold on the open market. While peak “meat season” arrives later in the year,



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARTIN FARMS

See Martin, page 11 The farm is in its 70th year in operation.

Fireworks this Sunday in Fincastle

Join the fun this Sunday, July 6, at Breckinridge Elementary School in Fincastle for its annual Fireworks Extravaganza. Featuring a dazzling professional fireworks show—this family-friendly event is made possible by the generosity of the community. VFW 1841 will be on hand selling hot dogs, chips, and drinks to attendees. Bring blankets and lawn chairs for an evening under the stars,



FILE PHOTO

and enjoy a spectacular celebration of summer. The show kicks off at dusk (around 9:15 p.m.). It’s poised to be one of the

best-attended evenings of the season.

~ Fincastle Herald staff report

2025 SEASON

 Daleville town center

Scan here for complete event schedule, and details.



JULY 5



8:30 to NOON

JULY 12

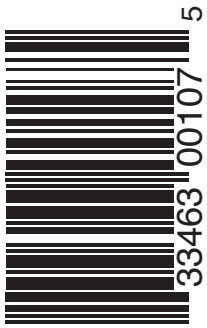
SUPAFLY FIVE

5-9PM

JULY 18

GOOD SHOT JUDY

5-9PM



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Botetourt County History



PHOTO COURTESY OF BCMHC

Early Botetourt settlers were self-sufficient and resourceful. They chose to stake their claim on rugged land and grow a garden to provide their own food. They had few tools to work with until the 1800s when metal plows were invented. John D. Burke cast metal into plows like this one at his Buchanan Foundry. Metal could cut through the earth while being directed by a person with the two wooden handles above. A horse or mule provided the power. Changes in farming have been phenomenal over

the centuries and today a larger, metal plow is pulled by a tractor. Regardless of how large or small farms are they continually work to be good stewards of the land and the natural resources they depend on. This antique plow was donated to the Botetourt Museum of History and Culture in Fincastle by Explore Park. Farming has been important throughout history.

- Botetourt County Museum of History & Culture

Board OKs Blue Ridge Library funding and Buchanan tennis court changes

The Botetourt County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved a Fiscal Year 2025 Library Incentive Fund request, presented by County Library Director Julie Phillips during last week's board meeting. This fund supports capital improvements at county libraries by offering a dollar-for-dollar match, up to 50% of a project's total cost, for contributions made by nonprofits, citizens, or businesses.

The approved request was submitted by the Friends of the Blue Ridge Library, a nonprofit organization that funded a \$10,000 project to upgrade furnishings at the Blue Ridge Library. The improvements included new chairs, lounge seating, and tables from the Roanoke-based company TXTUR. Selections were made based on durability, ease of cleaning, accessibility for patrons with mobility limitations, aesthetic design, and moderate pricing, with quotes solicited to ensure value.

The furnishings replaced original pieces dating back to the library's construction in the late 1980s, several of which had already been removed due to disrepair. On May 14, the Library Board of Trustees unanimously endorsed the \$5,000 reimbursement request, representing 50% of the total project cost. With this approval, the current balance of the Library Incentive Fund stands at \$21,204.

The board also approved modifications to the planned improvements at the Buchanan Elementary School tennis courts (4-1, with Amsterdam Supervisor Steve Clinton voting "No"), which are part of the county's ongoing efforts to expand recreational amenities. This decision will be revisited in one year's time based on discussions



FILE GRAPHIC

during the meeting.

Originally, the board had included funding in the Capital Improvement Plan to resurface and convert existing tennis courts at both Blue Ridge and Buchanan parks into dual-use courts for tennis and pickleball. The Blue Ridge courts have already been completed and opened for play, while the Buchanan courts are scheduled to be finished in July following weather delays.

Board Chair Amy White spoke about discussions she previously had with James River staff members. The James River girls tennis team currently practices at those courts at the elementary school due to there not being courts located at the high school. The team qualified for the Region 2C tournament in its first year of play in 2025.

"The plan was in place to have two tennis courts with four pickleball (courts' lines) marked on the tennis courts so that they could be used for tennis or for pickleball," White said. "This is a pretty standard practice. What we were going to do is mark them differently."

White shared that the new markings for pickleball lines on the court could cause some confusion to new James River tennis players. The idea of removable lines was kicked around, according to White, but it was revealed those removable lines could damage the court. She explained the compromise between the county and the school of leaving one tennis court's markings just for tennis.

Deputy Administrator

David Moorman echoed White's explanation, adding that the dual-marking courts in Buchanan were part of the implementation of the county's current Capital Improvements Plan. He mentioned that the county and the residents of Blue Ridge were "pleased" with the new dual use courts at Blue Ridge Park and didn't know of any issues with the markings/movable nets there.

Moorman noted the contractor for the Buchanan tennis courts was put on hold until the supervisors gave their guidance on the situation. White made mention that, currently, there are no tennis courts at James River High School. Lord Botetourt High's tennis team practices at Hollins University in Roanoke. Safety concerns were pointed out by James River staff as a main reason why it would be easier for the team to travel a shorter distance to Buchanan Elementary for the team to practice.

County Parks and Recreation Director Victor Morales offered information about the guidelines about tennis courts for play and added that "none of them ever specify what allows a facility to be for game use" if courts are ever used by Virginia High School League (VHSL) teams for competition and/or practicing. Morales said that, ideally, the most efficient thing would be to have four tennis courts, as opposed to just two. The current money being spent on the pickleball

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Pinkard becomes new BCPS assistant superintendent

Botetourt County Public Schools announced in a press release last Thursday the appointment of Jordan Pinkard as the new assistant superintendent.

Pinkard brings a wealth of experience and a deep commitment to educational excellence to his new leadership role. A valued member of the Botetourt County Public Schools team for 11 years, he has consistently demonstrated a strong dedication to student success, innovative instructional leadership, and meaningful collaboration with staff, families, and the broader community.

The former principal of Central Academy Middle School (CAMS) began his career in education as a secondary mathematics teacher, serving at William Fleming High School in Roanoke City Public Schools for two years, followed by six years at James River High School in Buchanan. Over the course of his career, he has held several leadership roles, including assistant principal at James River High School before



Jordan Pinkard

PHOTO COURTESY OF BCPS

becoming principal at CAMS.

He earned his undergraduate degree in mathematics from Virginia Tech, followed by a Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction and an Educational Specialist Degree in Educational Leadership, also from Virginia Tech. His strong academic background and commitment to professional learning have equipped him to support school divisions in achieving continuous growth and improvement.

"Mr. Pinkard is a dedicated and forward-thinking leader whose deep understanding of teaching and learning makes him exceptionally well-suited for this role," said Dr. Janet Womack, the new superintendent of Botetourt County Public

Schools. "His ability to build strong relationships, support innovation, and foster collaboration will benefit our students, staff, and community for years to come."

As assistant superintendent, Pinkard will oversee instructional leadership, curriculum and instruction, professional learning, school improvement planning, and strategic support for school administrators and other departments within the school division. He will work closely with educators and families to ensure that all students are equipped with the tools and opportunities they need to succeed and reach their full potential.

- Fincastle Herald staff report

Botetourt County joins statewide effort to commemorate 250 years of independence



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF VA250

1776 – A year with a “Common Cause” is a quote from the webpage of the VA250.org, which publicizes activities throughout Virginia. Delegate Terry Austin serves as Virginia's chairman for the statewide committee “established by the General Assembly in 2020. VA250.org serves to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution, the Revolutionary War, and the Independence of the United States in the Commonwealth of Virginia.”

In 2023, the Botetourt County Committee of VA250 was established by the Board of Supervisors of Botetourt County. The members of this committee, also members of the Botetourt Preservation Partnership (BPP), are Lynsey Allie, Michael Beahm, Sherry Crumley, Patsy Dickerson, Richard Flora, Betty Holt, Ed Holt, Glynn Loope, Bob Patterson, Sarah Rodgers, Mary Bess Smith, Bo Trumbo, Carolyn Burger Wiley and George Wilson, plus Supervisor Steve Clinton and Botetourt County Public Schools teacher Sarah Quesenberry. The mission of this VA250 committee is to promote programs that celebrate the “Common Cause” throughout Botetourt County in commemorating the American Revolution.

Last October the Botetourt County Historical Society sponsored “A Program on the Battle of Point Pleasant” with guest speaker Dr. Sarah McCartney, an Associate Professor History at The College of William and Mary. On March 14 this year they joined together with the Botetourt County Daughters of the American Revolution to produce Remembering the Botetourt Resolutions, a short play with local historical interpreters who portrayed Botetourt County men leaving the county to attend the Second Virginia Convention at St. John's Church in

Richmond. Historic Fincastle, Inc. has hosted several events where The Fincastle Company of 18th Century Historical Interpreters have set up their campsite and demonstrated life skills and the dress of the time. On the 4th of July 2024, the county participated in a statewide ringing of the church bells. These are only a few examples of the programs that have already been presented.

The VA250 Committee of Botetourt County is here to help a group or organization plan an event for the next 18 months. The committee (and the BPP) can help with the promotion and the planning of events to highlight the anniversary of the American Revolution. Contact Patsy Dickerson (psdicke@yahoo.com, 540-348-1294) for more information about helping a group find resources.

The Botetourt VA250 Committee is planning several events for 2026. There will be a series of events that will be held at two local wineries and a brewery to uplift and educate the importance of agriculture in the county, the importance of the James River and the locks, plus why Botetourt County's topography helped the early settlers travel from the east to the west. These events will be held on the second Saturday in April, May, and June of 2026. Live music and food trucks will be at each event. There will be more information closer to the time of each event. In September of 2026, the committee hopes to host the traveling museum from the State of Virginia during the Fincastle Festival of 2026.

The committee would like to help any organization add to this list of upcoming events.

See the VA250.org website for a calendar of events across Virginia.

- Submitted by Patsy Dickerson

Friday, July 4th and Saturday, July 5th

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Sheetz now open on Blue Ridge Boulevard

Sheetz officially opened its newest location last Thursday, June 26, at 1783 Blue Ridge Boulevard (U.S. 460). The grand opening kicked off Thursday morning with prize giveaways, including a “Free Sheetz for a Year” winner, and a ribbon-cutting ceremony. Customers were welcomed with free self-serve coffee and soda throughout the day. In celebration of the opening, Sheetz donated \$2,500 to Feeding Southwest Virginia and another \$2,500 to Special Olympics Virginia. Guests who brought

non-perishable food items for donation received a free Sheetz thermal bag, while supplies lasted. The new store brings about 30 jobs to the area and features Sheetz’s 24/7 Made-to-Order menu, offering everything from subs and pizza to smoothies and cold brew. Sheetz now operates over 770 locations across the Mid-Atlantic, including several in Southwest Virginia.

