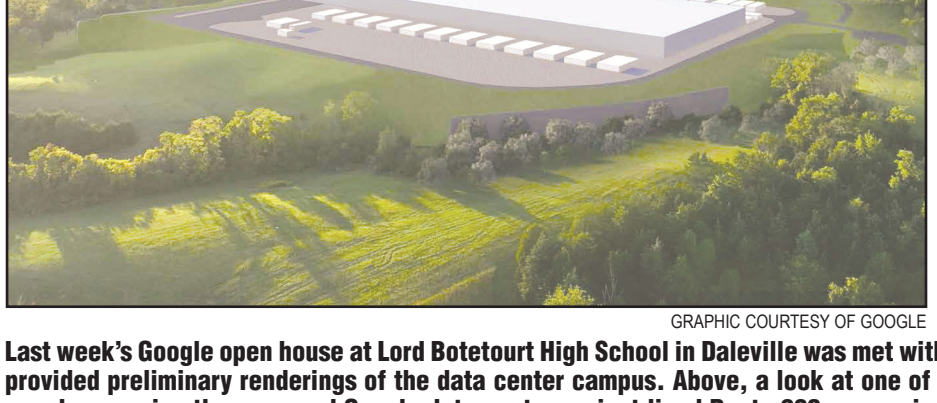
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Land Transfers - Page 3

The Fincastle Herald
& Botetourt County News
www.fincastleherald.com

VOL. 161 NO. 26 | 1 SECTION • 12 PAGES | (USPS 190-680) | WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24, 2026 | $1.50



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF GOOGLE

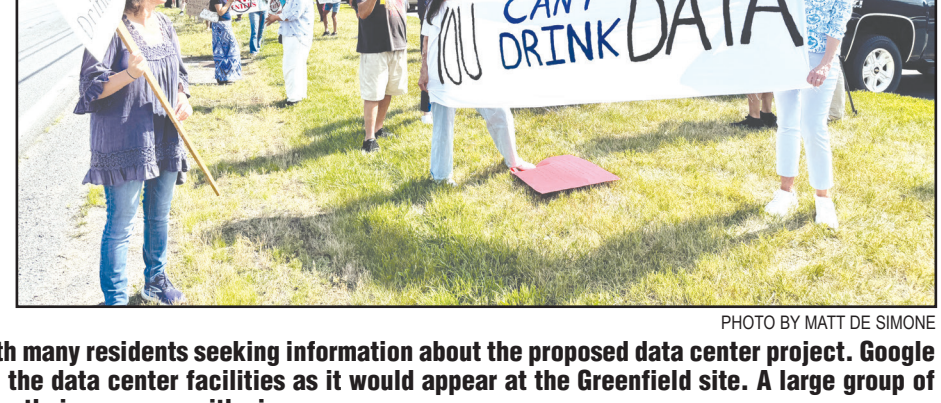


PHOTO BY MATT DE SIMONE

Last week's Google open house at Lord Botetourt High School in Daleville was met with many residents seeking information about the proposed data center project. Google provided preliminary renderings of the data center campus. Above, a look at one of the data center facilities as it would appear at the Greenfield site. A large group of people opposing the proposed Google data center project lined Route 220 expressing their concerns with signs.

Google hosts open house on proposed Botetourt data center

Matt de Simone
Managing Editor

Google hosted a community open house last Wednesday evening at Lord Botetourt High School, giving residents an opportunity to learn more about the company's proposed data center campus in Botetourt County while opponents of the project demonstrated outside.

The event featured informational displays and representatives from Google, Appalachian Power, and project consultants who answered questions about the proposed development, which would be located near the Botetourt Center at Greenfield. The open house came amid ongoing public discussion surrounding the project, with supporters pointing to potential economic benefits and opponents raising concerns about water use, infrastructure demands, and long-term impacts on the community.

Representatives from Google, Appalachian Power, and project consultants staffed information stations throughout the evening and answered questions from attendees.

According to Google representatives, the purpose of the event was to provide information about the project and hear feedback from residents as planning and engineering work continues.

"We're here to learn with the community," a Google representative said. "We're here to get feedback, to talk back and forth, and share: what are the needs of the community?"

The information presented during Wednesday's open house offered considerably more detail than what was available when the project was first announced last July. While early discussions focused primarily on the economic development opportunity and potential tax revenue associated with the project, displays and conversations at the event addressed

See **Open House**, page 5

Buchanan Community Carnival returns Thursday for 72nd year

One of the region's most anticipated summer traditions returns Thursday as the 72nd Annual Buchanan Community Carnival opens for 10 days of rides, food, music and family fun.

The carnival will run June 25 through July 4 and will be open nightly from 6 to 10:30 p.m. The event will be closed Sunday, June 28.

Rides will once again be provided by Cole Amusements, while attendees can enjoy carnival games, live music and a variety of food favorites, including Buchanan's famous petros, burgers and fresh-cut french fries.

Live entertainment is scheduled

See **Carnival**, page 7



The 72nd Buchanan Community Carnival kicks off Thursday at 6 p.m. FILE PHOTO



PHOTO BY MATT DE SIMONE

Courthouse topping-off ceremony scheduled this Friday in Fincastle

Residents and visitors are invited to attend a courthouse topping-off ceremony June 26 at the courthouse construction site in Fincastle.

According to an announcement distributed by organizers, the event will begin at 1 p.m. at the construction site, located at 1 W. Main Street. The ceremony will mark the raising of the new steeple on Fincastle's fifth courthouse.

The announcement states the event will include brief remarks and a ceremonial observance recognizing the project reaching its highest point.

Free ice cream and toppings will be provided following the ceremony by Historic Fincastle Inc.

Organizers are encouraging members of the public to attend the event and witness what they described as a proud moment in the continuing history of Botetourt County.

~ Fincastle Herald staff report

'What's it like to be…?'

Victor Morales, Botetourt County Director of Parks and Recreation

Matt de Simone
mattdesimone@mainstreetnewspapers.com

When most people think about Parks and Recreation, they picture ballfields, playgrounds, summer camps, and community events.

What they probably don't picture is Victor Morales reviewing spreadsheets, applying for grants, coordinating projects, or planning improvements that may not be completed for years.

For Morales, director of Botetourt County Parks and Recreation, that's much of the job.

"A lot of my job is finding resources and being creative to be able to maintain parks," Morales said. "A lot of my job is making sure that people have access to those places, they know they exist, and that we do programming."

The role requires balancing a wide range of responsibilities. On any given day, Morales might be discussing a capital project, helping address an issue at a county park, advising a community organization, or working with staff on programming.

"Botetourt County being a rather large land mass with a small population, we kind of have a small staff that does a little bit of everything," he explained.

The department oversees parks, trails, boat ramps, youth sports leagues, outdoor recreation opportunities, special events, and community programs throughout the county. Much of Morales' work focuses on ensuring those resources remain accessible and affordable.

His path to the profession was unexpected.



Victor Morales PHOTO BY MATT DE SIMONE

Before college, Morales planned to study psychology. That changed after joining an environmentally focused living-learning community that introduced him to activities such as kayaking, biking,

See **Morales**, page 10

2026 SEASON
Daleville town center
Scan here for complete event schedule, and details.
JUNE 26
RED DIRT REVOLUTION
5-9PM
JUNE 27
BOTETOURT FARMERS MARKET
DALEVILLE TOWN CENTER
8:30 to NOON
JULY 4
BOTETOURT FARMERS MARKET
DALEVILLE TOWN CENTER
8:30 to NOON

8 33463 00107 5

Botetourt County History



PHOTO COURTESY OF BCMHC

This quilt was created by the Barnett family in 1988. It stands as a testament to African American heritage, culture and the preservation of memories across generations. Featuring stitched and handwritten names, it serves as a lasting record of family connections.

Quilts have long been used to commemorate loved ones and pass stories from one generation to the next. Today, this special piece is displayed on the upstairs landing of the Botetourt Museum of History & Culture in Fincastle. It is a reminder that history is more than dates and events. History includes the artifacts and stories families choose to preserve and share for future generations.

~ Botetourt County Museum of History & Culture

Historical Society presents 'Home Grown: Botetourt's Agricultural History'

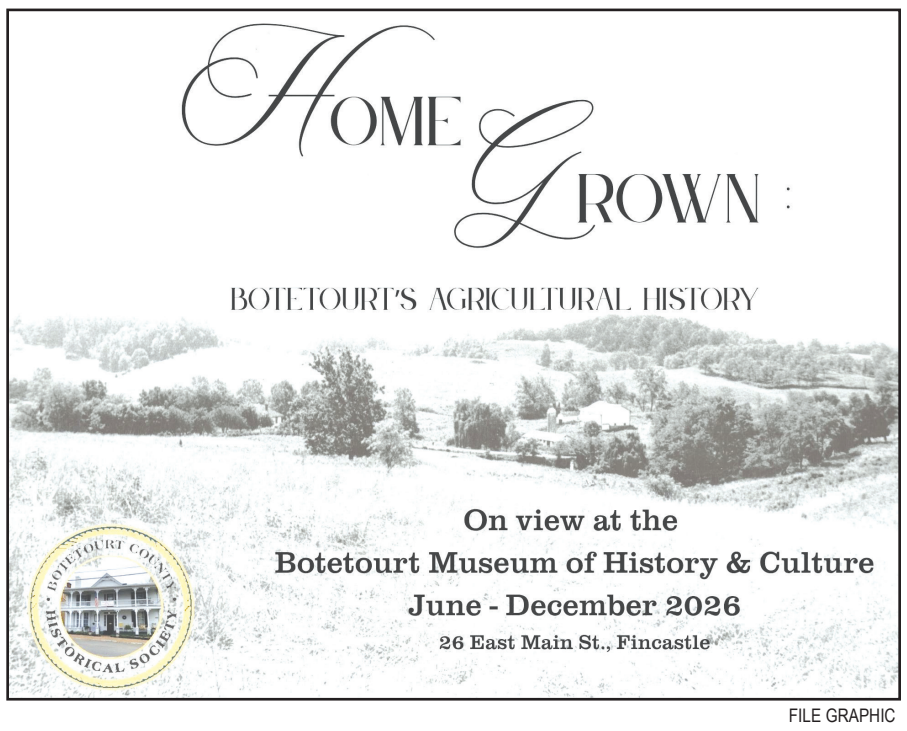
The Botetourt County Historical Society (BCHS) has opened a new temporary exhibit highlighting the county's agricultural heritage.

"Home Grown: Botetourt's Agricultural History" opened June 15 and explores more than 250 years of farming traditions through artifacts, photographs, documents, oral histories, and interactive displays.

The exhibit features items from the society's collection as well as loans from local families, including farm tools, dairy artifacts, creamery bottles, 4-H and FFA memorabilia, canning supplies, photographs, and items connected to Botetourt's mills and canneries.

Visitors can also explore a new oral history initiative featuring interviews with Botetourt Century Farm owners. A slideshow of historic images from the

See **Home Grown**, page 5



FILE GRAPHIC



Joseph McGill Jr. speaks during last Friday's "Campfire Conversation" in Daleville. Friday's discussion kicked off Botetourt County's Juneteenth celebration over the weekend.

Juneteenth celebration highlights preservation, storytelling



PHOTOS COURTESY OF BOTETOURT CO.

History, preservation, and community came together last weekend as the Historic Greenfield Advisory Council hosted a Juneteenth celebration focused on sharing the stories of the enslaved people who once lived and worked at Greenfield Plantation.

The weekend's events featured nationally recognized historian and preservationist Joseph McGill Jr., founder of the Slave Dwelling Project, who returned to Botetourt County for the first time in a decade to participate in programs examining the site's history and ongoing preservation efforts.

More than 40 enslaved people lived at Greenfield Plantation during its operation, and organizers said the Juneteenth observance was designed to recognize their experiences while promoting a broader understanding of local history.

Activities began Friday evening with a Campfire Conversation at the Botetourt County Administration Center. The gathering provided an opportunity for residents to discuss Greenfield's history, preservation efforts and the stories connected to the plantation and its remaining slave quarters.

