

Courthouse reaches new milestone as cupola crowns construction project

Matt de Simone
Managing Editor

A crowd of county officials, construction workers, architects, engineers, and residents gathered Friday afternoon to witness a symbolic milestone in the construction of the new Botetourt County Courthouse as a crane carefully lifted the building's cupola into place, marking the highest point of the project.

The "topping off" ceremony celebrated more than the placement of the structure's crown. Speakers described the moment as the latest chapter in more than 250 years of Botetourt County history and a visible sign that construction remains on schedule toward a planned fall 2027 completion.

The ceremony featured remarks from County Administrator Gary Larrowe, Capital Projects Manager Rich Evans, Jamerson-Lewis Construction Senior Project Manager Jim Benn and representatives involved in the project before W.O. Crane Company hoisted the cupola onto the courthouse roof.

"I was pleased to see such a large crowd," Fincastle Mayor Mary Bess Smith said when asked about Friday's ceremony. "Special thanks go to Historic Fincastle Inc. for providing ice cream to attendees."

The event opened with an invocation asking for the

See **Cupola**, page 10



The Botetourt County Circuit Courthouse cupola was placed during a "topping off" ceremony last Friday afternoon in Fincastle. Here, three stages witnessed during the placement process.



Capital Project Manager Rich Evans (left), County Administrator Gary Larrowe, and Board of Supervisors Chair Mac Scothorn (Valley District) shared comments prior to the cupola's placement.



PHOTOS BY MATT DE SIMONE

Supervisors approve Daleville grocery store, table Cloverdale convenience store

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There were eight total public hearings that took place at the June 23 meeting of the Botetourt County Board of Supervisors. The board's

action to deny a solar proposal earlier in the evening session contrasted sharply with its reception of a long-planned grocery store and pharmacy proposed for Daleville Town Center.

Following another public hearing,

supervisors unanimously approved special exception permits allowing Fralin & Waldron Inc. to construct a nearly 51,000-square-foot grocery store with a drive-thru pharmacy on

See **Stores**, page 10



GRAPHICS COURTESY OF BOTETOURT CO.

The County Board of Supervisors approved a nearly 51,000-square-foot grocery store with a drive-thru pharmacy (left) at the Daleville Town Center last week while tabling SEP requests for a 6,400-square-foot convenience store with eight fueling stations, a drive-thru, a 1,750-square-foot service station and electronic message center signage at the intersection of Lee Highway and Cloverdale Road until its August meeting.



PHOTO BY MATT DE SIMONE

Last week, the Board of Supervisors agreed to revise the county's agreement with the Roanoke Valley Greenway Commission. Here, the Roanoke River Greenway provides miles of scenic paved pathways connecting communities, promoting outdoor recreation, and offering safe, accessible routes for commuting and exercise.

County revises Roanoke Valley Greenway agreement

Matt de Simone
Managing Editor

The Botetourt County Board of Supervisors adopted an amended and restated intergovernmental agreement last Tuesday that restructures the Roanoke Valley Greenway Commission while continuing the county's participation in regional greenway planning.

The agreement transfers administration of the longtime Greenway Commission to the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission (RVARC), dissolving the commission as an independent governing body and re-establishing it as an advisory Greenway Committee under the regional commission.

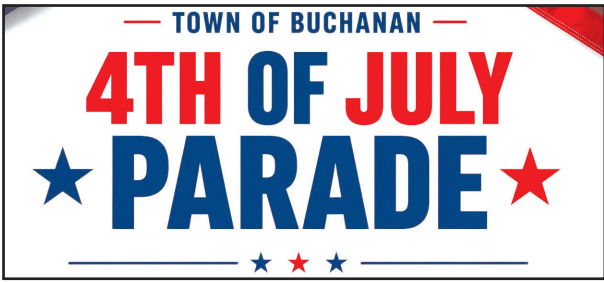
Prior to the board's action, County Attorney Mike Lockaby explained that the Greenway Commission was established in 1997 to promote and coordinate the planning, development and maintenance of a regional greenway system throughout the Roanoke Valley. He said the commission had operated as a semi-independent organization funded through assessments paid by participating localities.

Lockaby said the restructuring follows the retirement of the commission's executive director and Roanoke County's decision to no longer serve as the commission's fiscal agent.

"Rather than continuing to operate on a semi-independent basis, the functions of the Greenway Commission will instead move under the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission," Lockaby said.

He said the move streamlines the organization while

See **Greenway**, page 5



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF TOWN OF BUCHANAN

Buchanan to celebrate Independence Day with fireworks and parade

The Town of Buchanan will celebrate Independence Day with two nights of fireworks as part of the 72nd Annual Buchanan Community Carnival.

Fireworks are scheduled for 10 p.m. on Friday, July 3, and Saturday, July 4, at Buchanan Town Park, 485 Lowe St. The displays serve as the grand finale to each

evening of the annual carnival. Carnival activities, including rides, games and traditional fair food, will be open nightly from 6 to 10:30 p.m. Organizers say the carnival's hand-cut fries remain a longtime favorite among attendees.

The celebration

See **Buchanan**, page 5

Fireworks in Fincastle this Sunday night

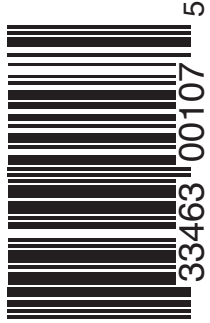
The Town of Fincastle's annual fireworks display will be held Sunday, July 5, at Breckinridge Elementary School. Fireworks are scheduled to begin at dark, approximately 9 to 9:15 p.m.

The VFW will begin selling hot dogs and snacks at 6 p.m. Grandpa Ike's will offer mobile desserts, and a kettle corn vendor will also be on site.

~ Fincastle Herald staff report



FILE PHOTO



Botetourt County History



Before digital badges and certificates, 4-H members proudly earned pins like this one. From photography and archery to leadership and achievement, these tiny pins recognized skills learned, projects completed, and personal growth along the way. This is one of a collection of 4-H pins donated to Botetourt County Historical Society by Alice Crowder.

These pieces of Botetourt's agricultural and youth development history are featured in the new "Home Grown – Botetourt's Agricultural History" exhibit at the Botetourt Museum of History & Culture in Fincastle through the end of 2026.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BCMHC

~ Botetourt County Museum of History & Culture



Botetourt County recently acquired this Eagle Rock property through a joint federal and state grant. The site will be cleared of debris from a collapsed building and remediated to help mitigate future flooding.

PHOTO BY MATT DE SIMONE

County provides update on Eagle Rock cleanup, flood mitigation project

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Botetourt County officials say a grant-funded cleanup and flood mitigation project in Eagle Rock remains on schedule, with work expected to be completed ahead of a Sept. 30 federal deadline.

Deputy County Administrator David Moorman updated the Board of Supervisors on the project during last Tuesday's regular meeting, outlining the progress made since the county acquired the property earlier this year.

The county received a joint federal and state grant to purchase the site, remove debris from a collapsed building, and restore the property to reduce future flood risks.

Moorman said the county has completed the property acquisition and is now working through several grant-mandated requirements before on-site cleanup can begin.

"The county now owns that property," Moorman told the board.

Among the remaining requirements are completing a title search, an updated boundary survey, an erosion and sediment control plan, an environmental site assessment, a hazardous materials survey, and a site grading and contour plan.

Moorman said much of that work is nearing completion, allowing staff

to move into the next phase of the project.

"That work is finishing up, and staff is in the process of advertising and issuing an Invitation for Bids to solicit a contractor to actually conduct the on-site work," he said.

Selecting a contractor through the competitive bidding process is another requirement of the grant, Moorman explained.

The county is operating under a strict timeline established by the grant agreement, which requires all cleanup and restoration work to be completed by Sept. 30.

"We are hopeful and we are targeting to complete the work by early September," Moorman said. "But nonetheless, Sept. 30 is our deadline to have all that work completed."

During the discussion, supervisors asked what would happen if the county is unable to meet the grant deadline.

Moorman said county staff has already submitted a preliminary request for an extension as a precautionary measure but he does not anticipate needing additional time to complete the project.

"We have made a preliminary request for an extension just as an insurance policy, if needed, but we're

See **Cleanup**, page 11



Officials, cyclists, and community members celebrate the unveiling of a new Virginia historical marker commemorating Botetourt County's place on the historic TransAmerica Bicycle Trail along Catawba Road.

New marker celebrates Botetourt's cycling history

A new Virginia historical marker recognizing Botetourt County's role in the TransAmerica Bicycle Trail (USBR 76) was unveiled Monday along Catawba Road.

The marker commemorates Bikecentennial '76, the cross-country bicycle ride held during the nation's Bicentennial celebration that later inspired the creation of one of the country's best-known cycling routes. More than 4,000 cyclists participated in the original 4,250-mile ride from Virginia to Oregon during the summer of 1976, with Botetourt County serving as one of the stops along the route.

The dedication ceremony included remarks from representatives of the Adventure Cycling Association, Virginia Tech, the Botetourt County Historical Society, the Botetourt County Chamber of Commerce, and a participant in the original 1976 ride. A statement from the Virginia Department of



The new marker PHOTOS COURTESY OF BOTETOURT CO.

Historic Resources was also read during the event.

The ceremony also marked the unveiling of the new USBR 76 Resting Bench, created by local artists at Lift Arc Studios and funded in part through the PEDAL project. County officials

said the bench is intended to reflect Botetourt County's longstanding hospitality toward cyclists traveling the route.

~ Fincastle Herald staff report

Longbeards host WITO event



PHOTO COURTESY OF BOTETOURT LONGBEARDS

The Botetourt Longbeards chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation held a "Women in the Outdoors" (WITO) field day on Saturday June 27. Twenty-one women and a like number of instructors and volunteers participated in archery, .22 pistol, .22 rifle, shotgun and high powered rifle stations, followed by lunch in the field.

~Submitted by Botetourt Longbeards



PHOTO COURTESY OF SIRENS AND SALUTES

Veterans receive Quilts of Valor

Sirens and Salutes partnered with Quilts of Valor to honor four local veterans during a ceremony Saturday morning at the Buchanan Community Center. Air Force veterans Shak Hill, Aubrey Brady, and Tim Brady, along with Navy veteran Michael Morris, each received a handmade Quilt of Valor in recognition of their military service. Following the presentation, the veterans and attendees enjoyed lunch provided by Mission BBQ in Roanoke.

