

The Fincastle Herald

& Botetourt County News

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2026

\$1.50

NexGen Fire Academy returns in June, registration opens April 2

Matt de Simone
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Botetourt County Fire & EMS will once again host its NexGen Fire Academy this summer, offering local youth, both girls and boys, a hands-on introduction to firefighting and emergency services.

Registration for the one-day academy opens at 10 a.m. April 2, with the event scheduled for June 13. Officials say space is limited and encourage families to sign up early.

The program is open to students

entering first through 12th grades and is designed to give participants a behind-the-scenes look at public safety careers while building teamwork and leadership skills.

According to the county, the academy will feature a series of interactive training modules led by firefighters and emergency medical personnel. Participants will learn basic fire safety skills and take part in activities such as “Stop the Bleed” training, which teaches techniques to control severe bleeding in emergencies.

Students will also have the opportunity to explore fire trucks, ambulances and specialized equipment used in the field. Demonstrations and guided instruction will allow participants to see firsthand how crews respond to emergencies.

In addition to hands-on training, the academy will include talks from experienced fire and EMS professionals, who will share insights about their work and the variety of

See **NexGen**, page 10



Botetourt County DAR Chapter wins state award

Members of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution from across the Commonwealth gathered March 20-22 in Williamsburg for their annual state conference.

Holding the conference in historic Colonial Williamsburg allowed members to experience the places and stories of those who contributed to the founding of the nation nearly 250 years ago.

With more than 9,300 members in 122 chapters across Virginia, the organization continues to make an impact through projects and events. Attendees from Botetourt County included Betty Holt, Beth Pappas and Susan Hays.

The Botetourt County Chapter received the Virginia DAR award for outstanding event, “Remembering the Botetourt Resolutions,” recognizing its work with the Botetourt County Historical Society to write, plan and present the program in March 2025. During the event, 10 historical interpreters portrayed life in Botetourt County as militia members departed for what is now known as the Battle of Point Pleasant.

More than 500 women attended the conference, hearing from speakers whose work highlights the importance of preserving and sharing early American history.

Author Barbara VornDick discussed her research into Eliza Monroe Hay, daughter of President James Monroe, who was buried in Paris. After four years of research and coordination, Hay’s remains were returned to the Monroe family plot at Hollywood Cemetery. VornDick recounts the effort in her book, “Bringing Eliza Home.”

Author Karen Chase spoke about her research on the Declaration of Independence, which informed her book, “Carrying Independence.” Jerri Marr, superintendent of Colonial National Historical Park and the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail, discussed the importance of preserving



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF BOTETOURT DAR

historic sites from the founding of Jamestown to the present. These sites include the Yorktown Battlefield, which will host events for the Commonwealth’s America 250 commemoration this summer.

Attendees also met a young Thomas Jefferson, portrayed by Kurt Benjamin Smith of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. Smith shared stories from the Continental Congress, including the drafting of the Declaration of Independence, first read publicly in Philadelphia on July 8, 1776.

On March 21, chapter members gathered at the Fincastle Library to hear member Roblyn Brand present “Jack, the Slave.” Brand has researched the life of this Botetourt County man and shared her findings with attendees. She has been a member of the DAR for more than 40 years and has served several years as chapter registrar.

- Fincastle Herald staff report



PHOTO BY MATT DE SIMONE

Look closely to create a connection

Mountainous terrain, rolling farmland, and forested hillsides distinguish the landscape of Botetourt County at a glance. As we county dwellers work on the land or drive out for errands and jobs, we can easily observe the environmental character. The treescape changes color with the season, from spring’s bright greens and pastel flowerings to summer’s full green canopy to fall’s brilliant rainbow and then winter’s gray and brown skeletons; the non-human inhabitants abound – herds of deer, curious groundhogs, marauding racoons, stealthy possums, clever turkeys, and frisky squirrels are within view day and night. Flocks of year-round and migratory birds fill

our visual and auditory fields, sometimes with astonishing sightings, like eagles, osprey, herons, and snow geese. The process of looking closely at and experiencing fully the environment of the county is what changes a mere physical location into a place we call home. Writer Julian Hoffmann notes, “We are continually capable of deepening that acquaintance, of becoming more intimate with more than one place...In an age when the ecological integrity of our planet is threatened on so many levels, anything that strengthens those connections, or makes meaningful our daily arrangement with the world around us, is a form of resistance, a kind of love forged with home that has the potential to

be fiercely protective.” (The small heart of things. Being at home in a beckoning world 2013, xiii.)

Spring in Botetourt County is the ideal time to immerse ourselves in the forested landscapes that we so often view from a distance. Now is the time to walk slowly and observe closely the changes in natural spaces close to you – patches of wildness in your own backyards or neighborhoods, walking paths in parks like Greenfield or along the James River in Buchanan, trails in the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests, the geological spectacles of Natural Bridge State Park or Roaring Run, or that grand dame of

See **Spring**, page 10

County supervisors approve financing plan for major public safety projects



PHOTO COURTESY OF BOTETOURT CO.

The Radio Shop is nearing completion as the Read Mountain Fire-EMS Station construction projects continue, as announced by the county last week.

Matt de Simone
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The Botetourt County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved a revised financing plan for two major public safety projects, along with a required resolution agreement, during a special meeting on March 10.

The board selected a funding option that reduces borrowing by increasing the use of the county’s fund balance, a move officials said will generate significant long-term savings.

County Administrator Gary Larowe presented two options to fund the county’s emergency communications radio system and upgrades to the 911 center and Read Mountain Fire Department, projects totaling approximately \$36.2 million.

Under the approved “Option 2,” the

county will use about \$11.2 million in fund balance, including \$6.7 million already spent, and borrow \$25 million. The radio system will be financed over 15 years, while the 911 center upgrades will be financed over 20 years.

Larowe told the board the approach would reduce annual debt service from about \$3.1 million to roughly \$2 million.

“That’s about a \$1.1 million difference annually,” he said, estimating total savings of \$16 million to \$18 million over the life of the debt.

Board members raised several questions during the discussion, focusing on financing terms, fund balance impacts, and flexibility in the borrowing process.

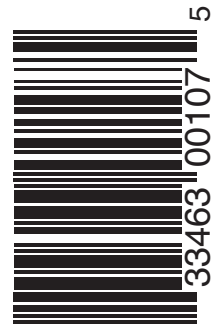
Chairman Dr. Mac Scothorn asked

See **Safety Projects**, page 10

SWITCH TO THE BANK

FORBES NAMED #1 IN VIRGINIA

BANKOFBOTETOURT.COM



Botetourt County History



PHOTO COURTESY OF BCMHC

Although a cruet set like this one is no longer an important dining room accessory, it opens a window into the past history and culture of Botetourt County. From the 18th century onward, cruets were used for serving oils, red and white vinegar, prepared mustards, sugar, salt and pepper on dining room tables. Starting in the 1920s, Americans preferred convenience and began using more processed foods. A container of ketchup, mustard, salad dressings and many other condiments are now used and readily available.

This fancy crystal and silver cruet set was used in the Cloverdale home

of Thomas Henry and Lula Graves Lankford. Their home was near the Cloverdale railroad station. Their descendant, Madeline L. Bunn (1912-2009), donated it to the Botetourt County Historical Society, Inc. It is displayed in the front gallery at the Botetourt Museum of History & Culture.

Mrs. Bunn was a Botetourt County school librarian/teacher and shared her family's artifacts and knowledge with the museum.

- Botetourt County Museum of History & Culture

Botetourt FFA Alumni and Supporters chicken BBQ

The Botetourt County FFA Alumni and Supporters will host a chicken BBQ at Lord Botetourt High School on April 11. Tickets are \$15, and dinners include half a chicken, baked potato, roll, green beans, and water. Tickets are on sale until this Friday, March 27. To order, contact Courtney Henderson (Court14@vt.edu) or Stuart Byrd (sbyrd@bcps.k12.va.us).



PHOTO COURTESY OF BOTETOURT FFA

- Submitted by Courtney Henderson



PHOTOS COURTESY OF BOTETOURT TCWC

Town & Country Women's Club installs officers, names Woman of the Year

The Botetourt Town & Country Women's Club installed officers for 2026-2028 on February 23 at Olive Garden. They were installed by Kathryn Sowers of the Vinton Woman's Club. The officers are (from left) Co-Presidents Diane Taylor and Nancy Womack, 1st Vice President Mary Wingate, 2nd Vice President Linda Allred, Secretary Terri Morrison, and Treasurer Linda Dinkel, with Kathryn Sowers. Diane Taylor (right, with Mary Wingate) was recognized as Club Woman of the Year 2025 by the club.

- Submitted by Botetourt Town & Country Women's Club

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF A PETITION BY APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY, FOR APPROVAL OF A CLOSURE PLAN FOR THE GLEN LYN PLANT PURSUANT TO § 10.1-1402.04 OF THE CODE OF VIRGINIA CASE NO. PUR-2026-00007

On February 9, 2026, Appalachian Power Company ("APCo" or "Company") filed a petition ("Petition") with the State Corporation Commission ("Commission"), pursuant to § 10.1-1402.04 of the Code of Virginia ("Code"), for approval of its plan for closure of the coal combustion residual ("CCR") units at APCo's Glen Lyn Plant in Giles County ("Glen Lyn Closure Plan"). Pursuant to Code § 10.1-1402.04 I, the Commission is required to "issue its final order with regard to any such petition within six months of its filing, and in doing so shall determine whether the utility's plan for CCR unit closure, and the projected costs associated therewith, are reasonable and prudent"

APCo states that its Glen Lyn Plant is a former coal-fired electric generating facility which operated from 1914 to 2015. According to the Company, the facility contains four CCR units for which APCo did not submit notification of completion of a final cap to the Department of Environmental Quality prior to January 1, 2019. Therefore, APCo asserts that Code § 10.1-1402.04 requires the Company to remove the CCR contained in the four CCR units for beneficial reuse or to dispose of it in a permitted landfill that includes a composite liner and leachate collection system.

APCo states that it is not currently seeking recovery of any costs for the Glen Lyn Closure Plan through its Petition. The Company estimates that when it does seek cost recovery for the Glen Lyn Closure Plan, after approval by both Virginia and West Virginia, the average annual revenue requirement, assuming a recovery period of 11 years, from 2027 to 2037, will be approximately \$30.9 million, with Virginia's jurisdictional share being approximately \$14.4 million. The Company asserts that based on the estimated average annual revenue requirement, the bill of a residential customer using 1,000 kWh a month would increase by \$1.06 or approximately 0.6%. APCo also states that if the Glen Lyn Closure Plan is approved in Virginia for compliance with Code § 10.1-1402.04, but denied in West Virginia, the Company will seek to assign the West Virginia share of the costs to customers in Virginia. Therefore, APCo represents that an increase in the Virginia retail jurisdictional revenue requirement of \$30.9 million would increase the monthly bill for a residential customer using 1,000 kWh by \$2.28, or approximately 1.4%.

Interested persons are encouraged to review the Petition and supporting documents for further details of APCo's proposals.

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

On or before May 1, 2026, any interested person may submit comments on the Petition by following the instructions found on the Commission's website: scc.virginia.gov/case-information/submit-public-comments. Those unable, as a practical matter, to submit comments electronically may file such comments by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the State Corporation Commission, c/o Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2118. All such comments shall refer to Case No. PUR-2026-00007.

On or before May 1, 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. Those unable, as a practical matter, to file a notice of participation electronically may file such notice with 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 shall serve a copy of the notice of participation electronically on counsel to the Company, Commission Staff, and any other respondents. Pursuant to 5 VAC 5-20-80 B, *Participation as a respondent*, of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, 5 VAC 5-20-10 *et seq.* ("Rules of Practice"), any notice of participation shall set forth: (i) a precise statement of the interest of the respondent; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent then known; and (iii) the factual and legal basis for the action. Any organization, corporation, or government body participating as a respondent must be represented by counsel as required by 5 VAC 5-20-30, *Counsel*, of the Rules of Practice. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2026-00007. For additional information about participation as a respondent, any person or entity should obtain a copy of the Commission's Order for Notice and Comment.

On or before May 1, 2026, any interested person or entity may file with the Clerk of the Commission at scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling a request that the Commission convene a hearing on the Petition. Those unable, as a practical matter, to file a hearing request electronically may file such hearing request by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the Commission at the address listed above. A copy of the request for hearing also must be served electronically on counsel for the Company, any other respondents, and Commission Staff. Requests for a hearing shall include: (i) a precise statement of the filing party's interest in the proceeding; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent then known; (iii) a statement of the legal basis for such action; and (iv) a precise statement why a hearing should be conducted in this matter. All requests for a hearing shall refer to Case No. PUR-2026-00007.

