



## Water Authority records shed new light on Google Data Center's projected water use

Newly disclosed agreements show that a proposed Google Data Center campus in Botetourt County could eventually require up to 8 million gallons of water per day if fully built out — a level that would make it the largest single customer in the Western Virginia Water Authority's system.

The figures come from documents released by the Western Virginia Water Authority in connection with a court hearing that was scheduled for Tuesday related to public records requests. The records were first reported by The Roanoke Rambler and outline projected capacity, infrastructure planning requirements and long-term supply considerations tied to the Botetourt Center at Greenfield site.

Under the initial agreement, the Authority will reserve up to 2 million gallons per day for what is described as the project's "Day 1" phase. Future expansion beyond that level — potentially up to 8 million gallons daily — would

require additional supply development and system planning.

County officials addressed public questions about the figures in a Feb. 27 social media post, emphasizing that reserving capacity does not necessarily reflect expected daily consumption. The agreement language states the Authority will "reserve for Owner water supply capacity of no more than Two Million (2,000,000) gallons per day," but actual usage is anticipated to fluctuate based on operational demand and seasonal conditions.

Officials compared the arrangement to reserving a venue large enough to accommodate peak attendance, even if typical usage is lower. Peak water demand is expected during hotter periods of the year, when cooling needs are highest.

According to the agreements, the developer — not taxpayers —

See **Water**, page 10



PHOTO COURTESY OF BOTETOURT CO.

An aerial view shows the 312-acre parcel at the Botetourt Center at Greenfield purchased by Google for a proposed data center campus. Newly released Water Authority records indicate the facility could require up to 2 million gallons of water per day in its initial phase, with potential expansion to 8 million gallons daily at full buildout.



Deputy Jared Reinmiller, Deputy Kevin Smusz, Sergeant Andy Mioduszewski, Sheriff Matt Ward, Sergeant Anthony Lewis, Deputy Vivian Lee, and Dispatcher Camille Moore-Matheny stand together following a recognition ceremony in Fincastle last Friday morning.

## Sheriff's Office promotes officers, honors lifesaving action

Matt de Simone

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Promotions and acts of heroism were recognized Friday morning during a ceremony at the Botetourt County General District Court courtroom, where the Botetourt County Sheriff's Office honored six employees for outstanding service and leadership.

Sheriff Matt Ward opened the ceremony by praising the dedication and daily performance of the department's staff.

"We're here this morning because we have a lot of promotions, and we want to recognize the outstanding performance of the employees that we have," Ward said. "Promotions are not just a reflection of how long you've been here — it's a reflection of the performance that you do every day for the citizens."

Ward emphasized that the recognition extended beyond routine duties to extraordinary efforts performed under



PHOTOS BY MATT DE SIMONE

Dep. Reinmiller shakes hands with Sheriff Ward after receiving the Life Saving Award.

pressure and without hesitation.

"The public expects from us at a moment's notice, under pressure, out of selflessness — and you just perform," he said. "You don't think about it. You just do it. And I'm proud of you."

The ceremony began with presentation

See **BCSO**, page 5

## VA250 dinner theatre event at Wilson Warehouse; Mobile Museum will also be on site for free tours

Experience "A Night in the American Revolution" Saturday, March 28, 6-8 p.m. at the historic Wilson Warehouse in Buchanan.

The Wilson Warehouse will be transformed into a Revolutionary War era tavern where visitors can enjoy food and drink of the era while nine historic interpreters and actors portray various Revolutionary War figures among the guests.

This unique dinner theatre has been created by the Buchanan Town Improvement Society and the Salem Museum and Historical Society.

Admission includes a three-course dinner similar to what would have been served 250

years ago. A Few Old Goats brewery in Buchanan will provide a specially brewed beer that reflects beer of the Colonial era. Wine will also be available.

The Wilson Warehouse will be converted into "The Winding Road Tavern" in honor of the building's location on the original "Great Wagon Road." Some furniture items are being built just for the event to create a tavern atmosphere. Even a "stocks" will be displayed outside, a Colonial-era device used for public shaming and punishment.

As a special part of this event, the Commonwealth's VA250

Mobile Museum will be on site 3-6 p.m. for free tours. Event tickets are not required to visit the museum.

Dinner theatre seating is limited so those interested are encouraged to order tickets soon. Ticket sales close March 15 or until all seats have been sold. Order and pay online at Eventbrite: <https://bit.ly/va250btis>. Tickets are also available by phone at 540-817-5772.

The Wilson Warehouse is located at 421 Lowe Street in Buchanan. For information, call 540-817-5772.

-Town Improvement Society



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF BUCHANAN TIS

A VA250 dinner event takes place March 28 at the historic Wilson Warehouse.

## County announces 2025 Small Business Grant Program recipients

Matt de Simone

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The Botetourt County Board of Supervisors last week formally announced the recipients of the county's 2025 Small Business Grant Program, awarding \$99,927 to 27 businesses across all five magisterial districts. The announcement was made during the board's Feb. 24 meeting in Daleville.

Now in its second year, the competitive program made \$100,000 available in funding — \$50,000 from Botetourt County and \$50,000 from Google funds administered through the Botetourt County Economic Development Authority. Grants ranged from \$2,000 to \$5,000.

The application period was open from Aug. 25 through Oct. 10 and drew 61 submissions — about 20 more than in 2024 — with businesses requesting a combined \$356,779 in funding.

Economic Development staff conducted a detailed review process, scoring applications based on due diligence, clarity of the grant proposal and budget plan, business overview and mission, projected impact of the grant, and growth potential. Staff also verified that applicants were in good standing with the county.

Grants were awarded with district representation in mind, ensuring funding was distributed among the Amsterdam, Blue Ridge, Buchanan, Fincastle and Valley Districts.

Eligible uses of funds included professional services such as marketing, legal and financial assistance; new capital investments such as real estate, machinery and equipment, particularly where job creation or expansion was involved; and compliance with state and local regulations and permits.

The EDA approved the award recommendations during its Nov. 21, 2025, meeting. Each recipient has been contacted, spending objectives have been



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF BOTETOURT CO.

confirmed, and contracts will be executed in the form of economic development incentive agreements. Funds will be distributed on a reimbursable basis, with documentation required for eligible expenses.

The 27 selected businesses received an average award of \$3,664.

### 2025 Grant Recipients

#### Amsterdam District

- Little Green Hive — \$3,000 for tables and chairs
- Mountain Thyme Honey & Gifts, LLC — \$4,200 for equipment and packaging
- F.A. Wagner Insurance Agency, Inc. — \$5,000 for computer hardware and software and marketing

See **Recipients**, page 10

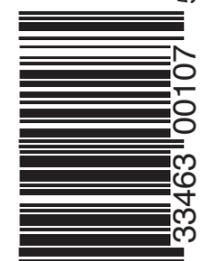


## SWITCH TO THE BANK

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## Botetourt County History

Born in Kingstree, S.C., in 1898, Lithornia McFarlin Gibbes was the daughter of William Langdon Gibbes, a pastor and educator. She graduated from Benedict College in Columbia, S.C., in 1920 before relocating to Virginia, where she initially worked with the YWCA and collaborated with Hollins College to assist and improve educational and social conditions for African American communities.

In 1923 she was hired by Botetourt County's Jeanes Supervisor, a position dedicated to supporting and improving Black schools during the era of segregation. In this role, she worked directly with teachers, families and the local school board to strengthen curriculum, improve attendance and expand educational opportunities.

One of her most significant accomplishments was helping to organize and support the development of four Rosenwald Schools in Botetourt County between 1917 and 1926 – in Indian Rock, Hollins, Buchanan and Eagle Rock. These schools were built through partnerships between the Rosenwald Fund, local Black communities, white residents and the county school district. Together, they represent over \$25,000 invested in African American education at a time when public funding was deeply unequal.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BCMHC

Beyond buildings, Ms. Gibbes believed in holistic education. She emphasized literacy, ethnics, art, music, and manual training – encouraging students to develop both academic skills and character. She later helped establish the Botetourt County Wide League, which successfully advocated for improved facilities and eventually for the construction of consolidated schools serving African American students.

Ms. Gibbes and the County Wide League were instrumental in working with the Botetourt County School Board to allocate funds for the construction of Academy Hill and later Central Academy.

Ms. Gibbes and her

husband, Dr. Stellman Gibbes met while students at Benedict College. He attended Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tenn., before joining his wife in Virginia, settling in Clifton Forge. Dr. Gibbes served as a town doctor and the family was active in their local church.

She dedicated more than four decades of her life to the children of Botetourt County, retiring in 1966 after helping guide the community through desegregation and consolidation. Ms. Gibbes chose not to teach in the newly desegregated school system, instead returning to her hometown of

See **History**, page 5



New members of the Botetourt DAR Chapter are (from left): Jennifer Lipscomb (by transfer), Mary Brundage, Carolyn Wiley, Audrey Clark, Jennifer Dieudonne, Michelle Cook, Christina Haggerty and Meredith Bowman-Shelton.

## DAR Chapter celebrates Washington's Birthday

The Botetourt County Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution held the annual George Washington Birthday Luncheon on Feb. 21. This year the meeting was held in The Train Station, formerly the Virginian Railway Passenger Station, in Roanoke.

The chapter inducted eight new members at the meeting: Carolyn Wiley, Audrey Clark, Christina Haggerty, Michelle Cook, Jennifer Dieudonne, Mary Brumfield, and Meredith Bowman-Shelton attended; Campbell Franco was not able to attend. In the last year five women have transferred in from other chapters: Vicki Stinnette, Shannon Stinnette, Alison Stinnette, Laine Crosby and Deborah Lipscomb. A memorial service was held for member Virginia Kinzie Visser, who passed away during the past year; she had been a member of the chapter since February 5, 2005.

Guest speaker was Martin Leamy, the president and CEO of the Central and Southwest Virginia Honor Flight Chapter, which is a part of the national Honor Flight Network. He talked about working to take veterans on bus trips to Washington, D.C., each April and October. This outreach allows veterans to connect with others who have served in the military. At this time they are taking veterans of World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War, both men and women, on their trips. The next trip leaves the D-Day Memorial in Bedford on Friday, April 17.

For information, visit <https://cswvirginiahonorflight.org>. A monetary collection was taken from those present and the funds were given to support their honor flights.

The America 250 Committee is planning an event for the community for Saturday, July 11 to continue the celebrations across the state for the semiquincentennial. In addition, it is planning something which the chapter hopes will be a legacy item for Botetourt County.

JoElla John was presented with an Honorary Regent's pin for her dedication to the chapter. Admitted into DAR June 5, 2016, she served as Regent and most recently is serving as the Chapter Registrar. Her commitment to DAR is greatly appreciated by everyone in the chapter, especially the countless women she has helped with their applications so they also could become members.

The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) is a women's service organization whose members can trace their lineage to an individual who contributed to securing American independence during the Revolutionary War. Today's DAR is dynamic and diverse, with over 190,000 members in 3,000 chapters in the United States and abroad. DAR members annually provide millions of hours of volunteer service to their local communities across the country and world. DAR chapters participate in projects to promote historic preservation, education and patriotism. If you are interested or have questions about joining the chapter, contact Membership Chair Emily Talbot-Guillote via email at [eptg1019@gmail.com](mailto:eptg1019@gmail.com), or Registrar JoElla John, [jjohnregistrar@gmail.com](mailto:jjohnregistrar@gmail.com).