- Fincastle Herald staff report

Youngkin

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innovative thinking Virginia needs to ensure every student, regardless of where they live, has access to quality education and extracurricular opportunities. By empowering our local school boards with flexibility and choice, we’re putting students first and allowing communities to find transportation solutions that work best for them.” This legislation allows qualifying school boards to enter partnerships with community colleges, contract private transportation providers, and utilize ride sharing and carpooling services to supplement traditional school bus routes. These options are crucial for rural districts like Botetourt County, which serves 4,424 students across an expansive and geographically diverse area. “As someone who has served on the Botetourt County Board of Supervisors, I understand the transportation challenges our communities face,” said Delegate Terry Austin. “House Bill 2720 isn’t just about getting kids to school, it’s about opening doors to opportunity. When students can’t get to clubs, sports, or tutoring because of transportation barriers, their potential is limited. This legislation gives our local school boards the tools they need to ensure no child is limited because of where they live.” The legislation passed with overwhelming bipartisan support,

receiving a 96-0 vote in the House of Delegates and a 36-3 vote in the Senate, demonstrating Virginia’s commitment to educational innovation. “We’re implementing thoughtful policy with safeguards and evaluation measures to ensure we’re delivering results for our students and families,” Gov. Youngkin added. Virginia joins Arizona, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, North Dakota, New Hampshire, Alaska, and Oregon in allowing alternative student transportation methods. Of these states, four allow smaller vehicle transportation options, while five offer grant or reimbursement programs. The signing ceremony took place at the Botetourt County Public Schools Administration Offices in Fincastle. The school system recently received \$1,185,245 in funding from the Virginia Department of Education for the ALL In VA Initiative. “Better transportation options mean better access to education,” Gov. Youngkin continued. “When we remove barriers and empower local decision making, we create opportunities for every Virginia student to succeed. That’s what House Bill 2720 is all about: putting students first.”

- Office of Gov. Glenn Youngkin

Youngkin visits Three Lil’ Pigs

A routine lunch hour turned into a memorable moment for customers and staff at Three Lil’ Pigs BBQ when Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin made a surprise visit to the popular Daleville restaurant last week. Restaurant owner Brian Tyree recalled the visit fondly. “I had just arrived when we saw people getting out of SUVs. We realized pretty quickly it was somebody important,” he said. The governor entered the restaurant and spent time chatting with customers before sitting down at a table with a few staff members. According to Tyree, the group ordered vinegar barbecue sandwiches—some for dine-in and the rest packed to go for Youngkin’s entourage.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SARAH EDWARDS

The visit wasn’t Youngkin’s first stop at Three Lil’ Pigs. Tyree noted the governor previously held a small meet-and-greet on the restaurant’s deck during his early campaign days. Restaurant staff posed for photos with the governor, and Tyree plans to add one to a special wall

inside the restaurant that already features a picture from President George H.W. Bush’s 2007 visit. “One of his staff members and I joked that maybe we can make Three Lil’ Pigs a stop for future politicians,” Tyree said.

- Fincastle Herald staff report

Experts

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the first phase in the courthouse renovation process.

In response to that announcement, a meeting took place Monday morning between county officials, the Town of Fincastle, and others who remain hopeful they can still find a way to move the historic building. Del. Terry Austin, who appropriated state funding in 2022 for a new museum, was one of the elected officials in attendance Monday weighing in on possible options. “I’m not saying the county was not just in the conclusion that they came to,” Austin said in an interview Monday morning. “However, there may be other options to be considered (before demolishing the building). I think we can work together and make sure that everyone (involved in the decision-making) is in agreement with the conclusions supported by facts and evidence.”

The meeting concluded with a decision to bring together professional experts, community stakeholders, and other interested parties to evaluate ideas and help determine the best course of action. An official noted that while demolition is still a possibility, more time is needed to ensure there is consensus and that the final decision truly reflects the best way forward.

The courthouse project was restructured into two phases last year. It’s currently still in its first phase: removing what’s already been demolished and moving historic structures on site. Additional research into the feasibility of moving the building could potentially lead to further project delays. As it stands, the current state of the old law office and hotel doesn’t sound like its structurally in the best shape based on the information Evans and company provided last week.

Evans was joined at last week’s meeting by Jim Benn, the Senior Project Manager for the ongoing Botetourt County Courthouse project, to reveal what led them to that decision.

In a video presented to the board during the June 24 meeting, site superintendent Paul Whitney of Jamerson-Lewis Construction revealed some of the issues found in the “unstable width of brick throughout the wall(s).”

Whitney spoke about four different ages of construction that were involved with the building noting some of the bricks dating back to the mid-1770s. Moisture and climate resulted in bricks’ inability to “hold together and, in some cases, fall apart” relative to environmental conditions. He pointed out the different layers of brick used in the structure and how the interior layers have absorbed centuries of moisture causing the bricks to crumble. These conditions would add to the daunting challenge of moving the entire building.

“I think, between the structural engineers that agree and the historical restoration company that does brick restoration, it’s very difficult, maybe impossible, to move (the building),” Whitney said in the video.

Historical masons from Skyline Restoration were on site May 15 to begin their work. The masons then had to prove the proper brick work could be done, as directed, with a sort of “show and tell” presentation in order to prove the building could be moved.

“(The masons) built us a mock-up, like a fake wall or small wall, to show that they can do the brick the way we want it done,” Evans explained in an interview last Thursday morning. “They’ll also do

what’s called ‘pointing’ a couple of walls, which is removing old mortar and putting new mortar in, proving that they can get (the old brick to set) the way we want it – matching colors and tight, corrective order before we let them do any real work.”

Skyline came on site to take samples of the border around the building due the necessity of making sure masons had the correct type of mortar, or, whether too hard or too soft, it could potentially bust. Evans says that the masons were given the “okay” to proceed by the architect (Architectural Partners).

“That very day, when (the masons) started removing some of the brick to restitch it and repoint it, they came and interrupted a meeting and said, ‘Hey, we’ve got to stop work here,’” Evans continued.

On that same day, the masons showed that the structural integrity of the bricks of the old law offices and hotel were, as Evans shared, “was way worse than we thought.” Evans called in a structural engineer who showed up that afternoon and gave a report where the engineer told Evans that the building should not be a candidate for relocating/removal.

Evans, just to be certain, called in another structural engineering firm that took a little over a week to send back a similar report that the building should in no way be removed from its current location.

The historical masons explained to Evans that even if they could try to “stiffen up” the building, it would take an additional six months and there would still be no guarantee the building would be sturdy enough to be lifted, moved, and reset elsewhere on the courthouse property.

The construction team then had to put their collective heads together to come up with the best course of action. Several meetings then took place between the construction team and county administrators, according to Evans. The conclusion was made roughly two weeks ago that there was nothing else that could be done to save the former location of the Botetourt County Historical Museum.

During Evans’ presentation to the Board of Supervisors last week, he compared attempting to relocate the structure would be like relocating a sand castle at this point.

The building itself is not a part of the National Register of Historic Places, although the Fincastle District, as whole, is a registered site. However, the town has an ordinance in place where buildings over 100 years old are not to be demolished unless approved by the town’s planning commission. When asked Thursday, Evans said that no local or state preservation groups were consulted prior to county administrators moving forward with their decision on the future demolition of the building.

Ultimately, Evans shared last week that he was disappointed to discover the building’s health. He, along with many of the county’s citizens who appreciate the history of the county and of its county seat, will continue to work with professionals, stakeholders, and others to ensure that the best course of action will be made regarding the future of the old Breckinridge Law Office and Hotel in Fincastle.

To watch Evans’ presentation, visit Botetourt County’s YouTube page (@botetourtcountyva). Stay up to date on the ongoing courthouse project by visiting www.botetourtva.gov/707/Circuit-Courthouse-in-Fincastle.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Art of the Long View

It has been said that, “to plant a tree is an act of faith in the future.” The leaders of Botetourt County figuratively planted a tree and proclaimed their faith in the future when they decided in the mid-1990s to purchase 923 acres at the headwaters of Tinker Creek, in the county’s Amsterdam area. Their intention was to develop a business park.

It was a decision that was not greeted with universal acclaim. After all, it was indeed located at the headwaters of Tinker Creek! The area boasted prehistoric findings dating to the Cambrian period; it was an important hunting ground for Native Americans. In the mid-1700s, it was home to dozens of enslaved persons who supported a flourishing commercial, agricultural, and educational center called Greenfield. Greenfield was the home of William Preston, Colonel of the Virginia Militia and the Continental Army.

To top that off, the site was an area of stunning beauty, ringed by mountains, softened by meadows, and sustained by bold streams.

Why on earth would a local government want to mess with that?

The answer is “faith in the future.” Annie Dillard, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of Pilgrim at Tinker Creek, metaphorically envisioned the future when she wrote, upon viewing the flow of Tinker Creek, “I look up the creek and here it comes, the future... if you look up the creek in any weather, your spirit fills, and you are saying, with an exulting rise of the lungs, ‘Here it comes!’”

The future. Despite controversy and well-intended opposition – it was one of the most robustly debated county issues in memory at the time – county leadership embraced the future and proceeded with purchasing the 923 acres, insistent that, as one county supervisor declared, “If we are going to do this, we are going to do it right.”

And they did “do it right,” as successive Botetourt administrators and supervisors continued to do, maintaining lofty standards and being highly selective with the companies invited to locate at Botetourt Center at Greenfield.

During the economic downturn of the early 2000s, few companies were considering new facilities; thus, there was little activity at Greenfield. As a result, many were the demands on county officials to “sell it, unload that turkey!” But the officials stood firm, confident in practicing the Art of the Long View.

The result today is a flourishing commerce park that hosts five thriving companies and that accounts for more than a million dollars annually in tax revenue. It statutorily protects Botetourt’s beauty and treasured history.

Importantly, it is a foil to what would have occurred had the 923 acres gone on the open market: residential development indifferent to the grandeur of the land and dismissive of the finances of the county.

Now, 30 years after declaring its manifest confidence in the future, Botetourt County welcomes Google to Greenfield. A crowning achievement, this ushers in a new era of global competitiveness for the Roanoke Valley. It catalyzes countless spin-off business opportunities for the region. And it confirms Virginia’s claim as the “Data Center Capital of the World.”

Interestingly, Google’s arrival demands a refocusing of the Long View. It is a tap on the shoulder for county officials to contemplate newly unlocked, far-reaching opportunities scarcely imaginable today, but hurtling toward us at breakneck speed.

The Future.
Here it comes.
Steve Clinton
Daleville

Blue Ridge Supervisor writes about data center

Folks in Botetourt County have been very clear about what they expect from their Board of Supervisors, and I’m proud to represent the Blue Ridge District. You have told us to work hard to keep taxes low, not over-develop the county, and provide top-notch public services.

