



A rendering of the Buchanan Library's current location's renovated façade that would feature new storefront windows, downlit/straight metal canopy, new sign.



Birdseye view showing potential outdoor spaces and parking at the library if relocated to 17720 Main Street, including gated children's play area on left and patio seating in front.

GRAPHICS COURTESY OF BOTETOURT CO.

Botetourt County weighs options for future of Buchanan Library

Matt de Simone

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Botetourt County is in the early stages of a due-diligence process to determine the future location of the Buchanan Library, a long-anticipated project made possible by a \$3.5 million Google grant and a commitment to the community that dates back nearly three decades.

County officials stress that no decision has been made. The process is intended to evaluate whether the library would best serve residents by remaining in its historic downtown building on Main Street or relocating to a former commercial property commonly known as the old Dollar General, also within the Town of Buchanan.

To promote transparency, the county recently launched an interactive webpage outlining both options, the studies underway and opportunities for public input. Officials have also addressed questions circulating on social media, including confusion sparked by a "sale pending" sign posted

at the former Dollar General property.

County Communications Director Brent Watts said the sign reflects the county's option on the property while studies are conducted.

"That's kind of a technicality right now that they (the seller) do because the property is on hold so that we could have the option to purchase it if we need to, if we want to, or go that option," Watts said.

The existing Buchanan Library is located at 19795 Main Street, in a building constructed in the 1920s that once housed a store and later apartments. Botetourt County purchased the building in 1998, and the library relocated there from Lowe Street with approximately 5,500 square feet of finished space, with the understanding that additional space would be completed later.

Library Director Julie Phillips said the current building presents several operational limitations.

"One of the biggest things we've run into is people want quiet study

See Buchanan Library, page 10

Courthouse renovation remains on schedule, official tells Fincastle council

Matt de Simone

mattdesimone@mainstreetnewspapers.com

The Fincastle Town Council heard a largely steady-status update on the Botetourt County Circuit Courthouse renovation and an end-of-year report from Town Manager Melanie McFadyen during its regular meeting last Thursday evening.

County Capital Projects Manager Rich Evans told council and residents that the courthouse project remains on schedule for completion in September 2027 and that there has been no major

change in the overall timeline.

"There isn't really any significant news," Evans said, noting that construction continues to progress despite the complexity of the site.

Evans said about 95% of rock hammering has been completed and that crews are nearing the point of setting structural steel, a milestone expected to begin once backfilling is finished. He said the installation of steel should take roughly six weeks and will mark a visible shift in the project's progress.

See Fincastle, page 10



PHOTO BY MATT DE SIMONE

Botetourt County Capital Projects Manager Rich Evans gave a report on the Circuit Courthouse renovation project to Fincastle Town Council last week.



BCPS Teachers of the Year Daryl Hylton (CAMS), Madison Lantz (Division Teacher of the Year - Troutville Elementary), Emily Keogh (Greenfield Elementary) and BCPS Superintendent Dr. Janet Womack

BCPS honors employees, adopts CIP

Matt de Simone

Managing Editor

At its Jan. 8 meeting in Fincastle, the Botetourt County School Board celebrated the achievements of outstanding employees and teachers, elected leadership, and approved a multi-million-dollar plan to improve school facilities.

Superintendent Dr. Janet Womack presented the December 2025 Employees of the Month. Maintenance Foreman Danny Broughman

was praised for his responsiveness and teamwork in handling building maintenance issues, including fire alarm procedures. Troy Linkenhoker, coordinator of Trade & Industry at the Botetourt Technical Education Center, was recognized for consistently going "above and beyond for his students every single day," according to his nominator.

Womack also highlighted the county's 2025-26 Teachers of the Year, celebrated at

a December banquet at Hotel Roanoke. Madison Lantz of Troutville Elementary School was named Division Teacher of the Year. Other awardees include Amanda Schulz (Breckinridge Elementary), Teresa Witt (Buchanan Elementary), Jen Stuart (Cloverdale Elementary), Stacey Harris (Colonial Elementary), Megan May (Eagle Rock Elementary), Emily Keogh (Greenfield Elementary), Daryl Hylton (Central Academy

See BCPS, page 5

New ambulances being placed in service

Botetourt County Fire & EMS will place three new ambulances into service this week, officials announced last Thursday.

The ambulances, ordered in October 2022, were delivered near the end of 2025 and are now ready to serve the Botetourt County community.

The public is invited to attend push-in ceremonies for each apparatus at the following locations:

- Wednesday, Jan. 14, at 2 p.m. at Buchanan Station 3, 19670 Main Street, Buchanan
- Thursday, Jan. 15, at 2 p.m. at Fincastle Station 4, 25 Vine Street,

Fincastle

- Friday, Jan. 16, at 9 a.m. at Read Mountain Station 7, 43 Eastpark Drive, Roanoke

The new ambulances will replace aging, high-mileage units throughout the fleet and refresh primary service ambulances staffed to respond 24 hours a day in these service areas.

County officials expressed appreciation for community support in providing the new ambulances, which will enhance emergency medical services for residents and visitors.

- Fincastle Herald staff report



PHOTO COURTESY OF BOTETOURT CO.

Three new ambulances will be placed into service beginning this Wednesday at the Buchanan fire station at 2 p.m. The community is invited to attend these ceremonies.



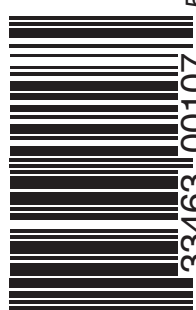
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Botetourt County History



PHOTO COURTESY OF BCMHC

One of Botetourt County's first planned developments was called Howerytown near Daleville. Jacob Howery bought property in 1786 and 1794. He had a Stagecoach Inn and Tavern on the Great Wagon Road.

Beginning on June 1, 1795, Jacob took a block of his land and made 40 lots, which he sold to 23 people. Howerytown became a thriving hamlet in 1835 and is shown on the 1839 county survey.

Then the roads were changed. Brick Union Road had gone into Howerytown Road and continued to Amsterdam then went west. When Route 11 was built and went through Troutville, Howerytown was not an important location. Today only archaeological fragments remain.

The location of Howerytown is shown on the map done by Hildebrand of the Greenfield-Amsterdam community and this is a close up of it. The map is now hanging on the Botetourt Museum of History & Culture wall above the display made by the Historic Greenfield Advisory Council.

More information can be found in The Fincastle Herald March 12, 2008 front page article: "Could Ashley Plantation have been Howrytown?" There was also an August 3, 1872 Fincastle Herald article about Howerytown reprinted in The New York Times.

- Botetourt County Museum of History & Culture

Buchanan town manager gives report for January meeting

Buchanan Town Manager Timothy Mack reported steady progress across several departments, along with ongoing financial and infrastructure challenges, in his January update included in the Town Council's January agenda packet.

On the financial side, Town Treasurer Claudine Stump continues to manage multiple responsibilities while working to resolve accounting alignment issues stemming from the town's transition between financial systems. In addition to handling payroll, accounts payable and Freedom of Information Act requests, Stump is preparing for tax season and training newly hired Town Clerk Hannah Crawford, who began work in late November and will also serve as the town's FOIA officer.

Because the December Town Council meeting was canceled, staff provided two months of budget summaries. The General Fund is trending upward and remains on pace to meet budgeted goals. Local tax revenues have remained strong, with several large payments expected later in the fiscal year, including bank stock and business license taxes. Personal property tax revenues



FILE GRAPHIC

are below projections due to billing errors affecting several businesses, which staff are working to correct and collect.

The Water Fund remains stable, although costs for repairs, maintenance services and supplies continue to rise. The Sewer Fund remains the town's most pressing financial concern, as maintenance expenses, contractor services, sludge removal and equipment rentals have exceeded budgeted levels despite relatively steady revenues.

Public Works staff members Scott Knick and Wally Muterspaugh addressed several significant issues during the month, including overseeing repairs to a

water leak on Water Street and assisting with leaks on Main Street and in the Carson Hill area. They also responded to multiple sewer backups, including persistent issues near 13th Street and Culpepper, and spent time winterizing town equipment and vulnerable water meters. Mack personally commended both employees for their efforts.

Problems at the town's digester continue, with sludge pumping ongoing as contractors work to reach the bottom of the unit to identify the source of the malfunction. Staff estimate another seven to eight feet remain and may

See Report, page 10

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF A PETITION BY APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF A RECALCULATED MINIMUM BILL AND TARIFF FOR ITS SHARED SOLAR PROGRAM, PURSUANT TO VIRGINIA CODE § 56-594.4
CASE NO. PUR-2025-00175

On October 31, 2025, Appalachian Power Company ("APCo" or "Company") filed a petition ("Petition") with the State Corporation Commission ("Commission") pursuant to the Commission's September 26, 2025 Order Initiating Proceeding and § 56-594.4 of the Code of Virginia ("Code") for approval of a recalculated minimum bill and tariff for APCo's shared solar program. The Company proposes a minimum bill rate of \$34.59 per 1,000 kilowatt-hours ("kWh"), and further requests approval of a proposed Subscriber Tariff (Schedule SSP-S).

According to the Petition, the Company largely followed the methodology approved by the Commission for APCo's initial shared solar minimum bill proceeding in Case No. PUR-2025-00028 ("APCo Minimum Bill Final Order"), which includes both fixed and volumetric costs. APCo states that the Company's minimum bill recalculation includes fixed costs such as the Customer Charge and the Administrative Charge. APCo continues to propose that the existing Customer Charge apply from the applicable tariff under which a customer takes service. The Company states that the Administrative Charge is appropriately set at \$1 because the Company's shared solar program is still in its early stages, and APCo does not yet have an updated estimate of the costs of program administration.

APCo states that the Company includes as proposed volumetric costs: (1) Statutorily Non-Bypassable Generation Charges; (2) Base Distribution Charges; (3) Distribution Rate Adjustment Clause ("RAC") Charges; and (4) Transmission RAC charges.