~ Fincastle Herald staff report

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ELEMENARY SCHOOL HONOR ROLLS

Botetourt County elementary schools released the following honor rolls for the fourth quarter of the 2025-26 school year:

BRECKINRIDGE

A HONOR ROLL
FIFTH GRADE: Weston Albright, Weston Baker, Roman Belcher, Piper Herrig, Ava Horne, Luis Morales-Tomas, Lukas Moyers, Eleanor Rushing, Addison Sprinkle, Sydney Walker

FOURTH GRADE: Levi Cooper, Cameron Earnest, Delia Fornecker, Easton Hickman, Oliver Huwe, Juliet Nystrom, Carter Yandrick

THIRD GRADE: Dominic Balow, Stella DePasquale, Audrey McClintock, Adaline Tate, Logan Taylor, Evelyn Teubert

A-B HONOR ROLL
FIFTH GRADE: Henry Bergeron, Kate Brady, Bromlee Coben, Kensie Kaufman, Kayla Kidwell, Cylas May, Carly McVey, Jackson Monaghan, Justin Petty, William Ronk, Briar Spangler, Natalee Spangler, Peyton Stump, Paul Turman, Alyssa Ware, Ryder Woods

FOURTH GRADE: Waylon Childs, Olive Coben, Wyatt Edwards, Scout Hudson, Ava Hylton, Levi Jackson, Laika Johnson, Ember Ray, Marlee Saunders, Ellison Simmons, Tanner Slusser, Lorelai Snyder, Ada Wiggins

THIRD GRADE: Liam Anhold, Abigail Browning, Carson Bryant, Christopher Cefola, Lillian Dogan, Beau Ferguson, Roman Herrig, Ava Holland, Graham Hosey, Kaylee Kidd, Ezra McAlister, Micah Neighbors, Everett Rasnick, Rhett Rigbsby, Killian Robeson, Rachel Ronk, Jackson Ronk, Alice Stracke, Julius Thompson, Graham Wiggins

BUCHANAN

A HONOR ROLL
FIFTH GRADE: Jacklyn Dooley
FOURTH GRADE: Robbie Adkins, Kori Blake, Evan Branch, Annie Brewster, Adeline Camper, Brianna Fox, Max Johnson, Maelyn Kinion, Luke Monteith, Liam Moore, Addison Porter, Cooper Prill, Charlotte Roach, Ella Spence, Caroline Stull, Eliana Whitney

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

SECOND GRADE: Avelyn Capriani
A-B HONOR ROLL
FIFTH GRADE: Harley Bray, Sullivan Capriani, Bailee Flint, Zoey Gibson, Cooper Haynes, Elizabeth Martin, Sawyer Neale, Lainey Parker, Alexandra Tacilla Powell

FOURTH GRADE: Easton Altman, Silas Austin, Jackson Benson, Anne Boblett, Elias Boohar, Camdyn Buono, Chatham Byer, Holland Callahan, Emma Christie, Ariel Clark, James DeSouto, Cortana Kelley, Charlotte Kentrolis, Penelope Lovelace, Walker Manbeck, Riley Martin, Isabella Meador, Samuel Monteith, Erin Mundy, Sylvia Rae, Naomi Roberts, Blaise Stotts-Berg, Hayven Thompson, Lakynn Tolley, Thomas Walker, Madilyn Watts

THIRD GRADE: Sally Brewster, Rosalie Coleman, Wyatt Crowder, Brooklyn Focht, Oakland Harver, Owen Jeter, Alice Lilly, Marshall Miller, Etta Montgomery, Emerson Moore, Eliahna Newport, Kodah Ruley, Joshua

Taylor II, Daniel Wall
SECOND GRADE: Maci Blake, Violet Crihfield, Maverick Falls, Wyatt Garland, Trinity Holbert, Aria Lash, Landon Lovelace, Pailyn Wymer

CLOVERDALE

A HONOR ROLL
FIFTH GRADE: Jack Arvisais, Tessa Barnes, Jakob Bishop, Crosby Cundiff, Emily Stakor, Kaylee Tran, Elizabeth Unroe

FOURTH GRADE: Tailor Gibson, Vincent Kitts, Finnegan McCormick, Scarlett Osborne, Asher Spalding

THIRD GRADE: Henry Salmon

A-B HONOR ROLL
FIFTH GRADE: Desmond Allen, Grayson Bruch, Matthias Brummer, Oliver Drake, Aiza Khan, Axl Kitts, Jack Laffoon, Isabella Lennartson, Ava Mullins, Ansley Naff, Rosalind Payne, Major Perdue, Charles Salmon III, Joanna Sorrell, Gabriel Voss, Hannah Wagner, Cora Wagner, London Westervelt, Jocelyn Williamson, Lauren Yates

FOURTH GRADE: Alexander Bateson, Sylus Chase, Amelia Curulla, Afton Fitzgerald, Jordan Guttmann, Grayson Hudson, Marie Jensen, Kaiden Jones, Landon Jones, Jackson Keen, Jensen Kemper, Ella McNabb, Gunnar Ristine, Reygan Shires, Tripp Shortridge, Ahri Thacker, Cheston Walker

THIRD GRADE: Eva Aliveto, Grant Anderson, Joseph Ariza Bishop, Annabelle Bays, Owen Beckner, Madison Blankenship, Bryson Bobbitt, Marlowe Cragun, Thomas Damiano, Maxwell Drumheller, Brady Groth, Henry Gutierrez, Macon Humphries, Elliott Kincer, Elliana McMahon, Audriana Metz, Kaya Meyers, Haley Saunders

COLONIAL

A HONOR ROLL
FIFTH GRADE: Felix Anduiza, Camille Cockfield, Sawyer Deacon, Jediah Divers, Lillian Doerr-Jarosz, Camden Lewis, Eli Loflen, Kaleb Martin, Lilliana McCloud, Skyler Sitman, Greyson Smith, Emily Walker

FOURTH GRADE: Ujwal Baniya, Katherine Carter, Isaiah Foster, Penny Hatfield, Adaline Hogan, Trey Lyle, Olivia Maddox, Sarina Mehndi, Ezekiel Persing, Michael Povick, Amelia Reid, Morgan Schad, Charlotte Waldron, Chloe Waldron, Maximus Worthley

THIRD GRADE: Thomas Adnams, Carolynn Bedat, Genavieve Bryant, Andrew Divers, Landry Dix, Cameron Dougherty, Charles Ferguson, Ezekiel Foster, Sylvia Hartvigsen, Caiden Otey, Ally Perdue, Elizabeth Reiner, Lucy Tester, Scarlett Vinson, Beau Wilson, Carson Witt

A-B HONOR ROLL
FIFTH GRADE: Khalilullah Atayi, Alice Clark, Jace Clary, Nolan Colleluori, Adalyn Dooley, Tyler Duckworth, Arwen Gibson, Emilia Harless, Sawyer Harrison, Holly Hatfield, Bryson Howery, Briana Jimenez Morales, Reilly Madden, Effie McCrady, Henry Moore, Benjamin Myers, Emily Nancarrow, Emily Purves, Brody Radford, Camden Ratliff, Natalie Scott, Samuel Spencer, Tessa Thompson, Arianna Thorne, Sailor Vinson, Kyra Walrond, Raylin Weddle, Ella Wise

FOURTH GRADE: Londyn Adams, Nora Amos, Sophia Armstrong, Jamison Bongard, Scarlett Borak, Denver Bristow, Emerson Caldwell, Easton Charlton, Tyler Cloninger, Mabry Dooley,

Andrew Eggleston, Elysse Garcia, Tyler Gober, Jack Hale, Wyatt Hall, Johnathan Huffman, Kemper Jackson, Madison Johnson, Brielle Kammerer, Kairi Kingery, Gavin Koestline, Lorileigh Livick, Annie Lucas, Sawyer Mack, Alexander Meyer, Carley Moore, Jackson Morgan, Ryann Prusak, Karter Prusak, Ravi Savla, Kaiden Shepherd, Nora Slaughter, Easton Spikes, Harper Strock, Presley Thompson, Atleigh Tuck, Kyleigh Volk, Levi Willenbring,

THIRD GRADE: Karlie Agnew, Augustus Anduiza, Della Bond, Rachel Booth, James Davidson, Deegan Deel, Ava Garcia, Asher Gibson, Christian Gillmore, Ava Keese, Harper Kincke, Waverly Kingery, Charles Leonard, Emileigh Little, Malcolm Livick, Savannah Loan, Jackson Marden, Alidia McCrady, Campbell Miller, Charlie Myers, Carson Otey, Weston Prusak, Everly Purdham, Piper Roberts, Kane Turner

EAGLE ROCK

A HONOR ROLL
FIFTH GRADE: None
FOURTH GRADE: Marshall Seibel, Cullen Thurston

THIRD GRADE: None
A-B HONOR ROLL
FIFTH GRADE: Kayden Bray, Madelynn Harlow, London Kern, Kiara Landram, Adria Martin

FOURTH GRADE: Addyson Bolton, Peyton Clonch, Charlette Conner, Lacey Harlow, Isaac Hensley, Karlie Kern, Laiken Keyser, Bailey Wolfe

THIRD GRADE: Ellie Clemens, Kash Clonch, Aaron Davis, Parker Hodges, Sarah Huy, Atticus Pease, Charlotte West

GREENFIELD

A HONOR ROLL
FIFTH GRADE: Kim Barber, Porter Brock, Emma Burns, Silas Delseni, Jack Keogh, Callahan MacBrien, Ivy Molter, Grant Pendleton, Nora Pinkerton, Emma Pry, Katherine Roberts, Olivia Shively, Brielle Smith

FOURTH GRADE: Nolan Althouse, Enrico Baptistella, Tyler Barns, Owen Bigoney, Bellamy Blessard, Ella Bocook, Finn Burke, Johana Butterworth, Lucas Combs, Ava Dillon, Angel Funez-Cortez, Wren Garcia, Finnegan Gray, Wesley Gruber, Oliver Hurley, Myles Hurt, Johnathan Lake, Jackson Lee, Joanna Lin, Dallas Lumpkin, Graham McNeill, Wren Molter, Madison Montgomery, Owen Phelps, Ronin Phonasa, Caroline Pritt, Olivia Pritt, Kate Rickman, Luke Schwizer, Brooke Anna Shultz, Zachary Spiller, Cole Strickler, Jack Surber, Kaidence Sutherland, Charlotte Tate, Anna Taylor, Wilson Vasquez-Carranza, Mia Weaver, Nora Wright, Sophie Yanez-Lopez, Cecilia Zerka

THIRD GRADE: Scarlett Bartee, Laith Burpee, Easton Cole, Emery Frye, Ellen Harris, Sawyer Lyle, Lyla Merchant, Stone Patton, Harper Setliff, Nathan Spence, Nehemiah Tribble

A-B HONOR ROLL
FIFTH GRADE: Brithany Argueta

Amaya, Constance Berg, Elizabeth Blosser, Benjamin Bowden, Austin Evans Jr, Jackson Foutz, Austin Hatchett, Jaxon Hughes, Beau Hull, Laikyn Ives, Lealan Kessler, Brielle King, Luke Layman, Emma Moore, Collin Murphy, Abby Poff, August Rivers, Pedro Rodriguez Jr, EmmaRose Scherrep, Wyatt Troutt

FOURTH GRADE: Genesis Anaya, James Bennett, Robert Black, Dexter Brinkman, Hudson Crigler, Agustin Damian-Ambrocio, Kinsey Delp, Tanner Gilmer, Audrey Hopkins, Leo Kaufman, Alexander Keffer, Andi Keogh, Easton Martin, Arlet Mendoza Gomez, Kaiden Mills, Alvaro Perez Ortiz, Kaylee Powers, Carson Sink, Hannah Slaughter, Logan Still, Cash Sutphin, Dayany Velasquez Camacho

THIRD GRADE: Turner Althouse, Caio Baptistella, Harper Bartocci, Eloise Berg, Axel Castillo Calderon, Reece Darby, Easton Darby, Axel Edmonds, Ocie Figgins, Royce Hopkins, Carrera Laucher, Tristan Little, Dominic Malaga-Artiga, Grant Moore, Payton Mullins, Luke Murphy, Yaman Ozgor, Jacori Penn, Alexis Rivera Perez, Gwen Roberts, Charles Roberts, Gracelyn Salyards, Madelynn Spence, Grey Trogdon, Jace Ward, Abel Wilkerson, Tanner Yellman, Piper Yopp