McGill, whose Slave Dwelling Project works to preserve and document structures once occupied by enslaved people, shared insights from his decades of research and advocacy. Through the project, he has spent nights in former slave dwellings across the country to draw attention to the importance of preserving these often-overlooked historic sites.

Saturday's events opened with the inaugural Run to Freedom 5K at the Botetourt Sports Complex before shifting to the Administration Center for an afternoon of educational programs and entertainment.

McGill presented his program, "Sleeping with the Ancestors," which explored the mission of the Slave Dwelling Project and the role former slave dwellings play in understanding American history. Attendees also viewed a presentation on William Preston's Greenfield Plantation and received updates on preservation efforts at Historic Greenfield.

The celebration included live music, a community barbecue dinner, and opportunities for residents to learn more about the site's significance within Botetourt County's history.

The Juneteenth observance concluded with a discussion examining Greenfield's past, present and future, encouraging community members to consider how the historic property can continue to serve as a place of education, reflection and preservation.

Organizers said the weekend's events reflected the advisory council's ongoing commitment to preserving Greenfield's history and ensuring the stories of those who lived there, particularly the enslaved men, women and children whose lives helped shape the property, remain part of the community's understanding of its past.

~ Fincastle Herald staff report

Daleville Town Center concert series draws crowd, supports local nonprofits

Music, food, and community spirit filled Daleville Town Center last Saturday afternoon as residents gathered for another installment of the venue's summer concert series, an event that raised money for local nonprofit organizations while offering live entertainment and family-friendly activities.

The event featured performances by local favorites Big Daddy Ray and Bottom of the Barrel. Admission proceeds benefited Total Action for Progress and the American Cancer Society.

Attendees had no shortage of food options, with vendors including Mountain Grille, Cousins Maine Lobster, El Gordo's Kitchen, Kefi Greek Food with a Passion, Kerstin's Kitchen, Chick-fil-A Bonsack, The Tot Box, Grandpa Ike's Mini Donuts, Ello Gelato Truck and The Local Lemon.

In addition to live music and food, families enjoyed free children's activities, including a balloon artist, face painting, and glitter tattoos.

The concert series, presented by Bank of Botetourt and Michelob Ultra, has become a popular summer destination in Botetourt County, combining live entertainment with fundraising opportunities for area nonprofits.

The series continues Friday, June 26, with country act Red Dirt Revolution taking the stage.

Based in Baltimore, Red Dirt Revolution has built a following throughout the Mid-Atlantic with its high-energy performances, dual-guitar sound and harmony-driven vocals. The band has opened for the Eli Young Band and Lee Greenwood and has performed at venues alongside artists including

See **Concert**, page 5



PHOTO BY MATT DE SIMONE

The Daleville Concert Series continues this Friday with Red Dirt Revolution. Here, Big Daddy Ray performs during last Saturday's food truck event.

TOWN OF BUCHANAN 1811

BUCHANAN COMMUNITY CARNIVAL

June 25th - July 4th • 6:00pm-10:30pm
Closed Sunday - June 28th
Rides provided by Cole Amusements
Day of Event Sales and Wristbands:
June 25th - 27th: $30 per person
June 29th - 30th: $20 per person
July 1st - 4th: $30 per person
On site sales will end one hour before the session concludes
FOOD & GAMES
Enjoy Petros, Carnival Burgers, Hot Dogs & Our World Famous Fries



Friday, July 3rd & Saturday, July 4th
Fireworks 10pm

ENTERTAINMENT

Thurs., June 25 - Thunder Ridge
Fri., June 26 - Blue Connection
Sat., June 27 - Wild Honey
Mon., June 29 - Fab Four
Tues., June 30 - Midnite Blue
Wed., July 1 - American Honey
Thurs., July 2 - The Frequency
Fri. & Sat., July 3&4 - Cimmaron

Information at www.townofbuchanan.com or Town of Buchanan Facebook Page

Historic Fincastle launches 'History in Our Own Backyard' lecture series

Historic Fincastle Inc. will launch a new lecture series later this month aimed at highlighting stories from the area's past.

The series, titled "History in Our Own Backyard," will begin June 30 with a presentation on "The Historic Stoner House and the Miracle Wheat." The talk is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. at the Big Spring Classroom along the trail near Breckinridge Elementary School. Parking will be available near the classroom, with the gate on Jefferson Street unlocked for attendees.

According to Historic Fincastle, the presentation will focus on the historic Stoner House and the wheat crop produced on the farm known as "Miracle Wheat."

The program will be presented by Ed Holt, the great-grandson of Kenton Ballard Stoner Sr., who will share the story of his family and its connection to the property.

Historic Fincastle plans to sponsor additional programs in the "History in Our Own Backyard" series throughout the remainder of 2026.

~ Fincastle Herald staff report



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF HFI

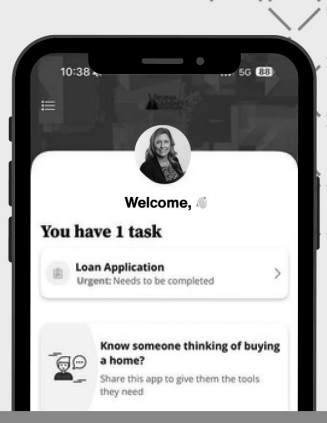
Land transfers - May 2026

The following land transfers were recorded in the Botetourt County Courthouse in May 2026. The names of only one seller and one buyer are listed; others may be involved in the transaction.

- A and J Developments to Braedon X. Haston, 0.374 acres, $340,000
- Ryan Jorden Adams to Patrick Anthony Hash, 14.64 acres, $560,000
- AEY Management to Bryson Neal, lot, Rainbow Forest, $369,000
- Angela A. Anderson to Freedom Elevation Inspection, 0.545 acres, $275,000
- Ashley Investments to Danny Feazell, lot, Jackson at Ashley Plantation, $140,000
- Ashley Investments to Joseph Overbay, lot, $125,000
- Ashley Investments to Samuel K. Camp, lot, Jackson at Ashley Plantation, $0
- Daniel Barnett to Justin Merlie, 5.046 acres, $132,314
- Josie Viar Begley to Isaac Dylan Mack, 0.562 acres, $214,400
- BLHB Holdings to Robert K. Nordman, lot, Runaway Village, $387,000
- Blue Ridge Property Buyers to Sethalan Jay Carter, lot, Brookfield, $399,950
- Penny A. Bostic to Audie Madison Ferris, 3.536 acres, $410,000
- Jeffrey T. Bowles to Adam Garrison, 0.707 acres, $215,000
- Debbie L. Brannan to Johnny B. Eanes, lot, Knollwood, $310,000
- Terri Brockly to Shaylynn M. Grant, 2 lots, Laurel Mountain, $0
- Mashelle Bullington to Jasmin Torres, 1.947 acres, $366,000
- Artie Minnix Burton to Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Transportation, parcel, $0
- Cavalier Developers to Adam B. Snell, lot, Rainbow Forest, $425,000
- Daniel Charlton to Phillip Sutton, 5.669 acres, $536,000
- Chesapeake Wealth Management to Walter Anibal Hernandez Ramos, lot, Highland Manor, $505,000
- Norma H. Clifton to James M. Fralin, 6.74 acres, Woodland Farms, $850,000
- Brenda G. Coffey to Dominique Anne Buring, 2.25 acres, $190,000
- Brenden S. Conley to Jeri Railling, 0.451 acres, $205,000
- Jimmy Dean Cooper to Maurice L. Pendleton, 0.85 acres, $6,000
- Kathy B. Corley, trustee, to Jeffrey Scott Russell, 38.253 acres, $117,500
- Countryside Land Company to Marshall H. Wilde, 1.728 acres, $37,900
- Countryside Land Company to Pearce C. Ray Jr., 1.2620 acres, Glades End, $64,900
- Cox Real Estate Enterprises to Wrangler Properties, 184 poles, $50,000
- Susan H. Craft to Richard Harold, lot, Blue Ridge Heights, $35,000
- Joyce Cross to Liz J. Bruno Camacho de Peredo, lot, Runaway Village, $340,000
- D and T Residential Properties to Charles Douglas Dooley, 1 acre, $269,500
- Kevin James Day to Cheryl J. Day, 27.95 acres, gift deed
- Carol A. Deheer to Charles V. Hoback Jr, lot, Steeplechase, $565,000
- William Dehr to Andrew Woodyard, lot, Ashley Plantation, $875,000
- Tracy A. Dempsey to Justin Lynn English, parcels, gift deed
- John Cary Dillon to Matthew Patterson, 5.454 acres, $375,000
- Hugh Gregory Dixon to Kevin Douglas Dixon, 1.89 acres, $34,312
- DJJG LLC to Kathryn Naff, parcel, $245,000
- Danny Duane Drewry to Pamela Drewry Jones, two parcels, gift deed
- Equity Trustees to Pennymac Loan Services, parcel, $130,200
- Joseph Farris to Krista Hunter, lot, Timber Ridge, $263,000
- Jaime R. Viera Febo to John P. Hattersley Jr., 1.250 acres, $27,500
- Kristy M. Ferguson to Kristy M. Ferguson, lot, Stratford Place, $0
- Donna A. Fleshman to Isaiah C. Reynolds, 1.4185 acres, $295,000
- Fralin & Waldron to Stateson Homes, lot, Daleville Town Center, $85,796
- Fralin & Waldron to Stateson Homes, lot, Daleville Town Center, $85,796
- Fralin & Waldron to Stateson Homes, lot, Daleville Town Center, $85,796
- Fralin & Waldron to Stateson Homes, lot, Daleville Town Center, $85,796
- Paula R. Gallimore to Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Transportation, parcel, $7,000
- Global Methodist Church of Virginia to Adam Robert Moore, 11.47 acres, $60,000
- Robert E. Hambrick to Wanda L. Mengert, 2 parcels, $440,000
- Harry Guy Helmick to Dale Wilkinson, 2.109 acres, $52,500
- Coulter S. Hodges to Don N. Smiley, 1.23 acres, $329,950
- Jacob R. Hodges to Kathleen Blair Snider, 2.507 acres, $0
- Thomas Russell Hoover to Dylan Thomas Andrews, 5.50 acres, $495,000
- William B. Hubbard, trustee, to Douglas Starke Wysor, trustee, 0.93 acres, $91,660
- Anne H. Huffman to Kyle T. Draper, 2.074 acres, $659,500
- Virginia K. Huffman to Matthew D. Thieman, lot, Knollwood, $363,500
- Hungate Fields LLC to Luis A. Richard, lot, The Preserve at Ashley, $752,000
- Lucio F. Inalls to Jason Christian Contessa, 4.38 acres, $150,000
- Jason D. Jones to Jason D. Jones, 2.618 acres, gift deed
- Cynthia Keaton to Cynthia Ross Grant, lot, Daleville Town Center, $0
- Denise R. King to 3G Property Solutions, 0.95 acres, $60,000
- Howard G. Liptrap Jr. to Justin C. Cook, no description, $700
- Henry E. Little Jr. to Daniel Carl Little, three parcels, $0
- Jeffrey M. Lorman to Sydney J. Lorman, lot, Wetherwood, $0
- Lynwood J. McLean to James Franko, lot, Santillane, $526,000
- Kevin W. Mills to RYT LLC, 1 acre, $205,000
- Amanda Katherine Montgomery to Kelsey A. Dillon, 10.889 acres, $80,000
- Brandon Scott Moore to Phillip Broughman, 2 acres, $380,000
- Ashley S. Mora to Laura Ellen Rozengota, lot, Talmage D. Evans Farm, gift deed
- David B. Mowen to Dustin K. Cole, parcel, $799,950
- Matthew Patterson to Isaac J. Worsley, 4.479 acres, $310,000
- Kimberly R. Petty to Fred Brugh Jeter, 7.277 acres, $85,000
- Emily Prillaman to James P. Whorley, 10.986 acres, $286,500
- RAP Holdings to Brandon M. Chocklett, lot, Tinkerview Townhouse, $208,900
- Dorothy B. Reid to Robert Lee Reid, two parcels, gift deed
- Esther W. Reid to Thomas Graham Jr., 3.57 acres, $184,000
- Tonya S. Robertson to Luke Godwin, lot, Santillane, $860,000
- Daniel Rose to Debbie Williams, lot, Brookfield Patio Homes, $340,000
- Patricia A. Sandy to Evergreen Real Estate Group, lot, Hunters Green, $300,000
- Nicole W. Sebastino to Herman West, 11.396 acres, gift deed
- Charles E. Simpson Jr. to Andrew Robert Mioduszewski, lot, Apple Tree Village, $430,000
- David M. Spradlin to Lucas Jordan Combs, three parcels, $625,000
- Stateson Homes to Brianna Nardone, lot, Daleville Town Center, $394,735
- Stateson Homes to Randy L. Lawson, lot, Daleville Town Center, $360,810
- Stateson Homes to Dawn M. Nicely, lot, Daleville Town Center, $672,365
- Stateson Homes to Kenneth V. Starner, co-trustee, lot, Stonegate, $665,315
- Stateson Homes to Joshua Erick Abad Barcayan, lot, Daleville Town Center, $374,630
- Stateson Homes to Amy Bailey, lot, Daleville Town Center, $476,735
- Stateson Homes to Amber Greer, lot, Daleville Town Center, $585,100
- Lettie G. Stickley to William Bryce Connelly, 14.40 acres, $50,000
- Lavern Teresa Stump to Penny Spangle, 1.75 acres, gift deed
- Derek Alan Teaford to Kristin Ann McCoy Teaford, 2.677 acres, gift deed
- The Village at Stonegate to Stateson Homes, lot, Millstone, $108,000
- The Village at Stonegate to Stateson Homes, lot, Millstone, $108,000
- Deborah S. Vastano to David Edward Shively, 42.915 acres, $541,445
- Deborah S. Vastano to David Edward Shively, 0.937 acres, $6,300
- Michael Alan Webb to Michael Alan Webb, 15.227 acres, gift deed
- John H. Westerngren to Joseph Overbay, 6.435 acres, $85,000
- Wiley Homes Inc. to Laura Boone Gray, lot, Duffield Estates, $260,000
- Lloyd B. Wills to Michelle R. Turner, lot, Wynnwood, $330,500
- Ronald A. Young to Ronald A. Young, trustee, lot, Altamira, $0

