



Youth Ag Expo showcases FFA and 4-H accomplishments, talent

Matt de Simone
Managing Editor

The Botetourt County FFA Alumni and Supporters hosted its annual Youth Ag Expo last Friday at Lord Botetourt High School, welcoming families and community members for an evening celebrating local agricultural education and youth achievement.

The event, which was open to the public, highlighted the talents, skills and dedication of local 4-H and FFA members from across Botetourt County.

Guests began the evening by visiting the annual silent auction, which featured items donated by local businesses. Proceeds from the auction supported youth agricultural education programs throughout the county.

Throughout the school hallways, attendees explored exhibits from community organizations that supported the FFA Alumni and Supporters and promoted youth involvement and leadership. Demonstrations and interactive activities allowed visitors of all ages to learn more about agriculture, education and service opportunities available in the community.

One of the evening's highlights was an archery

See Expo, page 5



PHOTO BY MATT DE SIMONE

A young attendee learns archery fundamentals during the 2026 FFA/4-H Expo at Lord Botetourt High School in Daleville.

'Woman of The Dress House' turning 100

Matt de Simone
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When asked how it feels to be turning 100 years old, Virginia Montgomery didn't hesitate.

"I don't feel any different," she said with a smile.

Montgomery will celebrate her 100th birthday Feb. 27, with a party planned Feb. 21 in Buchanan. After nearly a century in the community, she remains one of its most recognizable and beloved residents.

Her niece, Tammy Coffey, who helped arrange the interview and frequently chimed in from a nearby chair, described her aunt in an email as "a pillar in the community all of her life." Over the decades, Montgomery has worked various jobs, managed a well-known dress shop, served her church faithfully, and stayed active in civic and social groups.

Looking back over her life in Buchanan, Montgomery summed it up simply: "Just having a good life."

Montgomery was born in 1926 in the small community of Lyle, between Buchanan and Eagle Rock, at a time when roads into the area were limited. As Coffey explained, family members sometimes crossed the river by boat because there was no easy access by road. By about age 9 or 10, Montgomery moved to the Cherry Tree Bottom area, where she has lived for roughly 90 years.

Growing up, Buchanan was busier than it is today, she said. The town once supported three meat markets and multiple grocery stores.

"It's not like it used to be," Montgomery said. "We had plenty going on."



PHOTO BY MATT DE SIMONE

Buchanan resident Virginia Montgomery turns 100 on Feb. 27.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TAMMY COFFEY

A photo of Virginia taken in her early 20s.

As a girl, she recalled sitting in a friend's new Ford on Friday nights along Main Street, waving at passers-by. "It was

See Montgomery, page 10



VHSL All-State first-teamer Angel Rigney, Lord Botetourt head football coach Jamie Harless, first-teamer Quinten Jones, and Blue Ridge District School Board representative Matt East

School Board recognizes employees, student-athletes; approves calendar flexibility at February meeting

Matt de Simone
Managing Editor

The Botetourt County School Board opened its February meeting last Thursday night in Fincastle with a series of recognitions highlighting employees, student-athletes, and school leadership, while also approving calendar adjustments to provide flexibility for additional winter weather.

Superintendent Dr. Janet Womack presented the January Employees of the Month for Botetourt County Public Schools, reading remarks

See BCPS, page 5



Lord Botetourt Principal Beth Mast, Employee of the Month Matthew Passik, and Valley District School Board representative Tim Davidick



PHOTOS COURTESY OF BCPS

Central Academy Middle School Principal Amanda Collins, Employee of the Month Suzanna Mejia, and Fincastle District School Board representative Dana McCaleb

Hazard mitigation plan adopted; fireworks set for July 5

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Fincastle Town Council unanimously adopted the updated regional hazard mitigation plan during its Feb. 12 meeting, held in the Fincastle Volunteer Fire Department training room.

The plan, presented by Amanda McGee, director of community development for the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission, is required by the federal government and allows localities to apply for certain pre-disaster mitigation grants.

Fincastle is included in the regional plan through Botetourt County, along with other member governments served by the commission.

McGee told council the updated plan replaces the previous version that expired in September 2024. Work on the update began that same month and was completed in early 2026, ahead of the typical two-year timeline.

The document includes an overview of the region, a history of natural disasters, risk assessments and mitigation strategies.

Hazards assessed include flooding, wind events, winter

storms, extreme temperatures, earthquakes, geologic hazards, wildfire and high-hazard potential dams. McGee said flooding and wind events ranked as the highest risks for both the county and the town, based on available data.

Public input played a role in shaping the plan. A regional survey conducted in March 2025 received 251 responses. Flooding was the most commonly reported hazard experienced by residents, followed by winter weather and wind events. McGee noted that wind has become an emerging concern across Virginia, with recent fatalities in the region linked to straight-line winds.

For Fincastle, short-term projects identified in the plan include acquiring a trailer-mounted generator with quick-connect capability and evaluating utilities for floodproofing. Medium-term projects include assessing the wastewater treatment plant for hazard vulnerabilities and studying stream bank restoration in town.

Mayor Mary Bess Smith asked to review the town's short- and medium-term project list during the presentation. Council member Ed Bordett asked for clarification on what stream bank restoration would involve.

McGee said the project could include clearing channels and adding riprap or large rock to stabilize eroding banks and maintain water flow, particularly near the intersection of U.S. 220 and Blacksburg Road. A citizen commented on erosion and flooding concerns along the stream that runs parallel to U.S. 220, including potential impacts to farmland and utilities.

Town officials noted that portions of the stream extend beyond town limits into Botetourt County and said they would coordinate to ensure the broader watershed is addressed. McGee added that once the plan is adopted, projects can be amended more easily if needed.

Following discussion, Smith read the resolution of adoption aloud. Council voted unanimously to approve the resolution, formally adopting the updated regional hazard mitigation plan.

McGee said the town has already applied for funding to purchase the generator and expects to move up in the queue now that the plan has been adopted.

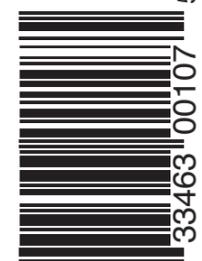
In other business, Town Manager Melanie McFadyen presented her monthly report.

See Fincastle, page 10




SWITCH TO THE BANK

FORBES NAMED #1 IN VIRGINIA






**Call for March 14, 2026
Botetourt County
Republican Party Canvass
Official Call
March 14, 2026
Party Canvass of the**

Botetourt County Republican Party

As Chairman of the Botetourt County Committee of the Republican Party of Virginia, and pursuant to the Plan of Organization and as recommended and directed by the Committee, I, Steve Dean, do hereby issue this call for a Party Canvass to be held at Lord Botetourt High School, located at 1435 Roanoke Road, Daleville, Virginia, starting at 10:00 a.m. local time on Saturday, March 14, 2026 and ending at 1:00 p.m. for the following purposes:

a) Electing the Botetourt County Republican Party Chairman for the 2026-2028 term;
b) Electing members of the Botetourt County Republican Committee for the 2026-2028 term; and
c) Electing up to 550 Delegates and an equal number of Alternates to the Sixth District Republican Convention to be held on April 26, 2026 at Peter Muhlenberg Middle School, 1251 Susan Lane, Woodstock, VA, starting at 10:00 a.m. for the following purposes:

a. Electing the Chairman for the Sixth Congressional District of the Republican Party of Virginia for the 2026-2028 term;
b. The transaction of such other business that may properly come before the Sixth Congressional District Republican Convention.

If not more than the number of persons to be elected shall file for each office, then such properly filed persons shall be declared nominated or elected as the case may be, and no canvass will be held for such purpose.

Qualifications for Participation

All legal and qualified Botetourt County voters under the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia, regardless of race, religion, national origin or sex, who are in accord with the principles of the Republican Party, and who, if requested, express in open meeting either orally or in writing as may be required their intent to support all of its nominees for public office in the ensuing election may participate as members of the Republican Party of Virginia in its mass meetings, party canvasses, conventions, or primaries encompassing their respective election districts.

A voter who, after making a statement of intent, publicly supports a candidate in opposition to a Republican nominee shall not be qualified for participation in party actions for a period of four years.

In addition to the foregoing, to be in accord with the principles of the Republican Party, a person otherwise qualified hereunder shall not have participated in Virginia in the nomination process of a party other than the Republican Party within the last five years. A single exception shall be approved for a voter that renounces affiliation with any other party in writing, and who expresses in writing that he/she is in accord with the principles of the Republican Party and intends, at the time of the writing, to support the nominees of the Republican Party in the future. Any voter that utilizes the foregoing exception, and thereafter participates in the nomination process of a party other than the Republican Party, shall not have the benefit of the exception thereafter. Within 30 days of receipt, the Botetourt County Republican Committee shall provide a copy of this signed renunciation statement to the Republican Party of Virginia, to be maintained for a period of five years.

Filing Requirements

Candidates for election as Botetourt County Republican Party Chairman must prefile a written statement of their intent on a form provided by the Committee to the Botetourt County Republican Committee, PO Box 702, Daleville VA 24083 or by physical delivery to the Steve Dean-CCSI C/O The UPS Store, 44 Kingston Drive Suite 141, Daleville, VA 24083 **which must be received not later than 12:00 p.m., noon, on Friday, February 27, 2026. Postmarks do not govern.**

Candidates for election as a **Delegate or Alternate** to the Sixth District Convention must prefile a written statement of their intent on the form provided below to the Botetourt County Republican Committee, P.O. Box 702 Daleville, VA 24083 or by physical delivery to Steve Dean-CCSI C/O The UPS Store, 44 Kingston Drive Suite 141, Daleville, VA 24083, **which must be received not later than 12:00 p.m. noon, on Friday, March 13, 2026.** Postmarks do not govern. Candidates for Delegate or Alternate to the district convention shall submit any required filing fee to the Botetourt County Republican Committee when they submit their written statement

Candidates for election as a member of the Botetourt County Republican Committee may submit applications and pay dues at the Party Canvass, or they may prefile a written statement of their intent, and provide dues on the form provided in this Call to the Botetourt County Republican Committee, P.O. Box 702, Daleville, VA 24083 or by physical delivery to Steve Dean-CCSI C/O The UPS Store, 44 Kingston Drive Suite 141, Daleville, VA 24083, which must be received not later than **12:00 p.m., noon, on Friday, March 13, 2026.** Postmarks do not govern.

Candidates for Botetourt County Republican Committee shall include a \$50.00 check to the Botetourt County Republican Committee when they submit their written statement. Members of the Botetourt County Republican Women's Committee, who have paid their annual dues and submitted the \$5 incremental payment to the Botetourt County Republican Committee by March 13, 2026 shall be deemed to have fulfilled this requirement.

Candidate filing forms are available at mybcrc.com.

IMPORTANT NOTICES:

This completed form and all payments should be mailed to the Botetourt County Republican Committee, P.O. Box 702, Daleville Virginia, 24083 or hand delivered to Steve Dean-CCSI C/O The UPS Store 44 Kingston Drive Suite 141, Daleville Virginia 24083 by noon on Friday, February 27, 2026. Postmarks do not govern. Make check payable to Botetourt County Republican Committee for all fees.

The filing deadline for Chairman of the Botetourt County Republican Committee is 12:00 p.m., noon Friday, February 27, 2026.

The filing deadline for member of the Botetourt County Republican Committee, 6th District Convention Delegate, is 12:00 p.m., noon Friday, March 13, 2026.

The filing deadline for membership in the Botetourt County Republican Committee is noon Friday, March 13, 2026. Note: Applications for Botetourt County Republican Committee will be accepted on day of canvass at the polling center only. **Proof of voter ID will be required.** Members of the Botetourt County Republican Women's Club, who have paid their annual dues and submitted the incremental \$5 payment to the Botetourt County Republican Committee by noon Friday, March 13, 2026, shall be deemed to have met this requirement.

If not more than the number of persons to be elected shall file for each office, then such properly filed persons shall be declared nominated or elected as the case may be, and no canvass will be held for such purpose.