- Botetourt County DAR



PHOTO COURTESY OF BOTETOURT CO. DAR

Cake baked by new member Michelle Cook in honor of the D-Day Memorial in Bedford

## Community Meal at Eagle Rock

The Eagle Rock Potluck Community Meal will be on Monday, March 9, at 12 Noon at the Eagle Rock Community Center. Those attending are asked to bring a dish or dessert to share with

everyone and to join their friends and neighbors for good food and fellowship.

- Fincastle Herald staff report

Online Only...

\*\*\*LAST DAY!\*\*\*

## Auction!

1658 Country Club Road, Troutville VA

(Dir: From I-81, Exit 150, take US220 north to left onto Country Club Road at the VFW Hall. Rural mail routes are peculiar. This property is very near Fincastle)

Bidding and is going on now! Selling for the Edward F. Powell Estate

\*\*\*It All Ends Thursday Night\*\*\*

**AUTOMOBILES:** 1998 Toyota Camry, V-6 3000 with 164,240 mileage, four door, automatic transmission. Beige color inside and out, Runs strong! 2002 Chrysler Town and Country Mini Van. 177,560 mileage. Gray inside and out. Sliding doors both sides. Rear seats remove easily for lots of cargo space. She's a runner!

**FIREARMS and AMMUNITION:** Several shotguns, rifles, and pistols. Thousands of rounds of ammo of different caliber. Few gun and spotting scopes, several RCBS reloading dies and reloading supplies.

**SHOP and LAWN EQUIPMENT:** Gravely ZTx-52 with a Kohler 7000-24HP engine. Runs strong. Stihl MS-170 Chainsaw with case; Stihl BG-50 leaf blower; Homelite 2700 PSI/179 cc engine pressure washer; Yardman 7HP/24" snow blower with rubber cleats; 4" bench vise; 6" Chicago bench grinder; Combo 3" belt & 6" disc sander; Chicago 12" compound saw; old rolling tool box; lots of good hand tools including Snap-on, Mac, Craftsman, Williams and others; car ramps; floor and jack stands

**HOME and HOME FURNISHINGS:** Carlise oak bedroom suite; oak free-standing mirror; pine dove-tail blanket chest; child desk; oak end tables; rock maple dining room table, six chairs and matching dish cabinet; two reproduction oak barrister style bookcases; lamps, wall art, small appliances and dishes

**PLUS:** Winchester gun safe; few golf clubs & balls; wrought iron patio table & chairs and much more!

**TERMS:** This is an internet sale only with online bidding. You must register with your bank card to bid. 20% buyer's premium added to all sales. Sales tax collected. Check website for firearms and other terms.

**AUCTIONEER'S NOTE:** There is a tremendous amount of goods here to sell. No way to list them all! Online bidding only. No telephone or in-person bidding. See you Saturday at the pickup!

Bidding is now open and will begin closing out on March 5<sup>th</sup> at 7PM.

Tim Hash, Auctioneer Call or Text: 540.353.2107

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## Report from the House - Week 7 Del. Terry Austin

The seventh week of the 2026 General Assembly Session has concluded, and we are now entering the final stretch of the 60-day legislative calendar. This week, the House completed work on its version of Virginia's \$210 billion biennial budget.

As the Ranking Republican on the House Appropriations Committee, I take seriously the responsibility not only to advocate for our region's priorities, but also to ensure the budget process advances in a responsible and timely manner. While I do not agree with every provision in the House budget, Virginia is constitutionally required to adopt a balanced budget. It is essential that we complete this work while preserving the Commonwealth's strong financial standing, including our AAA bond rating, which saves taxpayers money.

At the same time, the near super majority held by Democrats means they largely determine the overall policy direction and final structure of the budget. This reality shapes what will ultimately be included in the final product, but it does not diminish

Republicans' responsibility to engage fully in the process, advocate for fiscal discipline, and work to protect Virginia families and taxpayers.

Throughout the session, affordability has remained a guiding principle for House Republicans. We introduced budget amendments designed to provide practical, direct relief to working families. These proposals would have lowered electric bills by reducing mandates and penalties that are passed on to ratepayers; expanded car tax relief on the first \$5,000 of vehicle value; and eliminated the remaining state tax on groceries while keeping localities whole. Unfortunately, those amendments were rejected by the majority. While the budget may not include new direct taxes, numerous policy decisions carry indirect costs that will eventually be borne by Virginians and employers.

As final budget negotiations continue, several issues remain concerning, including expanded employer mandates, prevailing wage requirements, collective bargaining for state employees, and potential re-entry into the Regional Greenhouse Gas

Initiative (RGGI). My Republican colleagues and I opposed these measures because of their long-term cost implications.

Mandated benefits increase payroll expenses for employers. Prevailing wage requirements can drive up construction costs, straining budgets and placing some projects at risk of moving forward. Expanding collective bargaining for state employees carries significant fiscal implications for taxpayers by increasing long-term personnel and benefit obligations. Energy policies, including participation in RGGI, increase end-user electricity rates, which then filter through the broader economy and dampen growth. Each of these proposals may be well intended, but they add cost pressures that impact families, businesses, and taxpayers across the Commonwealth.

These are not abstract ideas and have direct consequences for household and business budgets, which is why I oppose them. Virginians are already dealing with higher expenses for utilities, transportation, housing, and groceries. We should focus on easing those burdens wherever possible while maintaining fiscal discipline and long-term stability. Affordability means stable energy costs and a predictable economic environment where consumers and businesses can save, spend, invest, grow and hire without excessive cost pressures or uncertainty.

On another front, litigation continues

over the proposed constitutional redistricting amendment. The issue is currently before the Supreme Court of Virginia, with additional legal challenges pending across the Commonwealth. With voting preparations underway, the situation remains fluid, and I continue to urge everyone to make plans as if the referendum will be held on April 21. Information on voting options, including permanent absentee status, is available through the Virginia Department of Elections.

This week, we were pleased to welcome constituents Angela Baldwin and Brandon and Haylee Evans to the Capitol representing the Virginia Health Care Association. I also enjoyed catching up with my good friends Al Sotis with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes at Virginia Military Institute and William Farrell of Berglund Automotive representing the Virginia Automobile Dealers Association. It is always encouraging to see members of our district actively engaged in the legislative process.

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

- Del. Terry Austin

# Supervisors consider up to \$36 million financing for public safety upgrades, seek lower borrowing amount

**Matt de Simone**

Managing Editor

The Botetourt County Board of Supervisors is moving forward with a financing plan to fund major public safety improvements, though members signaled they want to reduce the total amount borrowed before final numbers are set.

At its February meeting, the board heard a presentation from a representative of the Virginia Resources Authority (VRA), the state agency that would handle the bond financing, along with an overview from County Administrator Gary Larrowe.

The proposed financing would fund upgrades to the

county's public safety radio communications system and improvements to the Read Mountain Fire Station. It also includes refinancing some existing county debt from 2014 if doing so produces sufficient savings.

The maximum authorization under the resolution allows borrowing up to \$43 million, though officials indicated the working project total is closer to \$36 million. During discussion, supervisors expressed interest in tightening those numbers further - potentially reducing the borrowing amount to \$25 million or less - in an effort to limit long-term debt obligations.

Buchanan Supervisor Linda Rottman questioned whether anticipated funding associated with Google's presence in the county could be applied toward the projects to reduce the amount borrowed, though her remarks suggested some skepticism about the timing of those funds. Board Chairman Dr. Mac Scothorn responded that those funds are expected to be coming soon.

The financing would be structured through a lease arrangement with VRA rather than as a traditional general obligation bond. Under the plan, VRA would issue bonds and provide the proceeds to the county. The county would then

make annual "rental payments" over time that function as debt repayment.

According to the resolution, the financing would carry an interest rate not to exceed 5.5 percent and would mature no later than December 31, 2050.

The proposal also allows for refinancing the county's 2014 financing lease, provided the move results in at least 3 percent net present value savings. Officials described that provision as a safeguard to ensure refinancing would only proceed if it benefits taxpayers.

Supervisors emphasized the importance of maintaining reliable

emergency communications infrastructure and modern public safety facilities, but several members voiced caution about borrowing more than necessary.

Before finalizing the amount, the board agreed to seek firmer cost estimates to determine whether the total borrowing can be reduced. The bonds are tentatively scheduled for sale in late April, though that timeline depends on market conditions.

No final borrowing figure has been set, but the resolution gives county officials authority to move forward once numbers are finalized and approved within the authorized limits.

# AARP Scam Alert:

## Keep an eye out for the latest travel scams

Planning a late-winter escape? Don't let criminals ruin your trip with bogus deals, fake booking sites, or schemes designed to steal money or personal information.

Scammers create fake vacation rental listings, and apply pressure to pay upfront through wire transfers, gift cards, or other hard-to-trace methods. If a host asks you to pay outside the official platform, it's a scam.

Be cautious of steeply discounted offers and use a credit card whenever possible for added fraud protection. Before booking, verify the company or

property. Search the name along with keywords like "scam," "complaint," or "review" to see if other travelers have reported issues.

Staying alert and taking a few extra steps can help ensure your winter getaway is safe, fun, and scam-free.

Learn how to spot and avoid scams with AARP Fraud Watch Network. Suspect a scam? Call the free helpline at 877-908-3360 and talk to one AARP's fraud specialists about what to do next.

- AARP



## Did you...

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...just have a baby?

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...celebrate a 25th, 50th or more anniversary?

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# Library BUZZ



Roanoke Valley Libraries is pleased to announce the launch of its new online catalog! The new system offers an improved experience in searching, account management, and access to library materials. Scan the QR Code to learn more about this transition.

**Yoga for Beginners**  
 Wed, Mar 4, 1 PM, Fincastle  
 Thu, Mar 5, 6:30 PM, Blue Ridge  
 Mon, Mar 9, 10 AM, Eagle Rock  
 Learn gentle yoga stretches. Mats and yoga blocks provided or bring your own. Instructor: Jaime Thrasher, Botetourt County Parks & Recreation. \*Registration required. Best for ages 18+

**BoCo Eclectic Readers**  
 Wed, Mar 4, 12 PM, Buchanan  
 March Theme: Stories set in Ireland  
 Thu, Mar 5, 6:30 PM Fincastle We Begin at the End by Chris Whitaker  
 Sat, Mar 7, 11 AM, Eagle Rock The Names by Florence Knapp  
 Wed, Mar 11, 10:30 AM, Fincastle Here One Moment by Liane Moriarty  
 Discuss books and authors with fellow readers.

**STEM Electronics**  
 Thu, Mar 5, 4 PM, Fincastle  
 Get hands-on experience with electrical projects that focus on safety and real-world engineering skills. Presented by engineer David Sproles. No prior experience needed - just curious minds. Best for ages 10+ Class size limited to 8. \*Registration required.

**Make Your Own Phone**  
 Sat, Mar 7, 10 AM, Blue Ridge  
 Celebrate the 150th anniversary of

the phone! Drop in to explore the history of the telephone through interactive games and crafts.

**Hittin' The Road in the USA**  
 Sat, Mar 7, 11 AM, Buchanan  
 Hear about practical considerations and stories of what it is like to live out of an RV for 4 years while traveling across the USA. Presented by experienced travelers Beth and Barry Rathbone.