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

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

APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF A PETITION BY APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF A MODIFICATION TO ITS RATE ADJUSTMENT CLAUSE, BC-RAC, PURSUANT TO §§ 56-585.1 A 6 AND 56-585.1:9 OF THE CODE OF VIRGINIA CASE NO. PUR-2026-00010

On March 2, 2026, Appalachian Power Company ("APCo" or "Company") filed a petition ("Petition") with the State Corporation Commission ("Commission"), pursuant to §§ 56-585.1 A 6 and 56-585.1:9 of the Code of Virginia ("Code"), seeking approval to revise its existing Broadband Capacity Rate Adjustment Clause, the BC-RAC, to reflect the actual and projected costs of providing broadband capacity under the Company's existing broadband projects in: (i) Grayson County; (ii) Bland and Montgomery Counties; and (iii) Patrick, Henry, and Franklin Counties. Pursuant to Code § 56-585.1:9, the Commission must issue a final order regarding the Petition within six months following the date of filing.

APCo requests approval of an annual revenue requirement of approximately \$18.41 million through its existing BC-RAC to be in effect during the rate year beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027. The Company states that the proposed annual revenue requirement is related to all three broadband projects and is composed of four elements: (i) a combined forecast revenue component of \$15.79 million; (ii) a true-up revenue component credit of \$3.84 million; (iii) a bridge period revenue component of \$7.07 million; and (iv) a projected lease revenue factor credit of \$0.61 million. The Company represents that after implementation of the revised BC-RAC as proposed, a residential customer using 1,000 kilowatt hours per month would see a monthly bill increase of \$1.52, or 0.9%.

Interested persons are encouraged to review APCo's Petition and supporting documents in full for additional details.

TAKE NOTICE that the Commission may apportion revenues among customer classes and/or design rates in a manner differing from that shown in the Petition and supporting documents and thus may adopt rates that differ from those appearing in the Company's Petition and supporting documents.

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

On or before May 1, 2026, any interested person may submit comments on the Petition electronically by following the instructions on the Commission's website: scc.virginia.gov/case-information/submit-public-comments. Those unable, as a practical matter, to submit comments electronically may file such comments by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the State Corporation Commission, c/o Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2118. All comments shall refer to Case No. PUR-2026-00010.

On or before May 1, 2026, any person or entity wishing to participate as a respondent in this proceeding may do so by filing a notice of participation with the Clerk of the Commission at: scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling. Those unable, as a practical matter, to file a notice of participation electronically may file such notice by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the Commission at the address listed above. Such notice of participation shall include the email addresses of such parties or their counsel, if available. The respondent shall serve a copy of the notice of participation electronically on counsel to the Company, Staff, and any other respondents. Pursuant to 5 VAC 5-20-80 B, *Participation as a respondent*, of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, 5 VAC 5-20-10 *et seq.* ("Rules of Practice"), any notice of participation shall set forth: (i) a precise statement of the interest of the respondent; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent then known; and (iii) the factual and legal basis for the action. Any organization, corporation or government body participating as a respondent must be represented by counsel as required by 5 VAC 5-20-30, *Counsel*, of the Rules of Practice. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2026-00010.

On or before May 1, 2026, any interested person or entity may file with the Clerk of the Commission at scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling a request that the Commission convene a hearing on the Petition. Those unable, as a practical matter, to file a hearing request electronically may file such hearing request by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the Commission at the address listed above. A copy of the request for hearing also must be served electronically on counsel for the Company, Staff, and any other respondents. Requests for a hearing shall include: (i) a precise statement of the filing party's interest in the proceeding; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent then known; (iii) a statement of the legal basis for such action; and (iv) a precise statement why a hearing should be conducted in this matter. All requests for a hearing shall refer to Case No. PUR-2026-00010.

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

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

APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY



PHOTO COURTESY OF DALEVILLE-FINCASTLE LIONS CLUB

Pictured from left are Daleville Fincastle Lions President Robin Ward; contestants Meara Knox, vocal; Jordan Ruppel, vocal; Joy Knox, piano; Blake Arney, vocal; Spencer Campbell, viola; Emery Maxson, vocal; Blake Steggell, piano; James Knox, violin; and Lions Club Secretary Lowell Skelton.

Lions Club Bland Music Contest winners announced

The Daleville Fincastle Lions held their seventh annual Bland Music Contest on Saturday, March 14 at The Glebe in Daleville. Contestants were competing in either the Vocal or Instrumental categories.

This year eight contestants competed for an opportunity to advance to the semi-district contest that

will be held in Vinton on Sunday, April 12. Advancing to the semi-district contest are vocalist Emery Maxson and instrumentalist Blake Steggell.

Winners at the semi-district contest will advance to the Lions State Contest in Bristol on Friday, May 29. At the State Contest, all participants in both categories

will win a music scholarship: first place, \$2,500; second place, \$2,000; third place, \$1,500; and fourth, fifth and sixth places, \$1,000.

-Daleville Fincastle Lions Club

Chamber Chatter

Spring momentum builds across Botetourt business community

The Botetourt County Chamber of Commerce is welcoming the arrival of spring with a full slate of programs, events and opportunities highlighted in its March 20 newsletter, underscoring continued growth and engagement across the local business community.

Chamber leaders described March as a “busy” and energizing start to the season, pointing to new connections, fresh ideas and expanding participation among members. That momentum is expected to carry into April, with several networking events, leadership programs and community initiatives already on the calendar.

Among the month’s highlights was the Chamber’s “Beyond Networking Meet-Up,” held March 20 at The Reserve at Daleville. The event focused on building meaningful professional relationships and fostering collaboration among local businesses.

Looking ahead, the Chamber is preparing for the next installment of its leadership series, The Leader’s Lounge, scheduled for April 9 at Crooked Shoreline. Organized by the Chamber’s Emerging Leaders Committee, the program is designed to connect established and up-and-coming professionals while supporting long-term

economic development in the county. Sponsorship opportunities remain available for businesses seeking increased visibility.

The Chamber also announced the opening of its annual scholarship program, which will award four \$1,000 scholarships to graduating seniors from James River High School, Lord Botetourt High School and the Botetourt Technical Education Center. The initiative aims to support students pursuing higher education while encouraging continued community involvement.

In addition to workforce development efforts, the Chamber is promoting advertising opportunities in the 2026 edition of Botetourt Living Magazine, as well as early registration for the annual Tinsel Trail. The holiday event, now entering its seventh year, transforms downtown Fincastle into a seasonal attraction featuring decorated trees, live entertainment and family activities. Early-bird discounts for tree reservations are available through March.

Agricultural businesses will also have a chance to connect and learn at an upcoming “Ag Lunch & Learn” on April 16 in Buchanan, where local experts will share strategies for growth and sustainability.

Additional programming

includes Ambassador Meetings, ongoing networking meet-ups and a regional economic summit hosted by Botetourt County Economic Development on April 15. The summit will feature a keynote address from Jason El Koubi, CEO of the Virginia Economic Development Partnership.

The newsletter also spotlights member-driven events and initiatives, including a mystery-themed social at Stoney Brook Vineyards and ongoing bereavement support programs from Good Samaritan Hospice. Community members can also look forward to the VA250 Mobile Museum Experience visiting Buchanan on March 28, offering an interactive look at Virginia’s history.

Chamber officials said the continued success of these efforts reflects strong collaboration among businesses, nonprofits and community partners throughout Botetourt County.

“The momentum we’re seeing is a direct result of our members’ engagement and support,” the Chamber noted in its newsletter. “We’re proud to help create opportunities that strengthen connections and contribute to a thriving local economy.”

- Fincastle Herald staff report



PHOTO COURTESY OF STUART BYRD

Sylvana Cavinder (left) and Lilah Barker at Graves Mountain Lodge

Lord Botetourt student wins state competition, advances to Nationals

Two Lord Botetourt FFA members, Sylvana Cavinder and Lilah Barker, recently attended the Virginia Institute on Cooperative Education (VICE), held March 20–22 at Graves Mountain Lodge in Syria, Va. The event was hosted by the Virginia Cooperative Council (VCC) and made possible through sponsorship from Rockingham Cooperative Ag Supply & Petroleum Service.

Both Botetourt students had an outstanding experience. Sylvana Cavinder earned first place in the competition, winning a \$2,000 scholarship to support her future education. She will also represent Virginia at the National Institute on Cooperative Education in Atlanta, Georgia.

Each spring, the Virginia Cooperative Council sponsors the VICE Conference, a leadership event designed to educate high school juniors and seniors about cooperatives and the cooperative business model. Through interactive

instruction— including the hands-on simulation “Who’s Minding the Store?”— students develop teamwork, leadership, and communication skills. Top participants have the opportunity to earn up to \$2,000 in educational scholarships.

The primary goal of the VICE Conference is to teach students about the unique cooperative business structure in an engaging, educational, and entertaining environment. Prior to attending, the students visited Rockingham Cooperative to learn about the size and operations of a working cooperative. During the conference, they explored the history, importance, and distinct characteristics of cooperatives compared to other business models.

For more information about the VICE program, visit: www.virginia.coop/youth-activities/vice/.

- Submitted by Stuart Byrd

BOTETOURT
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

FILE PHOTO

SALEM RIDGEYAKS VS DELMARVA SHOREBIRDS
APRIL 2ND 6:35 PM
 Opening Day - Bark in the Park
APRIL 3RD 6:35 PM
 Fireworks Friday
APRIL 4TH 6:35 PM

VS WILSON WARBIRDS
APRIL 7TH 6:35 PM
 Bark in the Park - 2-for-1 Tuesday

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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.

Teen Takeover: Spring Break Fun

Thu, Mar 18, 2 PM, Eagle Rock
Enjoy fun crafts and activities while building social skills and forging great friendships. March 26: Spring Break Fun Day (2-4:30 pm) Best for ages 12-17.

Yoga for Beginners

Thu, Mar 26, 6:30 PM, Blue Ridge
Mon, Mar 30, 10 AM, Eagle Rock
Wed, Apr 1, 1 PM, Fincastle
Learn gentle yoga stretches. Mats and yoga blocks provided or bring your own. Instructor: Jaime Thrasher, Botetourt County Parks & Recreation. Best for ages 18+. Registration required. Register at <https://botetourtva.libcal.com/> or call 540-928-2900 with questions.

Youth Chess Club

Thu, Mar 26, 4 PM, Blue Ridge
Tue, Mar 31, 4 PM, Buchanan
Tue, Mar 31, 4 PM, Eagle Rock
Learn the basics of chess while expanding critical thinking and problem-

solving skills. Best for ages 10-17. Registration required. Register at <https://botetourtva.libcal.com/> or call 540-928-2900 with questions.

Snakes in Virginia

Tue, Mar 28, 11 AM, Eagle Rock
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. Best for all ages!

Keeping Your Feet Healthy

Wed, Apr 1, 2 PM, Fincastle
Learn about basic foot health, including common foot issues and what can be done for them, basic foot/nail care, and tips for buying socks and shoes. Presented by Tyler Kelly from CORA Physical Therapy and Dr. Natalie Allen from Shenandoah Podiatry. Best for ages 18+.

Section of Old Fincastle Road to be closed March 30

Beginning Monday, March 30, a section of Old Fincastle Road north of Fincastle will be closed Monday through Friday between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. for approximately two weeks for a culvert pipe replacement. The section is located between Peck Lane and West Wind Road just south of 1445 Old Fincastle Road and will be closed to through traffic. Residents will have access to their homes on either side of

the closure. For morning commutes requiring access to Route 220 (Botetourt Road), drivers can detour around the closure using Old Fincastle Road to West Wind Road, then taking Mary Alice Road to Route 220. The closure will be reopened to traffic Monday through Friday at 5 p.m., and during weekends. Work is expected to be completed by April 10, weather permitting.

League for Animal Protection's Waif of the Week

Arlo

Arlo is 3 years old, neutered, house-trained and fine with other gentle, playful dogs and cats. He is a Flat Coated Retriever/GSD mix. He's sadly an owner releasee due to moving and unable to take their sweet boy. He's well behaved and used to having a family member working from home and able to take him for nice daily walks.

