



Winter Storm "Fern" met up with Botetourt County over the weekend resulting in hazardous conditions.



Michael Pierce shovels snow outside of Read Mountain Station 7 as conditions worsened over the weekend.

Weekend winter storm freezes Botetourt, hazardous road conditions persist to begin week

Matt de Simone

mattdesimone@mainstreetnewspapers.com

A powerful winter storm that moved through the region over the weekend left snow, ice, and dangerously slick conditions in its wake, prompting emergency crews to respond to a surge of calls while urging residents to stay home as hazardous conditions persist.

The winter system— part of the broader Winter Storm "Fern" that impacted much of the eastern United States— brought several inches of snow and a significant wintry mix of sleet and freezing rain to Botetourt County and surrounding areas late Saturday into Sunday, leaving roads treacherous and travel discouraged by officials statewide.

According to Botetourt Fire & EMS reports Monday morning, crews answered a total of 17 emergency calls since 7 p.m. Saturday. Of those, two were structure

See Fern, page 10



Icy condition persisted into the start of the week.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF BOTETOURT CO.

Greenfield Elementary hosts Winter STEM Night



Greenfield Elementary School hosted a Winter STEM Night on Jan. 13, bringing students and families together for an evening of hands-on learning. Students participated in winter-themed STEM activities and experiments, explored coding activities, and enjoyed a snack. The event also included door prizes, and each student received a giveaway.

- Submitted by Carolyn McLucas

PHOTOS COURTESY OF CAROLYN MCLUCAS



BOTETOURT
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

FILE GRAPHIC

Botetourt Chamber focused on value and presence in early 2026

Matt de Simone
Managing Editor

As Botetourt County continues to experience steady business growth, the Botetourt Chamber

of Commerce is entering 2026 with a renewed focus on visibility, connection and tangible value for its members.

Chamber Executive Director Jacqui Sobieski

said in a recent interview that the first quarter of the year is shaping up as an important period of momentum-building.

See Chamber, page 10

Botetourt Golf Club president passes away

The Fincastle Herald joins the community in mourning the passing of Loren Darnell Bruffey Sr., a respected leader, veteran, and friend who served as president of Botetourt Golf Club. Known for his steady guidance, generosity of spirit, and genuine care for those around him, Loren left a lasting mark on the club and the many lives he touched through his leadership and mentorship. A proud Army veteran, devoted family man, man of faith, musician, and community servant, he exemplified integrity and service in every role he held. His legacy of kindness, dedication, and friendship will be remembered with gratitude and deep respect throughout Botetourt County.

- Fincastle Herald staff report

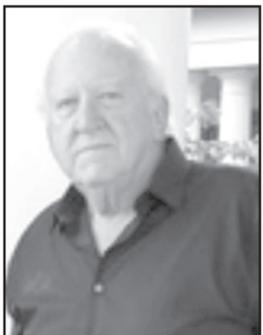


PHOTO COURTESY OF RADER FUNERAL HOME
Loren Bruffey



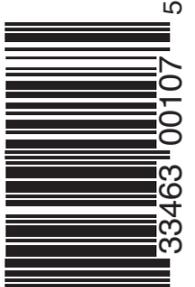
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Botetourt County History



PHOTO COURTESY OF BCMHC

The Botetourt County Historical Society (BCHS) is only 60 years old this year, but it has been instrumental in the preservation of Botetourt's heritage. The BCHS Museum opened in 1966 in the old Breckinridge Law Office and Western Hotel building. Today, in the BCHS Museum on Main Street in Fincastle, a new exhibit is going down memory lane to showcase the artifacts that were donated that year. One of those items on display is a wooden sand sifter. It was donated on Aug. 31, 1966, by Mrs. Fulton T. (Helen Houseman) Waid. She wrote at the time that she remembered climbing behind the counter as a child to reach this treasured sand sifter at the Houseman Store on the corner in Fincastle. It had belonged to her grandfather, Lewis

Houseman, Jr., who was born on Jan. 5, 1831. After many years of hard work he was able to buy the general store, which he operated with his family. He hand carved "Houseman in Fincastle VA" along the bottom. Holes in the top of the container allowed sand to be sifted onto wet ink to absorb the excess. Then the sand was blown off of the paper. The sand was not like beach sand, but rather had a fine and gritty texture. Artifacts like this help to tell the story of a time quite different from today. Much more information can be found in this BCHS 60th anniversary exhibition.

- Botetourt County Museum of History & Culture

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- just get married?
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Send a birth announcement to The Fincastle Herald
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Mindful
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at Town Center Tap House

Every Monday we will donate 10% of all food sales to a local nonprofit organization that benefits our community!

Open to close every Monday. Includes non-alcoholic beverages and to-go food!

Dine Out Do Good!

Mindful Mondays Feb 9th

Friends of the Eagle Rock Library

The Eagle Rock Friends of the Library support the Eagle Rock branch of the Botetourt County Libraries through fundraising, volunteering, and as ambassadors for our beautiful branch library. Thanks to the Friends' support, our branch has been able to add new furniture, special book collections, cafes, and more. Friends also sponsor special presenters, such as author talks and Summer Learning Challenge performers.

For more information on joining us, please contact Beth: bethraps@raisingclarity.com

Thank you for your support!

Please come out every Monday to eat, drink, & do good!

GRAPHIC COURTESY OF FRIENDS OF THE EAGLE ROCK LIBRARY

Support Friends of the Eagle Rock Library during 'Mindful Mondays'

The Friends of the Eagle Rock Library, a group dedicated to supporting the Eagle Rock branch of the Botetourt County Libraries, will be the focus of Town Center Tap House's "Mindful Mondays" initiative on Monday, Feb. 9. Under this weekly program, 10% of all food sales – including non-alcoholic beverages and to-go orders – will be donated to a local nonprofit that supports the community. Through fundraising, volunteering, and advocacy, the Friends have helped

the Eagle Rock branch add new furniture, special book collections, cafes, and more. They also sponsor events such as author talks and Summer Learning Challenge performers. Community members are encouraged to dine out, enjoy a good meal, and contribute to a great cause. To learn more or get involved, contact Beth at bethraps@raisingclarity.com.

- Fincastle Herald staff report



FILE GRAPHIC

VDOT lists construction projects underway in Botetourt

Following is a list of forecasted highway projects that may impact traffic traveling in Botetourt County. Work schedules and construction project timelines are always subject to change and weather dependent.

Interstate 81 acceleration ramp extension at Exit 162

This ramp extension project is underway and as part of the project, the on-ramp from Route 11 onto northbound 81 was previously closed but is now back open. This project will extend the on-ramp onto northbound I-81 about 1,000 feet. The project also includes installing drainage structures and constructing a retaining wall alongside the slope. As work progresses, additional ramp and lane closures may be in place during nighttime hours. During construction, a barrier wall will be installed along the right shoulder of northbound I-81 at Exit 162. Electronic message boards will be in place to alert drivers to the upcoming ramp closure and announce any schedule changes. Work is expected to be completed in late 2026. Drivers can expect nighttime right and left lane closures in place on I-81.

Interstate 81 bridge work at Exit 156

Bridge work is underway on northbound and southbound I-81 at Exit 156. Milling and paving the bridge deck will take place in both directions beginning with the northbound side first and then southbound once northbound is completed. Drivers can expect lane

closures on I-81 during nighttime hours. Slow roll operations are expected periodically and flagging operations will be used during barrier wall placement on Route 640 (Brughs Mill Road). Expected completion is fall 2026.

- Temporary traffic barrier in place on westbound side of Route 640 under the I-81 bridges off Exit 156 with lanes narrowed to 11 feet
- Nighttime outside and inside lane closures may be in place on I-81 from mile marker 155 to 157, 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning.

I-81 widening from mile marker 143 to 150

The I-81 widening project is underway with survey and preparation work. Shoulder strengthening work will require northbound and southbound lane closures during nighttime hours. Barrier wall installation is possible in late fall or early winter. The expected completion for this project is summer 2031.

- Traffic shift: Southbound traffic is shifted to the right shoulder from Exit 150 in Botetourt County to Exit 146 in Roanoke County.
- Lane closures: Periodic right and left lane and shoulder closures in place during nighttime hours 9 p.m. to 6 a.m., on northbound and southbound I-81. Nighttime right lane and shoulder closures are being scheduled.
- Barrier walls: Drivers will see barrier walls in place throughout the

See VDOT, page 4

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Report from the House - Week 1 Del. Terry Austin

The first full week of the 2026 General Assembly has concluded, and the impact of Virginia's state elections are evident in the legislation being introduced and advanced by the majority. This includes bills that increase taxes, remove qualified immunity for our law enforcement, decrease penalties for violent criminals, and expand onerous business regulations.

There are also two bills that target the Virginia Military Institute. One creates a task force to study whether the Institute should continue to be state supported, and the other places it under the purview of Virginia State University. The study bill passed out of the Rules-Studies subcommittee Friday afternoon. VMI is a national treasure that produces some of the finest men and women

that I have ever met, and I will do everything possible to oppose these bills.

Most urgent now, however, is the bill that deals with the constitutional amendment on redistricting.

This past Thursday, only 30 minutes before an ad hoc House Appropriations Committee meeting, the majority unveiled a sweeping bill authorizing a special election, now

set for April 21, 2026, on their proposed redistricting constitutional amendment. The legislation combines several components that would normally be considered separately and by numerous committees over the course of an entire session: special-election funding, ballot explanation language, and the retroactive repeal of longstanding public-notice requirements that date back to 1971.

Of particular note, this bill appropriates \$5 million for a single-issue special election for early voting and voter education. In addition, the proposal creates a temporary redistricting

authority limited to 2025-2030, raising valid concerns about constitutional clarity and potentially confusing voters. The proposed ballot language states:

Should the Constitution of Virginia be amended to allow the General Assembly to temporarily adopt new congressional districts to restore fairness in the upcoming elections, while ensuring Virginia's standard redistricting process resumes for all future redistricting after the 2030 census?

This language presents itself as a neutral, temporary measure, but in reality it permits the General Assembly to redraw congressional

districts outside the constitutionally approved redistricting commission, undermining the reform Virginians overwhelmingly adopted to ensure a fair and impartial process.

As ranking Republican on Appropriations, I pushed back on this maneuver in committee and made it clear to the bill patron that I thought this to be a regrettable reaction to other states that will end up being detrimental to Virginians. Though the majority has grown since last year's elections as a response to our federal government's Republican makeup, I reminded th

See Austin, page 10

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HONOR ROLLS

Botetourt County elementary schools released the following honor rolls for the second nine-weeks:

BRECKINRIDGE A HONOR ROLL

FIFTH GRADE: Weston Albright, Roman Belcher, Luis Morales-Tomas, Eleanor Rushing, Natalee Spangler, Briar Spangler, Addison Sprinkle

FOURTH GRADE: Cameron Earnest, Easton Hickman, Scout Hudson, Oliver Huwe, Juliet Nystrom, Carter Yandrick

THIRD GRADE: Abigail Browning, Carson Bryant, Stella DePasquale, Graham Hosey, Kaylee Kidd, Audrey McClintock, Adaline Tate, Logan Taylor, Evelyn Teubert, Julius Thompson, Graham Wiggins

A-B HONOR ROLL

FIFTH GRADE: Weston Baker, Bromlee Coben, Piper Herrig, Ava Horne, Cylas May, Carly McVey, Jackson Monaghan, Lukas Moyers, Justin Petty, Paul Turman, Alyssa Ware

FOURTH GRADE: Dalton Brogan, Waylon Childs, Olive Coben, Levi Cooper, Wyatt Edwards, Delia Fornecker, Ava Hylton, Levi Jackson, Laika Johnson, Ember Ray, Marlee Saunders, Ellison Simmons, Lorelai Snyder, Ada Wiggins

THIRD GRADE: Liam Anhold, Dominic Balow, Christopher Cefola, Lillian Dogan, Beau Ferguson, Roman Herrig, Ava Holland, Ezra McAlister, Micah Neighbors, Everett Rasnick, Rhett Rigsby, Orian Robeson, Killian Robeson, Jackson Ronk, Rachel Ronk, Alice Stracke