TROUTVILLE

A HONOR ROLL
FIFTH GRADE: Charlie Ballew, Parker Brugh, Carson Ferguson, Gage Hartman, Adlee Kennedy-Mackay, Riley Martino, Marshall Rives, Whitney Slaughter, Everly Turner, Annabelle Vargas, Patrick Weller, Declan Wiley, Brooke Williams, Reilly Winfield

FOURTH GRADE: Creed Foster, Hallie Hamre, Margaret-Anne Hatcher, Adam Hedrick, Lincoln Hutchinson, Peyton LaVenture, Aubrey Loar, Mollie Meads, Brayden Mills, Evan Perkins, Alonzo Sanchez, Everett Saville, Benjamin Williams, Jackson Willis

THIRD GRADE: Beckett Brugh, Cory Bryant, Milo Crawford, Parker Hickman, Colton Martino, Symphanie Matthews, Graham Nuckles, Vivienne Saville, Marshall Slaughter, Ava Vaught, Elsie Weller, Trip Whitaker, Degan Wimmer

A-B HONOR ROLL
FIFTH GRADE: Karolina Akers, Kohen Anderson, Eleanor Bishop, Macy Botkins, Raven Candelaria, Mikenzie Cao, Wyatt Crotty, Eleanor Daly, Rilynn Dooley, Lili Fernatt, Bradley Fosler, Ava Greer, Madilyn Horton, Mason Lyle, William Scott, Ryland Simmons, Caleb Umberger

FOURTH GRADE: Caleb Bailey, Jacob Davis, Andrew Hedrick, Lucas Lemley, Holden May, Abbott Seay, Irelyn Warr, Addison Witt, Nikodemus Wolfe

THIRD GRADE: Olivia Booth, Michael Brennan, Macon Brown, Hunter DeHart, Naomi Hicks, Lauralynn Hurd, Emari Lapham, Avery Spence, Weston Welch, Alaina Witt

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Libraries will be closed on Friday and Saturday, July 3 and 4, in observance of Independence Day. Libraries will reopen at 9 a.m. Monday, July 6.

Yoga for Beginners
Thu, July 2, 6:30 PM, Blue Ridge
Mon, July 6, 10 AM, Eagle Rock
Tue, July 7, 9 AM, Fincastle
Learn gentle yoga stretches. Mats and yoga blocks provided or bring your own. Instructor: Jaime Thrasher, Botetourt County Parks & Recreation. Ideal for adults. Registration required. Register at <https://botetourtva.libcal.com/> or call 540-928-2900.

Build Your Own Dinosaur Model
Mon, July 6-Sat, July 11, All Libraries
Dino Design Lab is OPEN! Drop in and build your own 3D dinosaur model using our provided templates. Cut, fold,

tape, and create your own prehistoric masterpiece to take home! Ideal for ages 6-11.

Dino Stomp Art
Mon, July 6, 11 AM Blue Ridge
Dive into the science of ichnology (the study of fossil tracks). First, investigate how dinosaurs left footprints millions of years ago using real clay “mud” tests, then, engineer your own set of dinosaur feet! Ideal for ages 6-11.

Radical Upcycling: T-Rex Milk Carton Challenge
Mon, July 6, 2 PM, Fincastle
Join us for a 90-minute design session where we'll hack standard milk cartons into custom T-Rex heads. Ideal for ages 12-18. Registration required. Register at <https://botetourtva.libcal.com/> or call 540-928-2900.

Learn more about Botetourt Libraries at bocolibraries.info

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 22-28, 2026

The Botetourt County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests June 22-28:

- Daniel W. Carroll, 56, of Troutville, violation of protective order, June 22
- Savannah D. Chambers, 35, of Bassett, possession of Schedule drugs, June 24
- Joshua A. Wheeler, 45, of Troutville, driving revoked, June 24
- Jamey L. Menefee, 49, of Buchanan, driving under the influence, June 25
- Brandon L. Braxton, 49, of

York, Pa., drunk in public, June 26

- Crystal M. Butler, 35, of Clifton Forge, warrant for extradition, obstruction of justice, assault on law enforcement, hit and run, eluding, identity theft, strangulation, property damage; preventing the operation of vehicle, domestic assault, June 27
- James L. Stoneberger, 41, of Roanoke, driving revoked, June 28
- Daniel L. Lindsey, 37, of Palmyra, identity theft, driving revoked, June 28

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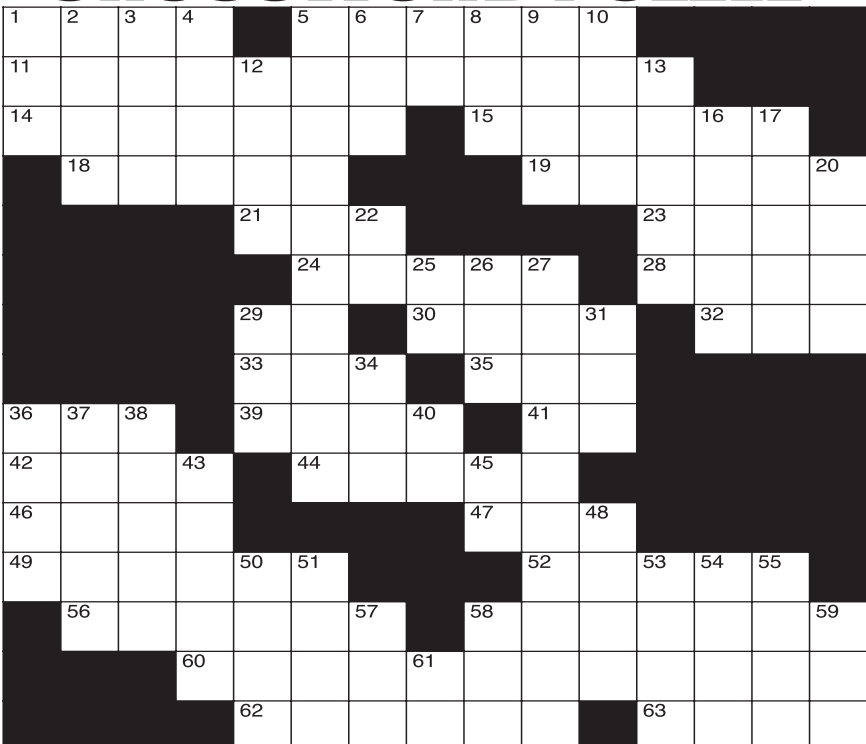
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CROSSWORD PUZZLE



CLUES ACROSS

- ___ chat
- Statue near the Pyramids
- A process to change the look
- Herb
- Think about excessively
- Bass vocal part
- Supreme Allied Cmdr. of NATO
- A major division of geological time
- New Zealand parrot
- Cognitive contents
- Lump of yarn
- Atomic #109
- Let go of
- Indian title of respect
- Whereabouts

- unknown
- Electronic data processing
- Drivers' licenses count
- Snakelike fishes
- They precede C
- Popular personal computers
- Intermediate community stage in ecological succession
- Wings
- Indicates position
- Pleasantly smooth or soft
- Jeweled headress
- In slow tempo
- ___ Falls
- Reassertions
- Eras
- Hyphen

CLUES DOWN

- Corporate executive
- A plant used for flavoring food
- Opinion or belief
- Sheep in their second year
- Intensities of sound
- Indicates support for
- Expression of laughter
- OJ trial judge
- Pointed ends of pens
- True bugs genus
- Lawyers argue theirs
- Body parts
- Closes tightly
- World Heritage site in Nigeria
- Islamic calendar month
- Commercial
- Westworld's actor Harris
- They ___

- Religious guilds
- Woman (French)
- Parts per billion (abbr.)
- Brew
- Spiritual leader
- Indigo bush
- Burn with a hot liquid
- Older citizen
- Scad fish genus
- Morning
- Line passing through the center (abbr.)
- Double S-shaped curve
- Small, thin person
- Older
- Mars crater
- Humanities
- Word element meaning ear
- To the ___ degree
- Residue
- It cools your home

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letter of appreciation from Fincastle mayor

As mayor of the Town of Fincastle, and on behalf of the town and its citizens, we are thrilled to see the community's vision for the new Circuit Courthouse taking physical shape.

The courthouse has always been the lifeblood of the Town of Fincastle. This new facility will provide the essential security, accessibility, and modern infrastructure our county needs. Most importantly, it honors our heritage by beautifully preserving the historic architectural character that defines Fincastle. By incorporating timeless elements like the traditional red brick exterior, restoring the historic bell, and resurrecting the iconic clock tower steeple, we are ensuring our past remains a living part of our present. We are also pleased that the county has committed to rebuild the historic Breckinridge Law Office and Western Hotel building in the new Courthouse Square, in recognition of their historic significance.

Looking at the bigger picture, this courthouse remodel is not an isolated project. It is the anchor for a multi-phase investment into the heart of historic Fincastle. As this project moves forward toward its 2027 completion, it paves the way for new community green spaces and enhanced walkable areas that will revitalize our downtown area for businesses and families alike.

Thank you to Botetourt County, the project managers, and our town's citizens for their continued patience and support as this

generational construction project continues.

Mary Bess Smith
Mayor, Town of Fincastle

Reader discusses board meetings and Google data center

The June Board of Supervisors (BoS) meeting accentuates why there should be a modification of the Citizen Comment Period – specific to agenda items – to exclude comments during this period of time on public hearings which are on the same agenda; five of them at this meeting on the 2 p.m. segment and four more on the 6 p.m. one.

Why? The purpose of a public hearing is to hear public comment about a particular matter. If some (like those who clamor for all BoS meetings to be held at 6 p.m.) feel as if they are so important that they should not be made to wait to speak at the 6 p.m. public hearings, perhaps they can make general comments during the second Citizen Comment Period just before Board Member Comments and Reports? That way, those in attendance who do not attend to act as a cheerleading squad for chronic complainers, can hear the conduct of county business before they (and one or two of the supervisors, possibly the same one or two who were later lectured about telling the truth?) may get tired and hungry and want to depart.

At this meeting, the BoS received a dressing-down from a very unlikely source. He started out by saying he wanted to address something that is difficult to talk about – telling the truth. I have always noticed that someone speaking of something they seldom practice and about which they know little, if any, is quite difficult. That was on full display at this meeting.

During that scolding session, I could not help but wonder what it might be like if one of our elected members of the BoS or of the School Board were to be absent for a meeting, or two, three, or more, with no contact about why and never again to be seen in Botetourt County. If something

like that were to happen and local newspapers or outlets published articles headlined by “Where is so-and-so?”, would that equate to telling the truth or being honest, or would it be the exact opposite?

And, in the presentation about telling the truth, he said that we are about to lose all of our water, which probably could not be further from actuality. While I am sure that the demonstrators at the Google event at LBHS on June 17 believe nothing but what they are told at the Chronic Complainer Club meetings, they should read the excellent four part article by Dwayne Yancey published in the Cardinal News on June 22, 23, 24 and 25, 2026 and then they can form an opinion based on facts rather than myths.

Among many other relevant facts, those four articles point out:

1. It has been said for some time that we will run out of water in 2060. New studies now place that date very close to 2100.

2. Carvins Cove is at one of its lowest levels in the past four decades, but all of the Roanoke Valley's water systems are connected now whereas they were not in the past so there is more water available.

3. Carvins Cove at full pond holds 6.42 billion gallons of water and as of last week held 4.48 billion gallons. If Google were to use the 2 million gallons per day, which it has reserved (and may not use), Google would use 730 million gallons per year, which is less than 7% of what is there now and the Roanoke Valley Water Authority loses nearly three times that amount per year (2 billion gallons) due to leaks.