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

-VDOT

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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CLUES ACROSS

- Millisecond
- Narcotic drug
- Accident
- Formal submissions
- Popular 70s rock band
- Discourage from doing
- More socially elite
- Arid
- A way to look
- Heroes
- A surfer rides it
- Potato staple
- Insect repellent
- Cool!
- Have already done
- Collegiate women's fraternity
- To the ___ degree
- Gasteyer and de

CLUES DOWN

- Woman (French)
- Province of Pakistan
- This (Spanish)
- Transportation device
- Greater in importance or priority
- The human foot
- Within 8. Consumed
- Respectful Malaysian term
- Therefore
- Ceased to exist
- Type of macaroni
- English composer
- Wooded tract
- Tall, slender-leaved plant
22. 36 inches
- Take too much (abbr.)
- Allow
- Individually
- Journalist Tarbell
- Bar bill
- Hong Kong food
- stall: ___ pai dong
- Not messy
- Species that includes reedmae
- Former MLB catcher Ed
- Northern U.S. state
- Wilt
- Commercial
- Bolivian river
- Nursemaid
- A car needs four
- Guns (slang)
- American state
- Clusters of fern fronds
- Body part
- A person's brother or sister
- Breed of sheep native to Sweden
- Of I

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Smith urges 'No' vote on redistricting amendment

In 2020, our Commonwealth took a historic step forward by voting to approve a nonpartisan redistricting commission. We decided then that voters should choose their politicians—not the other way around. Now, a new proposal threatens to undo that progress by allowing the General Assembly to redraw our congressional maps mid-decade for partisan advantage. The proposed map would significantly reshape our representation, potentially shifting Virginia's delegation from a competitive 6-5 split to a lopsided 10-1.

This kind of extreme gerrymandering ignores the diverse political reality of our state and risks silencing the voices of millions of voters. Redistricting should be based on updated census data every 10 years, not on a desire to "counter" what is happening in other states. We must protect the integrity of our independent process and ensure that fair representation remains a priority over partisan gain. Early voting has already begun. I encourage everyone to stand up for fair maps and vote "No" on this amendment to keep our current, nonpartisan system in place.
Mary Bess Smith
Submitted on behalf of the Botetourt County Republican Women's Club

Trout Heritage Day fundraiser at Jennings Creek



PHOTO COURTESY OF PIXABAY

The Ladies Friendship Circle at Jennings Creek Gospel Church will continue the tradition of selling breakfast and lunch on Trout Heritage Day April 4, 8.a.m. to 2 p.m. Folks coming out to fish or anyone wishing to enjoy good food and fellowship while supporting the church's local missions are encouraged to attend. Breakfast will include

sausage and gravy biscuits, sausage biscuits, ham biscuits, scrambled eggs, and homemade fried apple pies. Lunch will include hamburgers, cheeseburgers, hot dogs with homemade chili, BBQ, chili beans, pinto beans, loaded baked potatoes (your choice of toppings), Petros, cornbread, macaroni salad, potato salad, chips, and assorted desserts. Assorted canned sodas, bottled water, tea, coffee, and hot chocolate will be available. The food will be available at the picnic shelter at the church located at 5486 Jennings Creek Road (Rt. 614) in Buchanan. For information or questions, call Cherry Ramsey at 540-520-5853.
- Ladies Friendship Circle

ARRESTS

March 16-22, 2026

The Botetourt County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests March 16-22:

- Sean P. Burke, 42, of Blue Ride, fail to appear, March 16
- James J. Hofmann, 33, of Roanoke, driving revoked, operate uninsured vehicle, March 17
- Keaton S. Simmons, 30, of Eagle Rock, use of a person's identity with the intent to coerce, intimidate, or harass; purchase or transportation of firearm by persons subject to protective order, March 17
- Robert J. Reed, 22, of Roanoke, trespass, March 18
- Christopher W. Hester, 43, residence not available, manufacture, sell, or distribution of schedule drugs, possession of firearm while in possession of schedule I or II substance, purchase or transportation of firearm by persons subject to protective order, March 18
- Shawn T. Taylor, 30, of Roanoke, drunk in public, March 19
- Maisha K. Benn, 36, of Buchanan, petit larceny, trespass, March 20
- Joshua R. Balance, 37, of Richmond, violate protective order, March 20
- Matthew R. Wray, 52, of Glade Hill, driving under the influence, March 20
- Jontae D. Craighead, 47, of Roanoke, driving under the influence, March 20
- Mack S. Johnson, 22, of Vinton, reckless handling of a firearm, March 21
- Karl E. Story IV, 48, of Buchanan, assault and battery, disorderly conduct, March 22

THE FINCASTLE HERALD & Botetourt County News

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The Fincastle Herald

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See Answers, page 10

Blue Ridge Quilters having special event Saturday

The Blue Ridge Quilters will celebrate National Quilting Day on Saturday, March 28.

The celebration will feature Mary Kerr, a quilter, author, quilt appraiser, and quilting teacher. She will present "Quilting Old into Art," offering ideas and inspiration and a trunk show illustrating what is possible with imagination.

The quilters always like to make this event a fun experience, with door prizes, goody bags, quilt displays, and information tables – including Quilts of Valor, which makes quilts for military veterans, and Ryan's Case for Smiles, which makes pillowcases for children in hospitals.

The celebration lets people who like

sewing, quilting, and other fabric crafts see what others are doing and exchange ideas with them.

Also, local shops will be selling fabric, tools, and patterns. This year's vendors are Fork Mountain Quilting, Design House Fabrics, and Lodie's Thimble.

The event will be held from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Harvest Ministries, 909 Blue Ridge Boulevard (just off Rt. 460 east of Roanoke). Admission is \$15 (\$10 for ages 16 and under).

The Blue Ridge Quilters, a non-profit group, meets every month on Cloverdale Road in Troutville.

-Blue Ridge Quilters



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF BLUE RIDGE QUILTERS



FILE GRAPHIC

MGCC unveils evolution in academic structure for upcoming fall semester

Mountain Gateway Community College has announced a bold evolution in its academic structure designed to put student success at the forefront. Starting in the Fall 2026 semester, the college will transition its primary course format from traditional 16-week semesters to a dynamic 8-week session model.

This initiative, often referred to as the "8-Week Advantage," reflects Mountain Gateway's commitment to being a responsive, forward-thinking institution. By moving to shorter, more immersive sessions, the college is directly addressing the needs of a modern population that balances the demands of work, family, and education.

The move to an 8-week calendar is a strategic response to national trends showing that shorter sessions lead to higher completion rates and better student focus. By concentrating on fewer subjects at a time, students can master the material more effectively without the "juggling act" required by a traditional five-course load.

"At Mountain Gateway Community College, we are a partner in our community's success," said Dr. John Rainone, president of MGCC. "As the lives and needs of our residents evolve, we must evolve with them. This transition is a direct result of listening to our students and looking at the data. We are providing a faster, more flexible path to a degree that fits into the busy lives of the people we serve. We aren't just changing a calendar; we are removing hurdles."

The transition to the 8-week model is a college-wide effort. MGCC faculty and staff have spent months researching best practices and redesigning curriculum to ensure that the "Mountain Gateway experience" is more

impactful than ever.

"I am incredibly proud of our team," Dr. Rainone added. "There is a sense of excitement across our campus as we prepare for Fall 2026. We are energized, we are focused, and we are ready to help our students build the momentum they need to reach their career goals sooner."

Why the "8-Week Advantage" Wins:

- **Intense Focus:** Students typically take only two classes at a time, allowing for deeper learning and less stress.
- **Academic Safety Net:** With sessions starting every eight weeks, students who face a "life emergency" can reset and restart much sooner, rather than losing an entire half-year of progress.
- **Faster Finish:** Sequences like English and Math can be completed in a single semester, accelerating the timeline to graduation or transfer.
- **Support for Adult Learners:** The shorter format is ideal for working adults who need to manage their time in "sprints" rather than a four-month marathon.

As MGCC moves toward the Fall 2026 launch, the college will continue to provide students with dedicated advising and resources to help them navigate the new schedule. Prospective and current students are encouraged to speak with our advisors to see how the 8-week sessions can help them reach their personal and professional milestones.

For more information and to view the new 8-Week FAQ page, visit the Mountain Gateway Community College website at mgcc.edu. For direct questions, email success@mgcc.edu or call 540-863-2820.

- Mountain Gateway Community College

Botetourt County Fire & EMS announces new assistant chief

The Botetourt County Department of Fire & EMS has announced the appointment of its first assistant chief of Emergency Medical Services (EMS), Health & Safety.

Captain Jonathan Rodgers, a member of the department since 2014, has been selected to serve in the newly established command staff role. He is scheduled to assume his duties on March 30.

The position, created to enhance management of the department's busiest operational division, will focus on overseeing EMS services while also advancing initiatives related to the health, safety, and overall well-being of personnel. In this role, Rodgers will work closely with the department's Operational Medical Director Dr. Carol Bernier to guide EMS operations and ensure high standards of patient care.

"I'm incredibly grateful for the trust placed in me to serve in this new role," Rodgers said. "I look forward to supporting our personnel and ensuring they have the resources to build long, healthy, and successful careers, while continuing to provide high-quality patient care to our community."

Rodgers began his career with Botetourt Fire & EMS as a part-time paramedic before transitioning to a full-time firefighter/paramedic after completing the Botetourt Fire Academy. He was promoted to lieutenant in 2019, serving as a paramedic and critical care supervisor, and later advanced to operations captain in 2022. In that



PHOTO COURTESY OF BOTETOURT CO. FIRE & EMS

New Assistant Chief of EMS, Health & Safety Jonathan Rodgers

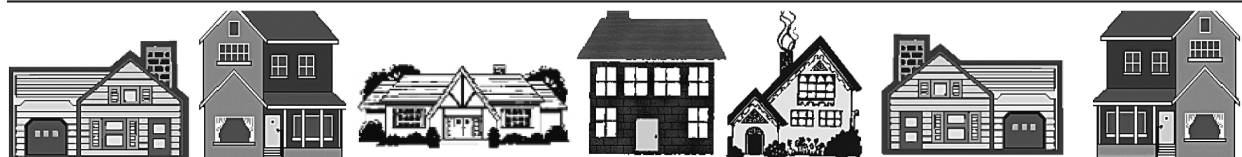
role, he has led B-Shift operations.

He holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Concord University and is a graduate of the Virginia Fire Chiefs Association's Fire Officer and Chief Officer academies.

Fire Chief Jason Ferguson said the creation of the new position reflects the department's commitment to both operational excellence and personnel wellness.

"I am excited to see how this vital new role will amplify focus on EMS services and the health and wellness of our responders," Ferguson said. "Jon has been a dedicated leader within our organization for several years, and I am confident he is well prepared to take on this challenge."

- Fincastle Herald staff report



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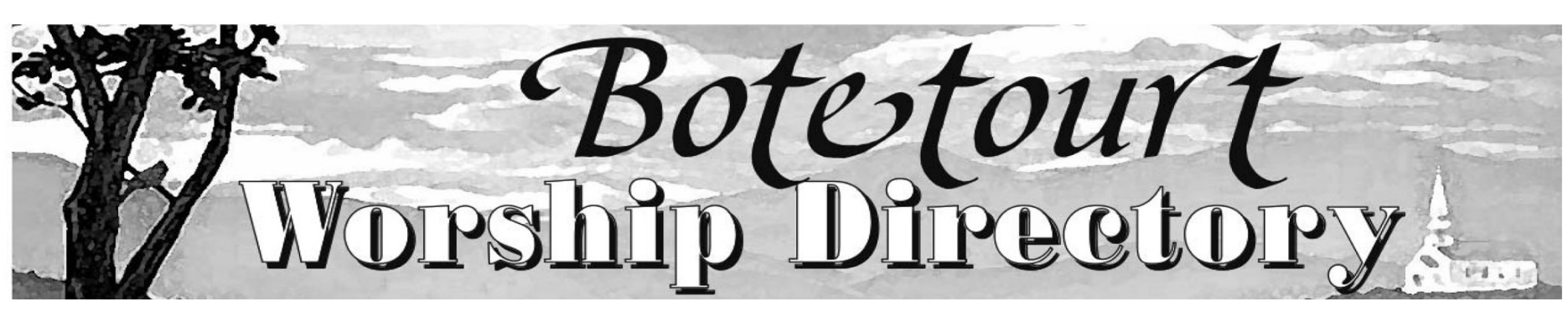
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Botetourt Worship Directory

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

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

INDEPENDENT BAPTIST
Crossroads Baptist Church - 1128 Wheatland Rd., Buchanan, Pastor Elmer Clemons, (540) 510-0927 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, 540-473-2325, Email: jwr56fbc@yahoo.com, Church website: fincastlefaith.com, Services: 10 A.M. Bible Expositions, 11 A.M. Worship & Children's Church, 7 P.M. Wednesday Bible Study & Prayer, Messages at www.youtube.com/@faithfbaptistchurch9219. We look forward to meeting you.
Lapsleys Run Baptist Church- 608 Zion Hill Road, Fincastle. 540-556-3504. Worship: 2nd & 4th Sundays at 11:00a.m.
New Hope Baptist Church- 2315 Blue Ridge Blvd. (US 460), 977-6610, Pastor David McNeill; Sunday School, 9:45AM; Worship, 10:45AM, 7PM; Wed., Bible Study 7PM; Kings Kids, 7PM; Daycare and Preschool, Mon-Fri. 6:30AM-6PM.
Valley View Baptist Church- 17471 Main St., Buchanan; Rev. Daniel Boone, 254-2760 (church), 254-2570 (H). Sunday School, 10 AM; worship, 11 AM, Sunday Evening, 6:30 PM; Wednesday: Prayer and Youth Ministries, 7 PM, Word Of Life youth ministry for 4 year olds-12th grade Wednesdays at 7 p.m.