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Library Buzz

Unearth a Roar: DinoQuest Adventures

Wed, June 24, 10:30 AM, Buchanan
Wed, June 24, 3 PM, Fincastle
**Wed, June 24, 6 PM, Botetourt Family YMCA
Thu, June 25, 10:30 AM, Eagle Rock
Thu, June 25, 3 PM, Blue Ridge

Meet HUGE dinosaurs from DinoQuest Adventures! This high-energy expedition combines STEM, literacy, and larger-than-life dinosaur encounters to spark curiosity in explorers of all ages. Meet Stevie the T. Rex, Zingo the Dilophosaurus, and Dino Rangers to guide you through.

**BONUS EVENT: A special performance at the Botetourt Family YMCA features a lineup of unique and "top-secret" dinosaurs you won't see anywhere else.

Cultivating a County: History of Agriculture in Botetourt

Thu, June 25, 6 PM, Fincastle

Learn how generations of farmers shaped the land, economy, and community through their work and stewardship. Presented by local historian Ed McCoy.

Dino Dig

Thu, June 25, 10:30 AM, Buchanan
Thu, June 25, 2 PM, Fincastle
Fri, June 26, 10:30AM, Eagle Rock
Fri, June 26, 2 PM, Blue Ridge

Think like paleontologists during a mock dig for dinosaur "bones," touch fossils from different geological periods, and learn how fossils are formed. Presented by Virginia Museum of Natural History. Best for ages up to 11. Registration required Register at https://botetourtva.libcal.com or call 540-928-2900..

Escape Room: The Hidden Dig Site

Mon, June 29, 10 AM, 11AM, 2 PM, 3PM, Blue Ridge

Step into the boots of a paleontologist in this high-stakes, 45-minute escape room challenge! Solve puzzles, decode field journals, and search the stacks to uncover a legendary "Golden Fossil" hidden within a secret dig site. Registration required. Register at https://botetourtva.libcal.com or call 540-928-2900.

Let's Make a Fossil

Wed, July 1, 10:30 AM, Fincastle
Wed, July 1, 2 PM, Blue Ridge

Explore what makes a fossil a fossil, make observations to determine what we can learn from fossils, and explore the processes of how fossils form. Make a fossil of your own to keep! Presented by Virginia Museum of Natural History. Best for ages 6-11. Registration required. Register at https://botetourtva.libcal.com or call 540-928-2900.

Learn more about Botetourt Libraries at bocolibraries.info

Longbeards holding Women in the Outdoors event

The Botetourt Longbeards Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation will be hosting a Women in the Outdoors event on June 27. It will be held at 485 Juniper Valley Lane, Troutville.

Stations being offered are archery, .22 rifle, .22 pistol, shotgun and AR-15 rifle. Lunch will be served for all attending. Registration starts at 8:15 and the event starts at 9. Cost for the event is $35per person and includes a one year membership in the NWTF.

To register, go to events.nwtf.org. Any questions, call Richard Pauley at 540-254-2564.

~ Botetourt Longbeards

Letters to the Editor

Thank you to Juneteenth event participants

The Historic Greenfield Advisory Council (HGAC) of Botetourt County wishes to thank all 150 individuals from Botetourt and surrounding areas for their participation in the activities of the 2026 Juneteenth Freedom Jubilee event.

The return of Joe McGill to the county as guest speaker, his experience shared about his Slave Dwelling Project and "Sleeping with the Ancestors" highlighted the weekend's educational activities – Campfire Conversation and Historic Greenfield: Past, Present, and Future. The inaugural 5K "Run to Freedom" Race was enjoyed by approximately 40 runners and walkers; and likewise, the music provided by local singer, Tina Enoch, and the event's closing activity, a barbecue meal.

The two-day celebration and educational opportunity would not have been possible without the support of the following local businesses and individuals: Bank of Botetourt, and an anonymous donor as "Major Sponsors"; First Bank, Roanoke Cement, and Anna and Tom Lawson as "Sponsors"; Alfred (Bud) Preston, Patty and Richard King, Joe and Kathy Journiette, Linda G. Webb, and Danny and Elaine Kyle as "Friends." To those who contributed to the "Donation Jar," we thank you too. All contributions are tax deductible and will help to cover event costs, while remaining funds will be used to help restore Greenfield's historic slave quarters.

We also wish to recognize those in-kind contributors – Kroger, Botetourt YMCA, Botetourt Chamber of Commerce, The Fincastle Herald for publishing weekly stories; WVTF Radio, and other media outlets throughout the region that supported the Juneteenth event. We especially want to thank our history/preservation like-minded friend organization, The Roanoke Valley Preservation Foundation (RVPF) for providing daily promotion through its website and linkage to others.

The Juneteenth 2026 Planning Committee is grateful to Botetourt County for the use of the county's Administration Center where both the Campfire Conversation and the Historic Greenfield: Past, Present, and Future were held. In addition, Brent Watts and Kathy Butterfield of the Botetourt County Communication Dept. cannot be praised enough for their creative publicity.

Last, but not least, we pay tribute to the hard work of the HGAC's Juneteenth 2026 Committee: Roblyn Brand, Beth Pappas, and Wendy Warren (registration, barbecue meal, and a variety of other tasks); Curtis Brown (musical entertainment); Edward Preston (5K race) and Cheryl Sullivan-Willis, (event emcee).

A great public turnout for a worthy cause– thank you!

Historic Greenfield Advisory Council of Botetourt County

Writer expresses disappointment over Cloverdale recycling center closing

It is with great disappointment that we recently heard that the recycling center near Cloverdale Elementary School is going to be closed. My family has relied on this recycling center for years! The center has greatly reduced the amount of trash that we acquire.

Is there no possible way that we can manage to keep this recycle center? Please reconsider, Botetourt County!

Pat Deel
Cloverdale

James River Basketball benefit golf tournament now taking signups

The 15th annual James River Benefit Golf Tournament, put on by the Knights basketball team, will be held on Saturday, Aug. 1 at the Botetourt Golf & Swim Club with a 1:30 p.m. shotgun start. It will be captain's choice with lunch provided in the clubhouse prior to tee-off.

Tournament fees are $375 for a team entry and $150 for a hole sponsorship opportunity. There is also a bundle package that includes both and mulligans for $525. Anyone interested can reach out to coach Ethan Humphries at ehumphries@bcps.k12.va.us.

~ Fincastle Herald staff report

Arrests

June 15-21, 2026

The Botetourt County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests June 15-21:

- Holly I. Martin, 33, of Troutville, possession or distribution of controlled paraphernalia, June 15
- Jennifer L. Sumner, 53, of Eagle Rock, interfere with property rights of another, June 15
- Chirstopher P. Ulrey, 53, of Troutville, possession of Schedule drugs, June 16
- Darrel E. Hall, 44, of Troutville, property damage, June 17
- Thomas E. Pratt, 27, of Fincastle, drunk in public, June 17
- Alonzo D. Banks, 26, of Ferrum, domestic assault, June 18
- Matthew L. Minter, 27, of Gosten, possession of Schedule drugs, June 18
- Emma F. Spence, 22, of New Castle, drunk in public, June 18
- Daniella A. Burnor, 34, of Bedford, driving under the influence, defective equipment, June 20
- Dakota M. Fridley, 32, of Covington, obstruction of justice, June 20
- Jennifer L. Sumner, 53, of Eagle Rock, unauthorized use of motor vehicle, June 21
- Gregory L. Barger, 55, of Roanoke, drunk in public, June 21

League for Animal Protection's Waif of the Week



Effie is a 1-year-old spayed female, up to date on everything and heartworm negative. This girl is a super sweetheart. She loves to play and still has a lot of puppy in her, but she is very affectionate too!

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

THE FINCASTLE HERALD
& Botetourt County News

Established 1866
P.O. Box 127
Fincastle, VA 24090
USPS 190-680 · ISSN # 8750-7323
Phone: (540) 473-2741
Fax: (540) 473-2742
E-mail: fincastle@mainstreetnewspapers.com
Office located at 7 South Roanoke Street, Fincastle
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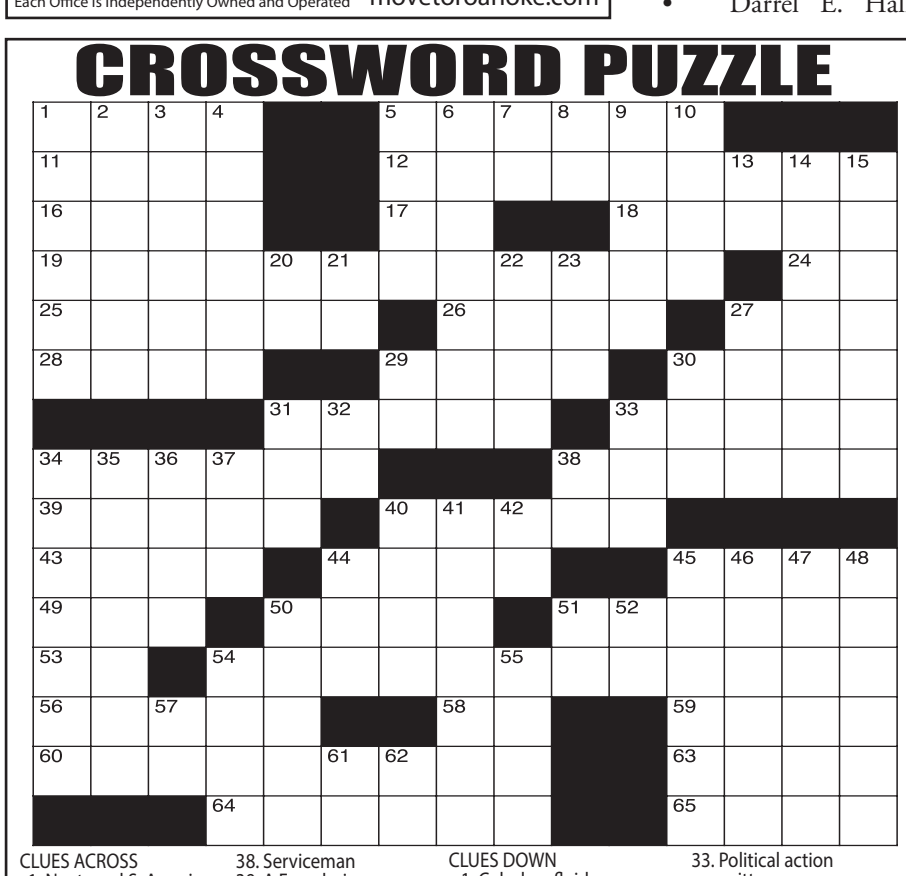
The Fincastle Herald (USPS 160-680) is published weekly for $49 a year in Botetourt County, $55 in adjoining counties and $57 elsewhere by Virginia Media Inc., 122 N. Court Street, Lewisburg, W.Va. 24901. Periodical postage paid at Fincastle, VA. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Fincastle Herald, P.O. Box 127, Fincastle, VA 24090.