I agree with these priorities 100%; however, these goals often clash. It is tough to keep taxes low and still provide great services, especially when we need a certain amount of development to generate revenue. Usually, a county like ours has to choose two out of those three priorities.

That is why the proposed data center at the Botetourt Center at Greenfield is such a great fit for Botetourt. It is not every day we find a project that aligns with all of our priorities; fortunately, this project does.

This facility will bring in significant tax revenue, helping fund the county services you rely on, without asking local taxpayers to pay more. This project will not have a large amount of employees and should not create the need to build new schools to support the effort. However, I do realize we need to update schools, and this project may provide a way to fund those needs.

With the data center campus concept, it is expected there would be more than one building; however, each building will need additional investments from the company and will in turn provide additional revenues for the county. And with each building, there will be a need to add more employees;

The Sheriff’s Post

SHERIFF MATTHEW T. WARD

Botetourt Sheriff’s Office to launch updated emergency alert system

Residents of Botetourt County will soon see an important change in how they receive emergency alerts and public safety information. The Botetourt County Sheriff’s Office is transitioning from the CodeRED emergency notification system to Everbridge, a new emergency notification system that offers greater flexibility for users, to ensure residents receive timely and accurate emergency information.

The new platform is part of an effort to modernize communication tools and ensure that residents are informed quickly during public safety emergencies.

“While CodeRED has served us well for many years, this move to Everbridge reflects our ongoing commitment to improving public safety,” said Sheriff Matthew Ward. “Everbridge provides us with a scalable,



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF BCSO

Enrollment in Everbridge is free and only takes a few minutes.

intuitive platform that better meets the needs of our dispatchers and the community, especially during fast-evolving emergencies.”

Enrollment in Everbridge is free and only takes a few minutes. All residents are encouraged to sign up for Everbridge to ensure they continue to receive important notifications. Residents can sign up online through the Botetourt County

Sheriff’s Office’s website at botetourtsheriffva.com or by scanning the QR code.

Those who previously signed up for CodeRED must re-register with Everbridge to continue receiving alerts. CodeRED will no longer be supported.

- Botetourt County Sheriff’s Office

ARRESTS

June 23-28, 2025

The Botetourt County Sheriff’s Office reported the following arrests for June 23-28:

- Karl E. Stoy IV, 47, of Buchanan, obstruction of justice, malicious wounding, June 23
- Bobby L. Atkins, 41, of Eagle Rock, driving under the influence, possession of Schedule drugs, June 25
- Michael Mofield, 39, of Homosassa, Fla., domestic assault, strangulation, abuse and neglect of children, June 25
- Joshua A. Rayborn, 41, of Buchanan, domestic assault, June 28
- Stephen T. Hardy, 32, of Hardy, drunk in public, June 28

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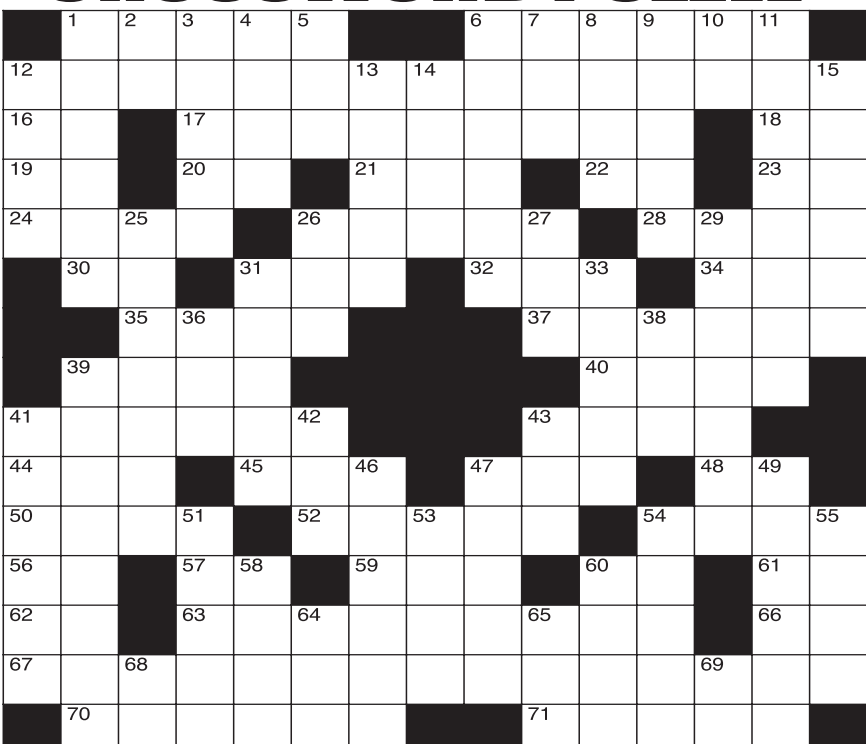
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CROSSWORD PUZZLE



CLUES ACROSS

- Notes
- Long-haired dog breed
- ESPN's nickname
- Spanish be
- Disadvantage
- Ofi
- Actor Pacino
- On your way: ___ route
- Fifth note of a major scale
- Companies need it
- News agency
- Faces of an organization
- Ponds
- Samoa's capital
- Partner to 'Pa'
- Adult male
- Cool!
- Used of a number or amount not specified
- No No No
- Hosts film festival
- British place to house

convicts

- Made of fermented honey and water
- Chief
- College army
- Thyroid-stimulating hormone
- Consume
- One point north of due east
- For instance
- Brews
- Alaskan river
- Not soft
- Atomic #22
- 'The Golden State'
- The world's most famous arena'
- Larry and Curly's pal
- One billion gigabytes
- Conducts inspections
- Malaria mosquitoes
- Unit to measure width
- Features

70. Affairs

- Letter of Semitic abjads
- Follower of Islam
- Trauma center
- French young women
- Norse god
- U.S. commercial flyer (abbr.)
- Merchant
- Peyton's younger brother
- Jungle planet in 'Star Wars' galaxy
- Tree-dwelling animal of C. and S. America
- 'Pollack' actor Harris
- Stuck around
- Put on
- Influential Norwegian playwright
- Christian ___, designer
- Fulfills a debt
- Style
- More (Spanish)
- A baglike structure in a

plant or animal

- Remedy
- Disturbance
- 'The Martian' actor Matt
- Express delight
- Brooklyn hoopster
- 1900 lamp
- Motionless
- One's mother (Brit.)
- Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
- Compels to act
- Gardening tool
- Ancient country
- Frightening
- Wimbledon champion Arthur
- Popular plant
- Database management system
- Gasteyer and de Armas are two
- Tenth month (abbr.)
- Illuminated
- Atomic #18
- Adults need one to travel

League for Animal Protection's
Waif of the Week



Bethany

Bethany is up to date on vaccines, spayed and heartworm negative. Bethany is full of pep and will need someone who can be active with her. A fenced in yard is required.

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

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& Botetourt County News

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Run Like Baron 5K registration is open

The annual Run Like Baron 5K event honors Botetourt County's first K-9 officer, Baron, who died on duty on August 31, 2017. The event is organized by Friends of Botetourt K-9 Inc., a non-profit organization that provides financial support to the Botetourt County Sheriff's Department K-9 unit.

The Run Like Baron 5K will be held on August 9, and start at 8:30 a.m. Participants can choose to join the in-person race, virtual race, or fun walk event. The in-person race and fun walk will be held at the Greenfield Sports Complex Cross Country Course in Daleville. The

virtual race can be completed from anywhere and the fun walk event is perfect for families and anyone who wants to participate in a non-competitive atmosphere.

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

The Run Like Baron 5K is a fun-filled event of fitness, community spirit, and support for a great cause.



FILE GRAPHIC

Whether you are an experienced runner or just starting, there is something for everyone at the Run Like Baron 5K. Register now to be part of this memorable event.
- Friends of Botetourt K9



Preston Pauley

PHOTO COURTESY OF PAULINE PAULEY

Pauley participating in French Immersion Academy

Lexington, Virginia – On parle français!

This is an important phrase for 60 Virginia high school students for the next three weeks at the Virginia Governor's French Immersion Academy at Washington and Lee University in Lexington. Until July 12, the French Academy's students will live their lives completely in French to boost their abilities to use the language.

Preston Pauley, a rising homeschool senior in Botetourt County, was among those who arrived in Lexington on June 21. After pledging to speak French exclusively, he and the other students will eat, sleep, and breathe en français.

The Virginia Department of

Education sponsors five Governor's World Language Academies each summer where students are nurtured and language skills are cultivated. Participating students were selected through a statewide competition. CBS News and USA Today have featured the Academies as examples of innovative world language programs.

The students will learn, not in the ordinary way with textbooks and videos, but by really using the language in the cafeteria, in the dorm, on the soccer field, as well as in the classroom. Academy participants attend engaging and creative classes each morning (including Saturdays) to encourage them to take an active part in their learning.

The language immersion extends beyond the classroom with afternoon activities such as cooking, sports, and visual and performing arts. Students' writing and photography skills are developed through journals, blog entries, a digital yearbook, videos, weekly newspapers and a radio broadcast. All activities are hands-on and relevant, making language acquisition meaningful, practical, and lasting.

The Academy will be a truly unique endeavor, one that alumni often describe as unforgettable and among the best and most fun experiences of their lives.

- Fincastle Herald staff report

Deputy-involved shooting under investigation

At approximately 7 a.m. Tuesday, June 25, Botetourt County Sheriff's Deputies responded to a residence on High Ridge Circle, Troutville, following a 9-1-1 call from a male who stated he had just killed his father.

Upon arrival, deputies encountered an armed man outside the residence. Deputies began negotiating with the individual to de-escalate the situation and encourage a peaceful surrender. A trained crisis negotiator engaged with the man, but communication was ultimately severed when the subject disconnected.

As deputies approached, the suspect raised a firearm, pointing it in the direction of officers. In response to the immediate threat, deputies discharged their firearms, striking the subject.

Emergency medical personnel responded to the scene and rendered aid. The armed man was pronounced deceased on the scene.

Deputies also located a deceased male inside the residence.

As is standard procedure, the Virginia State Police will conduct an independent investigation into the shooting.

No further details are being released at this time, as the investigation remains active.

This information is based on a preliminary and ongoing investigation, which continues to evolve as detectives interview witnesses, review physical and electronic records, and analyze forensic evidence. The Sheriff's Department's understanding of the facts and circumstances may change as additional evidence is collected and analyzed.