**Snakes in Virginia**  
 Tue, Mar 10, 10 AM, Buchanan  
 Learn about common venomous and non-venomous snakes in Virginia's mountain areas, focusing on identification, habitat, and how to coexist. Presented by Tim Miller of Mountain Castles Soil and Water Conservation.

**Artful Perspectives Painting Workshop**  
 Tue, Mar 10, 5:30 PM, Fincastle  
 Join us for a guided paint workshop led by Kit Hodges. March we'll be painting Moonlit Clover. \*Class size limited to 8.

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

## Botetourt Retired Educators to meet, now offering scholarships

**League for Animal Protection's Waif of the Week**

**Ginny**

Ginny is just 10 months old, up to date on vaccines and testing, and spayed. She is a super friendly little kitten.

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

The Botetourt Retired Educators will meet on Monday, March 9, at Mill Creek Baptist Church. All retired school personnel living in the area are invited to attend. Registration will begin at 10:45 a.m., with the meeting beginning at 11 a.m. The women of the church will provide a

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**THE FINCASTLE HERALD & Botetourt County News**

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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Nothing fair about it

Virginia voters are being asked to approve a state Constitutional Amendment on April 21 intended to create the most gerrymandered congressional election districts in the history of the Commonwealth. Botetourt County would be removed from its current district that runs from Roanoke to Winchester and placed in a district that runs from Lee County in extreme Southwest Virginia to Highland County, creating a complete misalignment with Botetourt's current area of economic, political and cultural interests. Roanoke would be placed in a long, dog leg-shaped district that runs east to Lynchburg and then north to Charlottesville.

Just five years ago 66 percent of Virginia voters approved a state Constitutional Amendment to create a bipartisan commission to draw fair, balanced, election districts, free of partisan manipulation. Under the current congressional districting plan, there are five elected Republicans and six elected Democrats. That plan has resulted in a 55 percent Democrat majority of the state's congressional representation. Former Gov. Glenn Youngkin, a Republican, was elected with 51 percent of the statewide vote. Abigail Spanberger, a Democrat, was very recently elected governor with 58 percent of the statewide vote. It doesn't take a math major to see that the current 55/45 partisan split in the state's congressional representation is a reasonable reflection of state voting patterns. Hence the state's current districting plan is presumed just and fair.

The Virginia General Assembly's current mad dash plan for a NEW Constitutional Amendment, only five years after voters approved the recent amendment that was intended to foster bipartisan districting, would result in the opposite of clear voter preference and create a wildly partisan plan that is expected to produce 10 democratic congressional representatives and one Republican. That would result in 91 percent Democrat Party representation in the Virginia delegation.

How is that possible in a state that occasionally votes over 50 percent Democrat in statewide elections and occasionally votes over 50 percent Republican? The answer is actually quite simple. It is by creating an extreme partisan redistricting plan that establishes odd elongated or otherwise contorted districts with minority Republican make up, except for one throw away Republican stronghold district that runs from Lee County to Highland County and snatches Botetourt as it passes south to north. Welcome to the New General Assembly plan for democracy and fair representation in the Commonwealth.

The ballot language concocted by our esteemed General Assembly reads in part to "allow the General Assembly to... restore fairness in the upcoming election." What hypocrisy coming from the longest continuously sitting elected body in the Western Hemisphere! There is nothing fair

about it. There is, however, great hubris on the part of the General Assembly that has now become an embarrassment to a once great Commonwealth. There is also an assumption on the part of the General Assembly that the voters in the state are stupid enough, or at least ill informed enough, not to recognize what a farce this partisan effort has become. There will be millions of dollars spent to convince the voters that an obvious unfair and absurdly partisan redistricting plan is "fair." The word "propaganda" readily comes to mind.

Don't be fooled or manipulated by slick and misleading advertising. Please vote NO on the proposed state Constitutional Amendment on April 21, or vote early at the Registrar's Office in Fincastle beginning on March 6.

*John B Williamson, III  
 Buchanan, On behalf of the Botetourt County Republican Committee*

## Comments on proposed solar farm near Fincastle

What you do with your own property is your business. Or is it if it affects your neighbors? One of our neighbors has requested a solar farm be built on his property off of Route 220 near Fincastle.

While a project of this scale - 33 acres - will provide an insignificant amount of electricity to the grid (or to Google?), the environmental impact will be significant. The creation of solar panels is an energy-intensive process. It involves mining quartz, purifying it into silicon at very high temperatures using fossil fuels, and processing with hazardous chemicals like hydrofluoric acid. Panels may also contain toxic metals such as lead and cadmium that can leach into the soil.

The heat generated by panels can alter local temperature and humidity. This, combined with soil compaction from construction and altered water runoff patterns, can degrade soil health, promote erosion, and make it difficult for native plant species to survive. The reflective surface of panels can create a "lake effect," tricking birds into fatally diving into them ([frush.us/solar](http://frush.us/solar)).

There are many other concerns, such as noise from the inverters, the loss of natural views, safe disposal after their 25-year lifespan, and nearby property devaluation. (A 2024 study by LSU found property values within a mile of a solar farm decreased by 2.5% to 5.8%.) Loss of farmland is becoming a national crisis. Virginia alone has lost 500,000 acres of farmland in the last five years.

If you are opposed to this project let your planning commissioner and your supervisor know. The Planning Commission will be addressing the project at their March 9 meeting at 6 p.m. And it will be addressed at the next Board of Supervisors meeting on March 24 at 2 p.m.

*Charles Ruhl  
 Fincastle*

# ARRESTS

Feb. 20-March 1, 2026

The Botetourt County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests Feb. 20-March 1:

- Lauren A. Fraze, 33, of Cloverdale, contribute to delinquency of

- minor, Feb. 20
- Peyton A. Kissner, 24, of Vinton, reckless driving, Feb. 20
- Braedon X. Haston, 26, of Troutville, reckless driving, Feb. 21

**CROSSWORD**

1	2	3		4	5	6		7	8	9	
10			11		12		13		14		
15				16					17		
	18			19		20		21			
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	24	25					26		27	28	
29				30		31	32	33		34	
35						36				37	
38			39	40	41			42	43	44	
	45						46		47		
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	50	51				52		53		54	55
56					57		58		59		60
61					62				63		
64					65				66		

- CLUES ACROSS**
1. European Common Market
  4. Poetic go quickly
  7. Parts per thousand (abbr.)
  10. Pigeon pea
  12. Sao \_\_, city in Brazil
  14. Longest division of geological time
  15. \_\_ Alto, California city
  16. Small terrestrial viper
  17. Coming after all others
  18. Penetrate with a sharp fork
  20. Still-hunt
  22. Chinese frying pan
  23. Cave-dwelling salamander
  24. Any thick messy substance
  26. About the moon
  29. AKA Tao
  30. Jet cabin requirement
  35. Prince Hirobumi, 1841-1909
  36. An easy return in a high arc
  37. Italian commune
  38. L. Comfort's illuminator
  44. Foot digit
  45. Minute tunicate genus
  46. Green regions of desert
  48. Direct a weapon
  49. \_\_ de Janeiro
  50. Equestrian animals
  53. Acres Tomei
  56. Head of the RCC
  57. Twines
  59. Scientific workplace
  61. Minerals
  62. Hypothetical original substances
  63. Hit with the open hand
  64. Political action committee
  65. Winged goddess of the dawn
  66. W. states time zone
- CLUES DOWN**
1. Electronic data processing
  2. Man or boy (Br.)
  3. W. African nation
  4. Fault's incline from vertical
  5. Method of birth control
  6. City founded by Xenophanes
  7. Legumes
  8. Beckham's spice girl
  9. Explosive
  11. 1936 Nobel winner Otto
  12. Greenbay teammate
  13. Brass that looks like gold
  14. School graduates
  19. Lively, merry play
  21. Make indistinct
  24. Egyptian mythological figure associated with floods
  25. Washing sponge
  27. Old name for nitrogen
  28. Impounds for lack of payment
  29. Radiotelegraphic signal
  31. MN 55731
  32. Sun in spanish
  33. Helps little firms
  34. Cease living
  39. Flames up
  40. Egyptian sacred bull
  41. To wit
  42. Mire
  43. Bring two objects together
  47. Filths
  50. Israeli dance
  51. Oil cartel
  52. A particular instance of selling
  53. Microelectromechanical system
  54. Var. of 45 across
  55. Goat & camel hair fabrics
  56. Soda
  58. A firm's operational head
  60. Seaport (abbr.)

- Jacob F. Wagner, 25, of Roanoke, driving under the influence, Feb. 21
- Justin A. Carter, 40, of Blue Ridge, failure to appear, Feb. 22
- Gregory L. Harman Jr., 27, of Fincastle, violation of a protective order, Feb. 22
- Nathan J. Harrison, 29, of Blue Ridge, assault, driving revoked, Feb. 25
- James K. Curry, 35, of Eagle Rock, domestic assault, Feb. 26
- Tiffani M. Saunders, 55, of Blue Ridge, shoplifting, Feb. 26
- Zane M. Brizzi, 25, of Covington, manufacture, sell or distribute Schedule drugs, Feb. 28
- Jakob T. Skylar, 23, of Blue Ridge, reckless driving, eluding, driving without motorcycle endorsement, driving revoked, Feb. 28
- Joseph L. Stinnett, 44, of Covington, manufacture, sell or distribute Schedule drugs, Feb. 28
- Christian B. Zimmerman, 22, of Bedford, driving under the influence, altered or forged license plates, March 1

See Answers, page 10

# VDOT begins Route 460, Laymantown Road intersection project



As part of an intersection improvement project, drivers who use Route 460 and Route 658 (Laymantown Road) in Botetourt County should expect possible lane closures. The work was scheduled to begin March 2.

nighttime lane closures will be in place on Route 460, Monday through Friday, from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m.

Lane closures will also be in place on Laymantown Road Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. to 7 a.m.

On March 5 and 6, drivers can expect nighttime lane closures for pavement marking operations in preparation for barrier wall installation.

Later this year, Laymantown Road is scheduled to be closed at this location over the summer, beginning no sooner than May 21, with a detour in place.

This road project involves adding a right-turn lane on westbound Route 460 for drivers turning onto Laymantown

Road. The project is expected to be completed in late summer 2026. - VDOT

FILE GRAPHIC

## BRE from page 4

meal for attendees at a cost of \$15. The speaker will be Mike Ketron, principal at the Botetourt Technical Education Center. He will speak about the many things that are happening at the school. Donations for the Scholarship Fund and the Book Fund will be accepted.

County who are planning to enter the field of education. In addition, previous scholarship winners still pursuing a degree in a teacher educational program may apply. Applications are available from James River and Lord Botetourt Guidance Departments or from the school's website.

Those who plan to attend the meeting and have lunch should let Susan Martin know by March 5. Or for questions, contact Martin at 473-2636 or email: susanmartin730@gmail.com.

All parts of the application, including references and transcript, must be submitted in order to be considered for the scholarship. There is more information on the application, including how to submit by April 1.

Additionally, the Botetourt Retired Educators will award two \$1,000 scholarships to students from Botetourt

- Submitted by Susan Martin

## BCSO from page 1

of the Life Saving Award to Deputy Jared Reinmiller for his actions April 21, 2025, while serving as an instructor at the Cardinal Criminal Justice Academy.

According to the citation read by Capt. Scott Gathje, Reinmiller observed a recruit suffering a sudden medical emergency during training. He immediately requested emergency medical support and initiated lifesaving measures.