4. And much, much more useful information from the Western Virginia Water Authority which is fact and not fictional numbers dreamed up to support some untenable position.

If you want to continue to oppose Google, please look for facts, instead of fiction, which support your complaints. It owns property here which is zoned for a data center and few, if any, voiced any opposition at the legally advertised hearing(s) which resulted in the rezoning of that property. It plans to start construction soon. From speaking to many of the Google experts, I am convinced that Google is not on a mission to come into a community to attempt to ruin it and then sneak out in the middle of the night.

One other complaint is that electric bills will go up. One of the local TV stations recently ran an interview with an APCo representative who pointed out that all of our

See **Letters**, page 11

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See **Answers**, page 10

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Parks and Rec Director Victor Morales presents program to Eagle Rock Ruritans

At the June meeting of the Eagle Rock Ruritan Club, President Beth Leffel called the meeting to order and asked Chaplain Robert McRae to lead the group in singing a stanza of “My Country, ’Tis of Thee” and give the invocation. The special guest for the meeting, Victor Morales, Botetourt County Parks and Recreation director, was welcomed.

After the meal, prepared and served by the VFW Ladies Auxiliary, Morales gave the program for the evening. He began by informing club members concerning the Senior Transport Service under the auspices of the Botetourt County Parks and Recreation Department. For a small fee of \$6 per day, anyone who needs transportation to appointments can call 540-928-2130 and be picked up at their home. They will even be given assistance in carrying groceries and other packages to their front door. The department is in the process of hiring additional drivers.

Morales explained that one of the great benefits of the recreation programs and the various parks is to provide an abundance of opportunities for young people to be involved in. An important side benefit is that these activities keep young people from engaging in screen time.

As director of Parks and Rec, part of



PHOTO COURTESY OF ER RURITANS
Botetourt County Parks and Recreation Director Victor Morales

his responsibility is to always be in search of new or improved opportunities for the youth in each of the county’s districts. He is always in search of grant money for park improvements. For example, the road to the Gala Boat Ramp was eroding and he was able to use grant money for needed repairs. He is also seeking grant money to install permanent restrooms at the boat ramps.

The Ruritans were interested in an update on the Rails to Trails Project. Funding is complete for 20 miles of the trail, beginning in New Castle. At the present, that leaves unfunded the last six miles to the Last Lock Park on the James River near Eagle Rock. A big challenge facing the project is funding for the upgrading of the C&O Craig Valley Branch Bridge over the James River used from 1891 to 1961.

Also of interest to the Eagle Rock community was the fact that grant money is now available to clean the

See Ruritans, page 11



PHOTO COURTESY OF BUCHANAN LIONS

Buchanan Lions elect new officers

The Buchanan Lions Club elected new officers for the new club year at the last meeting. From left are: Danette Heinlein, treasurer; Dorothy Smith, secretary; Tim Heinlein, past president; Shantelle Crouch, president; Jeanne Clark, vice president; and Derek Veldhuizen, Lion tail twister. Not pictured are Tim Noszek, tail twister, and Lisa Stump, international secretary. Dinner meetings are held every second and fourth Tuesday at 6:30 p.m., currently at Trinity United Methodist Church until renovations are completed at Solomon’s Mission.

- Buchanan Lions Club

Buchanan

from page 1

continues Saturday with Buchanan’s annual Independence Day Parade. The parade begins at 5 p.m. on Main Street and will feature floats, fire trucks, marching units and other community participants.

Admission to the carnival grounds is free. Ride tickets and food will be available for purchase.

The Buchanan Community Carnival has been a local tradition for more than seven decades, drawing residents and visitors each year for family-friendly entertainment and the town’s Independence Day festivities.

- Fincastle Herald staff report

Greenway

from page 1

reducing administrative costs and places greenway planning within RVARC’s annual work program.

RVARC Executive Director Jeremy Holmes addressed several questions from the board regarding the agreement, including how future work plans would be funded and whether participating localities would become responsible for construction costs.

Supervisor Linda Rottman questioned whether the agreement obligated localities to contribute funding beyond grants awarded for greenway projects.

Holmes said it does not. “This doesn’t obligate any of the member localities for any kind of construction activity,” Holmes said. “This is just to provide some regional staff support and technical support.”

Instead, Holmes said the agreement funds planning assistance, grant writing, technical expertise, economic impact studies, and coordination between local governments.

He explained that future work will include updating the region’s 10-year greenway plan, identifying grant opportunities, and assisting communities with trail and recreation projects.

Rottman also asked whether there is a long-term goal of physically connecting Botetourt County with neighboring localities through an interconnected trail system.

Holmes said the upcoming update to the regional greenway plan will help answer that question.

“One of the things we’re trying to figure out is what is that regional vision,” Holmes said. “We’ll be looking at what the next 10 to 20 years of trails and outdoor recreation should look like.”

Board Chair Dr. Mac Scothorn asked whether Botetourt County has benefited from participating in the Greenway Commission.

County Planning and Development Director Jonathan McCoy said the county has gained valuable experience by working alongside neighboring localities and learning from their successes and mistakes when designing greenway infrastructure.

“We’ve been able to lean on those other localities in the valley to learn from them,” McCoy said.

He added that county staff has intentionally

focused on developing projects that primarily benefit Botetourt residents rather than emphasizing regional connections.

“Our goal has been to focus on some of the low-hanging fruit and get some of those greenways on the ground so people can really enjoy and understand some benefit,” McCoy said.

McCoy identified a proposed Eagle Rock greenway as one of the county’s primary projects. The trail would connect downtown Eagle Rock to Last Lock Park and eventually the Craig-Botetourt Scenic Trail. He said the county has already secured some funding and hopes to pursue additional support through Pathfinders for Greenways.

Supervisors also discussed how participation in the regional commission could help the county pursue funding for future recreational amenities, including portions of the Craig-Botetourt Scenic Trail.

During the public comment period, residents offered differing opinions on the proposal.

One resident spoke in opposition, expressing concerns that expanded greenway connections would encourage additional growth, development, and visitors from neighboring localities while increasing demands on county taxpayers.

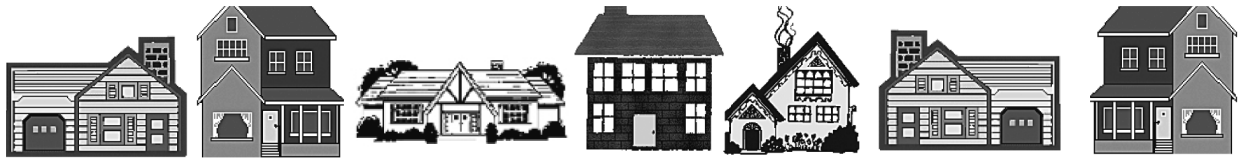
A Cloverdale resident voiced support for the revised agreement, saying the greenway coordinator provides valuable assistance to county staff by identifying grant opportunities, coordinating with neighboring localities, and working alongside volunteer organizations.

The Cloverdale man also commended county staff for expanding local greenway opportunities and maintaining existing trails while recognizing the volunteer efforts of Pathfinders for Greenways in supporting projects throughout Botetourt County. A third speaker, a county resident, former county employee, and current resident member of the Greenway Commission, also spoke in favor of the revised agreement.

Holmes noted that one of the first priorities under the reorganized structure will be conducting an economic impact study examining the value of trails and greenways throughout the region. He said the information will

help participating localities compete for future state and federal funding while better demonstrating the return on investment associated with outdoor recreation projects.

The revised agreement now takes effect as part of a regional effort involving Botetourt County, Roanoke County, the cities of Roanoke and Salem, and the Town of Vinton to continue coordinating greenway planning through the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission.



Community Service Directory



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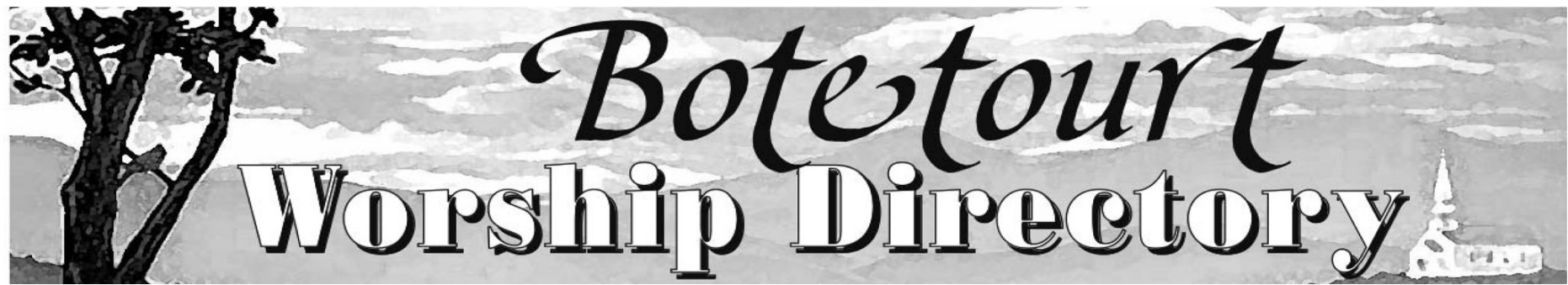


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Botetourt Worship Directory

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

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD
New Beginnings Assembly of God, 1317 Narrow Passage Rd., 43 North. Sunday School, 10:00a.m.; Worship, 11a.m.; Wednesday Prayer & Bible Study, 6:00p.m., Pastor Steve Tremblay, email: pastorstvetremblay@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.-

Wits' End Corner

Read Psalms 106:1 through 109:31

Life can be like riding a ship rolling in the midst of a stormy sea: up one second reaching for the stars, the next second plummeting to the depths. The Psalmist wrote about those who "went out on the sea in ships."

They reeled and staggered like drunkards; they were at their wits' end. Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble, and he brought them out of their distress (Psalm 107:27-28).

A. G. Ward wrote in the Pentecostal Evangel eighty-three years ago, "We have passed through many tests in the past twenty-four years, often we have been at 'wits' end corner' but again and again we have found ourselves singing."

Are you at the end of your rope? Cry out to the Lord. Your prayer life will be different. Your praise life will open up.

Your prayer should be like that of Jehoshaphat as he led God's people when they were under attack: "We do not know what to do, but our eyes are upon you" (2Chronicles 20:12).

Prayer Suggestion: Lord, I trust You to still the storms in my life.

Quicklook: Psalm 107:23-32

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

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. Greg Knopff, 254-2475 (O). Worship, 9:45AM, Sunday School 10:30 AM.

OBITUARIES

Martin, Rebecca Mott

6/15/1952 - 6/25/2026

Rebecca Bott Martin, 74, of Blue Ridge, went to be with the Lord on Thursday, June 25, 2026 at 1:43 p.m. Her passing was quiet and peaceful. Becky loved the Lord with all her heart, and she is now in Heaven rejoicing with Jesus.

She was preceded in death by her father, William Garnet “Chic” Bott; her mother, Eula Marie Wertz Bott-Naff; her father-in-law, Robert W. Martin, Sr.; and mother-in-law, Virginia Marie Martin.

She is survived by her husband of over 50 years, Billy W. Martin, Sr.; son, Billy W. Martin, Jr.; two beautiful granddaughters, Alexis

Valle and Jaylyn Willard. Linda Tinsley was also a very special friend for many years.