**Authorized by the
Botetourt County Republican Committee
P.O. Box 702, Daleville, Virginia 24083**

(Paid for by the Botetourt County Republican Committee)

Botetourt County History



PHOTO COURTESY OF BCMHC

A collection of United States Historical Society "Great American Women" is on display upstairs in the Botetourt Museum of History & Culture in Fincastle. There are 11 prominent historical figurines that were donated out of the series of 12. They were made from 1998 to 1999 and are now discontinued. Each one is 6 inches tall and 2-1/2 inches at the base. The detailed porcelain figures have fabric and lace added to complete their attire. The costumes reflect the culture of their time in history.

Shown is Martha Custis Washington (1731-1802), who was married to George

Washington on January 24, 1759, after becoming a widow. Not shown are the purple shoes she wore on her wedding day. Martha was known for her help during the Revolutionary War. She took up residence with her husband at Washington's encampments for extended periods of time helping him and the soldiers. After Washington became the first President in 1789 Martha set the standard for arranging major social events as "Lady Washington." Feb. 16 was President's Day.

- Botetourt County Museum of History & Culture

February 1776 Revolutionary fever heats up a frigid landscape

United Colonies

The spread of Thomas Paine's pamphlet "Common Sense" continues to resonate within the colonies and reshaped public opinion in favor of revolution and self-government in ways that are hard to overestimate.

On Feb. 4, Major General Charles Lee arrived in New York City to begin the task of fortifying it against potential invasion by the British. On Feb. 16, General George Washington held a council of war to make plans to place the artillery which Henry Knox has brought from Fort Ticonderoga on Dorchester Heights and plan an attack on the British forces in Boston.

Also in February, the recruitment of free Blacks to serve in the Continental Army began.

Congress appointed a commission headed by Benjamin Franklin to approach Canada for support of the 13 colonies, after the invasion of Canada failed. Additional Congressional support for the troops was approved, as was authorization of rewards for Colonial ships to become privateers and capture British ships.

Several of the colonies begin debating writing new forms of government and constitutions for self-government. Notable among these are

See BPP, page 5



FILE GRAPHIC

Botetourt Rotary Club supports American Legion Boys State

The Botetourt County Rotary Club has presented a \$500 check to fund tuition for one delegate from James River High School to attend the American Legion Virginia Boys State this summer. Virginia Boys State provides the opportunity to gain hands-on experience in government. Participants cultivate leadership skills and develop pride in American citizenship.

Boys State is among the most respected educational programs of government instruction for high school students. Each participant becomes a part of the operation of his local, county and state government. Some of the program highlights include:

- Citizens learn the political process through the election process for the offices of the mythical 51st state
- Each delegate is assigned to a political party which has no philosophy or

platform until the delegates develop one

- Delegates use the basic laws and procedures of Virginia as a guide
- Speakers from all levels of government provide valuable lessons for the delegates
- A highly qualified staff provides guidance and leadership

Virginia Boys State is a

leadership action program, designed to develop a working knowledge of the structure of government and to impress upon the citizen the fact that the government is just what citizens make it. Along the way, the delegates will have the opportunity to learn the political process. Each level of government will be run by those

delegates who are elected to serve. Instruction will be presented on the law and court system, parliamentary procedure and Virginia political history.

This year's program will be held at Hampden-Sydney College in late June.

-Botetourt Rotary Club



PHOTO COURTESY OF BOTETOURT ROTARY CLUB

Botetourt County Rotary Club President Adam Dove presents the club's donation to American Legion Post 93 Commander Charlie Alphin.



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF BOTETOURT CO.

2026 State of the County postponed

The 2026 State of the County, originally scheduled for Friday, Feb. 20, has been postponed.

The Botetourt County Chamber of Commerce initially shared the announcement Monday on social media.

The Chamber encourages residents to follow Botetourt County on social media for

highlights and departmental metrics from the past year. The updates provide insight into the progress and work taking place across the community.

Additional information about the rescheduled event will be announced at a later date.

- Fincastle Herald staff report

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Report from the House - Week 5 Del. Terry Austin

The fifth week of the 2026 General Assembly session has concluded. As we approach Crossover, the point at which each chamber may consider only legislation passed by the other, several significant bills and policy decisions are advancing that will have lasting impacts on the Commonwealth. This includes the proposed redistricting amendment, and a series of gun control measures that, when taken together, represent the same aggressive push experienced during the last time Virginia was under Democrat control in the General Assembly and Executive Branch.

On Friday, the Supreme Court of Virginia ruled that the proposed redistricting amendment referendum may move forward on April 21. The ballot will ask:

“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?”

I strongly encourage you to read beyond the ballot language and understand the practical implications. This proposal will

shift political influence away from rural Virginia and concentrate it in Northern Virginia, altering our current 6D-5R (6 Democrat-5 Republican) congressional split to a 10D-1R (10 Democrat-1 Republican) configuration. An 11-mile drive through Fairfax County will take you through five congressional districts! Decisions about representation should enhance fairness and transparency, not dilute the voice of large regions of the Commonwealth. I strongly encourage you to educate yourselves and those around you about the detrimental effects this will have, regardless of party affiliation.

Finally, several gun control measures are advancing. HB217 is an “assault firearm” ban that does not simply target “weapons of war,” but includes commonly owned rifles and pistols used for self-defense, hunting, and sport. HB1359 establishes a permit-to-purchase requirement and fingerprinting regime that imposes new bureaucratic hurdles and waiting periods. HB1525 raises the lawful age to purchase certain firearms to 21, even though 18-year-olds can serve in the military and enter binding legal contracts. Other measures, including expanded storage mandates

and increased civil penalties, risk turning currently lawful conduct into criminal violations based on technical infractions. I oppose these bills on constitutional grounds. Furthermore, they will disproportionately burden rural and low-income Virginians, increase costs for firearms-related businesses, and invite costly litigation.

Thankfully, some concerning legislation has had its most detrimental effects curtailed while others have failed to advance. Regarding the two pieces of legislation dealing with the Virginia Military Institute, my focus remains supporting VMI Superintendent Lt. General David Furness in minimizing harm to VMI and safeguarding the institution’s integrity and funding.

HB1377, as originally introduced, raised major concerns about its potential impact on the state funding of the Virginia Military Institute. After working closely with Superintendent Furness and the bill’s patron, a substitute was adopted that removed provisions affecting funding and addressed other key concerns. HB1374 originally dissolved VMI’s Board of Visitors and placed the Institute under Virginia State University. That language has now been removed. While neither bill is perfect, it represents a meaningful improvement under the current makeup of the General Assembly. As these bills move to the Senate, I will continue advocating for VMI, its cadets, and its enduring mission.

HB 359 is a bill that would have

imposed new requirements on private K-12 schools that accept public tuition funds, including mandatory SOL testing, state accountability ratings, and expanded admissions standards. Thankfully, it is no longer a live bill this Session. Though framed as accountability, it would have significantly increased regulations for private and faith-based schools and likely discouraged participation in tuition assistance programs, reducing educational choice for families. Parents who choose to educate their children should not be punished with overbearing requirements.

Regarding my legislation, several bills are advancing through the House of Delegates:

HB790 prohibits a hotel from denying a room solely because a person lives nearby when seeking shelter for legitimate health or safety reasons, such as medical recovery, domestic violence, or storm damage. During the catastrophic floods in Southwest Virginia and recent winter storms in the Roanoke region, families were turned away due to arbitrary mileage-radius policies. HB 790 creates a narrow safeguard to prevent this while preserving a hotel’s right to refuse disruptive or unlawful guests. Two people with the same urgent need should not be treated differently simply because one lives 10 miles away and the other lives 60. It reported out of committee unanimously, 21-0.

See Austin, page 10



New art display featured at Glebe’s Gallery Walk

A new adventure awaits visitors to this month’s Glebe Gallery Walk, where local artist Sally Myers is sharing a vibrant collection of artwork that captures the spirit of Christmas past, the promise of spring gardens, and the untamed beauty of wildlife.

Myers, who recently became a resident at The Glebe along with her husband, Ken, has quickly become known within the community for her artistic talent. Word of her work spread soon after the couple’s arrival, prompting organizers to feature her paintings in the monthly Gallery Walk.

The exhibit showcases a range of Myers’ canvas paintings, from nostalgic holiday scenes to colorful depictions of blooming gardens and glimpses of the natural world. Her work reflects a love of seasonal traditions and the quiet beauty found in everyday moments.

But visitors who attend the Artist Reception at 3

p.m. Feb. 20 in the Botetourt Room will discover that Myers’ creativity extends far beyond framed wall art.

“She has not remotely restricted her art to merely canvas wall paintings,” organizers noted, hinting that attendees may be surprised by the breadth of her artistic expression.

The Gallery Walk provides residents and members of the wider Botetourt County community an opportunity to enjoy local art in an inviting setting. Guests are encouraged to stop by during the exhibit and to attend the February reception to meet the artist and learn more about her work.

For those curious about what else Myers has created, organizers suggest attending the reception to hear “the rest of the story.”

- Fincastle Herald staff report



PHOTOS COURTESY OF LYNNE BOLTON

Sally Myers’ art can now be seen along The Glebe’s Gallery Walk.

Town & Country Women’s Club sponsoring bingo

An afternoon of bingo to benefit the Botetourt Town & Country Women’s Club will be held on Saturday, March 14, at Bellacino’s, 1176 Roanoke Road, Daleville. The doors will open at 11 a.m. for food purchase. Prizes will be Pampered and Thirty One products. Tickets include 12 games of bingo, a door prize ticket, and a cover-all ticket. The cover-all grand prize is valued over \$173.

Tickets are sold in advance for \$20 by contacting or Diane Taylor at 540-520-7967 or Nancy Womack at 540-992-1747. The games will be held in the

banquet room at Bellacino’s, so arrive by 11 a.m. to purchase food and have it sent to the banquet room. (Room rental agreement is tied to food purchase.) Bingo will begin promptly at 12 p.m.

There will be door prize drawings, a raffle, 50/50 drawing, and a bake sale. There are 12 rounds of bingo, a door prize ticket, plus a cover-all (black out) round for the grand prize included for \$20 in advance. Additional bingo cards, cover-all cards, and door prizes tickets will be available for purchase.

- Submitted by Diane Taylor

Congratulations to Marsha Merritt from ACG Hospice,
Oakey’s November 2025, Hospice Caregivers Award winner. Thank you, Marsha for all you do. To nominate a special hospice caregiver, visit oakeys.com/hospice-caregiver-award.

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From left: Marsha Merritt and Wanda Boblett, Hospice Caregivers Coordinator

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Library Buzz

American Sign Language Basics

Wed, Feb 18, 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.

Needlecraft

Wed, Feb 18, 1 PM, Buchanan
Bring your project to work on, share tips, and learn from others in this informal gathering. All types of needlecrafts are welcome. Best for ages 18+

Yoga for Beginners

Wed, Feb 18, 1 PM, Fincastle
Thu, Feb 19, 6:30 PM, Blue Ridge
Mon, Feb 23, 10 AM, Eagle Rock
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.

Teen Scene After Hours

Fri, Feb 20, 5 PM, Eagle Rock
Join us after hours for crafts, games, and food. Best for ages 12-17. *Registration required. Register at <https://botetourtva.libcal.com/> or call 540-928-2900 with questions.

Stop the Bleed

Sat, Feb 21, 11 AM, Blue Ridge
Learn techniques on how to stop traumatic bleeding. Presented by Botetourt County Fire & EMS. Best for ages 13+.