BUCHANAN A HONOR ROLL

FIFTH GRADE: Jacklyn Dooley
FOURTH GRADE: Anne Boblett, Evan Branch, Adeline Camper, Max Johnson, Luke Monteith, Erin Mundy, Cooper Prill, Charlotte Roach, Ella Spence, Caroline Stull

THIRD GRADE: Jacob Adkins, Liviana Anderson, Kaeleigh Harris, Lily Holland, River O'Toole, Kase Tolley
SECOND GRADE: Avelyn Capriani

A-B HONOR ROLL

FIFTH GRADE: Tatum Austin, Harley Bray, Barrett Breeden, Sullivan Capriani, Owen Carey, Brylan Coleman, Sophie Dunbar, Bailee Flint, Zoey Gibson, Elizabeth Martin, Sawyer

Neale, Lainey Parker, Alexandra Tacilla Powell, Ricky Tolley

FOURTH GRADE: Robbie Adkins, Silas Austin, Jackson Benson, Kori Blake, Annie Brewster, Chatham Byer, Emma Christie, Ariel Clark, James DeSouto, Brianna Fox, Harper Giebner, Cortana Kelley, Maelyn Kinion, Penelope Lovelace, Walker Manbeck, Riley Martin, Samuel Monteith, Liam Moore, Jepson Neil, Addison Porter, Sylvia Rae, Naomi Roberts, Wyatt Spangler, Blaise Stotts-Berg, Hayven Thompson, Lakynn Tolley, Eliana Whitney

THIRD GRADE: Wesley Bahhur, Bailey Bray, Sally Brewster, Rosalie Coleman, Wyatt Crowder, Brooklyn Focht, Oakland Harver, Helen Hensley, Owen Jeter, Alice Lilly, Etta Montgomery, Emerson Moore, Eliahna Newport, Kodah Ruley, Joshua Taylor II, Daniel Wall

SECOND GRADE: Maci Blake, Maverick Falls, Aria Lash, Landon Lovelace

CLOVERDALE A HONOR ROLL

FIFTH GRADE: Jack Arvisais, Jakob Bishop, Matthias Brummer, Emily Stakor, Kaylee Tran, Elizabeth Unroe

FOURTH GRADE: Tailor Gibson, Vincent Kitts, Ella McNabb, Scarlett Osborne, Reygan Shires

THIRD GRADE: Owen Beckner, Bryson Bobbitt, Marlowe Cragun, Thomas Damiano, Maxwell Drumheller, Macon Humphries, Kaya Meyers, Henry Salmon

SECOND GRADE: Whitten Costa, Abigail Humphries, Savannah Jacobs, Martin Laffoon, Henry Perdue, Elizabeth Voss

A-B HONOR ROLL

FIFTH GRADE: Tessa Barnes, Grayson Bruch, Crosby Cundiff, Joseph Engels, William Foster, Jaxson Gusler, Aiza Khan, Axl Kitts, Jack Laffoon, Isabella Lennartson, Ava Mullins, Ansley Naff, Charles Salmon III, Joanna Sorrell, Hannah Wagner, Cora Wagner, Elijah Weaver, London Westervelt, Jocelyn Williamson, Lauren Yates

FOURTH GRADE: Alexander Bateson, Sylus Chase, Amelia Curulla, Afton Fitzgerald, Garrett Goodpasture, Grayson Hudson, Marie Jensen, Landon Jones, Jackson Keen, Finnegan McCormick, Evelyn McKinnie, Gunnar Ristine, Tripp Shortridge, Asher Spalding, Ahri Thacker, Cheston Walker

THIRD GRADE: Eva Aliveto, Joseph Ariza Bishop, Annabelle Bays,

Madison Blankenship, Jordy Clark, Gustavo Gonzalez-Hernandez, Eliza Grant, Lennox Grim, Brady Groth, Henry Gutierrez, David Hamblin, Elliott Kincer, Audriana Metz, Sophie Mitchell, Finley Robertson, Haley Saunders

SECOND GRADE: Lana Bishop, Bryton Cobb, Aurora Colombini, Emmeline Drake, Evelyn Groth, Zoey Hopkins, Sawyer Keen, Rylee Looney, Saylor Ross, Claire Tran, Jaedon Williamson, Olivia Wooddell

COLONIAL A HONOR ROLL

FIFTH GRADE: Felix Anduiza, Camille Cockfield, Sawyer Deacon, Jedediah Divers, Lillian Doerr-Jarosz, Tyler Duckworth, Arwen Gibson, Eli Loflen, Kaleb Martin, Lilliana McCloud, Benjamin Myers, Greyson Smith, Emily Walker

FOURTH GRADE: Ujwal Baniya, Jamison Bongard, Denver Bristow, Katherine Carter, Tyler Gober, Jack Hale, Penny Hatfield, Adaline Hogan, Sawyer Mack, Olivia Maddox, Sarina Mehndi, Carley Moore, Ezekiel Persing, Ryann Prusak, Amelia Reid, Ravi Savla, Morgan Schad, Easton Spikes, Chloe Waldron, Charlotte Waldron, Maximus Worthley

THIRD GRADE: Genavieve Bryant, Cameron Dougherty, Ezekiel Foster, Sylvia Hartvigsen, Waverly Kingery, Ally Perdue, Elizabeth Reiner, Beau Wilson, Carson Witt, ,

A-B HONOR ROLL

FIFTH GRADE: Khalilullah Atayi, Jamison Blackmon, Gwyndolyn Cavinder, Alice Clark, Jace Clary, Nolan Colleluori, Emilia Harless, Sawyer Harrison, Holly Hatfield, Adaline Higgins, Ashton Hinds, Brayden Hogan, Bryson Howery, Camden Lewis, Reilly Madden, Effie McCrady, Henry Moore, Emily Nancarrow, Brody Radford, Camden Ratliff, Natalie Scott,

Skyler Sitman, Samuel Spencer, Arianna Thorne, Lakyn Turner, Sailor Vinson, Kyra Walrond, Ella Wise

FOURTH GRADE: Londyn Adams, Nora Amos, Sophia Armstrong, Scarlett Borak, Emmerik Brandt, Emerson Caldwell, William Chrimes, Andrew Eggleston, Isaiah Foster, Brantley Greene, Wyatt Hall, Johnathan Huffman, Kemper Jackson, Madison Johnson, Brielle Kammerer, Gavin Koestline, Lorileigh Livick, Annie Lucas, Trey Lyle, Alexander Meyer, Jackson Morgan, Michael Povick, Karter Prusak, Riley Roberts, Nora Rondeau, Nora Slaughter, Atleigh Tuck, Kyleigh Volk, Levi Willenbring

THIRD GRADE: Thomas Adnams, Augustus Anduiza, Della Bond, Rachel Booth, James Davidson, Andrew Divers, Landry Dix, Mary Duckworth, Charles Ferguson, Asher Gibson, Christian Gillmore, Theodore Hickman, Harper Kincke, Malcolm Livick, Savannah Loan, Janna Malone, Jackson Marden, Alidia McCrady, Campbell Miller, Adeline Murphy, Charlie Myers, Caiden Otey, Everly Purdham, Piper Roberts, Max Skorupski, Baylor Spencer, Lucy Tester, Scarlett Vinson

EAGLE ROCK A HONOR ROLL

FIFTH GRADE: None
FOURTH GRADE: None
THIRD GRADE: Aaron Davis, Sarah Huy

A-B HONOR ROLL

FIFTH GRADE: Kayden Bray, Madelynn Harlow, Addison Hodges, Turner Hylton, London Kern

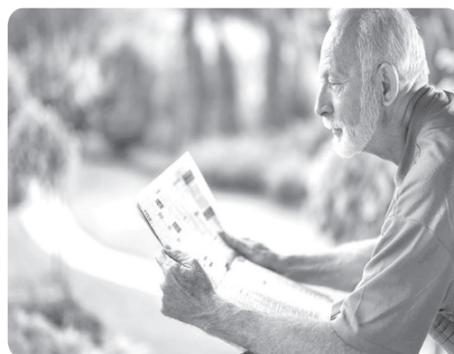
FOURTH GRADE: Peyton Clonch, Charlotte Conner, Wyatt Halsey, Lacey Harlow, Isaac Hensley, Charlie Kern, Laiken Keyser, Marshall Seibel, Cullen Thurston

THIRD GRADE: Jaxon Beard, Ellie Clemens, Kash Clonch, Atticus Pease, Maggie Reid, Charlotte West

See Honor Rolls, page 5

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Library BUZZ

Featured Event The Cost of the Vote: George Elmore and the Fight for Democracy

Sat, Jan 31, 11 AM, Fincastle
Join author Carolyn Click as she shares the powerful story of George Elmore, whose 1946 challenge to South Carolina's all-white Democratic primary helped pave the way for the modern Voting Rights Movement. Discover how one man's courage changed the course of democracy.

Upcoming Yoga for Beginners

Thu, Jan 29, 6:30 PM, Blue Ridge
Mon, Feb 2, 10 AM, Eagle Rock
Wed, Feb 4, 1 PM, Fincastle
Learn gentle yoga stretches. Mats and yoga blocks provided or bring your own. Instructor: Jaime Thrasher, Botetourt County Parks & Recreation. Best for ages 18+

*Registration required. Register at <https://botetourtva.libcal.com/> or call 540-928-2900 with questions.

Drop-In STEM Projects

Mon, Feb 2-Sat, Feb 7, Fincastle
February Activity: Tetris Game
Drop-in anytime during business hours to enjoy hands-on activities that

fit your busy schedule. Recommended for ages 8-14.

Youth Chess Club

Thu, Jan 29, 4 PM, Blue Ridge
Tue, Feb 3, 4 PM, Buchanan
Tue, Feb 3, 4 PM, Eagle Rock
Learn the basics of chess while expanding critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Best for ages 10-17. Registration is required; class size limited to 10.

*Registration required. Register at <https://botetourtva.libcal.com/> or call 540-928-2900 with questions.

Fincastle Courthouse Community Update

Tue, Feb 3, 2 PM, Fincastle - Rescheduled due to weather
Join Rich Evans, Botetourt County's Capital Project Manager, to get the latest updates, plans, and goals on the demolition and construction of the Botetourt Courthouse.

American Sign Language Basics

Tue, Feb 3, 6:30 PM, Blue Ridge
Learn common ASL signs so you can converse with individuals who are D/deaf or hard of hearing. Ideal for all ages.



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF AARP

AARP Fraud Alert: Utility scams heat up during colder months

As temperatures dropped in many states, criminals are turning up the heat on their deceptive tactics. While utility scams happen year-round, scammers are especially active when customers rely on these essential services to stay warm and safe. They pose as utility companies, claiming you're behind on your bill, and threatening to cut off service unless you make an immediate payment. Their goal is to trigger panic. When fear takes over, it becomes harder to think clearly, and they hope we stay in that state of panic just long enough to push through a payment. If you receive an unexpected call claiming your service will be shut off, hang up. Then contact your utility provider directly using the customer service number on a recent bill or by logging into your account online. In most cases, you'll find everything is in good standing. 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

Sheriff's Office investigating fatal stabbing

The Botetourt County Sheriff's Office is investigating a fatal stabbing that occurred late Saturday night following a domestic dispute between a father and his juvenile son.

According to authorities, deputies responded at approximately 11:10 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 24, to a reported altercation at a residence in the 2000 block of Old Fincastle Road. Upon arrival, deputies found an adult male suffering from a stab wound to the chest.

Investigators determined that an argument had taken place between the victim and his 16-year-old son, during which the father was stabbed. Despite life-saving efforts by responding personnel, the man died at the scene.

The 16-year-old male had lacerations to his legs that were determined to be unrelated to the altercation. He was transported to Roanoke Memorial Hospital for medical treatment.

As a result of the investigation, the juvenile has been charged with second-degree murder, discharging a firearm



FILE PHOTO

inside an occupied dwelling, brandishing a firearm, and two counts of domestic assault on family members.

Sheriff's Office officials stated that the incident appears to be isolated and that there is no threat to the public.

The case remains under active investigation. Due to the age of the juvenile involved, no additional details are being released at this time.

- Fincastle Herald staff report

VDOT

from page 2

project.

- Shoulder closures: Shoulder closures in place with additional barrier wall to be installed next year.
- Work zone speed: Drivers should adhere to posted 60 mph speed limits in the work zone and allow space when following a vehicle. Speed reminders are posted for drivers.
- Ramps - Ramps on I-81, northbound and southbound, may be narrowed at Exit 150, 146, and 143.
- Detour signs: While detour signs are in place on I-81 and routes around the project, such as Route 11 and Plantation Road, these do not designate a permanent or scheduled detour. The signed detour route is suitable for all traffic during incidents including tractor-trailers and other large vehicles. These signs are used for traffic incident detours only.
- Route 11 lane shift and closure: Drivers should expect several

impacts to Route 11 for various projects that are underway.

- Route 11 northbound will have an outside lane closure between Route 772 and the I-81 ramp through January 2026 for fiber installation.
- Route 11 southbound will have a lane shift between Route 838 (Vista Drive) and Route 1007 (Bryant Road) for construction of a temporary construction entrance through January 2026.

- Fincastle Herald staff report

ARRESTS

Jan. 19 - Jan. 24, 2026

The Botetourt County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests Jan. 19-Jan. 24:

- April G. Kelly, 45, of Natural Bridge, assault and battery, Jan. 19
- Roxanna N. Carter, 41, of Buchanan, eluding, obstruction of justice, reckless driving, Jan. 20
- Jeremy R. Connor, 46, of Troutville, driving under the influence, Jan. 22
- Ricky A. Painter, 39, of Buchanan, drunk in public, Jan. 23
- Julia M. Kimberlin, 41, of Vinton, driving revoked, possession of Schedule drugs, obstruction of justice, Jan. 24

League for Animal Protection's Waif of the Week



Tippy

Tippy is a 3-year-old blue heeler mix. He's neutered, up to date on vaccines, and super friendly. He loves attention, is a high-energy dog and would be good for someone with an active lifestyle.

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



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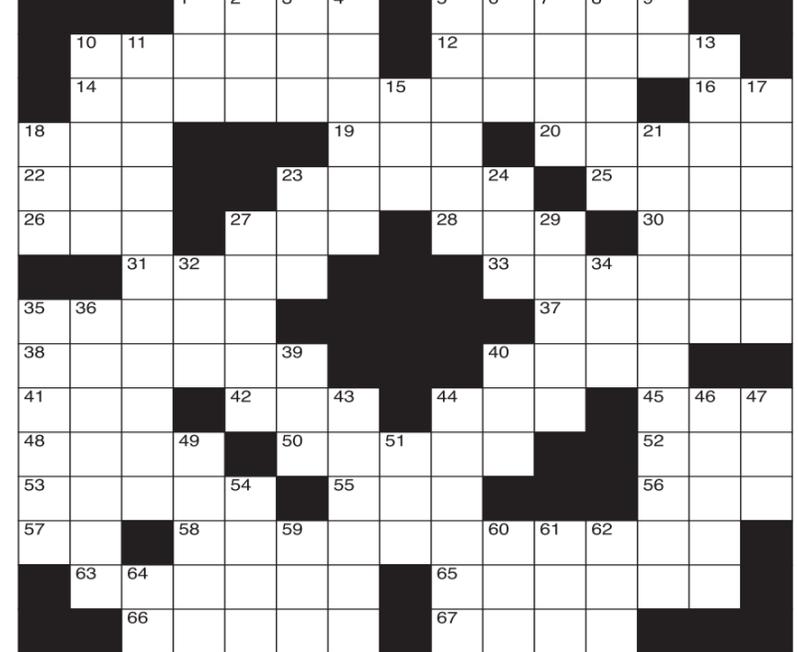
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- CLUES ACROSS
- Shed tears
 - Luxury jewelry designer
 - Goddess of wisdom
 - Convert into a particular form
 - Working-class people
 - It borders Canada (abbr.)
 - A princess can detect its presence
 - Red-brown sea bream
 - Defunct retail empire
 - Vase
 - Demeter's equivalent
 - Monetary unit of the Maldives
 - French and Belgian river
 - Small amount
 - High schoolers' test
 - Animal's foot
 - Some is red
 - Per ___: each
 - Swedish jazz pop duo
 - Plate for Eucharist
 - Train line
 - Russian pop duo
 - Stake
 - Plant by scattering
 - Female sibling
 - City of Angels hoops-sters (abbr.)
 - Popular cookie brand
 - Group of Niger-Congo languages
 - A team's best pitcher
 - Vomits
 - 19th letter of Greek alphabet
 - Men's fashion accessory
 - Its capital is Pierre
 - Expensive cut of steak (abbr.)
 - Popular James Cameron film
 - A ___: relating to knowledge gleaned from deduction
 - Kids' snow toys
 - Flip side to yin
 - CLUES DOWN
 - Global public health agency
 - Snake-like fish
 - Midway between north-east and east
 - Dabbed
 - TV show
 - Folk singer DiFranco
 - Canadian flyers
 - Of the dowry
 - Commercial
 - The act of imitating
 - Equipment used to broadcast radio or TV signals
 - Lands of an emir
 - Swiss river
 - Island
 - Monetary unit of Afghanistan
 - One who surrenders under agreed conditions
 - Garfield is one
 - A baglike structure in a plant or animal
 - Small boats used in the Black Sea
 - Small savory Spanish dishes
 - Body part
 - Touch lightly
 - Popular grilled foods on a stick
 - ___ Hess: oil company
 - Antelope with a reddish coat
 - Pharaoh of Lower Egypt
 - Pink Floyd's Roger
 - Short and thick
 - Small, sac-like cavities
 - Performer ___-Lo
 - Entrails of animal used as food
 - ___ King Cole, musician
 - Where construction is done
 - Chap
 - Investment vehicle
 - Often mixed with tonic
 - Holiday beverage egg ___
 - Against

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SpongeBob SquarePants

Thursday, Jan. 29 7 p.m.

Avatar Fire & Ash

(2025) Jake and Neytiri's family grapple with grief, encountering a new, aggressive Na'vi tribe, the Ash People, who are led by the fiery Varang, as the conflict on Pandora escalates and a new moral focus emerges.
(3hr. 17min.)

Friday, Jan. 30 7 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 31 7 p.m.
Sunday, Feb. 1 3 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 5 7 p.m.

See Answers, page 10

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389-9355

House passes bill advancing funds for I-81 improvements

The U.S. House of Representatives this week approved a Fiscal Year 2026 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development appropriations bill that includes funding aimed at long-planned safety and capacity improvements along Interstate 81.

The bill advances \$17 billion for potential widening and other upgrades along the I-81 corridor, a heavily traveled route that runs

through Virginia's Sixth Congressional District. The funding was secured by Rep. Ben Cline and now awaits consideration by the U.S. Senate.

"For years, residents of Virginia's Sixth District have told me how dangerous and congested I-81 has become," Cline said in a statement. "This bill's passage out of the House puts us one step closer to critical improvements that will make I-81 safer, more efficient, and

better equipped to serve commuters, families, and the truck drivers who keep our regional economy moving."

Interstate 81 carries a significant share of both passenger and freight traffic. More than 12 million commercial trucks travel the corridor each year, transporting an estimated \$300 billion in goods, according to federal and state data. As traffic volumes increase, congestion and delays have become more frequent,

affecting local travel and interstate commerce.

Originally constructed more than 50 years ago, I-81 has not kept pace with modern traffic demands. A 2018 state report identified urgent infrastructure needs along the corridor, prompting Virginia to launch the Interstate 81 Corridor Improvement Program. While the state has made progress, officials

say additional federal funding is needed to fully address safety and capacity concerns.

Planned improvements include widening portions of the interstate from two lanes to three lanes in high-traffic areas. Transportation officials say the upgrades would help reduce congestion, improve reliability for freight movement, allow better access for emergency

response vehicles and lower the risk of crashes.

If approved by the Senate and signed into law, the funding would represent another step toward long-awaited improvements for communities along the I-81 corridor in Western Virginia.

- Fincastle Herald staff report

Sixth District Perspectives By Congressman Ben Cline



Jacob Benson on JMU Dean's List

Jacob Benson of Fincastle has been named to the Dean's List at James Madison University for the fall 2025 semester. Students who earn Dean's List honors must carry at least 12 graded

credit hours and earn a GPA of between 3.5 and 3.899. Benson is majoring in Hospitality Management - BS.

-Submitted by Rory Benson



FILE PHOTO

Tuesday Morning Club holds January meeting

The Tuesday Morning Club met at Pleasant Hill Baptist Church on Jan. 13. Ruby Taylor called the meeting to order. Jill Difede was hostess and had devotions. Pam Obenchain won the hostess gift. Nancy Waddell read minutes and Faye Kessler gave the treasurer's report. The January project was Soup for Seniors, and the February project will be Bingo prizes for Brian Center. Game prizes were won by Priscilla Hedrick and Nancy Waddell. Also in attendance were new member Anne Christensen, Dorothy Brogan, Linda Harris, Barrie Knox and Rita Bruffey. They meet second Tuesday each month at the

church.

As a group, the members have good times, play games, go out to lunch and do projects each month that help others in the community, but they also have hard times in the group. Member Mary Furr, daughter of member Barbara Harris, passed away in January. In late 2025, member Cheryl Wood lost her husband Phillip, and member Nancy Waddell lost her husband, Danny. They share in their grief and offer each other support.

- Tuesday Morning Club

Valentine lunch for seniors at Solomon's Mission

Solomon's Mission on Lowe Street in Buchanan is holding its annual Senior Valentine Luncheon on February 10 for Botetourt County senior citizens (only). It will begin at 11:30 a.m. and include a message, music, lunch and door prizes, with shopping from 1:30-2:30 p.m.

Solomon's is partnering with the Botetourt Resource Center for this event.

- Solomon's Mission

Honor Rolls from page 3

GREENFIELD A HONOR ROLL

FIFTH GRADE: Benjamin Bowden, Porter Brock, Emma Burns, Silas Delseni, Austin Evans Jr., Jaxon Hughes, Luke Layman, Callahan MacBrien, Ivy Molter, Collin Murphy, Grant Pendleton, Nora Pinkerton, Katherine Roberts, EmmaRose Scherrep, Olivia Shively, Brielle Smith

FOURTH GRADE: Nolan Althouse, Enrico Baptistella, Tyler Barns, James Bennett, Owen Bigoney, Bellamy Blessard, Ella Bocook, Johana Butterworth, Wren Garcia, Tanner Gilmer, Finnegan Gray, Oliver Hurley, Myles Hurt, Johnathan Lake, Jackson Lee, Joanna Lin, Graham McNeill, Wren Molter, Madison Montgomery, Owen Phelps, Ronin Phonasa, Olivia Pritt, Caroline Pritt, Kate Rickman, Luke Schwizer, Brooke Anna Shultz, Jack Surber, Anna Taylor, Mia Weaver, Nora Wright

THIRD GRADE: Turner Althouse, Laith Burpee, Axel Edmonds, Emery Frye, Royce Hopkins, Sawyer Lyle, Lyla Merchant, Nathan Spence, Nehemiah Tribble

A-B HONOR ROLL

FIFTH GRADE: Brithany Argueta Amaya, Kim Barber, Constance Berg, Elizabeth Blosser, Koda Daniel, Asher Duncan, Saige Grubb, Austin Hatchett, Beau Hull, Laikyn Ives, Jack Keogh, Lealan Kessler, Brielle King, Lucas Matney, Emma Moore, Abby Poff, Emma Pry, August Rivers

FOURTH GRADE: Sebastian Alls-Fink, Genesis Anaya, Robert Black, Dexter Brinkman, Finn Burke, Lucas Combs, Hudson Crigler, Agustin Damian-Ambrocio, Kinsey Delp, Ava Dillon, Bryson Dinkel, Reed Elmore, Angel Funez-Cortez, Wesley Gruber, Audrey Hopkins, Leo Kaufman, Alexander Keffer, Andi Keogh, Dallas Lumpkin, Laveah Martin, Easton Martin, Tucker May, Grace Plymale, Zachary Spiller, Logan Still, Cole Strickler, Kaidence Sutherland, Cash Sutphin, Charlotte Tate, Wilson Vasquez-Carranza, Sophie Yanez-Lopez, Cecilia Zerka

THIRD GRADE: Caio Baptistella, Scarlett Barte, Harper Bartocci, Eloise Berg, Easton Cole, Reece Darby, Easton Darby, Ocie Figgins, Ellen Harris, Carrera Laucher, Tristan Little, Dominic Malaga-Artiga, Grant Moore, Luke Murphy, Stone Patton, Elyse Rios, Alexis Rivera Perez, Charles Roberts, Gwen Roberts, Harper Setliff, Bodhi Tingler, Grey Trogdon, Jace Ward, Ariel Wyrick, Tanner Yellman, Piper Yopp

TROUTVILLE A HONOR ROLL

FIFTH GRADE: Parker Brugh, Carson Ferguson, Gage Hartman, Adlee Kennedy-Mackay, Riley

Martino, Marshall Rives, Annabelle Vargas, Declan Wiley, Reilly Winfield

FOURTH GRADE: Caleb Bailey, Creed Foster, Hallie Hamre, Margaret-Anne Hatcher, Adam Hedrick, Lincoln Hutchinson, Peyton LaVenture, Aubrey Loar, Holden May, Mollie Meads, Brayden Mills, Alonzo Sanchez, Abbott Seay, Irelyn Warr, Benjamin Williams, Jackson Willis, Nikodemus Wolfe

THIRD GRADE: Macon Brown, Cory Bryant, Parker Hickman, Emari Lapham, Colton Martino, Symphanie Matthews, Graham Nuckles, Marshall Slaughter, Elsie Weller, Degan Wimmer

A-B HONOR ROLL

FIFTH GRADE: Kohen Anderson, Charlie Ballew, Colton Clement, Wyatt Crotty, Lili Fernatt, Bradley Fosler, Ava Greer, Ryland Kennedy, Whitney Slaughter, Madisyn Teaford, Everly Turner, Caleb Umberger, Patrick Weller

FOURTH GRADE: Leah Adams, Jacob Davis, Andrew Hedrick, Andrew Kelly, Lucas Lemley, Evan Perkins, Everett Saville, Addison Witt

THIRD GRADE: Ella Anderson, Olivia Booth, Michael Brennan, Beckett Brugh, Milo Crawford, Hunter DeHart, Ella Fulton, Naomi Hicks, Lauralynn Hurd, Olivia Miller, Anisa Poudyel, Vivienne Saville, Avery Spence, Jackson Umberger, Ava Vaught, Trip Whitaker



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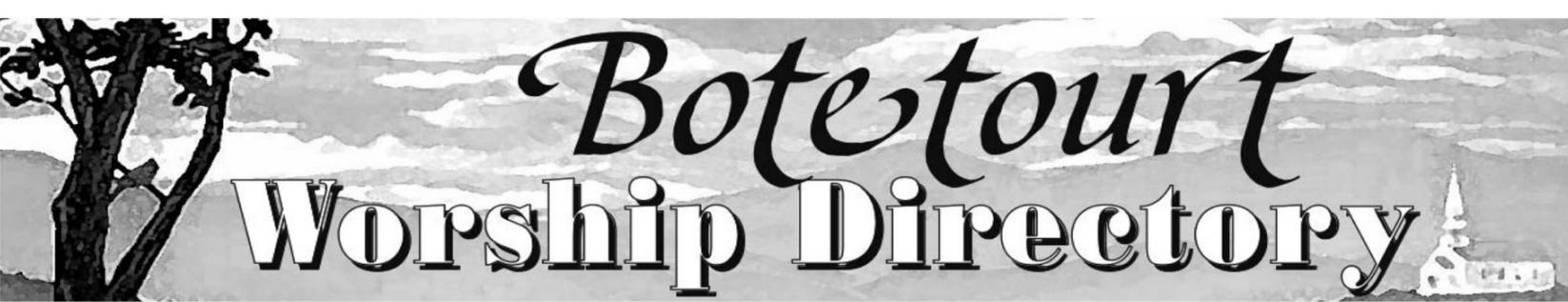
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Botetourt Worship Directory

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

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

INDEPENDENT BAPTIST
Crossroads Baptist Church - 1128 Wheatland Rd., Buchanan, Pastor Elmer Clemons, (540)761-5074 Home, Sunday School 10:00 A.M., Morning Worship, 11:00 A.M., Sunday Evening 5:30 P.M., Wednesday Prayer & Bible Study 5:30 P.M.
Faith Baptist Church- 4258 Botetourt Rd., Fincastle, VA. 24090, Pastor, Dr. John W. Reynolds, Phone; 540-473-2325, Email: jwr56fbc@yahoo.com, Church website: fincastlefaith.com, Services: 10 A.M. Bible Expositions, 11 A.M. Worship & Children's Church, 7 P.M. Wednesday Bible Study & Prayer, Messages at www.youtube.com/@faithfbaptistchurch9219. We look forward to meeting you.
Lapsleys Run Baptist Church- 608 Zion Hill Road, Fincastle. 540-556-3504. Worship: 2nd & 4th Sundays at 11:00a.m.
New Hope Baptist Church- 2315 Blue Ridge Blvd. (US 460), 977-6610, Pastor David McNeill; Sunday School, 9:45AM; Worship, 10:45AM, 7PM; Wed., Bible Study 7PM; Kings Kids, 7PM; Daycare and Preschool, Mon-Fri. 6:30AM-6PM.
Valley View Baptist Church- 17471 Main St., Buchanan; Rev. Daniel Boone, 254-2760 (church), 254-2570 (H). Sunday School, 10 AM; worship, 11 AM, Sunday Evening, 6:30 PM; Wednesday: Prayer and Youth Ministries, 7 PM, Word Of Life youth ministry for 4 year olds-12th grade Wednesdays at 7 p.m.

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

Senior Pastor Wes Belcher; Sunday School 9:15 AM, Worship 10:30 AM; Wednesday: Prayer & Bible Study - 6:30 PM, Youth - 6:30 PM

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

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

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

Springwood Baptist Church - 88 Copps Hill Rd., Buchanan; Rev. Mike Anderson, 540-819-4616, Email pmike09@outlook.com. Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship 11 a.m.; Wednesday night bible study will be held every first and third Wednesday of the month from 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.
Troutville Baptist Church -P.O. Box 309, Troutville, VA 24175; 992-1026, Rev. Carol Johnston. Sunday School 10:00AM; Worship 11AM. Wednesday: Adult Prayer & Bible Study, 6:15PM; 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.-

LOVE YOUR ENEMIES
 Read 1 Samuel 21:1 through 24:22

He [David] said to his men, "The Lord forbid that I should do such a thing to my master, the Lord's anointed, or lay my hand on him; for he is the anointed of the Lord" (1 Samuel 24:6).
 King Saul mercilessly pursued David intending to murder him, although David had done nothing against the king. Yet David would not retaliate despite the insistence of his men. Even when God permitted him to catch Saul at a vulnerable time, David refused to take the life of the Lord's anointed.

Why would he do that? Because David revered God.
 Instead of slaying the man who was out to murder him, David put his trust in the Lord, seeking God's protection and justice.

While the worldly pummel each other with everything from words to bombs, an honorable faith like David's is the hallmark of those who walk in step with Christ. Jesus said to "love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:44-45).

Challenge for Today: Trust God to handle your enemies while you choose love over revenge.

Quicklook: 1 Samuel 24:1-12

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 - 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.

OBITUARIES

Austin, Clay Anthony

Clay "Peanut" Anthony Austin, 66, of Buchanan, passed away Monday, Jan. 19, 2026.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Lawrence "Jake" Austin and Betsy Creamer Austin.

Peanut was a member of the Purgatory Mountain Chapter, Abate of Virginia. He lived in the moment and took life by the handlebars. He also enjoyed spending time in nature and collecting antiques.

Left to cherish Clay's memory are his daughter, Cristen Austin



(Matthew); son, Corey Austin (Stephanie); sisters, Sissy Austin and Sonya Newkirk (Ed); brother, Terry Austin (Kathy); grandsons, Eli Doss and Gunner Bostrom; nieces, Catie, Natalie, and Amanda; and nephews, Forest, David, and Ben.

Funeral services were held on Friday, Jan. 23, 2026, at 2 p.m. in the Buchanan Chapel of Botetourt Funeral Home. The family received friends an hour before the service. Online condolences may be made at www.botetourtfh.com.

time she and Bill both became certified on horseback for Botetourt Mounted Search and Rescue and participated in active searches. She trained their dog "Sam" for search and rescue, and she volunteered with St. Francis Service Dogs in Roanoke as a dog walker. After she retired from LOA, seeing a real need for medical services in her rural area, Judy trained as an Emergency Medical Technician and joined Eagle Rock Rescue Squad as a volunteer EMT, answering emergency calls for several years. She was a member of King Memorial Community Church in Oriskany where she served as secretary, and she was vice president of the Oriskany Community Club for many

years. Judy was known for her dry sense of humor. As an example of her wit, when the Taubman Museum of Art was built in Roanoke, Judy submitted her comment on its avant-garde architecture to The Roanoke Times: "It looks like 'the Wreck of the Flying Nun!'" Her comment was picked up nationally and appeared in the New York Times, USA Today, and many other newspapers.

In addition to her husband Bill, daughter Lara (Kenn), and grandson Alek, Judy is survived by her brother Thomas Scott (Donna), and many loving friends.

A celebration of life will be held at a later time.

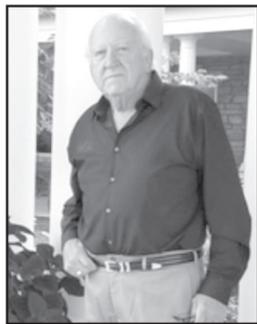
Bruffey, Loren Darnell, Sr.

Loren Darnell Bruffey Sr., 84, of Fincastle, peacefully passed away and went home to be with his Lord and Savior on Thursday, January 22, 2026.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Joseph and Gladys Bruffey; his brothers, Kenneth Bruffey and Jerry Bruffey; and his sister, Elizabeth "Libby" Bruffey.

Loren Sr. is survived by his loving wife of 18 years, Rita Stiltner Bruffey. He is also survived by his children and their families: Anita Jeanne Firebaugh and her husband James Firebaugh III of Troutville; his son, Loren Darnell Bruffey Jr. and his significant other Tasha Leigh Campbell of Fincastle; and his stepdaughter Shonna Worrell and her husband Roger Worrell of Wytheville. Those left to cherish his memory include his grandchildren: Loren "Trey" Darnell Bruffey III and his wife Valerie Bruffey of Delaware, Ohio, Zoe Alexandra Bruffey of Roanoke, Elizabeth Victoria Owens and her significant other Erik Johnston of Nashville, Tenn., and Anthony Thomas "Thomy" Owens of Radford. He is also survived by his sisters-in-law, Julie Bruffey of Chico, Calif., and Joan Bruffey of San Jose, Calif.; niece, Rhonda Bruffey of San Jose, and nephews and their families: Steve Bruffey and his wife Lisa Bruffey, Terry Bruffey and his wife Kari Bruffey, Kenny Bruffey and his significant other Joellen Indiveri, all of Chico; and Joseph "Joey" Bruffey and his significant other Barbara Williams of Big Springs, Texas.

Loren Darnell Bruffey, Sr. was a man of deep character, hard work, and dedication, whose life was marked by service to both his



country and his community. A proud veteran of the United States Army, he served during the Korean War, and was a member of VFW Lord Botetourt Post 1841. Loren Sr. founded Cardinal Rubber and Seal, building a business that reflected his entrepreneurial spirit and strong leadership, and leaving a lasting legacy. He was also a respected auctioneer and proudly served as President of Botetourt Golf Club, where he was known for his steady leadership and genuine friendship. Music was one of his greatest joys. A gifted musician, he played with Music Inc. and, most recently, with Stone Coal Gap.

His love for music was also tied to his faith. Loren faithfully served as a Deacon at Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, where he shared his talents by playing guitar and singing praises to the Lord with his fellow Christian community. But foremost, Loren Sr.'s love for his family was at the heart of everything he did. It not only shaped his home but also the lasting legacy he leaves behind. One of devotion, kindness and unwavering care. He will be remembered for so many lives he touched through his service, his faith, his music, and the deep love he shared with those closest to him.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, January 31, 2026 at the Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, 4930 Country Club Road, Troutville. If you would like to meet with the family, visitation begins at 11 a.m. with the service beginning at 1 p.m. In lieu of flowers, the family asks you send a donation to Pleasant Hill Baptist Church. A private committal gathering will be held after the Celebration of Life service.

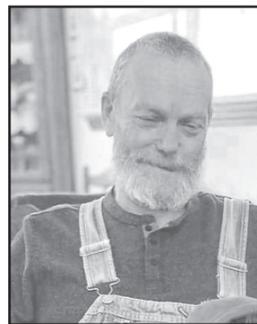
Dudding, Frankie Jay

Freddie Jay Dudding, affectionately known as "Jay," passed away on Jan. 18, 2026, in Blue Ridge. He was born on Dec. 11, 1962, in Roanoke.

Jay spent many years working as a truck driver, a career that reflected his independence and love of the open road. Outside of work, he found joy in kayaking, motorcycle riding, and bird watching, appreciating both adventure and the quiet beauty of nature. Jay was a member of Villamont Presbyterian Church, where he found fellowship and spiritual comfort.

He was preceded in death by his father, Franklin Delano Roosevelt Dudding; his mother, Mildred

Fralin; and his stepfather, Golden Fralin.



Those left to cherish his memory include his brother, Jack Dudding (Donna); sister, Jill Bird (Mike); nephew, Corey Austin, and great-nephew, Gunner Bostrom; niece, Cristen Austin, and great-nephew, Eli Doss; niece, Alecia Carwile (Clyde), and great-nieces and great-nephew, Cassidey, Chevy, and Cody; niece, Nikki Dudding (Ricky Weeks), and great-nephew, Camden Dudding; along with numerous friends and loved ones who will miss him dearly.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date to be announced.

Nelson, Sherry Sloan

Sherry Sloan Nelson, 62, of Buchanan, passed away Monday, Jan. 19, 2026. She was preceded in death by her husband, Gerald "Jerry" Russ Nelson; and parents, Melvin and Mildred Sloan.

She grew up in Buchanan and graduated from James River High School in 1981. Sherry made many friends during her time working at Copper Top and Jerry's. She was also a familiar face at what used to be Barry's Exxon. Sherry loved spending time with her family, enjoyed listening to bluegrass music, and dancing with her husband, Jerry.

Left to cherish Sherry's memory are her daughter, Kristin Sloan; stepchildren, Jesse Nelson, Amanda

Nelson (Chris Mayo); grandchildren, Kade Nelson, Colton and Daxton Mayo; sister, Vickie and Roy Linkenhoker; nieces and nephews, Brent and Jennifer Linkenhoker; great nieces, Morgan, Madison, and Melaina; cousins, Becky and Joel Chambers, and Jamie Broughman; and special fur babies, Hemi, Harley, and George.

A celebration of life service was held Thursday, Jan. 22, 2026, at 11 a.m. in the Buchanan Chapel of Botetourt Funeral Home, with Scottie Campbell officiating. The family received friends an hour before the service. Online condolences may be made at www.botetourtfh.com.



Burleson, Judy Marie

Judy Marie Burleson, 80, passed away at her home on Wednesday afternoon, Dec. 31, 2025.

Judy was born in Roanoke on June 7, 1945 to Russell Scott and Ida Gertrude Rader Scott (deceased). She grew up in Clifton Forge and moved to Norfolk with her family in the late 1950s. Judy was a strong woman of many accomplishments.

She had polio as a young child, and overcoming this adversity instilled in her a physical and mental toughness that manifested throughout her life. Judy and Bill, her husband of 60 years, met when they were both students at Old Dominion University in Norfolk and they were married in 1965. Bill joined the US Air Force shortly after they were married and he was sent to Vietnam from 1967-68. During that time, Judy worked as a hospital lab technician and then a veterinarian's assistant, and she also volunteered for blood delivery for the Red Cross in Norfolk, the first of many volunteer positions Judy held during her lifetime of service to others. Judy gave birth in 1968 to their daughter Lara while they were stationed in Sacramento, Calif., and she became a devoted mom, finding joy in all aspects of mothering a bright and adventurous child.

Judy was a true animal lover and the family always had a dog or cared for the dogs of others, wherever they were living. Judy started Snoshado Kennel in Sacramento, raising Dalmatian dogs. When they lived in Italy for 4 years, she taught dog obedience classes on the Air Force base (she had to seek special permission from the Italian government to hold the classes).

After Italy, they were stationed



at Griffiss Air Force Base in Rome, N.Y., and Judy went back to school, graduating in 1977 from State University of New York at Utica/Rome with a BA in Human Services. Bill was then assigned to the Pentagon, and Judy worked as full-time education coordinator for Pepperdine University-Ft. Belvoir and Quantico Marine Corps Base, covering both offices, and then joined Prince William County Social Services. She remained in social services for the rest of her formal career.

Judy's parents lived in Troutville and she and Bill looked for land in that area to build on when he retired from the military. They purchased land in Botetourt County near Oriskany in 1976 and for several years they camped there and cleared their land. From 1983-1991 they built their log cabin and began living in it in July of 1991. She began working with Craig County Social Services, retiring from DSS in 2007. She was then recruited as a caseworker with the Local Office on Aging (LOA) in Eagle Rock, where she handled Meals on Wheels and determined eligibility for companion services, helping many people obtain the services they needed. (As her husband Bill said, "All Judy ever wanted to do was help people.") Bill also returned to work in social services, eventually becoming Director of Social Services for Botetourt County.

Bill had promised Judy she could have as many animals as she wanted after they moved to their cabin, and she took him up on it, with horses, beef cattle, guinea hens, dogs, and cats joining the "family," as well as many wild deer and geese that took up residence with them. During this

Joyful Journey Travels for 2026

(Editor's Note: The information submitted by Joyful Journey Travels to The Herald and published in the Jan. 21 edition was incorrect. The correct information is listed here.)

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 at stmarksmethodist.com or by calling Julia Greer at 540-330-7933 or by email (no texts, please) to Julia.short.greer@gmail.com.

Baltimore & Annapolis - April 13-15, 2026

\$505 per person double occupancy, \$664 per person single occupancy. Package includes: 2 nights lodging, 2 breakfasts, 2 dinners including Phillips Restaurant, guided tour of

Historic Baltimore, Harborplace, Tour of Annapolis & the Naval Academy, Annapolis Harbor Cruise, souvenir gift, luggage handling, taxes & meal gratuities, motorcoach transportation & driver's tip.

Sights & Sounds of Lancaster, Pa. - June 15-17, 2026

\$585 per person double occupancy, \$784 per person single occupancy. Package includes: 2 nights lodging, 2 breakfasts, 2 dinners including a smorgasbord dinner & meal at an Amish home, performance of "Joshua" at the Sight & Sound Theatre with preferred seating, President James Buchanan's Wheatland, Kitchen Kettle Village, Li'l Country Store & Miniature Horse Farm, souvenir gift, luggage handling, taxes & meal gratuities, motorcoach transportation & driver's tip.

CHURCH NEWS

Shrove Tuesday meal at Trinity UMC

Trinity United Methodist Church invites the public to an "All-You-Can-Eat" Shrove Tuesday pancake meal on Feb. 17. Pancakes, sausage, bacon, coffee and juice will be served

between 4 and 7 p.m. on that Tuesday.

The meal is free and open to the public. "Love" offerings will be accepted.

Trinity United Methodist Church is located at 10637 Main Street, Buchanan. The meal will be served in the fellowship hall, enter off Washington Street.

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

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Share Church news today!
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THE FINCASTLE HERALD The Vinton Messenger THE NEW CASTLE RECORD SALEM TIMES REGISTER News Messenger RADFORD News Journal

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 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

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 3774 Springwood Road, Fincastle, VA 24090

In execution of a Deed of Trust in the original principal amount of \$212,000.00 dated February 13, 2023 recorded among the land records of the Circuit Court for Botetourt County on February 13, 2023 as Instrument Number: 230000384, the undersigned appointed Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction, at the Main entrance of the courthouse for the Circuit Court of Botetourt County, 1 W Main St, Fincastle, VA 24090 on March 5, 2026 at 12:30 PM the property described in said deed of trust, located at the above address and briefly described as: Beginning at a point and corner in the center of State Secondary Route No. 630 and corner to the property of K.N. King; thence with the center of said road N. 69° 14' 13" E. 238.59 feet to a point and corner in center of said road; thence leaving said

Legals - Botetourt County

road and two new lines through the now or formerly Thompson property as follows: S. 21° 18" E. passing an iron Pin at 19.17 ft., 233.50 feet to a point and corner; thence S. 68° 32' 52" W. 238.58 feet to a point and corner on the property now or formerly of K.N. King; thence with King N. 21° 18' W. 235 ft., passing an iron pin at 211.70 feet to the place of beginning, containing 1.283 acres, more or less, all as shown on a map of survey, a copy of which is of record in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Botetourt County, Virginia, in Deed Book 190, Page 405. Tax ID: 21685. TERMS OF SALE: A bidder's deposit of \$11,000.00 or 10% of the sale price, whichever is lower, will be required in the form of a certified or cashier's check. Cash will not be accepted as a deposit. Settlement within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Trustee may forfeit deposit. Additional terms to be announced at sale. This is a communication from a debt collector. This notice is an attempt to collect on a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. (Trustee # 25-001275) Substitute Trustee: ALG Trustee, LLC C/O Orlans Law Group PLLC PO Box 2548, Leesburg, VA 20177 (703) 777-7101 website: www.Orlans.com

TRUSTEE SALE OF 1131 2nd Street, Blue Ridge, VA 24064

In execution of the Deed of Trust dated November 30, 2017, in the original principal amount of \$148,265.00, recorded as Inst. 200004619, assigned as Inst. 200000435, in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court for the County of Botetourt, Virginia, default having occurred in the payment of the indebtedness thereby secured and at the request of the holder of the note, the undersigned, as Substitute Trustees, either of whom may act, will sell at public auction at the front entrance of the Circuit Court for the County of Botetourt on February 24, 2026, at 1:00 p.m., the property located at the above address and described as Lot 5, Block 7, Section 5, Blue Ridge Heights, County of Botetourt. TERMS: CASH. PROPERTY SOLD AS IS WITH SPECIAL WARRANTY OF TITLE. A deposit of \$10,000.00 or 10% of the successful bid amount (whichever is lower) will be required immediately of the successful bidder, in cashier's check or certified funds only payable to or signed over to "DOLANREID PLLC, TRUSTEE", no person checks accepted. Balance due within 15 days from date of sale VIA BANKWIRE ONLY. Sale is subject to post sale confirmation and audit of the status of the loan including, but not limited to, determination of whether the borrower filed for and obtained bankruptcy protection, entered into any repayment agreement, reinstated or paid off the loan prior to the sale. In any such event, or if trustee is unable to complete the sale, or if it is set aside or not fully completed for any reason except purchaser's default, the sale shall be null and void, and the purchaser's sole remedy, in law or equity, shall be the return of the deposit without interest. Upon purchaser's default, the deposit shall be forfeited and the property resold at the risk and costs of the defaulting purchaser. Sale is subject to all prior liens, easements, restrictions, covenants, reservations and conditions, if any, of record, as well as inchoate liens and any other matters which would be disclosed by an accurate survey or inspection of the premises. Real estate taxes will be adjusted to the date of sale. All costs of conveyance, deed, examination of title, recording charges, grantor's tax and possession will be at the expense of the purchaser. All risks of casualty immediately pass to the successful bidder. Time is of the essence. Winning bidder must sign a memorandum of sale immediately upon completion of sale. Additional terms may be announced at the time of sale. Trustee's affidavit and a copy of the notice of sale available at the foreclosure sale. The opening bid is not announced until the sale. Current sale status available at dolanreid.com/foreclosuresales. THIS IS A

Legals - Botetourt County

COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. For Information Contact: DolanReid PLLC and G. Benny Moore, Substitute Trustee(s) 12610 Patrick Henry Dr., Ste. D, Newport News, VA 23602; (757) 320-0255, ext. 220 or ext. 260

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 1449 LAKERIDGE CIRCLE, TROUTVILLE, VA 24175.