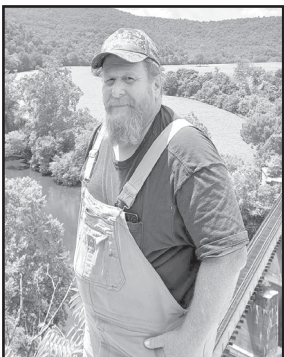
Becky loved her family, she loved life, her church family and friends, but most of all she loved the Lord. Jesus was the centerpiece in her life, and she is now resting with Jesus in heaven.

A memorial service will be held on Sunday, July 5, 2026 at 2 p.m. in Faith Life Baptist Church, 1374 Montvale Street, Montvale. She will be missed terribly by her family and all those who knew her. Rest in peace, my love. Condolences may be made at www.botetourtfh.com or 540-254-3000.

Thrasher, Stephen Lee

Stephen Lee “Steve” Thrasher, 61, of Buchanan, passed away on June 26, 2026.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Randall Conway Thrasher, Sr. and Mary Rosa Lee Kelley Thrasher; and sister-in-law, Donna Lee Thrasher.



He graduated from James River High School and had retired from Norfolk Southern Railway as a Boiler Maker. Steve enjoyed life, his family and friends, the Moose Lodges of Lexington, Bedford, and Buchanan, and The Fishing Rodeo at Thrasher’s Pond was a big part of his heartfelt desire to help those in need.

Survivors include his son, Tanner Thrasher; fiancée, Becky Walker; siblings, Debbie and Gary Johnson, R. Conway, Jr, and Jody Thrasher, Kelley and Adrienne Thrasher, and Stacey and David Clark; numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins, and “Pappy” to Irie and Sawyer.

Steve’s special friends included

Ronnie Harris, Melissa Hutchens, Stephon Burrell, Mark Boggs, Mike Grim, Ricky Stump, Jay Thrasher, Alvin Sensabaugh, Willis Watts, Preston and Bradley Wickline, and many others.

The family received friends from 4-8 p.m. Tuesday, June 30, 2026 in the Buchanan Chapel of Botetourt Funeral Home, 14920 Lee Highway. Funeral services for Steve will be held at 10 a.m., Wednesday, July 1, 2026 in the chapel with Ray Sloan officiating, along with Mark Boggs and Mike Grim assisting. Steve will be laid to rest in Watson Cemetery.

Memorial donations may be made in Steve’s name to The Thrasher Pond Fishing Rodeo, c/o Mill Creek Back Pack Program, 11475 Lee Highway, Fincastle, 24090; American Cancer Society, and the Moose Lodges of Lexington, Bedford, and Buchanan. Those wishing to send a condolence please do so at www.botetourtfh.com or 540-254-3000.

CHURCH NEWS

New minister at Trinity UMC

Trinity United Methodist Church in Buchanan has a new minister, Pastor Greg Kropff.

Everyone is invited before the Buchanan Parade on July 4 to meet him and enjoy a free hot dog between 2-4 p.m. at 10637 Main Street, Buchanan.

The congregation also invites everyone to the Sunday service on July 5 at 9:45 a.m. to welcome Pastor Kropff as he begins his ministry at Trinity United Methodist Church.

Community Meal at Eagle Rock

The Eagle Rock Potluck Community Meal will be Monday, July 13, at 12 noon at the Eagle Rock Community Center. Bring a dish and come for good food and fellowship.

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.

Fincastle Clothes Closet open dates

Fincastle United Methodist’s Clothes Closet will be open on Tuesday, July 7, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; Tuesday, July 21, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., and Saturday, July 25, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. in the Family Life Center. Donations of gently worn, clean clothing and shoes also will be accepted. Call the church office at 540-473-3001 to arrange

to bring donations during office hours, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Tuesday-Thursday.

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.

Daleville Baptist VBS

Daleville Baptist Church is holding Vacation Bible School July 12-16, 6-8:30 p.m., for ages 3-15 years old.

Children will be taught how to go from anxiety to peace, fear to faith, and uncertainty to a firm foundation in God’s Word through a relationship with the Good Shepherd.

Online Registration is open at <https://dalevillebaptistvbs.myanswers.com/emerald-crossing/>. Daleville Baptist is located at 375 Orchard Drive in Daleville.

Zion Hill Baptist VBS

Children 4 years old to fifth grade are invited to VBS at Zion Hill Baptist to share that “Jesus is the Light of the World” on Saturday, July 18. VBS is from 10 a.m.- 2 p.m. Lunch will be provided.

Zion Hill Baptist

Church is located at the intersection of Old Fincastle Road and 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.

St. Mark’s hosting retreat

St. Mark’s United Methodist Church will host an Intergenerational VBS Retreat July 10-12; this is for everyone no matter the age. The theme is “Growing Together in Faith.” Activities are:

- Friday, July 10, 6 p.m., family meal followed by family activities on the “Parable of the Sower”
- Saturday, July 11, 3 p.m., family activities; 5 p.m., family meal; 5:30 p.m., closing worship
- Sunday, July 12, 10 a.m., worship; 11 a.m., potluck meal; 12 p.m., family fun at Carvins Cove

This is a “family event,” so all children must be accompanied by an adult. To register go to the church website.

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Post 240 Notes

American Legion Post 240 awards scholarships to four LBHS graduates

American Legion Post 240 recognized four graduating seniors from Lord Botetourt High School during a special meeting June 23, awarding each student a \$500 scholarship in recognition of their academic achievements and military family heritage.

The scholarships were presented during a meeting held at the Veterans of Foreign Wars building. According to Post 240, a strong military family history was a major factor in selecting the scholarship recipients.

The 2026 scholarship recipients are:

- Kenadi Kovar, who plans to attend Virginia Tech to study veterinary medicine
- Leah Fitzgerald, who plans to attend Radford University to pursue a degree in nursing
- Abigail Perkey, who plans to attend Sweet Briar College to study education
- Allison Perkey, who



PHOTO COURTESY OF AL POST 240

American Legion Post 240 recently awarded \$500 scholarships to four Lord Botetourt High School graduates during a special meeting held June 23 at the VFW building. Pictured, from left, are Leah Fitzgerald, Abigail Perkey, Allison Perkey and Kenadi Kovar.

plans to attend Radford University to pursue a master’s degree in occupational therapy

American Legion Post 240 members extended their congratulations and best wishes to the four students as they begin the next chapter of their education and future careers.

The scholarships reflect the post’s continued support of local students and families with military ties.

In other business, Post 240 announced that its next monthly meeting will

be held Thursday, July 2, at the Veterans of Foreign Wars building, located at the corner of U.S. 220 and Country Club Road in Daleville. A social hour and light supper will be held from 6 to 7 p.m., followed by the business meeting at 7 p.m. The meeting typically lasts about one hour.

American Legion Post 240 encourages all members and veterans who are not currently members to attend.

- Submitted by the American Legion Board of Directors

Buchanan Presbyterian to host free piano concert July 12

Buchanan Presbyterian Church will host a free community piano concert on Sunday, July 12, at 3 p.m. featuring emerging pianist Austin Frantz.

The hour-long program will include works spanning centuries of piano music, from Ludwig van Beethoven’s Appassionata Sonata to the ragtime compositions of Scott Joplin, along with selections by Frédéric Chopin, Claude Debussy and other celebrated composers.

Frantz, 20, is a student at Vanderbilt University, where he studies in the College of Arts and Science while taking coursework through the Blair School of Music. He began studying piano at

age 6 and has performed in churches, recital halls and community venues. His training has included study with Melia Garber of the Roanoke Piano Academy and Amy Dorfman of Vanderbilt’s Blair School of Music, as well as summer programs at Interlochen Center for the Arts and Brevard Music Center.

The concert will be held at Buchanan Presbyterian Church, 19559 Main Street, Buchanan. Admission is free. Attendees are invited, but not required, to bring non-perishable food donations for the church’s food pantry.

- Fincastle Herald staff report

REAL ESTATE AUCTION

5 Bedrooms 4 ½ baths -4358+ SF • 2 Car Garage + Outdoor Workshop

Tuesday, July 28 – 6:00pm

1520 Linden Ave., Clifton Forge, Va. 24422

****Call for an Appointment****

****Seller is willing to consider early offers****

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for all info www.nicelysauctionco.com!

Impressive and very spacious “move in ready” home that includes 3 lots and offers an uninterrupted picturesque view of mountain ranges! The first floor consists of a fully equipped kitchen with a pass-through opening giving you a visual of the adjacent 1026sf family room. This room features a breakfast bar with a prep sink, mini fridge, fireplace, oak hardwood floors, a 3 panel window seat showing off the rear view AND showcases a master suite with a walk in closet & large bathroom. Also on the first floor is a dining room, living room and front entry way with oak hardwoods, half bath and closets. The second floor has 4 bedrooms, 2 full baths and more storage areas! The basement (all heated sf) includes a den, full bath with a linen closet, the utility area where the boiler, water heater, laundry hook up area resides + 2 additional rooms w/ vinyl flooring. The home offers gas hot water baseboard heat, AC, a brick and siding exterior and includes amenities such as a paved driveway, a covered breezeway, a 2 car garage, an adjoining workshop+

Terms of Sale: Real Estate: 10% down day of sale, balance on delivery of deed within 45 days. Sold subject to owner confirmation.

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The Fincastle Herald

The Vinton Messenger

The New Castle Record

Salem Times-Register

News Messenger

Radford News Journal

Yard Sale

Legals - City of Salem

Legals - Montgomery County

Legals - Montgomery County

Legals - Montgomery County

Legals - Montgomery County

STATEWIDE ADS

Indoor Yard/Estate Sale
Friday and Saturday
July 10th and 11th
9 am to 4 pm
2200 Irish Circle Salem
Household goods, women's
2x+ clothing, books,
furniture, Christmas
decorations, appliances,
and more!

Legals - Botetourt County

NOTICE
To improve emergency 911 communications, Botetourt County plans to collocate antennae onto a rooftop at 20 E Back St, Fincastle, VA. Terranext seeks comments from all interested persons on any potential significant impacts on the quality of the human environment pursuant to 47 C.F.R Section 1.1307, including impacts to historic or cultural resources that are listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Comments regarding potential effects to historic properties should be submitted in writing, including the property's address, to Terranext, 1106 Mill Hill Road, Richmond Hill, GA 31324, or via email to jgrover@terranext.net

Legals - City of Salem

Notice is hereby given
to all interested persons that the City of Salem Planning Commission, at its regular meeting on July 15, 2026 at 6:30 p.m., in Council Chambers, City Hall, 114 North Broad Street, in the City of Salem, Virginia, will hold a public hearing, pursuant to Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia, as amended, to consider approval of the following requests relative to the CODE OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA:

1. Consider the request of Community Church Inc, property owner and Cornerstone Classical Academy, lessee, for the issuance of a Special Exception Permit to allow for an Educational Facility, Primary/Secondary, on the property located at 1923 East Main Street (Tax Map #78-1-14).
2. Consider the request of Robertson Family Revocable Trust, property owner and Amer Alsayadi, lessee, for the issuance of a Special Exception Permit to allow a retail sales, smoke shop, on the property located at 501 West 4th Street (Tax Map #143-3-14).
3. Consider the request of The Preston Place Preservation Foundation Inc., property owner, for a Special Exception Permit to allow an assembly hall, nonresidential uses in an accessory structure, and nonresidential uses out of doors, and a Use Not Provided for Permit for outdoor gatherings of less than 500 people on the property located at 1936 West Main Street (Tax Map #138-2-7).