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CLUES ACROSS
1. Nocturnal S. American rodent
5. Requesting
11. Give temporarily
12. Excitedness
16. Armed Forces branch
17. Actor Harris
18. Middle Eastern capital
19. Air hostesses
24. Partner to "Pa"
25. Percussion instrument
26. Popular computers
27. Reduce light
28. Asian mountain range
29. Every one of two or more
30. Absence of difficulty
31. A public announcement of a proposed marriage
33. Whittles
34. Impact
38. Serviceman
39. A French river
40. Prehistoric people
43. Messenger ribonucleic acid
44. __ Clapton, musician
45. Ancient Greek sophist
49. Largest English dictionary (abbr.)
50. Singer Hansard
51. A way to disentangle
53. Atomic #93
54. Manifesting approval
56. Indigo bush
58. Former AL MVP Vaughn
59. Off-Broadway theater award
60. Fencers
63. Small Eurasian deer (pl.)
64. Relating to passerine birds
65. Arrange systematically

CLUES DOWN
1. Colorless fluid
2. Of a main artery
3. Photographer's tool
4. Blues Traveler hit "But __"
5. Grew older
6. Not the leader
7. __ Lang (country singer)
8. A driver's license is one
9. Nests of pheasants
10. Wildebeests
13. Equal to one quintillion bytes
14. Japanese three-stringed lute
15. Type of cat
20. It cools your home
21. The ancient Egyptian sun god
22. Pouches
23. German trigraph
27. Form of Persian
29. Measurement unit
30. Body part
31. Bridge building degree
32. Indicates position
33. Political action committee
34. Snack food
35. Front part of a quadruped
36. Locate
37. Pitching statistic
38. __, myself and I
40. City in Utah
41. They play in the trenches
42. "Can't Touch This" rapper __ Hammer
44. Type of tree
45. Performers
46. Slang for mistake
47. More open
48. Most slick
50. Needles
51. University of Dayton
52. Atomic #11
54. Large fish of the mackerel family
55. Not any
57. __ and behold
61. Popular sports highlight show (abbr.)
62. "The Great Lakes State"

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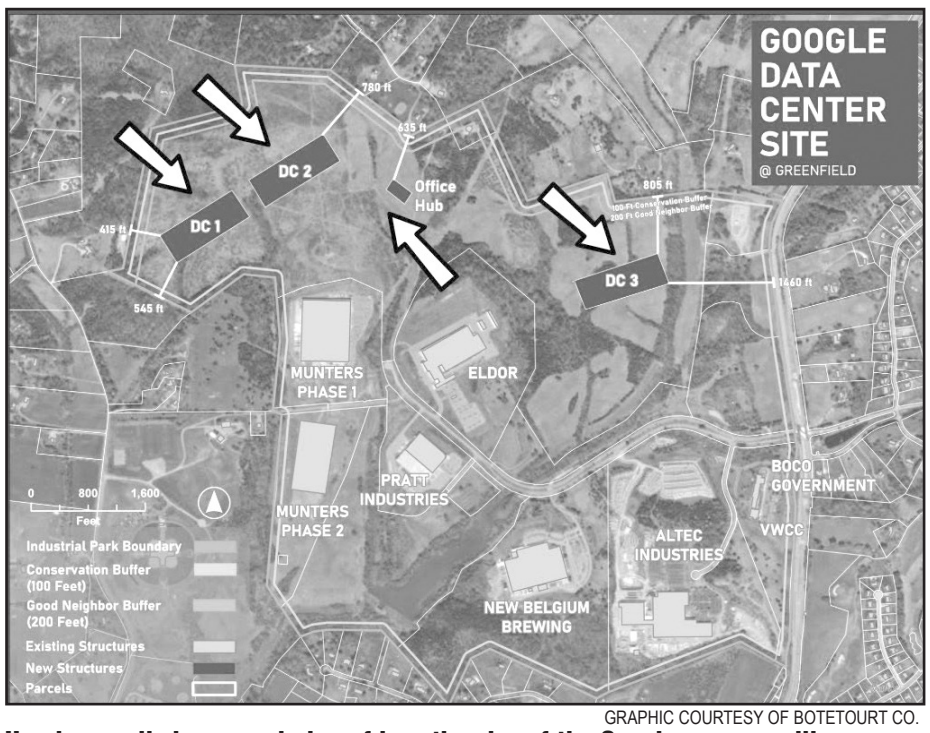
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See **Answers**, page 10

Open House

from page 1



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF BOTETOURT CO.

Here's a preliminary rendering of how the size of the Google campus will compare to the other facilities on the neighboring Greenfield Center properties.



PHOTO BY MATT DE SIMONE

A long line soon formed at Lord Botetourt once doors were open for last week's Google open house.

topics that have become central to public debate over the past year, including water usage, electrical infrastructure, employment projections, and long-term planning.

Many of those issues have also been the focus of concerns raised by residents and organized opposition groups as public discussion surrounding the proposed data center has grown.

Water usage emerged as one of the most frequently discussed topics during the event.

When asked what residents most misunderstand about the project's projected water use, a Google representative said there is a difference between water allocation and anticipated usage.

"Think of going on a road trip. You leave the house, and you fill up your car with gas all the way to the top, even if you're only going a fraction of what your car can go," the representative said.

The representative said Google seeks enough water allocation to meet the maximum level of potential demand, even though actual usage may be lower.

"We need to make sure that we have enough for the maximum level use," the representative said. "If we don't use it, it gets returned back into be available for everybody else to use."

Google representatives also addressed questions regarding electrical infrastructure and energy demand. Information displayed at the event stated that power for the proposed campus would be delivered through the regional electric grid and that Google would fund infrastructure improvements associated with serving the facility.

According to materials presented during the open house, large energy users are required to pay costs associated with infrastructure upgrades needed to support additional demand. Representatives said those improvements can help support reliability within the system.

Economic development and employment opportunities were also highlighted throughout the event.

Google representatives said Botetourt County has already received approximately $18 million related to the project.

"I think what we've already seen, the county's already received $18 million in funding from the project, from which they've bought fire trucks, ambulances– all the good stuff that everybody wants in their community," the representative said.

Looking ahead, company officials said residents should evaluate the project's success through employment and tax revenue.

"Five years after the project is operational, we should have a pretty solid headcount," the representative said.

Based on similar projects elsewhere in the country, Google representatives said comparable facilities employ about 400 people.

"These are high-paying jobs, on average, $86,000, $100,000 per year," the representative said. "Many of them much higher."

Outside the school, members of the Southwest Virginia Data Center Transparency Alliance and other opponents gathered along U.S. 220 carrying signs expressing concerns about water resources, taxation, growth, and the overall impact of data centers on the community. The demonstration remained peaceful throughout the evening as participants greeted passing motorists and encouraged residents to learn more about the proposal.

Google representatives said the project remains in the design and engineering phase and added that plans displayed during the open house remain preliminary.

"Everything we see here tonight is preliminary and subject to change," the representative said.

The company said future updates will be posted through the project's website as planning and engineering work continues.

Concert

from page 2

Keith Urban and Cody Johnson.

The group has also performed at M&T Bank Stadium for Baltimore Ravens events and has appeared on local radio and iHeartRadio programming. With more than 80 shows annually, the band has become a fixture on the regional country music circuit.

Friday's concert will benefit Botetourt-area nonprofit organizations and feature food vendors including Chick-fil-A Bonsack and The Tot Box, along with The Local Lemon, Grandpa Ike's Donuts and The Rad Shack. Free children's activities will also be available.

Gates open at 6 p.m. Friday, and admission is $10 at the gate. Children 12 and younger will be admitted free. Organizers encourage attendees to bring lawn chairs or blankets for seating. Outside food and beverages are not permitted.

For more information about upcoming concerts and events, visit Daleville Town Center's social media channels.

~ Fincastle Herald staff report

Home Grown

from page 2

Botetourt County Historical Society, The Fincastle Herald, and local residents further documents the county's agricultural past.

The exhibit will remain on display through the end of 2026. Additional programs and special events are planned throughout the year.

For more information, contact the Botetourt County Historical Society at 540-473-0148.

~ Fincastle Herald staff report

SALEM RIDGEYAKS
VS MYRTLE BEACH PELICANS
JUNE 24th 6:35 PM
JUNE 25th 6:35 PM
Bark in the Park
JUNE 26th 6:35 PM
Hellbenders Night: Celebrating Southwest Virginia Wildlife
JUNE 27th 6:35 PM ZOOperstars!
JUNE 28th 4:05 PM

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Botetourt Worship Directory

ANGLICAN

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

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

New Beginnings Assembly of God, 1317 Narrow Passage Rd., 43 North. Sunday School, 10:00a.m.; Worship, 11a.m.; Wednesday Prayer & Bible Study, 6:00p.m., Pastor Steve Tremblay, email: pastorstevetremblay@gmail.com. Everyone welcome.

Troutville Assembly of God, 118 Conner Lane, P.O. Box 728, Troutville,VA 24175, Pastor Dennis Carroll, 540-960-1224, Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 a.m., Children's Church 11:00 a.m., Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 p.m., Everyone welcome.

INDEPENDENT BAPTIST

Crossroads Baptist Church - 1128 Wheatland Rd., Buchanan, Pastor Elmer Clemons, (540) 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, Phone; 540-473-2325, Email: jwr56fbc@yahoo.com, Church website: fincastlefaith.com, Services: 10 A.M. Bible Expositions, 11 A.M. Worship & Children's Church, 7 P.M. Wednesday Bible Study & Prayer, Messages at www.youtube.com/@faithfbaptistchurch9219. We look forward to meeting you.

Lapsleys Run Baptist Church- 608 Zion Hill Road, Fincastle. 540-556-3504. Worship: 2nd & 4th Sundays at 11:00a.m.

New Hope Baptist Church– 2315 Blue Ridge Blvd. (US 460), 977-6610, Pastor David McNeill; Sunday School, 9:45AM; Worship, 10:45AM, 7PM; Wed., Bible Study 7PM; Kings Kids, 7PM; Daycare and Preschool, Mon-Fri. 6:30AM-6PM.

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

SOUTHERN BAPTIST

Bonsack Baptist Church - 4845 Cloverdale Rd. (Alt. 220) Dr. Chris Cadenhead, 977-5701, Sunday School, 8:30a.m. and 11a.m.; Worship 9:45a.m.; Wed. Bible study, 6 p.m.