~ Botetourt County Sheriff's Office



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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: pastorstevetremblay@gmail.com. Everyone welcome.
Troutville Assembly of God, 118 Conner Lane, P.O. Box 728, Troutville, VA 24175, Pastor Dennis Carroll, 540-960-1224, Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 a.m., Children’s Church 11:00 a.m., Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 p.m., Everyone welcome.
INDEPENDENT BAPTIST
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 Children’s Church. Wednesday evening Worship and Bible study begins with a meal at 6:30 p.m.
Mill Creek Baptist Church –11475 Lee Hwy., Fincastle, 992-3474. Danny Quirin, Pastor. Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; Worship 8:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.; Wednesday night activities begin at 6pm: Bible study, children and youth activities, choir and handbell rehearsals follow. office@millcreekbc.com
Pleasant Hill Baptist Church – 4930 Country Club Road (corner of Country Club & Haymakertown Roads), 540-992-5556. Pastor Danny Barham. Sunday School, 10 a.m.; Worship Service, 11 a.m. Worship can also be viewed online at the PHBC Facebook page or on Youtube (PHBCtube). Other activities and schedules can be found at www.phbcweb.com.
Springwood Baptist Church – 88 Copps Hill Rd., Buchanan; Rev. Mike Anderson, 540-819-4616, Email pmike09@outlook.com. Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.: worship 11 a.m.: Wednesday night bible study will be held every first and third Wednesday of the month from 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.
Troutville Baptist Church –P.O. Box 309, Troutville, VA 24175; 992-1026, Pastor Dr. Jeff Ritchey. Sunday School 9:45 AM; Worship 11 AM. Wednesday: Adult Prayer & Bible Study, 6:30PM; Youth & Children Activities 6:30PM.
Zion Hill Baptist Church— Intersection of Zion Hill Road and Old Fincastle Road. Pastor Donald Goforth (540) 884-2285. Sunday School -10 AM Worship 11AM. Youth Activities (grades 6-12) and Kingdom Kids (preschool-grade 5) Wednesdays at 5:30 PM.
CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
Cloverdale Church of the Brethren— 4708 Read Mtn. Rd., 992-1060; Sunday School, 9:15 a.m., worship, 10:30 a.m.; Wed. (Sept.-May), Family Dinner, 6 p.m., Bible study, 6:45 p.m. Preschool, after-school care & summer day camp for preschool and elementary age children. Patrick Starkey, Pastor; Shawna Burkhart, preschool director.
Mt. Bethel Church of the Brethren— 10603 Narrow Passage Rd., Eagle Rock. PO Box. 183 Eagle Rock, VA 24085. Interim Pastor Dreama

Wits’ End Corner

Read Psalms 106:1 through 109:31

Life can be like riding a ship rolling in the midst of a stormy sea: up one second reaching for the stars, the next second plummeting to the depths. The Psalmist wrote about those who “went out on the sea in ships.”

They reeled and staggered like drunkards; they were at their wits’ end. Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble, and he brought them out of their distress (Psalm 107:27–28).

A. G. Ward wrote in the Pentecostal Evangel eighty-three years ago, “We have passed through many tests in the past twenty-four years, often we have been at ‘wits’ end corner’ but again and again we have found ourselves singing.”

Are you at the end of your rope? Cry out to the Lord. Your prayer life will be different. Your praise life will open up.

Your prayer should be like that of Jehoshaphat as he led God’s people when they were under attack: “We do not know what to do, but our eyes are upon you” (2Chronicles 20:12).

Prayer Suggestion: Lord, I trust You to still the storms in my life.

Quicklook: Psalm 107:23–32

Osborne. 884-2292 (church), 540-597-8272 (cell). Sunday School, 10 AM; worship, 11 AM; Ladies’ Aid meets 2nd Thurs. monthly.
Mt. Joy Church of the Brethren— 2565 Buffalo Rd., 10 miles N of Buchanan, 254-2298. Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m. Pastor Michael Tabor, (540) 309-7595.
Pleasant Dale Church of the Brethren, 3732 Breckinridge Mill Rd, Fincastle, Rev. Dr. David A. Tozar - pastor, Sunday worship at 11am, preceded by coffee fellowship at 10:30, Bible Study Sunday at 4pm, 5th Sunday Potluck luncheon, Handicap Accessible, Contact Pastor Davd at dtozar9@yahoo.com. Follow on Facebook, Sunday worship and Bible study stream live.
Troutville Church of the Brethren - 5133 Lee Hwy., 992-1571; Terry R. Johnson, Pastor; Don Obenshain, Choir Director. Sunday Morning Services: Sunday School, 10 am; Worship Service, 11 am. Sunday Night Meetings: Rainbows, 5:30 pm; Christ Seekers, 6:00 pm. Wednesday Night Meetings: Bible Study, 6:30 pm, Choir practice, 7:00 pm. Family Fellowship Time will be held each 3rd Sunday of the month. Handicap Accessible. Our email address is: Troutvillecob@hotmail.com.
CHURCH OF CHRIST
Dale Ridge Church of Christ - Will you “come back to the Bible”, learn more and follow Him? If you live locally in this beautiful Roanoke Valley or Botetourt County area, there is a Church, you will know it’s the ONE when you see the name on the end of the building that reads Church of Christ. 7165 Cloverdale Rd., NW, Roanoke, VA 24019. We offer a free 3 lesson, OPEN Bible course entitled “Back to the Bible.” Only available in home or where our Church meets: Sign up now on our website, daleridgechurchofchrist.net or email us at comeback2thebible@gmail.com

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 osloanoke.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. Summer Schedule, June-August: Worship at 10am and no Sunday School. Videotaped services can be viewed on YouTube. The Food Pantry is open from 9-11 a.m. on the 2nd

and 4th Saturdays of each month. Handicap accessible. Facebook page or website: www.buchananpresbyterian.org. Contact www.admin@buchananpresbyterian.org
Fincastle Presbyterian Church – 108 E. Back Street Fincastle, VA 24090. The Rev. Dr. David Dickerson, Supply Minister, Lori Turner, Music Director. Worship service in the Sanctuary and via Live Streaming (<https://www.facebook.com/fincastleresbyterianchurch>) at 10:30 AM. Adult Sunday School offered at 9:30 AM. Fellowship time in the Fellowship Hall immediately following morning service. Bell choir practices after Sunday Fellowship, often providing special music in our services. For more information please email fincastlepresbyterianchurch@gmail.com or call 540.473.2042.
Galatia Evangelical Presbyterian Church - 78 Gala Loop Road, Eagle Rock, VA 24085. Rev. Emily B. Hook, pastor, 804-516-6552. Sunday School at 10 a.m. each Sunday. Morning Worship & Praise at 11a.m. each Sunday. Communion once each quarter.
Virginia Presbyterian Church – 918 Pico Road, Buchanan, 24066. Worship 9:30 a.m. (nursery provided), Sunday School, 10:30 a.m.
ROMAN CATHOLIC Church of the Transfiguration— 7624 Roanoke Rd., Fincastle, VA 24090; Fr. Zaverio “Xavier” Banasula. 473-2656 Saturday Mass at 4:30pm & Sunday at 8:30am; Christian formation after Mass on Sunday.
UNITED METHODIST
Andrew Chapel United Methodist Church – 3936 Beaver Dam Road, just off Springwood Road, Springwood. Rev. Morris A. Bennett. Sunday School, 9:15 a.m. followed by Worship, 10 a.m.
Eagle Rock United Methodist Church – 14565 Church St., Eagle Rock, 10:15 AM; Glen Wilton UMC, Main St., Glen Wilton, 9:00 AM; Shiloh UMC, Shiloh Rd, Eagle Rock, 11:15 AM. Pastor Ray Sandifer (540) 525-0258. Mail donations for the building fund to P.O. Box 85, Eagle Rock.
Fincastle United Methodist Church – Sunday School at 9 a.m. in the Family Life Center. In person services Sunday, 10 a.m. in the sanctuary, 136 S. Church St., Fincastle. 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. We have one service on Sundays at 10:00am, with Sunday School for children, youth, and adults following at 11:00am. Shipyard Youth meets every Sunday from 4:00 to 6:00pm, unless there is a special monthly mission event. Frogs and Tadpoles Children’s Ministry meets on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month, September through April, from 4:00 to 6:00pm.
Trinity United Methodist Church – 19637 Main St., Buchanan; Rev. Doug Mitchell, 254-2475 (O). Worship, 9:45AM, Sunday School 10:30 AM.

OBITUARIES

Parker, Wanda Ferrell

Wanda Ferrell Parker was born June 28, 1933 in Botetourt County. She was preceded in death by her husband, George Fulton Parker; parents, Paris Randolph and Nolia Austin Ferrell; sister, Thelma F. Deel; niece, Beth Deel; and nephew, William Deel.

Wanda is survived by her nephews, Randy, Jim, and John Deel.

She graduated from Fincastle High School, Radford College (now University) and Florida

State University. Wanda taught home economics at Maywood (Craig County) and Colonial High School. She retired from Virginia Tech Extension Service as a home economics agent. She worked in Giles County, City of Virginia Beach, and Fauquier County.

Wanda had lived at The Glebe since August 2005.

A graveside service was held in Pleasant Dale Memorial Park on Thursday, June 26, 2025 at 10 a.m.

Williamson, Geraldine Edwards

Geraldine “Teenie” Elizabeth Edwards Williamson, 97, of Fincastle, passed away peacefully at home on Wednesday, June 25, 2025.



Born on May 20, 1928, she was preceded in death by her parents, Robert Columbus Edwards and Hazel Pearl Iroler Edwards; step-mother, Blanche Fransico Edwards; husband, Homer B. Williamson of 66 years; and infant daughter, Lisa Kay Williamson.

She was a lifetime member of Fincastle United Methodist Church, a member of the Beta Sigma Phi Sorority Chapter and a member of the Fincastle Garden Club. “Teenie” worked at Glad Rags in Buchanan, Little Gems in Eagle Rock, and 22 years at Halmode Apparel in Roanoke, where she retired from the Accounts Payable department. After retirement, “Teenie” went to work for Botetourt County Schools as a Special Needs bus aide, where she enjoyed spoiling the “littles” with her hugs, loving smile and little treat bags to brighten their day. She remained in great health all her life up until the last eight months when she was diagnosed with skin cancer.

She is survived by her daughter, Sue Sweet and son-in-law, Jerry Sweet; son, Barry Williamson and daughter-in-law, Marilyn Williamson; granddaughters, Kim “Kimbo” Overstreet (Travis Overstreet) and Sherry “Punky” Pierce (Dale Pierce); great-grandchildren, Ariel Wood, Madison Overstreet, Tyler Wood and Stephen-Patrick Overstreet; sister, Betty E. Geiger (Ron Geiger); and numerous nieces and nephews,

and their extended families.