Copies of the proposed plans, ordinances or amendments may be examined in the Office of Community Development, 21 South Bruffey Street, Salem, Virginia.
At said hearing, parties in interest and citizens shall have an opportunity to be heard relative to the said requests.
THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA BY: Christopher J. Dorsey Executive Secretary

Order of Publication
Commonwealth of Virginia
VA Code§§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316;-317.20-104
Case No.CL26-117
VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF ROANOKE, VIRGINIA, Complainant, vs.
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

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, 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

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. Written comments may be sent to the preceding address; please allow adequate mailing time.

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 3426 MOUNT ZION ROAD, BLACKSBURG, VA 24060.

In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated March 11, 2005, in the original principal amount of \$177,800.00 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Montgomery County, Virginia as Instrument No.2005002842. The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for the City of Radford, 619 Second St., W., Radford, VA, or any such temporary alternative Circuit Court location designated by the Judges of the Circuit Court, on September 3, 2026, at 12:45 PM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: BEGINNING AT A POINT, A ROD SET ON THE NORTH SIDE OF MT. ZION ROAD (VA. RTE. 655), CORNER TO PROPERTY OF RALPH L. AND THERESA P. RUPERT; THENCE LEAVING MT. ZION ROAD AND WITH THE RUPERT LINE, N. 00° 24' 13" E. 284.49 FEET TO A POINT, AN EXISTING ROD FOUND AND CORNER TO THE PROPERTY OF GLEN E. AND DENISE G. PRICE; THENCE LEAVING RUPERT AND WITH THE PRICE LINE, S. 88° 21' 17" E. 76.84 FEET TO A ROD FOUND AT AN ANGLE POINT; THENCE CONTINUING WITH PRICE, S. 01° 31' 00" E. 191.00 FEET TO A ROD SET AT AN ANGLE POINT; THENCE STILL CONTINUING WITH PRICE, S. 64° 26' 19" E. 33.48 FEET TO A POINT, A ROD SETCORNER TO THE PROPERTY OF ROY B. MILLER, JR. AND DONNA C. MILLER; THENCE LEAVING PRICE AND WITH THE MILLER LINE, S. 15° 23' 00" W. 108.00 FEET TO A POINT, AROD SET ON THE NORTH SIDE OF MT. ZION ROAD (VA. RTE. 655); THENCE LEAVING MILLER AND WITH MT. ZION ROAD, N. 72° 15' 48" W. 79.15 FEET TO A ROD FOUND ON SAME; THENCE CONTINUING WITH SAID ROAD, N. 72° 45' 29" W. 10.50 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, AND BEING ALL OF THAT PROPERTY NOW OR FORMERLY BELONGING TO JAMES PATRICK ELLIOTT, AS MORE PARTICULARLY SHOWN ON A PLAT OF SURVEY AND BOUNDARY LINE ADJUSTMENT DATED FEBRUARY 23, 2005, PREPARED BY JOHN R. CHRISTMAN, LAND SURVEYOR, A COPY OF WHICH IS RECORDED IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY, VIRGINIA, IN PLAT BOOK PAGE 25, PAGE 81. TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit of ten percent (10%) of the sale price or ten percent (10%) of the original principal balance of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, in the form of cash or certified funds payable to the Substitute Trustee must be present at the time of the sale. The balance of the purchase price will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Purchaser's deposit may be forfeited to Trustee. Time is of the essence. If the sale is set

aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser may, if provided by the terms of the Trustee's Memorandum of Foreclosure Sale, be entitled to a \$50 cancellation fee from the Substitute Trustee, but shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. A form copy of the Trustee's memorandum of foreclosure sale and contract to purchase real property is available for viewing at www.aldridgepите.com. Additional terms, if any, to be announced at the sale and the Purchaser may be given the option to execute the contract of sale electronically. This is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. The sale is subject to seller confirmation. Substitute Trustee: Equity Trustees, LLC, 8100 Three Chopt Road, Suite 240, Richmond, VA 23229. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Virginia Pre-Sale Department of counsel for Equity Trustees, LLC at 301-961-6555, website: www.aldridgepите.com. VA-353027-3.

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

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

The Town of Christiansburg Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, July 20, 2026, at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073, pursuant to Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia, as amended. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments concerning:

A. Conditional Use Permit request by Jeffrey T. and Jamie M. Zoelner, Applicants, and Ray D. Cragett Trust, c/o Anna C. Rogers, Trustee, Property Owner, to allow a Planned Housing Development consisting of one Two-Family Dwelling in the General Business (B-3) zoning district on property located at 185 New Street NW, identified as Tax Parcel 526 - ((A)) - 238; (Parcel ID 004144), and consisting of approximately 0.465 acres. The property is designated as Business/Commercial on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.

B. Conditional Use Permit request by Samuel Bishop, Property Owner and Applicant, to allow residential use in the General Business (B-3) zoning district on property located at 465 Stuart Street NE, identified as Tax Parcel 527-((3))-50A and 527-((3))-49B; (Parcel ID 001756 and 001755), and consisting of approximately 0.18 acres. The property is designated as Residential on the Future Land Use

Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.

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

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

In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated May 19, 2016, in the original principal amount of \$127,645.00 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Montgomery County, Virginia as Instrument No. 160003643. The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for the City of Radford, 619 Second St., W., Radford, VA, or any such temporary alternative Circuit Court location designated by the Judges of the Circuit Court, on July 30, 2026, at 11:30 AM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: PARCEL 1: A PARCEL OF LAND CONTAINING 1.063 ACRES AS SHOWN ON A PLAT ENTITLED "PLAT FOR DAVID E. VANDER VLIET OF AN UN-NUMBERED 1.063 AC. LOT NEAR ROUTE 622 MT. TABOR MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VIRGINIA" PREPARED BY NEAL H. WIRT, L. S., DATED 5 NOVEMBER 1992, DESIGNED AS PLAT NO. 92-688, WHICH PLAT IS OF RECORD IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VIRGINIA, IN DEED BOOK 766, PAGE 561. PARCEL 2: A PARCEL OF LAND CONTAINING 5.153 ACRES AS SHOWN ON A PLAT ENTITLED, "SURVEY FOR DAVID E. & ALTHEA L. VAN DER VLIET OF A 5.153 ACRE PARCEL SITUATE IN. THE MT. TABOR MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VIRGINIA", PREPARED BY JACK G. BESS, C.L.S. , DATED JULY 24, 1995, DESIGNATED AS N.B. W-9 0-95648, A COPY OF WHICH PLAT IS RECORDED IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF MONATGOMERY, VIRGINIA, IN DEED BOOK 886, PAGE 759. TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit of ten percent (10%) of the sale price or ten percent (10%) of the original principal balance of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, in the form of cash or certified funds payable to the Substitute Trustee must be present at the time of the sale. The balance of the purchase price will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Purchaser's deposit may be forfeited to Trustee. Time is of the essence. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser may, if provided by the terms of the Trustee's Memorandum of Foreclosure Sale, be entitled to a \$50 cancellation fee from the Substitute Trustee, but shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. A form copy of the Trustee's memorandum of foreclosure sale and contract to purchase real property is available for viewing at www.aldridgepите.com. Additional terms, if any, to be announced at the sale and the Purchaser may be given the option to execute the contract of sale electronically. This is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. The

sale is subject to seller confirmation. Substitute Trustee: Equity Trustees, LLC, 8100 Three Chopt Road, Suite 240, Richmond, VA 23229. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Virginia Pre-Sale Department of counsel for Equity Trustees, LLC at 301-961-6555, website: www.aldridgepите.com. VA-372257-1.

STATEWIDE ADS

AUCTIONS
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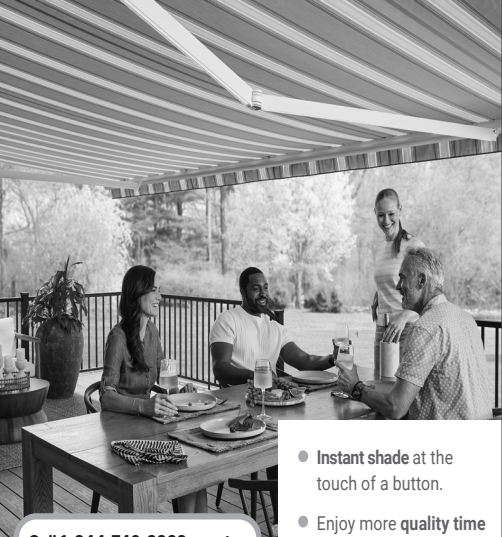
WHAT THEY CLAIMED

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a 5.89-acre parcel along Glebe Road, Broad Street and Charter Avenue.

Unlike the solar proposal, county planners noted the grocery store has been contemplated since the original Daleville Town Center master plan was adopted in 2005. Planning documents produced nearly two decades ago specifically identified a grocery store as a likely future use for the site, which remains one of the final undeveloped parcels within the mixed-use development.

The project will sit adjacent to the Wawa convenience store currently under construction and is designed without fuel pumps, instead focusing solely on grocery retail and pharmacy services.

County Planning and Development Director Jonathan McCoy presented the proposal, explaining that the development is consistent with both the Daleville Town Center master plan and the county's Comprehensive Plan. The project also includes roadway improvements identified through a Traffic Impact Analysis, including a future traffic signal at the intersection of Glebe Road and U.S. 220.

Much of the board's discussion centered on the project's relationship with neighboring properties, particularly residents of The Glebe retirement community.

Amsterdam District Supervisor Tim Snyder questioned the applicant extensively about the proposed landscape buffer along Glebe Road, asking whether additional vegetation could be added to soften the appearance of the development. He also raised questions about truck turning movements, loading dock operations, parking, lighting, site maintenance and overall aesthetics.

Representatives for Fralin & Waldron said the project had been designed to minimize impacts on surrounding properties while meeting the operational requirements of a modern grocery store. They explained that landscaping would continue to mature over time and that delivery traffic had been carefully evaluated during the design process.

Blue Ridge Supervisor Walter Michael focused on

the proposed pharmacy drive-thru, asking whether residents at The Glebe would be able to hear customer conversations through the speaker system.

The applicant responded that drive-thru audio systems operate at limited volumes designed to protect customer privacy and said even vehicles waiting in line typically cannot hear conversations occurring at the service window.

Several residents addressed the board during the public hearing.

Comments urged supervisors to deny the permits, expressing concerns about reduced landscape buffers, additional commercial development, parking, traffic, and what they described as a lack of transparency surrounding multiple development proposals currently under consideration throughout the county.

One speaker questioned whether constructing another large parking lot aligned with Daleville Town Center's walkable design philosophy, while another argued the county was "cannibalizing" existing grocery stores and gas stations by approving additional commercial projects.

Applicant representatives disputed several of those claims, explaining that the grocery store had always been envisioned as part of the original master plan and emphasizing that the project would undergo additional engineering review before construction.

Snyder acknowledged hearing from residents on both sides of the proposal but said he believed most constituents supported bringing another grocery option to the county.

"I think the majority of the people that I've heard from are excited to see another grocery store," Snyder said.

Fincastle Supervisor Brandon Nicely agreed, noting that additional retail options have long been requested by county residents.

Planning commissioners had previously recommended approval of the project, and supervisors unanimously approved both required special exception permits with staff-recommended conditions.

The board later turned its attention to a proposal to

redevelop property at the intersection of Lee Highway and Cloverdale Road as part of the Gateway Crossing Overlay District.

The proposal calls for construction of a 6,400-square-foot convenience store with eight fueling stations, a drive-thru, a 1,750-square-foot service station and electronic message center signage on three parcels near the Interstate 81 interchange.

Planning staff said the project is consistent with the county's Comprehensive Plan, which identifies the Gateway Crossing area as appropriate for highway-oriented commercial development serving interstate travelers.