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

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

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

Forest Grove Baptist Church- 693 Mt. Moriah Rd. (Rt. 681), Eagle Rock, Rev. Jerry Marsh, Pastor. Sunday School, 9:30 a.m., Worship 10:35 a.m., Wed., Bible Study 7 p.m.

Glade Creek Baptist Church - 3148 Webster Road, Blue Ridge, Virginia 24064. Pastor Steve McChesney. Phone 540-977-1686 or 540-798-7462. Sunday School 9:45 a.m., Sunday Worship Service 11:00 a.m., to include Children's Church. Wednesday evening Worship and Bible study begins with a meal at 6:30 p.m.

Mill Creek Baptist Church -11475 Lee Hwy., Fincastle, 992-3474. Danny Quirin, Pastor. Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; Worship 8:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.; Wednesday night activities begin at 6pm: Bible study, children and youth activities, choir and handbell rehearsals follow. office@millcreekbc.com

Pleasant Hill Baptist Church-4930 Country Club Road (corner of Country Club & Haymakertown Roads), 540-992-5556. Pastor Danny Barham. Sunday School, 10 a.m.; Worship Service, 11 a.m. Worship can also be viewed online at the PHBC Facebook page or on Youtube (PHBCtube). Other activities and schedules can be found at www.phbcweb.com.

Springwood Baptist Church - 88 Copps Hill Rd., Buchanan; Rev. Mike Anderson, 540-819-4616, Email pmike09@outlook.com. Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.: worship 11 a.m.: Wednesday night bible study will be held every first and third Wednesday of the month from 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

Troutville Baptist Church -P.O. Box 309, Troutville, VA 24175; 992-1026, Rev. Carol Johnston. Sunday School 10:00AM; Worship 11AM. Wednesday: Adult Prayer & Bible Study, 6:15PM; Youth & Children Activities 6:30PM.

Zion Hill Baptist Church- Intersection of Zion Hill Road and Old Fincastle Road. Pastor Donald Goforth (540) 884-2285. Sunday School -10 AM Worship 11AM. Youth Activities (grades 6-12) and Kingdom Kids (preschool-grade 5) Wednesdays at 5:30 PM.

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
Cloverdale Church of the Brethren- 4708 Read Mtn. Rd., 992-1060; Sunday School, 9:15 a.m., worship, 10:30 a.m.; Wed. (Sept.-

REPUTATION

Read Psalms 3:1-8; 69:1-36

Whenever a Christian public figure sins, or any of God's people sins, unsaved people inevitably cry, "Hypocrite! I won't be a Christian if that's what they're like!" As the body of Christ, when one of us sins, we all share in the bad characterization. Because we represent Christ to the world, our good or bad reputation reflects on Him.

May those who hope in you not be disgraced because of me, O Lord, the Lord Almighty; may those who seek you not be put to shame because of me, O God of Israel (Psalm 69:6).

David had sinned before God, and was deeply repentant. David's main concerns were not that his transgression be concealed or that his reputation be saved. One of his foremost prayers was that God's reputation and that of God's people would be protected from disgrace and shame. Perhaps this is one of the many reasons why David was called "a man after God's own heart."

Prayer for Today: Holy Spirit, please help me to remember that secret sins are not secret. Please help me to focus on giving You a good name before the world and my fellow believers.

Quicklook: Psalm 69:1-6

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 Burkhardt, preschool director.
Mt. Bethel Church of the Brethren- 10603 Narrow Passage Rd., Eagle Rock. PO Box. 183 Eagle Rock, VA 24085. Interim Pastor Dreama Osborne. 884-2292 (church), 540-597-8272 (cell). Sunday School, 10 AM; worship, 11 AM; Ladies' Aid meets 2nd Thurs. monthly.
Mt. Joy Church of the Brethren- 2565 Buffalo Rd., 10 miles N of Buchanan, 254-2298. Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m. Pastor Michael Tabor, (540) 309-7595.

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

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

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

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

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

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

NON-DENOMINATIONAL
Grace Bible Church of Botetourt - 148 Amsterdam Rd. (beside the south lane of 220 in Amsterdam, 1.5 miles north of LBHS). Sunday Worship, 10 a.m. Pastor Jay Robinette - 855-4620.
Mt. Carmel Church, 6 miles south of Eagle Rock at intersection of Rt. 43 and 688; pastor, Richard Ronk; phone # (540) 884-3653; Sunday School at 10:00 A.M., Worship at 11:00 A.M., Wed. Prayer Meeting at 7:00 P.M.

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

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

Fincastle Presbyterian Church - 108 E. Back Street, Fincastle, VA 24090. The Rev. Dr. David Dickerson, Supply Minister, Lori Turner, Music Director. Worship service in the Sanctuary and via Live Streaming (<https://www.facebook.com/fincastlepresbyterianchurch>) at 10:30 AM. Adult Sunday School offered at 9:30 AM. Fellowship time in the Fellowship Hall immediately following morning service. Bell choir practices after Sunday Fellowship, often providing special music in our services. For more information please email fincastlepresbyterianchurch@gmail.com or call 540.473.2042.

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

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

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

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

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

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

St. Mark's United Methodist Church - 19 Cedar Ridge Drive, Daleville. Pastor Samuel Plymale, 992-3030. We have one service on Sundays at 10:00am, with Sunday School for children, youth, and adults following at 11:00am. Shipyard Youth meets every Sunday from 4:00 to 6:00pm, unless there is a special monthly mission event. Frogs and Tadpoles Children's Ministry meets on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month, September through April, from 4:00 to 6:00pm.
Trinity United Methodist Church - 19637 Main St., Buchanan; Rev. Doug Mitchell, 254-2475 (O). Worship, 9:45AM, Sunday School 10:30 AM.

OBITUARIES

Clark, Elsie Hodges

Elsie Hodges Clark, 95, of Buchanan, passed away peacefully on March 20, 2026.

Born on November 21, 1930, she lived a life centered on faith, family, and a deep love for those around her. Elsie was preceded in death by her beloved husband of 56 years, Ernest J. "Junior" Clark; her parents, James and Florence Hodges; and her siblings: Cary Hodges (Eunice), Estelle Hodges Stanley (Jack), Irene Hodges Clark (Melvin), Irving Hodges (Marion), Betty Hodges Steele (Marvin), and Margie Hodges Moore (Alan).

She is lovingly survived by her daughters, Phyllis Clark Spencer (Mark) and Teresa Clark Lester (Ronnie); her sisters, Doris Hodges Rhodes (Allen) and Josephine Hodges Perkins (Jackie); and numerous nieces and nephews. Elsie was a proud and devoted grandmother to Ryan Clodfelter (girlfriend Madeline Dix), David Clodfelter (Mary Catherine), Amber Lester, Chase Lester, and honorary granddaughter Rose Hensley, and a cherished great-grandmother to David Clodfelter Jr. ("Davie").

Elsie was a longtime member of Buchanan Baptist Church and found great joy in her faith and the friendships she built throughout her life. She was an avid cook and baker, known for the love she poured



into every meal she prepared. Her grandchildren will always remember being welcomed by the comforting aroma of homemade dishes and desserts made just for them. She also had a lifelong passion for gardening, taking pride in growing vegetables and tending to her beautiful flower gardens.

She will be remembered for her unwavering devotion to her family, her quiet strength, and the kindness and love she shared so freely with others.

The family would like to extend their heartfelt gratitude to the caring nurses and staff at Friendship Skilled Nursing and Gentiva Hospice, as well as to Kaitlyn Glass, RN for her compassionate care. A special thanks is also extended to her neighbors, Madeline ("Bugs") Markham and Becky and Bruce Loflen, for the love, support, and kindness they showed her while she was at home.

A memorial service will be held on Friday, March 27, at Botetourt Funeral Home, 14920 Lee Highway, Buchanan. The family will receive friends at 11 a.m., followed by the service at 12 Noon, with the Rev. Ray Sandifer of Shiloh United Methodist Church officiating. A graveside service will follow in Fairview Cemetery in Buchanan. Condolences made be made at www.botetourtfh.com or 540-254-3000.

Layman, Marshall Wayne

Marshall Wayne Layman, 78, of Buchanan, went home to be with our Lord Wednesday, March 11, 2026. He was preceded in death by his parents, Woodie Earl and Rebecca Virginia Layman; sister, Pat L. Turner; and brother, Joe Layman.

He is survived by his son, Jerry Wayne Layman; sister, Carolyn L. Hambrick; sister-in-law, Nancy Layman; and many nieces and nephews.

Marshall was a graduate of James River High School. He served in the United States Army. He retired after many years of long-distance truck driving for Yellow Freight. He loved hunting and fishing, and he was a staple at the round table at Solomon's Mission. He will be dearly missed by family and friends, especially



Haywood Jackson, who has been his long-time friend.

There was a viewing and time of visitation at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, March 20, 2026 at Botetourt Funeral Home, Buchanan Chapel. Graveside services were held at 12 p.m. in Fairview Cemetery on Fairview Street, Buchanan with Teresa Rothwell officiating. There was a dinner following the service at Solomon's Mission.

Many thanks to Teresa Cain and Teresa Rothwell for helping make the arrangements. In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to Solomon's Mission, 592 Lowe Street, Buchanan, 24066. Online condolences may be made at www.botetourtfh.com or 540-254-3000.

Rogers, Carlton Eugene

December 26, 1934 - March 1, 2026

Surrounded by his family, Carlton Eugene Rogers went to be with the Lord on a beautiful Sunday morning, March 1, 2026.

He was born in Cloverdale, on December 26, 1934. Carlton attended Troutville High School where he played baseball. He met his wife, Audry, at a church revival. They married and built a home in Cloverdale where he lived for almost 70 years.

Carlton retired as a master electrician supervising commercial projects that included three years working in the Middle East (Qatar, Abu Dhabi) on hotel projects. He enjoyed woodworking, riding his Honda Goldwing and driving. Carlton would proudly tell you that he has driven in all 48 contiguous states. His most loved activity was the time he spent riding his grandkids and great-grandkids around the yard in the back of a wagon, on his ATV, or later in life on his "Buggy." Carlton was a



lifelong member of the Cloverdale Church of Brethren.

He was preceded in death by his loving wife, Audry Rogers; parents, Charles and Gertrude Rogers; and a granddaughter, Aja Rogers.

Surviving are his son, Tony Rogers (Shelly); his daughter, Ginger Bousman-Roberts (Donnie); grandchildren, AJ Rogers (Stephanie), Brittney Bousman (Remy), and Jake Bousman (Kasey); and great-grandchildren, Emilee, Aubree, Raiden, and Bodhi.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, March 28, 2026, at 2 p.m. at the Cloverdale Church of the Brethren. Moments with the family will follow the service in the fellowship hall.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests making donations to the Cloverdale Church of the Brethren. Condolences may be shared with his family by visiting www.Oakeys.com.

Arrangements entrusted to Oakey's East Chapel and Crematory, Roanoke, 540-977-3909.

CHURCH NEWS

Lapsleys Run Baptist Easter services

Lapsleys Run Baptist Church will have Easter services on Sunday, April 5. An Easter Sunrise Service begins at 7:30 a.m., with breakfast served after the service. They will also have an Easter Egg Hunt. Everyone is invited to these and all services at Lapsleys Run Baptist Church, 608 Zion Hill Road, Fincastle,

Easter services at Buchanan Presbyterian

Buchanan Presbyterian Church (19559 Main Street, Buchanan) invites you to commemorate Jesus' command (mandate) to his followers to "love one another" at a Maundy ("Mandate") Thursday service at 7 p.m. on April 2. The church also welcomes everyone at the First Wednesday Community Dinners (6:30 p.m.) and to celebrate Easter at 11 a.m. on April 5.