Women & Heart Disease

Mon, Feb 23, 1 PM, Eagle Rock
Join us to learn about the importance of hydration, mineral balance, blood sugar regulation and proper digestion in supporting your heart health. Presented by Aimee Valenzuela, Nutritional Therapy Practitioner. Best for ages 18+

Stone Soup Foodraiser to benefit local charities March 7

The Buchanan Lions Club is inviting the community to take part in a modern twist on a classic tale with its upcoming Stone Soup Foodraiser, set for 4 p.m. March 7 at Buchanan Trinity Episcopal Church, 19640 Main Street, Buchanan. Inspired by the European folktale "Stone Soup," the event centers on the theme of neighbors coming together to share what they have. In the traditional story, hungry travelers convince reluctant villagers to contribute small amounts of food to a communal pot, transforming simple ingredients into a hearty

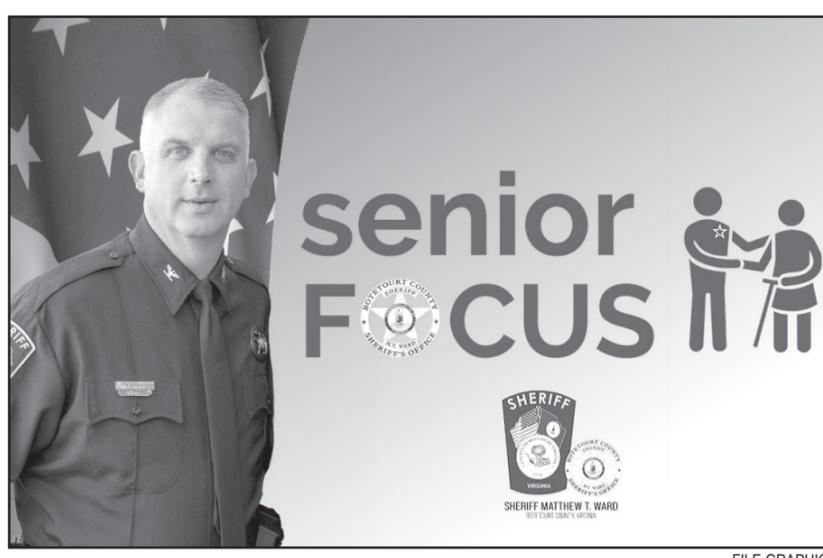
feast and demonstrating the power of cooperation and generosity. Organizers say the Buchanan event will follow that same spirit. Admission to the Stone Soup Foodraiser is one non-perishable item for the local Blessings Box— such as soup, soap, pasta or shampoo— along with one can of human-edible food to be added directly to the soup kettles. Guests will be treated to a meal featuring three different pots of soup (meat, poultry and vegetarian) along with salad, muffins and drinks. Members of the kitchen crew will open each donated can and add it to the appropriate

pot. Once the soups are heated and ready, attendees may choose their preferred variety. Any monetary donations collected during the event will benefit the Buchanan Blessings Box and Buchanan Food Pantry charities, supporting local residents in need. For more information, visit the Buchanan Lions Club on Facebook, call 540-450-6716 or email tim.heinlein@gmail.com. Community members of all ages are encouraged to attend and help turn simple ingredients into a good cause.

~ Buchanan Lions Club

The Sheriff's Post

SHERIFF MATTHEW T. WARD



FILE GRAPHIC

Botetourt County Sheriff Matt Ward announces the first Senior Social of 2026, part of the Senior Focus Outreach Program, taking place Friday, February 20, at Fincastle Baptist Church. The event is designed to bring seniors and law enforcement together while highlighting the many services and resources available to the Botetourt County senior community. The event will begin at 11:30 a.m. at Fincastle Baptist Church, 7330 Roanoke Road, Fincastle, and a free lunch will be provided. Sheriff Ward will offer information on preventative measures to help seniors avoid becoming victims of crime. Following Sheriff Ward, Tyler Kelly of CORA Physical Therapy in Daleville will speak. A Fincastle native and James River High School graduate, Tyler holds degrees in Sports Medicine and Athletic Training from Bridgewater College and a Physical Therapist Assistant credential from Allegany College of Maryland. He has managed the Daleville clinic for more than seven years and developed a fall-prevention program for churches and senior groups, focusing on reducing fall risks and teaching seniors how to safely

get up after a fall. Attendees will also have the opportunity to meet public and private service providers offering resources such as daily well-being checks, general health information, and financial wellness guidance. Government agencies will be on hand to answer questions and assist seniors in planning for future needs. All services are provided free of charge to the Botetourt senior community. "Protecting our seniors starts with communication and education," said Sheriff Ward. "This event gives us the opportunity to connect face-to-face, share prevention strategies, and ensure seniors have the tools they need to stay safe." Sheriff Ward invites the Botetourt senior community to join him for the first Senior Social of the year Friday, February 20, at 11:30 a.m. at Fincastle Baptist Church. For more information, contact Andrea Mundy, Community Outreach Coordinator, at 540-928-2233.

~ Botetourt Co. Sheriff's Office

ARRESTS

Feb. 9 – Feb. 15, 2026

The Botetourt County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests Feb. 9-15:

- John W. Watts IV, 58, of Buchanan, possession of a firearm while in possession of Schedule I or II substance, possession of Schedule drugs, Feb. 11
- David S. Vineyard, 35, of Daleville, domestic assault, Feb. 12
- Genia L. Curtis, 45, of Eagle Rock, driving under the influence, Feb. 12
- Nathan I. Campbell, 23, of Clifton Forge, possession of a concealed weapon, driving after forfeiture of license, petit larceny, Feb. 12
- Donald H. Beverly Jr., 48, of Bedford, manufacture, sell or distribute Schedule drugs, Feb. 12

League for Animal Protection's Waif of the Week

Duke
Duke is such a sweet, red puppy and is too cute. He is 6 months old and loves to play. 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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Tuesday Morning Club donates to Brian Center

PHOTO COURTESY OF TUES. MORNING CLUB

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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CLUES ACROSS
1. Golf scores
5. Shock therapy
8. Ballplayer's tool
11. Quench one's thirst
13. Female relatives of American war vets (abbr.)
14. Every one of two or more things
15. Member of Muslim people
16. Play
17. Type of cheese
18. Type of lounge chair
20. ___ King Cole, musician
21. Fellows
22. North, Central and South
25. In an early way
30. Foes
31. Georgia rockers

CLUES DOWN
1. Pacific Standard Time
2. Protruding ridge on nematodes
3. Indian king
4. Type of milk
5. One who brings home the bacon
6. More comprehensible
7. Connected with sense of touch
8. Red mineral
9. Breeze through
10. Therefore
12. Supplement with difficulty
14. Early kingdom of Syria
19. Satisfy
23. They confuse doctors (abbr.)
24. Brass instrument
25. Domesticated animal
26. Ribonucleic acid

CLUES ACROSS
27. Snakelike fish
28. Woman (French)
29. Economically-minded aircraft
34. When you hope to get somewhere
35. Tease
36. Actress Gretchen
37. Midway between northeast and east
39. Inoffensive 40. Yellowish cotton cloth
41. Consume
42. Does not tell the truth
44. Improved something
45. Spiritual leader
46. Abba___, Israeli politician
47. Fix
48. Evergreen tree genus
51. Swiss river
52. Prejudice
53. Major C. European river
54. Long, narrow strap
58. Male parent

The Tuesday Morning Club met at Pleasant Hill Baptist Church on Feb. 10 with 15 members and one guest present. Ruby Taylor called the meeting to order. Anne Christensen was hostess and had devotions. Jill Difede won the hostess gift. Nancy Waddell read minutes and Faye Kessler gave treasurer's report. The February project was Bingo prizes for the Brian Center. The March project will be Bingo prizes for Carrington in Daleville. Priscilla Hedrick and guest Carolyn Bayne won game prizes. As a group the members share in concerns of families and friends in need and share in the grief of loss of Rita Bruffey's husband, Loren, and Nancy Goad's brother, Johnny Harris. From left are: front, Ruby Taylor, Carolyn Bayne, Linda Harris, Faye Kessler, Dot Hillard, Dorothy Brogan, and Nancy Waddell; back, Barbara Harris, Cheryl Wood, Anne Christensen, Gale Webb, Jill Difede, Pam Obenchain, Priscilla Hedrick, and Barrie Knox.

~ Tuesday Morning Club

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Expo from page 1

demonstration in the gym hosted by the 4-H Shooting Club. Club members demonstrated proper archery techniques and offered guidance to those interested in learning more about the sport.

In the cafeteria, guests enjoyed free hot dogs and desserts while visiting booths hosted by local youth organizations. All 10 Botetourt County 4-H groups and four FFA chapters were represented, offering hands-on activities and information about their programs. A "100 Years of Virginia FFA" exhibit was also on display, showcasing the history of FFA in the state and its roots in Botetourt County.

Visitors stopped by the agriculture shop to see live animals raised by local 4-H and FFA members as part of their agricultural education projects.

Later in the evening, attendees enjoyed the annual 4-H Share the Fun talent show, which featured performances by local 4-H members.

In the Junior Division, Lori Livick and

Willow Shupe earned a blue ribbon and were named overall division champions for their combination act. Jordan Ruppel received a red ribbon for vocal performance. Melody Bowyer received a white ribbon for vocal performance, and Karter Prusak received a white ribbon for an instrumental performance.

In the Intermediate Division, Meara Knox, Blakely Whitson and Shea Whitson received a white ribbon for their tap-dancing performance.

In the Senior Division, Blake Arney earned a blue ribbon and was named overall champion for a vocal performance.

"Special thanks to the members of the 4-H Teen Club who ran the talent show this year," said Tyler Painter, Botetourt County 4-H Extension agent. "We also had representatives from eight different clubs at exhibits in the cafeteria. Those clubs included Cooking, Dairy, Livestock, 4-H Honey, Horse and Pony, FRC Robotics, Shooting Education, and Teen Leadership."



Several 4-H clubs, the Botetourt Farm Bureau, and FFA group brought displays.



Lori Livick and Willow Shupe took home the blue ribbon in the Junior division for their "Stranger Things" performance.



James River High School FFA members Katie Grace Barrett and Lacey Smith

BCPS from page 1

submitted by their nominators.

Matthew Passik, custodian at Lord Botetourt High School, was commended for his dedication and consistency. "He is thorough, conscientious, kind, and considerate," Dr. Womack read. "My classroom is always clean and fresh-smelling, and the teachers' bathroom is mopped and scrubbed every day. If I ever need anything, Mr. Passik is always happy to help. I feel very lucky to work with someone who is so capable and consistent. He is a fantastic employee and person."

Suzanna Mejia, Special Education teacher and department chair at Central Academy Middle School, was also recognized. In the nomination read aloud, Mejia was described as "a vital member" of the school's Special Education Department who "selflessly dons many hats while leading the team at CAMS." The nomination noted that she does not rest on past successes but instead seeks to elevate student learning through active collaboration and a drive to excel, serving "100 percent in ways that extend well beyond the wall of our school."

The board also recognized two Lord Botetourt High School student-athletes, Quinten Jones and Angel Rigney, for being named first-team All-State by the Virginia High School League in football. Head coach Jamie Harless attended the meeting and joined board members in presenting certificates of recognition.

Harless described the pair as "exceptional" players. "To say they put it all out on the line this year... If you look at what they both did numbers-wise, it's insane.

It's almost a statistical outlier, what they did," he said. "Their leadership and ability— they're great kids and they've been a pleasure to coach."

In observance of School Board Recognition Month, Dr. Womack thanked each member of the Botetourt School Board on behalf of the division. Representing the Virginia School Boards Association, the division presented each board member with a plant reflecting this year's theme, "From strong roots comes endless possibilities." Assistant Superintendent Jordan Pinkard presented certificates of recognition to board members.

"We are so thankful to have you in your seat," Dr. Womack told the board. "The support that you provide to the school division and to the community is really very meaningful and we're appreciative."

School Board Chair Anna Weddle also expressed appreciation for School Board Clerk Susan Albert, calling her "the epitome of a lifelong learner" who works "quietly and efficiently." Weddle further recognized Emily Shaver for stepping into the role of deputy clerk for the division.

Later in the meeting, Dr. Womack and Pinkard reviewed recent inclement weather days and explained how the division has used banked instructional hours, built-in makeup days, and remote learning options.

According to the presentation, the school division began the year with additional "bank time" because the school day exceeds the state's required 990 instructional hours. The calendar also includes four

designated makeup days. Each missed day deducts six hours from the available bank time, and hours are also reduced for two-hour early dismissals and delays.