His swift and professional response, working alongside other personnel, sustained the recruit's life until advanced medical personnel arrived, the citation stated. His actions demonstrated "exceptional composure, situational awareness, and decisive action under extreme circumstances," reflecting credit upon himself and the sheriff's office.

Following the award presentation, Gathje read a standardized promotion certificate recognizing five employees for advancement within the department.

Deputy Kevin Smusz was promoted to sergeant. Sergeants Andy Mioduszewski and Anthony Lewis were each promoted to lieutenant. Deputy Vivian Lee was promoted to sergeant. Dispatcher Camille Moore-Matheny was promoted to lead dispatcher.

The ceremony concluded with applause, photographs and congratulations from colleagues, family members and community supporters in attendance.



PHOTO BY MATT DE SIMONE  
Capt. Gathje read each promotion certificate during Friday's ceremony.

## History from page 2

Kingtree, S.C., and teaching in the still segregated Williamsburg County Schools.

This was written by Kate Blanton and is part of her dissertation on African American educational equity and desegregation of Botetourt County. She provided the photograph and shared this with the Botetourt Museum of History & Culture in Fincastle.

Lithornia McFarlin Gibbes reminds us that Black educational history is a story not only of resilience – but of organization, strategy, partnership and unwavering commitment to children. Her legacy lives on in every school she helped build and every student she inspired.

- Botetourt County Museum of History & Culture



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF BOTETOURT CO. FARM BUREAU WOMEN'S COMMITTEE

# Harvesting History dinner to celebrate Botetourt's agricultural legacy

The rich farming heritage of Botetourt County will take center stage at Harvesting History, a special farm-to-table fundraiser dinner Friday, May 1, at Gracely Hill in Buchanan.

entirely from Botetourt farms, highlighting the bounty and diversity of the region's agricultural community.

of Agriculture and Forestry Katie Frazier. Early bird tickets are available both at the Botetourt History Museum in Fincastle and online for \$40 through April 10. After April 10, tickets will be \$45. Seating is limited, and advance purchase is encouraged.

for future generations. For ticket information or more details, contact Lynsey Allie at [execdirectorbchs@gmail.com](mailto:execdirectorbchs@gmail.com) or 540-473-0148 or visit Eventbrite.

The event serves as the official kickoff for an upcoming Botetourt agriculture history exhibit and is presented in partnership with the Botetourt County Farm Bureau Women's Committee.

The evening's program will feature a conversation-style discussion with local historian Ed McCoy, who will explore the evolution of agriculture in the county – from early hemp and wheat production to commercial canning, and everything in between.

Proceeds from the event will support the development of the new agriculture history exhibit, preserving and sharing the stories of Botetourt's farming past

- Submitted by Lynsey Allie



# Community Service Directory

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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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:jwr56fbc@yahoo.com), Church website: [fincastlefaith.com](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.phbcweb.com).

**Springwood Baptist Church** - 88 Copps Hill Rd., Buchanan; Rev. Mike Anderson, 540-819-4616, Email [pmike09@outlook.com](mailto: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.-

## WALK IN HIS STEPS

Read Deuteronomy 32:1 through 34.12

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

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

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

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

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

Quicklook:  
Deuteronomy 32:44-47

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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](http://woodlandchurchbc.com). E-mail address: [woodlandchurchbc@gmail.com](mailto:woodlandchurchbc@gmail.com).

## PRESBYTERIAN

**Buchanan Presbyterian Church** - 19559 Main St. Buchanan. 540-254-1390. Donna Hopkins Britt, Pastor. Choir rehearsal at 9:00 am. Sunday School at 10:00 am. Worship at 11:00 am. Videotaped services can be viewed on YouTube. The Food Pantry is open from 9-11 a.m. on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month. Handicap accessible. Facebook page or website: [www.buchananpresbyterian.org](http://www.buchananpresbyterian.org). Contact [www.admin@buchananpresbyterian.org](mailto: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](mailto:fincastlepresbyterianchurch@gmail.com) or call 540.473.2042.

**Galatia Evangelical Presbyterian Church** - 78 Gala Loop Road, Eagle Rock, VA 24085. Rev. Emily B. Hook, pastor, 804-516-6552. Sunday School at 10 a.m. each Sunday. Morning Worship & Praise at 11a.m. each Sunday. Communion once each quarter.

**Virginia Presbyterian Church** - 918 Pico Road, Buchanan, 24066. Worship 9:30 a.m. (nursery provided), Sunday School, 10:30 a.m.

## ROMAN CATHOLIC

**Church of the Transfiguration**- 7624 Roanoke Rd., Fincastle, VA 24090; Fr. Zaverio "Xavier" Banasula. 473-2656. Saturday Mass at 4:30pm & Sunday at 8:30am; Christian formation after Mass on Sunday.

## UNITED METHODIST

**Andrew Chapel United Methodist Church** - 3936 Beaver Dam Road, just off Springwood Road, Springwood. Rev. Morris A. Bennett. Sunday School, 9:15 a.m. followed by Worship, 10 a.m.

**Eagle Rock United Methodist Church** - 14565 Church St., Eagle Rock, 10:15 AM; Glen Wilton UMC, Main St., Glen Wilton, 9:00 AM; Shiloh UMC, Shiloh Rd, Eagle Rock, 11:15 AM. Pastor Ray Sandifer (540) 525-0258. Mail donations for the building fund to P.O. Box 85, Eagle Rock.

**Fincastle United Methodist Church** - Sunday School at 9 a.m. in the Family Life Center. In person services Sunday, 10 a.m. in the sanctuary, 136 S. Church St., Fincastle. Service is also live streamed on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/@FincastleUMCMedia> or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100068517955699>. Reverend Jim Bollinger, office, 473-3001. E-mail: [office@fincastleumc.org](mailto: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

## Reed, James David

James David Reed, of Fincastle, passed away peacefully February 25, 2026. He was 70. He was predeceased by his parents, Jim and Judy Reed; brother, Stephen Reed; and stepson, Michael Zarobinski.

He is survived by wife, Bridget; daughter, Erica; stepchildren, Edward (Becky), Nichole (DJ), Susan (Eric); grandchildren, Brent, Josilyn, Edward, Amara, Jessica, Zane and Maggie; brothers, Roger and John (Michelle); niece, Jessica; nephews, Jimmy (Amanda), John (McKenna), Zack (Elena); plus extended loving family

and lifelong friends.

The family will receive friends at Rader Funeral Home in Daleville on Wednesday, March 4, 2026 from 5-7 p.m.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10 a.m. on Thursday, March 5, 2026 at Church of the Transfiguration in Fincastle with Father Zaverio "Xavier" Banasula officiating. Burial will follow in Blue Ridge Memorial Gardens.

A special thank you to Dr Robert Keeley. We will all miss you terribly, David, as you were loved so much. Rest easy.

## Simmons, David W.

David W. Simmons, 67, of Buchanan, passed away on February 14, 2026.

He is survived by his son, Bradley Wayne and Jessica Simmons; his daughter, Kristen "Tater" Simmons (Jason Redcross); and his cherished grandchildren, Sidney Simmons and Maddox Simmons. He shared a lifelong friendship with Carol Simmons, the mother of his children. He is also survived by his sister, Tammy Coffey (Jeffrey Coffey), and three beloved nephews. David was preceded in death by his parents, Sherman and Dorothy Simmons, and his sister, Janet Simmons.

David was an avid fisherman, passionate about tending his garden and mowing grass for his family.



He loved cheering for the Virginia Cavaliers and enjoyed picking on his sister and playfully fighting over his mom's homemade pickles, a tradition that always brought laughter to the family. As an owner-operator of Simmons Logging, alongside his father and later his son, he took great pride in continuing the family legacy and the work he loved.

The family wishes to extend heartfelt gratitude to his sister, Tammy, for her unwavering support and care during his final months.

A Celebration of Life will be held on March 14 at 4 p.m. at the Botetourt Event Center in Buchanan. Family and friends are warmly invited to attend.

## St.Clair, Joyce Spickard

Joyce Genelle Spickard Chewning St.Clair, of Daleville, went home to be with her Lord on Wednesday, February 25, 2026. Joyce was born on May 5, 1928, and had over 97 wonderful years of life with her family, whom she adored. Joyce and her husband, Tom, loved being active in the community with their great friends and neighbors.

Joyce was preceded in death by her husbands, Thomas Wilson St.Clair and Abner Chewning. Also preceding her were her parents, Elmer Conrad Spickard, Sr. and Esther "Ettie" Thompson Spickard; her siblings, Elmer Conrad Spickard, Jr. and wives, Mary and Marie; Doris Chewning and husband, Trubie; Adele Ayers and husband, Al; Iris Graham and husband, Bill; Nancy Clarke, Emmanuel Spickard and Dale Spickard; sister-in-law, Eunice Cook Spickard; step-grandson, Cole St.Clair.

Left to cherish her memory are her siblings, William "Haynes" Spickard and Peggy Spickard; her in-laws, Ellsworth Clarke, Sarah Spickard and Sue Spickard. Joyce is also survived by her stepchildren, Steve St.Clair

and wife, Terrie, Vicky Munna and Eric St.Clair; as well as her step-grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Joyce leaves many nieces and nephews who loved her dearly and will miss her.

The family wants to thank Joyce's wonderful caregivers, Tanisha "Summer," Alisha and Sheri; they became part of the family. The family also thanks Good Samaritan Hospice for their tender care and great support. Special thanks to Nadia, Lisa and Kathy for their visits, support and love. Joyce's brother, Haynes, wants to acknowledge his children Rosalyn and Carl Shimp and Naomi and Michael Rock as well as nephews Sonny Spickard, Rodney Spickard, niece Donna Simmons and sister-in-law Sarah Spickard for their many hours dedicated to Joyce in taking care of her needs and upkeep of her home.

Visitation will be at the Oakey's East Chapel on Saturday, March 7 from 4-7 p.m. A Celebration of her life will be at Oakey's East Chapel on Sunday, March 8 at 2:30 p.m. Burial will be at Glade Creek Cemetery in Blue Ridge. Arrangements are by Oakey's East Chapel, 540-977-3909.



# Eagle Rock Ruritan Club news

The Eagle Rock Ruritan Club, Inc., welcomed Tim Miller to the February club meeting as guest speaker to talk about some of the goals of the Mountain Castles Soil and Water Conservation District, which serves residents of Botetourt and Craig Counties. One of its goals is to raise awareness and accountability as to how people's lives affect the overall beauty and health of the soil and waterways. One of the primary projects in reaching that goal is to give every seventh grader in Botetourt and Craig an opportunity to experience the James River first hand and to educate them as to its importance as a tributary of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. The hope is that these students will learn from this hands-on experience some of the ways that they can participate in preserving the beauty and serenity of the James River.

It was announced that the Eagle Rock Community Fellowship Meal will be at noon on March 9 at the Eagle Rock Community Center. Also, there will be a litter pick-up sometime after the

March club meeting. Looking further ahead, the club will sponsor the Fourth Annual Eagle Rock Science Festival on May 9. The club also has agreed to send a 4-H'er to the annual 4-H Camp. The Finance Committee announced preliminary plans for a fish fry later in the year. Members were encouraged to get out and vote when the polls are open on April 21.