Buchanan Baptist Church – 19730 Main Street, Buchanan, Sunday Bible Study for all ages 9:45 a.m.; Worship at 11 a.m. Wednesday Fellowship Meal at 6 p.m. followed by Bible Study and activities for all ages. Facebook - Buchanan Baptist Church; Web Site - buchananbaptist.com; Phone - 254-2253, Minister of Music - Stephen Harris

Daleville Baptist Church– Corner of Valley Rd. and Orchard Dr., 992-1570; Senior Pastor Wes Belcher; Sunday School 9:15 AM, Worship 10:30 AM; Wednesday: Prayer & Bible Study - 6:30 PM, Youth - 6:30 PM

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

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

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

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

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

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

Troutville Baptist Church –P.O. Box 309, Troutville, VA 24175; 992-1026, Rev. Carol Johnston. Sunday School 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.-May), Family Dinner, 6 p.m., Bible study, 6:45 p.m. Preschool, after-school care & summer day camp for preschool and elementary age children. Patrick Starkey, Pastor; Shawna Burkhart, preschool director.

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

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

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

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

ECKANKAR

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

EPISCOPAL

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

LUTHERAN

Our Savior Evangelical Lutheran Church (WELS) – 9068 Cloverdale Road, Troutville, VA; Paul Workentine, Pastor; Worship Sunday at 10:00 AM. Sunday School at 11:30 AM. Info and calendar at oslroanoke.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 – ***We Present Christ*** – 45 Woodland Rd. Troutville, VA. Corner of Blacksburg/Country Club Rds., 3.5 miles W. of Fincastle. 540-632-1515. Pastor: Caleb Lythgoe. 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.

Avoid the Mistakes

Read Judges 7:1 through 8:35

Does the following scenario point to any common details in people's lives?

Do people often pray hard and study Scripture in order to seek God's provision when struggling financially? Do these same people attend church weekly and ask other believers to pray for their needs. As their accounts increase to a comfortable amount, do they begin getting an early start on their workdays to put in more hours at the office. Do they cut back on prayer and Bible study.

Gideon made the gold into an ephod, which he placed in Ophrah, his town. All Israel prostituted themselves by worshiping it there, and it became a snare to Gideon and his family (Judges 8:27).

Gideon, as a young and inexperienced warrior, was called by God to engage a vast invading army. Gideon's life had been tough, and his circumstances forced him to draw close to God. But, with the enemy's defeat and the rich spoils of the battle, Gideon misused his blessing.

Prayer Suggestion: When you enjoy a season of success, pray even harder that God will keep you in a deep relationship with himself.

Quicklook: Judges 8:22–27

OBITUARIES

Cox, Rose Simmons Lipes

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Rose Marie Simmons Lipes Cox, 87, of Buchanan, on June 19, 2026.



Rose was a devoted mother, wife, sister, cherished grandmother and great-grandmother. Rose was born on August 23, 1938 in Kimball, W.Va., to Vern Odell "Bane" Simmons and Annie Sulic Simmons.

Rose is survived by her daughter, Lori Lipes East (Tommy); her grandchildren, Karlyn East (Chelsea), Anna Watts (Josh) and Eliza East; great-grandchildren, Brooks Thomas East and Emma Rose Watts; brother, Richard Simmons (Anita); sisters-in-law, Phyllis Simmons and Brenda Fowler; along with numerous cousins, nieces, nephews, extended family members and cherished friends whom she loved dearly. She was preceded in death by her mother, Annie Simmons; father, Vern Odell "Bane" Simmons; her husbands, Harold Lipes and Glenn Cox; brothers Curtis (Phyllis), Sherman (Dot), and Butch (Brenda).

Rose Marie worked at Groendyk Manufacturing in Buchanan before retiring after 32 years of service. She then worked at Botetourt Correctional Center-State Prison Camp 25 in Troutville. Rose was a treasured friend whose kindness, strength and unwavering love touched everyone that knew her. Rose dedicated her life to serving others in her community. She devoted more than 60 years of volunteer service to the Buchanan Community Carnival. She generously volunteered at Solomon's Closet and the Buchanan Public Library. As a faithful member of Buchanan Baptist Church, Rose Marie served countless hours in ministry and fellowship. Her faith was the cornerstone of her life, and she shared it through her compassion, dedication, and service to others.

Lori and family would like to extend their heartfelt gratitude to all of the caregivers and therapists at Friendship Manor for the love, care, and compassion they provided, especially the staff on Unit 1. A special thank you is extended to Dr. Madhoun– we truly do not know what we would have done without your kindness, guidance and support. The family would also like to thank the Gentiva Hospice team for the compassionate care and services they provided during this difficult time.

Visitation was held on Tuesday, June 23 from 1-3 p.m. at Botetourt Funeral Home in Buchanan. Funeral services followed at 3 p.m. Rose Marie will be deeply missed and forever remembered. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in Rose's name to Solomon's Mission in Buchanan or to Buchanan Baptist Church. Online condolences may be made at www.botetourtfh.com.

Deacon, Barry Lynn

Barry Lynn Deacon, 76, of Eagle Rock, passed peacefully into his Savior's arms Friday, June 19, 2026.



He was preceded in death by his parents, Kenneth and Pauline Deacon; uncles, Everette, Bruce, Scott, Carlisle, Clarence, Curtis, Bernard and Boliver Deacon.

Left to cherish his memory are his wife of 16 years, Carolyn B. "Susie" Deacon; son and daughter-in-law, Justin and Tiffany Deacon; grandchildren, Brayden and Sawyer; sister and brother-in-law, Stephanie and Butch Ponton; nieces and nephews, Heather and Drake Breeden, Ashley and Dewayne Mundy; uncle, Boyd "BD" Deacon; numerous cousins and great-nephews, and a great-niece.

Barry grew up in Buchanan and was a graduate of James River High School. After high school he attended the Nashville Auto Diesel College and went on to become a hydraulic mechanic. He worked for Carter Machinery for several years and then spent the second half of his professional career at AEP in Salem. He retired from AEP after several years of service but he never really stopped working. You could find Barry mowing grass several days a week and always working on his own vehicles or piddling with something. His prized possession was his 2001 cherry red Ford F150 Lightning.

Among his greatest joys, Barry enjoyed coaching and watching his son in youth sports. During their free time they spent countless weekends fishing and camping at Camp Kilowatt on Smith Mountain Lake. On Sundays you could find him glued to the NASCAR race where he rooted for Ford racing teams. He also loved football and his favorite team the Dallas Cowboys. As the years went by he then became a proud grandpa where he found himself back on the ball fields watching them play.

Visitation will be held from 11 a.m.-12 p.m. with services at 12 p.m. on Friday, June 26, 2026 at the Buchanan Chapel of Botetourt Funeral Home. Online condolences may be made at www.botetourtfh.com.

Young, Rev. Ronald W., Sr.

June 7, 1934 – June 17, 2026

The Reverend Ronald W. Young Sr. went home to be with the Lord from his residence on Wednesday, June 17, 2026. He was born in Roanoke on June 7, 1934, to Ivan R. and Lera Lancaster Young.

Ronald is survived by his wife of 71 years, Mary Sue Brammer Young; his four children, Rhonda Young, Renee Griffin (Danny), the Rev. Ron Young Jr. (Kathy), and Robert Young; eight grandchildren; 23 great-grandchildren; three great-great-grandchildren; his sister, Signe Marechal (Doug); and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Ivan and Lera Young, and his brother, Bev Young.

Ronald was the founding Pastor of Faith Baptist Church in Fincastle and First Baptist Church of New Castle. He retired as Pastor of Plantation Road Baptist Church in Roanoke in 2000.

As an avid reader, he pursued history, especially church history, researching family ancestry, and "poking" around old cemeteries. Ronald loved to teach, preach and discuss the Word of God to the Glory of Jesus Christ.

The family will receive visitors from 5-8:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 25, 2026, at Oakey's North Chapel. His funeral service will be conducted at 11 a.m. on Friday, June 26, at Plantation Road Baptist Church. Burial will follow in Sherwood Memorial Park. Online condolences may be shared with his family by visiting www.Oakeys.com. Arrangements entrusted to Oakey's North Chapel, Roanoke, 540-362-1237.

CHURCH NEWS

Fincastle UMC offering free dinner

Everyone is welcome to the free Terrific Tuesdays Church and Community Dinner at Fincastle United Methodist Church's Family Life Center, at 137 S. Church Street, on Tuesday, June 30. Dinner will be served from 5:30-7 p.m.

Solomon's Mission pausing donations; open July 4

Solomon's Mission will not be receiving donations July 2-5, and will resume accepting donations on July 6. The Thrift Store will be open regular hours on Saturday, July 4. Solomon's Mission is on Lowe Street in Buchanan.

Lapsleys Run Homecoming July 12

Lapsleys Run Baptist Church will celebrate the annual Homecoming Day on Sunday, July 12. The morning service will begin at 11 a.m. The speaker will be Brother Edgar Freeman.

Lunch will be served following the morning service.

The afternoon service will begin at 2 p.m. Guests will be the Rev. Preston Tyler and the choir and congregation of Hill Street Baptist Church of Roanoke.

Regular services are held on the second and fourth Sundays of each month at 11 a.m. Everyone is invited to attend these and all services at Lapsleys Run Baptist Church, 608 Zion Hill Road, Fincastle.

Cloverdale Thrift Store ready for summer

The Thrift Store at Cloverdale Church of the Brethren has bathing suits for $1 and $2, and sandals and shorts for $1. The shop needs girls' clothes, sizes 2T to 6X.

Donations are welcome. The Thrift Store is open 9 a.m.-12 p.m. on Saturdays.

Gospel Harmony Boys to appear at Pleasant Hill Baptist Church

The Gospel Harmony Boys, West Virginia's leading gospel artists and one of America's most distinctive gospel music groups, will be in concert at Pleasant Hill Baptist Church on Sunday, June 28, at 11 a.m. The church is located at 4930 Country Club Road, Troutville.

The Gospel Harmony Boys have presented concerts in churches, auditoriums, amphitheaters, fairs, and festivals all across the United States and Canada. They will present a unique program designed to entertain and inspire.

The folks at Pleasant Hill Baptist are excited to invite everyone to this special Sunday morning service. This is a free concert. A love offering will be received.

~ Pleasant Hill Baptist Church



PHOTO COURTESY OF PLEASANT HILL BAPTIST CHURCH

Carnival from page 1

throughout the event, with performances by Thunder Ridge on June 25, Blue Connection on June 26, Wild Honey on June 27, Fab Four on June 29, Midnite Blue on June 30, American Honey on July 1, The Frequency on July 2, and Cimmaron on both July 3 and July 4.

The annual carnival has become a hallmark of summer in Buchanan, drawing residents and visitors from throughout Botetourt County and beyond. For many families, the event serves as a longstanding tradition and an opportunity to gather with friends and neighbors while celebrating the community spirit that has defined the carnival for more than seven decades.

The festivities will conclude with fireworks displays at 10 p.m. on both July 3 and July 4, providing a patriotic finale to the Independence Day holiday weekend.

Ride wristbands will be available for purchase on-site throughout the event. Prices are $30 per person June 25-27, $20 per person June 29-30, and $30 per person July 1-4. On-site wristband sales will end one hour before each evening session concludes.

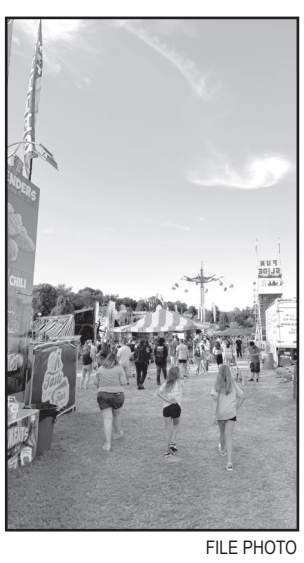
Organizers encourage residents to bring the whole family and enjoy one of Buchanan's longest-running community traditions.

Buchanan Community Carnival Musical Lineup

- June 25
  Thunder Ridge
- June 26
  Blue Connection
- June 27
  Wild Honey
- June 29
  Fab Four
- June 30
  Midnite Blue
- July 1
  American Honey
- July 2
  The Frequency
- July 3
  Cimmaron
- July 4
  Cimmaron

The carnival grounds will be open nightly from 6 to 10:30 p.m. June 25 through July 4, except for Sunday, June 28.