APCo asserts that its proposed minimum bill also includes five Non-Bypassable charges which are statutorily mandated: Rider Percentage of Income Payment Program (PIPP); Rider Broadband Capacity (BC) RAC; Rider RPS ("Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard") Compliance A.5; Rider PCAP Capacity A.5; and Rider Renewables Capacity A.6. Additionally, APCo explains that its proposed minimum bill includes base distribution charges from the applicable tariff under which a customer takes service, including the Rider Energy Efficiency RAC and the Company's Transmission RAC for transmission charges.

The Company states that prior to the consideration of benefits, the Company's proposed gross minimum bill equals \$89.25 for a customer who uses 1,000 kWh of grid electricity per month and subscribes for the same amount.

The Company asserts that it quantified benefits to the electric grid and the Commonwealth pursuant to the APCo Minimum Bill Final Order, and that such benefits were calculated similarly to how the benefits of utility-scale, distribution-interconnected solar facilities have been presented to and approved by the Commission in the past. The Company proposes to include credits for shifted PJM Interconnection, LLC ("PJM") zonal transmission costs, avoided load-based ancillary service costs, and Renewable Energy Certificates ("RECs") generated by the shared solar facilities, which would be used to comply with the Company's Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard obligations under the Virginia Clean Economy Act ("VCEA").

According to the Petition, the Company accounted for the Commission's directives in the APCo Minimum Bill Final Order, including the Commission's guidance about what benefits should be excluded and included in the minimum bill recalculation. Specifically, the Company states that it adhered to the Commission's directive to exclude from the minimum bill recalculation the benefits of Demand Reduction Induced Price Effect, any generation reliability cost, jobs and economic benefits, benefits that are already encompassed in the REC credit, and the avoided hedging risk premium.

APCo further states that the Company's REC credit on the proposed minimum bill recalculation encompasses the environmental attributes of renewable energy, as well as other potential RPS benefits. The Company asserts that the basis for the REC credit on the recalculated minimum bill is the Tier I Renewable Energy Premium component in APCo's Optional Rider W.W.S. (Wind, Water, and Sunlight) in effect over the period for the applicable subscriber's schedule. According to APCo, this aligns with the Commission's direction in the APCo Net Metering Final Order, in Case No. PUR-2024-00161.

To calculate the proposed transmission credit, the Company states that it utilized the average generation output from two 5-megawatt solar facilities that were operational throughout the 2024 calendar year. APCo calculated an average reduction of 1,061 kilowatts in peak load, and then used the Annual Network Integration Transmission (NITS) Rates for the AEP Transmission Zone to ascertain the annual avoided transmission cost credit. The Company states that it derived the annual avoided transmission cost credit rate by dividing this cost credit by the total generation. APCo further stated that it determined the ancillary service cost component rate by relying on its actual PJM Ancillary Services charges from 2024. According to the Company, both the transmission and ancillary services benefits were grossed up for average distribution line loss.

The Company states that it analyzed additional potential benefits for inclusion in the minimum bill, including avoided RPS compliance benefits and distribution benefits, but ultimately concluded that such benefits were not warranted.

In sum, the Company states that it determined the total proposed shared solar benefits to be \$54.66 per 1,000 kWh. The resultant minimum bill (net of benefits) the Company proposes in the Petition is thus \$34.59 per 1,000 kWh. According to the Company, the proposed minimum bill calculation would ensure that subscribing shared solar customers contribute their

fair share towards the Company's cost of retail electric service while minimizing cost shifts to non-subscribing customers. APCo also asserts that the proposed minimum bill would compensate subscribing customers for shifted transmission costs, avoided ancillary costs, and RECs transferred to the Company.

Interested persons are encouraged to review the Petition and supporting documents in full for details of the Company's proposals in this case.

The Commission entered an Order for Notice and Hearing in this proceeding that, among other things, scheduled public hearings on APCo's Petition. A hearing for the receipt of testimony from public witnesses on the Company's Petition shall be convened telephonically at 10 a.m. on May 28, 2026. On or before May 21, 2026, any person desiring to offer testimony as a public witness shall provide to the Commission: (a) your name, and (b) the telephone number that you wish the Commission to call during the hearing to receive your testimony. This information may be provided to the Commission: (i) by filling out a form on the Commission's website at scc.virginia.gov/case-information/webcasting; or (ii) by calling (804) 371-9141. This public witness hearing will be webcast at scc.virginia.gov/case-information/webcasting.

Beginning at 10 a.m. on May 28, 2026, the Hearing Examiner assigned to this matter will telephone sequentially each person who has signed up to testify as provided above.

On May 28, 2026, at 10 a.m., or at the conclusion of the public witness portion of the hearing, whichever is later, in the Commission's second floor courtroom located in the Tyler Building, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, the Hearing Examiner will convene a hearing to receive testimony and evidence related to the Petition from the Company, any respondents, and the Commission's Staff ("Staff").

To promote administrative efficiency and timely service of filings upon participants, the Commission has directed the electronic filing of testimony and pleadings, unless they contain confidential information, and has required electronic service on parties to this proceeding.

An electronic copy of the Company's Petition may be obtained by submitting a written request to counsel for the Company: Elisabeth M. Bruce, American Electric Power Service Corporation, 3 James Center, 1051 East Cary Street, Suite 1100, Richmond, Virginia 23219, or eb Bruce@aep.com. Interested persons may also download unofficial copies of the Petition and the public versions of other documents filed in this case from the Commission's website: scc.virginia.gov/case-information.

On or before May 21, 2026, any interested person may submit comments on the Petition by following the instructions found on the Commission's website: scc.virginia.gov/case-information/submit-public-comments. Those unable, as a practical matter, to submit comments electronically may file such comments by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the State Corporation Commission, c/o Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2118. All such comments shall refer to Case No. PUR-2025-00175.

On or before February 13, 2026, any person or entity wishing to participate as a respondent in this proceeding may do so by filing a notice of participation with the Clerk of the Commission at scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling. Those unable, as a practical matter, to file a notice of participation electronically may file such notice by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the Commission at the address listed above. Such notice of participation shall include the email addresses of such parties or their counsel, if available. The respondent simultaneously shall serve electronically a copy of the notice of participation on counsel to the Company, Staff, and all other respondents. Pursuant to 5 VAC 5-20-80 B, *Participation as a respondent*, of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, 5 VAC 5-20-10 *et seq.* ("Rules of Practice"), any notice of participation shall set forth: (i) a precise statement of the interest of the respondent; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent then known; and (iii) the factual and legal basis for the action. Any organization, corporation, or government body participating as a respondent must be represented by counsel as required by 5 VAC 5-20-30, *Counsel*, of the Rules of Practice. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2025-00175.

On or before March 13, 2026, each respondent may file with the Clerk of the Commission at scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling any testimony and exhibits by which the respondent expects to establish its case. Any respondent unable, as a practical matter, to file testimony and exhibits electronically may file such by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the Commission at the address listed above. Each witness's testimony shall include a summary not to exceed one page. All testimony and exhibits shall be served electronically on the Company, Staff, and all other respondents. In all filings, respondents shall comply with the Rules of Practice, as modified herein, including, but not limited to: 5 VAC 5-20-140, *Filing and service*, and 5 VAC 5-20-240, *Prepared testimony and exhibits*. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2025-00175.

Any documents filed in paper form with the Office of the Clerk of the Commission in this docket may use both sides of the paper. In all other respects, except as modified by the Commission's Order for Notice and Hearing, all filings shall comply fully with the requirements of 5 VAC 5-20-150, *Copies and format*, of the Rules of Practice.

The Company's Petition, the Rules of Practice, the Commission's Order for Notice and Hearing, and the public versions of other documents filed in the case may be viewed at: scc.virginia.gov/case-information.

APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF LYNNE BOLTON

Multi-talented artist’s work on display at The Glebe’s Gallery Walk

Darryl Dellis, a long-time resident of The Glebe, is a versatile artist, and this month’s display along the Gallery Walk shows off three areas of his expertise. There are his stained glass creations and his varied paintings. However, it is the vast display of his intarsia designs that will likely captivate the visitors. Intarsia could best be described as stained glass in wood. Intrigued? Come and visit the third floor Gallery Walk during January, and admire this talented gentleman’s work.

~Submitted by Lynne Bolton

Bank of Botetourt announces the retirement of Tammy Talbott, promotes employees

Bank of Botetourt has announced the retirement of Tammy S. Talbott, vice president, loan officer and portfolio manager, from the bank, marking the conclusion of a distinguished career in banking spanning more than three decades.

“Tammy’s contributions to the growth and success of the bank have been immeasurable,” said Ned Honts, executive vice president and chief operating officer. “For 25 years, Tammy has served our customers and community with exceptional professionalism, integrity and care. We are deeply grateful for her dedication and commitment to the bank, and we wish her continued happiness and fulfillment in retirement.”

Talbott joined Bank of Botetourt in 1999 and has more than 30 years of experience in the banking industry. Prior to her tenure with Bank of Botetourt, she served as a loan officer at the Bank

of Rockbridge, supporting both consumer and commercial lending. Throughout her career, she has been known for her strong customer relationships, sound judgment, and dedication to service.

A graduate of Bridgewater College and the Virginia Bankers Association School of Bank Management, Talbott has also demonstrated a deep commitment to the community. She has volunteered her time with organizations including Habitat for Humanity, Hospice, and Relay for Life. In retirement, Talbott looks forward to spending more time with her husband and family.

Additionally, Bank of Botetourt announces the internal promotions of Kristina H. Lima to assistant vice president and branch manager and Rachel E. Walker to deposit compliance officer.

“Kristina has demonstrated strong

leadership as branch manager of the Bonsack office, and Rachel has gained valuable knowledge within the Compliance Department at the Care Center,” said President and CEO Michelle R. Austin. “These internal promotions reflect the bank’s commitment to advancing employees who continue to excel in their roles, strengthening the bank and the communities it serves.”

Lima has been with the bank for more than a decade and will continue to oversee the Bonsack office in Roanoke County. She grew up in Botetourt County and graduated from James River High School. She later went on to further her education at Radford University, where she earned a degree in business and Spanish, which she speaks fluently. An avid traveler, Lima enjoys exploring new places with her husband, Alex.