Glade Creek Baptist holding Good Friday Service

Glade Creek Baptist Church will host a Good Friday Service on April 3 at 6:30 p.m. in the church sanctuary. The service will be a time of reflection on the sacrifice of Jesus Christ and the meaning of the cross. The community is invited to attend this service of worship and remembrance.

Ebenezer UMC bake sale April 4

Ebenezer United Methodist Church will have its annual Easter bake sale from 8 a.m. until noon on April 4. Cakes, pies, and cookies will be sold, with hot dogs being sold around 10 a.m. It will be held in the pavilion of Virginian Markette, Troutville..

Easter events at Zion Hill Baptist Church

Zion Hill Baptist Church, at the intersection of Zion Hill Road and Old Fincastle Road, Fincastle, invites everyone to Easter services:

- *April 1- Easter Egg Hunt for kids and adult Bible study at 6 p.m. Supper will be provided at 5:30 p.m.

- April 5 - Easter Sunrise Service at 8 a.m. Breakfast will be served after the service. Easter Sunday worship service at 10 a.m. (no Sunday School).

Breakfast, Easter Egg Hunt at St. Mark's UMC

St. Mark's United Methodist in Daleville will once again host Breakfast with the Easter Bunny on Saturday, April 4 from 9-11 a.m. From 9-10:30, there are pictures with the bunny, games, and crafts. Breakfast will be served during this time as well. At 10:30, there will be an Easter Egg Hunt for all ages.

For those who plan to eat breakfast, it will be \$12 for adults and children over 12, children 12 and under eat for \$6, and children 3 and under eat for free.

All other activities

besides breakfast are complimentary. You need to register on the church website, www.stmarksmethodist.com, even if you are not planning to eat breakfast.

Children's Easter Fun Day April 4

Troutville Baptist Church invites area children to an Easter Fun Day at Troutville Park. Fun Day will be held from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. on Saturday, April 4, and will include an egg hunt, free hot dog lunch, crafts to make and games with prizes.

Easter Sunrise Service in Glade Creek Cemetery

Glade Creek Baptist Church invites the community to an Easter Sunrise Service on Sunday, April 5, at 7 a.m. The service will be held in the Glade Creek Cemetery as believers gather at daybreak to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Everyone is welcome to join in this time of worship and celebration.

Fincastle Clothes Closet open dates

Fincastle United Methodist's Clothes Closet will be open on 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.

The remaining service is:

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

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.

Troutville Baptist Easter service

Troutville Baptist Church invites everyone to its Easter worship service at 11 a.m. on Sunday, April 5. The service will include special Easter music and the sermon by the Rev. Carol Johnston. The church is located at 5520 Lee Highway; phone 540-992-1026.

Buchanan Food Pantry open Saturday

Saturday, March 28 is the next distribution date for the Buchanan Presbyterian Church Food Pantry. Buchanan Lions Club members will be hosts, 9-11 a.m. There will be staples such as soup, cereal, fruit and vegetables. Through the generosity of donors, the pantry sometimes also has eggs, meat, baked goods and milk. The church is at 19559 Main Street, Buchanan. Anyone who needs food will be welcome.

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.

Cloverdale Church of the Brethren Thrift Store

The Thrift Store at Cloverdale Church of the Brethren is having a sale on all winter clothes and shoes - half-off through March. See the spring and summer arrivals the first Saturday in April. 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.

Easter observances at Galatia EPC

Galatia EPC, 78 Gala Loop Road, Eagle Rock, invites everyone to the Sunrise Service on April 5, at 7 a.m., with a potluck breakfast immediately following the service and walk to the cross. The regular worship service will be at 11 a.m. (no Sunday School that Sunday). Please come for the Easter Sunrise Service and walk to the cross with

See Church, page 10

Register now for Kids' Fishing Rodeo

The 10th Annual Kids' Fishing Rodeo will be held at Steve Thrasher's Pond in Springwood on May 9, beginning at 11 a.m. Parents who plan to bring children must fill out a form beforehand. It may be obtained by contacting Thrasher at 540-632-3598 or thrasher65115@gmail.com, or Melissa Hutchens at 540-520-1752, dirtdevl2004@yahoo.com. Early registration is recommended.

All proceeds will go to the Backpack

Buddies for the 2026-2027 school year. The entry fee is \$30 for the first child and \$25 for an additional sibling. In addition to fishing, the event will include free lunch (hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, drinks), hayrides, a 50-50 drawing, raffle tickets, Chinese auction and entertainment for kids. Each child will receive a door prize.

- Submitted by Melissa Hutchens

Serving With Compassion

Botetourt
Funeral Home & Crematory

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



Help Wanted

Field Engineer sought by TMEIC International Corporation in Roanoke, VA, to provide Tech1 Advisory Services (TAS) to coord installations & commissioning activities for assigned projects while meeting project schedules & performance criteria.

Senior Applications Systems Analyst/ Programmer sought by TMEIC CORPORATION AMERICAS in Roanoke, VA,

to dvlp Windows & web-based s/ware applications. Availability to travel domestically & internationally, less than 5%. Min Req: Bach's deg in Comp Sci, Comp Applications, Electronics Engg, or a related field or foreign equiv deg & 84 months of exp w/ s/ware dsngn & dvlpmt, including process dsngn & deployment of enterprise applications through complete project life cycles.

Legals - City of Salem

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Notice is hereby given to all interested persons that the Council of the City of Salem, at its regular meeting on Monday, April 13, 2026, at 6:30 p.m., in Council Chambers, City Hall, 114, N. Broad Street, in the City of Salem, Virginia, will hold a public hearing, pursuant to Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia, as amended, to consider the following requests relative to the CODE OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA:

Senior System Development Field Engineer sought by TMEIC CORPORATION AMERICAS in Roanoke, VA

to dsngn, dvlp, test, & manage initial deployment of custom control systms to enable the Co's expansion of new mkts & new areas of existing mkts. Telecommuting is allowed. Availability to travel, domestically & internationally, more than 50% of the time, sometimes w/ limited notice.

Legals - City of Radford

ABC NOTICE

RADFORD TRIPSTOP INC., trading as TRIPSTOP RADFORD TRAVEL CENTER, 2395 TYLER ROAD, Christiansburg, Montgomery County, VA 24073

Legals - City of Radford

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

Tejendrakumar Patadia, President 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.

ABC NOTICE

SOKO RDU INC., trading as SOKO CANTINA, 314 Tyler Avenue, Suite A, Radford, VA 24141-2653.

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

JULIO ARELLANO, 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.

Legals - City of Salem

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given to all interested persons that the Council of the City of Salem, at its regular meeting on Monday, April 13, 2026, at 6:30 p.m., in Council Chambers, City Hall, 114, N. Broad Street, in the City of Salem, Virginia, will hold a public hearing, pursuant to Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia, as amended, to consider the following requests relative to the CODE OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA:

1. Consider the request of William Hart, LLC, property owner, for issuance of a Special Exception Permit to allow for a two-family residence to be built 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 COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA BY: H. Robert Light Clerk of Council

NOTICE OF INTENT TO DECLARE INTERMENT RIGHTS ABANDONED.

Evergreen Development Co., Inc., owners of Evergreen Burial Park declares its intention to recover the abandoned cemetery lots listed in this notice. If there is no response from said lot owners, their heirs or assigns within 120 days from the publication of this notice, the interment rights shall be deemed abandoned and shall revert to Evergreen Burial Park, 1307 Summit Avenue, SW Roanoke, VA 24015. Owner Jesse Smith Section 15 Lot S.P. 9

Order of Publication

Commonwealth of Virginia VA Code§§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316.-317,20-104 Case No. CL24-2145 VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE CITY OF ROANOKE JOHN K. PRILLAMAN, and COMPTON M. BIDDLE, Plaintiffs TRACY MABES, JASON MABES, and UNKNOWN PARTIES, Defendants. TO: THE RESPONDENTS: The object of this suit is to:

Legals - City of Salem

Determine the proper disposition of surplus funds from a foreclosure sale of certain property designated as Tax Map Parcel No. 6090447.

An affidavit having been made and filed that diligence has been used without effect to ascertain that there are or may be 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: jrillaman@opnlaw.com

Legals - Town of Vinton

ABC NOTICE

VINTON TOBACCO INC. trading as VINTON TOBACCO INC/HCK HOT CHICKEN, 2499 E Washington Ave, Vinton, Roanoke County, Virginia, 24179-1505.

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

Mohammad Khalili, 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.

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF VINTON, VIRGINIA NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Please be advised that the Vinton Town Council will hold a public hearing at its meeting on Tuesday, April 7, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, in the Council Chambers of the Vinton Municipal Building, located at 311 South Pollard Street, Vinton, Virginia, on the following, to-wit:

TO SET A PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX RATE OF NOT MORE THAN \$1.00 PER \$100 ASSESSED VALUATION IN THE TOWN OF VINTON.

TO SET A MACHINERY AND TOOLS TAX RATE OF NOT MORE THAN \$1.00 PER \$100 ASSESSED VALUATION IN THE TOWN OF VINTON. Persons requiring special assistance to attend and participate at this public hearing should contact the Town Manager's office at (540) 983-0607. Megan Lawless Town Clerk

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF VINTON, VIRGINIA NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Please be advised that the Vinton Town Council will hold a public hearing at its regular meeting on Tuesday, April 7, 2026, at 6:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, in the Council Chambers of the Vinton Municipal Building, located at 311 South Pollard Street, Vinton, Virginia, concerning a proposed amendment to, and additional appropriation from, the Town of Vinton's FY 2025-2026 budget in order to provide funds for

Legals - Town of Vinton

the Gus Nicks and Gish Mill Water Improvements Project in the total amount of \$814,000.00. If the budget amendment and appropriation are approved following the public hearing, the action will amend revenue and expenditure lines in both the Town's General Fund and the Town's Capital Fund for a total across both funds in the amount of \$1,628,000. State law requires a public hearing to be held whenever a proposed budget amendment exceeds 1% of the locality's total budget.

Any additional information on this public meeting is available in the Town Manager's Office, located in the Vinton Municipal Building, (540) 983-0607. Persons requiring special assistance to attend and participate at this public meeting should contact the Town Manager's office at (540) 983-0607. Megan Lawless Town Clerk

Legals - Montgomery County

ABC NOTICE

THE BLUE HEN VA, LLC, trading as SICILY ITALIAN & MEDITERRANEAN GRILL, 904 Prices Fork Road, Blacksburg, Montgomery County, Virginia, 24060

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

Magdy Ghaly Owner

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

Order of Publication

Commonwealth of Virginia VA Code§§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316.-317,20-104 Case No. 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

Order of Publication

Commonwealth of Virginia VA Code§§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316.-317,20-104 Case No. JJD1488 MONTGOMERY COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT, 55 EAST MAIN STREET, SUITE 2A, CHRISTIANSBURG, VA 24073 MONTGOMERY COUNTY DSS v. SHANNON NICOLE BAILEY

The object of this suit is to: Terminate the residual parental rights of Shannon Bailey, legal parent of James D. Bailey, Jr., a minor, in that said parent has, without good cause, failed to correct the conditions which resulted in the child entering foster care and it is not continuing contact with the child and substantially plan for the child's future. Residual parental rights include, but are not limited to the right to visitation, consent to adoption, the right to determine religious affiliation, and the responsibility for support. The termination of your residual parental rights will permanently end all of your rights and responsibilities to the child named in the petition.

It is ORDERED that SHANNON NICOLE BAILEY appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before May 6th, 2026 @ 9:00 AM. Entered March 3, 2026 Amie Blankenship, Clerk

Legals - Montgomery County

Order of Publication

Commonwealth of Virginia VA Code§§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316.-317,20-104 Case No. CL26000414-00 MONTGOMERY COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT, 55 EAST MAIN STREET, SUITE 1, CHRISTIANSBURG, VA 24073 DATRIA SPENNACCHIO-PARKER, JARIA MARIE BATCHELOR v. COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

The object of this suit is to: name change of minor child It is ORDERED that JARVIS DEMOND BATCHELOR appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before May 2, 2026

Entered February 27, 2026 Honorable Robert M.D. Turk Judge

TOWN OF BLACKSBURG - NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

BLACKSBURG TOWN COUNCIL will hold public hearings on Tuesday, April 14, 2026 beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Roger E. Hedgepeth Chambers of the Blacksburg Municipal Building, 300 South Main Street, Blacksburg, regarding the following items:

Ordinance 2113: An Ordinance Adopting the Budget for the Town of Blacksburg, Virginia for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2026 and Ending June 30, 2027; Adopting the Real Estate Tax Rate; and Appropriating Funds for the Fiscal Year. The proposed ordinance would approve the Town's Fiscal Year 2026 operating budget and maintain the existing real estate tax rate of \$.26 per one hundred dollars of assessed valuation. This is described in more detail in the stand-alone advertisement being published in the News Messenger on March 25, 2026.