~ Fincastle Herald staff report



FILE PHOTO

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Legals - Botetourt County

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF PROPERTY 8415 Flag Lane, Roanoke, VA 24019 Tax Map No. 106-191, Parcel ID 30488

In execution of a Deed of Trust dated November 13, 2020, in the principal amount of $115,548.92, recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Botetourt County, Virginia, of record as Instrument Number 200005614, Woods Rogers Vandeventer Black PLC, Substitute Trustee, will offer for sale at public auction outside the front entrance of the Public Safety Building, Courthouse of Botetourt County Circuit Court, 205 North Roanoke Street, Fincastle, VA 24090, on July 2, 2026 at 12:00 noon , the property described in said Deed of Trust lying in Botetourt County, Virginia, and more particularly described as follows:-

Beginning at the intersection of the extreme southern corner of Tax Parcel No. 106-193, the western corner of Tax Parcel No. 106-194, and the extreme northern corner of the property herein conveyed thence proceeding S. 47 degs. 15' 00" E. 234.50 feet to a point; thence S. 36 degs. 54' 23" W. 105.89 feet to a point; thence N. 47 degs. 15' 00" W. 245.21 feet to a point; thence N. 42 degs. 42' 42" E. 105.34 feet to the place of BEGINNING and containing 0.5801 acres, as more fully shown on "Resurvey for Anthony W. Smith Showing Tax No. 106-191 located along Flag Lane", dated November 3, 2019, a copy of which is recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Botetourt County, Virginia, with the Deed at Instrument No. 200003069, a copy of which is incorporated herein by reference hereto.

TOGETHER WITH a fifteen (15) foot non-exclusive, appurtenant, right of way over Flag Lane as more fully shown on the aforesaid plat of survey.

TERMS: Cash - Bidder's deposit of ten percent (10%) of the sales price by cashier's or certified check may be required. Balance of purchase price shall be due and payable not later than ten (10) days after sale.

WOODS ROGERS VANDEVENTER BLACK PLC, Substitute Trustee

For Information Contact:
Woods Rogers Vandeventer Black PLC, P.O. Box 14125, Roanoke, VA 24038-4125, Telephone: 540-983-7729

Legals - City of Salem

Order of Publication

Commonwealth of Virginia
VA Code§§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316,-317,20-104
Case No.**CL26-1091**
VIRGINIA; IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF ROANOKE
COUNTY OF ROANOKE, VIRGINIA, Complainant,
vs.
CHARLIE L. PHELPS, a/k/a CHARLES L. PHELPS, *et al* Respondents.
TO; THE RESPONDENTS;
The object of this suit is to: enforce the lien for taxes assessed by the County of Roanoke, Virginia against certain real property designated as Tax Map Parcel No. 087.11-03-25.00-0000.
An affidavit having been made and filed that diligence has been used without effect to ascertain the location of Charlie L. Phelps, a/k/a Charles L. Phelps and that there are or may be persons with an interest in the subject property, including heirs, devisees, and successors in title of Charlie L. Phelps, a/k/a Charles L. Phelps, who may be deceased, whose names and addresses are unknown, it is hereby ORDERED that each of the parties appear on or before the August 1, 2026, and do whatever is necessary to protect their interests in said land.
IT is further ORDERED, pursuant to Va. Code Ann.§8.01-321, 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 County of Roanoke, and that a copy be posted at the front door of the Courthouse in county of Roanoke, Virginia.
Entered this 9th day of June, 2026.
Honorable James R. Swanson, Judge

I ask for this:
Amy H. Geddes, Esquire
(VSB #38650)
OPN Law
3140 Chaparral Drive, Suite 200-C
Roanoke Va 24018
Phone: (540)725-8181
Fax: (540) 772-0126
E-mail:
ageddes@opnlaw.com
Counsel for Complainant

THE CLASSIFIEDS- Where the Deals Are!

Legals - City of Salem

Order of Publication

Commonwealth of Virginia
VA Code§§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316,-317,20-104
Case No.CL26-1177
VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF ROANOKE, VIRGINIA, Complainant,
v.
RUBY C. BONHAM, *et.al*, Respondents.
The object of this suit is to: enforce the lien for taxes assessed by the County of Roanoke, Virginia against certain real property designated as Tax Map Parcel No.064.01-03-17.00-0000.
An affidavit having been made and filed that diligence has been used without effect to ascertain the location of Ruby C. Bonham and that there are or may be persons with an interest in the subject property, including heirs, devisees, and successors in title of Ruby C. Bonham, who may be deceased, whose names and addresses are unknown, it is hereby ORDERED that each of the parties appear on or before the August 14, 2026, and do whatever is necessary to protect their interests in said land.
It is further ORDERED, pursuant to Va. Code Ann.§8.01-321, 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 County of Roanoke, and that a copy be posted at the front door of the Courthouse in County of Roanoke, Virginia.
Entered this 18th day of June, 2026.
Honorable James R. Swanson, Judge
I ask for this:
Amy H. Geddes, Esquire
VSB#38650
OPN Law
3140 Chaparral Drive, Suite 200-C
Roanoke Virginia 24018
Phone: (540)725-8181
Fax: (540)772-0126
Email:
ageddes@opnlaw.com
Counsel for Complainant

Legals - Montgomery County

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN,

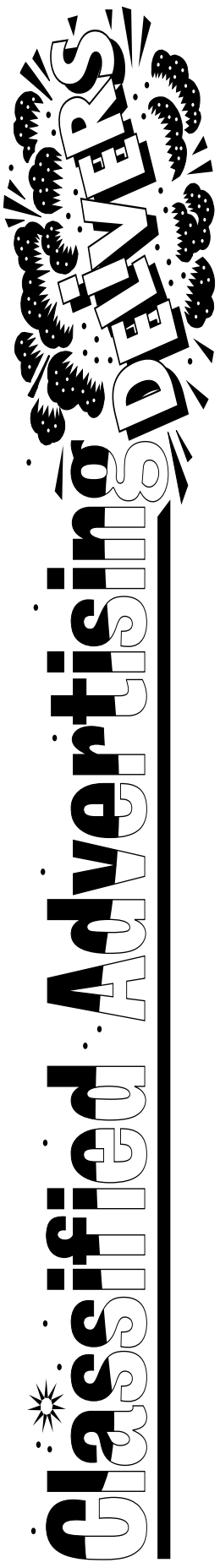
By the Board of Supervisors of the County of Montgomery, Virginia that the Board of Supervisors hereby schedules a public hearing for Monday, July 13, 2026 at 7:15 pm or as soon thereafter, at the Montgomery County Government Center, 755 Roanoke Street, Christiansburg, Virginia, in order to receive citizen comments on the Board of Supervisors intent to adopt a resolution amending the FY 2026-2027 Budget by more than one percent of the total expenditures shown in the currently adopted budget by adding carryover funding appropriated in FY 26 for county ARPA funds, donations and grant funds, encumbrances, earmarked and one-time county projects, county capital funds balances and encumbrances that were not completed at year end, and school capital balances and encumbrances, not to exceed $79 million.
BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Angela M. Hill
County Administrator

Legals - Montgomery County

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Christiansburg Town Council will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, July 14, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. 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 street vacation request by GAD Management Inc. for the vacation of the existing temporary cul-de-sac located on the east side of the property located at 425 Industrial Drive NE. The adjoining property is identified as Tax Parcel 500-((A))-5H (Parcel ID 032660).
The temporary cul-de-sac is shown on a plat recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Montgomery County, Virginia, as Instrument No. 2005008100.
Information on the preceding ordinance, the Town's Zoning Map, Zoning Ordinance, and Future Land Use Map may be viewed in the Planning Department, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073-3029 during normal office hours of 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.
Contact the Planning Department by phone at (540) 382-6120 ext. 1902 or by email at planning@christiansburg.org with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations.
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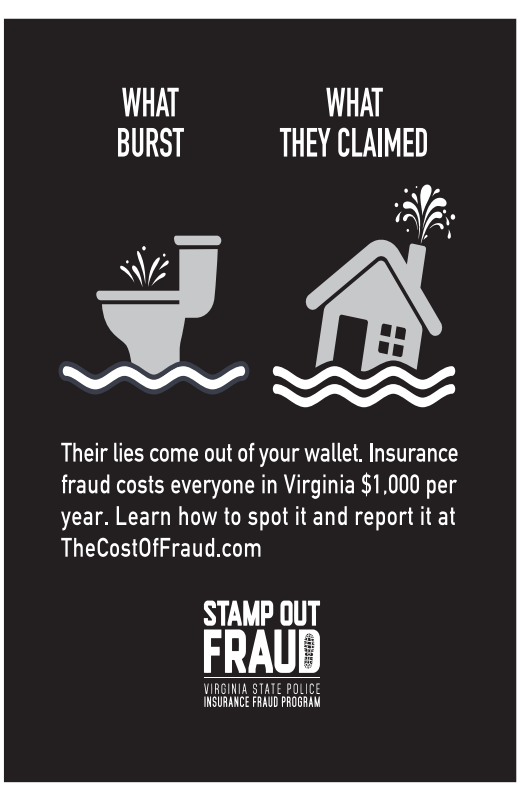
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DIVORCE-Uncontested, $525.00 + $86.00 court cost. WILLS-$295.00. No court appearance. Estimated completion time twenty-one days. Hilton Oliver, Attorney (Facebook). 757-490-0126. Se Habla Espanol. BBB Member. https://hiltonoliverattorneyva.com

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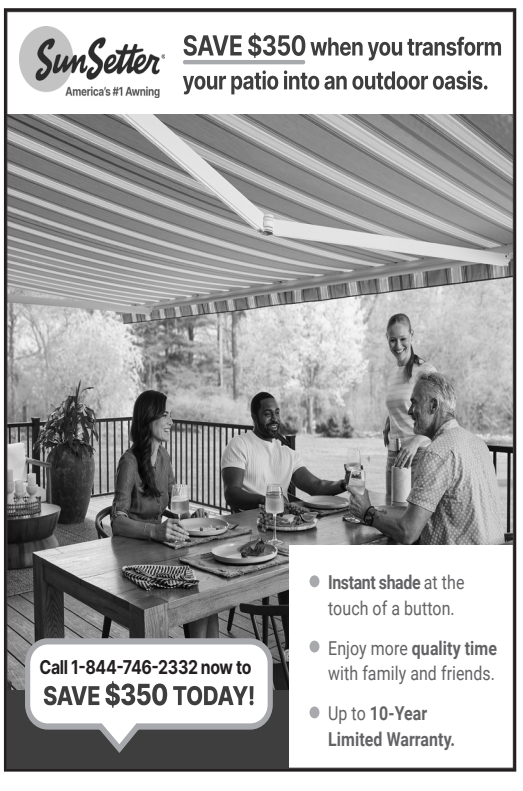
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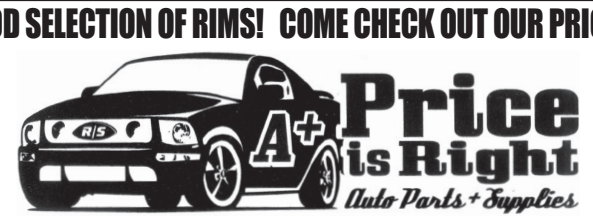
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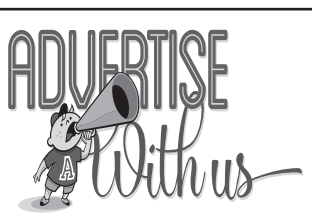
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Cloverdale Elementary recycling drop-off site to close July 1

Residents who use the recycling drop-off location at Cloverdale Elementary School will need to make alternative arrangements beginning July 1, when the site permanently closes to the public.

Botetourt County officials recently announced the closure as part of an ongoing transition of recycling operations to the staffed GFL Convenience Center in Daleville. The county said the move is intended to improve recycling services while addressing long-standing problems associated with the unstaffed drop-off site.