Walker will continue to manage a strong



Recent Bank of Botetourt retiree Tammy S. Talbott and Vice President and COO Ned Honts



Kristina H. Lima



PHOTOS COURTESY OF BANK OF BOTETOURT
Rachel E. Walker

compliance program, ensuring deposit products and operations meet regulatory standards at the bank’s Care Center in Buchanan. She began her education at Virginia Western, where she obtained an associate degree in management, and is currently enrolled at Radford University, where she is earning her bachelor’s degree in business administration. Walker and her husband, Matthew, reside in Fincastle.

“Both Kristina and Rachel have made significant contributions in their respective roles, consistently supporting their teams and helping

the bank operate effectively,” said Chief Operating Officer Ned Honts. “Their new roles position them to make an even greater impact on the bank’s performance and the success of employees.”

~ Bank of Botetourt

Daleville/Fincastle Lions Club bingo fundraiser

An afternoon of bingo to benefit the Daleville/Fincastle Lions Club will be held Saturday, Jan. 17, at Bellacino’s, 1176 Roanoke Road, Daleville. Doors open at 11 a.m. to purchase food and dine in the banquet room where bingo will begin promptly at 12 p.m.

All bingo prizes will be Pampered Chef and Tupperware products, with a cover-all grand prize valued over \$100.

Tickets are sold in advance for \$20, which includes 10 rounds of bingo, a

door prize ticket, plus a cover-all (black out) round for the grand prize. Contact Lowell Skelton at 540-420-2427 or Diane Taylor at 540-520-7967 to reserve tickets.

There will be door prize drawings and a 50/50 drawing. Additional bingo cards, cover-all cards, and door prizes tickets will be available for purchase.

~ Daleville/Fincastle Lions Club

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Chamber Chatter



BOTETOVRT
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

FILE GRAPHIC

Botetourt County Chamber launches 2026 plans and events

The Botetourt County Chamber of Commerce is welcoming the start of 2026 with new members, new programming and continued opportunities for local businesses and community organizations, according to its most recent newsletter.

Chamber officials marked the new year with the launch of The Leader's Lounge, a new event series organized by the Emerging Leaders Committee. The kickoff gathering was held at Crooked Shoreline and drew a strong turnout, with registration filling before the event. The chamber said the evening provided an energetic environment for networking and connection and set the tone for future Leader's Lounge events planned later in the year.

The chamber also announced the addition of several new members, citing continued growth in the local business community. New members include Richard's Landscaping Inc., Mountain Thyme Honey & Gifts LLC, Merrill Lynch, Mike's Meals and Flex LLC. Chamber leaders said the new additions bring fresh energy as the organization begins the year.

An update was provided on the conclusion of the Tinsel Trail holiday display. All remaining decorations have been removed and are being stored at the chamber office. Decorators who wish to retrieve their items were asked to contact the office, while those preferring disposal can notify staff. The chamber thanked participants for contributing to the seasonal display.

The newsletter also highlighted a funding opportunity for small businesses

through the American Express Shop Small Grants Program, launched in partnership with Main Street America. The program will distribute \$5 million in grants, awarding \$20,000 each to 250 eligible small business owners nationwide. Applications opened on Small Business Saturday, Nov. 29, 2025, and will close Jan. 16, 2026. The chamber noted that additional funds may be added through American Express cardmember purchases made at qualifying small businesses.

In addition to chamber initiatives, several member organizations shared upcoming events and services. Botetourt Music Academy promoted music lessons and programs for all ages. The Daleville-Fincastle Lions Club announced a bingo event scheduled for Jan. 17 at Bellacino's in Daleville to support its community work. Good Samaritan Hospice highlighted its bereavement programs and grief relief workshops, emphasizing its role as the only non-profit, community-based hospice serving Southwest Virginia since 1992.

The chamber also encouraged participation in its committees, including the Ambassador Committee and the Ag Committee, inviting members to reach out for more information or to get involved.

Chamber leaders closed the update by expressing optimism for the year ahead, pointing to continued networking, collaboration and support for local businesses as key priorities moving into 2026.

- Fincastle Herald staff report

 **Mountain Gateway**
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

FILE GRAPHIC

MGCC Educational Foundation announces 2026 scholarship application window

Mountain Gateway Community College has announced that the Educational Foundation scholarship application window is now open for the 2026–2027 academic year. Students may apply for scholarships between Jan. 1 and Feb. 28.

The MGCC Educational Foundation uses a single, streamlined application that allows students to be considered for all available scholarships. After applications are submitted, the Foundation's Scholarship Committee reviews each file and matches applicants with appropriate awards based on academic achievement, financial need, and individual background.

Applications are available online through the college's scholarship portal (www.mgcc.edu/scholarships). As part of the process, students are required to submit a short personal essay, recent academic transcripts, and one letter of reference. Applicants provide the recommender's email address, and the system automatically sends a secure link for submission. Completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid is not required for all scholarships but is necessary to assess financial need and is mandatory for students seeking consideration for the Roadrunner Promise program.

The Roadrunner Promise is designed to help cover remaining educational costs after other forms of financial aid and scholarships have been applied. Students interested in the program must indicate their interest on the scholarship application, complete the FAFSA, and commit to eight hours of community service.

All scholarship applications and required materials must be submitted by Feb. 28. For questions regarding the application process or specific scholarship requirements, contact Jeanette Carey at 540-863-2914 or via email at jcarey@mgcc.edu.

- Fincastle Herald staff report

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BCPS

from page 1



BCPS Operations Director Andy Dewease, Employee of the Month Danny Broughman, and Fincastle School Board member Dana McCaleb



PHOTOS COURTESY OF BCPS

BTEC Principal Mike Ketron, Employee of the Month Troy Linkenhoker, and Valley District School Board member Tim Davidick

Middle School), Julia Stafford (Read Mountain Middle School), Chris Frost (Botetourt Technical Education Center), Chelsea Asbury (James River High School), and Mary Lewis (Lord Botetourt High School).

At the start of the meeting, the board held its annual organization, electing Anna Weddle as chair and

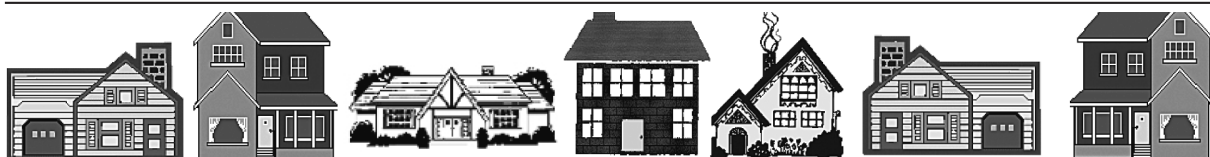
Matt East as vice chair.

The board also reviewed and adopted the FY 2027-FY 2031 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), outlining \$54.2 million in projects. The plan includes major upgrades to HVAC systems and school roofs, security and technology improvements, transportation fleet

replacements, additional classrooms, and athletic facility renovations. Superintendent Womack said the plan addresses both immediate operational needs and long-term educational priorities, ensuring safe, modern, and well-equipped learning environments for students and staff.

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tbenson@mkbrealtors.com





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

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD
New Beginnings Assembly of God, 1317 Narrow Passage Rd., 43 North. Sunday School, 10:00a.m.; Worship, 11a.m.; Wednesday Prayer & Bible Study, 6:00p.m., Pastor Steve Tremblay, email: pastorstvetremblay@gmail.com. Everyone welcome.
Troutville Assembly of God, 118 Conner Lane, P.O. Box 728, Troutville, VA 24175, Pastor Dennis Carroll, 540-960-1224, Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 a.m., Children's Church 11:00 a.m., Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 p.m., Everyone welcome.

INDEPENDENT BAPTIST
Crossroads Baptist Church - 1128 Wheatland Rd., Buchanan, Pastor Elmer Clemons, (540)761-5074 Home, Sunday School 10:00 A.M., Morning Worship, 11:00 A.M., Sunday Evening 5:30 P.M., Wednesday Prayer & Bible Study 5:30 P.M.
Faith Baptist Church—4258 Botetourt Rd., Fincastle, VA. 24090, Pastor, Dr. John W. Reynolds, Phone; 540-473-2325, Email: jwr56fbc@yahoo.com, Church website: fincastlefaith.com, Services: 10 A.M. Bible Expositions, 11 A.M. Worship & Children's Church, 7 P.M. Wednesday Bible Study & Prayer, Messages at www.youtube.com/@faithfbaptistchurch9219. We look forward to meeting you.
Lapsleys Run Baptist Church- 608 Zion Hill Road, Fincastle. 540-556-3504. Worship: 2nd & 4th Sundays at 11:00a.m.
New Hope Baptist Church—2315 Blue Ridge Blvd. (US 460), 977-6610, Pastor David McNeill; Sunday School, 9:45AM; Worship, 10:45AM, 7PM; Wed., Bible Study 7PM; Kings Kids, 7PM; Daycare and Preschool, Mon-Fri. 6:30AM-6PM.

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

SOUTHERN BAPTIST
Bonsack Baptist Church - 4845 Cloverdale Rd. (Alt. 220) Dr. Chris Cadenhead, 977-5701, Sunday School, 8:30a.m. and 11a.m.; Worship 9:45a.m.; Wed. Bible study, 6 p.m.
Buchanan Baptist Church – 19730 Main Street, Buchanan, Sunday Bible Study for all ages 9:45 a.m.; Worship at 11 a.m. Wednesday Fellowship Meal at 6 p.m. followed by Bible Study and activities for all ages. Facebook - Buchanan Baptist Church; Web Site - buchananbaptist.com; Phone - 254-2253, Minister of Music - Stephen Harris
Daleville Baptist Church—Corner of Valley Rd. and Orchard Dr., 992-1570;

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

Forest Grove Baptist Church— 693 Mt. Moriah Rd. (Rt. 681), Eagle Rock, Rev. Jerry Marsh, Pastor. Sunday School, 9:30 a.m., Worship 10:35 a.m., Wed., Bible Study 7 p.m.
Glade Creek Baptist Church – 3148 Webster Road, Blue Ridge, Virginia 24064. Pastor Steve McChesney. Phone 540-977-1686 or 540-798-7462. Sunday School 9:45 a.m., Sunday Worship Service 11:00 a.m., to include Chidren's Church. Wednesday evening Worship and Bible study begins with a meal at 6:30 p.m.