In other business, the members approved the 2026 Club Objectives which had been drawn up by the various committees during the January meeting. The meeting closed with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

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

- Eagle Rock Ruritan Club

# CHURCH NEWS

## Special service Sunday at Lapsley's Run Baptist

Lapsleys Run Baptist Church's Annual Men's and Women's Day will be held on Sunday, March 8, at 11 a.m. The speaker for the service will be Brother Edgar Freeman. Only the morning service will be held, with lunch served afterward, and no afternoon service.

Everyone is invited to attend these and all services at Lapsleys Run Baptist Church, 608 Zion Hill Road, Fincastle.

## Community Lenten services in Buchanan

Lenten services are being held in Buchanan. The remaining services are:

- March 10, Buchanan Presbyterian Church, 19559 Main Street, noon
- March 17, Lithia Baptist Church, 201 Church Hill Road, noon
- March 24, Trinity United Methodist Church, 19637 Main Street, noon

## Dinner, silent auction at Bonsack UMC

Bonsack United Methodist Church is having its annual Dinner and Auction for Missions on Saturday, March 7, at 4493 Bonsack Road in Roanoke. The evening begins with dinner in the gym at 5 p.m., followed by a silent auction at 6 p.m. to bid on a huge variety of items, including many gift cards. Proceeds from the auction will support vital mission work and neighbors in need in the community. For more information, see the church's Facebook page at [bonsackmethodist](https://www.facebook.com/bonsackmethodist).

## Pleasant Hill food box distribution March 14

Pleasant Hill Baptist Church will have food boxes available March 14 from 9-10:30 a.m. at the church or at the Eagle Rock Library.

## Fincastle Clothes Closet open dates

Fincastle United Methodist's Clothes Closet will be open on Tuesday, March 10, 10-2; Saturday, March 14, 10-1; and Saturday, March 28, 10-1, in the Family Life Center, 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.

## 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 remaining schedule is:

- 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
- 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.

## Springwood Baptist golf tourney April 18

Springwood Baptist Church's Feeding Friends Golf Tournament will be held on April 18. This annual golf tournament benefits the Garden of Grace at Wheatland Lutheran Church and the Springwood Baptist Food Pantry.

Sign up with a group of friends to play or become a sponsor by contacting Steve Barger at 540-589-6310 or [sbargerretired@gmail.com](mailto:sbargerretired@gmail.com).

## Cloverdale Church of the Brethren Thrift Store

The Thrift Store at Cloverdale Church of the Brethren is having a huge sale on linens, plus offering the last chance to get winter boots for \$2. The shop also has lots of children's clothes, with sizes from 3 months to size 16. Gently used donations are welcome. The store is open Saturdays, 9 to 12.

## Easter events at Springwood Baptist

Springwood Baptist Church, 88 Copps Hill Road, Buchanan, invites everyone to upcoming Easter services:

- March 29, Palm Sunday: Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; Easter Egg Hunt for kids, 10 a.m.; worship service, 11a.m.; fifth Sunday potluck after worship (bring a couple favorite dishes to share)
- April 3: Good Friday service, 6:30 p.m.
- April 5, Easter Sunday: Sunrise Service, 7 a.m., with breakfast for all afterward; Sunday School, 9:15 a.m. (will meet in the sanctuary); Easter Celebration, 10:30 a.m.

## Free Terrific Tuesday dinners at FUMC

Fincastle United Methodist Church offers its free church and community dinners on the last Tuesday of the month, 5:30-7 p.m., in the Family Life Center. Donations are accepted.



# Post 240 Notes

American Legion Post 240 will conduct its monthly meeting on Thursday, March 5, at the VFW building at the corner of Rt. 220 and Country Club Road, Daleville. Social hour will be from 6-7 p.m. A lite supper will be provided. The official monthly meeting will commence at 7 p.m. and usually lasts one hour.

This meeting marks the beginning of the process to choose a new Executive Board for the coming fiscal year. The new Board will serve for the period of June 1, 2026 until May 31, 2027. This March meeting will start the process by

formulating nominations for the positions of Post Commander; 1st Vice Commander; 2nd Vice Commander, Adjutant and Finance Officer. The nominating process will continue through April. Ballots will be presented to the membership at the May meeting. The results of the balloting will be announced at that meeting. District Commander Gene Malinowski will then perform the swearing in of the new Executive Directors at the Post's upcoming June 4 meeting.

All members are strongly urged to attend the meetings

and especially during the nominating and voting season.

- Post 240 Executive Committee

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THE FINCASTLE HERALD The Vinton Messenger THE NEW CASTLE RECORD SALEM TIMES REGISTER News Messenger RADFORD News Journal

Help Wanted

US Logistics, is looking for reliable, professional Class A CDL drivers to join our growing team.

Join a company that values your time at home and rewards your hard work.

Pay & Bonuses: -\$0.70 CPM -\$20.00 S/O \$1500.00 retention bonus

Position details: -regional routes -home during the week and weekends -no touch freight -no NY runs

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Contact: Wendy Parsons 302-985-3949 Chris Sheridan 856-931-5500 Email: Wparsons @uslogisticsnj.com

Legals - Craig County

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE SALE 24219 Craigs Creek Road, New Castle, VA 24127

By virtue of the power and authority contained in a Deed of Trust dated April 25, 2007 and recorded at April 30, 2007 in Book 162 Page 214 in the Clerk's Office for the Craig County Virginia Circuit Court, Virginia, securing a loan which was originally \$104,261.71.

All those lots or parcels of land situated in the New Castle district of Craig County, Virginia, described as follows, to-wit:

Being all of Lots 7, 8 and 9, of Block 14, of the Old Dominion subdivision of Virginia Mineral Springs Corporation Map, which map is recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Craig County, Virginia, in Deed Book "V", page 469. Tax Map or Parcel ID No.: 48-A-1-14-7

AND as more fully described in the aforesaid Deed of Trust.

TERMS OF SALE: The property will be sold "AS IS," WITHOUT REPRESENTATION OR WARRANTY OF ANY KIND AND SUBJECT TO conditions, restrictions, reservations, easements, rights of way, and all other matters of record taking priority over the Deed of Trust to be announced at the time of sale.

Order of Publication Commonwealth of Virginia VA Code §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316, -317, 20-104 Case No. CL24-32145 VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE CITY OF ROANOKE JOHN K. PRILLAMAN, and COMPTON M. BIDDLE, Plaintiffs v. TRACY MABES, JASON MABES, and UNKNOWN PARTIES, Defendants.

Legals - Craig County

Rosenberg & Associates, LLC (Attorney for the Secured Party) 4340 East West Highway, Suite 600 Bethesda, MD 20814 301-907-8000 www.rosenberg-assoc.com

Legals - City of Salem

Notice is hereby given to all interested persons that the City of Salem Planning Commission,

at its regular meeting on March 11, 2026, at 6:30 p.m., in Council Chambers, City Hall, 114 North Broad Street, in the City of Salem, Virginia, will hold a public hearing, pursuant to Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia, as amended, to consider approval of the following requests relative to the CODE OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA:

1. Consider the request of WILLIAMHART LLC, property owner, for a special exception permit to allow a two-family dwelling on the property located at 740 North Mill Road (Tax Map #48 - 2 - 7).

Copies of the proposed plans, ordinances or amendments may be examined in the Office of Community Development, 21 South Bruffey Street, Salem, Virginia.

At said hearing, parties in interest and citizens shall have an opportunity to be heard relative to the said requests.

THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA

BY: Christopher J. Dorsey Executive Secretary

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

FOR THE PURPOSE OF DETERMINING THE NUMBER OF PUBLIC VEHICLES, TAXICABS, AND FOR HIRE CARS FOR WHICH CERTIFICATES OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY SHALL BE ISSUED DURING THE NEXT YEAR AND FOR THE PURPOSE OF DETERMINING TO WHICH PERSON OR PERSONS SUCH CERTIFICATES SHALL BE ISSUED. IN THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA:

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 98-94 of The Code of the City of Salem, Virginia, the Council of the City of Salem hereby gives notice that at the regular meeting of said Council to be held on March 23, 2026, at 6:30 p.m., in Council Chambers of the City Hall, 114 North Broad Street, Salem, Virginia, a public hearing will be held for the purpose of determining the number of public vehicles, taxicabs, and for hire cars for which certificates of public convenience and necessity shall be issued during the next year and for the purpose of determining to which person or persons such certificates shall be issued.

At said hearing, parties in interest and citizens shall have an opportunity to be heard, present evidence, and show cause why such certificates should or should not be granted.

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA BY: H. Robert Light Clerk of Council

Order of Publication

Commonwealth of Virginia VA Code §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316, -317, 20-104 Case No. CL24-32145 VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE CITY OF ROANOKE JOHN K. PRILLAMAN, and COMPTON M. BIDDLE, Plaintiffs v. TRACY MABES, JASON MABES, and UNKNOWN PARTIES, Defendants.

Legals - City of Salem

persons with an interest in the subject property, including heirs, devisees, and successors in title of Mary Shepherd (a/k/a Mary Martha Mabes), who may be deceased, whose names and addresses are unknown, it is hereby ORDERED that each of the parties appear on or before the 6th day of April, 2026, and claim such excess funds.

It is further ORDERED, pursuant to Va. Code Ann. §8.01-317, that this Order of Publication be published once a week for four successive weeks in the Salem Times Register, a newspaper of general circulation in the City of Roanoke, and that a copy be posted at the front door of the Courthouse in the City of Roanoke, Virginia.

Entered this 13th day of February, 2026 L.K. Ciaffone, Judge I ASK FOR THIS: John K. Prillaman, Esq. VSB #81306 OPN LAW PLC 3140 Chaparral Drive Suite 200-C Roanoke, Va 24018 P: 540) 725-8194 F: 540) 772-0126 E: jprillaman@opnlaw.com

Legals - Botetourt County

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 182 SUNSET AVENUE, TROUTVILLE, VA 24175.