Geraldine “Teenie” was blessed by many “special friends.” Over the last few years you would find her at fish fry’s held at Mill Creek Baptist Church where she would be the little greeter and socialize with those who came to pick up their orders. She always enjoyed and looked forward to the Buchanan Carnival where she would sit in the ice cream stand once again, being the little greeter and socializing while the family would volunteer their services dipping up the ice cream. “Teenie” to us is known for her green thumb of gardening, the love of plants (especially violets), canning vegetables (especially canning her 14-day pickles), her love of baking, and rounding up the family for old-fashioned applebutter making.

A graveside service was held Monday, June 30, 2025 at 11 a.m. in Godwin Cemetery in Fincastle, with the Rev. Jim Bollinger officiating. Family received family and friends as a visitation following the graveside service at the Family Life Center in Fincastle.

Any memorials or donations made are asked to go towards Fincastle United Methodist Church in Fincastle to the Building Fund at P.O. Box 63 Fincastle, 24090.

The family would like to extend their gratitude and blessed appreciation to all the visits, texts, phone calls and the many, many prayers during her last days due to Cancer. We also would like to send our upmost appreciation and kindness and care given by the nurses of Good Sam.

Online condolences may be made at www.botetourtffh.com.

CHURCH NEWS

Pleasant Hill Baptist to distribute food boxes

Pleasant Hill Baptist Church will be distributing free food boxes on July 12 from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. or till all boxes are taken.

Anyone in need of food is encouraged to come to Eagle Rock Library or the church on the corner of Country Club Road and Haymakertown Road.

VBS at Limestone Park July 7-11

Vacation Bible School is scheduled July 7-11 at Limestone Park from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. for grades K-5; middle and high school students are encouraged to help as counselors. Bible study, recreation, swimming, and other activities are planned for each day. Pre-registration is encouraged but not required. Lunch will be provided each day. For more information, email limestoneparkministries@gmail.com.

Community Meal July 14 in Eagle Rock

The community is invited to the bi-monthly potluck Community Meal on Monday, July 14, at 12 noon at the Community Center in Eagle Rock. Bring a dish or dessert to share with everyone and join in the good fellowship and food.

Mill Creek Baptist VBS

Mill Creek Baptist Church is gearing up for True North Vacation Bible School. Children will go on an adventure of finding God in the wild world, and keeping Him as their true North. Register children now to attend VBS July 13-17, 6-8:30 p.m., at vbspro.events/p/Millcreekbaptistchurch.

Fincastle Presbyterian holding special service June 25

On Wednesday, July 23 and Wednesday, August 27, Fincastle Presbyterian Church will host the regular fourth Wednesday Wholeness and Healing service. This is a short prayer service of quiet, music, and prayer followed by a time of meal and fellowship with a light supper; meet in the fellowship hall at 5 p.m.

Cloverdale Thrift Store sale

Cloverdale Church of the Brethren's Thrift Store has capris and shorts for the whole family. Gently used donations are welcome. The store is open Saturdays, 9 to 12.

Homecoming at Lapsleys Run Baptist

Lapsleys Run Baptist Church will celebrate the annual Homecoming Day on Sunday, July 13. The morning service will begin at 11 a.m. The speaker for the morning service will be Deacon Edgar Freeman.

Lunch will be served following the service.

The afternoon service will begin at 2 p.m. Guests will be the Rev. Marcus Huffman and the choir and congregation of the Blue Ridge Baptist Church, Blue Ridge.

The members welcome everyone to join them and look forward to seeing everyone for any of the church's services, especially Homecoming Day.

Regular services are held on the second and fourth Sundays of each month at 11 a.m. Lapsleys Run Baptist Church is located at 608 Zion Hill Road, Fincastle.

LOA Vital Transportation expands to North Botetourt County

Local Office on Aging's Vital Transportation services recently expanded its reach to help even more seniors with transportation needs.

Now, eligible seniors in Blue Ridge, Buchanan, Cloverdale, Daleville, Eagle Rock, Fincastle, Glen Wilson, Iron Gate, Laymantown, and Troutville can get assistance going to the doctor, pharmacy, grocery store, or other

vital services.

Vital Transportation is available to individuals 60 or older with lower income who need a ride to their critical appointments. LOA helps those who have no other source for transportation or means to pay for transportation. (Riders must be able to get in and out of the vehicle on their own.)

To find out if you qualify for transportation

assistance, call LOA at 540-345-0451.

LOA serves the 5th Planning District of Virginia including the Counties of Roanoke, Botetourt, Craig, and Alleghany and the Cities of Roanoke, Salem, and Covington. Its mission is to help older persons remain independent for as long as possible.

- Local Office on Aging

Botetourt County 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.

Jacob Carper, Jr. is a Patriot ancestor of member Deborah Karen Hedrick. Much of the information below comes from “The Carpers and Related Families” genealogical research compiled by Bill and Rebecca Austin.

Nicholas Carper, born in 1710 in Baden, Germany,

immigrated to America, landing in Philadelphia in August of 1732. His son, John Jacob Carper and two other children came with Nicholas and they settled in the area of Sharpsburg, Md. In very early records the name is spelled a variety of ways: Kerber, Kerper, and Carber, eventually evolving into the name Carper. John Jacob later migrated into Botetourt County, where he married. His children: Margaret married Benjamin Peck, a son of Jacob and Lydia Borden Peck; John Jacob married Mary Peck, a sister of Benjamin; and Nicholas married Elizabeth Shrider in Maryland.

John Jacob and Mary had a son, Jacob Carper (b. 1795, d. 27

Aug 1869 near Fincastle), who married Mary Neville April 13, 1815 in Botetourt County. Mary Neville (b. 1797, d. 22 April 1853) was the daughter of John and Elizabeth Neville, a French family who came to Botetourt from Frederick, Md. Jacob and Mary had eight children.

Jacob was a saddler and became a Methodist minister. He performed the first marriage in Roanoke County. His house is still on Church Street in Fincastle.

The Rev. Jacob Carper's death (September 6, 1869) was reported in The Fincastle Herald: “Sudden Death. — On last Friday morning, as Rev. Carper was returning from Mr. Ross's

tan-yard with a roll of leather on his shoulder, he fell dead about one hundred and fifty yards from town. When found it was seen that he had carefully laid the leather on a rock and his cane by his side and his Bible open before him. He was on his knees, and his head resting on a rock, face-foremost. Whether he knew that he was about to die and knelt down to pray, or whether he fell on his knees, is mere conjecture.”

The daughter of Jacob and Mary, Alzira J. Carper (b. 1819, d. 21 Jan. 1911) married Benjamin Carper Hedrick (b. 1814, d. 23 Oct 1900), Deborah's great-great-grandfather, thus connecting the Carper/Hedrick family line.

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



PHOTO COURTESY OF DALEVILLE-FINCASTLE LIONS CLUB

Lions Club supports program for sixth graders

Once again, the Daleville-Fincastle Lions Club made a \$1,000 donation to the Botetourt County Character Counts! program, which serves upcoming county sixth graders. The students

learn leadership skills, team building and participation in community service projects. Shown receiving the check is Character Counts! coordinators Melanie McFadyen and Chad

Simmons from Lion Jim Reynolds.

- Daleville-Fincastle Lions Club

Roaring Run Road to be reduced to one lane for culvert replacement

Work is set to begin on Route 621 (Roaring Run Road) for a culvert replacement in the vicinity of 618 Roaring Run Road.

Beginning on Monday, July 7, flagging operations are possible as crews begin to set up equipment in the area.

On Tuesday, July 15, Roaring Run Road will be reduced to one lane of

traffic, controlled by a temporary signal that will alternate traffic through the work zone until completion of the project.

Message boards will be in place to alert drivers and delays are possible.

Weather permitting, the road is expected to reopen to traffic this fall.

- VDOT

Serving With Compassion

Botetourt
Funeral Home & Crematory

Buchanan | Eagle Rock
254-3000 | 884-2276
14920 Lee Highway | 14777 Church Street
Karen C. Young
Funeral Director
Locally owned & operated by I. Ray & Bobbi Sloan



A Note of Thanks

The family of Shirley “Memaw” Bryant would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has so graciously offered words of encouragement, condolences and shared stories of Shirley “Memaw” Bryant. Our family has been overwhelmed by the outpouring of love and support during the past year. Your visits, food, calls and cards meant the world to her and us. She always had a story to share and she always had one to match it. We again would like to thank Amedisys Hospice, the nurses, aides and social workers who all became family and friends during your care of her, we will miss you all. We would also like to thank Dr. Carolyn Clark and nurse Elizabeth for being the best doctor and nurse ever - she loved coming to your office and visiting and laughing and your care and concern over all these years, we can't begin to show enough appreciation. We can't mention everyone by name - but know that each and every one of you will never be forgotten.

*With much love and gratitude,
Kitty, Sarah, Cleatus, Norma & Family Members*

MAIN STREET CLASSIFIEDS

M

arketplace

ourvalley.org

The Fincastle Herald

The Vinton Messenger

The New Castle Record

Salem Times-Register

News Messenger

Radford News Journal

Free Wooden Pallets

FREE
Wooden Pallets
No Need to call
or come inside.
First come, First served.
Behind Salem Times
Register building

Legals - Craig County

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR CRAIG COUNTY

JOHN N. SPICER,
TRUSTEE, *Plaintiff*
v.
BRIAN VAVALA
and
CHELSEA RICK
and
JOSEPH S. HILL
AUDREY E. HILL,
Defendants.

Case No. CL 25-112 ORDER OF PUBLICATION

The object of this suit is to
finalize accounting for
Foreclosure Sale Property
known as
2288 Northside Road,
Newport, Virginia, in Craig
County, Virginia, also
referred to
as Lot Number Three (3),
containing 29.204 acres and
designated as Tax Map
Number 115-A 17C, cannot
conveniently be made as
Defendant, Brian Vavala,
has not been seen nor
heard from, and
whose whereabouts are
unknown to all of the parties
hereto, and that the best
interests of all interested
parties would be
promoted by the surplus of
funds due to Defendant,
Brian Vavala, be deposited
with the Circuit Court of
Craig County, Virginia and
move forward with the
Final Accounting of
Foreclose Sale.

An affidavit having been
made and signed that Brian
Vavala, is an individual
whose last known address
and whereabouts are
unknown, it is hereby
ORDERED, that the said
party appear on or before
July 21, 2025 at 1:00 p.m.
and do whatever is
necessary to protect his
interest for his surplus
funds.