Mill Creek Baptist Church –11475 Lee Hwy., Fincastle, 992-3474. Danny Quirin, Pastor. Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; Worship 8:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.; Wednesday night activities begin at 6pm: Bible study, children and youth activities, choir and handbell rehearsals follow. office@millcreekbc.com
Pleasant Hill Baptist Church—4930 Country Club Road (corner of Country Club & Haymakertown Roads), 540-992-5556. Pastor Danny Barham. Sunday School, 10 a.m.; Worship Service, 11 a.m. Worship can also be viewed online at the PHBC Facebook page or on Youtube (PHBCtube). Other activities and schedules can be found at www.phbcweb.com.

Springwood Baptist Church – 88 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, Rev. Carol Johnston. 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.-

THE NIGHT SEASON

Read Psalms 62:1 through 68:35
George A. Young, a bivocational preacher in the nineteenth century, ministered mainly to rural churches while he supplemented his income as a carpenter. After many years of struggle he was able to build a home for his family with his own hands. While away from home in ministry, some who disagreed with his preaching burned his house to the ground. Shortly thereafter he wrote the hymn, “God Leads Us Along.”

Come and hear, all you who fear God; let me tell you what he has done for me. I cried out to him with my mouth; his praise was on my tongue (Psalm 66:16-17).

The Psalmist's words speak to us when we are going through life's challenges. And Pastor Young speaks to us of praising God in the night seasons of life: “Some through great sorrow, but God gives a song, in the night season and all the day long.”

Like Pastor Young, we can pray and we sing in the night. Prayer plus praise equals power. Focus on God's presence and power and don't let sin cut the lines of communication.

Prayer Suggestion: Lord, we are thankful that through the challenges, we can still sing praises to You.

Quicklook: Psalm 66:13-20

May), Family Dinner, 6 p.m., Bible study, 6:45 p.m. Preschool, after-school care & summer day camp for preschool and elementary age children. Patrick Starkey, Pastor; Shawna Burkhart, preschool director.

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

Mt. Joy Church of the Brethren—2565 Buffalo Rd., 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.

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. 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. Choir rehearsal at 9:00 am. Sunday School at 10:00 am. Worship at 11:00 am. 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/fincastlepresbyterianchurch>) 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.

CHURCH NEWS

Fincastle UMC Clothes Closet January dates

Fincastle United Methodist's Clothes Closet will be open on Saturday, Jan. 24, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., and Tuesday, Jan. 27, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., in the Family Life Center, 137 S. Church Street, Fincastle. Donations of gently worn, clean clothing and shoes are appreciated. Call the church office at 540-473-3001 to arrange to bring donations during office hours, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday.

Cloverdale Thrift Store January sale

The Cloverdale Church of the Brethren Thrift Store is bringing in the New Year with lots of good deals – sweaters are only 50 cents and stuffed animals, 25 cents; for \$5, shoppers can fill a bag with clothes and shoes (excludes Christmas and jewelry). All Christmas items are half off.

Joyful Journey Travels trips for 2026

Joyful Journey Travels is an outreach ministry of St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Daleville. This ministry specializes in offering overnight trips for senior citizens, but any age is welcome. Trip offerings and details are on the church website: stmarksmethodist.com or by calling Julia Greer at 540-330-7933 or by email (no texts, please) to Julia.short.greer@gmail.com.

THE PARADE OF NATIONS & VIRGINIA INTERNATIONAL TATTOO – April 24-27 - \$755 per person double occupancy - \$1044 per person single occupancy

Package includes: 3 nights lodging, 3 breakfasts, 3 full course dinners including The Spirit of Norfolk Dinner Cruise, performance of the Va. International Tattoo Show, reserved seats for the 72nd annual Parade of Nations, NATO Fest Activities, admission to Nauticus, including the Battleship Wisconsin & Hampton Roads Naval Museum, MacArthur Memorial, Chrysler Museum of Art, Evening entertainment, souvenir gift, luggage handling, taxes & meal gratuities, motorcoach transportation & driver's tip.

ARK ENCOUNTER & CREATION MUSEUM – August 4-7 - \$775 per person double occupancy - \$1034 per person single occupancy

Package includes: 2 nights lodging, 2 breakfasts, 2 dinners including a Smorgasbord dinner & meal at an Amish home, performance of NOAH at the Sight & Sound Theatre with preferred seating, guided tour of the Amish countryside including stops at an Amish Craft Farm & Bake Shop plus the Amish Experience film presentation of JACOB'S CHOICE, Kitchen Kettle Village, Li'l Country Store & Miniature Horse Farm, Turkey Hill Experience with Ice Cream Lab, souvenir gift, luggage handling, taxes & meal gratuities, motorcoach transportation & driver's tip.

SIGHTS & SOUNDS OF LANCASTER, Pa. – June 16-18 - \$571 per person double occupancy - \$760 per person single occupancy

Package includes: 2 nights lodging, 2 breakfasts, 2 dinners including a Smorgasbord dinner & meal at an Amish home, performance of NOAH at the Sight & Sound Theatre with preferred seating, guided tour of the Amish countryside including stops at an Amish Craft Farm & Bake Shop plus the Amish Experience film presentation of JACOB'S CHOICE, Kitchen Kettle Village, Li'l Country Store & Miniature Horse Farm, Turkey Hill Experience with Ice Cream Lab, souvenir gift, luggage handling, taxes & meal gratuities, motorcoach transportation & driver's tip.

ARK ENCOUNTER & CREATION MUSEUM – August 4-7 - \$775 per person double occupancy - \$1034 per person single occupancy

Package includes: 3 nights lodging, 3 breakfasts, 3 dinners

including a Riverboat Dinner Cruise & Dinner with Entertainment, admission to the Creation Museum, admission to the Ark Encounter, guided tour of Cincinnati, souvenir gift, luggage handling, taxes & meal gratuities, motorcoach transportation & driver's tip.

NASHVILLE'S OPRYLAND COUNTRY CHRISTMAS – December 15-17 - \$822 per person double occupancy - \$1141 per person single occupancy

Package includes: 2 nights lodging at the Gaylord Opryland Hotel, 2 breakfasts, General Jackson Luncheon Cruise w/ entertainment, Country Christmas Dinner Show w/featured entertainer, Brightest Star Fountain Show, Two Million Lights, Delta River Flatboat Ride, Themed Ice Sculptures & Exhibit, Guided Tour of Nashville, souvenir gift, luggage handling, taxes & meal gratuities, motorcoach transportation & driver's tip.

- Joyful Journey Travels

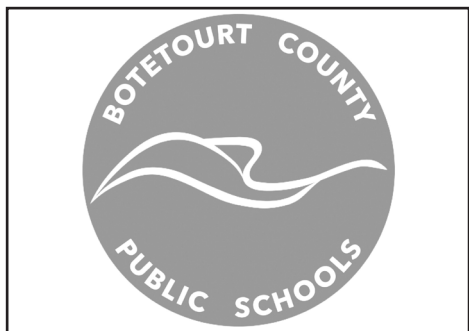
Superintendent reports progress on budget, operations, and student performance

Botetourt County Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Janet Womack presented updates on the district's budget, operations, and student performance at the School Board's January meeting.

In the budget and finance report, the department issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) for architectural, engineering, and surveying services, with submissions due Jan. 14. Officials also submitted the annual IDEA Maintenance of Effort Report to the Virginia Department of Education, confirming that the division maintained spending levels for special education and passed the state's maintenance of effort test.

The human resources department recently hosted the Division Teacher of the Year Banquet on Dec. 18, recognizing outstanding educators across the division. Additionally, the VA Smiles dental clinics completed their fall session, providing dental care to more than 150 students.

In instruction, fall Standards of Learning testing for secondary schools concluded in December, with students exceeding state expectations across all subjects. Under the Virginia Department of Education's new School Performance and Support Framework, Colonial Elementary, Central Academy



FILE GRAPHIC

Middle School, James River High School, and Lord Botetourt High School were identified as Distinguished. Most remaining schools are On Track, while Greenfield Elementary was initially listed as Off Track. Division staff discovered a calculation error in Greenfield's data and are working with the state to correct it, with an update expected within the week.

Maintenance and operations teams addressed several facility needs, including repairing broken water lines at BTEC and Eagle Rock Elementary in coordination with the Western Virginia Water Authority. Magic City Sprinkler completed a sprinkler inspection at Colonial Elementary, and VSC Fire and Security Inc. repaired fire alarm systems at Breckinridge Elementary and Lord Botetourt High School.

The technology department reported replacing a malfunctioning wireless access point at James River High School and setting up new servers at Read Mountain Middle School, James River High School, Lord Botetourt High School, and the School Board office to replace outdated equipment. Team members also attended the Virginia Society of Technology in Education conference virtually Dec. 7-9, focusing on improving digital learning and safe technology use in schools.

- Fincastle Herald staff report



PHOTO COURTESY OF BOTETOURT ROTARY CLUB

Botetourt Rotary President Adam Dove and Anita Aaron

Anita Aaron receives Paul Harris Fellow Award

Anita Aaron, past president of the Botetourt County Rotary Club and current Area 6 Governor, was awarded a Paul Harris Fellow recognition pin at the club's January meeting. This award acknowledges individuals who contribute, or who have had contributions made in their name, of \$1,000 or more to the Rotary Foundation, the charitable arm of Rotary. Since it was founded more than 100 years ago, the Foundation has spent more than \$4 billion on life-changing, sustainable projects.

Many other notable figures have been named Paul Harris Fellows, including U.S. President Jimmy Carter, Russian President Boris Yeltsin, U.S. astronaut

James Lovell, UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, and polio vaccine developer Jonas Salk. The number of Paul Harris Fellows reached the 1 million mark in 2006.

The Botetourt County Rotary Club meets the first Wednesday of each month at the Fincastle Library at 11 Academy Street. Meetings typically start at noon and last approximately one hour. Later each month, members hold an after-hours social at various restaurants in Botetourt County. Come visit one of our meetings to see firsthand what we are all about.

- Botetourt County Rotary Club



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF AARP

AARP Fraud Alert: Credit Repair Scams

With rising costs and economic uncertainty, many of us are looking to start the new year by taking more control of our finances and tackling lingering debt. But paying down what you owe takes time, discipline, and a clear plan—not quick fixes. Be cautious of offers that promise guaranteed results or fast debt elimination.