Discussion focused primarily on traffic access, signage, and an existing shared access easement involving neighboring property owners.

Buchanan Supervisor Linda Rottman questioned how the applicant, RYT, LLC planned to address concerns raised by the adjacent shopping center owner regarding use of the private access road.

County Attorney Mike Lockaby explained that while private easement disputes are generally matters between property owners rather than the county, the supervisors could consider the practical implications when evaluating a legislative land-use request.

Applicant representatives said discussions with neighboring property owners were ongoing and emphasized that the proposed development would substantially improve the appearance and function of the intersection by replacing older commercial structures with new construction designed to meet the architectural standards of the Gateway Crossing Overlay District.

The applicant also requested permission for two monument signs featuring electronic fuel pricing displays, explaining that only the fuel prices— not full electronic advertising— would utilize LED technology.

Following discussion, supervisors agreed (with Supervisor Michael abstaining) to table the convenience store requests until their August meeting, allowing additional time for the applicant to address issues related to resolving private access easement between property owners and other concerns raised during the public hearing.

Cupola

from page 1

continued safety of everyone working on the project and that the courthouse serve as "a sanctuary of truth, justice and equality."

Larrowe said topping off ceremonies have long represented an important construction tradition while providing an opportunity to reflect on the courthouse's significance to generations of county residents.

"Today's topping off ceremony symbolizes progress in the construction process," Larrowe said. "But it also gives us an opportunity to reflect on something much larger than steel, concrete and masonry. Today we are building the

next chapter in a story that began more than 250 years ago."

He noted that Botetourt County's first courthouse was a log structure erected during the 1770s before Thomas Jefferson later supplied plans for a new courthouse that influenced the architecture of subsequent buildings.

"When completed, this facility will provide modern courtrooms, secure space for judicial operations, improved access for citizens, and protect some of the most important historical records in the Commonwealth of Virginia," Larrowe said.

He also recognized the Board of Supervisors, judges, constitutional officers, courthouse staff, county employees, and the many contractors whose work has brought the project to its current stage.

Larrowe singled out Capital Projects Manager Rich Evans for helping

guide the project during a challenging period.

"Projects of this size and complexity don't happen by accident," he said. "They require someone who can navigate the challenges while keeping the project on budget and moving forward."

The county administrator also shared construction statistics highlighting the scope of the project. According to county officials, more than 14,000 cubic yards of rock have been removed, 200 tons of structural steel and 93 tons of reinforcing steel have been installed, 142 cubic yards of concrete have been poured and approximately 30,000 concrete masonry units have been laid. More than 77,000 labor hours have been logged so far. The cupola stands 86 feet, 7½ inches above the basement floor and reaches an elevation of approximately 1,330 feet above sea level.

Evans walked attendees through the courthouse's development timeline, explaining that planning began with a courthouse study in 2020 before design work started in 2022 and construction officially began earlier this year.

"This project has taken years of planning, design, coordination and hard work by a dedicated team of professionals," Evans said.

He credited county leaders, architects, contractors and courthouse employees for working together throughout the lengthy process.

"It has truly been a team effort," Evans said. "Construction is a team



Friday's topping off event in sunny Fincastle was well-attended featuring Historic Fincastle, Inc. providing ice cream to help with the heat.

sport, and the success we celebrate today is the result of the professionalism, craftsmanship and dedication of everyone involved."

While placing the cupola represents a major milestone, Evans noted that substantial work remains, including completing the roof, enclosing the building, installing building systems, and finishing the interior over the coming months.

J a m e r s o n - L e w i s Construction Senior Project Manager Jim Benn thanked Botetourt County for selecting the company to build what he described as one of the county's most important public buildings.

"For generations, the courthouse has been more than a place where justice is administered," Benn said. "It has been the center of civic life."

He recognized the company's field leadership team, project engineers, and subcontractors who have worked through difficult weather conditions and extensive rock excavation since construction began.

Benn said the project represents a partnership

among the county, designers, and builders.

"Great buildings are never the product of a single organization," he said. "They are the result of a true partnership between owner, designer and builder."

He noted that Jamerson-Lewis mobilized on the site in January 2025 and that the former courthouse, built after the devastating 1970 fire, was demolished in May before construction of the new facility accelerated.

Referencing Thomas Jefferson's influence on one of Botetourt County's earliest courthouses, Benn said the new building is intended to serve future generations just as its predecessors did.

"Today we raise the cupola, but more importantly, we celebrate the raising of a courthouse that will serve the people of Botetourt County long after the construction equipment has left," Benn said. "This courthouse will continue to stand as a symbol of justice, service and community."

Following the remarks, attendees watched as workers carefully guided the cupola into place atop the courthouse while onlookers applauded the successful installation.

"The Town of Fincastle is proud to see the new Circuit Courthouse taking shape," Mayor Smith said. "At the same time, we know that building the future comes with temporary growing pains, so we also want to extend a sincere thank you to our residents, business owners, and local workforce. We truly appreciate everyone's patience and flexibility as we all navigate the daily challenges of construction—including traffic shifts, parking changes, and noise. Managing a project of this scale within our historic footprint requires patience from everyone, and we truly appreciate the efforts of the county staff and Jamerson-Lewis Construction to minimize disruptions to those who live and work in town."

According to project information distributed during the ceremony, the new courthouse is expected to be substantially complete in the fall of 2027. The replacement facility is being constructed on the site of the county's previous courthouse and is designed to provide modern judicial facilities while honoring the architectural character of the historic 1848 courthouse that once stood in downtown Fincastle.

Stockyard Report

Monday's sale at the Roanoke-Hollins Stockyard: 163 Head

Bottle Calves	\$400.00-\$985.00
Goats	\$45.00-\$230.00
Sheep	\$50.00-\$195.00
Graded Steers	
400-499	\$419.00-\$454.00
500-599	\$415.00-\$420.00
600-699	\$374.50
700-799	\$309.00-\$385.00
Graded Bulls	
300-399	\$495.00
400-499	\$454.00
500-599	\$409.00
600-699	\$297.00
Graded Heifers	
300-399	\$397.00
400-499	\$360.00-\$403.00
500-599	\$356.00-\$406.00
600-699	\$356.00-\$367.00
Kill Cows	\$17.00-\$179.00
Kill Bulls	\$164.00-\$169.00

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NOTICE

Botetourt County Government Offices and the Libraries WILL BE CLOSED on Friday, July 3, 2026, in observance of Independence Day. Libraries WILL ALSO BE CLOSED Saturday, July 4. The Botetourt County Landfill WILL BE OPEN Friday, July 3 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. The landfill WILL BE CLOSED on Saturday, July 4.

PUBLIC NOTICE

BOTETOURT COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR MEETING OF THE SCHOOL BOARD

The Botetourt County School Board will hold a Regular Meeting of the School Board on Thursday, July 9, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m., immediately followed by closed meeting. The School Board reconvenes to an open public meeting at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will be held at 143 Poor Farm Road, Fincastle, Virginia, with a physical quorum present and electronic access through [www.bcps.live](https://forms.gle/9vZoPXyxZR8bgEoQ6). Citizens wishing to address the School Board are asked to complete a Request to Speak form prior to 10:00 a.m. July 9, 2026 at: <https://forms.gle/9vZoPXyxZR8bgEoQ6> or by contacting Susan Albert, School Board Clerk, at (540) 473-8263 or by email at salbert@bcps.k12.va.us.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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Fincastle needs donations for the July 4 fireworks show!

VENMO: @Townof-Fincastle

Hoffman

from page 12

wear minimal equipment for protection, but many times a small bump will result in the offended player hitting the turf like they’ve been shot. Think of an old black and white cowboy movie where the guy on the roof is shot and falls to the awning below.

So far, as I write this column, the host United States has done well in making the round of 32. They opened with a 2-0 win over Paraguay that had everyone talking about how good our team is. My question is, aren’t we supposed to beat Paraguay? They’re a country with a land size smaller than California and a population of 7.1 million people. Virginia alone has 8.8 million people.

I guess we’re just not a “futball country” just yet. It seems to be the most popular sport in the world but probably doesn’t rank in the top five in the USA. If I had to list them in order I’d put our football first, baseball second, then basketball, ice hockey and probably even auto racing ahead of soccer. That’s hard to say because a lot of little kids play soccer in this country and very few compete in auto racing.

It’s funny that my wife has become a big fan of these World Cup games, as she hasn’t watched soccer since our grandchildren played in the 8- and 10-years-old recreation leagues. She became especially enamored with the Scotland team and their fans. They’re a heavy-drinking, heavy-

partying bunch that has been featured on the national news wearing traffic cones on their heads and parading through the streets on 100-degree days to the sound of bagpipes. Personally, I like the Norwegian fans who “row” up the escalators.

And here’s something I question. The opening round features 12 groups of four countries with each group playing a round-robin schedule to determine who advances to the “knock-out” round. You’d think each of the 12 would play their games at the same site to save on travel expenses, both for the teams and their fans. However, Scotland opened with games in New England, then traveled all the way to Miami to play Brazil. So, the Scots had to travel pretty much the length of the East Coast from one game to the next when it would have been simple to play all the “Group C” games in New England. I’m sure there’s a reason for that, but it doesn’t make a lot of sense to me. Maybe they expected gas prices to be back under three dollars a gallon by now.

The good thing is, the Miami folks got to party with the Scots, and you know Miami is a party place. In fact, all the foreigners seem to be enjoying their time in the United States. I was watching a show the other day where the visitors were overwhelmed by the size of the portions at our restaurants, the great “ranch dressing” we have and

one guy was even excited that a mint was included in his order at Sonic.

And then you have the soccer fans who visited Buc-ee’s. If you’ve ever been to a Buc-ee’s, you can understand how that would make an impact. The first Buc-ee’s in Virginia opened one year ago this week, on June 30, 2025 in Rockingham County. My wife and I were driving up I-81 a week or so after the opening and saw the big beaver blow-up alongside the interstate. We decided to stop in on the way back, when time wouldn’t be a factor, to see what all the fuss was about.

Well, I can honestly say I’d never seen anything like it. First of all, before you went inside you’ll notice around 100 gas pumps as you drive around the immense parking lot. Once you go in, you can find about anything you want and the food is absolutely delicious– the best barbeque sandwich I’ve ever had, and that’s saying something. To call Bucc-ees’ a convenience store is like calling Disney World an amusement park. I assume there are no Buc-ee’s in Bosnia, so you can imagine how those folks felt.

It’s so fun to see our soccer visitors’ faces light up as they experience life in the USA. We get a bad rep sometimes due to world news coverage, and it’s nice to see folks from another country see that the people here are, for the most part, nice.

Cleanup

from page 2



PHOTO BY MATT DE SIMONE

hopeful and do not anticipate needing it,” he said.

Supervisors also asked whether the property has been secured while work is pending following concerns raised by a resident.

Moorman said the site has been cleaned to reduce hazards to motorists and the traveling public, but has not been completely fenced off.

“It’s been cleaned up and pushed to try to keep it from being a

nuisance to the public travel and the right of way,” Moorman said. “But it’s not completely secured.”

Moorman noted that additional county staff from the Department of Community Development and County Attorney Mike Lockaby have been assisting with the project’s technical and legal requirements.

County officials have also maintained regular communication with the

Virginia Department of Emergency Management throughout the process.

Once a contractor is selected, work will focus on removing the remaining debris from the collapsed structure, restoring the property, and completing improvements designed to lessen future flood risks in the Eagle Rock area.