Ordinance 2114: An Ordinance Amending Blacksburg Town Code Sections 18-400, 20-206, and 24-602 to Increase Fees for Water and Sewer Services and Solid Waste and Recycling Fees. The ordinance will increase the amounts of the referenced fees; the increases are described in more detail in the stand-alone advertisement being published in the News Messenger on March 18, 2026 and March 25, 2026.

All persons affected by or interested in the proposed item(s) above may appear and present their views. After each public hearing, Town Council will consider action on the item. Copies of materials related to the above items are on file and can be obtained from the Office of the Town Clerk, 300 South Main Street, Blacksburg, Virginia, weekdays between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. For land use matters, copies of applications and all related items may also be found online at www.blacksburg.gov/public hearings or reviewed in person at the Blacksburg Planning and Building Department, 400 South Main Street, Blacksburg, Virginia. Individuals with disabilities who require special assistance to attend and participate in this meeting should contact Lorraine Spaulding, Town Clerk at (540) 443-1025 or 443-1000 (voice or TDD).

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

The Town of Christiansburg Town Council will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, April 14, 2026, at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments concerning:

A. Rezoning request by 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

Legals - Montgomery County

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.

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

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 655 PEACHTREE HILL, CHRISTIANSBURG, VA 24073.

In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated March 23, 2017, in the original principal amount of \$102,000.00 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Montgomery County, Virginia as Instrument No. 017002136. The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for the City of Radford, 619 Second St., W., Radford, VA, or any such temporary alternative Circuit Court location designated by the Judges of the Circuit Court, on May 21, 2026, at 5:00 PM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: ALL THAT CERTAIN TRACT OR PARCEL OF REAL PROPERTY WITH ALL IMPROVEMENTS THEREON AND APPURTENANCES THEREUNTO, BELONGING, SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN THE SHAWSVILLE MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VIRGINIA AND MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

ALL THAT CERTAIN 2.797 ACRE PARCEL, AS SHOWN ON A PLAT OF SURVEY ENTITLED, "PLAT SHOWING FAMILY SUBDIVISION SURVEY FOR ALFRED H. & JULIA Y. BENNETT, SHAWSVILLE MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VIRGINIA," DATED AUGUST 17, 2009, BY DALE R. BYER, LAND SURVEYOR, WHICH SAID PLAT IS OF RECORD IN THE CIRCUIT COURT CLERK'S OFFICE OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VIRGINIA, AS INSTRUMENT NUMBER 2009009949. TOGETHER WITH AND SUBJECT TO A 50 FOOT EASEMENT FOR INGRESS/EGRESS FROM ROUTE 676 ROSEMARY ROAD, TO THE POINT THAT IT ENDS AND THEN A 20 FOOT ACCESS EASEMENT ALONG THE EXISTING 20 FOOT ACCESS EASEMENT AS SHOWN ON THE AFOREMENTIONED PLAT OF SURVEY AND BEING ALONG THE NORTHERN BOUNDARY OF THE HEREIN DESCRIBED PARCEL.

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.aldridgepate.com. Additional terms, if any, to be announced at the sale

PLACE OF SALE: FRONT OF THE CITY OF RADFORD COURTHOUSE, 619 SECOND STREET, RADFORD, VIRGINIA 24141

DATE OF SALE APRIL 22, 2026 TIME OF SALE: 10:00 AM Daniel D. Hamrick, PC Substitute Trustee

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Daniel D. Hamrick, Agent for Daniel D. Hamrick, P.C., Substitute Trustee 104 South Franklin Street Christiansburg, VA 24073 (540) 382-0131

Legals - Montgomery County

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.aldridgepate.com. VA-381781-1.

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF PROPERTY LOCATED AT: 821 14th Street, Radford, VA 24141 CITY OF RADFORD

TAX MAP NO:15-(3)-4 IN EXECUTION OF A DEED OF TRUST DATED THE 11th DAY OF JUNE, 2013, IN THE ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL BALANCE OF \$26,250.00, RECORDED IN THE CLERKS OFFICE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE CITY OF RADFORD, VIRGINIA, AS INSTRUMENT NO. 201300689, DEFAULT HAVING BEEN MADE IN THE PAYMENT OF THE DEBT THEREIN SECURED AND BEING REQUIRED TO DO SO BY THE NOTEHOLDER, THE UNDERSIGNED SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE, AFTER GIVING SIXTY (60) DAY NOTICE TO THE OWNER OF THE REAL ESTATE OF THE DATE, TIME, PLACE AND TERMS OF SALE, WILL OFFER FOR SALE AT PUBLIC AUCTION AT THE ENTRANCE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE CITY OF RADFORD, LOCATED AT: 619 SECOND STREET, RADFORD, VIRGINIA, ON THE 22nd DAY OF APRIL, 2026 AT 10:00 A.M., THE REAL ESTATE WITH IMPROVEMENTS THEREON, LYING AND BEING SITUATE IN THE CITY OF RADFORD, STATE OF VIRGINIA AND MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

BEING all of that certain lot or parcel of land fronting 82 feet (82') on the northwestern side Fourteenth Street, in said City, designated as Lot 3 upon a plat entitled, "Map of Lynchburg Foundry Company Lots, Fifteenth and Staples Streets, Radford, Montgomery County, Virginia," made by Chidress Hall, County Surveyor, Christiansburg, Virginia, dated July 8, 1946, of record in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of the City of Radford, Virginia, in Deed Book 45, page 99. Tax Map# 15-(3)-4 Address: 821 14th Street, Radford, VA 24141 SALE WILL BE MADE SUBJECT TO ALL EXISTING EASEMENTS AND RESTRICTIVE COVENANTS AS THE SAME MAY LAWFULLY AFFECT THE REAL ESTATE.

TERMS OF SALE: CERTIFIED FUNDS OR CASHIER'S CHECK. A BIDDER'S DEPOSIT OF TEN PERCENT (10%) OF THE SALES PRICE, WITH FULL SETTLEMENT TO BE MADE WITHIN FIFTEEN (15) DAYS FROM DATE OF SALE. ADDITIONAL TERMS MAY BE ANNOUNCED AT THE TIME OF SALE. PURSUANT TO THE FEDERAL FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT, WE ADVISE YOU THAT THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT THE INDEBTEDNESS REFERRED TO HEREIN AND ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

PLACE OF SALE: FRONT OF THE CITY OF RADFORD COURTHOUSE, 619 SECOND STREET, RADFORD, VIRGINIA 24141

DATE OF SALE APRIL 22, 2026 TIME OF SALE: 10:00 AM Daniel D. Hamrick, PC Substitute Trustee

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Daniel D. Hamrick, Agent for Daniel D. Hamrick, P.C., Substitute Trustee 104 South Franklin Street Christiansburg, VA 24073 (540) 382-0131



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Legals - Montgomery County

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.

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Church from page 7

flowers (don't forget to bring flowers). The Rev. Dr. Emily hook, pastor at Galatia EPC, will be conducting both services.

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.

Wholeness and Healing at Fincastle Presbyterian

Fincastle Presbyterian Church will be hosting a Wholeness and Healing Prayer Service on April 1. This is a short prayer service of silence, prayer and music followed by a meal and fellowship with a light supper. Meet in the sanctuary at 5 p.m. at 108 E. Back Street in Fincastle. The supper is immediately following in the downstairs fellowship hall. All are invited.

Spring from page 1

long-distance hiking, the Appalachian Trail or feeder trails along the Blue Ridge Parkway.

Consider "adopting" and getting to know a specific tract of land that you can visit periodically. By choosing one category of flora or fauna to look for and get to know – wildflowers, fungi, grasses, trees, lichens, mosses, insects, reptiles, birds, or larger mammals – you can focus more closely and not get too overwhelmed by the abundance of material to witness. Visiting regularly from every day to every week allows you to chart changes and new growth. Spend time sitting and just engaging each one of your senses – what are five things you can see, what are four things you can hear, what are three things you can touch, what are two things you can smell? Keeping notes and taking photographs are useful ways to preserve your observations. If you revisit the same place week after week or year after year, you will get to know the rhythms and cycles of that environment.

Flower enthusiasts are already looking for and identifying the tiny flowers that come up in waves throughout the spring. Trout Lilies, Blood Root, Hepatica, and Coltsfoot are up, with Cut-leaf Toothwort, Rue Anemone, Purple Nettle, Violets, Virginia Bluebells, Dutchmen's Breeches, and Mayapples not far behind. These spring ephemerals take advantage of the sunlight that heats the forest floor before the tree canopy leafs out. But there are other wonders to look closely for during a spring hike. Small mushrooms hide under the fall leaf litter and sprout from decaying fallen branches. With fungi, the best practice is to observe with your

eyes, not touch or eat, unless you are an expert. On the muddy trails, you can look for the tracks or scat of animals too shy to appear when they hear human voices. You will definitely see deer, but both bear and coyote leave distinctive traces. Let's hope you do not run across them face to face! The most obvious marker of bird presence is their song, but you can often see holes in trees that signal the activity of different woodpeckers; a Pileated Woodpecker can really rip apart a fallen log looking for insects; a thick deposit of sticky white feathers on the ground can indicate a favored grooming spot for vultures up in the treetops. And if you are not too squeamish, the forest abounds in worms, ants, snakes (keep your distance), and salamanders who are just now starting to deposit eggs in vernal pools in the woods.

The region of and around Botetourt County is fortunate to have so many forested areas that are fantastic for spring walks and observations. Finding and seeing these seasonal marvels connects us to the special character of the Appalachian environment that we share and commits us to sustaining the green spaces where these natural communities thrive. As you begin your observations, the wonderful local library system can lead you to resources about wildflowers and other sorts of flora and fauna that live in these hills (<https://www.botetourtva.gov/libraries>).

- Submitted by the Fincastle Sustainability Committee

VA250 Mobile Museum at the Wilson Warehouse this Saturday

This Saturday, March 28, 3-6 p.m., the VA250 Mobile Museum Experience: "Out of Many, One," an interactive "museum on wheels," will be positioned beside the historic Wilson Warehouse in Buchanan. Admission to the museum is free. It is handicap-accessible. For more information, go to va250.org/mobile-museum.

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

- Fincastle Herald staff report

Safety Projects from page 1



Renderings of the fire station expansion project.

why the projects would be financed over different time periods. Larowe explained that financing terms are based on the expected life of the assets, comparing shorter-term financing for equipment to longer-term financing for buildings.

Buchanan Supervisor Linda Rottman asked for clarification on previous board actions related to project funding and how they aligned with the figures presented. Larowe said earlier discussions combined funds already spent with proposed future allocations, noting the county had already committed about \$6.7 million and was now considering an additional \$4.4 million in fund balance.

Rottman also asked about the county's fund balance policy. Larowe confirmed the county aims to maintain a reserve equal to 25% of annual expenditures and said projections show the county remaining above that threshold even with the additional spending.

Amsterdam Supervisor Tim Snyder asked when interest rates would be determined. County Attorney Mike Lockaby said preliminary estimates would be available last week, with final pricing expected in late April as part of the bond issuance process.

When asked about the preliminary debt service schedule, county officials believe that the bonds for the new money proposed prices will not be released until the week of April 13, and the existing debt refinancing is on a different schedule.

Blue Ridge Supervisor Walter Michael asked whether the county could withdraw from the financing if interest rates came in higher than expected. Lockaby said the resolution establishes maximum borrowing and interest rate parameters, allowing the county flexibility and preventing it from being locked into unfavorable terms.

The resolution specifically caps the total borrowing at a "Maximum Par Amount" of \$32 million, including up to \$7 million for refinancing existing debt, and sets an interest rate ceiling of 5.5% per year. It also requires that final repayment terms not extend beyond Dec. 31, 2050, while giving county officials authority to adjust terms based on market conditions at the time of sale.