At the start of the year, the division had 84 bank hours. After accounting for missed days, two two-hour early dismissals at the end of the first and second nine weeks, a two-hour delay, a non-division closure, and a previously converted February date that added back six hours, the division currently has approximately 24 bank hours remaining. If the two-hour early dismissals scheduled at the end of the third and fourth nine weeks remain in place, that total would drop to 20 hours.

The division is also permitted by the state to use up to 10 remote learning days, provided meal service is offered and teachers prepare assignments in advance. Two remote learning days have been used, leaving eight available.

Because of the amount of winter weather already experienced and the potential for more before March 11, administrators requested that the board approve a contingency change to the 2025-26 calendar. The change allows the division to convert the scheduled two-hour early dismissal days on March 11 and May 20 into full instructional days if additional closures occur. If the flexibility is not needed, the early dismissal days will remain as scheduled.

Board members approved the request, giving the division authority to make the call if necessary.

BPP from page 2

Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and Virginia.

In the Carolinas, 1,600 men, many of Highlander Scot origin, answered the call of exiled British Governor Josiah Martin to take up arms and join with British troops to restore British rule to North Carolina. Approximately 1,000 Patriots under the command of Richard Caswell marched to the bridge over Moore's Creek to meet the Loyalists. After a brief fight the Patriots prevailed, killing 70 of the Loyalists and capturing 850. This action successfully thwarted Governor Martin's plans to retake North Carolina.

Virginia

Important events during February 1776 in Colonial Virginia included the arrival of Carter Braxton, a conservative with doubts about the wisdom of revolution, to the Continental Congress to replace the deceased Peyton Randolph.

Lord Dunmore's fleet continued to occupy the Chesapeake Bay and Elizabeth River and was a constant threat against coastal Virginia. During February there was a severe outbreak of smallpox on Dunmore's ships due to the crowded conditions and many died. There were several skirmishes between the British and Patriots along the coast.

Debate over how to form a new government with the collapse of British rule and defense of Virginia from Dunmore's fleet occupied the attention of the Committee of Safety, who was acting as the executive branch.

On Feb. 28, Patrick Henry resigned as head of the Virginia forces. A brilliant orator, Henry had no prior military experience and his military judgement was doubted by many in the government, which led to friction.

Botetourt County

In Botetourt County during February 1776, there were active recruiting pushes to recruit troops to fill the recently formed expansion of the Virginia forces for service in the Continental Army, often referred to as the "Virginia Line," as well as Virginia troops tasked with protecting the western frontier, and county militia. Botetourt would become an important source of manpower for all three forms of military service during the Revolution. It has been estimated that approximately 800 men from Botetourt out of an estimated total population of 10,000 served the Patriot cause during the Revolution.

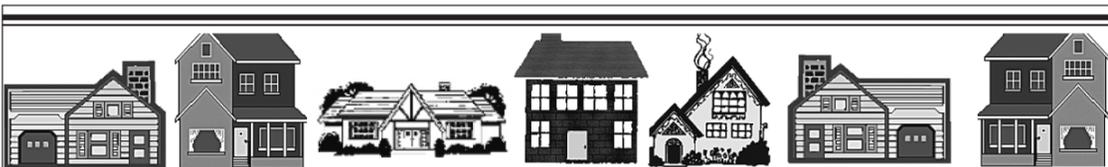
During February we have minutes of two meetings of the county court. The first, held on Feb. 13 and presided over by Gentlemen Justices John Bowyer, George Skillern, William McKee, William McClenahan and William Madison, heard the case of John Gabriel Jones declaration that he had paid for his relocation from Britain to Botetourt and granted him a King's grant of 50 acres.

The second meeting, held at the courthouse on Feb. 19 and presided over by Gentlemen Justices George Skillern, Andrew Woods, Richard May and Adam Smyth, heard a case of felony charges against Francis Armstrong, who pleaded not guilty, under the authority of the Lord and King. Unfortunately, the verdict in the case is missing from the minutes.

It is noteworthy that the minutes of the February 1776 proceedings were the last time that the

Botetourt County Court refers to British Royal authority. The wind of change was reaching the backcountry of Virginia.

- Submitted by Ed Holt, Historic Research Chair, Botetourt Preservation Partnership



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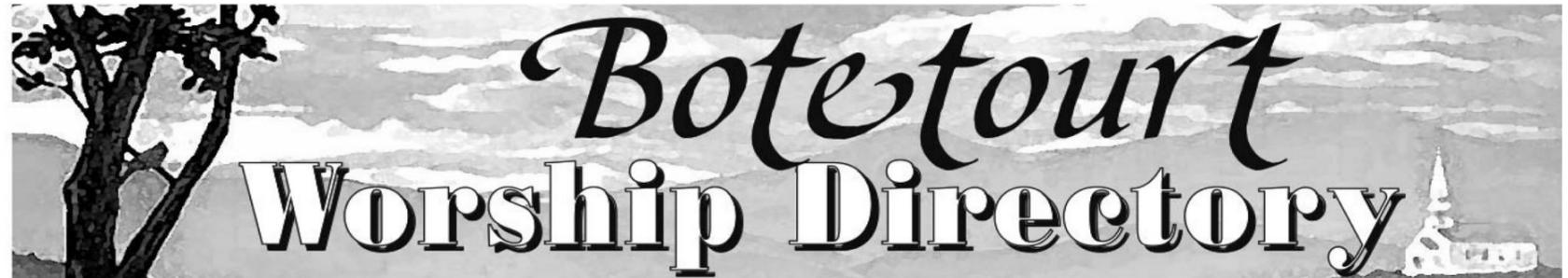
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Botetourt Worship Directory

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/@faithbaptistchurch9219. 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.-

YOU ALONE

Read Numbers 18:1 through 19:22

Monte had given his son one job: Shovel the walk. Monte returned to see messy piles of snow haphazardly scattered about. The boy had convinced his younger sister—who could barely lift the shovel—to do it for him so he could play video games. Monte promptly unplugged the game and sent the boy out to finish the job.

Similarly, God gave Aaron and his sons enormous responsibility. He expected them—and them alone—to follow through.

“But only you and your sons may serve as priests in connection with everything at the altar and inside the curtain. I am giving you the service of the priesthood as a gift. Anyone else who comes near the sanctuary is to be put to death” (Numbers 18:7).

Has God placed a burden on your heart? Is He pointing you toward work that will expand His kingdom? You are uniquely gifted and in just the right place to effect divine change in this world. Don't wait for someone else to do the job the Lord has given you. He wants you, and you alone, to follow through.

Thought for Today: The work of the Kingdom changes our hearts as it changes our world.

Quicklook: Numbers 18:1-7

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

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

Mt. Joy Church of the Brethren- 2565 Buffalo Rd., 10 miles N of Buchanan, 254-2298. Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m. Pastor Michael Tabor, (540) 309-7595.

Pleasant Dale Church of the Brethren, 3732 Breckinridge Mill Rd, Fincastle, Rev. Dr. David A. Tozar - pastor, Sunday worship at 11am, preceded by coffee fellowship at 10:30, Bible Study Sunday at 4pm, 5th Sunday Potluck luncheon, Handicap Accessible, Contact Pastor Davd at dtozar9@yahoo.com. Follow on Facebook, Sunday worship and Bible study stream live.

Troutville Church of the Brethren - 5133 Lee Hwy., 992-1571; Terry R. Johnson, Pastor; Don Obenshain, Choir Director. Sunday Morning Services: Sunday School, 10 am; Worship Service, 11 am. Sunday Night Meetings: Rainbows, 5:30 pm; Christ Seekers, 6:00 pm. Wednesday Night Meetings: Bible Study, 6:30 pm, Choir practice, 7:00 pm. Family Fellowship Time will be held each 3rd Sunday of the month. Handicap Accessible. Our email address is: Troutvillecob@hotmail.com.

ECKANKAR

Eckankar, The Path of Spiritual Freedom, is a simple teaching that focuses

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

EPISCOPAL

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

LUTHERAN

Our Savior Evangelical Lutheran Church (WELS) - 9068 Cloverdale Road, Troutville, VA; Paul Workentine, Pastor; Worship Sunday at 10:00 AM. Sunday School at 11:30 AM. Info and calendar at osloanoke.com. Phone: 540-977- 4888. **Wheatland Evangelical Lutheran Church**- 1560 Wheatland Road, Buchanan, 24066; 540-254-1605. Sunday worship service, 10:30 a.m. (in person or parking lot, tune car radio to 88.9 FM). The Rev. Chuck Miller, 540-589-7553. Facebook, <http://www.wheatlandlutheran.org>; teemwheatland@gmail.com

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

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

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

Woodland Church-A Place Where You Can Grow - 45 Woodland Rd. Troutville, VA. Corner of Blacksburg/ Country Club Rds., 3.5 miles W. of Fincastle; 992-1008. Sunday School, 10AM; Worship, 11AM, Wed. Prayer Meeting 6:30PM. Website: woodlandchurchbc.com. E-mail address: woodlandchurchbc@gmail.com.

PRESBYTERIAN

Buchanan Presbyterian Church - 19559 Main St. Buchanan. 540-254-1390. Donna Hopkins Britt, Pastor. Choir rehearsal at 9:00 am. Sunday School at 10:00 am. Worship at 11:00 am. Videotaped services can be viewed on YouTube. The Food Pantry is open from 9-11 a.m. on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month. 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/@FincastleUMC> 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

Brogan, Rabon

Rabon (Ray) Brogan, 89, of Troutville, passed away peacefully on February 11, 2026 at home with family.

Born on March 23, 1936, Ray was the son of James Earl Brogan and Emma Alberta Davis. He was the owner/operator of Oak Ridge Mobile Home Park for 30 years.

On April 15, 1961, he married Jane Kessler, and together they shared 64 years of marriage filled with love, family, and happiness.

Ray enjoyed working in the yard and driving his tractor, but most of all spending time with his family. Ray was humble but had a sense of humor that



was unmatched. He was a member of Ebenezer United Methodist Church for 65 years.

He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Jane Kessler Brogan; sons, Mark Brogan (Annie) of Bedford, and Craig Brogan (Peggy) of Mansfield, Ga.; grandchildren, Jake Brogan (Maggie) of Augusta, Ga., and Cassie Brogan of Buchanan; and sister, Shelby Vaught (Bill) of Rich Creek, Va. He was preceded in death by one brother and three sisters.

A graveside service will be held on February 18 at 2 p.m. in Trinity Cemetery in Daleville.

Rogers, Roberta Conner

Roberta Conner Rogers, 90, of Cloverdale went to heaven to reunite with her beloved husband J.C. on February 9, 2026. She is gone from our sight, but never from our hearts.

Roberta was born in Gap Mills, W.Va., on April 4, 1935. She graduated from Lewis-Gale School of Nursing in 1956. She worked in the hospital, moved to private practice and retired after 27 years as Head Nurse at Hollins College (now University) where she thrived and became a second mom to the students. Roberta married the love of her life, J.C., on November 24, 1957 and joined the Cloverdale Church of the Brethren soon after that. She served on several commissions, taught Sunday School, was President of the Women's Fellowship, a Deaconess and found her true passion working to create the Cloverdale Thrift Store (known to many as the Cloverdale Boutique). Roberta and J.C. loved to travel, especially helping on over 20 disaster ministry trips, and going to Jamaica on eight service trips with the Jamaica Cultural Immersion Program at Hollins.

Roberta was preceded in death by her loving husband, James C. Rogers, Sr.; parents, Elmer and Genia Conner Chitwood; brother and sister-in-law, Wayne and Betty Conner; and

granddaughter, Maleah Rogers. She is survived by her children, Renee Ayres (Scott), Lynette Smith (Gary), and James Rogers; grandchildren, Sarah, Clay, Nikki, Courtney, Ashley (Jacob), Cody and Conner; great-grandchildren, Grayson, Riley, Logan, Madilyn, Michael, Kayley and Taylor. She held a special place in her heart for her chosen family, Jeri and Alex Suarez.

Roberta had so many remarkable friends in her life that she treasured. Her church family meant the world to her, and her children would like to thank everyone for their calls, visits and prayers. In addition, we would like to recognize Good Samaritan for their help during this period, and especially Lynette for her countless hours of love, companionship and assistance during the last 9 years.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in Roberta's memory to Cloverdale Church of the Brethren, P.O. Box 85, Cloverdale, 24077.

A celebration of Roberta's life will be held February 28, 2026 at 2 p.m. at Cloverdale Church of the Brethren with visitation and reception to follow in the Fellowship Hall.

Arrangements are by Oakey's East Chapel and Crematory, 540-977-3909.



Haymaker, L. Robert

L. Robert "Bob" Haymaker, 87, passed away peacefully on February 8, 2026.

Bob was born in Fincastle, the son of Luther R. and Mary E. Haymaker. He attended Fincastle High School after which he continued his education at the University of Virginia, graduating with a BA from the McIntire School of Commerce. While at UVA he was in ROTC and played freshman basketball. Upon graduation he entered the military intelligence division of the Army for three years, being honorably discharged as a Second Lieutenant. Once discharged from the military he started a 30-year distinguished career as a Special Agent with the FBI. Upon retirement he worked in the Security Division at Caesar's Casino, Seaview Golf and Country Club and in his spare time did background checks for the FBI.

Bob will be sadly missed by his loving wife, best friend, and soulmate, Bonnie; sons, Robert Jay (Lannae), and Timothy; his loving grandchildren, Kylie (Paul), Courtney, and Dominick; his great-grandson, (Lil Paul) Reeve; his great-grandpuppy, Tate; his goddaughters, Jillian Sainsbury and Ella Madhok; and many loving cousins, nieces, nephews, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, friends and colleagues.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Luther R. and Mary E. Haymaker; brothers and sisters-in-law, Wayne F. and Mary Haymaker, Donald E. and Penny Haymaker; and sister and brother-in-law, Mary Lou and Ara Ayanian.

Bob enjoyed coaching baseball and basketball for his young boys, refereeing basketball, bowling, playing and watching golf and was a devoted University of Virginia, Dodgers and Green Bay Packers sports fan. He enjoyed tending to one of the best yards on his street and spending time at the Margate beach, often followed by a beer at the Greenhouse. Bob will be remembered for his service, dedication and love for his family.

Services were held from 5-7 p.m. Monday, February 16, at Adams-Perfect Funeral Home, Northfield, N.J., and again on Tuesday, February 17, at 10 a.m. at Central United Methodist Church, Linwood, N.J., with a service immediately following at 11 a.m. Interment with military honors was in Friends Cemetery directly across the street from the church.

Memorial donations may be made to the Virginia Athletics Foundation, P.O. Box 400833, Charlottesville, Va. 22904 or Central United Methodist Church, 5 Marvin Avenue, Linwood, N.J. 08221.

Wood, Mollie Angell

Mollie Angell Wood went to be with her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on Monday evening, February 9, 2026. She was born on November 11, 1937.

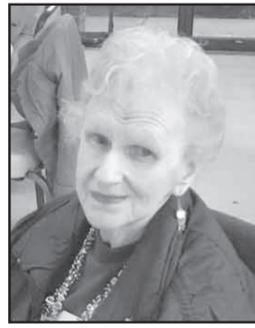
She was preceded in death by her husband, Jessy Newton Wood; parents, Caleb Angell and Calestia Hale Angell; sisters, Maggie, Edith, and Shirley; and brother, Marshall.

She is survived by her son, Larry Wood and wife Wanda; daughter, Tammy Williams and husband Dennis; and daughter, Sandi Wood Witt and husband Barry; grandchildren, Jennifer and Chris Parker, Rebecca (Becca) Williams, Jesse and Teresa Witt, Daniel and Kathryn Richmond, Joshua Witt, and Nathan and Kayla Patrick; great-grandchildren, Landon, Logan, Caroline, Rucker, Deacon, Luke, and Silas; and beloved sister, Mary Hutton.

Mollie enjoyed her working years serving others and sharing laughter everywhere she went. Her laugh was renowned within the family and brought joy to those around her. She loved joking and playfully teasing others, and the one word most often used to describe Mollie was "sweet."

The family is especially thankful for Mia, who provided excellent and compassionate care for Mollie during her time in the nursing home.

Funeral services were held on Friday, February 13, 2026, at 3 p.m. in the Buchanan Chapel of Botetourt Funeral Home with Pastor Barry Witt and the Rev. Floyd Williams officiating. The family received friends an hour before the service. Interment was in Sherwood Memorial Park. Online condolences may be made at www.botetourtffh.com.



McClure, Debra Bott

9/1/1955-2/4/2026

Debra Jean Bott McClure was born in Roanoke and raised in Blue Ridge.

Debbie attended Lord Botetourt High School, graduating in 1973. In her young adult life she enjoyed being a military wife and living abroad, including Germany where her oldest son was born, and Alaska being her favorite.

Debbie accepted the Lord Jesus as her savior and she was baptized on Easter Sunday 1980. Known to her grandchildren and great-grandchildren as "Bunga," she was named by her oldest grandson when he was 2 years old. She loved and cherished the name and knew no other grandmother would have that name. She was proud to tell everyone the story of her being "Bunga." Over the years she enjoyed her many pets and grand-pets, especially her beloved Winston and Lassie Sue.

Debbie was preceded in death by her father, William "Chick" Bott; mother, Eula Wertz Bott-Naff; stepfather, Fred Naff; daughter-in-law, Arryn St. Clair; stepson, Marc McClure; grandparents, Wilbert and Pearl Wertz and Charles and

Nellie Bott.

Debbie is survived by her husband, Richard McClure; children, Michelle St. Clair (John Roberts), Jerry St. Clair (Teri), and Todd St. Clair; stepson, Brad McClure; grandchildren, Samantha Malone, Sidney Malone (Candice), Ethan St. Clair (Kendra), Cameron St. Clair (Katie), Dakota Lam, Mitch McClure (Lauren), Emily Suggs (Joel), Elaina McClure, and Erica McClure; great-grandchildren, Kaleb Malone, Karlee Malone, Kynsley'skyy St. Clair, Kyleigh'reign St. Clair, Kyrieiella'stoorm St. Clair, Esther Lam, Tucker McClure, Jack McClure, and Crew McClure; sister, Becky Bott Martin (Billy); aunts, Rose Wilson, Barbara Bare, Jane Crouch, and Brenda Martin; numerous cousins; special friends, Jerry St. Clair, father of her children and lifelong friend; Gail Cook, Libby Carr, Shirley Mills and others.

A memorial service will be held Sunday, February 22, at 2 p.m. at Oak Grove Church of the Brethren, 2138 McVitty Road SW, Roanoke. A reception will follow the service.



Milliner, Hester Wymer

Hester Lou Wymer Milliner, 78, of Chesterfield, passed away on Saturday, February 7, 2026. She was preceded in death by her parents, Alfred Lee Wymer and Emma Evelyn King Wymer; daughter, Joyce Milliner; and sister, Carolyn Wymer.

Hester enjoyed sewing, tending to her flowers, and assisting with pastoring churches.

Left to cherish Hester's memory are her husband of 62 years, Douglas Milliner, Sr.; daughter, Mitsy Milliner; son, Doug Milliner, Jr.; grandchildren, Jessica Long (Drew), Joshua Spence, Mary Dooley (Richard), Heather Gattis (Mike),

Miranda DiRienzo (Hayden), and Hunter Milliner (Becca); numerous great-grandchildren; sisters, Barbara Brogan (Kenneth), and Janet Wilson; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held on Friday, February 13, 2026, at 12 noon in the Buchanan Chapel of Botetourt Funeral Home, with Pastor Gene Gillette officiating. The family received friends an hour before the service. Interment followed at 2 p.m. in Tolley Cemetery, Natural Bridge Station. Online condolences may be made at www.botetourtffh.com.



CHURCH NEWS

Andrew Chapel Ash Wednesday service tonight

Fincastle United Methodist's Clothes Closet will be open on Saturday, Feb. 28, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., in the Family Life Center at 137 S. Church Street. Donations of gently worn, clean clothing and shoes also will be accepted. Call the church office at 540-473-3001 to arrange to bring donations during office hours, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Tuesday-Thursday.

Eagle Rock Clothes Closet February dates

Andrew Chapel United Methodist Church will observe the first day of the Lenten season with an Ash Wednesday service on Feb. 18 at 7 p.m. This service is open to the community and all are welcome. Andrew Chapel is located at 3936 Beaver Dam Road, just off Springwood Road in Springwood.

The Eagle Rock Community Clothes Closet at 14565 Church Street, Eagle Rock, will be open on Saturday, Feb. 21, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. It has clothing for men, women, and children, as well as shoes, household items and toys, all at no charge. Bags are provided and patrons are asked to honor the bag limit.

Clothing donations should be made in bags, using the donation box outside the church. For larger donations or to volunteer to help with this community-wide mission, contact Ray Sandifer at 540-525-0258.

Celtic music in Fincastle on Feb. 26

Fincastle Presbyterian Church invites the public to enjoy an evening of beautiful music on Feb. 26 at 7 p.m. The music will be provided by KINNFOLK, a local Celtic duo. There is no charge and all are welcome to this free event for the community. It will be at the church, 108 Back Street in Fincastle.

Wednesday Lenten services and lunch

Fincastle United Methodist Church Family Life Center, 137 S. Church Street, is the site on Wednesdays in Lent for 20-minute services beginning at 12:05 p.m. with music and messages of faith and hope from area pastors.

A home-cooked lunch immediately follows each service at 12:30 p.m. The service and meal are designed to give attendees time to return home or to work within one hour. Take-out meals will be available. Parking is available on the street, at the Masonic Lodge, and at the Health Department on the side facing Church Street.

If Botetourt schools are closed for inclement weather, the service is canceled.

The schedule is:
 • Feb. 25: Rev. Samuel Plymale, St. Mark's UMC, Daleville; ham biscuits, potato salad, fruit, dessert
 • March 4: Rev. Dr. David Dickerson, Fincastle Presbyterian Church; sub sandwiches, cole slaw, chips, dessert
 • March 11: Pastors Tom & Naomi Powers, Daleville Church of the Brethren; chicken salad croissants, vegetable salad, chips, dessert

See Church, page 10

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 Karen C. Young
 Funeral Director
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 I. Ray & Bobbi Sloan



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Legals - Botetourt County

Order of Publication

Commonwealth of Virginia
VA Code§§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316.-317,20-104
Case No.W24000082
BOTETOURT COUNTY
CIRCUIT COURT, 205
NORTH ROANOKE
STREET, FINCASTLE, VA
24090
ESTATE OF CHARLES
PATRICK KANE
It appearing that a report of the account of Diana Tuck, Administrator of the Estate of Charles Patrick Kane, deceased, and the debts and demands against his estate has been filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of the County of Botetourt, and that six (6) months have elapsed since the qualification of the Administrator on March 20, 2024.

On the motion of the Administrator, it is hereby ORDERED that the creditors of, and all others interested, in the Estate of Charles Patrick Kane do show cause, if they can, on the 4th day of March, 2026at 9:00 a.m. before this Court at its courtroom in Fincastle, Virginia, against the payment and delivery of the Estate of Charles Patrick Kane, deceased, to the distributees under the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia with out requiring refunding bonds, subject only to the retention by the Administrator of sufficient funds to satisfy the remaining costs of administration.

Entered this 3rd day of February, 2026.
Tommy L. Moore, Clerk

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

Legals - Botetourt County

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 - City of Salem

ABC NOTICE

J&D CULINARY GROUP LLC., trading as J'S DELI, 7 BROAD STREET, 3 WEST MAIN STREET, SALEM, VA 24153

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Retail Restaurant or Caterer Application – Restaurant, Wine, Beer, Mixed Beverages, Consumes On and Off Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

Jason Maxwell, 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.

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

Storage Auction

LEGAL NOTICE

A public auction will be held on
Wednesday
February 25, 2026
at 10 a.m.
at Grand Storage
of Vinton
1119 Vinyard Rd,
Vinton, VA 24179,
to sell personal property
in the following units:
Jeremy Thompson Unit C20
Linda McCraw Unit F11

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389-9355

Legals - Montgomery County

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

The Town of Christiansburg Town Council will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, March 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:

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.

B. Conditional Use Permit request by Rockstep Christiansburg LLC, Property Owner, to allow operation of a Carnival from March 26, 2026 through April 5, 2026 on the property located at 782 New River Road NW, Tax Parcel 435 - ((A)) - 41, Parcel ID 007741, zoned General Business District B-3. The property is designated as Business/Commercial on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.

A copy of the applications, the Town's Zoning Map, Zoning Ordinance, and Future Land Use Map may be viewed in the Planning Department Office, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073 during normal office hours of 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contact 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.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN,

By the Board of Supervisors of the County of Montgomery, Virginia that the Board of Supervisors hereby schedules a public hearing for Monday, March 9, 2026 at 7:15 p.m. or as soon thereafter, at the Montgomery County Government Center, 755 Roanoke Street, Christiansburg, Virginia, in order to receive citizen comments on the proposed Ordinances Temporarily changing the A-3, E-3 and F-3 Precinct Polling Place from Squires Student Center located at 290 College Avenue, Blacksburg, Virginia, to McComas Hall located at 895 Washington St. SW, Blacksburg, Virginia, for the April 21, 2026 Special Election Only. BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Angela M. Hill County Administrator

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 4366 BRADSHAW RD, ELLISTON, VA 24087.

In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated May 19, 2016, in the original principal amount of \$127,645.00 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Montgomery County, Virginia as Instrument No. 160003643. 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 April 16, 2026, at 1:00 PM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: PARCEL 1: A PARCEL OF LAND CONTAINING 1.063 ACRES AS SHOWN ON A PLAT ENTITLED "PLAT FOR DAVID E. VANDER VLIET OF AN UN-NUMBERED 1.063 AC. LOT NEAR ROUTE 622 MT. TABOR MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VIRGINIA" PREPARED BY NEAL H.

Legals - Montgomery County

WIRT, L. S., DATED 5 NOVEMBER 1992, DESIGNED AS PLAT NO. 92-688, WHICH PLAT IS OF RECORD IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VIRGINIA, IN DEED BOOK 766, PAGE 561. PARCEL 2: A PARCEL OF LAND CONTAINING 5.153 ACRES AS SHOWN ON A PLAT ENTITLED, "SURVEY FOR DAVID E. & ALTHEA L. VAN DER VLIET OF A 5.153 ACRE PARCEL SITUATE IN THE MT. TABOR MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VIRGINIA", PREPARED BY JACK G. BESS, C.L.S., DATED JULY 24, 1995, DESIGNATED AS N.B. W-9 0-95648, A COPY OF WHICH PLAT IS RECORDED IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF MONATGOMERY, VIRGINIA, IN DEED BOOK 886, PAGE 759. 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.alldridgepите.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.alldridgepите.com. VA-372257-1.

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE 945 Brooklyn Ave., Christiansburg, Virginia 24073 Tax Map No. 080-9 32 / Parcel ID No. 150446

COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY, VIRGINIA

In execution of a credit line deed of trust dated June 30, 2022 (the "Deed of Trust"), recorded in the Office of the Circuit Court of Montgomery County, Virginia, as Instrument No. 022005240, the undersigned substitute Trustee, any or all of whom may act, will offer for sale at or near 945 Brooklyn Ave., Christiansburg, Virginia 24073, on March 6, 2026, at 12 o'clock p.m., property located at or near 945 Brooklyn Ave., Christiansburg, Virginia 24073, which property is more particularly described as follows:

All that certain lot or parcel of land situate, lying and being in the Shawsville Magisterial District of Montgomery County, Virginia, and more particularly described as follows: Being all of Lot Number Thirty-Two (32), The Preserve At Walnut Creek, Phase IV, as shown and described on a plat of survey entitled, "PLAT OF MAJOR SUBDIVISION OF LOTS 1-13, 29-35 & ESMT. DEDICATION THE PRESERVE AT WALNUT CREEK," prepared by Gay and Neel, Inc., a copy of which is of record in the Circuit Court Clerk's Office of Montgomery County, Virginia at Instrument Number 2008011650 (the "PLAT"). This sale is subject to all liens, easements, restrictions, conditions, and reservations of record

Legals - Montgomery County

affecting the title to the property hereinabove described, to the extent any of them have priority over the lien of the Deed of Trust. TERMS AND CONDITIONS:
1.Registration: Bids will only be accepted from registered bidders. Your driver's license and a cashier's check or cash in the amount of 10% of the bidder's projected high bid will be required to register.
2.Deposit: The successful bidders will be required to sign a Memorandum of Sale immediately following the falling of the hammer, and a cashier's check or cash in the amount of 10% of the contract sale price, as described below, will be delivered to the Substitute Trustee. The deposits will be applied to the purchase price at closing. The deposit is non-refundable unless Seller is unable to convey marketable title. Closings are to take place within 30 days of sale. Time is of the essence.
3.Deed: The property will be conveyed by Special Warranty Deed.
4. Announcement: Announcements made on the day of sale, take precedence over all prior communications, both verbal and written, concerning the sale or the property.
5.Buyer's Premium: There will be a 5% Buyer's Premium in effect on the day of sale. The Buyer's Premium is added to the high bid amount, to determine the contract sale price.
6."As-Is, "Where-Is": The property is being sold "AS-IS", "WHERE-IS". Potential Buyers must perform such independent investigations with respect to the property as they deem necessary to verify information provided by the Auction Company or the Seller.
7. Advertisements: All information provided by Auction Company and the Seller is deemed reliable but is not warranted. The information contained in the advertisement brochure and any advertisements by Auction Company are subject to verification by all parties relying on it. No liability for its accuracy, error or omission is assumed by the Auction Company or the Seller.
8.Representations: Auction Company and its representatives represent the foreclosing party.
9.Bid Increments: Auctioneer reserves the right to set bid increments.
10.Lines on Photographs: The lines drawn on the photographs in the marketing materials are not exact. Refer to the survey for the actual property lines. Bryson J. Hunter, Peter M. Pearl, and Timothy J. Lovett, Substitute Trustees
For Information Contact: Timothy J. Lovett, Esquire tiovett@spilmanlaw.com Spilman Thomas & Battle, PLLC, P.O. Box 90 Roanoke, Virginia 24002 540-512-1800 Telephone

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SERVICES

DIVORCE-Uncontested, \$525.00 + \$86.00 court cost. WILLS-\$295.00. No court appearance. Estimated completion time twenty-one days. Hilton Oliver, Attorney (Facebook). 757-490-0126. Se Habla Espanol. BBB Member. <https://hiltonoliverattorneyva.com>

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*Includes labor and product, bathtub, shower or walk-in tub and well surround. This guarantee cannot be combined with any other offer. Other restrictions may apply. Offer expires 3/30/26. Each dealership is independently owned and operated. **Third party financing is available for those customers who qualify/Participating dealers only. See your dealer for details. ©2026 Bath Concepts Industries.

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Brown v. Board of Education SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE
Accepting Applications through April 12, 2026
The Brown v. Board of Education Scholarship Program was established by the General Assembly to provide educational opportunities for persons who were denied an education in Virginia between 1954 and 1964 due to the closing of the public schools during Massive Resistance. The scholarship is now available to those individuals and to their descendants. The program is open to eligible applicants for the 2026-2027 school year. For applications and information on eligibility, visit: **BROWNSCHOLARSHIP.VIRGINIA.GOV**

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Bank of Botetourt records profitable 2025; board votes to increase dividend

Buchanan-based Bank of Botetourt released its unaudited financial results last week for the three and 12 months ended December 31, 2025. The bank produced net income amounting to \$2,709,000 or \$1.32 per basic share in the fourth quarter. This amount compares to net income of \$1,954,000 or \$0.94 per share for the same period last year. For the 12 months ended December 31, 2025, the bank produced net income amounting to \$10,802,000 or \$5.25 per basic share. This amount compares to a net income of \$7,942,000 or \$3.82 per share for the same period last year.

At December 31, 2025, select financial information and key highlights included:

- Return on average assets of 1.22%
 - Return on average equity of 12.29%
 - Book value of \$44.19
 - Total deposit growth of 7.28%
 - Total asset growth of 7.70%
 - Total loan growth of 11.73%
 - Community Bank Leverage Ratio of 10.42%
 - Net Interest Margin of 3.64%
- The Board of Directors voted to pay the 7.00% preferred dividend, which calculates to \$0.49 per share, on February 6, 2026, to preferred shareholders of record January 30, 2026. Furthermore, the board voted to pay the \$0.25 per share quarterly dividend, or \$1.00 per share annualized, an increase of 11.1% which is payable on February 17,

2026, to common shareholders of record February 10, 2026.

President & CEO Michelle Austin said, "This was a strong year for Bank of Botetourt, with results that exceeded expectations and reflected the disciplined execution of our strategy. None of this would be possible without the trust of our customers, the support of our communities, and the dedication of our employees. As we look ahead, we remain focused on delivering long-term shareholder value while continuing to invest in the communities we are proud to serve."

Financial Condition
At December 31, 2025, total assets amounted to \$923,097,000 compared to

\$857,073,000 at December 31, 2024, an increase of \$66,024,000 or 7.70%.

Total net loans increased \$78,778,000 or 11.73% from \$671,590,000 at December 31, 2024, to \$750,368,000 at December 31, 2025.

Total deposits at December 31, 2024, amounted to \$767,221,000, compared to \$823,058,000 at December 31, 2025, an increase of 7.28% or \$55,837,000.

As of December 31, 2025, Bank of Botetourt reported its CBLR ratio at 10.42%, which meets the required regulatory minimum ratio. This compares to a CBLR ratio of 10.25% at December 31, 2024.

- Bank of Botetourt

Fincastle from page 1

Council approved a recommendation to continue Scott Critzer's service on the Board of Zoning Appeals. The Planning Commission also has begun work on the town's 2026 comprehensive plan update. McFadyen said the update will not be a full overhaul but will include public surveys and opportunities for community input.

Council discussed this year's Earth Day event,

scheduled for April 25 in partnership with the local library. Organizer Bess Madonna currently seeks additional sponsorships and donations to support expanded programming.

McFadyen reported that the town's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application was not selected for funding this cycle, but the existing plan remains valid and can be resubmitted.

The town's annual fireworks show is scheduled for July 5, with a rain date of July 11.

Council also elected officers for the calendar year, naming Jim Reynolds as vice mayor and Pam Binns as treasurer.

The next meeting of Fincastle Town Council is March 12. For more information, visit the town's website at townoffincastle.org.

Montgomery from page 1

fancy at the time," she said.

She also remembered riding the train to Clifton Forge to visit grandparents. The conductor would let them board near the

crossing and return later in the day. It was, she said, "a nice-fashioned trip."

Life looked different in other ways. The family heated with coal and relied on lanterns and

candles for light. At one point, they had a two-seat outhouse — something Montgomery jokingly said made them feel "rich."

Montgomery's work life began early. She worked at a soda fountain in a local drugstore while in school. Later, she spent nine years at Burlington Industries in Glasgow before moving into retail management.

She is best known for managing The Dress House in Buchanan, a storefront connected to the former Kenrose dress factory. Coffey described it as "the 'it' place" where Montgomery "dressed the women of Buchanan."

Montgomery later worked in Roanoke for Halmode Apparel, but The Dress House cemented her reputation. Photographs from the era show her in coordinated church attire such as gloves, matching hats and carefully chosen accessories— hallmarks of a time when Sunday best meant something special.

At 13, Montgomery became a member of Buchanan Baptist Church, where she still attends services. She sang in the choir from her teenage years "until I got too old," she said, and also served as church secretary, taught Sunday School and participated in the Ladies Circle Club.

Music extended beyond the church. She was active for years in the Botetourt County Chorus. Her sisters teased her about her singing ability.

"They said I couldn't carry a tune," Montgomery said with a laugh.

She sang anyway. When asked what her faith has meant to her over the years, her answer was direct: "Live for the Lord. He'll take care of you." It is also the advice she offers younger generations in the community: "Live for the Lord."