In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated May 31, 2022, in the original principal amount of \$227,272.00 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Botetourt County, Virginia as Instrument No. 220002086. 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 April 3, 2026, at 10:45 AM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: ALL THAT CERTAIN LOT, PIECE, OR PARCEL OF LAND LYING AND BEING IN THE COUNTY OF BOTETOURT, VIRGINIA AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT CORNER NO. 1, BEING A FENCE CORNER POST AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THE GALEN R. LAYMAN BARNYARD LOT; THENCE WITH THE BOUNDARY LINES OF THE REMAINING PROPERTY OF SAID GALEN R. LAYMAN AND FOLLOWING THE EXISTING FENCE LINE, S. 85° 19' W. 122.36 FT. TO A FENCE CORNER POST AT CORNER NO. 2; THENCE N. 4° 30' E. 36 FT. TO A STEEL PIN AT CORNER NO. 3; THENCE N. 77° 04' W. 164 FEET TO A FENCE CORNER POST AT CORNER NO. 4; THENCE LEAVING SAID LAYMAN PROPERTY AND WITH THE EASTERLY BOUNDARY LINE OF THE PROPERTY OF HADEN S. CRONK AND FOLLOWING THE EXISTING FENCED LINE, S. 30° 47' W. 169 FT. TO AN OLD IRON PIPE AT CORNER NO. 5 ON THE NORTH SIDE OF OLD FINCASTLE ROAD, BEING SECONDARY ROAD ROUTE 651; THENCE WITH THE NORTHERLY SIDE OF SAID ROAD, BEING 30 FT. WIDE, S. 58° 36' E. 151.22 FT. TO CORNER NO. 6; THENCE S. 88° 50' E. 129.59 FT. TO CORNER NO. 7; THENCE LEAVING SAID ROAD AND PASSING THROUGH THE CENTER OF A FENCE POST AT 2.88 FT. AND THENCE FOLLOWING THE EXISTING BOUNDARY LINE FENCE AND WITH THE WESTERLY BOUNDARY LINE OF THE REMAINING PROPERTY OF GALEN R. LAYMAN, N. 34° 25' E. 198.87 FT. TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING, AND CONTAINING 1.386 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, BEING AS SHOWN ON RECENT SURVEY BY T. P. PARKER & SON, ENGINEERS AND SURVEYORS, LTD., DATED SEPTEMBER 19, 1983, RECORDED IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF BOTETOURT, VIRGINIA IN DEED BOOK 288, PAGE 54, REFERENCE TO WHICH IS HERE AND NOW MADE FOR THE LOCATION OF IMPROVEMENTS ON SAID

Legals - Botetourt County

PROPERTY AND SLIGHT FENCE ENCROACHMENT ALONG THE EASTERLY LINE THEREOF. TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit of ten percent (10%) of the sale price or ten percent (10%) of the original principal balance of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, in the form of cash or certified funds payable to the Substitute Trustee must be present at the time of the sale. The balance of the purchase price will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Purchaser's deposit may be forfeited to Trustee. Time is of the essence. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser may, if provided by the terms of the Trustee's Memorandum of Foreclosure Sale, be entitled to a \$50 cancellation fee from the Substitute Trustee, but shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. A form copy of the Trustee's memorandum of foreclosure sale and contract to purchase real property is available for viewing at www.bwvsales.com. Additional terms, if any, to be announced at the sale and the Purchaser may be given the option to execute the contract of sale electronically. This is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. The sale is subject to seller confirmation. Substitute Trustee: Equity Trustees, LLC, 8100 Three Chopt Road, Suite 240, Richmond, VA 23229. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Virginia Pre-Sale Department of counsel for Equity Trustees, LLC at 301-961-6555, website: www.bwvsales.com. VA-381507-1.

NOTICE TO: ALBERT HONAKER, JR., FATHER OF A MALE CHILD BORN UNTO AMBER BOOHER ON JULY 10, 2013 (JUVENILE CASE NO: 25-JA-220-RF)

ALBERT HONAKER, JR., FATHER OF A FEMALE CHILD BORN UNTO AMBER BOOHER ON NOVEMBER 29, 2015 (JUVENILE CASE NO.: 25-JA-221-RF)

Pursuant to Chapter 49, Article 4, Section 601 of the Code of West Virginia, notice is hereby given to you that a petition has been filed in the Circuit Court of Mercer County, West Virginia, alleging that your child is a neglected and/or abused child, which proceedings can result in the permanent termination of parental rights.

This matter has been scheduled for a hearing on the 12th day of March at 9:30 a.m., before the Honorable Ryan J. Flanigan, Judge of the Circuit Court at the Mercer County Courthouse, Princeton, West Virginia.

Michael Magann, 307 Federal Street, Suite 210, Bluefield, WV 24701, (304) 325-2100, has been appointed as counsel of record for Respondent Albert Honaker, Jr.

You are hereby notified that you may be present at such hearing and defend your rights.

Dated February 24, 2026 JULIE A BALL CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT MERCER COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA BY: Martha Neely HER DEPUTY CLERK

MAKE AN "A" IN ADVERTISING! To place your ad, call 389-9355

Legals - Botetourt County

Order of Publication Commonwealth of Virginia VA Code §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316, -317, 20-104 Case No. W240000148 BOTETOURT COUNTY, 5 WEST MAIN STREET, FINCASTLE, VA 24090

ESTATE OF DOUGLAS MARKEY GIMBERT, DECEASED

The object of this suit is to: CREDITORS AND ALL OTHERS SHOW CAUSE AGAINST PAYMENT AND DELIVERY OF ESTATE IT IS ORDERED THAT IT appearing that a report of the accounts of Mary Barbara Gimbert, Executrix of the Estate of Douglas Markey Gimbert, deceased, and of the debts and demands against his estate has been filed in the Clerk's Office, and that six months have elapsed since the qualification, on motion of Mary Barbara Gimbert, Executrix, IT IS ORDERED that the creditors of, and all other persons interested in the above estate show cause, if they can, on the 8th day of April, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. before this Court at its courtroom, against payment of the debts of the estate in the order and proportion in which they may be entitled and distributing all remaining assets to the beneficiaries entitled thereto under the Last Will and Testament of Douglas Markey Gimbert, without requiring refunding bonds, subject only to the retention by the Executrix of sufficient funds to satisfy the remaining costs of administration. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the foregoing portion of the Order be published once a week for two successive weeks in the Fincastle Herald, a newspaper published in Botetourt County. Entered this 24th day of February, 2026 I ask for this: Lindsey A. Coley, Esq. (VSB No. 75551) Coley Law Firm 16440 Booker T. Washington Hwy Suite 304B Smith Mountain Lake Virginia 24121 P: 540-407-9859 F: 540-675-4002 lindsey@coleylaw.legal

Legals - Montgomery County

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

The Town of Christiansburg Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, March 16, 2026, at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073, pursuant to Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia, as amended. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments concerning:

A. Rezoning request by Madison Apartment Homes LLC and Madison Apartment Homes II LLC, Property Owner and Applicant, for an amendment to proffers on Tax Parcel 434 - (A)) - 8A (Parcel ID 110779) and 434 - (A)) - 8B (Parcel ID 310087), consisting of approximately 7.950 acres, located at the intersection of Peppers Ferry Road, New Village Drive, and Bozeman Trail. The property is zoned Multi-Family Residential (R-3) with proffers, and the request is to amend the proffers accepted with the 2020 rezoning action. The property is designated as Residential on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan. Town Hall will be open and available to receive public comment in-person at the time of this Public Hearing. A copy of the application, the Town's Zoning Map, Zoning Ordinance, and Future Land Use Map may be viewed in the Planning Department Office, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073, during normal office hours of 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contact 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.

For Sale Antiques for sale The real thing! 1880 and up Moving A house full of furniture 4 posters and marble Very good condition Serious quality Radford Bruce 540-457-6035

Items for sale: Massey Ferguson tractor MF2705E-49 hp. 4 wheel drive w/front loader-real good shape-\$21,000. Bobcat skid steer-610, runs good, \$5,000. Scissor-lift for round bales-\$300. Boom pole-\$75. 6 ft. Bush hog-\$200-needs PTO shaft MF451 sickle bar mower-\$1,200. Contact 540-992-5456 415 Longfield Rd Fincastle

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Legals - Montgomery County

Order of Publication Commonwealth of Virginia VA Code §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316, -317, 20-104 Case No. CL25001172-00 MONTGOMERY COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT, 55 EAST MAIN STREET, SUITE 1, CHRISTIANSBURG, VA 24073

LEIA RAQUEL KING v. JAMES RUSSELL SMITH IV

The object of this suit is to: DIVORCE It is ORDERED THAT JAMES RUSSELL SMITH IV appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before April 27th, 2026 Entered 2/24/2026 Honorable Robert M.D. Turk Judge

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 23, 2026, at 7:15pm or as soon thereafter, at the Montgomery County Government Center, 2nd Floor Board Room, 755 Roanoke Street, Christiansburg, Virginia, to hear 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 Johnston Student Center located at 920 W. Campus Drive, Blacksburg, Virginia, for the August 4, 2026 Primary Election Only.

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

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE,

all those certain lots, tracts or parcels of real property situate, lying and being in the Town of Christiansburg, Shawsville Magisterial District of Montgomery County, Virginia, designated as Tax Map Numbers 497-18 15A and 497-18 16, in execution of a Deed of Trust, in the original principal amount of \$124,000.00, dated October 31, 2012, recorded among the land records of the Circuit Court for the COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY as Deed Instrument Number 2012009501, the undersigned appointed Trustee will offer for sale at public auction all that property located in the COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY, at the front of the Court House building for the County of Montgomery located at 55 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073, on Monday, April 6, 2026, at 10:00 a.m., the property with improvements to wit: Tax Map Numbers 497-18 15A and 497-18 16; THIS COMMUNICATION IS FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR. TERMS OF SALE: CASH OR CHECK. Additional terms to be announced at sale. Trustee, John N. Spicer, C/O Spicer, Olin & Associates, P.C., 504 South Main Street, Blacksburg, VA 24060 (540) 552-0007.

For Sale

Antiques for sale The real thing! 1880 and up Moving A house full of furniture 4 posters and marble Very good condition Serious quality Radford Bruce 540-457-6035

Items for sale: Massey Ferguson tractor MF2705E-49 hp. 4 wheel drive w/front loader-real good shape-\$21,000. Bobcat skid steer-610, runs good, \$5,000. Scissor-lift for round bales-\$300. Boom pole-\$75. 6 ft. Bush hog-\$200-needs PTO shaft MF451 sickle bar mower-\$1,200. Contact 540-992-5456 415 Longfield Rd Fincastle

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Legals - Town of Vinton

ABC NOTICE

VINTON CAFÉ LLC, trading as VINTON CAFÉ KITCHEN & BAKERY, 126 E. Lee Ave, Vinton Roanoke County, Va 24179-2518.

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

Keriann Campbell 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.

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# Recipients from page 1

- Appalachian Environmental — \$4,500 for machinery, equipment and marketing
- JWF Services, Inc., doing business as The Local Lemon — \$3,448 for equipment
- Grow Wild, Play Studio — \$3,000 for equipment and marketing
- Southwest Virginia Training — \$2,529 for equipment
- Fincastle District**
- Sprinkel's Garage, LLC — \$4,000 for equipment
- Heritage Family Market Inc. — \$2,000 for a new refrigerator
- Fincastle Automotive Inc. — \$3,000 for equipment

- Windy Ridge Fencing & Excavating Services, DBA of Sunny Side Ranch, LLC — \$2,000 for truck upgrade
- Will Haul — \$4,000 for truck wrap, marketing and equipment
- Healing Hideaway, LLC — \$4,000 for a new massage table
- Blue Ridge District**
- Eggie Lope's, LLC — \$4,500 for packaging, equipment, marketing and legal fees
- Interior Design by Teanna — \$4,850 for marketing and legal fees
- Valley District**
- Joyful Noise Children's Center, LLC — \$5,000 for an HVAC upgrade
- Portraits by Cher — \$5,000 for

- equipment
- Buchanan District**
- Foot of the Mountain Café — \$3,899 for a refrigerator
- Good Times Café, LLC — \$4,000 for kitchen equipment and outdoor seating
- Mrs. B's Restaurant and Bar — \$5,000 for a refrigerator
- Beaver Dam Farms, Inc. — \$2,000 for grading services for a new barn
- Buchanan Butchery, LLC — \$2,000 for a meat display cooler
- Mount Joy Mushrooms, LLC — \$5,000 for equipment and expansion
- Blue Ridge Flower Exchange —

- \$5,000 for a service vehicle purchase
  - Glenda Snyder Farm — \$3,000 for farm materials
  - Sharin' Flowers — \$3,000 for equipment
  - The Barn at Back Creek Farm — \$3,000 for building upfits
- Supervisors voiced support for continuing the program, citing strong demand and broad participation across the county. With applications once again far exceeding available funds, county leaders said the grant initiative remains a key tool in strengthening Botetourt's small business community and encouraging local economic growth.