In addition to new borrowing, the board considered refinancing existing debt tied to the county's 2014 public safety building and

regional jail. Larowe said the refinancing would only proceed if it meets a minimum savings threshold of 3% in net present value. If achieved, the county could save about \$42,000 annually through 2033, totaling roughly \$252,000.

"It's not every day you get to save a quarter of a million dollars," Larowe said.

The resolution formally authorizes that refinancing, stating it can move forward only if it meets or exceeds the 3% savings benchmark, ensuring the county benefits financially from restructuring the existing 2014 lease.

Lockaby also outlined the legal framework for the financing, including lease agreements with the Virginia Resources Authority (VRA), which issues bonds on behalf of local governments. Under the arrangement, the county will temporarily lease certain public safety facilities— including the Read Mountain Fire Station and portions of the fire system— to the VRA, which will then lease them back to the county as part of the financing structure.

For more information about what was discussed at the March 10 meeting, visit botetourtva.gov/agendacenter.

NexGen from page 1



career paths available in emergency services.

Organizers say team-building exercises will be a key part of the day, helping students develop confidence, communication skills and resilience through group challenges.

The event, which is now open to both boys and girls, marks a shift from previous years when similar camps were geared specifically toward girls.

"Our camp has always been rooted in empowering young people with confidence, skills, and a strong sense of belonging," said Fire and EMS Recruitment and Retention Specialist Taylor Lunsford. "While we're incredibly proud of our history as a space

designed specifically for girls, we also recognize that creating opportunities for collaboration and shared growth can be just as powerful."

Lunsford said the move to a co-ed format reflects a broader commitment to inclusivity while maintaining the program's original mission.

"We see tremendous value in bringing boys and girls together in the same learning environment," she said. "It allows girls to continue building confidence in their abilities while actively seeing—and demonstrating—that they can succeed alongside boys in every aspect of the program."

She added that the change is intended to expand the academy's

impact while preserving its focus on empowerment, teamwork and leadership development.

This year's academy will follow a curriculum similar to the previous Girls Fire Camp, with the same overall goals and hands-on approach. However, participation has been expanded to 80 students, up from 60 in past years. Of those, 50 spots are reserved for students in grades one through five, and 30 for students in grades six through 12.

Officials say the academy is geared toward students who are curious about public safety or interested in learning more about how first responders serve their communities. No prior experience is required.

Registration information and additional details are available on the Botetourt County website. Updates will also be shared through the department's social media channels ahead of the event.

County officials say the goal of the program is to inspire the next generation of first responders while giving participants a fun and educational experience.

LEGAL NOTICE
Pursuant to §3.2-6569 Code of Virginia – Notice Is Hereby Given By Animal Control Officers

The Botetourt County Sheriff's Office seized one rooster, tan and red in color with a green tail, at the 105 Mile Marker on the Blue Ridge Parkway, Blue Ridge. A hearing date to determine the disposition of the rooster is scheduled for 11:00 AM April 1, 2026, at the Botetourt County General District Courthouse, 20 East Back Street, Fincastle. For additional information, contact Deputy S.A. Markham at 540-473-8631.

Stockyard Report

Monday's sale at the Roanoke-Hollins Stockyard:
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Graded Bulls
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400-499 \$410.00-\$450.00
500-599 \$399.00
600-699 \$350.00

Graded Heifers
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500-599 \$455.00
600-699 \$330.00-\$410.00

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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Town of Buchanan is currently seeking individuals interested in serving on the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA). The available seat is for a four-year term. The BZA is the body responsible for granting variances, special exceptions, and hearing appeals of the Zoning Administrator. Eligibility criteria: Must live within the town limits of Buchanan. To apply: Interested applicants may apply by contacting Town Manager Timothy Mack at tmack@buchanan-va.gov, or at (540) 254-1212. In-person applications may also be submitted by visiting Town Hall: 19753 Main Street, Buchanan.

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James River soccer teams return from break Monday

The James River boys were rained out last week delaying the debut of new coach Caleb Quinn but the girls managed to get two games in and earned a split. Both teams will return from spring break with games next Monday.

Quinn takes over for Jared Whiting as boys' coach at River. The Knights were rained out of games with Eastern Montgomery and Nelson County last week and hope to open the season Monday, March 30, with a trip to Elliston to play East Mont.

The girls were at home last Wednesday to host Nelson County and fell 2-0 on a cold night in Springwood.

"The game was very much end to end with good attacks and strong defense on both ends," said River coach Bill Smith. The scoring opened with a penalty

kick for the Governors about 15 minutes into the match. Nelson made it 2-0 late in the half and a scoreless second half resulted in the 2-0 final. Rhaya Kitt had 13 saves for the Knights

A night later the girls traveled to Appomattox and evened their record with a 5-1 win. The host Raiders struck first in this game but after that it was all James River.

"Play was slow at first, but after about five minutes it was clear the team was back on track," said Smith.

Play was almost entirely on the Appomattox end of the field with strong, clean possession by the visitors. Avery Saunders opened the scoring for the Knights, assisted by a textbook Ayden Jennings corner kick 10 minutes into the contest. Three minutes later Sophia Martin scored from outside the box to give River their first lead at 2-1. This was followed quickly by Sonny Sharp finishing, assisted by Saunders.

Saunders scored again with 10 minutes left in the period, taking the Knights into the break with a comfortable lead. Jennings finished from well outside the box early in the second half to round out the scoring and the 5-1 win. Kitt had eight saves for the Knights.

River will be back in action on Monday, March 30, when Appomattox returns the trip.

Knights drop baseball opener at Patrick Henry

A trip to Roanoke last week provided the first competition of the season for the James River baseball team. The Knights dropped a 5-2 decision on Thursday after a Wednesday opener at Riverheads was rained out.

"This was the first game competition we've had this spring," River coach Chance Henry noted about the PH game. "Our only scrimmage got cancelled so all we've had were intersquads. We lost

but I feel confident with where we are."

Cam Saunders opened on the mound for the Knights and settled in after a rough first inning.

"Cam did a great job of keeping us in the game," said Henry. "Our pitching and defense were at a high level to start the year and our bats will come around in time as we haven't seen much live arms yet. We hit a few balls hard, just right at defenders."

The Knights are back on the road tomorrow,

Thursday, for a 7:30 p.m. game at Liberty High. Then they're off until April 3 when they host Radford for a Three Rivers District game and their home opener.

"We're a very young team and we're going to need our sophomores and freshmen to step up if we want to be successful," said Henry. "Although we came out on the wrong end of the first game we believe in our guys and we will kick it into gear soon."

Hoover is second team All-State in Class 3 hoops

Lord Botetourt's Maggie Hoover has been named second team All-State in Class 3 basketball. Abingdon senior power forward Annsley "A.J." Trivette is the Class 3 Player of the Year and Abingdon head coach Jimmy Brown is the Class 3 Coach of the Year after leading the Falcons to the Class 3 state championship. Abingdon eliminated Lord Botetourt from the post-season in a close game, 53-49, in the Region 3D quarterfinal round. Abingdon went



PHOTO BY REGINA DEVINNEY

on to win the region and beat Skyline, 58-38, in the

Class 3 state championship game.

Lord Botetourt softball team wins home opener

After dropping their first game at Hidden Valley the Lord Botetourt softball team evened their record in their home opener last Friday. The Cavaliers walked off Christiansburg for a 2-1 win.

Olivia Pierce picked up the win in a pitchers' duel with the Blue Demons. She had a

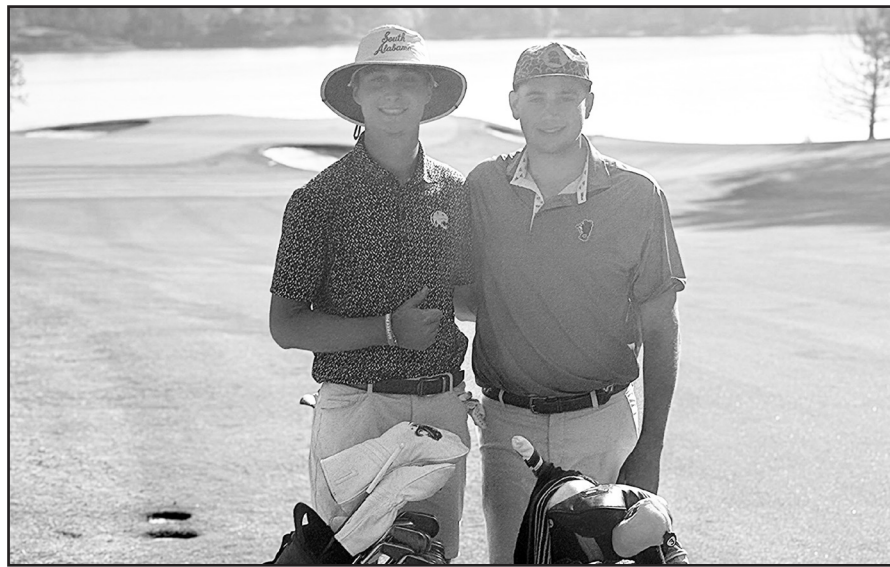
dozen strikeouts and held Christiansburg to three hits.

Pierce also had the game winning hit in the bottom of the seventh as the Cavaliers scored a walk off win. Riley Morgan had two hits for LB.

The Cavaliers opened last Wednesday at Hidden Valley and dropped an

11-6 decision. Botetourt had 11 hits in the loss as Bailey Hutchins, Gracelynn Clark and Phoenix Humphries had two hits each. The Titans jumped out to an early lead and LB couldn't catch up despite a late rally.

The Cavs are off this week and return to action next Tuesday with a game at Blacksburg High.



COURTESY PHOTO

Former Cavalier teammates play together at college golf event

Lord Botetourt graduates Samir Davidov (South Alabama) and Ashton Harper (Virginia Tech) were paired together at the Linger Longer Invitational at the Reynolds Lake Oconee course in Eastonton, Ga., last weekend.



PHOTO COURTESY VMI

Prince having a big year at the plate for 19-4 VMI

Former Lord Botetourt standout Owen Prince is a senior utilityman for the VMI baseball team. Owen has started all 23 games for the Keydets and is 28 for 80 at the plate for a .350 batting average, which is second on the team. Prince leads VMI with 39 runs scored and has stolen 21 bases while only being caught three times. He's struck out just seven times in 111 plate appearances. The Keydets are 19-4 after taking two of three games from Radford University last weekend. They're at East Tennessee State for a three-game series this weekend.

Local Braves fan has a blast at 'Fantasy Camp' in Florida



John Wright (back row, fourth from right) and his Fantasy Camp team



Wright had 12 hits in 18 at bats at the fantasy camp.



PHOTOS COURTESY JOHN WRIGHT

John Wright (right) posed for a photo with Braves great Andruw Jones two weeks before Jones was elected to the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame.

When he was a kid, John Wright dreamed of wearing the uniform of his beloved Atlanta Braves. Now, 31 years after playing high school ball at William Fleming, he gets to do just that.

No, John won't be in uniform when the Braves open at home Friday night against Kansas City at Atlanta's Truist Field. He's too busy directing the Salem High School band and preparing for a big drum competition this weekend. But he'll be watching, and feeling like part of the team.

This past winter Wright participated in the Atlanta Braves Fantasy Camp, a getaway for true baseball fans who, for a week, get a feel of what it's like in the big leagues. You have to be 35 years of age or older and John qualifies, having graduated from high school 31 years ago.

The camp is held in North Port, Fla. at the Braves' spring training facility. The stadium is a smaller version of Truist Park and Braves fans from all over make the pilgrimage to don the uniform, play baseball, and mingle with Braves players John has watched from afar.

"They break us up into six teams and each team has a former Brave for a hitting-field coach and a pitching coach," said Wright. "Kevin Pillar was our hitting coach and Denny Neagle was our pitching coach. He was hilarious."

Wright got to mingle with, among others, Andruw Jones, former big league ace Steve Avery, popular Atlanta infielder Terry Pendleton and long-time Braves pitching coach Leo Mazzone.

"The first year it was a little nerve wracking," he said. "I mean, I'm pitching and Steve Avery is evaluating me. I told him, 'You were on my wall in college.' Now, I'm friends

with him."

Each team gets to play seven games, concluding with a championship game between the best two teams. They play two games a day, and this year John got to play two games against a Yankees fantasy team at Steinbrenner Field in Tampa.

"Our team won both of our games," said Wright.

Each player gets an official Atlanta Braves uniform, both home and away. Wright wore number eight, his uniform number at Fleming.

"The uniforms are really nice, and you get to keep them, both home and away. They're the real deal Nike uniforms, with your name on the back and everything."