In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated January 4, 2006, in the original principal amount of \$175,000.00 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Botetourt County, Virginia as Instrument No. 060000421. The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for Botetourt County, Main Street, Fincastle, VA 24090, or any such temporary alternative Circuit Court location designated by the Judges of the Circuit Court, on March 19, 2026, at 10:30 AM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: ALL THAT CERTAIN LOT OR PARCEL OF LAND, WITH ALL THE APPURTENANCES THEREUNTO BELONGING LYING AND BEING THE COUNTY OF BOTETOURT, STATE OF VIRGINIA, AND MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS, TO WIT: BEING LOT 17, BLOCK 5, ACCORDING TO THE MAP OF RAINBOW FOREST, PROPERTY OF, BOTETOURT DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, BOTETOURT COUNTY, VIRGINIA, MADE BY C.B. MALCOLM AND SON, S.C.E.'S, DATED AUGUST 15, 1960 OF RECORD IN TILE CLERK'S OFFICE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BOTETOURT COUNTY, VIRGINIA, IN PLAT BOOK 4, PAGE 102. TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit of ten percent (10%) of the sale price or ten percent (10%) of the original principal balance of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, in the form of cash or certified funds payable to the Substitute Trustee must be present at the time of the sale. The balance of the purchase price will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Purchaser's deposit may be forfeited to Trustee. Time is of the essence. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser may, if provided by the terms of the Trustee's Memorandum of Foreclosure Sale, be entitled to a \$50 cancellation fee from the Substitute Trustee, but shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. A form copy of the Trustee's memorandum of foreclosure sale and contract to purchase real property is available for viewing at www.bwvsales.com. Additional terms, if any, to be announced at the sale and the Purchaser may be given the option to execute the contract of sale electronically. This is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. The sale is subject to seller confirmation. Substitute Trustee: Equity Trustees, LLC, 8100 Three Chopt Road, Suite 240, Richmond, VA 23229. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Virginia Pre-Sale Department of counsel for Equity Trustees, LLC at 301-961-6555, website: www.bwvsales.com. VA-372477-1.

Legals - Montgomery County

ABC NOTICE

TANGLED WISDOM LLC, trading as TANGLED WISDOM, 4287 & 4289 North Fork Road, Elliston, Montgomery Co. VA 24087. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Farm Winery license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Sean Burrows, Managing Member

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

The Town of Christiansburg Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, February 17, 2026, at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073, pursuant to Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia, as amended. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments concerning: A. Rezoning request by LZM-BAM, LLC, Applicant and Property Owner, for an amendment to proffers on property located at 2886 Roanoke Street, identified as Tax Parcel 501 - ((1)) - 24A (Parcel ID 011123), consisting of approximately 0.968 acres. The property is zoned General Business District (B-3) with proffers, and the request is to amend the proffers accepted with the 2001 rezoning action. The property is designated as Business/Commercial on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.

Legals - City of Salem

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given to all interested persons that the Council of the City of Salem, at its regular meeting on Monday, February 9, 2026, at 6:30 p.m., in Council Chambers, City Hall, 114 N. Broad Street, in the City of Salem, Virginia, will hold a public hearing, pursuant to Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia, as amended, to

Legals - City of Salem

consider the following requests relative to the CODE OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA:

1. Consider the request of McDonald's Corporation, property owner, to rezone the property located at 101 Electric Road (Tax Map # 80 - 4 - 1) from HBD Highway Business District with condition to HBD Highway Business District.

Copies of the proposed plans, ordinances or amendments may be examined in the Office of Community Development, 21 South Bruffey Street, Salem, Virginia. At said hearing, parties in interest and citizens shall have an opportunity to be heard relative to the said requests. THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA BY: H. Robert Light Clerk of Council

Order of Publication

Commonwealth of Virginia VA Code §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316; -317, 20-104 Case No. CL25000427-00 CITY OF SALEM 2 EAST CALHOUN ST SALEM VA 24153 MICHAEL EUGENE MORAN v. AMBER NICHOLE MORAN, The object of this suit is to: OBTAIN A DIVORCE It is ORDERED that AMBER NICHOLE MORAN appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before April 15, 2026 Entered January 9, 2026 Stacy L. Owen Deputy Clerk

Legals - Montgomery County

ABC NOTICE

TANGLED WISDOM LLC, trading as TANGLED WISDOM, 4287 & 4289 North Fork Road, Elliston, Montgomery Co. VA 24087. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Farm Winery license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Sean Burrows, Managing Member

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

The Town of Christiansburg Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, February 17, 2026, at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073, pursuant to Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia, as amended. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments concerning: A. Rezoning request by LZM-BAM, LLC, Applicant and Property Owner, for an amendment to proffers on property located at 2886 Roanoke Street, identified as Tax Parcel 501 - ((1)) - 24A (Parcel ID 011123), consisting of approximately 0.968 acres. The property is zoned General Business District (B-3) with proffers, and the request is to amend the proffers accepted with the 2001 rezoning action. The property is designated as Business/Commercial on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.

Legals - Montgomery County

ABC NOTICE

YYY WOODMUJI, INC., trading as FUJIYA RAMEN 103 3RD AVENUE, RADFORD, VA 24141-4703. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Restaurant, On and Off Premises of Wine and Beer license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. YUJIE YANG, OWNER

Legals - Montgomery County

Town Hall will be open and available to receive public comment in-person at the time of this Public Hearing. A copy of the application, the Town's Zoning Map, Zoning Ordinance, and Future Land Use Map may be viewed in the Planning Department Office, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073, during normal office hours of 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contact the Planning Department, by phone at (540) 382-6128, Ext. 1902 or by email at planning@christiansburg.org, with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations.

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

The Town of Christiansburg Town Council will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, February 10, 2026, at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments concerning: Rezoning request by Roger Woody, Registered Agent for RWJW Properties, LLC, Applicant and Property Owner, to rezone property located at 300 Kimball Lane SW, identified as Tax Parcel 557-((A))-20; (Parcel ID 016002), and consisting of approximately 37.987 acres, from Agricultural District (A) to Single-Family Residential District (R-1). The applicant has proffered new conditions after the initial public hearing for this request. Current proffered conditions are related to density, construction of a public road connection, warranted road improvements, preservation of an existing vegetated area, and phasing. The property is designated as Residential on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan. A copy of the applications, the Town's Zoning Map, Zoning Ordinance, and Future Land Use Map may be viewed in the Planning Department Office, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073 during normal office hours of 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contact the Planning Department, at (540) 382-6128, ext. 1902 or by email at planning@christiansburg.org, with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations.

Legals - City of Radford

ABC NOTICE

YYY WOODMUJI, INC., trading as FUJIYA RAMEN 103 3RD AVENUE, RADFORD, VA 24141-4703. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Restaurant, On and Off Premises of Wine and Beer license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. YUJIE YANG, OWNER

Legals - City of Radford

ABC NOTICE

YYY WOODMUJI, INC., trading as FUJIYA RAMEN 103 3RD AVENUE, RADFORD, VA 24141-4703.

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Restaurant, On and Off Premises of Wine and Beer license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. YUJIE YANG, 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.



The best place to find it, sell it, buy it, and announce it. 389-9355

Legals - City of Radford

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 2507 THIRD STREET, RADFORD, VA 24141.

In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated May 1, 2003, in the original principal amount of \$56,840.00 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Radford City, Virginia, in Book 236 at Page 710 as Instrument No. 0300609. The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for the City of Radford, 619 Second St., W., Radford, VA, or any such temporary alternative Circuit Court location designated by the Judges of the Circuit Court, on February 18, 2026, at 11:00 AM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: ALL THAT CERTAIN LOT OR PARCEL OF LAND WITH ALL THE EASEMENTS AND APPURTENANCES THEREUNTO BELONGING OR IN ANYWISE APPERTAINING THERETO, SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN THE WEST WARD OF THE CITY OF RADFORD, VIRGINIA, AND AS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: ALL OF LOTS NUMBER TWO (2), FOUR (4), FIVE (5), AND SIX (6), SECTION EIGHTEEN (18), PLAN A, MAP OF THE RADFORD WEST END LAND COMPANY, WHICH ORIGINAL MAP IS OF RECORD IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY, VIRGINIA IN DEED BOOK 32, PAGE 460 AND OF RECORD IN THE CIRCUIT COURT CLERK'S OFFICE OF THE CITY OF RADFORD, VIRGINIA, IN

Legals - City of Radford

DEED BOOK 42, PAGE 18. TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit of ten percent (10%) of the sale price or ten percent (10%) of the original principal balance of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, in the form of cash or certified funds payable to the Substitute Trustee must be present at the time of the sale. The balance of the purchase price will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Purchaser's deposit may be forfeited to Trustee. Time is of the essence. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser may, if provided by the terms of the Trustee's Memorandum of Foreclosure Sale, be entitled to a \$50 cancellation fee from the Substitute Trustee, but shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. A form copy of the Trustee's memorandum of foreclosure sale and contract to purchase real property is available for viewing at www.bwvsales.com. Additional terms, if any, to be announced at the sale and the Purchaser may be given the option to execute the contract of sale electronically. This is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. The sale is subject to seller confirmation. Substitute Trustee: Equity Trustees, LLC, 8100 Three Chopt Road, Suite 240, Richmond, VA 23229. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Virginia Pre-Sale Department of counsel for Equity Trustees, LLC at 301-961-6555, website: www.bwvsales.com. VA-380049-1.

Roanoke County, Virginia
Sealed Bid Auction
Bids Due by February 17 at NOON

Sold to The Highest Bidder Over \$495,000!

This extraordinary estate property located at 934 Commander Drive, Roanoke, VA 24012, situated in the desirable Hollins area of Roanoke County. Built in 1940 and set on 12.58± acres across two tracts, this grand Colonial-Revival home offers nearly 10,000 square feet of elegant living space with expansive rooms, classic architectural character, and sweeping lawn and woodland views. Property Address: 934 Commander Drive, Roanoke, VA 24012

David Boush (VA #3941) 540.871.5810
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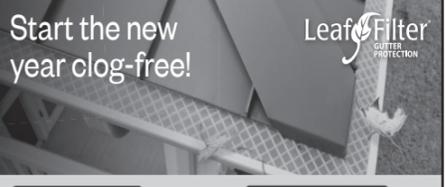
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Austin from page 3

committee that our current congressional maps are the product of the voter-approved constitutional amendment adopted just five years ago and approved by 66 percent of Virginians.

As I have stated before, these districts were drawn by the Virginia Supreme Court and produced balanced, competitive representation: a 6-5 Democratic-Republican split in Congress, 51-49 in the House of Delegates, and 21-19 in the State Senate. These results accurately reflect a closely divided Commonwealth and demonstrate that the process worked as intended.