# Water from page 1

would fund required engineering, design work and infrastructure extensions needed to bring water service to the site. The documents also reference potential supply strategies if expansion occurs, including reservoir capacity

increases, alternative source development and possible use of treated wastewater for cooling. The records release comes amid broader regional discussions about long-term water supply and infrastructure protection. Officials

in the City of Roanoke have raised questions about impacts to the Carvins Cove reservoir system, citing historic public investment and seeking assurances regarding resource safeguards. Botetourt County officials have said replacement planning has been incorporated into the process.

Additional questions submitted to county officials sought clarification about expected average daily usage during Phase 1 operations, how that compares to reserved capacity levels, and what financial obligations would remain if the project does not advance beyond its initial phase.

Responses were not received before press deadlines.

Google previously purchased a 312-acre parcel at Greenfield for approximately \$14 million and pledged \$4 million in community investments. County leaders have described the project as a significant economic

development opportunity, citing anticipated machinery and tools tax revenue under a 20-year performance agreement that could support schools, public safety and infrastructure.

The company has not announced a construction timeline or final campus design. Engineering

reviews and permitting processes remain ongoing.

Botetourt County maintains a project information page for residents seeking updates at [botetourtva.com/Google](http://botetourtva.com/Google).

- Fincastle Herald staff report

## PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE OF THE BOTETOURT COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

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

Fincastle District: Erryn M. & Virginia A. Barket (Roanoke Road Solar 1, LLC, c/o New Leaf Energy Inc, lessee) request a Commission Permit in accordance with 15.2-2232 of the Virginia State Code and a Special Exception Permit for a utility-scale solar energy facility, with possible conditions, in the Agricultural, A-1 Use District. This 53.40-acre parcel is located on Roanoke Road (US Route 220), adjacent to 6457 Roanoke Road, Fincastle, and identified on the Tax Maps as Section 73-157.

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

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

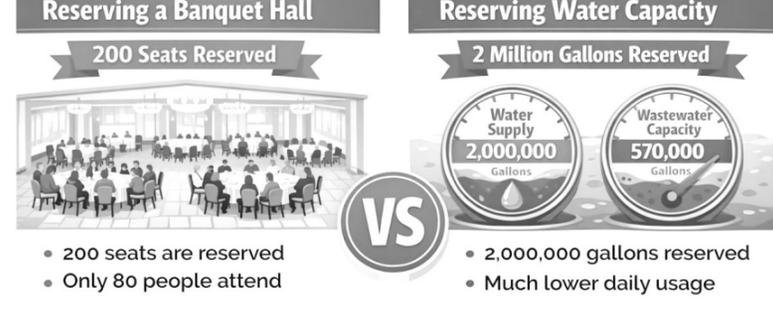
**C. Nicole Pendleton, AICP, CZA, CFM**  
Director of Community Development

## Stockyard Report

**Monday's sale at the Roanoke-Hollins Stockyard: 581 HEAD**

Head Cows	\$1,050.00-2,700.00
Bred Heifers	\$4,300.00-5,100.00
Bottle Calves	\$850.00-1,225.00
<b>Graded Steers</b>	
300-399	\$443.00-553.00
400-499	\$433.00-522.00
500-599	\$235.00-481.00
600-699	\$360.00-450.00
700-799	\$300.00-422.00
<b>Graded Bulls</b>	
300-399	\$541.00
400-499	\$415.00-485.00
500-599	\$360.00-428.00
600-699	\$365.00-385.00
<b>Graded Heifers</b>	
300-399	\$403.00-520.00
400-499	\$370.00-444.00
500-599	\$350.00-444.00
600-699	\$340.00-384.50
700-799	\$360.00
<b>Kill Cows</b>	\$ 70.00-186.00
<b>Kill Bulls</b>	\$177.00-204.00

## Capacity vs Consumption



Learn More About the Project [botetourtva.gov/Google](http://botetourtva.gov/Google)

GRAPHIC COURTESY OF BOTETOURT CO.

The county recently posted an infographic on social media explaining water capacity versus water consumption in relation to the proposed data center.

## CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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## LEGAL NOTICE

### NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF A PETITION BY APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY FOR A PRUDENCY REVIEW, PURSUANT TO § 56-585.1:4 H OF THE CODE OF VIRGINIA, WITH RESPECT TO THE PURCHASE OF ENERGY, CAPACITY, AND ENVIRONMENTAL ATTRIBUTES FROM SOLAR FACILITIES THROUGH POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENTS CASE NO. PUR-2026-00005

On February 6, 2026, Appalachian Power Company ("APCo" or "Company"), pursuant to § 56-585.1:4 H of the Code of Virginia ("Code"), filed a petition ("Petition") with the State Corporation Commission ("Commission") for a prudency determination with respect to six (6) power purchase agreements ("PPAs") that the Company seeks to add to its portfolio of renewable energy used to comply with the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standards ("RPS") Program established by the Virginia Clean Economy Act. Pursuant to Code § 56-585.1:4 H, the Commission must issue a final order regarding the Petition within three months of the date of filing.

The Company states that the following PPAs are the subject of this Petition:

- Constitution Solar Facility PPA (5 MW, Virginia);
- Dove Valley Solar Facility PPA (5 MW, Virginia);
- Willow Solar Facility PPA (12 MW, Virginia);
- Hera Solar Facility PPA (13.33 MW, Virginia);
- Sun Chief Solar Facility PPA (100 MW, Indiana); and
- Bedington Solar Facility PPA (100 MW, West Virginia).

The Company asks that the Commission determine that the execution of the PPAs is prudent and that the PPAs will be prudent additions to the Company's RPS compliance portfolio. The Company maintains that the PPAs that are the subject of this Petition are RPS eligible resources, as they are electric-generating resources that generate electric energy derived from solar and are interconnected directly into the Commonwealth or the PJM region. The Company asserts the PPAs were selected after a competitive and robust bidding process, due diligence and contract negotiations.

According to the Petition, the PPAs would help the Company comply with its RPS requirements by producing 213,339 additional renewable energy certificates annually for the Virginia Retail Jurisdiction, and approximately double that amount if not approved in West Virginia. The Company asserts that the PPAs would also allow APCo to avoid costs it would otherwise incur as a PJM participant by helping the Company avoid purchasing energy from the PJM energy markets. APCo further asserts that the PPAs would produce carbon-free energy thereby advancing the Commonwealth Clean Energy Policy.

According to the Petition, five (5) of the PPA projects are expected to go online sometime in 2026 and 2027. The Company states that these facilities are likely to be available to help meet RPS requirements during the 2026 VCEA Rate Year,<sup>1</sup> and accordingly, the Company will be seeking approval to recover the costs associated with them in its 2026 VCEA filing.

Additional details are set forth in the Company's Petition. Interested persons are encouraged to review the Company's Petition and supporting exhibits.

The Commission entered an Order for Notice and Hearing that, among other things, scheduled public hearings on APCo's Petition. A hearing for the receipt of testimony from public witnesses on the Company's Petition shall be convened telephonically at 10 a.m. on April 8, 2026. On or before April 2, 2026, any person desiring to offer testimony as a public witness shall provide to the Commission: (a) your name, and (b) the telephone number that you wish the Commission to call during the hearing to receive your testimony. This information may be provided to the Commission: (i) by filling out a form on the Commission's website at [scc.virginia.gov/case-information/webcasting](http://scc.virginia.gov/case-information/webcasting); or (ii) by calling (804) 371-9141. This public witness hearing will be webcast at: [scc.virginia.gov/case-information/webcasting](http://scc.virginia.gov/case-information/webcasting).

Beginning at 10 a.m. on April 8, 2026, the Hearing Examiner assigned to this case will telephone sequentially each person who has signed up to testify as provided above.

<sup>1</sup> The Company states that the Rate Year projected for its 2026 VCEA filing is March 2027 through February 2028. *Id.*

On April 8, 2026, at 10 a.m., or at the conclusion of the public witness portion of the hearing, whichever is later, in the Commission's second floor courtroom located in the Tyler Building, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, the Hearing Examiner will convene a hearing to receive testimony and evidence related to the Petition from the Company, any respondents, and the Commission Staff.

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

Electronic copies of the public version of the Petition may be obtained by submitting a written request to counsel for the Company: Noelle J. Coates, Appalachian Power Company, 1051 East Cary Street, Suite 1100, Richmond, Virginia 23219, or [njcoates@aep.com](mailto:njcoates@aep.com).

On or before April 3, 2026, any interested person may submit written comments on the Petition by following the instructions found on the Commission's website: [scc.virginia.gov/case-information/submit-public-comments](http://scc.virginia.gov/case-information/submit-public-comments). Those unable, as a practical matter, to submit comments electronically may file such comments by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the State Corporation Commission, c/o Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2118. All comments shall refer to Case No. PUR-2026-00005.

On or before March 24, 2026, any person or entity wishing to participate as a respondent in this proceeding may do so by filing a notice of participation at [scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling](http://scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling). Those unable, as a practical matter, to file a notice of participation electronically may file such notice by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the Commission at the address listed above. Such notice of participation shall include the email addresses of such parties or their counsel, if available. The respondent simultaneously shall serve a copy of the notice of participation on counsel to the Company, Commission Staff, and any other respondents. Pursuant to Rule 5 VAC 5-20-80 B, *Participation as a respondent*, of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, 5 VAC 5-20-10 *et seq.* ("Rules of Practice"), any notice of participation shall set forth: (i) a precise statement of the interest of the respondent; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent then known; and (iii) the factual and legal basis for the action. Any organization, corporation, or government body participating as a respondent must be represented by counsel as required by Rule 5 VAC 5-20-30, *Counsel*, of the Rules of Practice. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2026-00005.

On or before March 24, 2026, each respondent may file with the Clerk of the Commission at [scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling](http://scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling) any testimony and exhibits by which the respondent expects to establish its case. Any respondent unable, as a practical matter, to file testimony and exhibits electronically may file such by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the Commission at the address listed above. Each witness's testimony shall include a summary not to exceed one page. All testimony and exhibits shall be served on the Commission Staff, the Company, and all other respondents simultaneously with their filing. In all filings, respondents shall comply with the Rules of Practice, as modified herein, including, but not limited to: 5 VAC 5-20-140, *Filing and service*, and 5 VAC 5-20-240, *Prepared testimony and exhibits*. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2026-00005.

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

The Commission's Rules of Practice, the Commission's Order for Notice and Hearing, and other documents filed in the case may be viewed at: [scc.virginia.gov/case-information](http://scc.virginia.gov/case-information).

## APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY

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# Donaho blasts two home runs for RC



PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Lord Botetourt graduate Noah Donaho, a freshman at Roanoke College, hit his first two collegiate home runs on Saturday when the Maroons swept a doubleheader from William Peace University in Salem. Noah had a home run in each game of a 13-4, 9-0 sweep. Through eight games, Donaho is hitting .364. He's scored seven runs and leads

the team with nine runs-batted-in. The Maroons are now 7-1 with four home games this week, all at Salem Memorial Ballpark. They were scheduled to host North Carolina Wesleyan on Tuesday and Mary Baldwin on Wednesday at 1 p.m., and they open ODAC play on Saturday with a doubleheader against Bridgewater beginning at 11 a.m.