Montgomery is one of four siblings— a brother, two sisters, and a

stepsister. The sisters were inseparable and known for their sense of humor. They played practical jokes on one another during trips and outings, sometimes arranging for embarrassing gifts to be opened at restaurants or telling staff it was someone's birthday when it wasn't.

"They had the best time," Coffey said.

The family also shared a party-line telephone with neighbors. Picking up the receiver sometimes meant listening in... or being listened to. Montgomery admitted she occasionally listened in on her niece's conversations herself.

"You could hear it click," Coffey recalled. "You'd say, 'Are you on the phone?' And they'd say, 'No,' and then click."

Now nearing 100, Montgomery still drives short distances, participates in the Red Hat Society and remains

active in church. She enjoys reading, traveling when able and spending time with loved ones. She and her sisters traveled extensively over the years, including a memorable trip to Hawaii that she counts among her favorites.

Her late husband, Calvin, was a cattle farmer. Montgomery balanced farm responsibilities with church and community life, often changing from Sunday attire into work clothes to help as needed. She is also known among family and friends for her pound cakes.

When asked the secret to her longevity, she again kept it simple.

"I've just had a good life," she said.

As friends and family gather this month to celebrate her milestone birthday, Montgomery hopes to be remembered as someone who worked hard, believed in the Lord and was "a good friend."



PUBLIC NOTICE FOR APRIL 21, 2026 SPECIAL ELECTION

In-Person Early Voting Begins: Friday, March 6, 2026 **Ends:** Saturday, April 18, 2026 @ 5 pm. All qualified, registered voters are eligible to vote early during this time

Location: Department of Elections & Voter Registration Office
2 East Main Street, Fincastle (corner of Roanoke & Main Streets)

Hours: Monday – Friday, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

Saturday Hours: Saturday, April 11, 2026, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm
Saturday, April 18, 2026, 8:30 am – 5:00 pm (Final day of early voting)

Deadline to register or update registration:
Tuesday, April 14, 2026
5:00 pm for in-person registrations;
11:59 pm for online registrations

Deadline to request a Vote By Mail ballot:
Friday, April 10, 2026 at 5:00 pm

NOTE: Vote By Mail ballot is the same ballot used for Early Voting and at polling locations on Election Day. If you receive a Vote By Mail ballot and wish to vote in-person during Early Voting or on Election Day, you must bring the Vote By Mail package to surrender.

Vote By Mail Drop Locations:
• Department of Elections & Voter Registration Office
2 East Main Street, Fincastle (corner of Roanoke & Main Streets)
Dropbox slot for marked Vote By Mail ballots located in vestibule of office entrance

• Voters may personally deliver their marked ballot to the Department of Elections & Voter Registration Office during regular business hours. (Hand-delivered ballots can only be accepted from voter ballot issued to. All others must go in drop box or need to be mailed.)

• All polling locations on Election Day, Tuesday, April 21, 2026, from 6:00 am – 7:00 pm

Proposed Constitutional Amendment on ballot:
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?

Traci S. Clark
Director of Elections & General Registrar
Botetourt County, Virginia

Church from page 7

• March 18: Rev. Willis Logan, St. Mark's Episcopal Fincastle; potato soup, vegetable-beef soup, grilled cheese sandwiches, Jello salads, dessert

• March 25: Rev. Fr. Xavier Banasula, Church of the Transfiguration, Fincastle; potato bar, chili, green salad, cornbread, dessert

Menus are subject to change. Donations will be accepted— any money received above the cost of the food will go to help fund the mission and ministries of Fincastle United Methodist Church.

Austin from page 3

Stockyard Report

Monday's sale at the Roanoke-Hollins Stockyard:
182 HEAD

Head Cow \$2,200.00
Cow/calf pairs \$4,225.00

Graded Steers
300-399 \$515.00-\$525.00
400-499 \$435.00-\$499.00
500-599 \$453.00-\$499.00
600-699 \$395.00-\$453.00

Graded Bulls
300-399 \$520.00
400-499 \$500.00-\$529.00
500-599 \$370.00-\$440.00
600-699 \$391.00

Graded Heifers
300-399 \$493.00
400-499 \$435.00-\$444.00
500-599 \$404.00-\$444.00
600-699 \$357.00-\$404.00
700-799 \$286.00

Kill Cows \$60.00-\$175.00
Kill Bulls \$187.00

HB792 amends the City of Lexington's charter at the city's request. Changes include transitioning the school board from an appointed body to an elected one, removing the city manager's residency requirement, and making

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other technical updates. It reported out of committee 21-0.

HB1145 establishes a "Certified Safety Inspector" designation to address the shortage of qualified personnel who can perform vehicle safety inspections. Many constituents have shared their frustration over the difficulty of getting inspections in a timely manner, so I worked with the Virginia State Police to modernize training requirements, expanding the pool of inspectors while maintaining safety standards. It passed the House unanimously, 98-0.

This week at the Capitol, we welcomed local farmers representing the Virginia Farm Bureau from back home, as well as Alleghany County Sheriff Kyle Moore and Chief Deputy Thomas Deem. I am always grateful for the opportunity to connect with those who take the time to engage in the legislative process.

It is an honor to serve you in the Virginia House of Delegates. If I can be of assistance, or if you would like to share your views on any legislative matter, please contact me at DelTAustin@House.Virginia.gov or 804-698-1037.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The next regular meeting of the Botetourt County Board of Supervisors will be held on Tuesday, February 24, 2026, beginning at 2:00 p.m. at the Botetourt County Administration Center at 57 South Center Drive in Daleville, Virginia.

For information regarding this meeting, please see www.botetourtva.gov or contact the County Administrator's Office at 540-928-2006.

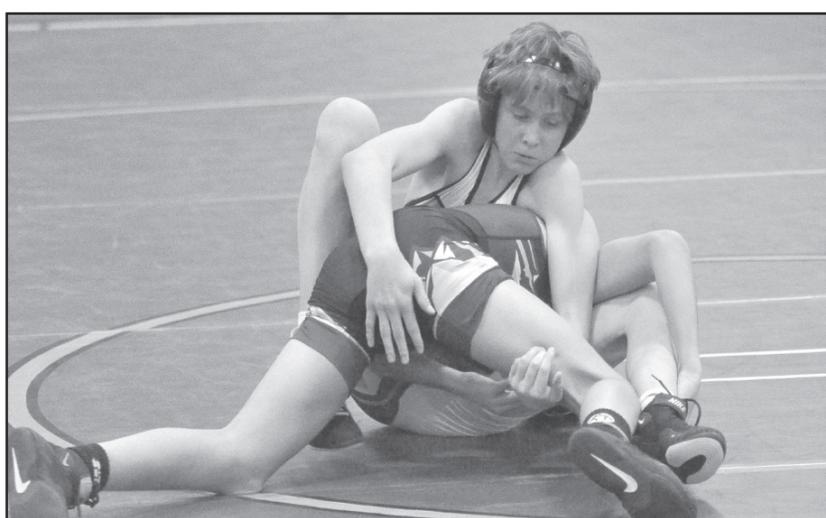
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Salem Civic Center is site for Class 1, 2 and 3 state wrestling



River's Silas Whitson is the Region 2C champ at 120 pounds. PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN



Senior Angel Rigney will be one of six LB wrestlers in the state Class 3 tournament. PHOTO BY SUZANNE WITCHER

The "Big Dance" is upon us, as the Salem Civic Center will host Virginia High School League state wrestling tournaments for Class 1, 2 and 3 this weekend. Lord Botetourt and James River will both be well-represented in Salem.

Action begins Friday at 10 a.m. with 28 first round matches. The Class 1-3 quarterfinals and first round consolation matches for Class 3 will go from 1 to 4 p.m. Then, after a 30-minute break, second round consolation matches begin at 4:30 p.m. Class 3 quarterfinal consolation matches will be from 7-8 p.m. while Class 1 and 2 quarterfinal

consolations are from 7:30 to 9 p.m.

Weigh-ins for all classes will be at 8 a.m. Saturday followed by semifinals for all three classes beginning at 9:30 a.m. Semifinal consolation matches begin at 11:30 a.m., consolation finals are at 1 p.m. and the championship finals are scheduled for 4:30 p.m. and will run until approximately 7:30 p.m.

Lord Botetourt will have six wrestlers in the Class 3 tournament after finishing sixth in the Region 3D tournament on Feb. 7. Cavaliers in the field are Jackson Dean at 120, James Dean at 126, Morgan Parr at 150, Angel Rigney at 190, Aaden Thomas

at 215 and Tyler Butler at 285.

"We've got six guys wrestling in the tournament, five seniors and a freshman, and we like how all of them fell in the brackets," said LB coach Paul Craft. "We got some good draws. Realistically, every one of our guys is capable of being somewhere on the podium on Saturday night."

James River competed in the Region 2C tournament at Liberty High in Bedford last Saturday and finished seventh among 10 teams despite having just five wrestlers in the tournament. Glenvar was the team winner with six champions.

Four of the five James River wrestlers qualified for the state tournament, including Silas Whitson who won the 120-pound class. Whitson pinned Carter Graffeo of Glenvar in 2:29 in the semifinal and then pinned Gabe Watson of Radford in the final in 1:20.

Ethan Serrano, at 113, and Cavann Hoelzle, at 126, both made the final and finished second. Ashton Orange went 3-1 on the day, wrestling back to win the consolation final at 190 and take third place. Jacob Thomasson was River's other wrestler, and he finished fifth at 157.

Three county girls qualify for state girls wrestling tournament

Two Lord Botetourt girls and one from James River qualified for the state girls wrestling tournament that will be held next Tuesday and Wednesday in Henrico. The all-girls Zone 4 Qualifier was held Sunday and Monday at Franklin County High School.

Lord Botetourt finished third out of 70 schools represented in the tournament and had a champion in Serenity

Shearer at 145 pounds. Serenity is now a two-time champion.

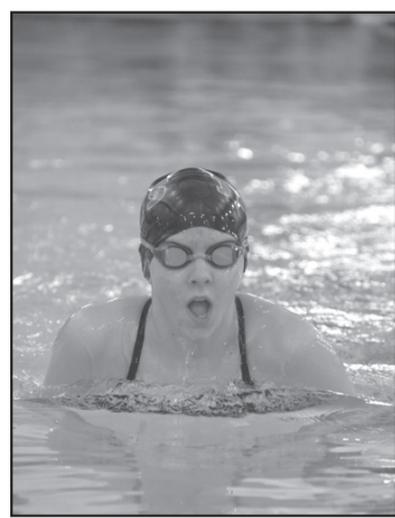
Jasmin Andrade placed third in the tournament for the second year in a row and qualified for the state. Gracie Fightmaster placed fifth and will be an alternate while freshman Lylah Pearce dropped her two matches but wrestled well. Sophomore Holly Wood went 2-2 at the tournament and was one match away from placing.

"Overall, our girls wrestled well and we fully expect the program to continue to grow and get better," said LB coach Paul Craft.

James River's Georgia Miller also wrestled in the tournament and placed third at 145, qualifying for next week's state tournament that includes girls from all VHSL classifications. Her only loss was to LB's Shearer, who is also a good friend.



Max Mizuba of LB will be swimming in the state meet in Richmond Thursday. PHOTO BY JON FLEMING



Sarah Lorman was one of five River girls who finished second as a team in the Region 2C meet. PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

State swim meets are in Richmond this week

The SwimRVA facility in Richmond will be site of Virginia High School League state swim meets this week and both James River and Lord Botetourt students will be competing. The Class 1 and 2 meets, including James River, will be held today, Wednesday, and the Class 3 meet with LB swimmers is scheduled for Thursday.

Lord Botetourt swimmers qualified for the state in the Region 3D meet at the Christiansburg Aquatic Center on Feb. 9. The Cavaliers qualified four individuals and a relay for the state Class 3 meet.

James River swimmers competed in the Class 2 meet last week at the Hargrave Military Academy pool in Chatham. All the River boys and girls qualified for the state and the River girls were Region 2C runners-up.

"I was absolutely shocked to be region runner-up with only five

swimmers," said River coach Kit Williams.