According to a county statement made last week, the Cloverdale Elementary recycling location has experienced years of illegal dumping despite management and enforcement efforts. Officials said contamination from improperly disposed materials has frequently rendered recyclables unusable, increasing costs, and undermining the site's purpose.

"The closure aligns with the county's plan of transitioning recycling operations to the dedicated GFL Convenience Center at 2045 Lee Highway in Cloverdale," county officials said in last week's statement. "The GFL Convenience Center was established in 2022 to provide residents with a full-service and staffed location for recycling and waste disposal services, while reducing the environmental and operational challenges associated with unstaffed drop-off sites."

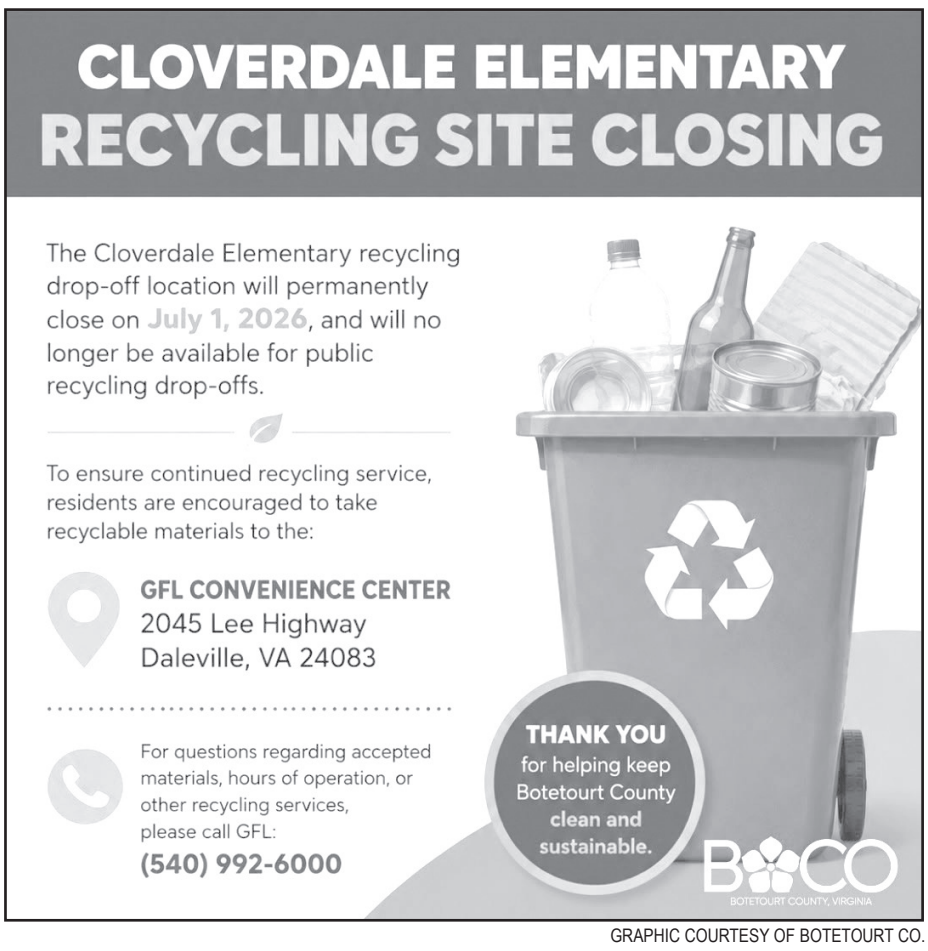
Residents who currently use the Cloverdale Elementary site are encouraged to take advantage of curbside recycling services or bring recyclable materials to the GFL Convenience Center.

County officials said the staffed facility offers a more controlled environment for recycling and waste disposal, helping ensure materials are properly handled and reducing contamination issues.

For information about accepted materials, curbside recycling options, and other waste and recycling services, residents can visit botetourtva.gov/recycling or contact GFL Environmental at 540-992-6000, Ext. 3.

County leaders thanked residents for their continued participation in local recycling efforts and their commitment to keeping Botetourt County clean and sustainable.

~ Fincastle Herald staff report



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF BOTETOURT CO.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NANCY WADDELL

Tuesday Morning Club members at the June meeting were (from left): front, Cheryl Wood, Dot Hillard, Carolyn Bayne, Dorothy Brogan, Anne Christensen, Linda Harris, Nancy Waddell, and Priscilla Hedrick; back, Sheryl Meador, Faye Kessler, Ruby Taylor, Gale Webb, Pam Obenchain, Jill Difede, and Rita Bruffey.

Tuesday Morning Club supports Ronald McDonald House

The Tuesday Morning Club met on June 9 at Pleasant Hill Baptist Church with 15 members present. Ruby Taylor called the meeting to order. Priscilla Hedrick was hostess and had devotions. Anne Christensen won the hostess gift. Nancy Waddell read the minutes and Faye Kessler gave the treasurer's report.

The June project was donations to Ronald McDonald House, and the club thanks Troutville Church of Brethren for contributions to the project. The next project will be donations to Solomon's Mission for its Back-to-School Day in July. Anne Christensen and Ruby Taylor won game prizes. The club meets second Tuesday each month at the church and all are welcome.

~Submitted Nancy Waddell

Mountain Gateway Community College to host 'Roadrunner Readiness Open House' events for high school graduates

Mountain Gateway Community College (MGCC) invites recent high school graduates to jumpstart their college experience by attending the Roadrunner Readiness Open House. These events are specifically designed for both students already enrolled for the Fall term and prospective students who have not yet registered but are interested in exploring their options.

The open houses will take place from 3-6:30 p.m. on two consecutive days at the following specific campus locations:

• Monday, June 29: The MGCC Library on the Clifton Forge Campus, 1000 College Drive, Clifton Forge

• Tuesday, June 30: The Joe Wilson Workforce Center at the Rockbridge Regional Center in Buena Vista, 2019 Forest Avenue, Buena Vista

The Roadrunner Readiness Open Houses serve as a one-stop shop to help students smoothly transition into higher education. Attendees will have the chance to take guided campus tours, see classrooms and labs firsthand, and meet with academic advisors to ask questions and discuss their goals.

MGCC staff will also be on-site to provide hands-on assistance with financial aid applications, guiding families through the process and highlighting available scholarships and grants. For students ready to take the next step, advisors will help them map out class schedules and register for Fall courses on the spot.

No formal RSVP is required to attend. Graduates and their families are welcome to drop in at any point during event hours. For more information regarding the Roadrunner Readiness Open Houses, call the college directly at 540-863-2820.

~ Mountain Gateway Community College

Morales from page 1

and camping.

"I ended up falling in love with it," Morales recalled.

A summer job as a zip-line guide in Colorado further cemented his interest. He discovered that outdoor recreation had a unique ability to bring people together regardless of age or background.

"What I love about recreation and what I love about play is that it kind of puts everybody on an equal field," Morales said. "People go out and enjoy something together, they have a shared experience, and they come out of it stronger."

One of the biggest surprises after entering public-sector recreation was learning how often projects change course.

"Sometimes there's a lot of energy toward a project and it happens super-fast," Morales said. "Sometimes there's a lot of energy and then something changes, and that project gets put on hold for two years."

He compared the process to storing leftovers.

"I have things on my plate, it gets put in Tupperware, it gets stuck in the fridge or the freezer, and then I might pull it out in a week. I might pull it out in a year," Morales said. "There's just a lot of projects that are constantly living over my head."

A typical day for Morales and his staff often revolves around numbers.

Morales oversees a departmental budget of roughly $1 million and spends much of his time looking for ways to stretch those dollars further.

"The way I explain it to people is I'm constantly looking for a 10 percent discount on everything," he said.

That philosophy extends throughout the department. Morales encourages staff to focus not only on cost, but also on long-term value and durability when making purchases.

Beyond budgeting, he fields calls from residents, community groups, and local leaders seeking advice or assistance with recreation-related projects.

"I joke around that I don't really have any power, but I do have some influence," Morales said with a laugh.

One misconception he frequently encounters is the belief that Parks and Recreation oversees every athletic field, playground, and recreational facility in the county.

In reality, school facilities fall under the school division, while parks in incorporated towns are managed by those local governments.

"People think that every playground at a school, every athletic facility at a school, that I have control over those things," Morales explained. "Really, I don't."

Another misconception is that his job consists primarily of enjoying outdoor activities.

"People think that I'm just outside hiking all the time or biking all the time," he said. "But a lot of my job is the logistical side of things so that other people can play without having to think too much about the logistical side of things."

Behind every new amenity, event, or facility improvement are months, and sometimes years, of planning. Morales pointed to projects such as athletic field lighting, trail improvements, and boat ramp upgrades as examples that require coordination among multiple agencies, contractors, and funding sources.



PHOTO BY MATT DE SIMONE

Morales, third from left, stands with Parks & Rec staff and members of the Botetourt community before cutting the ribbon on the resurfaced pickleball courts at Blue Ridge Park in 2025.

Even simple details can require considerable thought.

"Sometimes we spend hours contemplating a sentence," Morales noted. "What will this sign say? How do we word something so everybody can enjoy the park the best that they can?"

One of the department's biggest challenges is balancing recreational opportunities across a county that stretches from Cloverdale to Eagle Rock and Buchanan.

"The hardest thing is making it where development is happening on an equitable basis," Morales said.

That can be difficult when residents only see the project currently underway in one area and not the years of planning taking place elsewhere.

"People think in the moment," he added. "In reality, it's part of a larger 10- to 15-year master plan."

For Morales, parks and recreation are about much more than facilities.

"I think it's the reason to live," he said.

He described parks as places that preserve green space, provide affordable recreation opportunities, strengthen communities, and create shared experiences. Youth sports help children develop confidence and friendships, while parks provide gathering places where families can connect.

"Some of the few times that you don't see a kid on the phone is when they're outside playing," Morales observed.

Among the most rewarding aspects of the job are watching staff members grow professionally, seeing volunteers discover a passion for coaching, and witnessing families create lasting memories through recreation programs.

He pointed to the department's recent Company Cup kickball tournament, which brought together local businesses and organizations for a day of friendly competition.

"To see all these people come out there, have fun, laugh together, and high-five each other, it was just so much fun," Morales said.

Looking ahead, Morales is especially excited about the future of Greenfield Recreation Park.

The county is finalizing a master plan that will guide development of the 133-acre park over the next decade. Planned improvements include additional soccer fields, permanent restroom facilities, pickleball and tennis courts, and eventually a community center and event space.

"Every year there will be something new at Greenfield Recreation Park," Morales said.

Ultimately, what keeps him motivated is knowing the work directly affects the people around him.

Morales lives in Daleville with his wife and three young children, and he regularly sees local families enjoying the same parks and programs his department helps provide.

"They're my neighbors," he said. "To see these families get closer because of the work that we're trying to do here, it motivates me to show up to work every day happy and excited to be here."

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Stockyard Report

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Graded Steers
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500-599 $393.00-$412.00
600-699 $411.50
700-799 $368.00

Graded Bulls
400-499 $400.00-$403.00
500-599 $350.00
600-699 $250.00

Graded Heifers
300-399 $396.00-$409.00
400-499 $317.00-$409.00
500-599 $387.00-$395.00
600-699 $351.00

Kill Cows $85.00-$183.00
Kill Bulls $201.00

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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Fincastle needs donations for the July 4 fireworks show!