# LB girls see basketball season end with loss to strong Abingdon team

The Lord Botetourt girls had a tough draw to open the Region 3D basketball tournament last week as they made the long trip to Abingdon for the four-five game. The Cavs dropped a 53-49 decision in Abingdon and the Falcons went on to win the region.

"We gave Abingdon our best shot and played them as close as anyone else in our region," said Botetourt coach Renee Favaro. "It was a shame it was a quarterfinal game."

The Falcons came out smoking, hitting five of their first six three-point shots. Abingdon led 24-10 after the first quarter but the visiting Cavs chipped away and cut the lead to a single point, 44-43, in the fourth quarter. However, North Carolina State commit Annsley Trivette proved to be a problem down the stretch for the Cavs.

"We fouled and got the player we wanted at the line, but struggled to box out Trivette and she was able to score off those free

throw misses down the stretch," said Favaro. "She really put Abingdon on her back from start to finish, proving why she is one of the best players in the state."

Maggie Hoover led the Cavaliers with 21 points and seven rebounds. Senior Jaiden Dann added 11 points on her final outing as a Cavalier and point guard Addison Naff added eight points and three assists.

Botetourt shot 49 percent from the floor and 50 percent from threes, which will normally win the ball game. However, Abingdon took nine more field goal attempts and nine more free throws than LB due to strong offensive rebounding by the Falcons and Botetourt committing a few more turnovers than the home team.

The Cavaliers will graduate just one senior, Dann. Favaro had four juniors, three sophomores and two freshmen on the varsity roster. That's a far cry from last winter

when LB won the state championship with a team loaded with seniors. No one was sure how this team would do back in November but they competed all year, steadily improved and finished with a winning record at 12-11.

"Overall, this was pretty much a new team from a season ago," said Favaro. "We played a tough schedule and grew tremendously throughout the season. The five starters really stepped into all new roles this year, with three sophomores starting. It really just took us some time to figure it out."

"We did a lot of 'young' things at times this year, but that is part of the process when you are rebuilding. With only one senior, I think this group will be able to hit the ground running in the off-season and through next winter. Everyone knows what to expect now, what is needed from them, and what it takes to get there as a result of this season."

# Virginia Tech softball invitational this weekend at Moyer complex

The James I. Moyer Complex in Salem will be the site for the second annual Hokie Invite softball event this week. The tournament runs from Thursday, March 5, to Sunday, March 8.

The Hokie Invite will include Boston College, Bryant, James Madison, Michigan, Penn State, Radford and Virginia Tech. Games will be played beginning at 4

p.m. Thursday with Boston College against Michigan, followed by Virginia Tech against Michigan at 6:30 p.m.

On Friday games start at 10 a.m. and continue through the day with the last matchups scheduled for 6 p.m. when Tech goes up against JMU on one field and Boston College plays Penn State on an adjoining diamond.

On Saturday games

begin at 10:30 a.m. Tech will meet Penn State at 3:30 p.m., and then play Radford at 6 p.m. in the last game of the day.

The Invite concludes with two games at 11 a.m. on Sunday. Tech will play Bryant and James Madison goes up against Radford.

Admission is \$10 per day. Fans under 18 and over 65 can get in for \$5.

# Lord Botetourt grad leads Roanoke College as Maroons take fourth at ODAC meet in Salem

Lord Botetourt graduate Dylan Knick is a senior on the Roanoke College track team. The Maroons finished fourth in the Old Dominion Athletic Conference meet last week at the Kerr-Cregger Fieldhouse in Salem.



Dylan Knick

PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN



PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

# High school state track meets this week

**Correction:** Last week's caption on the photo of James River athletes was incorrect. It should have read James River's Kaia Binns (right), Denver Rinehart (second from right) and Mirai Burton (fourth from right) are off and running in the Region 2C 55-meter dash at Roanoke College Feb. 22. All three will be competing in the VHSL Class 2 state track meet today and Thursday at Liberty University. Lord Botetourt had athletes in the Class 3 state meet on Monday and Tuesday, also at Liberty. Look for results in next week's edition.

# Botetourt County girls wrestle in state tournament

Three Botetourt County girls, two from Lord Botetourt and one from James River, competed in the VHSL Girls State Wrestling Tournament held Feb. 24-25 at the Henrico Sports Complex in Glen Allen, Va. The tournament included 192 girls from all school classifications and featured 12 weight classes, each comprised of 16 of the top female wrestlers in Virginia who qualified through their respective Zone tournaments.

Serenity Shearer and Jasmin Andrade represented Lord Botetourt while Georgia Miller wrestled for James River. Shearer finished in sixth place in the state in the 145-pound class, pinning her way into the semifinals where she lost to the defending state champion. It was the same girl she lost to in the semifinals last season and that wrestler went on to win the state championship again this season.

"Serenity was having some back problems and dropped her consolation match before medical forfeiting her final match and taking sixth place," said LB coach Paul Craft. "Serenity wrestled extremely well all season, I feel for her. She worked hard, trained hard, slept right, ate right and did all the off-season stuff on the mat and in the weight room."

"It's a hard lesson to learn. Sometimes you can do everything right, but nothing is guaranteed. It shouldn't overshadow her career here at LB. She helped spearhead the girls' wrestling program and is a two-time state placer. She's also graduating a year early with a 4.0 GPA and will wrestle in college. Her academic and athletic career at LB has been a huge success and we fully expect it to continue on the next level."

LB senior Andrade wrestled in the 165-pound class and made it to the blood round, needing one more win to guarantee a top six finish.

"I think Jasmin wins that match most of the time, she just happened to get caught," said Craft. "Jasmin also wrestled through some hand and wrist pain that has been a problem for the last couple months. It definitely impacted her grip and her ability to be effective on offense and defense and transitions. Jasmin had a great senior season and is another girl that helped get the program up and running at LB. She's always recruiting other girls and talking to them about coming out for our program."

James River senior Miller finished 0-2, including a hard-fought second match that nearly advanced her into podium contention.

"Not the way I wanted to finish my high school career, but I'm thankful for four years of competing and for the opportunity to qualify for states," said Georgia.

Miller closes her senior season with a 56 career wins, including three tournament championships and 11 podium finishes. She will continue her wrestling career this fall at Montreat College in North Carolina.

"I'm incredibly proud and honored to have coached Nora Lotts, Briley Goyer, and Georgia Miller this season," said River girls' coach



James River's Georgia Miller (left) and Lord Botetourt's Serenity Shearer (right) competed in the girls' state wrestling championship last week.



PHOTOS COURTESY BOTETOURT WRESTLING  
LB's Jasmin Andrade was one win away from placing at the state tournament.

Warren Carswell. "Nora and Briley are just freshmen and have a bright future ahead of them. No doubt Georgia's work ethic will carry her through the next chapter of college wrestling."

Craft and Carswell hope to expand the girls' teams at both LB and River. Girls' wrestling is a booming sport in the state of Virginia.

"Three years ago there were 310 girls in the state tournament since it was an open tournament," said Craft. "Last season 600 girls wrestled across the state of Virginia. This season in Virginia, 1,030 girls weighed in and wrestled at least one match per statistics kept on trackwrestling. The sport is exploding and it's here to stay."

"Serenity, Jasmin, and Georgia are the founders for girls' wrestling in Botetourt County. If they hadn't taken interest in it years ago then it would never have become what it is now. Wrestling has completely changed the trajectory of these girls' lives. Both Serenity and Georgia will wrestle in college."

Craft sees the interest in girls' wrestling continuing to build at both county schools.

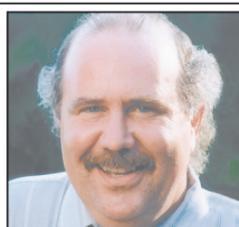
"We're starting to see more girls showing interest here at LB and wanting to be a part of something," he said. "They're seeing the success of the girl wrestlers in the county, and also understand they can wrestle other girls instead of guys now. We're going to miss our seniors. We hope after they're done with college that they'll come back and help out with the girls' team."

Spring sports are near. Read about them here.

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# BOTETOURT Sports

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**Brian Hoffman**  
Sports Editor



James River High School hosted a student signing event last Friday.



Jack Beheler

## JRHS celebrates four college signings

James River High School's gym was packed Friday as students, faculty, and families gathered to celebrate four standout athletes signing their letters of intent to compete at the collegiate level.

Jack Beheler signed with the College of William & Mary to compete in football and track. A standout multi-sport athlete, Beheler has been a key contributor on the field and on the track throughout his high

school career.

Gavin Binns will continue his football and track career at Bridgewater College, while his sister Kaia Binns also signed with Bridgewater to compete in track and field. The siblings have

been instrumental in the success of James River's athletic programs.

Caitlyn Downey signed with Roanoke College for sideline and competition cheer, bringing her leadership and spirit to the collegiate level.



Kaia and Gavin Binns



PHOTOS BY MATT DE SIMONE  
Caitlyn Downey



The Lord Botetourt boys' basketball team huddles up prior to their Region 3D game at Hidden Valley last week.

## Cavalier boys see their basketball season end in region tournament

The Lord Botetourt boys saw their basketball season come to an end last week with a 66-49 loss to Hidden Valley in the first round of the Region 3D tournament. The host Titans were the top seed in the region and went on to win the Region 3D tourney, defeating Christiansburg in the region final.

Botetourt hung tough and trailed by just three points at the half. Coach Josh Aliveto credited LB's work on the boards in being a big factor in keeping the game close.

"The first half went back and forth," he said. "Our defensive positioning and rebounding effort were what we needed to stay in the ball game and give us a chance in the second half."

Hidden Valley got hot in the third quarter and upped the lead. Meanwhile, Botetourt struggled on offense after intermission.

"We hit a bit of a cold spell shooting," said Aliveto. "We were able to win the fourth quarter, but not enough to overcome their big third."

Rylan Lavinder led the LB scorers with 16 points. Landon Hayes also chipped in with 12 points to go with five rebounds as Botetourt finished the season with a 7-16 record.

"As we reflect on this past season, we are incredibly proud of how our team responded to a tough schedule that challenged us from the very beginning," said Aliveto. "We competed against strong opponents week after week, and while the results didn't always go our way early on, this was a resilient group that never stopped working or believing in each other."

"In the second half of the season, we really started hitting our stride, playing with more confidence and consistency. That growth allowed us to do enough to earn a regional playoff spot, which speaks volumes about the character of our players."

The Cavs will graduate four seniors, Hayes, Brady Kish, Jase Lisle and Caleb Muterspaugh.

"We will certainly miss a great group of seniors who helped set the tone with their leadership and commitment to the Lord Botetourt program," said Aliveto. "This group of seniors will definitely be successful adults and accomplished individuals. At the same time, we're excited about the foundation that's been built and look forward to seeing what this next group can put together for the 2026-2027 season."



LB's Gabe Towe challenges a shot at Hidden Valley



PHOTOS BY JIM & REGINA DEVINNEY  
Botetourt's Landon Hayes (left) finds Simon Williams with a bounce pass.



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## Clevenger and Maroons win ODAC basketball championship

Roanoke College senior Patrick Clevenger (front right), a James River High School graduate, holds a sign proclaiming the Maroons as Old Dominion Athletic Conference basketball champions after a 59-58 win over Randolph-Macon at the Salem Civic Center Saturday night. The Maroons earned a bid to the NCAA Division III tournament with the win and will open Friday evening against Rhodes College of Tennessee at Emory University in Atlanta, Ga.



PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN



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