It is further **ORDERED** that
this Order of Publication be
published once a week for
four (4) consecutive weeks in
The New Castle Record,
a newspaper of general
circulation in the
County of Craig.
ENTERED THIS 5th DAY
OF June, 2025
Judge

I ask for this:
John N. Spicer
(VSB # 68845)
SPICER, OLIN &
ASSOCIATES, P.C.
504 South Main Street
Blacksburg, VA 24060
Phone: (540) 552-0007
Fax: (540) 951-5139
E-mail:
j.spicer@spicerlawfirm.com
Plaintiff

Legals - Botetourt County

Order of Publication

Case No. **CL16-916-01**
VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT
COURT FOR THE
COUNTY OF BOTETOURT
In re: Abigail Rose Bryant
(DOB: 02/19/2015)

ORDER FOR PUBLICATION

This Day came Christopher
M. Di Rizio, counsel for the
Intervenor, Andrew
Vandegrift and James
Tracy, and filed a Motion for
Order of Publication, and a
hearing shall be held in this
Court, 205 North Roanoke
Street, Fincastle, Virginia
24090 on October 7th, 2025
at 1:00 PM, or as soon
thereafter as they may be
heard.

NOW, THEREFORE IT IS
HEREBY ADJUDGED,
ORDERED, AND
DECREED, that Phillip Eric
Bryant appear at the
hearing and be heard as to
why the Motion to Intervene,
Motion for Appointment of
Guardian ad Litem, or
Motion to Amend Custody
of the minor child, should
not be granted. Failure to
appear shall waive any
objection to the heretofore
mentioned Motions.

THE CLERK OF COURT IS
DIRECTED to send a
certified copy of this Order
to the Fincastle Herald, to
P.O. Box 127, Fincastle,
Virginia 24090 to be
published once per week for
four consecutive weeks, to
be posted at the front door
of the Courthouse, and a
copy mailed to counsel, and
the parties to the matter at
their respective address of
record.

This cause is continued on
the docket of this Court.
Entered this 17th day of
June, 2025.

Honorable Joel R.
Branscom, Judge

I ASK FOR THIS:
Christopher M. Di Rizio

Legals - Botetourt County

(VSB No. 96948)
The Law Office of James
Steele, PLLC
3048 Brambleton Avenue
Roanoke, Virginia 24015
chris@jamessteelelaw.com
Tel. (540) 339-7775
Fax: (540)492-4244
Counsel for Intervenor

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 1572 Little Catawba Creek, Troutville, VA 24175

In execution of a Deed of
Trust in the original principal
amount of \$146,818.00
dated May 25, 2021
recorded among the land
records of the Circuit Court
for Botetourt County on May
26, 2021 as Instrument
Number: 210002890, the
undersigned appointed
Substitute Trustee will offer
for sale at public auction, at
the Main entrance of the
courthouse for the Circuit
Court of Botetourt County, 1
W Main St, Fincastle, VA
24090 on July 28, 2025 at
3:30 PM the property
described in said deed of
trust, located at the above
address and briefly
described as: Being Lot No.
3, according to the Map of
Duffield Estates, made by
Charles R. McMurray,
C.L.S., dated September
10, 1980, and recorded in
Plat Book 10, Page 75.

Tax/Parcel ID#: 85A(1)3
Tax ID: 25649.
TERMS OF SALE: A
bidder's deposit of
\$10,000.00 or 10% of the
sale price, whichever is
lower, will be required in the
form of a certified or
cashier's check. Cash will
not be accepted as a
deposit. Settlement within
fifteen (15) days of sale,
otherwise Trustee may
forfeit deposit. Additional
terms to be announced at
sale. This is a
communication from a debt
collector. This notice is an
attempt to collect on a debt
and any information
obtained will be used for
that purpose.
(Trustee # 25-005509)
Substitute Trustee: ALG
Trustee, LLC C/O Orlans
Law Group PLLC PO Box
2548, Leesburg, VA 20177
(703) 777-7101 website:
www.Orlans.com The
Vendor auction.com will be
used in conjunction with this
sale.Potential Bidders: For
sale information, please visit
www.Auction.com
or call (800) 280-2832.

Legals - City of Salem

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given to all
interested persons that the
Council of the City of
Salem, at its
regular meeting on Monday,
July 14, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.,
in Council Chambers, City
Hall, 114. N. Broad Street,
in the City of Salem,
Virginia, will hold a public
hearing, pursuant to
Sections 15.2-2204 and
15.2-2285 of the Code of
Virginia, as amended, to
consider the following
requests relative to the
CODE OF THE CITY OF
SALEM, VIRGINIA:
Consider the request of R &
S Investments LLC,
property owners, for the
issuance of a special
exception permit to allow a
retail sales, smoke shop
for the property located at
132 Electric Road
(Tax Map #80-2-1).
Copies of the proposed
plans, ordinances or
amendments may be
examined in the Office of
Community Development,
21 South Bruffey Street,
Salem, Virginia.
At said hearing, parties in
interest and citizens shall
have an opportunity to be
heard relative to the
said requests.
THE COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA
BY:
H. Robert Light
Clerk of Council

Salem VA Planning Commission

Notice is hereby given to all
interested persons that the
City of Salem Planning
Commission, at its regular
meeting on July 16, 2025, at
7:00 p.m., in Council
Chambers, City Hall, 114
North Broad Street, in the
City of Salem, Virginia, will
hold a public hearing,
pursuant to Sections 15.2-
2204 and 15.2-2285 of the
Code of Virginia, as
amended, to consider
approval of the following
requests relative to the
CODE OF THE CITY OF
SALEM, VIRGINIA:

Legals - City of Salem

1. Consider the request
of J Cline Properties LLC,
property owner, to rezone
the property located at 106-
110 Butt Hollow Road (Tax
Map #174-1-7) from BCD
Business Commerce District
to LM Light Manufacturing
District with proffered
conditions and to request
the issuance of a Special
Exception Permit to allow
athletic instruction services.

2. Consider the request
of McJohn Investments
LLC, property owner, for the
issuance of a Special
Exception Permit to allow a
telecommunications tower
on the property located at
319 Rowan Street (Tax Map
#232-1-1).

3. Consider the request
of Brad Graham Real Estate
LLC, contract purchaser, to
rezone the property located
at 638 Dalewood Avenue
(Tax Map #33-2-3) from AG
Agricultural District to RSF
Residential Single-Family
District and to request the
issuance of a Special
Exception Permit for 638,
672 and 696 Dalewood
Avenue (Tax Map #s 33-2-
3, 33-2-2 and 33-2-1) to
allow their inclusion in the
Cluster Housing Overlay.

4. Consider the request
of ABoone Real Estate Inc.,
contract purchaser, to
rezone the property located
at 1002 Newman Drive (Tax
Map #58-1-1) from LM Light
Manufacturing District with
proffered conditions to RMF
Residential Multi-Family
District.

Copies of the proposed
plans, ordinances or
amendments may be
examined in the Office of
Community Development,
21 South Bruffey Street,
Salem, Virginia.
At said hearing, parties in
interest and citizens shall
have an opportunity to be
heard relative to the said
requests.
THE PLANNING
COMMISSION OF THE
CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA
BY: Christopher J. Dorsey
Executive Secretary

Legals - Montgomery County

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL

The Town of Christiansburg
Town Council will hold a
Public Hearing on Tuesday,
July 8, 2025, at 7:00 PM in
the Council Chambers of
the Christiansburg Town
Hall, 100 E. Main Street,
Christiansburg, Virginia
24073. The purpose of the
public hearing is to receive
public comments
concerning:
A. Conditional Use Permit
request by Main Street
Preservation LLC, Property
Owner, and Joseph L.
Simmons, Applicant, to
allow residential use,
specifically the
construction of ten (10)
townhomes, in the General
Business District (B-3) on
property located at 511
Roanoke Street, identified
as Tax Parcel 528-((35))-1
(Parcel ID 031706), and
consisting of approximately
of 1.008 acres. The property
is designated as
Business/Commercial on
the Future Land Use Map of
the 2013 Christiansburg
Comprehensive Plan.
A copy of the applications,
the Town's Zoning Map,
Zoning Ordinance, and
Future Land Use Map may
be viewed in the Planning
Department Office, 100 E.
Main Street, Christiansburg,
VA 24073 during normal
office hours of 8:00 a.m. –
5:00 p.m. Monday through
Friday.
Contact Retta Jackson,
Planning Director, at (540)
382-6128, ext. 1120 or by
email at
rjackson@christiansburg.org
g, with any questions or if
you require reasonable
accommodations.



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Legals - Montgomery County

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG PLANNING COMMISSION

The Town of Christiansburg
Planning Commission will
hold a Public Hearing on
Monday, July 28, 2025, at
7:00 PM in the Council
Chambers of the
Christiansburg Town Hall,
100 E. Main Street,
Christiansburg, Virginia
24073, pursuant to Sections
15.2-2204 and 15.2-2285 of
the Code of Virginia, as
amended. The purpose of
the public hearing is to
receive public comments
concerning:

A. Rezoning request by
DW, LLC, Property Owner
and Applicant, to rezone
property located on the
north side of Brammer Lane
NE, and adjacent to the
east side of 2500 Brammer
Lane NE, consisting of
approximately 2.57 acres,
identified as all of Tax
Parcel 501 - (1) - 13D,
Parcel ID 021972; a portion
of Tax Parcel 501 - (1) -
13F, Parcel ID 025070; a
portion of Tax Parcel 501 -
(1) - 13D1, Parcel ID
300315; and a portion of
Tax Parcel 80 - (5) - 1,
Parcel ID 033688; from
Agricultural District (A) to
General Industrial District (I-
2). The property is
designated as Industrial on
the Future Land Use Map of
the 2013 Christiansburg
Comprehensive Plan.

B. Conditional Use Permit
request by Lauren-Ashley
Elizabeth Potts and Dustin
Storm Potts, Property
Owners and Applicant, to
allow for a single-chair
beauty parlor as a major
home occupation on
property located at 450
Hemlock Street NE,
identified as Tax Parcel 529
- ((19)) - 3 (Parcel ID
024689), consisting of 0.331
acre, in the Two-Family
Residential (R-2) District.
The property is designated
as Residential on the Future
Land Use Map of the 2013
Christiansburg
Comprehensive Plan.

Town Hall will be open and
available to receive public
comment in-person at the
time of this Public Hearing.
A copy of the application,
the Town's Zoning Map,
Zoning Ordinance, and
Future Land Use Map may
be viewed in the Planning
Department Office, 100 E.
Main Street, Christiansburg,
VA 24073, during normal
office hours of 8:00 a.m. –
5:00 p.m. Monday through
Friday. Contact Retta
Jackson, Planning Director,
at (540) 382-6128, Ext.
1120 or by email at
rjackson@christiansburg.org
g, with any questions or if
you require reasonable
accommodations.

STATEWIDE ADS

AUCTIONS

ATTN. AUCTIONEERS:
Promote your upcoming auctions
statewide! Affordable Print and
Digital Solutions reaching your
target audience. Call this paper
or Landon Clark at Virginia
Press Services 804-521-7576,
landon@vpva.net

HOME IMPROVEMENT

Vinyl Replacement Windows
Installed! Starting at \$350 Call
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Ronnie Jenkins II Windows,
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transferable warranty. Call
today 1-877-614-6667 to
schedule a FREE inspection
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Plus get 20% off! Seniors and
military save an additional
10%. Restrictions apply, see
representative for warranty and
offer details

Prepare for power outages today
with a Generac Home Standby
Generator. Act now to receive a
FREE 7-Year warranty with
qualifying purchase. Call 1-844-
947-1479 today to schedule
a free quote. It's not just a
generator. It's a power move.

Legals - Montgomery County

Order of Publication

Case No. **CA25000006-00**
COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA VA CODE 1-211 1, 8.01-316, -317, 20-104 MONTGOMERY COUNTY Circuit Court 55 EAST MAIN STREET, SUITE 1, CHRISTIANSBURG, VA 24073

ADDRESS OF COURT Commonwealth of Virginia, in re. DAVID PRINE v. COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

The object of this suit is to: ADOPTION OF ANA MARIA GUTIERREZ CORREA

It is ORDERED that NELSON DE JESUS GUTIERREZ PINO

appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before. AUGUST 20, 2025 6/18/2025 Honorable K. Mike Fleenor, Jr. Judge

STATEWIDE ADS

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Financing available. Call Safe
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to last a lifetime! Limited Time
Offer – up to 50% off installation
+ Additional 10% off install (for
military, health workers & 1st
responders.) Call Erie Metal
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The bathroom of your dreams in
as little as 1 day. Limited Time
Offer - \$1000 off or No Payments
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for customers who qualify. BCI
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\$475+\$86 court cost.
WILLS-\$295.00. No court
appearance. Estimated
completion time twenty-one
days. Hilton Oliver, Attorney
(Facebook). 757-490-0126. Se
Habla Espanol. BBB Member.
https://hiltonoliverattorneyva.com.

Portable Oxygen Concentrator
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Reclaim independence and
mobility with the compact design
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or headaches. Sell your car
to Peddle. Easy three step
process. Instant offer. Free
pickup. Fast payment. Call
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Legals - City of Radford

Public Notice is hereby given that pursuant to VA State Code 15.2-1719 Radford City Police Department

is advertising a
list of found and unclaimed
property which is currently
being stored in our evidence
room. If you have lost
property and it matches the
descriptions below, please
call (540)731-3624 to
identify and claim your
property.
Bicycles, Wallets,
Backpacks, U.S. Currency,
Cell Phones, Computers,
Firearms, Flashlights,
Chainsaws, Medical
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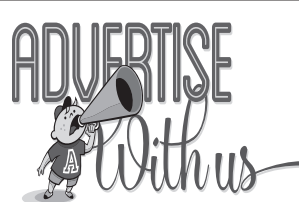
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Fire & EMS launches Pay-Per-Call incentive program to boost volunteer engagement

The Botetourt County Department of Fire & EMS is launching a new Pay-Per-Call Incentive Program aimed at recognizing and rewarding the dedication of its volunteer personnel. The initiative, effective July 1, is part of the department’s broader efforts to enhance recruitment, improve retention, and support active volunteer participation in fire and EMS operations.

The program establishes a structured payment system, with financial incentives ranging from \$5 to \$20 per call, based on individual certification levels and roles, including volunteer operational officer positions. Additional compensation is available for volunteers who reach designated training milestones.

“This initiative is an important way for the county and its citizens to show appreciation for the time, training, and commitment of our volunteers,” said Walter Michael, Board of Supervisors member for the Blue Ridge District and Fire & EMS Committee member. “Their dedication plays a vital role in protecting our communities and properties.”

Volunteers who meet participation requirements, including maintaining accurate records via response tracking software and completing training through the department’s learning management system, may also qualify for an annual bonus of up to \$100.

To further support skill development, the program offers special incentives of up to \$1,000 for volunteers who achieve initial certifications – such as Firefighter I, Firefighter II, or Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) – and remain active for at least six months following certification.

“This program takes recruitment and retention efforts to the next level,” said Zach Beckner, fire chief of Troutville Volunteer Fire Department. “It reinforces the importance of consistency in emergency response and acknowledges the value of each volunteer’s commitment to the community.”

To qualify, volunteers must remain in good standing with their station and meet the minimum training and documentation requirements outlined in the Botetourt Fire & EMS Pay-Per-Call policy.

“This has been a collaborative effort supported at every level,” said Botetourt Fire & EMS Chief Jason Ferguson. “The backing of the Board of Supervisors and county administration has been essential in implementing initiatives that strengthen public safety and community resilience.”

Those interested in volunteering are encouraged to get involved. A volunteer fire academy is scheduled to begin in August, making now an ideal time to join. For more information or to sign up, visit www.botetourtfireems.org.



botetourtfireems.org.
- Fincastle Herald staff report

Eagle Rock Ruritans hear about bees at Club June meeting

**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
OF THE BOTETOURT COUNTY
PLANNING COMMISSION**

The Botetourt County Planning Commission will hold a public hearing Monday, July 14, 2025, at 6:00 PM in the Botetourt County Administration Center at 57 S. Center Drive, Daleville, Virginia to consider and receive comment on the following:

Valley District: Shadwell Properties LLC requests a rezoning of a 7.0458-acre parcel from the Agricultural (A-1) Use District to the Residential (R-3) Use District with possible proffered conditions. This parcel is located on 7812 Sanderson Drive, Roanoke, including a portion extending across Sanderson Drive (State Route 605) adjacent to the Norfolk Southern railroad tracks, identified on the Tax Map as 107-1E.

Valley District: Botetourt County requests a Special Exception Permit, with possible conditions, for government buildings, functions for the purpose of a 911 complex on a 2.225-acre parcel in the Industrial, M-1 Use District. This parcel is located at 43 East Park Drive, Roanoke, identified on the Tax Map as 108(13)1.

The Eagle Rock Ruritan Club is grateful to the VFW-Daleville Ladies Auxiliary for providing the meal for the June meeting at the Eagle Rock Community Center on Tuesday evening, June 17, after the traditional singing of “My Country, ’Tis of Thee” and an invocation.

Guests for the June meeting were Dan and Julie Baker, who presented the program all about bees. The Bakers are members of the Botetourt Beekeepers Association and owners of Fincastle Apiary. The program was a fascinating reminder of the importance of honey bees, as well as other pollinators. Club members learned such interesting facts about bees as the three types of bees in each hive, their specific jobs in the hive, their approximate life span, and the number of them that make up the average hive.

Julie reminded members of some of the harmful aspects of local environments

that have a negative impact on bees such as pesticides and herbicides. Bees are also susceptible to parasitic mites. Extreme weather conditions also affect the health of the hive.

Julie suggested some things that all can do to have a positive effect on the success of bee hives, such as adding native plants to landscape schemes, preferably deer- and drought-resistant plants that have a long-lasting blooming season. Group planting of three to five of the same kind of plants in an area helps bees to gather more pollen in a shorter period of time. Bees are known to travel as far as two miles to gather pollen.

The Bakers brought a section of a hive (minus the queen) so the Ruritans could see bees at work safely enclosed in a Plexiglas container. The members expressed their appreciation to the Bakers for their

dedication to the vital role as members of the Botetourt Beekeepers Association.

In other business, the club was reminded of upcoming events: the Community Fellowship Meal at noon on July 14 at the Eagle Rock Community Center; the Senior Social on July 25 at 11:30 at Fincastle Baptist Church; and the next Ruritan meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 15 at the Community Center when the club will honor

the Ruritan Scholarship recipients and their families.

The meeting adjourned with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The Eagle Rock Community, home of the Eagle Rock Ruritan Club, is available for use by individuals and groups for a nominal fee to help with utilities. Call 540-884-2775 to make reservations.

- Submitted by Robert McCrae



Dan and Julie Baker PHOTO COURTESY EAGLE ROCK RURITANS

Letters

from page 4

however, it will be slower growth than with one large production facility with a thousand or more employees all at once.

Now, I know there

are concerns about data centers, especially with how many have popped up in Northern Virginia. But, there is a difference in having a data center here versus other parts of the Commonwealth. The difference – in places like that, they have put these facilities right next to schools, neighborhoods, and previous battlefields. That is not the case here. Greenfield is the perfect spot for a project like this. It is already zoned for industrial and data center use. It will also be located in the heart of our industrial development.

If you visit Greenfield’s industrial park today, you will see it is already home to manufacturing plants working on everything from auto parts to heavy-duty equipment. And the minute you leave the park, you are back in

the beautiful landscapes of Botetourt – with stunning views of the Blue Ridge and Appalachian Mountains.

This is all part of a plan our county leaders put in place more than 30 years ago. They made sure Greenfield was set up for industry, with infrastructure and zoning in place to attract businesses. Back in the day, the word “data center” probably did not even exist. Thanks to their foresight, we’ve seen millions in investments focused in one area, and now this new project will utilize and add value to the success of Greenfield without adding more traffic.

As a lifelong conservative and proud supporter of President Donald Trump who, during his first days back in the White House, announced private sector investment of up to \$500 billion to fund infrastructure for artificial

intelligence (and data centers) during his term as president. This project in Botetourt is in line with the goals of the White House. This is why this private investment in Botetourt is such a big deal because it can be considered part of a larger goal.

As one of your leaders, I feel strongly that we need to seize this opportunity to protect our county from over-taxation and uncontrolled growth, so we can keep Botetourt’s unique character for years to come. This project will provide non-citizen dollars to assist with funding schools, local government operations and first responders. This is a way to finance the best service available and have someone else pay for them.

If you have any questions about this new project, please do not hesitate to reach out directly to me. My door is always open.

Walter Michael
Blue Ridge District
Botetourt County Board of Supervisors

Stockyard Report	
Monday's sale at the Roanoke-Hollins Stockyard:	
Head Count Not Reported	
GRADED STEERS	
400-499	\$261.00-\$375.00
500-599	\$235.00-\$356.00
600-699	\$303.00
GRADED BULLS	
400-499	\$343.00
600-699	\$279.00
GRADED HEIFERS	
400-499	\$252.00-\$319.00
500-599	\$255.00-\$325.00
600-699	\$181.00
700-799	\$287.00
KILL COWS	
\$62.00- \$170.00	
KILL BULLS	
\$150.00- \$185.00	

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NOTICE
Botetourt County Government Offices and Libraries will be closed on Friday, July 4, 2025, in observance of Independence Day. The Office of Elections and the Botetourt County Landfill will also be closed on Friday, July 4.

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Fincastle needs donations for the July 6 fireworks show!

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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, July 10, 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. July 10, 2025 at: <https://forms.gle/9vZoPXyxZR8bgEoQ6> or by contacting Susan Albert, School Board Clerk, at (540) 473-8263 or by email at salbert@bcps.k12.va.us.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SHANTELE CROUCH

Martin

from page 1

the farm offers frozen meats and sausage throughout the summer.