Scammers often target consumers with significant credit card debt, claiming they can negotiate with creditors to reduce what you owe. These operations typically charge hefty fees and deliver little—or no—help. Some even advise you to stop communicating

with your creditors, which can make your situation worse.

If you need help getting out of debt, turn to reputable organizations like the nonprofit National Foundation for Credit Counseling (www.nfcc.org). They can offer real guidance without hidden fees or false guarantees.

Report scams to local law enforcement. For help from AARP, call 1-877-908-3360 or visit the AARP Fraud Watch Network at www.aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork.

- AARP

Submit all
Letters to the Editor to
fincastle@ourvalley.org

Buchanan Town Council reviews proposed utility management contract

Buchanan Town Council reviewed a proposed General Facility Maintenance and Utility Management Agreement with Inboden Environmental Services during its meeting Monday night, but no action was taken, according to town officials.

Town Manager Tim Mack explained that the contract was presented to

council for review only and that a formal vote will take place at a special council meeting expected to be scheduled either later this week or early next week.

If approved, the agreement would authorize Inboden Environmental Services, known as IES, to provide personnel and assume responsibility for a wide range of maintenance and

utility management duties for the town. Under the proposed contract, IES would pay all wages and salaries for its assigned employees, who would handle operations and maintenance at the town's wastewater and water treatment plants.

The scope of work outlined in the agreement includes water meter readings, repairs and replacements; water

and wastewater line repairs, excluding new installations and full replacement lines; and maintenance of wastewater lift station pumps and facilities. Additional responsibilities would include one day per week of flower watering, water and sewer line locating, mowing at all town-owned facilities, and upkeep of town-owned excavation and

mowing equipment.

IES would also provide general maintenance, repair and upkeep duties typically performed by town staff.

Beyond hands-on services, the agreement calls for IES to provide professional backup support in areas such as maintenance management, labor

See Contract, page 10

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

MAIN STREET CLASSIFIEDS

Marketplace



ourvalley.org

THE FINCASTLE HERALD

The Vinton Messenger

THE NEW CASTLE RECORD

SALEM TIMES-REGISTER

News Messenger

RADFORD News Journal

Public Sale

Notice of Public Sale

Notice is hereby given that LocalStorage Blue Ridge will sell the contents of the storage units listed below at a public auction to satisfy a lien placed on the contents (pursuant to Virginia Self Storage Act § 55.1-2900 through § 55.1-2906). The sale will take place at the website <http://www.StorageTreasure.com>. The sale will be conducted on <http://www.StorageTreasure.com>, under the guidance of Christopher Rosa (AU005857) on behalf of the facility's management. Units will be available for viewing prior to the sale on <http://www.StorageTreasure.com>. All sales are final. Seller reserves the right to withdraw the property at any time before the sale or to refuse any bids. The property to be sold is described as general household items unless otherwise noted.

LocalStorage Blue Ridge, 3579 Blue Ridge Boulevard, Blue Ridge, VA 24064, will list storage units on the website <http://www.StorageTreasure.com> until sold or disposed of on January 29, 2026, at 10:00 AM. Units: #102 Anthony Edwards, #227 Judith Smith

Legals - Botetourt County

Trustee's Sale 187 SPRING HOLLOW RD, TROUTVILLE, VA 24175 (Parcel ID: 11123)

Default having been made in the terms of a certain Deed of Trust dated 1/5/2024, in the original principal amount of \$264,926.00 and recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of the Botetourt County, Virginia on 1/8/2024, as Instrument No. 240000041, the undersigned Substitute Trustees will sell at public auction on 3/4/2026 at 2:00 PM, Front of building of the Circuit Court Building For Botetourt County, 1 West Main Street, Fincastle, Virginia 24090, the property designated as 187 SPRING HOLLOW RD, TROUTVILLE, VA 24175.

Located in the County of Botetourt, Commonwealth of Virginia: Lot 15, Block 2, according to Map No. 2 Subdivision, Portion of Property of S. E. Wilkinson and G. W. Wills, made by C. B. Malcolm & Son, S.C.E., dated November 21, 1951, recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Botetourt County, Virginia, in Plat Book 3, page 184, and being further described as follows: BEGINNING at the intersection of Lot 14 and Lot 15 at an iron pipe in the edge of Spring Hollow Road; thence along the property line of Lots 14 and 15, N. 30° 22' W. 203.14 feet to an iron stake in the property line of Lots 2 and 3; thence N. 58° 44' E. 100.01 feet to an iron stake in the property line of Lots 15 and 16; thence S. 30° 22' E. 204.71 feet along the property line of Lots 15 and 16 to an iron stake in Spring Hollow Road; thence S. 59° 38' W. 100 feet along Spring Hollow Road to the point of Beginning; and BEING the same property conveyed to the Grantor herein by Deed dated January 4, 2024, recorded contemporaneously with this Deed of Trust.

TERMS: CASH. A deposit of \$26,492.60 or 10% of the sale price, whichever is lower, will be required of the successful bidder at time of sale. Prior to the sale, interested bidders will be required to register with and must present a bid deposit which may be held during the sale by the trustee. The bid deposit must be certified funds and/or cash, but no more than \$9,900.00 of cash will be accepted. The successful bidder's deposit will be retained at the sale and applied to the sale price. If held by the trustee, all other bid deposits will be returned to the unsuccessful bidders. Settlement is to be made within 15 days. The successful bidder will be responsible for obtaining possession of the property, and for all costs and fees related to recording the Trustee's Deed, including the grantors tax. The successful bidder will be required to execute a Memorandum of Trustee's Sale, available for review upon request before the

Legals - Botetourt County

sale, outlining additional terms of sale and settlement. A Trustee's Deed will be prepared by Trustee's attorney at high bidder's expense. This is a communication from a debt collector. Vylla Solutions - Virginia, LLC, 283 Constitution Drive, Suite 102, Office B, Virginia Beach, VA 23462, File No. 25-37622, Tel: 888-313-1969

Legals - Montgomery County

ABC NOTICE

TINGJIE BLACKSBURG LLC., trading as VIET PHO YOU, 126 Jackson Street NW, Blacksburg VA 24060.

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Mixed Beverage Restaurant License-Beer, Wine, and Mixed Beverages Consumed On-and Off-Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

TINGJIE LIU- OWNER

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

ABC NOTICE

THEM BEARCATS INC. trading as FEATHER BONE PROVISIONS & ASSEMBLY, 4237 Prices Fork Road, Suite A, Blacksburg, Montgomery County, VA 24060.

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Restaurant with Caterer license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

Matthew Boling
Kasey Garito-Reighley
OWNER

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, By the Board of Supervisors of the County of Montgomery, Virginia

hereby schedules a public hearing on January 26, 2026 at 7:15 p.m. or as soon thereafter in the Board Room in the Montgomery County Government Center located at 755 Roanoke Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073, in order to hear citizens comments on a proposed ordinance entitled "AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE BIENNIAL ASSESSMENT AND EQUALIZATION OF PROPERTY VALUES OF ALL REAL ESTATE IN THE COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY FOR THE PURPOSE OF TAXATION EFFECTIVE FOR TAX YEARS BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2030".

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Angela M. Hill
County Administrator

Legals - Montgomery County

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, By the Board of Supervisors of the County of Montgomery, Virginia

that the Board hereby schedules a public hearing on Monday, January 26, 2026 at 7:15 p.m., in the Board Chambers, Montgomery County Government Center, 755 Roanoke Street, Christiansburg, Virginia for the purpose of receiving citizens' comments on the following:

Fiscal Year 2026-2027 County Budget
The purpose of this public hearing is to gather citizen comments on the upcoming 2026-2027fiscal year budget.
BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Angela M. Hill
County Administrator

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN,

By the Board of Supervisors of the County of Montgomery, Virginia that the Board of Supervisors hereby schedules a public hearing for Monday, January 26, 2026 at 7:15 pm or as soon thereafter, at the Montgomery County Government Center, 755 Roanoke Street, Christiansburg, Virginia, in order to receive citizen comments on the Board of Supervisors intent to adopt a resolution amending the FY 2025-2026 budget by more than one percent of the total expenditures shown in the currently adopted budget by appropriating the Christiansburg High School Capital Bond Interest proceeds in the amount of \$5,095,650 to the Montgomery County Public School Capital Improvement Budget and any additional county general appropriations, as needed, not to exceed \$1,000,000.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Angela M. Hill
County Administrator

New River Valley HOME Consortium/Town of Blacksburg Substantial Amendment to HOME ARP Allocation Plan

Notice of Public Comment

In accordance with guidelines established by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the New River Valley HOME Consortium/Town of Blacksburg seeks public comment on the proposed amendment to the 2020 HOME ARP Allocation Plan. The purpose of HOME-ARP is to provide homelessness assistance and supportive services to qualifying populations through several eligible activities. The approved 2020 HOME ARP Allocation Plan designated that the funding allocation would be used to support the development of affordable housing for these populations. This Substantial Amendment includes the following changes to the original, approved plan:

Change in funding allocation from \$2,161,332 to \$2,164,582

The designation of a Preference for program participation by persons

Legals - Montgomery County

from Qualifying Populations who have been diagnosed with a serious mental illness.

The adoption of Coordinated Entry as the referral method for the project.

Members of the public are invited to comment on the draft amendment to the plan during the 30-day public comment period of 1/14/26–2/12/26. In-person comments will be received at a public meeting on 1/30/26 from 10 – 11 am at the offices of the Town of Blacksburg Housing and Community Connections, 104 Draper Road SW, Blacksburg. The draft Plan can be viewed and comments entered on the Town of Blacksburg's website at <https://www.blacksburg.gov/departments/departments-a-k/housing-and-neighborhood-services>. Comments may also be given via e-mail to: housing@blacksburg.gov, by phone at (540) 443-1613, by mail to Town of Blacksburg Housing and Community Connections, 300 South Main St. Blacksburg, VA 24060 or in person at the scheduled public meeting. Accommodations for people with disabilities and non-English speaking residents will be provided upon request. For additional information, please call (540) 443-1613.