No action by the Board of Supervisors was required following the update.

Ruritans

from page 5

site of the collapsed Farm Store building. That project should be underway soon.

“Botetourt County is very fortunate to have Victor directing projects that are making improvements that will affect every area of the county,” a club member said.

The Ruritans gave a warm welcome to Ann Ellis of Eagle Rock as the newest member.

The Citizenship and Patriotism Committee reminded members that flags were placed on veterans’ graves in honor of Memorial Day, and were reminded of an August 4 primary and encouraged to get out and vote.

Mark Ingram, chair of Environment Committee, reported a great turnout for the litter pick-up, which collected a

dozen bags.

The members are grateful to various eateries in the area for their contribution of a percentage of meal costs to the Eagle Rock PTA from time to time.

The next Eagle Rock Community Fellowship Meal will be at noon on July 13 at the Eagle Rock Community Center. All are invited for a time of

feasting and fellowship.

The club will have a fish fry on October 17, with drive-thru pick-up at a cost of \$15 per plate. Tickets will be available for sale in late August.

The eight Eagle Rock Ruritan Club scholarship recipients and their families have been invited to the club meeting at the Community Center at 6:30 p.m. on July 21.

The June meeting wrapped up with the traditional Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America. Call 540-884-2775 to make reservations to use the Community Center. A nominal fee of \$50 is charged to help with utilities.

-Submitted by Robert & Jane McRae

Letters

from page 4

electricity bill is not just for the electricity used. Part of it goes for infrastructure, and Google, by paying its electricity bill, will also be paying for infrastructure, which he said may actually reduce our electricity bills. Ponder that.

*Bob Patterson
Fincastle
Buchanan District*

Open letter from Mark Tyson to Botetourt County citizens

Newly elected to the Board of Supervisors for the Buchanan District, Linda Rottman, appointed me to the Planning Commission this past January. During my short term serving on the Planning Commission I have been increasingly concerned about the division between what the people of the county want versus the direction the county is pursuing. Foremost of this disharmony is continued unwanted growth and the consternation of adverse consequences regarding the upcoming Google Data Center. It is quite evident in the increasing signage, demonstrations, posted writings, and strong comments at public proceedings.

I have directly approached many demonstrators and commentors, and those communications repeatedly conveyed that the primary concerns are that the data center as well as continued growth will severely tax our limited resources, especially water, cause electric power rates to soar (as other data center communities have experienced), and cause crippling economic hardship to many in our county.

Although many factors deserve much consideration, I have focused on the water issue as it affects everyone across our county. I raised the following motion during the June 8 Planning Commission

Public Session:

“to review and assess the degrees and probabilities of water shortages arising from continued county growth, upcoming Data Center water demands, as well as other potential causations, and review associated plans and related costs to mitigate / prevent potential water shortage problems from materializing during the next 10 to 20 years.”

The motion passed 4 to 1 with Commissioner Lucas seconding the motion and Commissioners Lucas, Hartman, me and Chair Leffel voting to pass it. It was decided that a “Structure” would be determined during the July 13 Planning Commission 6 p.m. meeting and that it would then be “Conducted” during the August 10 Planning Commission 6 p.m. meeting.

I subsequently went through various iterations of a “Structure” to be considered for adoption and determined that an investigative Water “Hearing” may yield the best results. On June 12, I submitted a four-page comprehensive “Structure” (Version 5.2) to the Planning Commission members. FOIA requests released it into the public sphere as well as my subsequent follow-on associated letter to the Planning Commission members. Thus, I am providing both in this “Open Letter” to the people of Botetourt County. My proposed investigative Water “Hearing” can be found on ibb.co/jvZW86ST and my follow-on letter can be found on ibb.co/b5NFPr3F. An excerpt of my follow-on letter follows:

“I have been advised that such a “Hearing” would be unprecedented in Botetourt County, but I believe the Water importance to everyone in the county warrants this action. Some residents are already complaining of low water pressure, well water issues, and continuing drought concerns. Yet these are in advance of the upcoming Data Center water demands anticipated to be

8 million gallons per day which is by far greater than all of Botetourt County’s current public water usage.”

I have received criticism from some that this is not my “job” as Commissioner to attempt launching such a Water Situation investigation, but I have received very strong support as well. Code of Virginia (§ 15.2-2210) indicates that one of the roles and duties of the Planning Commission is to advise the Board of Supervisors of the development of the community, including infrastructure, and that a community’s water situation (including drinking water supply, wastewater, and stormwater management) is fundamentally integrated into a Planning Commission’s infrastructure scope.

I urge that you convey your position by emailing me at mtyson@botetourtva.gov, reach out to the other Commissioners, or comment at the upcoming July 13 Planning Commission 6 p.m. public meeting at the Greenfield Administration Center, which I hope you will attend.

*Mark Tyson
Buchanan District Planning Commissioner*

Support more solar, not less

With only 12% renewable energy on our grid as noted by Virginia DEQ, we need more solar and wind power, not less. I was dismayed to learn that the Botetourt Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors denied 2MW and 5MW solar arrays in the June 23 meeting.

Some in the previous meetings said that heavy metals would leach into the ground from sealed silicone solar panels and flood from panels somehow when

they’re gapped 1/4” between the 3x5 panels. Both NIMBY statements are false.

Reprinted from 2024 DER:

False Claim #2: Toxic heavy metals, such as lead and cadmium (not in proposed solar arrays), leach out from solar panels and pose a threat to human health.

“Studies have shown the heavy metals in solar panels, namely lead and cadmium, can leach out of the cells and get into groundwater, as well as affect plants.”

Roughly 40% of new solar panels in the United States and 5% of new solar panels in the world contain cadmium, but this cadmium is in the form of cadmium telluride, which is non-volatile, non-soluble in water, and has 1/100th the toxicity of free cadmium. Most solar panels, like many electronics, contain small amounts of lead. However, the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DER) has assessed that “because PV panel materials are enclosed, and don’t mix with water or vaporize into the air, there is little, if any, risk of chemical releases to the environment during normal use.” The Massachusetts DER has further assessed that, even in the unlikely event of panel breakage, releases of chemicals used in solar panels are “not a concern.”

The Europeans are far ahead of us on renewable energy and we need to catch up on a GW scale. We’ve had solar on our house since 2008 and mostly just pay the monthly service fee. These proposed community solar arrays would help others do the same that live in apartments and can’t put them on their homes, but apparently the Board of Supervisors doesn’t care.

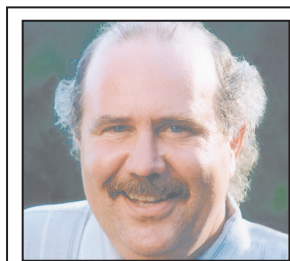
We need all the solar and wind we can harvest for clean energy and to bring our electric rates down!

*Mark E. Hanson
Fincastle*

BOTETOURT

Sports

www.fincastleherald.com



Brian Hoffman

Sports Editor



COURTESY PHOTO

Tennis coach wins gold

James River High School tennis coach Brian White took home the gold medal in the 2026 Virginia Commonwealth Games tennis men's 18+ division. Pictured with Brian are his daughters, Payton and Pyper, who play tennis for the high school team.

Lord Botetourt Cavaliers golf tournament is July 10

The Lord Botetourt High School golf team is having a Captain's Choice Tournament July 10 at 1:30 p.m. at the Botetourt Golf & Swim Club. Entry fee is \$320 per team and \$80 per individual.

For information, contact Todd Smith at 540-660-5530 or email- tsmith@bcps.k12.va.us, Tim Rasnick at 540-309-2739 or email- tr64tr4@msn.com, or Don Hines at 540-915-2854 or email- donhinesjr@gmail.com.



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Softball, Baseball Class 3 All-State teams announced



Olivia Pierce is a second team all-state and first team all-region pitcher from LB.

The Virginia High School League has announced the all-state teams on the diamonds and Lord Botetourt's Olivia Pierce has made the Class 3 team in softball.

Pierce was named to the all-state team as a pitcher. A sophomore, she already has over 300 strikeouts pitching for the Cavaliers. Olivia was also named to the All-Region 3D first team as a pitcher, while Callie Kidd was named to the second team at first base, and Phoenix Humphries received honorable mention.

Broadway senior pitcher Lilah Deavers is the Class 3 Softball Player of the Year, and Abingdon head coach Chelsea Campbell is the Class 3 Coach of the Year. Deavers, a first-team all-state selection four straight years and a first-



Botetourt catcher Beau Lonker made second team All-Region 3D as a freshman.

teamer for the third consecutive year, led the defending Class 3 state champion Broadway team to a 21-4 record and a state runner-up finish in 2026.

Campbell concluded her fourth season leading the Abingdon softball program with a perfect 29-0 record and the school's first-ever softball championship with a 7-3 win over defending state champion Broadway in the Class 3 finals.

Lord Botetourt was not represented on the Class 3 all-state baseball team but the Cavaliers had players on the All-Region 3D team. Junior shortstop Jairdan Pennix and freshman catcher Beau Lonker both made the all-region second team, while senior Garrett Lonker and freshman Swisher Cook made honorable mention.



Callie Kidd made the All-Region 3D second team at first base.



HERALD FILE PHOTOS

Jairdan Pennix of LB is a second team all-region selection at shortstop.

World Cup Fever is rowing your way

By Brian Hoffman,
Sports Editor

Have you caught "World Cup Fever?" Are you watching "fútbol" games day and night, rooting for Ghana to pull out a draw with England? Are you avoiding housework so you can see Messi?

I'm somewhat interested in it. I don't watch every game, but I'll switch to our local Fox Channel after "Jeopardy" and flip back and forth between the soccer and baseball games. Last Tuesday I had a round robin with baseball and soccer between picks of the NBA draft. And, I'll always tune in when the United States or Scotland is playing.

A couple observations. I'm astounded at how good these players are. Most of the soccer I watch is high school or Roanoke College, and I'm amazed when a Blacksburg player puts a free kick in the top corner for a goal, wrapping it around a wall of players lined up with their hands over their privates.

In my many years of covering high school soccer, I've run into all kinds of styles and coaches. Former William Byrd School coach Jeff Highfill would get his players in tip-top shape to outrun the other team. He'd find a player who could throw the ball in really far, then put some football



PHOTO BY LYNN SLADKY, AP

Scots whoop it up in Miami prior to the World Cup game between Scotland and Brazil.

players in front of the cage to outmuscle foes and score goals. The "pure" coaches hated this style but most of the time Highfill's teams won the game. In fact, the "pitch" at the stadium is now named in his honor.

When I write about high school soccer, I always try to throw in some "futball" terms. A scoreless game will be "nil-nil" and I always use "pitch" for the playing surface, much like I'd use "gridiron" for American football. A team won't score a goal to "tie the game," but to "level the score."

Getting back to the World Cup, its incredible how much better these players are than the ones I watch in the ODAC games. It shouldn't really surprise me, because the Kansas City Chiefs are much better than the Randolph-Macon football team, but

nonetheless I'm fascinated how they control the ball, pass with precision and run up and down the field just as fast with the ball as without.

There aren't a lot of scores, it seems like four goals in a World Cup game is like 40 in pro football. And while the scores are few and far between, when someone does score they celebrate like the folks on the streets in France at the end of World War II. I'm sure if women and babies were allowed on the pitch there would be lots of kissing and crying. In fact, I think there is some crying already.

Also, if you think the players in the NBA are floppers, you haven't seen flopping until you watch a World Cup game. Obviously there are some collisions, and the players

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