A large garden on the farm supplies the fresh produce sold in the on-site store. During the warmer months, customers can find items like yellow and red tomatoes, corn, squash, peaches, and oranges. Corn grown on the farm also supports livestock needs, either as silage or supplemental hay.

Joe says his family has stuck with many of the same farming practices for generations. Their approach includes no-till planting when possible and using manure from livestock to enrich the soil after harvests—methods that have worked well over the years.

“We’ve pretty much stayed with the same practices,” Joe Martin said in a recent interview. “Traditional livestock management has always worked for us.”

Now in its 70th year, Martin Farms has transformed significantly since its founding. In the early days, Hubert Martin relied on limited mechanization – tractors and basic tools were just beginning to become common. As a result, farm operations progressed at a slower pace. Over time, however, Martin Farms has embraced innovation to improve efficiency and ease the burden on farmers.

“We’ve come a long way from what we used to be,” Joe Martin said in a recent interview. “Back in the day, you had to do everything by hand. You put up all the hay by hand. Now, it’s mostly mechanized equipment that does most of the work.”

Joe shared that one of the first major improvements on the farm was the addition of a front-end loader for a tractor. The ability to move feed and load hay mechanically marked a turning point in their operations.

“When we got one of them (loaders), we thought we had it made,” Joe laughed. “When we got our first round baler, it was one of the first ones in the area. So, I mean, some people would line up along the road to watch you bail hay (back then).”

That development came in the 1970s. Today, Joe uses advanced GPS systems to

assist with tasks like planting corn.

“The most recent thing I got is this new GPS stuff,” Joe continued. “We’re planting corn with it. It keeps the rows lined up – you don’t have to go by a row marker. That’s a big improvement.”

Joe explained that this technology saves time and effort once learned. Although GPS guidance is widely used in large-scale operations across the country, it has been slower to catch on in Botetourt County. “Farming is not in a big way like it is in the Midwest,” he noted.

While modern tools have made farming more manageable, the future of small farms in Botetourt remains uncertain – not necessarily because of suburban expansion, but due to waning interest among younger generations. Joe expressed concern that fewer young people are willing to embrace the long hours and physically demanding nature of farm life.

“Unless more young people get interested in farming, it isn’t going to go very much further,” Joe said. “Kids need to be educated in school programs to learn where their food comes from. The farming population’s old. Some farmers don’t have people to take over what they got.”

Jason Martin, Joe’s nephew, and his wife, Kim, run Catawba View Dairy Farm on the Martin property. Their son and daughter represent the fourth generation of Martins on the land.

Still, Joe worries about the growing trend of farmland being sold off, as is happening throughout much of the Midwest. There, rising land values and lack of interest from younger generations have made small family farms increasingly vulnerable to buyouts by large corporations and investment groups.

“To get somebody really interested in farming, maybe it’s not a person that’s 18 or 20 years old, but somebody that’s younger than (the farmer) – let them get on board and help them along,” Martin said. “A lot of times, they end up giving them what they got (because) they don’t really have anybody to leave it to.

“We’ve got the dairy farm up there,

Buchanan Lions award scholarships

At its meeting on Tuesday, June 24, the Buchanan Lions Club awarded \$750 scholarships to Lainey Stephenson and Emily Woodson. Both girls are 2025 James River High School graduates. Lainey will be attending Ohio State University this fall with a planned major in Welding Engineering. Emily is planning on continuing her immediate education at Mountain Gateway Community College and then transferring to a four-year university.

Funding for these scholarships was raised during the 2024 Buchanan Carnival, during which the Lions ran the Bingo stand. The 2025 Carnival is currently underway and will provide funding for scholarships in 2026.

~ Buchanan Lions Club



PHOTO BY MATT DE SIMONE

Joe Martin, his wife Lori Miles (center), and niece Kim Martin holding her daughter Lindsey



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARTIN FARMS

The farm specializes in pork products—including sausage, ham, pork chops, and liver pudding.

so (my nieces and nephews) can make a living. If (farmers) have children that come on board, they have to do more because they have to make a living, too. In my view, that deters a lot of young people from farming. If you’re not dedicated, you’re not going to (be successful).”

In addition to the on-site store at the farm on Martin Lane, the farm currently

sells its sausage at Ikenberry Orchards in Daleville, The Heritage Market in Fincastle, and The Country Crate in Buchanan.

As Martin Farms enters its eighth decade, its future shines bright, supported by the next generation’s dedication to honoring the farm’s legacy while bringing fresh energy and innovation to life on the land.

Board

from page 2

project in Buchanan is mainly for resurfacing improvements, Morales explained.

Vice Chair Mac Scothorn asked the board if there was room for more courts there and if there are grant opportunities to potentially develop another set of courts beside Buchanan’s current set. Morales spoke about some available grants that could potentially help in doing that in the future. Scothorn thinks that looking into an additional court or two should be up for review.

Amsterdam Supervisor Steve Clinton raised a point regarding responsible use of the county’s tax dollars. “It’s the board’s role to gain optimum use of a tax dollar... It does seem that a

combined use court is the best use of taxpayer dollars and it’s something we’ve been talking about and doing for some time. So, I’m having a hard time getting off of that despite that commitment and enthusiasm of (the James River girls tennis team) is certainly compelling... I just don’t think this is the best use of taxpayer dollars.”

Clinton asked Morales about the prevalence of dual use courts for high school tennis matches or practices. The Parks & Rec director responded that tennis courts are most likely dedicated to strictly tennis as opposed to high school basketball courts that double as volleyball courts. He explained that the division

lies in that “school boards tend to fund athletic projects (in schools). County governments tend to fund non-athletic facilities (like parks). When it comes to match play, Morales added, there are usually a set of practice courts for schools and another set of courts for match play in most counties or cities “for convenience purposes.”

Moorman made mention that what is “most prevalent for school team play is school-developed courts on school property.” Clinton then asked how long the courts would be in use for the team with White explaining the team uses the court both in-season and off for around six months out of

the year.

Fincastle Supervisor Brandon Nicely remarked that he liked the idea of building an additional court for Buchanan, jokingly comparing it to going to the SPCA to get a cat, “you always get two.” He thinks that maybe a better idea to consider is building courts on James River’s campus instead of at the elementary school in the future.

The county received a request on behalf of the James River girls tennis team to refrain from marking the Buchanan courts for pickleball, or to use only temporary tape for dual-use lines. In response, the board took public comments

from student athletes and school staff asking that at least one court remain dedicated to tennis without additional pickleball markings.

After discussion, the board ultimately approved a modified version of the original plan – only painting pickleball lines on one of the courts at Buchanan Elementary, balancing community interest in expanded pickleball access with the needs of James River’s student athletes.

“We have to move forward with these courts,” White concluded prior to the board’s ruling. “The public has paid for this and deserves to be able to use them.”

Google

from page 1

revenue and enable Botetourt to expand its community programs and projects.

The sale of the 300-acre parcel to Google – purchased for approximately \$14 million, with an additional \$4 million in community investments – has already produced revenue that will go toward funding key county services, including public safety, community programming, and education.

The county worked alongside the Roanoke Regional Partnership, the Virginia Economic Development Partnership, and Appalachian Power to bring this opportunity to fruition. As part of the incentive structure, the Botetourt County EDA sold the land to Google for \$45,000 per acre, slightly below its listed price of \$50,000 per acre.

When reaching out to administration last week, officials responded clarifying that while the specific development timeline has not yet been publicly announced, the project will involve multiple steps before construction can begin. These include finalizing design plans, securing permits, and coordinating with state and local agencies. Updates on timing will be provided as the project progresses.

While the exact number of jobs the project will create has not been confirmed, officials noted that a facility of this nature typically brings a broad ripple effect across various sectors of the local economy. More information about employment opportunities is expected in the near future.

As for the financial impact, Botetourt leaders emphasized that Google’s capital investment in both real estate improvements and high-tech equipment is expected to result in major direct revenue for the county. Although the full investment total has not been publicly disclosed, officials described the magnitude as “a game changer.”

Data centers, the press release noted, are the engines powering modern digital life – from email and credit card transactions to mobile phone usage. Botetourt County could soon become one of those critical connection points. These facilities, officials added, typically require minimal local services while delivering high tax revenues, making them ideal economic partners for rural communities like Botetourt.

Elected leaders and partners celebrated the announcement in the release:

“We are always looking for communities that have the innovative and collaborative leadership necessary to bring complex projects like data center campuses to life, and we are optimistic about the partnership we’ve built so far with Botetourt and the entire Roanoke region,” said Amber Tillman, Google’s head of Data Center Public Affairs, North America.

Botetourt County Board of Supervisors Chair Amy White added, “This transformational project will relieve the pressure for further economic development in Botetourt County and allow us to continue our deep support of community needs like public safety and education, while reducing pressure on the taxpayer.”

Governor Glenn Youngkin also praised the project: “Google has invested significantly in the Commonwealth, and I am proud that they have chosen Botetourt County as the site of their newest data center. This latest investment reinforces Virginia’s global leadership in the industry.”

County Administrator Larowe emphasized the broader potential of the partnership, especially in artificial intelligence: “A data center campus also allows us to become a leader in AI in rural communities. Who would have ever thought that one of the largest private investments in the history of western Virginia might land in Botetourt?”

The Roanoke Regional Partnership’s John Hull echoed the enthusiasm: “The emerging AI industry will be a huge economic driver, and this investment shows that the Roanoke Region could be at the forefront of developing this technology.”

Delegate Terry Austin called the decision “a tremendous win” that could help strengthen schools, reduce county debt, and support infrastructure and workforce development.

Supervisor Steve Clinton reflected on the original vision for the Greenfield business park, saying, “Today’s announcement fulfills that vision far beyond what, I think, any of us hoped in our wildest imaginations.”

Supervisor Brandon Nicely emphasized the balance between development and rural preservation: “Bringing a revenue-generating data center campus to Greenfield helps alleviate pressure on future leaders while maintaining the county’s rural character.”

Supervisors Vice Chair Dr. Mac Scothorn called Google’s interest “a testimony to the massive potential our county holds,” and Supervisor Walter Michael assured residents that the facility will be located within the existing business park, alongside other industrial users, minimizing any disruption.

Appalachian Power President & COO Aaron Walker said, “Google’s presence not only strengthens the local economy but also highlights our ability to provide reliable and efficient energy solutions.”

Senator Chris Head said the project “will transform Botetourt County and the entire region,” marking a milestone as the first data center project in western Virginia on the AEP system.

For additional information and community updates, residents are encouraged to visit the project FAQ page at www.botetourtva.gov/greenfield.