Legals - Town of Vinton

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that on January 20, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Vinton Municipal Building, located at 311 South Pollard Street, Vinton, Virginia, a public hearing will be held before Town Council to receive comments on the following: 1. Update of the Town of Vinton's Solid Waste Management Plan pursuant to Chapter 14, Code of Virginia, particularly § 10.1-1411 which requires the preparation of local or regional solid waste management plans. Additional information on this public hearing is available in the Town Manager's Office, located in the Vinton Municipal Building, (540) 983-0607. Interested persons may be heard at the above public hearing. Given under my hand this 29th day of December 2025. Megan Lawless, Town Clerk
NOTICE OF INTENT TO COMPLY WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT. Reasonable efforts will be made to provide assistance or special arrangements to qualified individuals with disabilities in order to participate in or attend Town Council meetings. Please call (540) 983-0607 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting date so that proper arrangements may be made.

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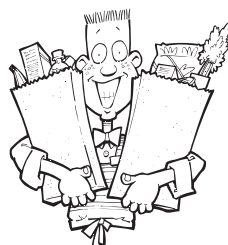


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Track teams compete at Liberty U., Roanoke College

The local high school track teams were in action last Saturday as Lord Botetourt ran at Liberty University and James River competed at Roanoke College.

The Cavaliers competed in the Liberty Premier

Invitational in Lynchburg. Triston Graves took third in the 55 hurdles and Botetourt's 4x200 team finished fourth. Jayden Windson took 10th in the high jump.

For the girls, Karleigh Brown was ninth in the

pole vault and Abigail Perkey was ninth in the shot put. Ratie Jensen was 13th in the high jump.

James River took athletes to the East Coast Elite "Pajama Invitational" at Roanoke College Saturday. Gavin

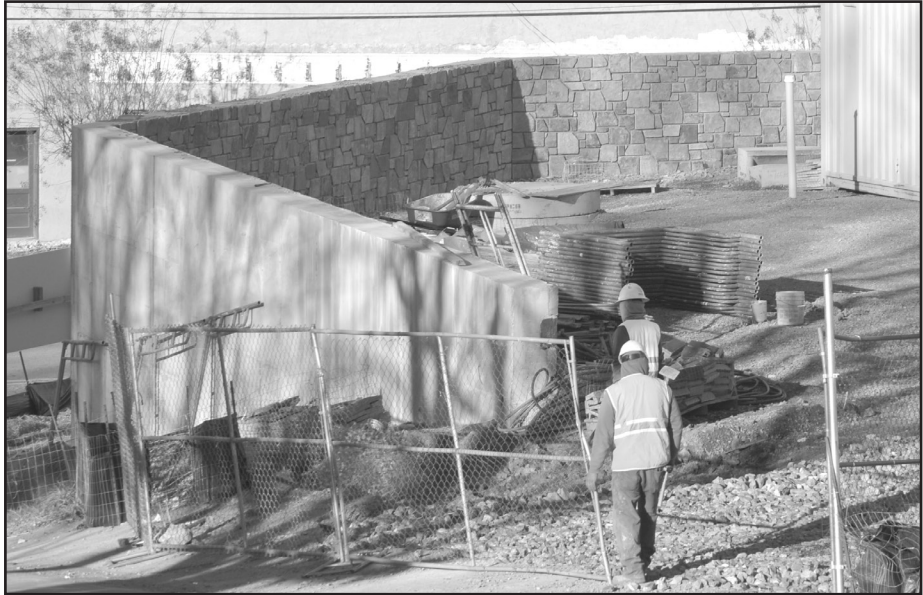
Binns was second in the 55 dash and sister Kaia Binns was sixth in the girls' 55 dash. River's 4x200 girls' relay team was third and Brianna Petty was 10th in the shot put. Braden Jones was 11th in the boys' 1600.



PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN
Declan Duncan of James River competes in the shot put at Roanoke College.

Fincastle

from page 1



Work on the retaining wall along Route 220 continues.

PHOTO BY MATT DE SIMONE

Work also continues on the retaining wall along US 220. Evans explained that block is being added to the inside of the wall first to confirm the appearance before the exterior is completed. He presented landscaping plans showing that the wall will be softened with noninvasive trees and plantings and that a "green space" will replace the former parking area in front of the old courthouse site.

The Civil War monument will remain in its current location, Evans said, with surrounding grades raised to meet it. Other monuments previously located on the site, including the Union cannons, will be placed nearby to form a consolidated monument park.

Council members raised questions about maintenance and design details. Evans confirmed there is water access to maintain the landscaping, though it has not yet been determined whether a sprinkler system will be installed. He also said the green space will include electrical outlets and that he will check with the project architect to ensure the courthouse signage and lighting are consistent with the town's existing signage at Main Street and US 220.

Additionally, Mayor Mary Bess Smith and Evans discussed tentative plans to hold the traditional Dec. 31, 2026, bell ringing at the new courthouse.

Evans said the Virginia Department of Transportation has approved the closure of a portion of Back Street, which could occur in two to three weeks and remain closed for much of the remainder of the project to accommodate construction and

accessibility requirements.

Town Manager Melanie McFadyen reminded residents that the town's water and sewer rate increase, which took effect Jan. 1, will first be reflected on February billing statements.

She said the town is completing multiple end-of-year reporting requirements and recently received a clean, unqualified audit opinion for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024. The town's auditor is expected to attend a future council meeting to present the financial statements.

McFadyen also said a presentation on the updated hazard mitigation plan has been pushed back to February at the request of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which asked for additional changes before approval.

There is still no decision on the town's application for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) façade improvement program, McFadyen said. She added that the process may be delayed further or pushed into the next grant cycle.

Council and residents closed the meeting with positive comments about the town's holiday decorations, particularly the Christmas lights and the Tinsel Trail. Several members discussed working with the Chamber of Commerce and First Bank to explore ways to improve the layout and accessibility of the display in future years.

The next meeting of Fincastle Town Council is Feb. 9 at 7 p.m. in the Fincastle Volunteer Fire Department Training Room.

Contract

from page 7

relations and startup procedures necessary for operating the covered facilities. The company would prepare, sign and submit all required monitoring and operating reports, emailing copies to the town and maintaining records within the town's filing system, which would remain town property.

The agreement states that IES would properly secure town facilities within limits established by the town, though it would not be responsible for town employees or agents in securing those facilities. IES would also answer questions from town officials, provide updates on ongoing maintenance and operations, and advise the town on needed capital improvements, including major equipment rehabilitation, replacements or operational upgrades.

During the discussion, council members noted that the agreement underscores the importance of developing a Capital Improvement Plan to help the town identify and prioritize future water and wastewater infrastructure needs. A more detailed description of services is included in Exhibit A of the proposed agreement.

Mack also informed council that there is a possibility of a future rate increase for residents should the agreement be approved.

A special meeting will be scheduled for council to take formal action on the contract.

- Fincastle Herald staff report

Report

from page 2

need to increase pumping frequency. In the interim, coordination is underway with Lynchburg Crane to remove the digester so motor issues can be addressed. Separately, Lloyd Electric is evaluating a pump at the Southview Pump Station, with staff exploring replacement options.

Special Projects Coordinator Jon Ellestad, a temporary part-time employee, continues to assist with a range of initiatives, including development of a special events playbook, records management in accordance with state law, utilities research, interviews with volunteer event planners and assistance with recommended budget amendments.

Among other town updates, Mack reported discussions about displaying a Virginia 250 flag near the LOVE sign to commemorate the nation's 250th anniversary, with maintenance to be handled privately through

2026. He also met with representatives from the Botetourt County Sheriff's Office, which is interested in hosting its annual National Night Out event at the Buchanan carnival grounds on Oct. 9. The event would be organized, funded and managed entirely by the Sheriff's Office and would be open to the public with free concessions.

In administrative matters, town staff welcomed Sean Bowers as a new council member, filling the remainder of an unexpired term. Mack also introduced Hannah Crawford as the town's new clerk during the meeting. The town is interviewing candidates for a new dual-role position combining special events coordination with administrative support.

Work continues on the town's Comprehensive Plan update, which incorporates findings from the Rural Economies for Rural Communities study. Once adopted,

likely in summer 2026, the plan will be followed by a comprehensive update to the zoning ordinance.

Mack also recommended several policy updates for council consideration, including clarifying FOIA procedures, revising purchasing policies to reduce the number of required quotes, adding an emergency purchasing clause and amending language to better align with state procurement law. He further suggested developing a Capital Improvements Plan ahead of the FY 2027 budget cycle to help prioritize projects—particularly water and sewer infrastructure—and to strengthen the town's eligibility for state and federal grants.

To view the January agenda packet, please visit: www.buchanan-va.gov/meetings/recent.

- Fincastle Herald staff report

Buchanan Library

from page 1

space that's separated from the rest of the building," Phillips said. "We don't have that access unless the meeting room happens to be open and can be reserved at the last minute." She also added that the Buchanan Library's children's area is very limited, with only a small space for kids and parents, making the area feel crowded and insufficient for the number of books.

Accessibility and parking are also concerns, she said, particularly given traffic along Main Street.

"If they have limited mobility, it's hard to get to the library because even if they park right in front of the library and there's

a space available, someone who's mobility impaired getting out on the traffic side when all those semis are rolling through town just make people really nervous," Phillips said.

A full renovation of the existing building would activate three usable levels and significantly redesign the interior while preserving the building's historic character. Phillips said patrons would notice major changes, including new study rooms, expanded children's areas and additional programming space.

"It will look very different than it does today," she said, "but still the beautiful wood floors, still the beautiful historic building kind of effect."

Renovation would require the library to close for at least 12 months.

"Construction will take at least 12 months," Phillips said. "We would be completely closed for construction."

During that time, limited services would be offered from a temporary location in town, while full services would remain available at other county library branches.

The second option under consideration is a single-story commercial building at 17720 Main Street, outside the traditional downtown core. Once renovated, Phillips said, both facilities would ultimately offer the same amount of space.

"They're totally even," she said. "They're just laid out differently."

County information indicates the former commercial site could offer more parking, outdoor programming space and a single-level, fully accessible layout. Phillips said it would also allow the current library to remain open during construction.

"The alternate location on the outskirts of town,

because it's one story and because we can make that building more efficient, the operating costs should be lower than they would be with the historic structure," she said.

Phillips said public feedback has been mixed.

"It's been really interesting to see the conversation," she said. "Both sites have their pros and cons."

She also addressed questions about expanding the library into multiple downtown buildings, saying it would not be feasible.

"That budget would look astronomical," Phillips said. "We would also have to staff separate buildings, and that would require basically the equivalent of two library's operating budgets."

Buchanan Town Manager Tim Mack said the town does not have a role in the county's property acquisition but is involved in zoning considerations during the due-diligence period. Current zoning does not allow libraries in commercial districts, where the former Dollar General building is located.

The town plans to hold a joint public hearing between the Planning Commission and Town Council to

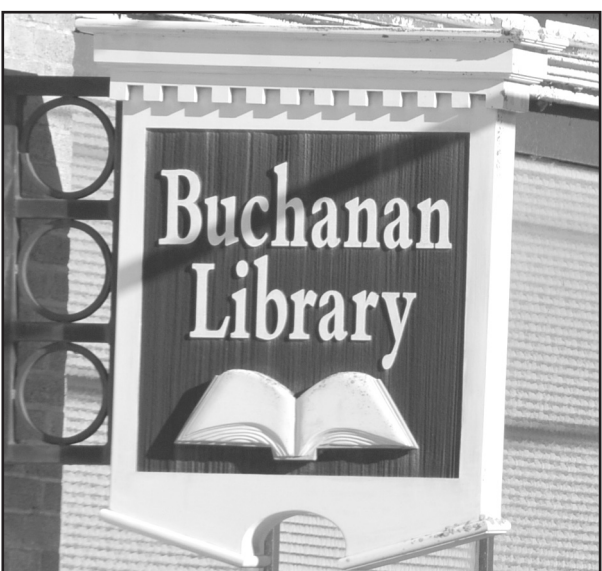


PHOTO BY MATT DE SIMONE

consider allowing public uses in commercial districts through a special use permit. If approved, the county would still be required to apply for a permit through a separate public hearing process.

If the library relocates, Mack said the town looks forward to working with the county on the future of the existing downtown building.

"It would make available an open, warm, and wonderful space right in the heart of our downtown," Mack said. "The Town Council has been extremely supportive of getting that building occupied."

Phillips said modern libraries have evolved

into community hubs that go beyond book lending.

"Libraries have really evolved to be that community hub," she said. "It's creating a space where people can learn and be together and build community."

County officials stress that the due-diligence process does not signal a predetermined outcome, but rather a careful evaluation before committing public funds. Residents are encouraged to follow updates and provide feedback through the county's interactive webpage (www.botetourtva.gov/1018/Buchanan-Library-Renovation) as studies continue.

Stockyard Report

Monday's sale at the Roanoke-Hollins Stockyard:
118 Head
Head Cow \$2,800.00
Cow/calf pairs \$3,900.00

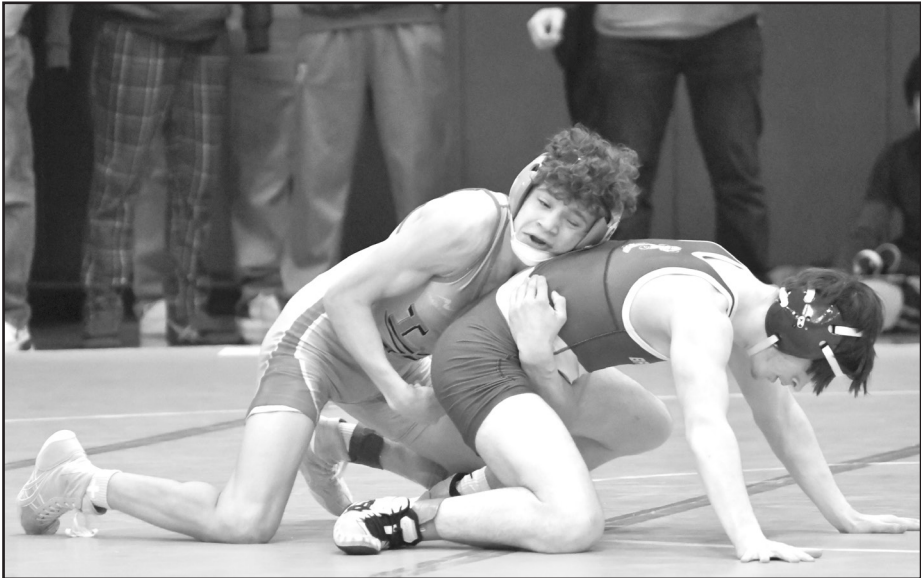
Graded Steers
300-399 \$472.00-\$474.00
400-499 \$444.00-\$481.00
500-599 \$431.00-\$437.00
600-699 \$250.00-\$365.00
700-799 \$339.00

Graded Bulls
300-399 \$351.00-\$475.00
400-499 \$425.00-\$429.00
500-599 \$335.00-\$391.00

Graded Heifers
300-399 \$389.00
400-499 \$397.00-\$423.00
500-599 \$357.00
600-699 \$315.00-\$327.00
700-799 \$295.00
Kill Cows \$65.00-\$169.00

NOTICE
The Botetourt County governmental offices and libraries will be closed on Monday, January 19, 2026 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The Citizens Convenience Center at the old county landfill will be open.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS												
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Botetourt's James Dean (left) wrestled to a third place finish at the Big Orange.



Angel Rigney of LB (right) faces off against Christiansburg's Jake Robie in the Big Orange Classic.

Cavaliers finish 4th in Big Orange Classic

Lord Botetourt finished in fourth place among 24 teams in last weekend's Big Orange Classic wrestling tournament at William Byrd High School.

Independence High was the team winner in the annual tournament in Vinton, followed by Salem and host Byrd. The Cavaliers took 10 wrestlers out of 14 weight classes and were only nine and a half points out of third and 39 points out of first.

"To do that with only 10 guys means we wrestled very well," said LB coach Paul Craft. "Since the middle of last week we've been rolling and we hope to keep it that way."

Jackson Dean, a 120-pound freshman, finished second to Salem's Derek Bush, a 2024 state champion. LB senior Angel Rigney also took a second at 190, losing to talented Jake Robie of Christiansburg in the final.

"Angel lost to a kid that has placed in some of the toughest tournaments in the nation, but our guys didn't back down from a fight," said Craft. "That's the attitude we have to have."

Morgan Parr (150-pound senior), and Tyler "Butchy" Butler (heavyweight senior) all finished in third place. Damian Perdue (175-pound sophomore) placed sixth.

"Even our guys that didn't place got after it and were close to breaking into the top six," said Craft. "We're reducing the number of mistakes we're making and it's paying off."

The LB "Pink Team" wrestled at Stuarts Draft in the Tough Girls Tournament. Serenity Shearer (145-pound senior) and Jasmin Andrade (165-pound senior) both won their brackets. Elizabeth Odell (165-pound sophomore) placed second.

The "Gray Team" was in Hillsville for a duals tournament on Saturday and placed third, beating host Carroll County and Hargrave Military Academy.

"Coach Burdette reported the guys are continuing to get better and the mat time is making a huge difference," said Craft.

The Gray Team was scheduled to wrestle at George Wythe on Tuesday for a quad with Radford and Abingdon. The whole team will be together



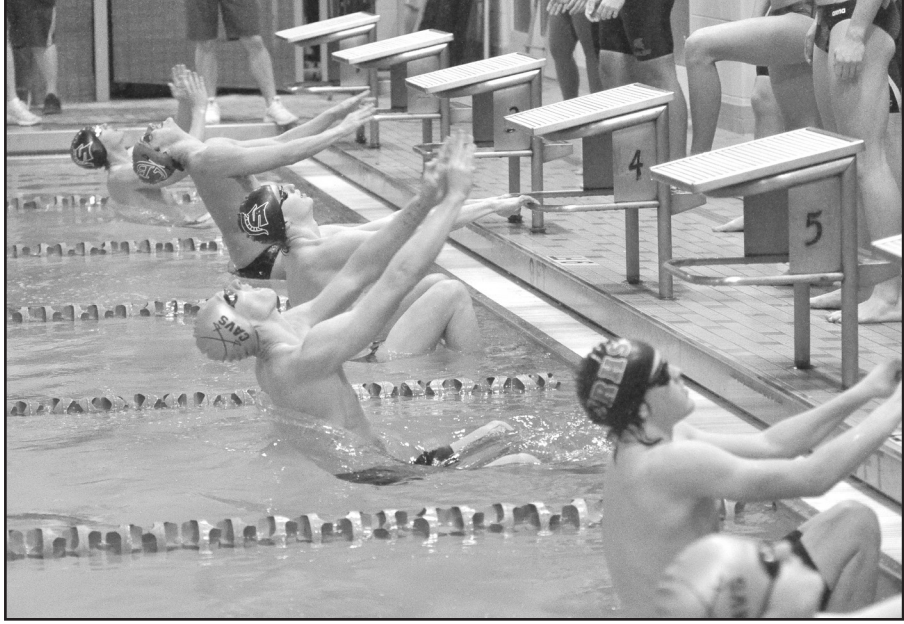
Chris Nininger (left) and Chip Nininger (right) presented scholarships from the **Kip Nininger Scholarship Fund** to wrestlers at the Big Orange last week. Left to right are Chris, Lord Botetourt's James Dean, LB's Angel Rigney, William Byrd's Darin Witcher, and Chip.

tonight, Wednesday, at William Byrd for matches against the host Terriers and William Fleming. Start time is 6 p.m.

On Saturday the girls are at Orange County High School for a tournament and the Red Team is in Big Stone Gap

for a duals tournament at Union High School.

"We're in the meat of our schedule and it'll be a lot of wrestling over the next few weeks," said Craft. "We've just got to stay healthy."



Max Mizuba (top in LB cap) leads off the Medley Relay at the Salem Y.

Swimmers are back in the pool this week

The James River and Lord Botetourt swim teams both will compete in meets this week. The Knights were at the Salem YMCA to take on Glenvar on Tuesday and Lord Botetourt is at the Gator Center in Roanoke for a meet tonight, Wednesday.

Last week River swam in a meet at the Salem Y and had some good results. The girls' medley relay team of Riley Persinger, Kim Van Auken, Sarah

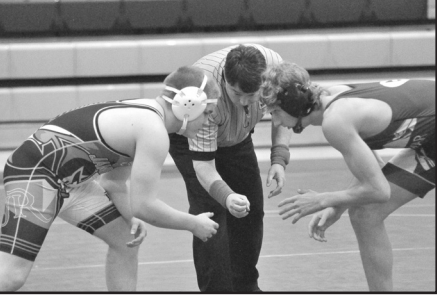
Lorman and Lydia Jones dropped seven seconds to make the state cut. Harrison Hanna dropped eight seconds in the 200 free and Austin Myers is dropping time and working toward state cuts.

Lord Botetourt competed in the All-Timesland Meet at the Gator Center last Saturday. Max Mizuba took first in the 200 IM and the 100 back while Julia Misicko took second in the 200 free and third in the 100 fly.



Kimberlyn Van Auken swims the breast at the Salem YMCA.

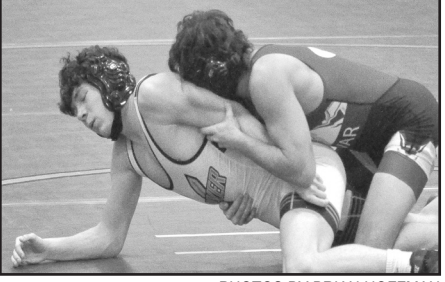
James River wrestlers compete in Alleghany duals



River's Conner Hodges (left) is ready for his 165-pound bout last week.

James River took five wrestlers to Alleghany High School last weekend for the Alleghany Duals in Covington. The Knights forfeited nine weight classes, resulting in no team wins, but had

some good individual performances. Undefeated wrestlers on the day included senior 120-pounder Silas Whitson and 113-pound sophomore Ethan Serrano, who both went



Cavann Hoelzle of James River looks to escape in his match at Glenvar.

5-0. "Both wrestled well on the day," said River coach Bobby Stewart. River is off this week, returning Jan. 21 for a quad match in Springwood. It will be Senior Night for the Knights.



River's Harrison Hanna swims the backstroke in last week's meet in Salem.



Harper Klein of LB swims the breaststroke.

Knights

from page 12

for a 64-46 win.

"We'd love to have 45 seconds back of the second quarter," said River coach Ethan Humphries. "Without that stretch it's an even game heading into the fourth quarter, but we are fully aware that's the margin of error we have in our district. Once the fourth quarter hits and you are down nine it becomes a whole different tactical ball

game."

Ryder Ward and Maddox Pichay each had 12 points and six rebounds for the Knights. Riley Carlisle had nine points and four assists.

The Knights were back home Saturday to host Parry McCluer in a non-district game and the Blues were impressive, posting a 68-44 win on the road.

"Parry McCluer very well could

be holding the 1A title trophy at the end of the season," said Humphries. "The tougher and better team won, but we should have been more competitive in this one. We are that caliber of team on our best nights. It's a lesson we can use going forward."

Mason Francis led River with 12 points and eight boards.

The Knights got back on the winning side Monday night

with a 64-37 non-district win at Bath County. Ward had a game high 24 points and Carlisle had 16.

The River boys have their work cut out for them this week. After tonight's game with Radford they'll travel to Floyd County Friday to meet a talented team of Buffaloes. Floyd comes into the week at 9-1 overall and their only loss

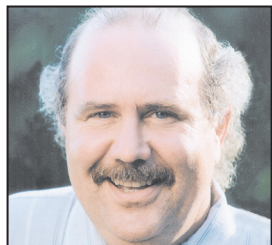
was to district foe Martinsville, who is 9-3 overall and 2-0 in a very strong Three Rivers District.

The Knights have another Saturday game this week, this time against Roanoke Valley Christian. It's a home game and varsity only with tip-off time at 6 p.m. Then, next Tuesday, River is home to Patrick County.

BOTETOURT

Sports

www.fincastleherald.com



Brian Hoffman

Sports Editor

Busy week for LB boys basketball

The Lord Botetourt boys have a busy basketball schedule this week with three games in five days, including back-to-back games Friday and Saturday.

The Cavaliers were looking to snap a four-game losing streak when they traveled to William Byrd on Tuesday, but results were too late for publication. This weekend they have two home games, hosting William Fleming on Friday night and Jefferson Forest on Saturday afternoon. Game time for the JF game is 1 p.m. for the jayvee team with the varsity to follow.

The Cavaliers opened their Blue Ridge District season last week with games against Franklin County and Staunton River. They opened the week with a 63-56 loss to the Eagles in Rocky Mount.

“It was a hard-fought game for both teams,” said LB coach Josh Aliveto. “We shot better overall as a team than we had in the previous couple of games. However, we did have a cold period in the second quarter that ended up being the difference in this ball game.”

Landen Gray led the Cavs with 12 points. Both



Rylan Lavinder of LB shoots a free throw at a recent game.

Brady Kish and Landon

Hayes had 10 points each. Last Friday LB hosted Staunton River and dropped a close one, 47-42.

“I was proud of our defensive effort for the most part,” said Aliveto. “However, we struggled to find our rhythm on

offense.”

Hayes and Jairdan Pennix led the LB scoring with nine points each.

Next week’s schedule finds the Cavaliers at home with Northside on Tuesday and at Salem a week from tonight, on Jan. 21.



River's Jeremiah Mays (5) passes out of the double-team against Glenvar.

Knights will host Radford in basketball tonight

It’s always a big game when the Radford basketball team is in town and that’s the case tonight. James River will host the Bobcats in a big Three Rivers District game in Springwood Wednesday evening.

Radford is off to a good start again. Coming into the week the Bobcats were 7-2 overall and they won their district opener over Patrick County last Friday. The Knights are 7-5 overall but still looking for their first 3RD win after two tries, falling to Martinsville and Glenvar last week.

Last Friday’s game at Glenvar was close in the early going before the host Highlanders pulled away



Mark Voight scores two for the Knights at Glenvar last Friday.

PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Fincastle United Methodist Church

Terrific Tuesdays
Church & Community Dinner

FREE (Donations Accepted)

Last Tuesday of the Month
5:30 - 7:00 p.m.



in the Family Life Center

137 S. Church St., Fincastle



Kelsi Maydian of James River drives by a Glenvar defender.

River girls off to hot start on the court

The James River girls are leading the Three Rivers District after winning their first three basketball games of the 3RD season. The Knights opened the district season with wins over Martinsville, Radford and Glenvar last week.

After defeating Martinsville in Springwood last Tuesday, 45-36, the Knights traveled to Radford on Thursday for the first leg of a back-to-back. They pulled out a 45-42 win over the host Bobcats in a game that went down to the wire. River trailed 25-23 at the half but turned up the defensive pressure and held Radford to five third quarter points in taking the lead.

“A strong defense in the third quarter made a big difference in the game,” said River coach Donald Eggleston. “Holding a team the caliber of Radford to five points in a quarter is great defense. Controlling the boards was another key to victory in this game.”

Jalen Thompson led the Knights with 13 points. Siera Davis and Audrey Benson were also in double figures with 11 and 10. Benson nailed three three-pointers.

On Friday night the girls played host to Glenvar and sent the Highlanders to their 50th straight loss, covering four seasons, by a 52-32 score. River jumped to a 15-5 lead in the first quarter and never looked back.

“A quick start to the game was key to the victory,” said Eggleston. “Pressure defense caused Glenvar to



River's Siera Davis scores against the Highlanders.

PHOTOS BY LEIGH DOWNEY

have several key turnovers that led to easy baskets.”

Benson led River with 17 points as nine different players scored. Samaya Osborne had eight and Gillian Smith had seven points.

With the win the Knights improved to 7-4 overall. They were scheduled to play at Cave Spring on Tuesday but results were too late for publication. On Thursday of this week Floyd County is here and Saturday they’re at Greenbrier East for a non-district game beginning at 7 p.m.

Lord Botetourt girls basketball is at Fleming Friday



Addison Naff guards the lane for the LB girls.

PHOTO BY REGINA DEVINNEY

The Lord Botetourt girls have a big Blue Ridge District basketball game Friday as they travel to Roanoke to take on William Fleming. The Colonels have opened district play with two wins and they’re 10-3 overall coming into the week.

Botetourt is 1-1 in the district and 7-6 overall after defeating Eastern Montgomery in Daleville Monday night. The Cavaliers raced to a 67-28 win behind Maggie Hoover’s double-double of 24 points and 10 rebounds. Natalee Bowling had 20 points, seven boards and four assists, and Addison Naff added 10 points.

“It was nice to bounce back after Friday’s tough ending and come out and not commit a single turnover in the first half,” said LB coach Renee Favaro.

Botetourt suffered

their first district loss last Friday when the Cavaliers fell to Staunton River in Moneta, 50-34. The Cavaliers struggled in the first half with 17 turnovers but hung in the game, trailing by just three at the half and two after three quarters.

“Turnovers and offensive rebounds plagued us in the first minute of the fourth quarter, and we quickly gave up seven points,” said Favaro. “Unfortunately, we just could not recover from there.”

The Cavaliers also struggled from the free throw line, shooting just 37 percent for the game. Hoover and Bowling scored 31 of LB’s 34 points with Hoover scoring 21 and Bowling 10. Maggie had 11 rebounds and Bowling had seven.

Botetourt played three games last week. After

opening the Blue Ridge District season with a 50-25 win over Franklin County in Daleville on Tuesday the girls were home again a night later and beat Liberty in a non-district game, 68-25. Botetourt led that one 57-7 after three quarters.

“Great team win,” said Favaro. “The girls played well. Four players in double figures.”

Hoover led the scoring again with 17 points on eight for 12 shooting with six rebounds, four assists and five steals. Naff added 16 points on six for eight shooting while Bowling added 13 points and Jaiden Dann had 11. Layla McGavock had a solid game with eight points and four assists.

The girls have back-to-back games again next week when they play at Northside on Tuesday then host Salem on Wednesday, Jan. 21.