Despite my and my Republican colleagues' protestations the bill has been fast-tracked to the House floor for final passage. The ballot language included in the measure presents the proposal as a matter of "restoring fairness," but in practice would allow the majority to appropriate \$5 million to politically redraw congressional districts in a way that would significantly reduce representation of rural Virginia's political influence by

creating districts anchored in Northern Virginia. Virginians voted decisively to end partisan gerrymandering. Moving forward with this proposal through an expedited process, limited notice, and a low-turnout special election undermines both that decision and public trust in the General Assembly and our legislative process.

Unfortunately, with large majorities also come the minimization of good bills. This includes my HB789 which directed the Department of Health to form a work group to review the Virginia State Anatomical Program, specifically how it is funded and managed. Last year, it was brought to my attention by a constituent doctor that over the last 10 years, there has been a decline in the program's ability to reliably procure and distribute whole-body donors.

As a result, Virginia institutions have faced donor shortages, increased staffing burdens, and significant challenges in planning medical education programs. These programs have thus been forced

to utilize out-of-state procurement, incurring higher costs that trickle down through the entire ecosystem further exacerbating the problem. Modern medicine relies on cadavers as much as it does new technologies, and any ability to save money and streamline the process should be reviewed by the experts who work in the field every day. The bill died in committee on Friday without even being heard.

In more positive news, it was great to see our Alleghany 4-H, Craig County, and James River Future Farmers of America (FFA) chapters here in Richmond. I always enjoy spending time with our young men and women to discuss the legislative process and their passion for farming, caring for animals, and community service.

We also welcomed local economic developers representing the Virginia Economic Development Association (VEDA) and heavy construction contractors and road builders from across the Commonwealth representing the

Virginia Transportation Construction Alliance (VTCA). Both groups walked the halls to advocate for policies that will grow our economy and express concerns about policies that will make it more difficult and costly to do business in Virginia, such as a repeal of Right-to-Work. Economic development offices work to increase job opportunities, and our road builders work to ensure that people and product have the safest and most reliable surface transportation networks possible. I thank all these groups for taking the time to advocate on behalf of their respective groups and industries.

It is an honor to serve you in the Virginia House of Delegates. If I can be of assistance to you, or you would like to share your position on any of my legislative priorities, please do not hesitate to contact me at DelTAustin@House.Virginia.gov or 804-698-1037.

- Del. Terry Austin

Chamber from page 1

both internally and across the county's business community.

"What excites me most is the combination of business growth in the county and the amazing array of organizations and opportunities that many of our members might not even be aware of," Sobieski said. "There are a lot of hidden gems out there, and part of our role is helping businesses find and leverage them."

Sobieski, who stepped into the role after previously owning a small business herself, said one of the Chamber's evolving priorities is serving as a connector—helping businesses access resources they may not have time to seek out on their own.

"As a small business owner, that was always the most challenging thing," she said. "All of these programs and partnerships may exist, but when you're trying to run your business, you just don't have the capacity to research everything."

After several challenging years, Sobieski said the Chamber feels meaningfully different today, particularly in how it is led and who is at the table.

"The Chamber is more evenly populated demographically, from younger professionals to more experienced leaders," she said. "The vitality and perspective that younger people are bringing is really energizing."

That shift is reflected in one of the Chamber's key initiatives for early 2026: its Emerging Leaders program. The group hosts a monthly "Leaders Lounge" networking event on the second Tuesday of each month, designed to bring together professionals at various stages of their careers.

"It's open to everyone, but we're specifically looking to attract younger folks so they can start to see what a Chamber can do to empower them throughout their business life," Sobieski said.

In addition to Emerging Leaders, the Chamber continues to host monthly morning networking sessions on the first Friday of each month. Sobieski said those events have become particularly popular with small business owners looking to share ideas and learn about tools they can apply immediately.

Ensuring that members feel real, measurable value from their Chamber membership is another area of focus. Sobieski said she is exploring ways to strengthen feedback loops with sponsors and members alike.

"They're investing in us, so how do we track and communicate the value we're bringing?" she said. "For larger organizations, having clear information they can take back internally about advertising opportunities, event impact and visibility is very important."

For the broader membership, Sobieski is considering quarterly membership meetings focused on transparency, progress and

connection.

"As a Chamber member in the past, I paid my dues but didn't always understand what I was getting for them," she said. "I want people to feel informed and connected, not just once a year, but throughout the year."

For business owners who may have stepped away from the Chamber in recent years, Sobieski said her message is a personal one.

"I took this job because I saw how much more valuable the Chamber could be," she said. "I was one of those members who joined, left, and then saw the focus and energy of this leadership team and thought, 'This can really make a difference.'"

Sobieski said success by the end of the first quarter will be measured both by improved visibility and stronger internal systems.

"Externally, we want to do a better job marketing the activities people can get involved in and building that

Fern from page 1

fires determined to be flue fires, underscoring a heightened risk as residents rely on heating systems in prolonged cold. Fire Chief Jason Ferguson

urged residents to check their smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors to help prevent further emergencies. Despite the severity

of precipitation and cold, Botetourt Fire & EMS noted zero motor vehicle crashes during that timeframe—a testament, Chief Ferguson said, to residents heeding advisories to stay off the roads.

Officials across Virginia, including the Virginia Department of Transportation, echoed similar warnings. Plows and crews worked around the clock treating and clearing primary and secondary roadways, but conditions remained hazardous. Travel was strongly discouraged unless absolutely

necessary, with sustained snow and ice creating slick surfaces and refreeze potential as temperatures remained below freezing.

State winter weather warnings remained in effect through Monday, with the National Weather Service reporting mixed precipitation, blowing snow, and dangerous travel conditions for much of Southwest and Central Virginia, including Botetourt County.

Even as precipitation tapered, lingering snow and refreeze after daytime melt have kept many roads coated with ice and packed snow. VDOT officials



A snow plow at work. PHOTOS COURTESY OF BOTETOURT CO.

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE OF THE BOTETOURT COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

The Botetourt County Planning Commission will hold a public hearing Monday, February 9, 2026, at 6:00 PM in the Botetourt County Administration Center at 57 S. Center Drive, Daleville, Virginia to consider and receive comment on the following:

Amsterdam District: David Martin requests rezoning from the Forest Conservation (FC) Use District to the Agricultural, A-1 Use District, on a 9.05-acre parcel with possible proffered conditions. This parcel is located at 37 Dancing Tree Lane and Reservoir Road (State Route 648), identified on the Tax Map as 100-85.

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

Please note that if Botetourt County Administration offices are closed all day on the public hearing date due to inclement weather, the Planning Commission will hear this request on February 24, 2026 at 6:00 PM with the Board of Supervisors.

**C. Nicole Pendleton, AICP, CZA, CFM
Director of Community Development**

PUBLIC HEARINGS TOWN OF BUCHANAN, VA

The Town of Buchanan will be holding two public hearings on Monday, February 9, at 7:00 PM in Town Hall (19753 Main Street).

The first hearing is a joint public hearing between the Planning Commission and Town Council for a proposed zoning text amendment to allow "Public uses" in Commercial districts by issuance of a special use permit, and the second is a regular public hearing for an amendment to the FY26 budget.

Anyone interested in speaking to these items are encouraged to attend and make a statement to the Council. Information regarding these hearings is available upon request at Town Hall and will be posted with the meeting agenda on the Town website.

continue to emphasize the importance of staying off untreated roads, allowing crews to complete clearing operations and ensuring

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emergency vehicles can reach those in need. Fire department officials reinforce this message, citing the zero crash count as an indicator that travel advisories were taken seriously.

Cold weather and post-storm cleanup are expected to continue through much of the week. The county Emergency Operations Center remains open and ready to address additional community needs as they arise.

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BOTETOIRT

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Cavalier girls look to move up in the BRD standings this week

Weather permitting, the Lord Botetourt girls are looking to move up in the Blue Ridge District basketball standings when they host Staunton River Friday night. The Eagles are in second place in the BRD with one district loss and LB is close behind at 3-2.

William Fleming leads the district, winning all five BRD games to date. Botetourt picked up a big district win at Northside last week, running away from the Vikings for a 75-35 final.

"Great team effort," said LB coach Renee Favaro. "We have struggled from the free-throw line this season but went 15-for-16 from the line in this one, which was huge for us."

Maggie Hoover led LB with a career-high 29 points and 12 rebounds while Natalee Bowling added 20 points and 11 boards. Addison Naff stuffed the stat sheet with nine points, seven assists and seven steals. Freshman Jadyn Deaner also had a solid outing with eight points.

A night later, on Jan. 21, the Cavaliers hosted last year's Class 4 state runner-up when the Salem Spartans came to town. Salem has just one loss this season but the Cavaliers gave them all they could handle, leading 18-16 at the half before falling 42-31 in a low-scoring affair.

"Defensively, we



Maggie Hoover drives to the hoop against Salem.



Natalee Bowling of the Cavs looks for an opening in last week's game.

PHOTOS BY REGINA DEVINNEY

followed the game plan and really tried to just focus on containing them," said Favaro. "Offensively, we just struggled to put the ball in the basket, but we cut our turnovers in half from our first outing against them.

"We have to be better down the stretch at not letting one mistake lead

to multiple in a row. We are a young group, and it shows in those moments against veteran teams like Salem. It is also hard to win games only scoring 31 points."

The Cavaliers had a Tuesday game at Franklin County postponed, and tonight they're scheduled to play at Liberty High, weather permitting.



LB's Jakobie Cox is on his way to a pin in last week's match with Salem.

River, LB wrestlers have Senior Nights

The James River and Lord Botetourt wrestling teams both had their "Senior Night" last week before the inclement weather set in. Both teams were weathered out of tournaments last weekend.

On Jan. 21 in Springwood the Knights entertained LB and Chatham for their Senior Night. Martinsville was also scheduled to attend but dropped out at the last minute.

River has two seniors, Silas Whitson and Georgia Miller. With only six wrestlers on the team River lost to both opponents. Botetourt defeated Chatham, 54-22, and James River, 60-22.

"Hats off to Coach Stewart and Coach Bernard over at James River," said LB coach Paul Craft. "They don't have a lot of guys but they always have good wrestlers and the hospitality over there is always great when we go. Bobby (Stewart) has done so much for wrestling in Botetourt County and we're very appreciative. Many of our wrestlers at LB attend Botetourt Training Center. Bobby owns the strip mall and put that wrestling club in there off Exit 150. It's definitely made our program better at the south end of the county and we're very grateful for it."

The Cavaliers had their Senior Night on Thursday of last week with Salem and Jefferson Forest providing the opposition. Senior Harriet Polinsky opened the night with a pin as LB split two duals, falling 47-30 to Salem but bouncing back for a 53-30 win over Jefferson Forest.

"We wrestled well against Salem but they were too much for us in the physical state we were in," said Craft. "Jefferson Forest had a bunch of young guys and wrestled us well. Hat tip to their AD (Jeremy Sink) who is a long-time friend and a James River grad in helping us get the match set up."

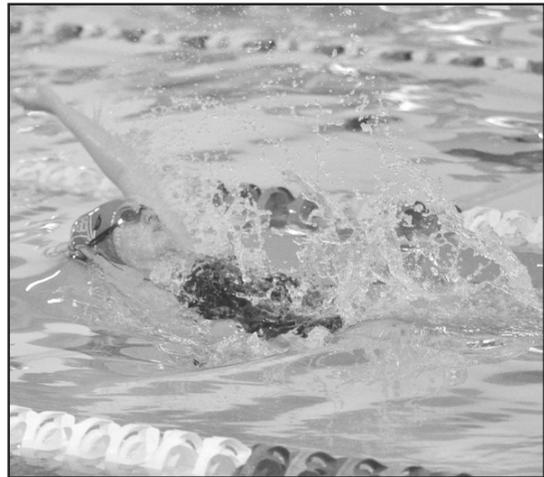
Craft cancelled Friday's practice to give his wrestlers some time to heal, as they were pretty banged up at this point of the season.

"We knew bad weather was approaching and we figured we'd be out of school for a while," said Craft. "I don't like a bunch of time off, but considering the circumstances of the team I think it's the best thing for us right now. However, we've got events approaching fast."