River's Riley Persinger is the region champion in both the 100 Free and 100 Backstroke. Kim Van Auken won the 200 IM and 100 Breaststroke and Sarah Lorman took a second in the 50 Free. The girls 200 medley relay and the 200 free relay made up of Lydia Jones, Lorman, Van Auken and Persinger also won region championships.

The River boys took fourth as a team as Joel Barber won both the 200 IM and 100 Breast. Austin Myers was third in the 200 Free and 100 Back while Kingston Bean took a third in the 50 Free. Harrison Hanna was fifth in the 200 Free.

"This is the first time in school history all of our swimmers have qualified for states," said Williams. "I am so very proud of our small but mighty team."



Region track meets at RC this week

Roanoke College will be the site of the Region 3D and Region 2C track meets this weekend. The Region 3D meet, with Lord Botetourt athletes, will begin at 9 a.m. Saturday and the Region 2C meet, with James River, will be held Sunday beginning at 1 p.m. Above, River's 4x200 relay of, from left, Denver Rinehart, Mirai Burton, Maddie Davidson and Vivian Vernon pose for a photo and LB's Cael Burton (lower) runs a leg of the boys' 4x200 at a meet at RC's Kerr-Cregger Fieldhouse.



PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN



From left, Kingston Bean, Austin Myers, Harrison Hanna, coach Kit Williams and Joel Barber at last week's Region 2C swim meet. PHOTO COURTESY JR SWIMMING

River from page 12

with a minute left and we get the short end of a whistle," said Humphries. "I'm not sure we can ask more of our guys. We're extremely proud of how they executed the game plan where we dictated the pace and style of the game to give

ourselves a chance. We make another shot and we walk away with a road win against a really good team. The growth these guys are making every week is admirable."

The Knights were back on the bus for a trip to Stuart and

the second game of a back-to-back against Patrick County on Friday the 13th. River was able to pull out a win by two points, 56-54, as Riley Carlisle had 18 points, five rebounds and four assists. Ward had 10 points and Mark Voight had nine points

and seven boards.

"On a night where we had four guys foul out we somehow found a way to win," said Humphries. "Our bench really stepped up to close out an intense game."

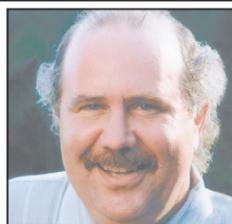
River ended the game with

four juniors on the court.

"Hopefully they'll find themselves in that situation many times to come next year," said Humphries. "This is our first sweep of a district opponent since the '21-22 season."

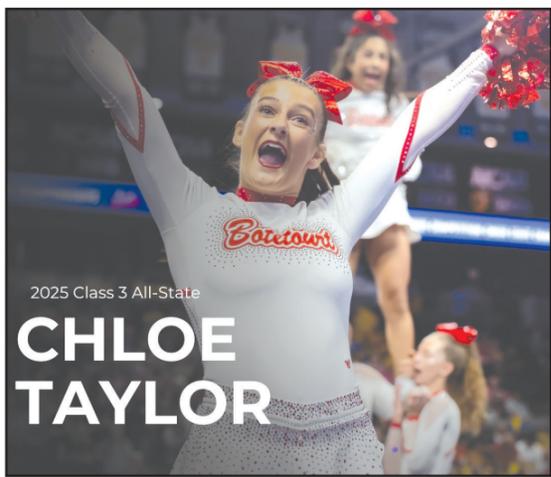
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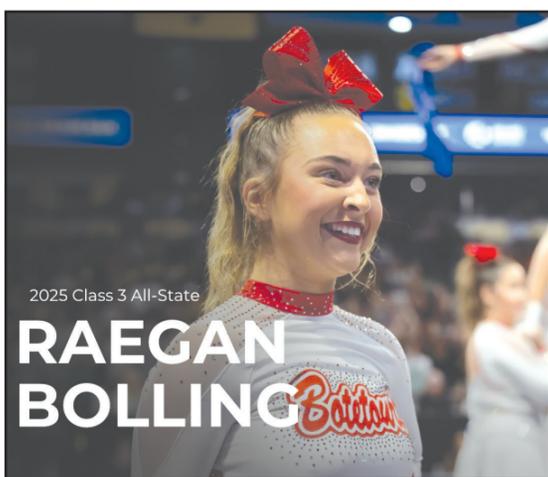
Brian Hoffman

Sports Editor



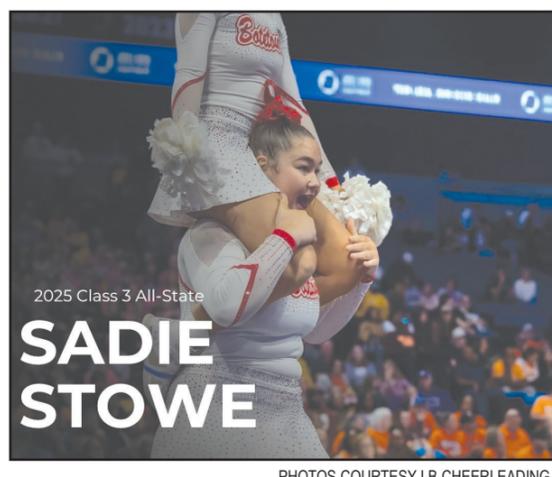
2025 Class 3 All-State

CHLOE TAYLOR



2025 Class 3 All-State

RAEGAN BOLLING



2025 Class 3 All-State

SADIE STOWE

PHOTOS COURTESY LB CHEERLEADING

Lord Botetourt seniors Chloe Taylor and Raegan Bolling have been named to the Class 3 All-State competition cheer team and sophomore Sadie Stowe is a second team selection.

Three Cavaliers are on VHSL All-State cheer team

The Virginia High School League announced the Class 3 All-State team for competitive cheering last week and Lord Botetourt was well represented. LB seniors Chloe Taylor and Raegan Bolling were named to the first team and junior Sadie

Stowe was chosen for the second team. Cave Spring junior Alijah Reeves is the Class 3 Player of the Year, and Cave Spring head coach Jen Koll is the Class 3 Coach of the Year. The competition cheer player and

coach of the year come from the state championship team in each classification. Koll and Reeves guided Cave Spring to its third straight and seventh state cheer championship for the program. In this year's finals at VCU, judges awarded

Cave Spring 280 points and Lord Botetourt followed with 274 points to take second. The top 10 athletes from each first team All-Region squad qualify for All-State consideration. Of these 10, the top five, determined by ranking,

make the All-State first team, while the next five are placed on the second team. The highest-rated cheerleader among the state championship team is named Player of the Year (POY), and the coach of that team is named Coach of the Year (COY).

Region 3D basketball rankings will be decided this week

The Lord Botetourt boys are wrapping up the basketball regular season this week, as are many teams in the Roanoke Valley. There will be no Blue Ridge District tournament as teams' makeup games were postponed by two weeks of inclement weather.

The Region 3D tournament is scheduled to begin next Tuesday, Feb. 24, and the top eight teams in the region qualify. The Cavaliers come into the week in seventh place in the region with a game at Staunton River tonight.

"We are currently seventh, but there are a lot of teams with several games this week due to the winter storms," said LB coach Josh Aliveto. "We should have a good understanding of where we are by Thursday."

The Cavaliers are 6-17 overall after winning two of three games last week. They opened the week with a 71-66 overtime win at Northside, sweeping the season series from the Vikings for the first time in many years.

"We were able to make some clutch shots down the stretch, and we were extremely efficient at the free throw line to help secure the win," said Aliveto.

LB had five players in double figure scoring, including Rylan Lavinder's 20 points. Landon Hayes scored 15 points and Simon Williams contributed with 11 points and eight rebounds.

Last Thursday the Cavs hosted Pulaski



PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Botetourt's Simon Williams (22) blocks a Pulaski shot from behind.

County and used a big second half for a 70-55 win. Lavinder was high again with 20 points, Hayes had 17 points and eight boards and Jairdan Pennix scored 14 points

"This was one of our better defensive nights as we were able to minimize damage from their top three scorers," said Aliveto.

LB hosted Franklin County Friday for "Senior Night," honoring seniors Hayes, Brady Kish, Caleb Muterspaugh and Jase Lisle. Unfortunately, the visiting Eagles took a 51-34 win in what will likely be the Cavaliers' last home game of the season.

River girls will be on the road to open Region 2C hoops



PHOTO BY LEIGH DOWNEY

Siera Davis pushes the ball for James River.

The Region 2C basketball tournament

will open at home sites this Friday with the James River girls expecting to be on the road. The Knights were 10-12 overall with one game to play prior to the region opener.

River was scheduled to play at Carroll County on Tuesday in the regular season finale, but results were too late for publication. The Knights were hoping to break a four-game losing streak, all against Three Rivers District teams.

Last week the girls lost at Floyd, 51-33, home to Radford,

72-49, and home to Patrick County, 34-30. On Monday they were at Martinsville and lost 60-47 despite 14 points each by Audrey Benson and Jalen Thompson. River led 14-13 after the first quarter but were outscored by the Bulldogs, 20-10, in the second quarter and never caught up.

If the Knights win their region opener on Friday they would play in the semifinals on Wednesday, Feb. 25. The region championship is Feb. 27.

Region 2C boys' basketball tournament will begin Friday



Maddox Pichay of the Knights wraps a pass around a Radford defender.



Riley Carlisle shoots a three for River as teammates anticipate a splash.

PHOTOS BY BRYANT ALTIZER

The James River boys were an even 11-11 with one game to go as they prepare for the Region 2C basketball tournament. The tournament is scheduled to open this Friday while sites and opponents will be finalized this week.

River was scheduled to play at Carroll County on Tuesday to wrap up the regular season. The Knights had four games in five days against strong Three Rivers District teams last week as they

made up games that were postponed by two weeks of inclement weather.

After falling to 18-3 Martinsville on Feb. 10 the Knights were home for the second game of a back-to-back against 17-3 Floyd County on Tuesday. The visiting Buffaloes won that one, 46-30, as River was led by Maddox Pichay with 10 points.

"Our guys executed well in their last home game," said coach Ethan Humphries. "We ended

up losing every quarter by two to six points, which is about as expected against a top ranked team like Floyd, but it showed the nature in which our guys competed."

After a day off Wednesday the Knights traveled to 14-5 Radford on Thursday. River trailed by just two points at the half but lost a low-scoring game, 36-29. Ryder Ward had nine points.

"A one point game

See River, page 11



PHOTO BY SUZANNE WITCHER

Natalee Bowling drives to the hoop for Lord Botetourt. Natalee has scored 29 and 27 points in LB's last two games, both wins.

Lord Botetourt girls are home tonight for final regular season basketball game

The Lord Botetourt girls' basketball team will wrap up the regular season tonight, Wednesday, with a home game against Staunton River. The Eagles came into the week at 18-3 overall, including a win over LB in Moneta, but the Cavaliers are hoping to turn things around and ride some momentum into next week's Region 3D tournament.

Botetourt is 12-9 after two Blue Ridge District wins last week over Northside and Franklin County. The Cavaliers are still waiting for the final region bracket but coach Rene Favaro is expecting it will be a trip to 15-7 Abingdon next Tuesday night.

"Unfortunately, the system for region rankings is not a perfect one," said Favaro. "We will likely be stuck playing Abingdon in the first round at Abingdon, a tough draw for us and them. We seem to never be able to

avoid them."

The Cavaliers celebrated "Senior Night" with a 63-31 win over Northside in Daleville on Feb. 10. LB's lone senior, Jaiden Dann, scored a dozen points in the game while Natalee Bowling was on fire with 29 points and 13 rebounds. Maggie Hoover had 11 points and five assists.

"Natalee has grown and progressed so much throughout this season and I am so proud of her," said Favaro.

On Monday in Rocky Mount the girls picked up a 51-37 win over Franklin County to improve to 6-3 in Blue Ridge District games. Bowling continued to shine with 27 points and six boards and Hoover had 13 points, 11 rebounds and five assists.

"This was a tough battle with a much-improved Franklin County team," said Favaro.

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