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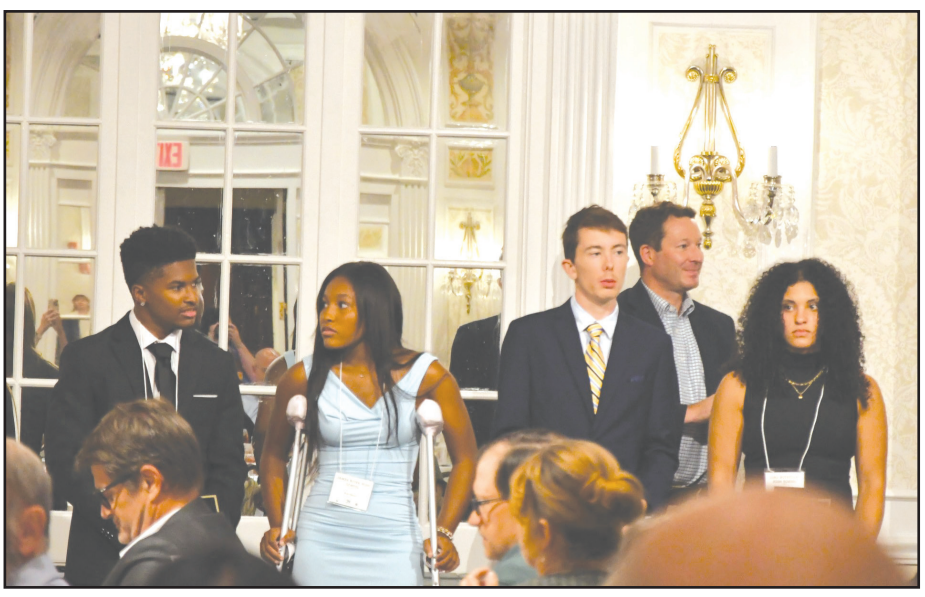


PHOTO BY SUZANNE WITCHER

Botetourt County schools have B'nai B'rith nominees

Two James River High School and Lord Botetourt High seniors were among the 41 nominees for this year's B'nai B'rith Awards, with winners announced at a banquet June 15 at the Hotel Roanoke. The award recognizes senior athletes from Roanoke Valley schools judged on athletic achievement, scholarship and personal life. James River nominees were twins Gavin Binns (left in photo) and sister Kaia Binns (second from left). Nominated from Lord Botetourt were Eric Duncan (third from left) and Jaiden Dann (far right). The overall winners were Elijah Thomas of William Fleming for the boys and Lydia Pratt of Radford for the girls.

National Guard Cup winners announced, Lord Botetourt High is seventh in Class 3

The Virginia High School League has announced the 2025-26 winners of the National Guard Cup, presented by the Virginia Army National Guard for year-long athletic success. Lord Botetourt finished seventh in Class 3 and James River High was 27th in the Class 2.

Familiar faces returned to claim more trophies. Western Albemarle in Class 3 led the way, earning its 11th overall Cup and fifth in a row, while Auburn in Class 1 claimed its eighth consecutive Cup and ninth overall. Atlee in Class 3 earned its third straight Cup, and Robinson in Class 6 earned its third Cup in four years and fifth overall. In Class 5 Kellam earned its second straight Cup while in Class 2, Glenvar claimed a fourth Cup.

First awarded in 1990, the Cup represents 36 seasons of excellence. Six Cups are awarded for academic activities and athletics in each of the VHSL's six enrollment classifications.

A point system determines the winners based on overall performance in VHSL state championship competitions. In athletics, first place earns 50 points, second place earns 45 points, third place earns 40 points, fourth place earns 35 points, fifth place earns 30 points, sixth place earns 25 points, seventh place earns 20 points, and eighth place earns 15 points. Schools earning the League's Sportsmanship, Ethics, and Integrity Award earn 50 points each.

Lord Botetourt finished seventh in Class 3 with 252.5 points. The Cavaliers scored 95 points in the spring, sparked by 50 points from the state champion boys' track team. Botetourt earned 22.5 points each in boys' soccer and girls' tennis.

James River tied for 27th in Class 2 with 45 points, all earned in the fall and winter.



PHOTO COURTESY JRHS BASKETBALL

James River has summer basketball camp for kids

James River basketball coach Ethan Humphries, along with his staff and players, conducted a camp for kids in Springwood. "We had a great turnout and we hope the boys learned a lot," said Humphries. "It's something we look forward to and each summer we learn the importance it has throughout the community. We can't thank our players, coaches and alumni enough for making this happen. We hope we left the campers with an experience they'll remember."

All-State teams named for Class 2 soccer, James River has three girls on All-Region 2C

The Virginia High School League announced the 2026 Class 2 all-state soccer teams for both girls and boys.

For the girls, Nelson County senior center attacking midfielder Clara Moldenhauer is the Class 2 Player of the Year, and Nelson County head coach Bryan Ferren is the Class 2 Coach of the Year.

Moldenhauer, an attacking midfielder who will play in a forward position as a winger for Division II Western Colorado University in the fall, scored 23 goals and 25 assists this season for the Class 2 state champions. She was also named Dogwood District and Region 2C Player of the Year.

In eight years covering seven seasons (second year was canceled due to COVID), Ferren established Nelson County as a district and regional power. This season, he led Nelson County to a 23-0 record and its first-ever girls soccer championship, playing defending champion Glenvar to a 0-0 draw before winning 3-2 on PKs.

James River was not represented on the all-state team but River had three girls named to the All-Region 2C second team. Avery Saunders was named at forward, Sophie Martin at midfield and Chloe Helmandollar on defense.

In boys' soccer Glenvar senior defender Tyler Curfiss is the Class 2 Player of the Year and Glenvar head coach Josh Jones is the Class 2 Coach of the Year.

A first-team all-state selection in 2025, Curfiss earned 14 defensive shutouts this past season, anchoring the back line for the Highlanders. He also earned First Team All-District, First Team All-Region, and First Team All-State in both 2026 and 2025.

In six seasons leading the Highlander program, Jones' team has won six consecutive Three-Rivers District Championships, six consecutive Region C Championships, and four consecutive state championships, equaling Meridian (2013-16) for most consecutive boys' titles in VHSL history. His last three teams finished the season unbeaten, going 22-0-1 this season, 23-0-0 in 2025, and 22-0-0 in 2024. Jones owns a 120-3-3 record over six years and has Glenvar on an 84-game unbeaten streak. His overall VHSL career coaching record is now 389-75-32.



Avery Saunders



Sophie Martin



Chloe Helmandollar (14)

FILE PHOTOS

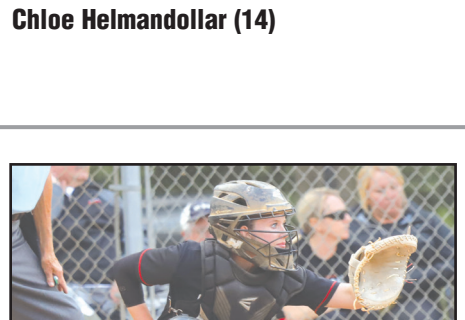
All-Region from page 12



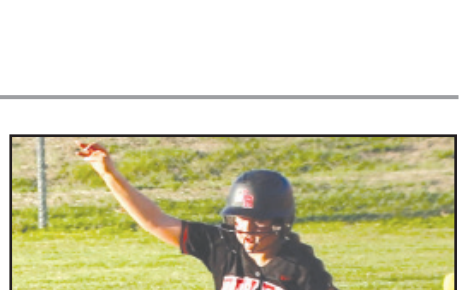
Cam Saunders



Sydney Breeding



Keira Crawford



Caitlyn Downey

FILE PHOTOS

selection at pitcher for the third consecutive year, compiled a 13-2 record with a stellar 1.08 ERA. In 91 innings pitched, she threw two no-hitters, allowed just 14 runs, walked 31 batters, and struck out 167 hitters.

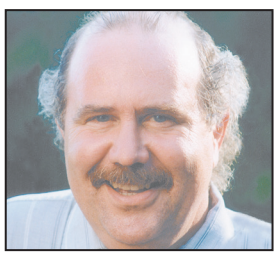
Appomattox County softball coach Rawes guided her Raiders team to a 23-3 record and a state runner-up finish, falling to King William in the Class 2 finals.

James River did not have anyone on the all-state team, but the Knights had three girls make the All-Region 2C team. Sydnee Breeding was first team at shortstop, Keira Crawford was first team in the outfield and Caitlyn Downey was a second team selection at second base. All three are seniors.

BOTETOURT

Sports

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Brian Hoffman

Sports Editor

Botetourt Sports Complex hosts youth baseball tournaments

The Botetourt Sports Complex was the site of 10U and 12U baseball tournaments last week for Roanoke Area Youth Baseball Association (RAYBA) teams. The tournaments included teams from Botetourt County, Vinton, Salem, Glenvar, North Roanoke and Franklin County.

Glenvar won the 10U championship with wins over North Roanoke and two wins over the Botetourt team.

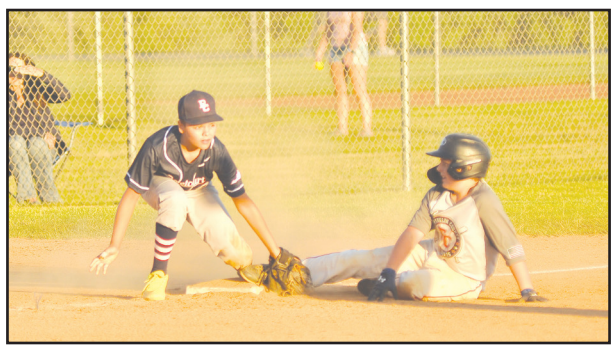
"We faced some very strong teams throughout the tournament, and every team competed hard from start to finish," said Glenvar coach Raysean Priest. "Our players showed great determination and were especially aggressive at the plate."

Franklin County won the 12U tournament. After taking the winners' bracket Franklin lost to North Roanoke, forcing an "if game." Franklin County then won that game to take the championship.

There was also a 15U division and North Roanoke came out on top in that one.



Drew Webb of the Botetourt 12U baseball all-stars pitches at the BSC.



Josiah Powers of the Botetourt 12U team takes the throw at third.



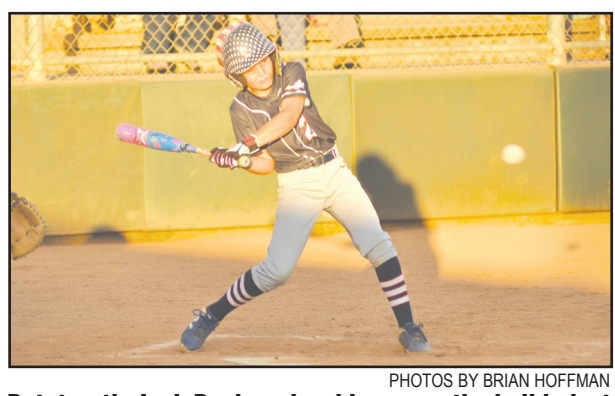
Graham McNeill connects for the Botetourt 10U all-stars.



River Kelly pitches for the Botetourt 10U all-stars.



Jack Lafoon of the Botetourt 10U all-stars makes the putout at first.



PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Botetourt's Jack Beckner has his eye on the ball in last week's RAYBA tournament.

State Class 2 baseball, softball teams announced, James River players on All-Region 2C team

The Virginia High School League has announced that all-state teams for Class 2 in baseball and softball.

In baseball, King William senior pitcher Henry Kite is the Class 2 Player of the Year, and Lebanon head coach Cody Compton is the Class 2 Coach of the Year.

Kite is a hard-throwing 5'11", 170-pound right-handed pitcher and King William's top hitter as a slick-fielding second baseman when he wasn't pitching. On the mound, the Cavalier ace posted a 9-3 record with a 1.56 ERA, 97 strikeouts, and held opponent batters to a .178 batting average in 58.1 innings pitched. As an offensive threat, the William & Mary signee batted .437 (31 hits) with 25 RBI, 17 runs scored, 8 doubles, a pair of triples, 5 stolen bases, and a .488 OBP.

In his fourth season leading the Lebanon baseball program, Compton's Pioneers finished with a 21-8 record and a second state title under him with a 5-2 win over Patrick County in the Class 2 finals at historic Kiwanis Field in Salem.

James River was not represented on the all-state team but Cam Saunders, a junior pitcher for the Knights, was named second team All-Region 2C.

In softball Appomattox County senior pitcher Paisley Mann is the Class 2 Player of the Year, and Appomattox County head coach Janet Rawes is the Class 2 Coach of the Year.

Mann, a first-team all-state

See **All-Region**, page 11



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