The girls are supposed to be at Franklin County for a quad tonight, Wednesday. Then five from the Red Team are supposed to go to Huntington, W.Va., Thursday night for the WSAZ Invitational starting Friday morning. Then, the girls are supposed to have their Zone Qualifier for the state tournament on Friday and Saturday at Franklin County.

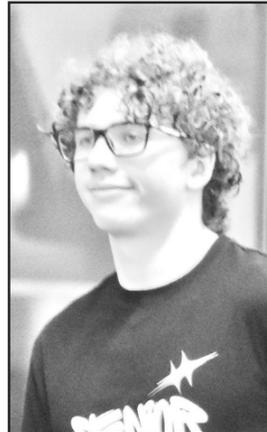
"Hopefully that will go on but I know the VHSL has some backup plans if those dates don't work," said Craft. "Basically, we're appreciative of the time off to heal but everything is up in the air because of the weather."

James River is scheduled to travel to Riverheads for the "Big Red" this upcoming weekend, pending the weather.



Annalise Buylos swims the backstroke for LB.

PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN



Kingston Bean, River's only senior, is honored on Senior Night.

PHOTO BY JOEL BOBLETT

High school swimmers will 'Swim for the Cure' Thursday night

The James River swimmers will host Lord Botetourt, Glenvar and Radford on Thursday night at the Botetourt Family YMCA for the annual "Swim for the Cure" meet. The first whistle is scheduled for 7 pm.

James River's first Swim for the Cure meet was held in 2009, raising money to fight cancer. The team will recognize survivors and those affected by cancer while swimmers, staff and spectators are encouraged to wear pink.

Last week the Knights celebrated Senior Night. After recognizing the team's only senior, Kingston Bean, the girls defeated Northside, Fleming, Roanoke Catholic and Martinsville. The boys' team defeated Northside, Fleming, and Martinsville, but lost to Catholic.

First place finishes for the girls included the medley relay and 200 free team of Gracie Matre, Lydia Jones, Sarah Lorman and Riley Persinger. Individual winners included Persinger in the 100 back and 100 free, Jones in the 200 free and Lorman in

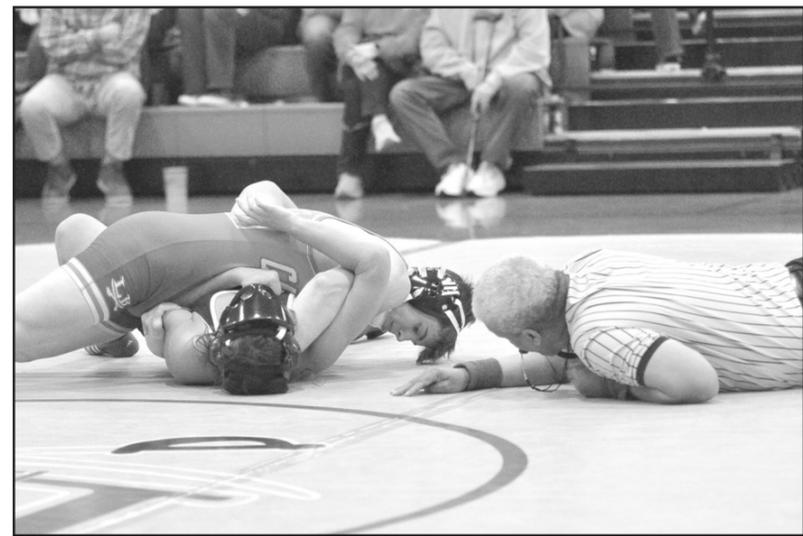
the 100 breast.

For the boys the team of Harrison Hanna, Kingston Bean, Austin Myers and Joel Barber won the 200 medley and 200 free relays. Hanna won the 500 free, Myers won the 200 free and 100 backstroke and Barber won the 200 IM and 100 breast.

"It was an amazing night for Knight swimming," said coach Kitt Williams. "Harrison Hanna had an amazing 25-second drop in the 500 free and Lydia Jones and Austen Myers both dropped time in their swims. We would like to thank Dr. Womack, Mr. Boblett, and Mrs. Kyle for supporting our team and recognizing our only senior, Kingston Bean."

Lord Botetourt had two meets last week. On Jan. 20 at Christiansburg, Max Miszuba won the 100 fly and 100 back. Lucas Dehr took first in the 100 free and Landon Sharp won the 100 breast.

On Jan. 23 at the Gator Center in Roanoke, Miszuba won the 200 and 500 free and Julia Misicko took seconds in the 200 free and 100 fly.



Joel Butler of LB puts shoulders to the mat for a win over Salem at 157.



Angel Rigney makes short work of this opponent at 190.

PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

JRHS from page 12

our guys make big play after big play is what it's all about. It was the first time I've seen this group dig this deep and say, 'We'll go there.'"

Riley Carlisle had 18 points and five rebounds to lead the Knights while Ryder Ward had 17 points. Maddox Pichay had a strong all-around game with 14 points, six boards and four steals and he hit the game-winning shot with 2.5 seconds on the clock. Jack Beheler had nine rebounds in his first game back since before Christmas.

The girls followed with a 44-26 win in a game that

was originally scheduled to be played in Hillsville. River jumped to a 19-7 lead at the half and won every quarter. The win, combined with a 51-40 loss at Patrick County on Jan. 20, gives the girls and 8-8 overall record and a 4-2 mark in Three Rivers District games. No details were reported.

The boys hosted Patrick that night and picked up a 74-56 win. Ward had 26 points and seven rebounds, Carlisle had 22 points and Pichay had 11 points and five rebounds. The boys are now 10-7 overall and 2-4 in a very tough Three Rivers District.

"This is James River's first three-game win streak in January since 2022," said Humphries. "The two district wins in that four-day span is more district wins than we've had the last two seasons combined. While we are proud of last week we are humble enough to know the challenge that lies ahead. This district is unforgiving."

Both the boys and girls were scheduled to play Radford on Tuesday of this week but both games were postponed by inclement weather. On Friday the boys are home to Martinsville at 6 p.m. and the girls are scheduled to play at Martinsville at 7 p.m.

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James River's Georgia Miller makes history, signs with Montreat College



PHOTOS COURTESY JRHS WRESTLING

Georgia Miller of James River signed to wrestle at Montreat College last week. From left are: front row, River girls' coach and Georgia's stepdad Warren Carswell, dad Tim Miller, Georgia, mom Carrie Carswell and aunt Molly Marshall; back row, wrestler Wyatt Ashe, wrestler Briley Goyer, River head coach Bobby Stewart, assistant coach James Bernard, assistant coach Jason Lotts, and River wrestler Noah Lotts. In the other photo, she has her hand raised in victory during a recent match.

James River High School senior Georgia Miller has made history, becoming the first female wrestler from Botetourt County to sign with a NAIA college, receiving a scholarship to wrestle for Montreat College in North Carolina.

Miller didn't grow up in a wrestling family, but something about the sport caught her attention in the winter of 2021. One day, seemingly out of the blue, she texted her mom, Carrie Carswell: "I signed up for wrestling." Carrie immediately texted her husband, Warren, "THIS IS YOUR FAULT. YOU BETTER TALK HER OUT OF IT!"

From that moment on, Georgia was all in. She rarely missed a practice. Warren soon became the JRHS girls wrestling coach, and their winters quickly filled with long drives, crowded

gyms, and countless matches. Georgia spent summers traveling to Missouri to attend the prestigious Purler Wrestling Camp, competed in the off season, and dedicated herself to the weight room to grow stronger.

"Wrestling is one of those sports where you lose more than you win," said coach Warren. "Every time you step on the mat, you risk getting beat up. I've seen her slammed, shoved off the mat, and physically beaten. And every time, she jumps back up, runs to the center, and looks her opponent in the eye, showing she's not intimidated."

That toughness has defined Miller's career. She is known for never shying away from tough competition.

"To get better, you've got to face those who are better,"

Georgia said.

This season, she tested herself at two of the toughest girls tournaments in the country, Beast of the East and Women of Ironman. While she came home with more bruises and losses than wins, she gained invaluable experience heading into the state tournament. Her season highlights included a 6th place finish out of 24 competitors at the Battle at the Bridge in Woodbridge and a 4th place finish out of 28 at the Queen of the Ring in Herndon.

Miller is nearing the end of her high school career with 36 wins, including four 1st place finishes, three 3rds, two 4ths, and three 6ths. Not bad for someone who has only been wrestling for four years.

Bobby Stewart, JRHS head wrestling coach, says, "As a coach, my goals are to win

championships and send kids to wrestle in college. Georgia has done both. Georgia not only pioneered female wrestling at James River High School, she is also only one of three wrestlers to commit to wrestle in college in all my years of coaching. She is the first female to ever commit to wrestle in college from our school. Those are great memories made and goals achieved."

"Not only did we think she would never wrestle," said her mom Carrie, "we never thought she would end up wrestling in college. We are so proud of her."

While wrestling is her sport, Georgia's deeper calling is in camp ministry. She is a member of Genesis United Methodist Church in Roanoke, where her coach is also her pastor and stepfather.

"I've seen her grow into a

strong woman of faith," Warren said, "and I have no doubt that the lessons she's learned on the mat will give her the fortitude to carry out the ministry God is placing on her heart."

Georgia has attended Camp Alta Mons in Shawsville since she was 9 years old. Her love for camp life eventually led her to become a counselor, where she now passes along the love of Jesus to new campers she mentors.

At Montreat College, Miller will wrestle but, more importantly, she will pursue a degree in Outdoor Christian Ministry. Her long-term goal is to become a camp director, combining her love for Jesus, the outdoors and mentoring young people.

Georgia officially signed with Montreat College during James River's Senior Night on Jan. 21.

LB boys knock off Northside in hoops for district win



Brady Kish of LB takes a jumper in last week's game with Salem.



Botetourt's Caleb Muterspaugh guards the post.



Jerry Smith of the Cavs looks to pass against Salem.

It hasn't been often the Lord Botetourt boys have been able to beat Northside in basketball, so it was a satisfying victory when the Cavs beat the Vikings in Daleville last week. LB took a 56-52 win in overtime.

"A complete team effort to get this win as we had eight different players score," said LB coach Josh Aliveto.

Brady Kish scored 10 of his 12 points in the fourth quarter and overtime, hitting two three-pointers and going two-for-two from the line. Rylan Lavinder led the LB scoring with 18 points and Jairdan Pennix had a balanced game with nine points and seven rebounds.

A night later the Cavs traveled to Salem for a non-district game and dropped a 70-49 decision to a strong Spartan team.

"We fell behind early against Salem

with some poor decisions and shooting," said Aliveto. "Against a team as talented as Salem you have to be able to eliminate mistakes and make the most of all opportunities if you want to give yourself a chance, and we did not do that."

Landon Hayes scored 10 points and Kish contributed with nine points as the Cavs fell to 3-13 overall. They had a home game with Franklin County postponed on Tuesday and are scheduled to host Pulaski County tonight, Wednesday. That was still on at press time but in danger of being postponed as well due to the cold weather. Friday, the boys are scheduled to play at Staunton River and Saturday Parry McCluer comes here for a 5 p.m. game.

"We have four games scheduled this week," said Aliveto. "We'll see how many Mother Nature lets us get in."



Ryder Ward of the Knights goes to the hoop.



River's Ella Hutchens boxes out in last week's game with Carroll County.

River basketball teams sweep Carroll County

The James River boys and girls hosted a doubleheader against Carroll County last Friday and swept the visiting Cavaliers in Springwood.

The boys opened the twin-bill with a 64-61

win over Carroll. It was close all the way with Carroll holding a 27-26 lead at the half before River won the third quarter, 18-11, and held on for the win.

"We lost a one-possession game against

Radford last week so it felt amazing to be on the winning side this time," said River coach Ethan Humphries. "We understand the margins are razor thin and to see

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Siena Riddle pushes the ball up the floor.