Wright grew up in Allegheny County watching the Braves on the "Super Station." Those broadcasts created a lot of fans as just about every game was on your TV if you had cable. There are plenty of Braves fans in the Roanoke Valley for that very reason.

"Our family went to Atlanta every year for a three-game series," said Wright. "I think I saw 20 games before I saw the Braves win."

John moved to Roanoke his junior year and played for Al Holland, a former big leaguer and charter member of the Salem-Roanoke Baseball Hall of Fame.

Wright pitched at Fleming for two years for Holland, then played at Concord College. He also played American Legion ball for Jimmy Mitchell.

"You get to pick what you want to play," he said. "Last year I got to pitch 17 innings but this year I only pitched three because I had some elbow soreness. I played the

outfield, and I threw a guy out at home."

John had a big camp at the plate. He was 12 for 18 for the week for a .667 batting average. He had seven doubles, and noted that he had an inside-the-park home run last year.

"There's one guy who comes to the camp who's 80 years old, and he can still hit," said Wright.

While John has a blast playing the games, the "down time" is just as exciting for a lifelong Braves fan.

"When I first started I wasn't sure how much you could talk to the players," he said. "Now, I feel right at home. They call you by name and hang out at night. Most of them have some great stories. Bruce Benedict was telling us what it was like to catch (knuckballing great) Phil Niekro, and Brian Jordan was awesome. They'd play cards with you and you saw that they were just regular guys, only with cooler stories."

John took the whole family with him. His wife, Jessa, got to sing the national anthem prior to the championship game and son Jett, a fourth grader at West Salem Elementary, served as bat boy. He also has a daughter Brynn, who is a freshman at Salem High, and a daughter Elle who is a sixth grader at Andrew Lewis Middle School.

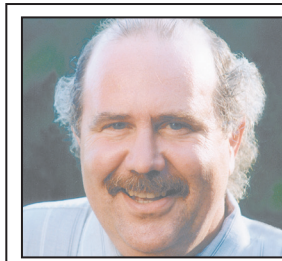
John was the team MVP against the Yankees, and that earned him two free tickets to a Braves game any time this season. He's going to use them over Memorial Day weekend when the Braves host the Nationals.

"I'm going to go as long as my arm will let me," he said. "It's a great experience, you're literally an Atlanta Brave for a week and I just love going down there. They say it's a once in a lifetime experience you'll do over and over again."

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 Sports
Editor

LB baseball team will host Salem on Monday

The Lord Botetourt baseball team will return from spring break Monday with their home opener against Salem. The Cavaliers were idle this week after opening with two games on the road last week.

After last Monday's game with Blacksburg was rained out the Cavaliers traveled to Hidden Valley on Wednesday for a non-district game. The host Titans pulled out a 5-4 win with three runs in the bottom of the sixth, and the game was called at that point due to darkness.

Garrett Lonker opened on the mound for Botetourt and pitched three strong innings, striking out seven

and allowing just two hits. Freshman Jackson Crenshaw relieved in the fourth and ended up taking the loss, and Brady Kish closed out the sixth with two-thirds of an inning.

Jaidan Pennix was two-for-three at the plate with a double and a two-run homer. Chase Peck also had a double.

On Friday the Cavaliers were in Ridgeway to take on Magna Vista. Again, no lights at the field were a factor as the game was stopped in the bottom of the sixth with LB leading 12-8. The game will pick up where it left off when the Warriors come to Daleville on Thursday, April 2. Emory Lonker had a three-run homer for Lord Botetourt.

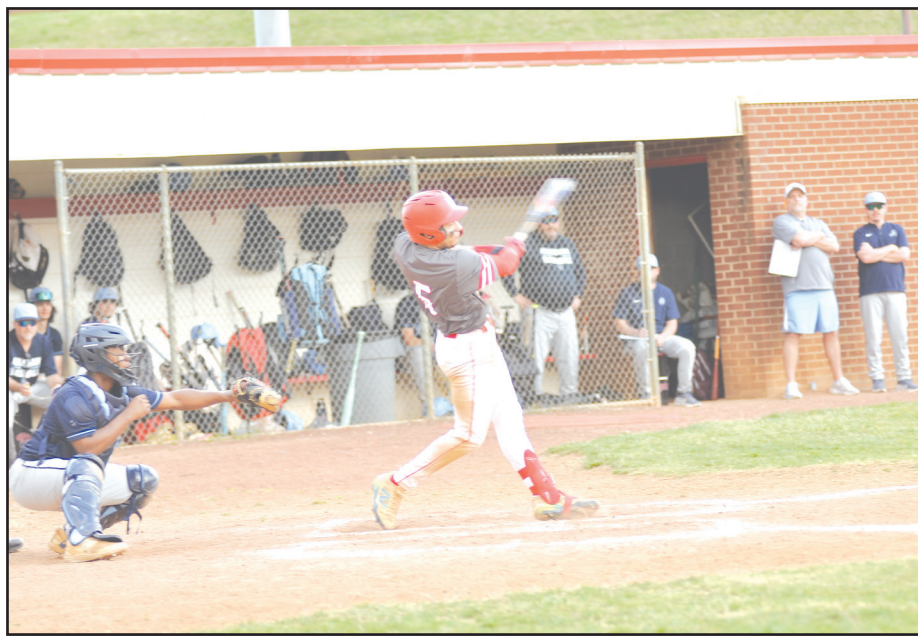
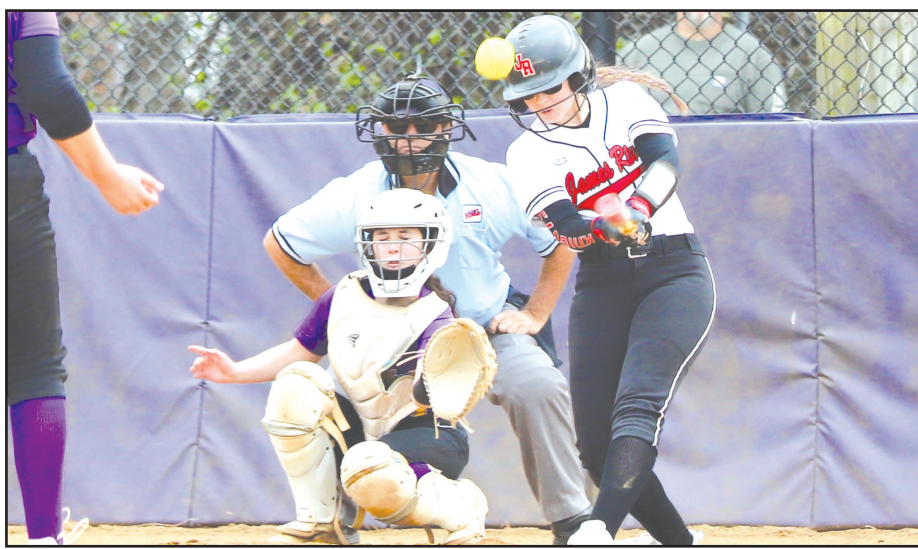


PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

LB's Jaidan Pennix, shown here in a preseason scrimmage, had a home run for the Cavaliers against Hidden Valley last week.

James River's Sydnee Breeding slides safely into second in last week's win over Patrick Henry.

Kaylee Harlow connects for the Knights.

PHOTOS BY LEIGH DOWNEY

James River girls open softball season with a win

After their Tuesday home opener with Bassett was rained out the James River girls headed to Roanoke to take on Patrick Henry in softball last Thursday. James River took an early lead and held on for a 7-5 win.

"We don't have many, if any, teams on our schedule that we can beat without a good performance," said River coach Steve Austin. "We played very well, for the most part, and we earned a tough road victory."

The Knights scored three runs in each of the first two innings to grab a 6-0 lead. In the top of the first Sydnee Breeding singled and Ella Hutchens walked. Keira Crawford then hit a ground rule double scoring the first run. Kaylee Harlow followed with a two-run single.

In the second inning, Caitlyn Downey worked a leadoff walk and scored from first base on a Breeding double. Hutchens followed with a single scoring Breeding.

Crawford reached on a fielders' choice and later scored on another Harlow single.

Patrick Henry got in the board in the bottom of the second inning on a solo home run by Carlee Coleman. James River scored their last run in the fifth when Hutchens reached on an error and ultimately scored on Harlow's third RBI single of the game to make it 7-1 in favor of the Knights.

The Patriots scored two runs in the sixth inning and, after a scoreless top of the seventh, PH sent seven batters to the plate for the second straight inning. The Pats scored two more runs but River was able to hold on for the win.

Knights' pitcher Makenna Saville threw a complete game, scattering nine hits while striking out five and walking one. Three runs were earned.

Harlow had three hits and four RBIs to lead the Knights. Breeding had three hits, including two doubles, with two runs, an RBI, and a stolen base. Hutchens had a single, two runs, and an RBI. Crawford had a double, a run, and an RBI. Andi Krecklow also had a single for River.

"We got a really good pitching performance out of our senior pitcher, Makenna Saville," said Austin. "She only threw 79 pitches, 61 of them strikes. We had a couple of bobbles in the seventh that tested us but Makenna's steadiness helped us navigate through it. Paige Shotwell had the two big defensive plays in the seventh that were crucial, too."

The Knights are back in action on Thursday for a 7 p.m. game at Liberty High. Next Tuesday, March 31, they go to Bassett before hosting Northside on April 1 for the home opener.

Cavalier soccer teams open season, Collins scores hat trick for LB girls

The Lord Botetourt soccer teams drew Salem sides last Thursday and both the boys and girls came out on the short end. The boys hosted Salem and lost 2-1 while the girls played on the Spartans' pitch and fell 4-0.

Facing a talented Salem squad, the LB boys battled throughout a competitive match in which possession was contested from start to finish. While the final score did not go in Botetourt's favor, the effort shown by the team offered plenty of positives moving forward.

The match also marked the return of Tim Wright as head coach, bringing leadership and direction to a program looking to build momentum this season. With a young core gaining valuable experience early, the Cavaliers believe they are laying the foundation to be competitive in the region.

"Although the opener ended in a narrow defeat, Lord Botetourt came away with confidence, a sense of purpose, and optimism for the season road ahead,"

said Wright.

The girls split two games last week. While most everyone else was rained out the Cavaliers managed to get in a Tuesday game with Magna Vista at the Smith River Sports Complex and dominated the host Warriors with an 8-0 win.

The LB offense was led by Emery Collins, who scored a three-goal hat trick. Maddie May had two goals while Taylor Jones, Luci Rock and Annalee Campbell had one goal each. Collins also had two assists while Jones, Rock, Reagan Helms, Kinsley Milko and Maggie Caldwell had one assist each.

Last Thursday the Cavs were in Salem and dropped a 4-0 decision. LB will return from break next Tuesday when Magna Vista returns the trip for Botetourt's home opener.

The boys are at Magna Vista Monday and home to Heritage a week from tonight, on April 1.



PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Lord Botetourt number one Reagan Meade serves one up against Salem.

LB tennis teams split with Salem to open the season

The Lord Botetourt tennis teams opened the spring season last Thursday as both the girls and boys took on Salem. The girls took a 7-2 win in Salem while the Spartans edged the LB boys, 5-4, on the Hollins University courts.

The girls took a 4-2 lead after the singles as Elaina Brown won at two, Kennedy Dorsey won at three, Gwyneth Farrar won at four and Ava Duff took the five singles match. Botetourt then swept the doubles with the teams of Reagan Meade and Dorsey, Brown and Farrar, and Duff and Sarah Meadows. The boys were down

4-2 after singles despite winning at one and two. Ethan Steryous and Davis Kidd both dominated with 8-0 pro set wins in the first two spots. Nick Wright lost a key tie-breaker at third singles.

"Nick played very well and displayed great footwork but he had problems on the backhand wing and then covering the then open court on the forehand side," said coach Tim Howard. "Overall, it was a great match."

In doubles Steryous and Noah McCarren won 8-1 at number one and Kidd and Wright won 8-3 at second doubles

but Salem took the third doubles to pull out a close win.

"One team aspect that I was proud of was serving," said Howard. "I hardly saw any double faults on the day and that was very impressive. Overall, our bottom four have a consistent playing style that I think they are going to hone over the season and that will make for some tremendous tennis."

Both teams are off this week for spring break, returning Monday, March 30, against Blacksburg. The boys are at Blacksburg and the girls will host the Bruins at Hollins University.


Botetourt's Luci Rock (4) controls the ball against the Spartans.

Summer Sharp of LB kicks the ball past a Salem defender.

PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN