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High School Honor Rolls - Page 3

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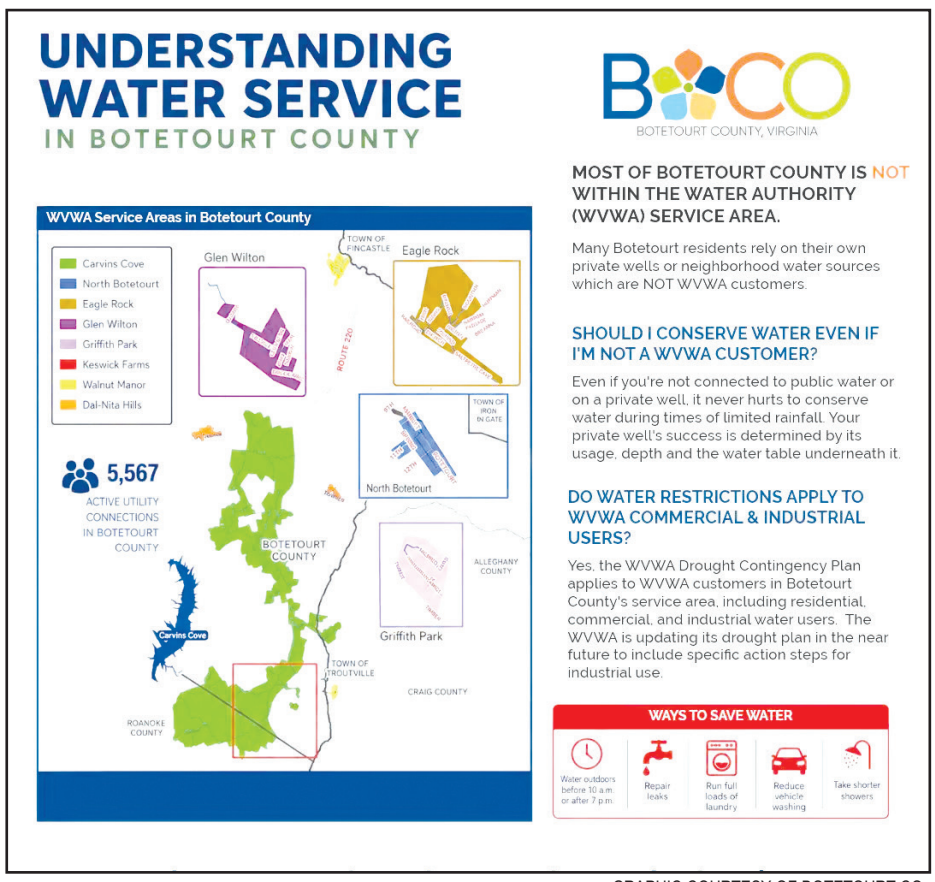
Water service areas explained amid regional conservation request

As the Western Virginia Water Authority (WVWA) has entered Stage 1 voluntary water conservation because of regional drought conditions, Botetourt County is working to clarify which residents are served by the authority and who is affected by the conservation request.

In a social media post this week, the county shared an infographic explaining that most of Botetourt County is not within the WVWA's service area.

County officials said the post was prompted by the authority's voluntary conservation request and by questions from residents about how the advisory affects the county.

"We learned of the voluntary water conservation efforts from the WVWA and knew citizens would wonder if they were included," a county official said. "At the same time, it was an opportunity to explain where water comes from in Botetourt County. It's one of those things where you turn on the tap and the water comes out, but you don't always think about where it comes from."



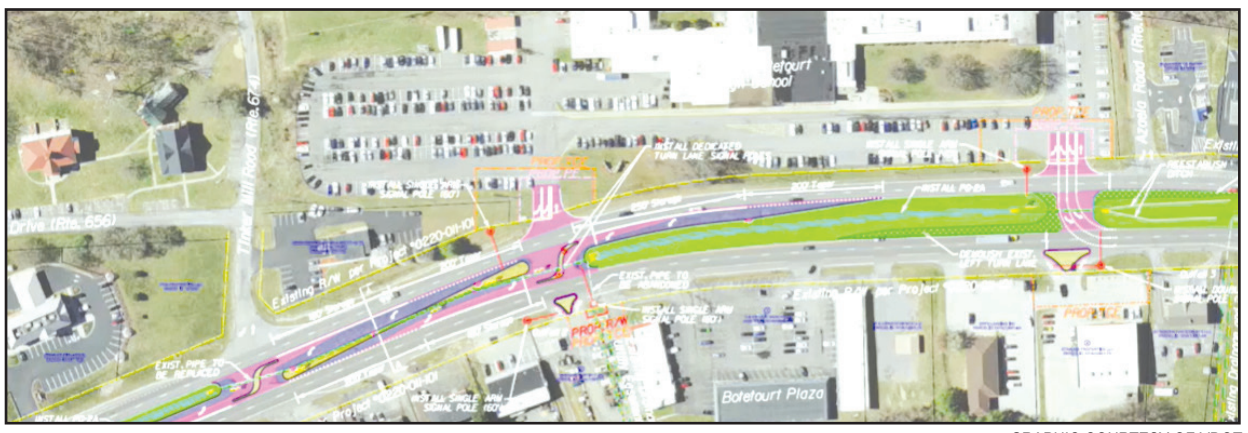
GRAPHIC COURTESY OF BOTETOURT CO.

Botetourt County's infographic shows the Western Virginia Water Authority's service areas and explains that most county residents rely on private wells or other water systems rather than WVWA service.

According to the graphic, the authority provides municipal water and/or sewer service to approximately 5,567 active utility connections in several service areas throughout the county, including Carvins Cove, North Botetourt, Eagle Rock, Glen Wilton, Griffith Park, Keswick Farms, Walnut Manor and Dal-Nita Hills.

The county said most

See **Water**, page 11



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF VDOT

A VDOT concept drawing shared during Thursday's School Board meeting outlines proposed traffic improvements at Lord Botetourt High School designed to improve safety and traffic flow along U.S. 220.

School Board backs easement donation to strengthen traffic signal funding application

Matt de Simone
mattdesimone@mainstreetnewspapers.com

The Botetourt County School Board unanimously approved commitment Thursday to donate an easement at Lord Botetourt High School if a proposed traffic improvement project along U.S. 220 receives state funding, a move intended to strengthen the project's competitiveness for SMART SCALE transportation dollars.

The action authorizes the school division to provide a future easement for the project if it is selected for funding. According to Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) officials, reducing the project's right-of-way costs through the donation could improve its score in the state's competitive funding process.

Carol Moneymaker, a strategic planner with VDOT's Salem District, presented the proposal, outlining longstanding traffic and safety concerns at the school's

See **BCPS**, page 11

County explains legal notice publication process after public questions

Botetourt County has issued a public statement explaining how it selects publications for legally required public notices after officials said they received questions from residents about where those advertisements are appearing.

In a statement released over the weekend, the county said legal notices for public hearings, rezoning requests, budget hearings, ordinance amendments and other government actions are published in accordance with Virginia law, which allows local governments to use multiple court-approved print and online publications.

County officials said publication decisions are based on several factors, including the ability to meet statutory deadlines, publication schedules, staff efficiency and cost.

The statement notes that changes to Virginia law that took effect July 1, 2024, expanded the types of media organizations eligible to publish legal advertisements. According to the county, the change gave local governments additional flexibility while maintaining the same legal requirements for public notice.

The county said it adopted a countywide publication policy in April 2025 that allows legal notices to be published in any publication authorized under Virginia law.

According to the statement, having multiple authorized publication options provides greater flexibility when meeting legal advertising deadlines, particularly when public hearing

See **Notices**, page 11



PHOTO BY MATT DE SIMONE

Opponents of the proposed Google data center campus gather outside the Botetourt County Administration Center before the June Board of Supervisors meeting, urging county leaders to reject the project over concerns about its potential impacts on the community.

Debate continues as Google data center proposal advances

Matt de Simone
Managing Editor

Organized opposition to the proposed Google data center campus in Botetourt County continues to grow as the project advances through the early stages of planning, with supporters and critics increasingly making their case over what many consider one of the most consequential economic development proposals in the county's history.

Nearly a year after Google announced plans for a hyperscale data center campus at Greenfield, the company says the project remains in the design, engineering and permitting phase while residents continue debating what the development could mean for Botetourt's future.

Fueled by the rapid expansion of artificial intelligence and cloud computing, data center construction has accelerated across Virginia, placing Botetourt at the center of a broader conversation about balancing economic opportunity with environmental stewardship and the county's rural character.

That debate was on full display during Google's June 17 community open house at Lord Botetourt High School. Hundreds of residents visited information stations staffed by representatives from Google, the Western Virginia Water Authority (WVWA), Appalachian Power and Botetourt County to ask questions about water usage, electrical infrastructure, environmental considerations, planning, zoning, community investment and projected tax revenue.

Outside the school, dozens of residents gathered with signs opposing the proposal, reflecting an increasingly organized movement that has emerged over the past year.

Although the project continues moving through federal, state and local review processes, Google representatives emphasized that many aspects of the proposal remain preliminary and subject to change as engineering work continues.

Much of the organized opposition has centered on the Southwest Virginia Data Center Transparency Alliance, or SWVA DCTA, a grassroots organization advocating for greater public oversight and additional regulations for hyperscale data centers.

Julie Bivins, one of the organization's founders, said she became concerned almost immediately after learning of Google's plans.

"I remember when I heard that announcement, immediately being like, 'Oh no. We don't want that here,'" Bivins said.

Although she lives in Roanoke, Bivins said concerns about regional water resources and the possibility of additional hyperscale data centers across Southwest Virginia motivated her involvement.

"Our main goals are to empower communities here in Southwest Virginia to work with local governments and our state government to increase regulations," she said. "We want to mitigate damage to communities from these projects. We want additional oversight. We want to make sure there are ratepayer protections in place."

Bivins said her organization is not opposed to technology but believes projects of this scale should move forward with greater transparency. She said Google's June open house was a positive step but left many residents seeking additional information about water planning, electrical demand, noise, and future infrastructure improvements.

"If Google and the county addressed every concern related to water use," she said, "that would be a win."

See **Debate**, page 5



Botetourt County History

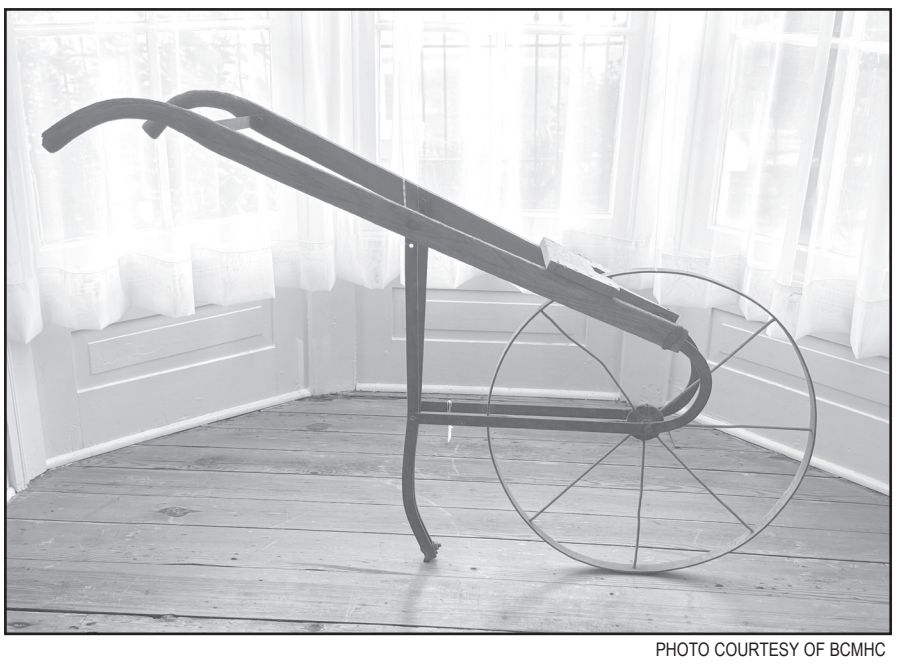


PHOTO COURTESY OF BCMHC

This antique single-wheel cultivator could be hand pushed to loosen the soil between the rows of crops. During the 19th century this tool made tending the fields more efficient than traditional hand hoeing.

Cultivators like this reflect a period of gradual change in farming practices, when farmers adopted new tools to improve productivity while still relying heavily on human and animal labor. While simple in design, the single-wheel cultivator represents an important step toward more efficient field management before the adoption of animal-powered equipment or mechanized tractors. This tool is so useful that it is still on sale today.

The success of early farms shaped not only the landscape but also daily life. Agricultural production provided food, income and trade that supported households of varying sizes.

Many of the stories and artifacts from Botetourt's agriculture are on display in the new exhibit "Home Grown-Botetourt's Agricultural History" at the Botetourt Museum of History & Culture in Fincastle. Today's farmers are also celebrated in this exhibition.

~ Botetourt County Museum of History & Culture

Fincastle receives update on downtown revitalization grant, park improvements

Fincastle Town Council received a wide-ranging update from Town Manager Melanie McFadyen during its regular meeting Thursday night, highlighting progress on the town's Community Development Block Grant application, improvements at the town park, sidewalk projects and several maintenance efforts.

McFadyen told council the town submitted its application for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) on July 1 and expects to learn this fall whether it has been awarded funding. If approved, work would begin in 2027, with downtown building façade improvements taking priority before other grant-funded projects.

According to the grant narrative distributed to council, the proposed revitalization effort would focus on rehabilitating commercial buildings in the historic district while making infrastructure and accessibility improvements. Plans include façade renovations, upgraded sidewalks, drainage improvements, streetscape enhancements, improved lighting, and expanded parking. The project also aims to strengthen economic development by attracting new businesses and visitors to Fincastle's historic downtown.

Council also received an update on improvements at the town park. McFadyen said construction of the new gazebo by Blue Mountain Construction is progressing well. The Botetourt County Sheriff's Office will assist with completing the park fence and bridge work, while Bert Perkey continues work on the monument.

On sidewalk improvements, McFadyen said the deteriorating section along West Main Street presents a more complicated challenge than initially anticipated. Because portions of the sidewalk fall within Virginia Department of Transportation, town, and private property rights-of-way, VDOT does not consider it a standard maintenance project. As a result, the town would likely need grant funding before undertaking a full replacement. McFadyen said several other sidewalk locations have been identified and submitted to VDOT and are expected to be repaired this year.

McFadyen also reported that the town has contracted with a specialty company to pressure wash the municipal water tank using a process that cleans the structure without damaging its paint. The work will cost $500.

She also praised this year's Independence Day fireworks celebration, saying vendors were pleased with attendance and the large crowd. Although lightning prompted organizers to begin the display earlier than planned, the event was otherwise successful.

~ Fincastle Herald staff report



FILE GRAPHIC

Planning Commission seeks board approval for public forum on Google data center issues

The Botetourt County Planning Commission unanimously voted Monday night to ask the Board of Supervisors for authorization to organize a public forum examining water resources, power infrastructure, noise and other issues related to the proposed Google data center campus at the Botetourt Center at Greenfield.

The request follows an extended Planning Commission work session in which commissioners discussed the limits of the commission's authority under Virginia law and how best to address public interest surrounding the proposed development and its potential impacts.

According to information released by Botetourt County, commissioners reviewed several documents prepared by members of the Planning Commission outlining questions and discussion topics related to water supply, infrastructure planning, drought management, power infrastructure and other issues associated with the proposed data center campus.

During the meeting, legal counsel advised commissioners that the Planning Commission does not have the authority under Virginia law to independently organize a special survey or study of that nature. Instead, any such effort must first be authorized by the Board of Supervisors.

Following that guidance, commissioners shifted their discussion toward formally requesting direction from the board.

The Planning Commission unanimously approved a motion recommending that the supervisors authorize and direct the commission to organize a special public meeting or forum. The motion also calls for submitting several supporting documents to the board, including the "Botetourt Planning Commission Water Situation Summary v5.2," the "Botetourt Planning Commission Official Infrastructure and Accountability Request," the "Primary Water Assessment White Paper" and a consolidated list of water planning questions.

If approved by the Board of Supervisors, commissioners envision holding the forum later this year after additional planning and coordination.

According to the county, the proposed event would be designed to provide factual information and expert perspectives on water resources, power infrastructure and other topics related to the Google data center campus.

Commission members also noted that establishing a clear scope for the discussion will be important before extending invitations to participants.

Among the topics identified for possible discussion are long-term water supply planning and regional capacity, peak versus average daily water demand, cooling technologies used at modern data centers, drought response planning, water conservation measures, wastewater treatment and discharge, emergency water supply priorities, groundwater and aquifer protection, safeguards for private wells, emergency contingency planning, electric grid capacity, noise and environmental impacts, and financial and legal accountability.



FILE GRAPHIC

If the board authorizes the forum, commissioners discussed inviting representatives from organizations with technical expertise in water planning and infrastructure. Potential participants mentioned during the meeting included representatives of the Western Virginia Water Authority, Virginia Tech, representatives associated with the proposed Google data center project and other subject matter experts.

County staff said developing a focused list of questions in advance would allow invited experts to prepare meaningful, fact-based responses. Commissioners also emphasized the importance of assembling a balanced panel representing a range of technical perspectives.

The Planning Commission's request is expected to come before the Board of Supervisors at its July 28 meeting.

Along with the request, commissioners will submit the supporting documents reviewed during Monday's work session. If the board grants authorization, commissioners anticipate refining the forum agenda during their August meeting with the goal of holding the public event in September.

The Board of Supervisors will ultimately determine whether to authorize the Planning Commission to organize the proposed public forum and establish the next steps for the effort.

~ Fincastle Herald staff report

Buchanan council adopts new policies, hears updates on theatre, carnival and future projects

Matt de Simone
Managing Editor

Buchanan Town Council approved a new water leak adjustment policy, formally adopted rental fees for Town Park and appointed a new member to the Planning Commission during its regular meeting Monday, while also receiving updates on the Buchanan Theatre renovation, the town's finances and several ongoing projects.

Vice Mayor Jamie Manspile presided over the meeting in the absence of Mayor Sue Way.

Council first heard an update on the Buchanan Theatre renovation from Adam McBryde, chairman of the Buchanan Theatre Board of Directors, who said work continues to move forward despite minor delays.

"It's going good," McBryde said.

He said permits are expected to be finalized soon, allowing construction to begin on the rear of the building while interior demolition continues. Although the building currently appears "pretty bare," McBryde said the project is nearing the rebuilding phase and remains on track for an opening early next year.

"We're excited," he said.

Council then unanimously approved a new water leak adjustment policy presented by Town Manager Tim Mack. The policy establishes a formal process for utility customers requesting billing adjustments after qualifying water leaks.



FILE GRAPHIC

Under the policy,

See **Buchanan**, page 10

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GRAPHIC COURTESY OF BUCHANAN LIONS

Free movie at Buchanan Community Park July 25

The Buchanan Lions Club will present "The Super Mario Galaxy Movie" free to the public on July 25 at sunset (8:30 p.m.) at the Buchanan Community Park. With renovations at the historic Buchanan Theatre now underway, the Lions will show G-Rated movies numerous times over the next year.

With funding help from the Buchanan Library, the Buchanan Lions, Friends of the Buchanan

See **Movie**, page 7

HIGH SCHOOL HONOR ROLLS

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

JAMES RIVER

A HONOR ROLL

12th GRADE: Hannah Albers, Nicole Baker, Jack Beheler, Kaia Binns, Sydnee Breeding, Regan Childs, Keira Crawford, Anna Davidson, Siera Davis, William DeSouto, Landon Dillow, Emma Dooley, Ireland Dooley, Caitlyn Downey, Olivia Eubank, Donald Griffin, Aeris Hawkins, McKenna Hayslett, Cameron Hosey, Rylee Jordan, Benjamin Lawson, Josiah Merchant, Georgia Miller, Madison Muncey, Abbey Parker, Aaron Petty, Hayley Rader, Addisyn Rodgers, Madeline Rutledge, Makenna Saville, Lillian Tingler, Jenna Tucker, Silas Whitson

11th GRADE: Olivia Ayers, Jessica Ayres, Remi Bingeman, Samuel Bolton, Avery Carr, Samira Cefola, Conor Childs, Isaiah Coleman, Aidan Davis, Sydney DeMarco, Angelina Dunbar, Declan Duncan, Richard Francis, Brooklyn Hayslett, Amiah Higginbotham-Sandidge, Jay Hipes, Gretchen Huffman, Louisa Jamison, Ayden Jennings, Noah Johnson, Selene Kelley, Cheyenne King, Paisley Kitt, Rhaya Kitt, Joran Little, Sarah Lorman, Jeremiah Mays, Cora Mullins, Austin Myers, Kyleigh Napier, Brianna Patterson, Riley Persinger, Keegan Price, Abilene Simmons, McKinley Sink, Lacey Smith, Gillian Smith, Leanna Steger, Cooper Stewart, Charles Stull, Kyra Taylor, Naudia Thomas, Vivian Vernon, Mark Voight, Samuel Wilson

10th GRADE: Kennedy Agee, Addison Bandy, Joel Barber, Katelyn Barrett, Jayden Beale, Carter Birckhead, Caroline Church, Bella DiBenedetto, Aaron Dickison, Janiya Falls, Grace Ferguson, Spencer Fornecker, Isabell Garrett, Kayla Henry, Sariah Jamison, Lydia Jones, Evan Joyce, Andrea Kreklow, Kaycee Lemon, Nolan Linthicum, Katelyn Manspile, Karly Mines, Barrett Pace, Khloe Robinson, Reagan Rowland, Sonny Sharp, Paige Shotwell, Houstan Sieger, Jordyn Simmons, Brody Stewart, Laighton Tate, Jeremy Tribble, Hailee Vassar, Jacey Walker, Holly Weddle, Gracelynn Wolcott

9th GRADE: Julianna Banka, Hadleigh Breeden, Charlotte Brock, Josiah Bryant, Mirai Burton, Cohen Byer, Madelyn Davidson, Dylan Davis, Merit Hammons, Charlotte Hipes, Ava Hosey, Briana Huthwaite, Evie Huwe, Killian Kennedy, Elizabeth Laughridge, Nora Lotts, Grace Matre, Andrew Monteith, Paxton Montgomery, Camden Newman, Maren Pauley, Colton Payne, Braden Persinger, Siena Riddle, Laken Robinson, Caroline Rushing, Zoe Serrano, Coraline Sink, Isaac Theimer, Emma Thurston, Charlie Tingler, Ava Updike, Alexander West, Carolena Williams

A-B HONOR ROLL

12th GRADE: Miley Austin, William Ballard, Walker Bierer, Gavin Binns, Aiden Byrd, Chase Clemons, Colt Cook, Rain Copeland, Landon Flores, Mason Harlow, Chloe Helmandollar, Anna Hensley, Ella Hutchens, Trevor Hylton, Eli King, Briana Mitchell, Mitchell Snare, Nathan Stewart, Jalen Thompson, Ryder Ward, Emma West, Maddox Woodyard

11th GRADE: Jeremy Albright, Khloe Austin, Kaeley Benjamin, Brylee Brammer-Falls, Tristen Brown, William Burks, Adrieanna Caldwell, Gracie Cash, Alexis Cassell, Emma Cecil, William Clark, Evangelyn Clonch, Christopher Daniels, Lilly Falls, Rylee Forbes, Mason Gilliland, Emily Griswold, Adeline Hanna, Kaylee Harlow, Braden Jones, Kristen Kessler, Ashtyn Kitt, Caleb Longley, Melody Martin, Sophia Martin, Aydia McMaster, Parker Melson, Auston Metz, Brennen Monaghan, Carson Mowles, Samaya Osborne, Kylie Overfelt, Reagan Peterson, Noah Riley, Jackson Sandidge, Avery Saunders, Holden Saville, Ryleigh Scott, Jaelyn Shumate, Katie Whitmer, Pierce Woodyard

10th GRADE: Kendall Aaron, Kale Brady, Maggie Brewster, Gary Brunner, William Bryant, Kinzley Bunn, Cade Cook, Molly Dewhirst, Wyatt Dewhirst, Riley Dulaney, Kaylee Dunbar, Jackson Durham, Taylor Fridley, Pepper Henderson, Cavann Hoelzle, Autumn Holbrook, Jordyn Ives, Elizabeth Johnson, David Kessler, Owen Lawson, Brianna Lowe, Sawyer Lucas, Stephen Mahon, Mckenzie Marshall, Kellan Matheny, Gavin Metz, KalEl Minnis, Frederick Murray, Owen Newcomb, Erica O'Quinn, Brooklyn O'Quinn, Whitleigh Ronk, Danikka Seaman, Oscar Seitz, Ethan Serrano, Jacob Snare, Virginia Thomas, Jacari Thomas, Madalynn Wagner, Sierra Ware, Cullen White, Payton White, Benjamin Whitt

9th GRADE: Abigail Angle, Frank Beard, Birdie Boblett, Layla Bryant, Cheyenne Byrd, Garet Cook, Adelyn Dooley, Memphis Duty, Logan Galanes, Briley Goyer, William Hall, Harrison Hanna, Brody Helmandollar, Jarrett Jennings, Joel Laughridge, Brianna Link, Matthew Lowe, Kinsley Matheny, Autumn McDermott, Landen McGough, Kinley Millman, Brianna Petty, Charles Poff, Savanna Sieger, Jacob Simmons, Isabella Taylor, Kimberlyn Van Auken, Ashby Wilkes, Tobyann Windsor

LORD BOTETOURT

A HONOR ROLL

12th GRADE: Alyssa Alban, Meredith Allen, Emma Campbell, Caralyn Collins, Tayler Cronise, Caitlin Curran, Lorenzo Dean, Graham Dietrich, Nickolas Edmondson, Emmanuel Elswick, Kennedy Fender, Benjamin Ferrell, Leah Fitzgerald, Olivia Gantzhorn, Austin Gardner, Iory Granados-Armas, Jaxon Guilliams, Alexa Gurley, Danielle Harper-Coughlin, Olivia Harvey, Ryan Hooven, Rachel Huard, Nikayla Hunt, Gabriel Jones, Chloe Kelly, Callie Kidd, Brady Kish, Rhiley Lumpkin, Josara Lyle, Emily Maddox, Jonathan Malue, Thomas Marden, Ryan Markham, Rylee Mauck, Stevie Megow, Cub Miller, Breely Mitchell, Olivia Nicely, Kyle Nordgren, Griffin Osborne, Abigail Perkey, Harriett Polinsky, Alina Poudel, Dylan Price, Soren Rosine, Maximus Rubenstein, Emilia Sanford, Leia Simurina, Rhiannon Stowe, Emily Thompson, Alina Toliver, Gabriella True, Olivia Truman, Maxwell Vanover, Bailey Wells, Morgan Wilmer, Hannah Wilson, Logan Wingler, Riley Wolford, Benjamin Zimmerman

11th GRADE: Sophie Bailey, Lilah Barker, Asher Bolinsky, Kaylin Bousman, Elaina Brown, Jayden Brubaker, Dalton Close, Ella Dickerson, Reilly Eason, Addison Garner, Kevin Gergely, Leahbella Gillian, Carrlee Glenn, Landen Gray, Bryce Heizer, Owen Hilgers, Maggie Hoover, Riley Howell, Gracie Huffman, Rose Janosz, Madison Jones, Paxton Kirby, Kayla Landeros-Silva, Corra Lasek, Rylan Lavinder, Aaron Lyle, Angelina Martin, Samuel Meadows, Sarah Meadows, Kinsley Milko, Maxton Mizuba, Jasmine Moctezuma castillo , Anna Moore, Daisy Osborne, Gabriella Peterson, Hayden Quesenberry, Corbin Richardson, Ella Rubenstein, Matthew Smith, Abagail St. Clair, Ryan Staton, Addalyn Underwood, Preston Vaughn, Alexis Wagner, Abigail Walls, Ember Wiley, Chloe Williams, Simon Williams, Meredith Willmott, Morgan Wingler, Leviticus Wolfe

10th GRADE: Reese Adkins, Elson Baniya, Maryn Barnes, Caylin Barrett, Mason Boitnott, Annika Brown, Thomas Burns, Cael Burton, Kennedy Carpenter, Chloe Clowdis, Rylee Crockett, Cinthya Diaz Villeda, Jonah Dunker, John Ferguson, Madelyn Fields, Cohen Folks, Sara Foster, Ella Foutz, Lois Frederickson, Alexis Garcia, Strummer Giffin, Phoebe Gilchrest, Zoey Haga, Evie Hogan, Holden Hooven, Bailey Hutchins, Christopher Johnson, Braylen Johnson, Nevaeh Jones, Davis Kidd, Hailey Knick, Alyvia Lee, Archer Lee, Sadaf Lemar, Hannah Lewis, Jordan Lin, Ryan Lindsay, Wyatt Marion, Thomas Mattarocchia, Sharise McGowan, Hannah McNamara, Natalie Mullins, Christopher Myers, Amelia Nicely, Renee Nunez Torres, Georgiana O'Bryan, Piper Osborne, Diya Patel, Anna Radtke, Kaden Reczek, Haiden Reedy, Lucille Rock, Eleanor Rosine, Tyler Staley, Sam Stelter, Ethan Steryous, Jackson Taylor, Paphada Thepsimuang, Brylea Thomas, Ryder Toup, Elijah Trump, Mason Tuck, Alyssa Walker, Holly Wood

9th GRADE: Naomi Acree, Rana Atayi, Jared Atwell, Brenden Banka, Alexander Barbour, Carter Belcher, James Blevins, Evelyn Bowden, Olivia Burger, Misael Caballero, Cora Clark, Emery Collins, Mark Craig , Annika Dale, Beahlen Deacon, Lucas Dehr, Benjamin Dodd, Connor Dooley, Callie Dozier, Camden Dudding, Kaycyn Dull, Kailyn Edwards, Karis Edwards, Brookelyn Fadia, Kyley Fernandez, Olivia Foster, Elliana Foutz, Jayleen Galvao, Mason Gates, Brynn Gentry, Cambridge Gibson, Jordan Gilbert, Aiden Gillespie, Ethan Greer, Alyssa Grooms, Maddox Harrell, Lucas Higgins, Liam Hogan, Samantha Hoover, Nicholas Janosz, Boyd Jensen, Morgan Keleher, Kathryn Kidd, Ahmad Lemar, Beau Lonker, Yasmine Luckett, Noah McCarren, Maggie Meads, Adrian Moore, Chase Nichols, Elwood Nixon, Noah Patterson, Ellie Persing, Evelyn Powell, Elena Preston, Wyatt Price, Gabriel Puckett, Emma Rickman, Colby Salmon, Tenley Scharf, Madison Sealey, Landon Sharp, Ellie Shawn, Joshua Sherman, Sean Stewart Jr, Lyla Thomas, Madison Weppner, Kailey Whitson, Jonathan Williamson, Sophia Wolfe, Macyn Woody, James Yager

A-B HONOR ROLL

12th GRADE: Azariah Adams, Abdulrahman Altawel, Alexis Anglin, Payten Arnold, Arianna Beard, Andrew Boitnott, Raegan Bolling, Kendall Brennan, Karleigh Brown, Jacob Brown, Maggie Caldwell, Preston Carter, Sylvana Cavinder, Chloe Clemmer, Janai Compton, Jakobie Cox, Peyton Creasy, Josiah Dale, Jaiden Dann, Kennedy Dorsey, Ava Duff, Eric Duncan, Ella Fletcher, Landon Hayes, Catherine Hedrick, Garrett Honts, Kelley Ingle, Ratie Jensen, Savanna Johnson, Quinten Jones, Lila Leon, James Lisle, Garrett Lonker, Hannah McFarling, Reagan Meade, Emily Murry, Caleb Muterspaugh, Mya Perdue, Nathan Preston, Taygen Sanchez-Huerta, Serenity Shearer, Malyia Smith, Emma Spangler, Jacob Staton, Ethan Thorne, Danni Tice, Allison Wertz

11th GRADE: Stephanie Akers, Lauren Barns, Derek Bond, Abigail Booth, Emily Buehring, Hayden Bushnell, Callie Byrd, Noel Caballero, Maria Carrera Lazaro, Skyla Corkins, Sophia Crane, Lillian Crenshaw, Caleb Crouch, Noah Cunningham, Olivia Dameron, Alisa Davidova, Ryan Dominisac, Cody Dooley, Makenna East, Mason Endaya, Daniel Estep, Riley Fickey, Gavin Flint, Noah Frederickson, Madeleine Gantzhorn, Ethan Hardin, Kori Harris, Ava Horne, Torrence Jones, Emma Kaufman, Ian Keister, Briana Keith, Emory Lonker, Lauren Lucado, Javiana Lyle, Abigail Maddox, Craig McLucas, Sydney Meadows, Julia Misicko, Minh Ngo, Bryce Nichols, Kendall Nixon, Liliana Orozco-Meador, Christopher Palmero, Chase Peck, Jairdan Pennix, Addison Purser, Gabriel Rubenstein, Callie Shuler, Jacob Spence, Ava Stephens, Sadie Stowe, Julia Thorne, Gabriel Towe, Jocelin Underwood, Isis Velasquez, Emma Wade, Kaylee Warren, Brody Wilhoit, Sydney Yates, Brenna Zimniewicz, Asher Zuraw

10th GRADE: Christian Adams, Triston Akers, Sheyla Annalie Anaya, Nicholas Antivero, Brittany Barger, Olivia Bergsten, Kaylee Bradbury, Connor Bratton, Cole Cecil, Ava Cook, Kyra Dobbs, Walter Duffield, Noah Estes, Mia Etzler, Gwyneth Farrar, Aiden Fisher, MaKenna Foster, Matthew Fuller, Briggsley Grant, Braeden Harvey, Landon Helman, Kyla Hughes, Phoenix Humphries, Brooklynne Jolley, James Lane, Sarah Lawrence, Warner Lewis, Gracie Ann Mattox, Gabriel McCurry, Layla McGavock, Neela Megow, Ian Michael, Declan Milton, Nathan Moser, Grant Murphy, Addison Naff, Mathias Newton, Mackenzie Nichols, Eliza Payne, Eva Pendleton, Avary Perdue, Marshal Phillips, Olivia Pierce, Annabelle Puckett, Adelle Roberts, Emilee Rogers, Brent Saunders, Adrienne Shenton, Grace Shonhor, Autumn Sparks, Mathew Staley, Kylie Sutler, Annagail Tribbett, Josiah Tribble, Maddex Umber, Dylan Welch, Rylan Wilcher, Stephen Wise, Deacon Witt, Lucas Young

9th GRADE: Easton Arnold, Landon Bryant, Annalee Campbell, Carter Cecil, Gavin Childs, Siomara Clark, Casiel Codera, Matthew Collins, Swisher Cook, Garrett Cooper, Virginia Crawford, Brody Crigger, Hayden Curtis, Carter Dalglish, Jadyn Deaner, Katelin Dent, Abigail Dillard, Brody Doss, Jessalyn Dunker, Naomi Franco, Avery Gilbert, Isabella Glenn, Evan Gordon, Oliver Greene, Peyton Guy, Wyatt Hatter, Veronica Helms, Kaylee Hudgins, Avery Huffman, Tinley Humphries, Olivia Hunt, Josephine Ingrassia, Jacob Jenkins, Macy Johnson, Aaliyah Johnson, Taylor Jones, Ciera Jones, Porter Kincer, Katherine Ann Klein, Kenzie LaVenture, Elijah Laffoon, Paige Lord, Easton McNabb, Titus Megow, Noah Meyer, Noah Nagle, Wyatt Nicely, Henry Ostendorf, Doruk Ali Ozgor, Michael Pastrikos, Gianna Pitzer, Joselyn Rivera Perez, Mason Rowland, Diego Ruiz, Madeline Sanford, Tyler Sloan, Amelia Stump, Gage Vassar, David Wallace, Kambri Weaver, Layla Weber, Ashton Wertz, Jordan Whitten, Adrian Windsor, Gabriel Witt, Alexander Yetter, Bentley Young

Bank of Botetourt

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Library Buzz

Yoga for Beginners

Thu, July 16, 6:30 PM, Blue Ridge
Tue, July 21, 9 AM, Fincastle

Learn gentle yoga stretches. Mats and yoga blocks provided or bring your own. Instructor: Jaime Thrasher, Botetourt County Parks & Recreation. Best for adults. Registration required. Register at https://botetourtva.libcal.com/ or call 540-928-2900.

Dinosaur Tea Party

Fri, July 17, 2:30 PM, Buchanan

Join us for a story, snacks, games, table manners fun, and a special surprise T-Rex visit. Best for ages 6-11. Registration required. Register at https://botetourtva.libcal.com/ or call 540-928-2900.

Managing Nutrition with Alpha-Gal

Sat, July 18, 12 PM, Eagle Rock

Learn what to expect with Alpha-Gal Syndrome and how you get your nutritional needs met if you have it. Participants can sample a salad dressing and take recipes home. Presented by Aimee Valenzuela, Nutritional Therapy Practitioner, MPH.

True Crime Book Club

Tue, July 21, 6:30 PM, Blue Ridge

Discuss true crime cases through books, documentaries, and podcasts. May 2026: Murder and Secrets June 2026: Angel Makers July 2026: Killer's Point of View.

Learn more about Botetourt Libraries at bocolibraries.info

Arrests

July 6-July 10, 2026

The Botetourt County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests July 6-10:

- Ryan K. Jennings, 45, of Vinton, shoplifting, trespassing, July 6
- Eli N. Sowers, 21, of Troutville, failure to appear, July 7
- Vincent W. Brennan, 43, of Troutville, property damage, July 8
- Ronald W. Beard, 58, of Daleville, domestic assault, July 8
- Thomas E. Pratt, 27, of Fincastle, threats to bomb, damage, or discharge a firearm within or at buildings or means of transportation, July 8
- Cody J. Bray, 32, of Eagle Rock, drunk in public, July 9
- Joshua A. Wheeler, 45, of Troutville, domestic assault, July 10
- Desmond S. Faulkner, 27, of Roanoke, identity theft, reckless driving, failure to appear, July 12
- Lawrence D. Crowder, 39, of Troutville, driving revoked, July 10

Groendyk Reunion planned for August 29

The annual Groendyk Reunion will be held on Saturday, Aug. 29, from 3-6 p.m. under the pavilion on Lowe Street (Carnival Grounds) in Buchanan with the meal around 4 p.m. (please bring a side dish or dessert to share). Family members are welcome to attend; pass along to any former Groendyk employees that you know.

For more information, call Rhonda Cox at 540-529-5689; Missy Dudley, 540-314-9847; Dot Deacon, 540-254-2774; or Jerrah McKemy, 540-784-9868.

~ Fincastle Herald staff report

Letters to the Editor

Patterson says county citizens deserve answers

When I began to look at the July 8, 2026 edition of The Fincastle Herald (Herald) last week, I planned to open it to the page where the legal advertisements appear. I was specifically going to read a legal advertisement for the Planning Commission (PC) meeting on July 13. I wanted to see what, if anything, appeared therein regarding the totally meaningless proposal made by Mark Tyson to which we were exposed for about 20 grueling minutes at the June 8 PC meeting.

Even after being advised by the county attorney at that meeting that going out and studying something is not really part of the PC's purview, someone prepared a letter for him to sign which the Herald published in the July 1 edition regarding an investigative water "hearing" he or his handlers plan to convene.

Thereafter, on July 3, Botetourt County did a media release stating that the PC does not have the legal authority to independently convene or direct public hearings.

While opening the paper, I was shocked to see the headline below the fold on the first page regarding the Planning Commission shifting legal notices to an online publication!

Accordingly, I then went to that online publication (not the one done by the Herald) and, after clicking on two different prompts, I pulled up a page which has a synopsis of legal ads three columns across and not in any identifiable alphabetical order and finally found the one which was not published in the Herald that day, although the aforementioned Herald article served as a "free" legal ad as it correctly listed the items scheduled for that meeting, none of which address the water "hearing."

The question is, "Why are not legal advertisements for PC meetings no longer published in the Herald?" Apparently, there are different answers or excuses ranging from (1) saving the taxpayers money (budget constraints) to (2) the Planning and Zoning office not having enough employees to get their work done to (3) allegedly being able to get last-minute matters timely advertised before a scheduled meeting.

It has been noted that the Botetourt County Board of Supervisors (BoS) is fiscally conservative, but that two of its members go to the extreme and want to cut out spending money whenever and wherever. Those same two are the ones who made and seconded the motion to approve a $69 million tax incentive financing package. So what is being saved by this move?

First of all, a fee is charged whenever anyone seeks permission to do something that needs approval from the BoS, such as a special exception, a zoning change, etc. Part of that fee is the cost of the legal advertisement as to when and where that matter will be heard by the PC and the BoS. How does this save taxpayer money?

Secondly, I would be interested to know exactly how much Botetourt County has spent on legal advertisements for Planning Commission hearings over the past five years. If that amount is divided among the county's residents over that period, I suspect the annual cost per person is minimal. Was eliminating legal notices worth that savings?

Lastly, and most importantly, the Herald has been publishing its newspaper since 1866, has been and continues to be the only source for this type of information (and a myriad of all types of other important and informative information) for many Botetourt County residents, and it is received in print and online by in excess of 4,000 households, many of whom don't want to look elsewhere.

We constantly hear complaints about almost everything, but much of it is about a perceived lack of transparency. Are the ones who pushed this through trying to add to the perception of a lack of transparency under the guise of saving taxpayer money? And, as a practical matter, why wasn't this discussed at a public meeting before it was done? Wouldn't that have been more open and honest?

Staffing limitations are also blamed for this decision. Has this situation been created by those two BoS members who constantly applaud themselves for the great job done on cutting the budget? My guess would be that, behind public safety and fire and EMS, planning and zoning at this time may be the next busiest department in Botetourt County, and they are understaffed? Why?

Most are aware that an excellent and experienced long-time employee recently retired, but surely that was known long beforehand and, after all, this is a planning department? Are the recent budget cuts the reason for the understaffing? Before that retirement, were planning and zoning staff so overworked that they did not have time to look into hiring a replacement? Does anyone think that citizens of this county deserve answers?

Another reason for going online is that some last minute matters do not allow sufficient time for publication in a printed weekly newspaper, but the Herald also is an online publication. Was that even considered?

At a recent public meeting, while complaining about a current situation which was openly and legally advertised

See **Letters**, page 10

League for Animal Protection's Waif of the Week



Ginny

Ginny is a super friendly Calico mix. She is spayed and up to date on vaccines. She has a watery eye. She has been to the vet and treated, but it just seems to be a part of her. It doesn't hinder her in any way.

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

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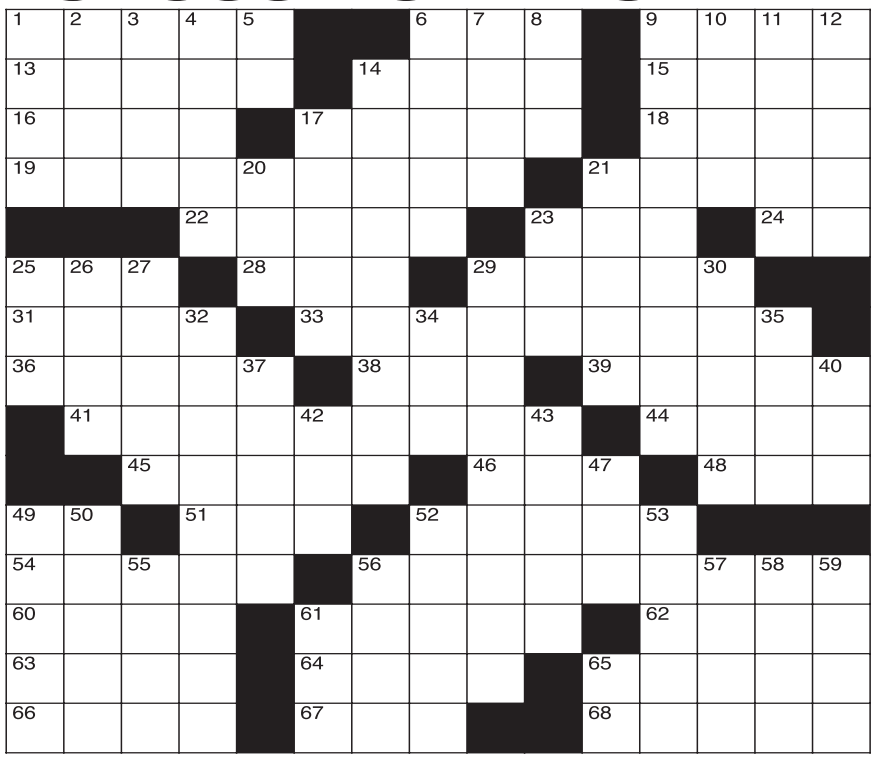


CLUES ACROSS
1. Thou __ do it
6. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
9. Brainstem part
13. Town in New York state
14. Little (Spanish)
15. Continent
16. Retch
17. Short-billed rails
18. Small period of time (abbr.)
19. Confused
21. A team needs one
22. Woman in ancient times
23. Republican Party
24. Spanish be
25. "The Godfather" character Johnny
28. Not around
29. City in Zambia
31. A type of beginning
33. Numb
36. Gurus
38. Small, gray-headed crow
39. Vehicle type
41. Disorders
44. One point east of southeast
45. Indian soldier
46. Tree type
48. Midway between south and southeast
49. It cools your home
51. Corn comes on it
52. Ship's deck
54. A way to bake
56. Improvised
60. Butterfly genus
61. Baseball fields have them
62. Designated space
63. Discharge
64. Two of something
65. Once more
66. Part of your face
67. Tax collector
68. Cassia tree

CLUES DOWN
1. One-time Aaron Rodgers target
2. Wings
3. Overly studious person
4. They protect your valuables
5. The Volunteer State
6. Non-hydraulic cement
7. Horse mackerel
8. Jackson and Diddley are two
9. Splendid displays
10. Mountain in NE Greece
11. A daughter or your brother or sister
12. German surnam
14. Having more than one husband at a time
17. Romanian city
20. Energy
21. Makes less hot
23. Gas diffusion electrode
25. Former CIA
26. Set an example for others
27. Support of a particular person
29. One from the Big Apple
30. Mountain range
32. Violate the sanctity of something
34. Supervises flying
35. Talks
37. Persian male given name
40. Born of
42. Forcibly take one's possessions
43. Discounts
47. Knockouts
49. Posh Colorado destination
50. Form of therapy
52. British rock band
53. Type of virus (abbr.)
55. The U. of Miami mascot is one
56. Volcanic crater
57. Middle Eastern nation
58. Sinn __, Irish organization
59. Ethiopian lake
61. Bits per inch (abbr.)
65. Equally

See **Answers**, page 10

Submit your letters to the editor today.

fincastle@ourvalley.org

The Fincastle Herald

Serving Botetourt Since 1866

Debate

from page 1

Botetourt County resident Sylvia Powell said her concerns developed only after researching the proposal.

"I was curious about the proposed project from when it was first announced," Powell said. "At first, I made no decision as to whether I thought the project had positive or negative implications for my community."

Powell, whose academic background includes field biology, said environmental impacts remain her primary concern.

"I am concerned about both its immediate and long-term potential environmental impacts, which are inseparable from its cultural impacts," she said. "People here chose to live near the Appalachian Trail, the Blue Ridge Parkway, and the rivers and creeks. They did not choose to live with an environmentally destructive data center hub."

She said the project's environmental review deserves close public scrutiny, particularly regarding wetlands, streams and groundwater.

Kathryn J. Hatam, another Botetourt County resident involved with SWVA DCTA, said she believes significant questions remain about environmental impacts, future expansion and long-term planning.

"What is the actual truth?" Hatam asked, saying she would like additional documentation regarding cooling systems, expansion plans and project timelines before construction begins.

Hatam said the project remains subject to multiple regulatory reviews and believes county officials could continue pressing for greater transparency and additional mitigation measures before construction begins.

Google representatives acknowledged many of those concerns during the June open house while emphasizing that the project remains in its early stages.

In follow-up responses, Google said it is working with Botetourt County officials and WVWA to ensure infrastructure improvements needed for the project are funded without shifting costs to local taxpayers.

"We are working very closely with WVWA and county officials to ensure our infrastructure needs align with local capacity and protect residents," a Google spokesperson said. "Google has committed to paying for water infrastructure needs for this project."

Google said facilities of similar size typically employ about 400 workers in positions paying approximately $86,000 to more than $100,000 annually and that the company intends to continue engaging with residents throughout the permitting process. The company also emphasized that construction has not yet been scheduled.

County officials said they understand why the proposal has generated significant public interest but believe discussions should be based on verified information as the review process continues.

Board of Supervisors Chair Mac Scothorn said the county welcomes public engagement because the proposed campus represents the largest economic development opportunity in Botetourt County's history, while also involving a type of development unfamiliar to much of the region.

"We encourage engagement, but we also want citizens to know not all data centers are built the same," Scothorn said. "While we believe discussions should occur about projects in the county, we also believe those discussions should be grounded in facts, not fear."

Scothorn added that supervisors would not support a project they believed would harm the community they represent.

County Administrator Gary Larrowe said Google still must complete engineering reviews and obtain all applicable county, state and federal permits before development can begin. While Google owns the property and it is already properly zoned, he said the remaining approvals are administrative rather than legislative.

"The Board of Supervisors does not vote on individual grading plans, permits or engineering approvals," Larrowe said. "Those reviews are conducted by professional staff and regulatory agencies."

Based on information shared by Google during its June open house, Larrowe said initial site work could begin in late summer or early fall if the required reviews are completed.

Scothorn also said preserving Botetourt's rural character has remained a priority throughout the planning process. He noted the proposed campus is located within the existing Greenfield Business Park rather than in agricultural or rural areas and pointed to comments from Blue Ridge Land Conservancy Executive Director David Perry, who praised the county's planning approach for concentrating industrial growth along the U.S. 220 corridor while helping protect farmland and natural resources.

Larrowe also addressed one of the most common concerns raised by opponents: water.

He said the project's Utility Services Funding Agreement specifically prohibits Google from using private well water, a misconception he said has circulated throughout the public debate.

"The campus would receive treated public water from WVWA's regional water system, not from private wells or residential groundwater sources," Larrowe said. "Before any new industry can receive service, WVWA and state regulators must determine that sufficient water infrastructure exists or will be developed without negatively reducing service to current customers."

Looking back on the past year, Scothorn said the project underscored the need for county leaders to better explain the planning and economic development process before large projects become public.

He said the county followed the same process required for any major economic development proposal, including public meetings, legally required notices and opportunities for public comment. However, he acknowledged many residents did not become engaged until Google's plans attracted widespread attention.

"That has reinforced the need to communicate earlier, explain the process more clearly, and provide factual information that helps residents understand not only what decisions are being made, but when and how those decisions occur," Scothorn said.

Botetourt resident Bob Patterson, meanwhile, believes the proposal represents exactly the type of industry Greenfield Business Park was created to attract.

"Industries are attracted to an industrial park and choose to locate there," Patterson said.

He believes much of the public discussion has focused on worst-case scenarios rather than verified information.

"I believe there is enough verifiable information for Botetourt County citizens to know what to expect," Patterson said, citing projected tax revenue, high-paying jobs and the potential to help keep local tax rates lower.

At the same time, Patterson acknowledged that many questions remain unanswered.

"The unanswered questions are whether those who oppose it are right, whether those who favor it are right, or whether the reality lies somewhere in between," he said.

Former Botetourt County supervisor and current Del. Terry Austin also has voiced support for the proposal while acknowledging many of the concerns raised by residents.

In a June 24 Facebook post, Austin called the proposed campus "a significant win for Botetourt County" but said questions surrounding water usage, energy demand, infrastructure, noise and long-term community impacts are legitimate topics that deserve continued discussion. He also noted that land-use decisions ultimately rest with local government under Virginia's Dillon Rule, while the General Assembly is responsible for broader statewide policies governing data center development.

It is clear that water usage related to the data center was the one issue consistently emerged regardless of whether residents supported or opposed the proposal.

WVWA officials maintain the regional system has sufficient capacity to serve projected residential growth as well as the proposed Google campus. According to the authority, the region currently produces about 21 million gallons of water each day, compared with roughly 23 million gallons two decades ago, despite serving significantly more customers because of improved water efficiency.

Authority officials also said Google has agreed to fund water infrastructure required specifically for the project, while Botetourt County has entered into a separate planning agreement that will allow future regional water supply studies to move forward.

Although opinions remain sharply divided, both supporters and opponents agree the project has not reached its final stage.

Federal environmental reviews, state permitting, local administrative approvals and additional engineering work all remain before construction could begin.

For supporters, the proposed campus represents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to diversify Botetourt County's tax base, attract high-paying technology jobs and generate revenue that could help fund future public needs.

For opponents, it represents an opportunity to seek greater transparency, stronger environmental protections and broader public involvement before development moves beyond the planning stage.

As Google continues refining its plans and regulatory reviews progress, the proposed campus remains one of the most closely watched development projects in Botetourt County's history and one that is likely to shape public discussion for months, if not years, to come.

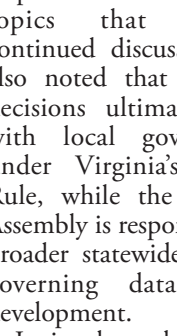


PHOTO BY MATT DE SIMONE

A sign opposing the proposed Google data center campus stands along Avenham Avenue in South Roanoke. Similar signs have appeared throughout the Roanoke Valley as organized opposition to the project has grown.

SALEM RIDGEYAKS
VS DELMARVA SHOREBIRDS
JULY 17th 6:35 PM
Faith and Family Night
JULY 18th 6:35 PM
Lilo and Stitch Night
JULY 19th 4:05 PM
Bark in the Park
VS AUGUSTA GREENJACKETS
JULY 21st 6:35 PM Two for 1 Tuesday
JULY 22nd 6:35 PM

Community Service Directory



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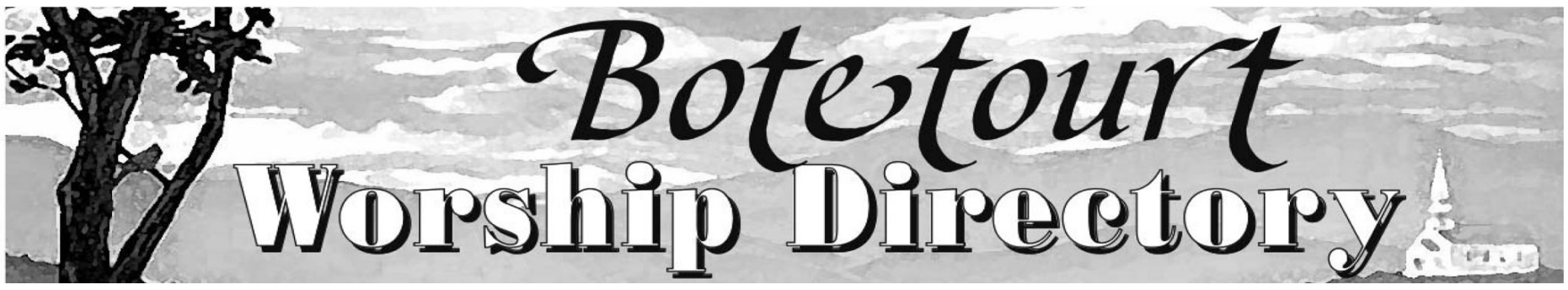

ANGLICAN

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

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

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

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

INDEPENDENT BAPTIST

Crossroads Baptist Church - 1128 Wheatland Rd., Buchanan, Pastor Elmer Clemons, (540) 510-0927 Home, Sunday School 10:00 A.M., Morning Worship, 11:00 A.M., Sunday Evening 5:30 P.M., Wednesday Prayer & Bible Study 5:30 P.M.

Faith Baptist Church– 4258 Botetourt Rd., Fincastle, VA. 24090, Pastor, Dr. John W. Reynolds, Phone; 540-473-2325, Email: jwr56fbc@yahoo.com, Church website: fincastlefaith.com, Services: 10 A.M. Bible Expositions, 11 A.M. Worship & Children's Church, 7 P.M. Wednesday Bible Study & Prayer, Messages at www.youtube.com/@faithfbaptistchurch9219. We look forward to meeting you.

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

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

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

SOUTHERN BAPTIST

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

Cloverdale Church of the Brethren– 4708 Read Mtn. Rd., 992-1060; Sunday School, 9:15 a.m., worship, 10:30 a.m.; Wed. (Sept.-May), Family Dinner, 6 p.m., Bible study, 6:45 p.m. Preschool, after-school care & summer day camp for preschool and elementary age children. Patrick Starkey, Pastor; Shawna Burkhart, preschool director.

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

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

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

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

ECKANKAR

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

EPISCOPAL

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

LUTHERAN

Our Savior Evangelical Lutheran Church (WELS) – 9068 Cloverdale Road, Troutville, VA; Paul Workentine, Pastor; Worship Sunday at 10:00 AM. Sunday School at 11:30 AM. Info and calendar at oslroanoke.com. Phone: 540-977- 4888.

Wheatland Evangelical Lutheran Church– 1560 Wheatland Road, Buchanan, 24066; 540-254-1605. Sunday worship service, 10:30 a.m. (in person or parking lot, tune car radio to 88.9 FM). 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 www.admin@buchananpresbyterian.org

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

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

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

ROMAN CATHOLIC

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

UNITED METHODIST

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

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

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

St. Mark's United Methodist Church – 19 Cedar Ridge Drive, Daleville. Pastor Samuel Plymale, 992-3030. We have one service on Sundays at 10:00am, with Sunday School for children, youth, and adults following at 11:00am. Shipyard Youth meets every Sunday from 4:00 to 6:00pm, unless there is a special monthly mission event. Frogs and Tadpoles Children's Ministry meets on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month, September through April, from 4:00 to 6:00pm.

Trinity United Methodist Church – 19637 Main St., Buchanan; Rev. Greg Knopff, (540) 471-3747, (O) 540-254-2475. Worship, 9:45AM, Sunday School 10:30 AM.

Been There; Done That

Read Ecclesiastes 1:1 through 4:16

The familiar phrase "been there; done that" is often said by those who feel they've seen it all and done it all, and they're bored by it. This appears to be the outlook of the author of Ecclesiastes.

He concluded that everything he had experienced was meaningless, including the pursuit of wisdom and pleasure—things many in our modern culture seek. Even the hedonistic lifestyle of "wine, women, and song" proved to not be satisfying. These indulgences created only fleeting enjoyment.

Much of happiness depends on attitude.

I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live. That each of them may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all their toil—this is the gift of God (Ecclesiastes 3:12–13).

Once we determine to find satisfaction in life's simple things, including what God has given us to do, we will no longer base our worth or our hope in the accumulation of more things.

Thought for Today: "People are just as happy as they make up their minds to be." —Abraham Lincoln

Quicklook: Ecclesiastes 3:1–13



Marsha Campbell as Abigail Adams



Mary Bowser as Betsy Ross



PHOTOS COURTESY OF BETTY HOLT

Sam Winkler as Andrew Lewis

Botetourt DAR Chapter celebrates America 250

On Saturday, July 11, history came alive at the Botetourt County Museum of History & Culture in Fincastle. In celebration of the 250th anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence, the Botetourt County Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, hosted Liberty on the Lawn to showcase life and people from the Revolutionary era. The museum was decorated with flags from the period, and visitors enjoyed hearing period music that transported them back in time.

Three historical interpreters shared the stories of individuals who lived during the Revolutionary War. Marsha Campbell portrayed Abigail Adams and recounted her experiences during the struggle for independence. Mary Bowser portrayed Betsy Ross and spoke about making a flag at the request of General George Washington. Sam Winkler interpreted the life of Andrew Lewis and described his experiences on the Virginia frontier.

Inside the museum, Phil and Peg Coffey demonstrated the art of wool spinning using traditional spinning wheels. Two research stations were set up to help attendees research their patriot ancestors. Outside, a copy of the Declaration of Independence was displayed for visitors to sign. Children also enjoyed a variety of Colonial-era lawn games.

As the nation's 250th birthday is celebrated, this is also a wonderful time to learn more about the history of Botetourt County. The museum's newest exhibit, Home Grown – Botetourt's Agricultural History, explores the important role agriculture has played in shaping this community. The public is encouraged to visit the museum and browse this exhibit to discover how farming influenced the history of Botetourt. Located at 26 East Main Street in Fincastle, the museum is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Sunday from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

~ Botetourt County Chapter DAR

Church news

Fincastle United Methodist has new pastor

The Rev. Scott A. Robertson-Gouge has assumed his duties as the new pastor of Fincastle United Methodist Church. His first service was Sunday, July 5, when the congregation welcomed him and his wife Ruth to the church.

Everyone is invited to worship in the sanctuary at 136 S. Church Street every Sunday at 10 a.m.

Springwood Food Pantry open Saturday

The Springwood Baptist Food Pantry will be open on, Saturday, July 18, from 8:30-9:30 a.m. The pantry is located at 88 Copps Hill Road, Buchanan. This is a drive-through pantry, so clients may remain in their cars and volunteers will load the food for them. The pantry is open each month on the third Saturday from 8:30-9:30 a.m. It partners with Feeding America Southwest Virginia and anyone in need of food is welcome..

Fincastle Clothes Closet dates

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

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.

Eagle Rock Baptist VBS

Eagle Rock Baptist Church is holding Vacation Bible School Saturday July 25, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., for ages 5-12 years old. Children will learn about the life of David. Activities will include crafts, science experiments and games, and lunch will be provided. Those planning to attend are asked to contact Jessica Davis at 540-493-6050.

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.

Donations requested for Eagle Rock Baptist Cemetery

Any donations made to help pay for the mowing and upkeep of the Eagle Rock Baptist Church Cemetery would be greatly appreciated. Donations can be made out to the Eagle Rock Baptist Church and mailed to P.O. Box 219, Eagle Rock, 24085.

Fincastle UMC offering free dinner

Everyone is welcome to the free Terrific Tuesdays Church and Community Dinner at Fincastle United Methodist Church's Family Life Center, at 137 S. Church Street, on the last Tuesday of each month. Dinner will be served from 5:30-7 p.m. on July 28.

Trinity UMC has a Baby Pantry

Those in need of diapers and baby formula may come to the Baby Pantry at Trinity United Methodist Church, 19637 Main Street, Buchanan, from 9 a.m. to noon on the fourth Saturday of the month. Enter on Washington Street side of the building.

'Into the Woods' continues at Attic

Attic Productions is presenting the Tony Award-winning musical "Into the Woods," featuring music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim and a book by James Lapine, through July 26. It is directed by Kerry Williams, with musical direction by Jessica Mansfield and choreography by Mandy Masching.

The show is at Attic's D. Geraldine Lawson Performing Arts Center, 7490 Roanoke Road, Fincastle. Thursday and Friday performances begin at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday matinees begin at 2:30 p.m. Adult tickets are $20. Tickets for students 18 and under, as well as groups of 10 or more, are $15 when paid by cash or check at the box office. Tickets may be purchased online at www.atticproductions.info. For questions or assistance with ticket purchases, call the box office at 540-473-1001. Volunteers will staff the box office on Mondays and Wednesdays from 3 to 5 p.m. during the run of the show. At other times, leave a message and your call will be returned as soon as possible.

The story follows a baker and his wife, who long to have a child; Cinderella, who wishes to attend the King's Festival; and Jack, who hopes his cow will give milk. When the baker and his wife discover that a witch's curse has kept them from having a child, they set out to break the spell. Wishes are granted, but the consequences of their choices soon return with disastrous results.

This production is presented by special arrangement with Music Theatre International.

~ Attic Productions



FILE PHOTO

In this scene from "Into the Woods," are (from left): Jason Cox, the Baker; Hailey Vandergrift and Kailee Weiman as Lucinda and Florinda, Cinderella's stepsisters; and Dixie Hartvigsen, stepmother.

Troutville Baptist Church to host back-to-school event at Troutville Park

Troutville Baptist Church will host a free back-to-school event for local children from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 1, at Troutville Park.

The event, billed as "Back to School Fun Time," will feature games, prizes and free refreshments for families in attendance.

According to the event flyer, every child who attends will receive a free bag of school supplies while supplies last. The bags are branded with the theme "Walking with Jesus" and include the Bible verse from Matthew 28:20, "I am with you always."

The church is inviting area families to attend as students prepare for the start of the new school year. The event is free and open to the community.

~ Fincastle Herald staff report

Movie from page 2

Library, and the Town Improvement Society, the Lions will present the movies with the coordinated help of Botetourt Parks and Recreation and the Buchanan Theatre.

The Lions suggest that people bring folding chairs, a blanket and bug spray, and to please turn off all cell phones or leave them locked in their cars. Snacks and refreshments will be available including sodas, popcorn and homemade cookies. Parking is free. Arrive early for best seating.

The organizers encourage all families and children to enjoy Buchanan's fun family event evening (weather permitting). They will also be polling the audience at the food tables for the next G-Rated showing in August.

~ Submitted by Tim Heinlein

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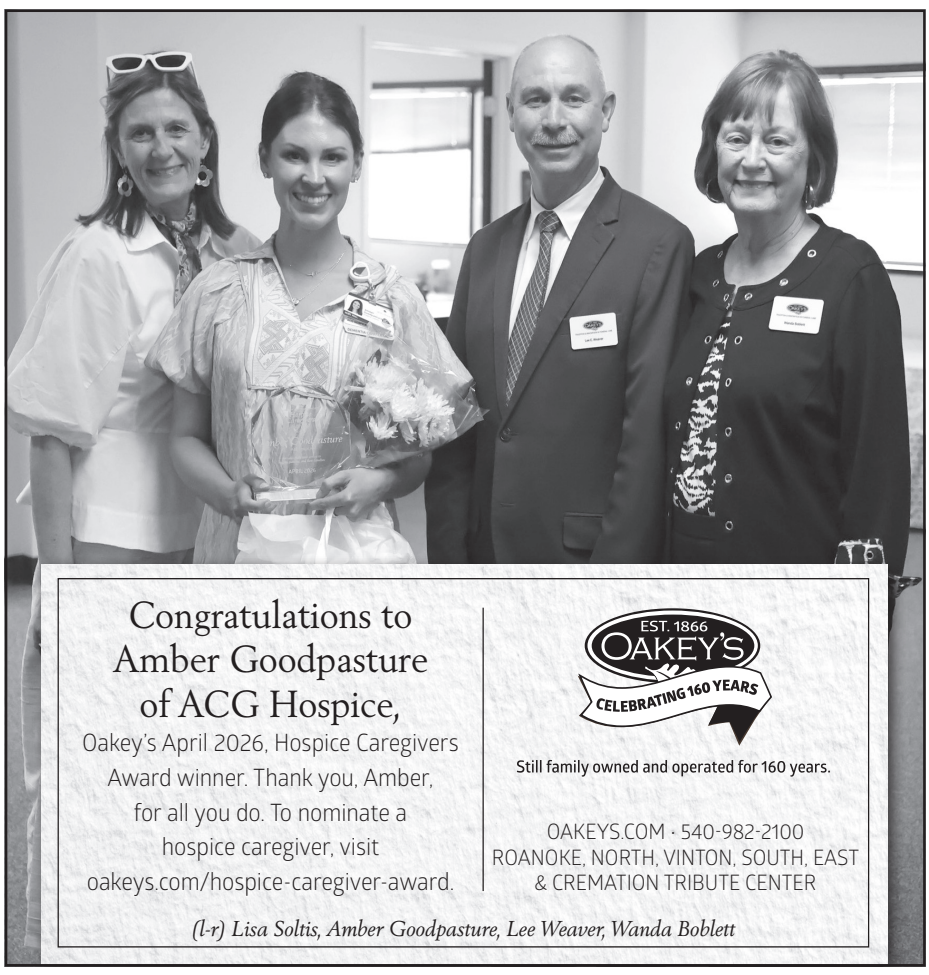

Congratulations to Amber Goodpasture of ACG Hospice,
Oakey's April 2026, Hospice Caregivers Award winner. Thank you, Amber, for all you do. To nominate a hospice caregiver, visit oakeys.com/hospice-caregiver-award.
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(l-r) Lisa Soltis, Amber Goodpasture, Lee Weaver, Wanda Boblett

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Yard Sale

Huge Church Yard Sale
Friday and Saturday
July 17 and 18
7am to 2pm
Lunch both days
Hotdogs & BBQ
With breakfast on Saturday
Gravy and Biscuits
Lots of homemade baked goods
First Christian Church
712 Front Ave

Retirement Notice

NOTICE
N. Laura Liles, D.O. is retiring from her medical practice as of 7/31/26. If you would like to send/obtain a copy, or part of a copy or a summary of your medical records, you may call 540-366-6729 until 7/31/26. After that date, you may send a Release of Records form to Dr. Liles at 10969 Freeman Court, Indianapolis, Indiana 46234. A reasonable cost-based fee will be associated with copying and sending."

House For Rent

House For Rent in Salem
2 bedroom, 1 bath on Wildwood Rd. No pets, 2 person, max occupancy. Good credit, references, & background check required
1325.00 month
540-387-2511
leave message

Legals - City of Salem

Order of Publication
Commonwealth of Virginia
VA Code§§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316,-317,20-104
Case No. 26-1292
VIRGINIA: IN THE COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF ROANOKE
COUNTY OF ROANOKE, VIRGINIA,
Complainant,
Vs.
PURCELL BARRETT, *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. 026.19-01-27.00-0000. An affidavit having been made and filed that diligence has been used without effect to ascertain the location of Clyde B. Barrett and that there are or may be persons with an interest in the subject property, including heirs, devisees, and successors in title of Clyde B. Barrett and that there are or may be persons with an interest in the subject property, including heirs, devisees, and successors in title of Clyde B. Barrett, 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 12, 2026, and do whatever is necessary to protect their interests in said land.
It is further ORDERED, pursuant of Va. Code Ann.§8.01-321, that this Order of Publication be published once a week for four (4) successive weeks in the Salem Times, 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 7th day of July 2026.
Hon. Charles N. Dorsey, Judge

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

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Legals - City of Salem

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

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 1514 Golfside Avenue NW, Roanoke, VA 24017 Tax Map: 2461312

In execution of a Deed of Trust dated December 15, 2023, recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court for the City of Roanoke, Virginia, as Instrument No. 230010160, the Trustee will offer the above-described property for sale to the highest bidder at public auction on July 23, 2026 at 9:00am, at the Roanoke City Circuit Court, 315 W. Church Ave, Roanoke, VA 24010.

All that certain lot or parcel of land, lying and being in the City of Roanoke, Commonwealth of Virginia, and being more particularly described as follows, to-wit:

Lot Twelve (12), Block Five (5), according to the map of Carol Heights dated February 21, 1955, prepared by David Dick, State Engineer & Surveyor, a copy of which is recorded in the Clerks' Office of Circuit Court of the City of Roanoke, Virginia, in Map Book 1, Page 55.

Date of Sale: July 23, 2026 at 9:00am, at the Roanoke City Circuit Court, 315 W. Church Ave, Roanoke, VA 24010.

Terms: CASH; a deposit in the form of certified funds in the amount of $10,000 or 10% of the sale price, whichever is lower. Settlement within thirty (30) days of date of sale. Time is of the essence.

OPTIONS:
1. All costs of conveyance, examination of title, recording charges, etc. will be at cost of purchaser with the exception of the grantor's tax. Neither the Trustee nor any other party guarantees or covenants to deliver or in any way to obtain possession of the premises for any third-party purchaser.

2. The Trustee reserves the right to reject all bids, extend the time to receive bids or withdraw the property from sale at any time. In addition, should the Trustee be unable, for any reason, in its sole discretion, to convey title, the successful bidder's sole remedy in law or equity shall be the return of his deposit. Upon refund of the deposit, the sale shall be void and of no effect.

Additional terms may be announced at the time of the sale. The Trustee will convey the above-described property to the purchaser(s) by Special Warranty deed at settlement and makes no additional representations or warranties of any kind regarding the title to said property.

John K. Prillaman, Esq.
Trustee
For Information Contact:
John K. Prillaman, Esq.
OPN Law, PLC
3140 Chaparral Drive, #200-C
Roanoke, Virginia 24018
(540) 725-8194

Legals - Montgomery County

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 2676 DRY VALLEY ROAD, RADFORD, VA 24141.

In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated June 25, 2003, in the original principal amount of $60,900.00 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Montgomery County, Virginia as Instrument No. 2003010550. 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 16, 2026, at 11:00 AM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: ALL THAT UN-NUMBERED PARCEL OF LAND CONTAINING 0.731 ACRE DESIGNATED AS RETAINED BY OLLIE BAIN ON THAT CERTAIN PLAT OF SURVEYENTITLED "PLAT FOR KYLE E. DAVIS AND SHARON B. DAVIS OF AN UN-NUMBERED 1.0005 AC. LOT NEAR BAINS CHAPEL IN RINER MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT MONTGOMERYCOUNTY, VIRGINIA", PREPARED BY NEAL H. WIRT, LAND SURVEYOR, DATED MAY 5, 1997, DESIGNATED PLAT NO. 97-505, A COPY OF WHICH PLAT IS RECORDED IN THE CIRCUIT COURT CLERK`S OFFICE IN DEED BOOK 991, PAGE 410, AND TO WHICH PLAT REFERENCED IS HEREBY MADE FOR A MORE ACCURATE DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY HEREIN CONVEYED. 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.aldridgepite.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.aldridgepite.com. VA-378698-2.

Legals - Montgomery County

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN,
By the Board of Supervisors of the County of Montgomery, Virginia that the Board of Supervisors hereby schedules a public hearing for Monday, July 27, 2026 at 7:15 p.m. or as soon thereafter in the Board Room in the Montgomery County Government Center located at 755 Roanoke Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073, in order to hear citizens comments on a proposed ordinance stablishing a tax at the rate of $1.00 per One Hundred Dollars of assessed value for a separate classification for tangible personal property taxation for motor vehicles owned or leased by certain members of a volunteer rescue squad or volunteer fire department in the County of Montgomery, Virginia.
BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Angela M. Hill
County Administrator

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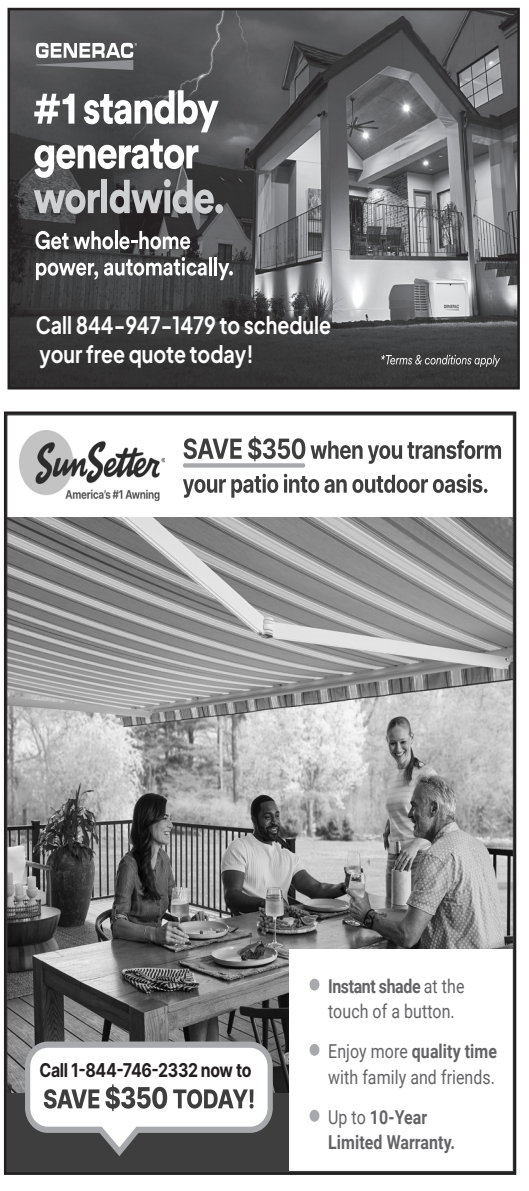



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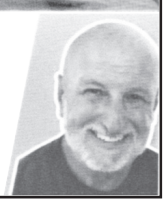

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DAR, descendants honor Revolutionary War patriot at historic Rockbridge County cemetery





PHOTOS BY MOLLY SCANLAN

Dozens of descendants from across the country gathered with the DAR last month to pay tribute to Revolutionary War patriot James Logan McKee.

More than 50 years after the last Revolutionary War patriot grave marking ceremony in Rockbridge County, descendants, historians and members of patriotic organizations gathered June 24 to honor the military service and legacy of James Logan McKee.

The ceremony, held at the historic McKee/Big Spring Cemetery on Big Spring Farm in Kerrs Creek, was organized by the Natural Bridge-Frontier Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) and co-sponsored by the Virginia Society Sons of the American Revolution Color Guard.

Dozens of McKee descendants traveled from across the country to attend the event, with many meeting in person for the first time after connecting through genealogy research and modern digital communications.

"It has been more than 50 years since a marking ceremony of a patriot has been held in Rockbridge County," said Garnette Teass, regent of the Natural Bridge-Frontier Chapter, DAR.

Teass said obtaining approval for a DAR patriot grave marker is a detailed process that typically takes up to six months, requiring extensive documentation to verify a patriot's Revolutionary War service.

"The application and approval process is rigorous," she said. "Fortunately, two highly qualified historians wrote lengthy letters verifying James Logan McKee's service."

Those historians were Tom Camden, retired associate professor and former head of Special Collections at Washington and Lee University, and Eric Wilson, executive director of the Rockbridge Historical Society. According to Teass, the application received approval from the DAR General Historian in just three days.

Founded in 1890, the Daughters of the American Revolution is dedicated to promoting patriotism, preserving history and supporting education.

Organizers incorporated several elements designed to engage younger generations while maintaining the ceremony's traditional character. Sixth-great-grandchildren and other young descendants shared McKee's story, recited the Pledge of Allegiance and participated alongside a musket salute, bagpipe performances and presentations by the Virginia Society Sons of the American Revolution Color Guard.

Born in 1754, James Logan McKee was the eldest son of pioneer John McKee, who settled in the Kerrs Creek area with his brothers, Robert and William, after traveling south from Pennsylvania along the Great Wagon Road. His mother, Jane Logan McKee, was killed during the Kerrs Creek Indian raids of 1763.

McKee later served in the Rockbridge County Virginia Militia during the Revolutionary era. Historical records presented during the ceremony note his service associated with the French and Indian War frontier period, Donnelly's Fort and the Yorktown campaign. He later inherited what is now known as Big Spring Farm from his father, with the property remaining in the McKee family for more than 170 years.

While the ceremony took place in neighboring Rockbridge County, it also highlights the shared frontier history of the Shenandoah Valley and western Virginia, where early settlers established communities that would eventually include present-day Botetourt County. Families frequently moved, traded and served together across county lines during the Colonial and Revolutionary periods, leaving a legacy that continues to be commemorated through organizations such as the DAR and Sons of the American Revolution.

For McKee's descendants, the event served not only as a tribute to an ancestor's Revolutionary War service but also as a reunion made possible through years of genealogical research, connecting family members from across the nation at the historic farm where their family's story began more than 250 years ago.

~ Submitted by Al Scanlan

Post 240 Notes

American Legion Post 240 says thanks

American Legion Post 240 is thanking the community for its support of a recent fundraising campaign held over the Independence Day holiday weekend.

Post members collected donations Friday, July 3, and Saturday, July 4, at Bojangles in Daleville and Tractor Supply in Roanoke. According to the post, the campaign was a success.

The organization expressed its appreciation to the management and staff of both businesses for allowing volunteers to solicit donations at their locations. Post 240 also thanked the customers whose generosity made the fundraiser possible.

Funds raised through the campaign will help the post continue providing assistance to military veterans in Botetourt County.

~ Submitted by Post 240 Board of Directors

Trout benefit for Sensabaugh at Thrasher's Pond July 25

A "Trout Rodeo" to benefit Mike Sensabaugh to help with medical bills will be held Saturday, July 25, at Thrasher's Pond, 2304 Cedar Lane, Buchanan. Sensabaugh is an active member of the Moose.

A $25 donation will include: catch up to five trout (they will be cleaned and bagged), and a hot dog meal (with all the fixings) for the whole family. It starts at 10 a.m. with the meal at noon and ends at 3 p.m. Registration will be taken at the gate.

Goody bags will be given out to all kids through age 10. Other activities include wagon rides, face painting, a Chinese auction with loads of prizes, and a gun raffle.

The event is held in memory of Steve Thrasher and organizers thank the Thrasher family for the use of the pond.

~ Submitted by Melissa Hutchens

Buchanan from page 2

customers must repair qualifying leaks within 30 days, provide proof the repairs were completed and meet eligibility requirements before an adjustment is considered. Mack said the policy is intended to provide a fair and consistent process while encouraging timely repairs and protecting the town's water system.

Council also approved the appointment of Cynthia Floyd to the Buchanan Planning Commission after current member Molly O'Dell volunteered to step aside to allow a new member to serve. Tristan Harris will remain on the commission until another volunteer is appointed to fill the remaining vacancy.

Council's final action item was formally adopting a Town Park rental fee schedule that had previously been discussed during a work session but never officially approved. The policy establishes a $75 application fee, a $250 rental fee and a refundable $250 security deposit for qualifying rentals.

During discussion, Buchanan Schoolhouse developer Dominic Basile, participating by Zoom, suggested the town require renters to provide proof of insurance naming the town as an additional insured.

"They have to carry insurance," Manspile said, noting the requirement protects the town if an incident occurs during an event.

The fee schedule prompted questions from a Buchanan Lions Club member, who asked whether the organization's upcoming Movies in the Park event would be subject to the new charges.

"There's some flexibility there," Mack said, explaining he wanted to review the policy before committing to exemptions for nonprofit organizations.

Council member Shean Bowers suggested events already scheduled on the town's calendar should not automatically be subject to the newly adopted fees since organizers had not anticipated the change. Council members agreed.

Manspile said the rental fees are intended to help offset maintenance costs associated with Town Park while creating a fair policy for all users.

"If we let somebody do it for free, then somebody else is going to want it free," Manspile said. "We're getting nothing back."

The Lions Club member also asked about proceeds generated by events such as the Buchanan Carnival. Mack explained carnival revenue is deposited into the town's general fund, with Manspile noting those funds help support town operations and reduce pressure for future tax increases.

In his monthly report, Mack said the town concluded the fiscal year in strong financial condition, with revenues exceeding expenditures in the general fund and meals tax collections continuing to perform well. Water and sewer revenues also exceeded expectations, although repair costs remained elevated because of ongoing infrastructure work. He noted those repair expenses have begun to decline in recent months.

Mack also praised volunteers and town employees for making this year's Buchanan Carnival and Fourth of July festivities a success during his first year as town manager.

"I think it was a master class in community spirit," Mack said.

He specifically thanked volunteers, town staff and council member Sissy Austin for their work organizing the carnival, adding that final attendance and financial figures will be released once they are compiled.

Among other updates, Mack said crews repaired a water line at Town Park, continued coordinating renovations at the Buchanan Theatre, installed flowers and American flags along Main Street and are replacing damaged flower arrangements throughout town.

He also said the town is investigating an electrical issue affecting the light over the swinging bridge after replacing the bulb failed to solve the problem.

Looking ahead, Mack announced plans to begin holding quarterly public listening sessions to improve communication between Town Hall and residents.

"I think it'll be a great tool for us," Mack said. "My goal with it is to build more trust."

The sessions are intended to encourage community engagement, identify concerns before they become larger issues and improve communication between residents and town staff.

Council also briefly discussed the ongoing redevelopment of the former Buchanan Schoolhouse property. Mack said developer Dominic Basile is seeking feedback from council on the type of commercial tenant the town would like to see occupy an approximately 800-square-foot commercial space planned as part of the mixed-use development.

Basile suggested the space could accommodate a small coffee shop, market or seasonal retail business and said he would welcome a future work session with council to discuss ideas.

Before adjournment, Manspile commended town staff, volunteers and everyone who contributed to the success of this year's Buchanan Carnival and other recent community projects, thanking them for their hard work and dedication.

Letters from page 4

before implementing the change, one was heard to repeatedly whine and gripe, "We didn't know." While the planning department shifting legal notices to an online publication meets the requirements of the law, how many more will be making this complaint because such notices are not where they are accustomed to finding them and they may not partake of the online publication where these legal notices now apparently exclusively reside?

Bob Patterson
Fincastle
Buchanan District

Botetourt, Roanoke region deserve real water numbers for Google's Project Raspberry

The public has repeatedly heard that Google's Project Raspberry may need up to 8 million gallons of water per day. But public records show that behind the scenes, the planning discussions were larger and more troubling.

In July 2024, project-related questions asked how to reach 3.5 million gallons per day for "Day 01" and discussed a dedicated water-main extension, tanks and pumps to achieve 10 to 11 million gallons per day to the site. In April 2026, after the Western Virginia Water Authority (WVWA) asked whether Google wanted to keep a Day 1 plus Day N approach or "skip over Day 1" and focus on constructing Day N from the start, a Google representative responded that the preferred approach was to proceed with the Day N framework and skip Day 1.

That does not prove WVWA has agreed to provide 10 or 11 million gallons per day. But it does show the public has not been given the full picture.

This is not a minor technical detail. Water capacity affects drought planning, reservoir reliability, infrastructure costs, sewer capacity, ratepayer risk, and whether other communities and future users may be constrained. One engineer noted that 3.5 million gallons per day for the first building would likely require improvements beyond currently planned projects.

If the larger water scenario is no longer being pursued, Google, WVWA and Botetourt County should say so clearly and in writing. If it remains part of the plan, the public deserves to know before grading begins and before infrastructure decisions become irreversible.

Residents should not be asked to accept one number in public while larger numbers appear in planning records. The question is simple: what is the true maximum water demand for Project Raspberry, who will pay for the infrastructure, and what happens during drought?

Before this project moves forward, those answers should be public. Not later. Now.

Southwest Virginia Data Center Transparency Alliance, https://swvadcta.org

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500-599 $350.00-$411.00
600-699 $350.00

Graded Heifers
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400-499 $390.00-$409.00
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Hoffman from page 12

draft in 1974 but did not sign. The Padres drafted him in the fourth round of the secondary draft in January of 1975, and again he did not sign. In June of 1975 he signed with the Pirates as an amateur free agent, and that summer he started 11 games between Pittsburgh's Rookie and Low-A teams and had an ERA of 1.92 with 89 strikeouts in 89 innings.

In 1976 he came "home" to play for the Salem Pirates, and that was a turning point in his career. He was moved to the bullpen, where he would spend the rest of his baseball career. Holland had a 2.96 ERA with 13 saves, pitching 35 games in relief.

"Sad to hear about Al," said Murray Cook, who was a clubhouse boy for the Salem Pirates at the time. "I remember him playing in Salem on the 1976 team. What a competitor and a good guy!"

Cook eventually became the groundskeeper for Salem's Carolina League team and has gone on to become the most respected builder of baseball fields and turf projects in the world. Recently Cook's crew built Sofi Stadium's World Cup (soccer) field, where the Rams and Chargers play.

"FIFA calls it Los Angeles Stadium," said Cook. "I'm sure it has something to do with sponsorship stuff. We'll also flip it back to an NFL football field. Heading to Barcelona this week for field check, then we get ready for the Phillies and Twins in Dyersville for the next 'Field of Dreams' game."

Holland also had a bright future. He moved up to pitch in the Pirates organization at AA Shreveport and AAA Columbus in 1977 before finishing the season in Pittsburgh. In 1979 Al was traded to the Giants along with two other pitchers who played in Salem, Ed Whitson and Fred Breining. The Buccos received Bill Madlock, Lenny Randle and Dave Roberts in a trade that was beneficial for both teams. Madlock was a key member of the Pirates '79 "We are Family" championship team and Holland and Whitson both had solid big league careers. Holland and Whitson are both members of our local Salem-Roanoke Baseball Hall of Fame.

Holland, in fact, was a charter member of the Hall, inducted in the inaugural class of 1992 with Dave Parker, Billy Sample, Steve Brodie and Kidd Carr. Holland likely would have qualified with his resume at Lucy Addison and NC A&T alone, but he went on to pitch 10 years in the big leagues with Pittsburgh, San Francisco, Philadelphia, the Angels and the Yankees. He finished his career with 78 Major League saves, coming out of the bullpen for 373 of his 384 big league games. He finished with a 2.98 ERA and 513 strikeouts.

I got to know Al when he returned to the Roanoke Valley and coached the baseball team at William Fleming and helped Jimmy Mitchell, another Salem-Roanoke Baseball Hall of Famer, with his American Legion team. I have a few funny stories from those days.

When Al was pitching for the Phillies in 1983 I attended a Phillies-Pirates series in Philadelphia with a photo pass. I had a position in the photo booth at the end of the Pirates dugout along the third base line.

Early in the game I saw Al in the Phillies dugout, and he was playfully jawing back and forth with some Pirates who were his former teammates. I focused on Al, took a couple shots, and then he "flipped the bird" to the Pirates. I got a classic shot of him with a big smile and middle finger extended.

Years later I'm sitting in the dugout at what is now Billy Sample Field in Salem with Mitchell and Holland prior to a Legion game. I hadn't known Al all that well at the time so I was somewhat leery of relaying that story to him. But I thought, what the heck, and told Holland about the photo I had of him flipping off his old teammates.

To my relief, he loved the story and wanted to know if he could get a copy of the photo. I found the negative and made him a copy and when I gave it to him at a future Legion game he was all smiles, showing it off to all the kids.

And speaking of Legion ball, I remember when William Byrd ace Chris Manning pitched for Mitchell's team. Chris was the main starter on Byrd's 1997 state championship team. He was a lefty, like Holland, and again I was down by the dugout prior to a game and witnessed an argument between Holland and Manning. Al was trying to change some things in Manning's delivery and Chris wasn't having it despite Holland's credentials, 10 years in the big leagues and the 1983 National League Rolaids Relief Man of the Year.

Finally, after a couple minutes of back and forth, Holland threw up his arms and said, "Okay, just do it your way then." And Manning went out and pitched a no-hitter. Al just shook his head.

Al had some decent baseball teams during his time coaching Fleming, and that's saying something. The Colonels are traditionally the worst team in the Roanoke Valley, but when Al was coach they were competitive with his son, Al, Jr., on the team.

Holland mentored young athletes in the Roanoke Valley for more than two decades and was a terrific role model for area athletes. He was in poor health in recent years and left us on Independence Day. A celebration of his life was held at Central Baptist Church in Roanoke last Saturday, and needless to say it was a life well lived.

Notices from page 1

schedules or meeting agendas change after a weekly newspaper's submission deadline. Officials said the practice helps prevent delays to public hearings, development projects and other county business while remaining compliant with Virginia law.

In addition to legal advertisements, the county said residents can stay informed through its website, public meeting agendas and agenda packets, postings at county facilities, email notifications and other communication channels.

The statement follows recent public discussion regarding the county's use of multiple publications for legal notices.

~ Fincastle Herald staff report

BCPS from page 1

entrances.

Moneymaker said 22 crashes were recorded near the school over a five-year period used for SMART SCALE scoring, including 19 property damage crashes and three injury crashes. Of those, 21 occurred on weekdays and 16 happened between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m., when students are most likely to be arriving at or leaving school.

She also noted that approximately 32,000 vehicles travel the U.S. 220 corridor daily, with about 25% consisting of heavy trucks. During afternoon peak hours, roughly 3,000 vehicles pass the school.

The proposed project includes installing partial-access traffic signals at both school entrances, improving turn lanes, adding a restricted crossing U-turn at Tinker Mountain Road, and modifying the school's internal traffic circulation. Moneymaker said the improvements would create protected turning movements, eliminate the need for school staff to stop traffic on U.S. 220, and improve traffic flow during student arrival and dismissal.

To accommodate the project, VDOT is seeking a future easement that would allow installation and maintenance of signal equipment and pavement markings.

Moneymaker emphasized that the board was not being asked to convey the easement immediately.

"The letter tonight is not giving us the easement," she said. "It's a commitment that if the project is funded, that you agree to give us the easement."

If the project is not selected for funding, the easement would not be conveyed.

Board members questioned both the timing of the request and the project's lengthy timeline. Several also expressed frustration that school administrators continue directing traffic on the busy highway while funding remains uncertain and the proposed improvements could still be years away.

Even if the project is selected for funding in 2027, VDOT officials said development would not begin until 2029, with construction expected to start in 2032 under the state's six-year improvement program, a timeline Moneymaker said reflects the state's SMART SCALE funding process.

Board member Tim Davidick (Valley) questioned why the easement request was coming just weeks before the application deadline and asked why the board had not been approached sooner.

A VDOT representative explained that engineers have continued refining the project over recent weeks in an effort to lower costs and improve its SMART SCALE score. He said requesting the easement donation is a new strategy intended to reduce estimated project costs by eliminating the need to purchase the property rights.

When Davidick asked for the estimated value of the easement, Moneymaker said she did not have a final appraisal because VDOT's right-of-way office was delaying its estimate pending the board's decision. She said engineers believe the value is roughly $50,000.

Davidick said he would have preferred more precise figures before making a decision.

Board member Jenny Wilson asked about the overall cost of the project. VDOT officials said current estimates place the project between $10 million and $12 million before inflation, adding that without SMART SCALE funding the only realistic alternative would be a cost-sharing arrangement requiring a significant local financial commitment.

Questions also focused on how the proposed project could affect traffic circulation on campus.

Andy DeWease, the school division's director of operations, said VDOT's conceptual circulation plan would require additional discussion because it relocates buses to the front of the school, while current operations place them behind the building. He noted the high school's transportation system includes transfer buses and other operational considerations that would need to be addressed if the project moves forward.

School Superintendent Dr. Janet Womack asked whether the proposed pavement markings would clearly direct motorists through the new traffic pattern, and Moneymaker said that is the intent of the design. Board member Dana McCaleb also sought clarification that the easement commitment would only take effect if the grant application is successful, which VDOT confirmed.

The board approved the easement commitment by a 4-0 vote. Chair Anna Weddle (Amsterdam) was absent from the meeting.

The July 9 Botetourt County School Board meeting is available for viewing in its entirety at bcps.live/archives.

Water from page 1

Botetourt residents instead rely on private wells, springs, community wells or water systems operated by other providers. Those residents are not subject to the Western Virginia Water Authority's voluntary conservation request, although the county encouraged all residents to conserve water during the ongoing drought.

County officials said the post was also intended to address questions that have surfaced during ongoing public discussions about the proposed Google data center campus at Greenfield.

"Water is a major topic of discussion right now given the ongoing drought as well as conversations surrounding future water usage at the data center campus inside Greenfield," the county said. "It was an opportunity to explain where the Western Virginia Water Authority serves the county, and which areas it doesn't."

The authority's Stage 1 voluntary conservation measures encourage customers to water lawns only before 10 a.m. or after 7 p.m., repair leaking faucets and toilets, take shorter showers, run full loads of laundry and dishes, reduce vehicle washing, and use a broom instead of a hose to clean driveways and sidewalks.

The county also noted that the authority's drought contingency plan applies to all of its customers in Botetourt County, including residential, commercial and industrial users.

The social media post specifically states that future industrial customers, including the proposed Google data center, would also be subject to any water conservation measures implemented by the authority.

County officials said questions about whether the proposed data center would be exempt from future water conservation measures have been among the most common they have received.

"That has easily been one of the top questions we've received," the official said. "Rightfully so, residents want to ensure that all industries, both current and future, are held to the same water restrictions, especially during a drought. The answer is an absolute yes."

Officials said the Western Virginia Water Authority applies its conservation measures equally to all customers.

The county also sought to clarify differences between the authority's municipal water system and private residential wells.

Officials said some public discussion has incorrectly linked the Carvins Cove Reservoir, which supplies the authority's system, with private wells throughout the county.

According to the county, the two are separate systems. Carvins Cove is a surface-water reservoir supplied by rainfall and runoff within its protected watershed, while private wells draw from underground aquifers recharged by rainwater infiltrating the surrounding ground.

County officials said the infographic was intended to help residents better understand those distinctions while encouraging voluntary conservation regardless of water source.

"While most of the county is not impacted by the WVWA water conservation efforts, it's still a good time to conserve water during a drought, even if you're on your own private well," the county said.

The current Stage 1 conservation request remains voluntary and proactive.

Additional information about water conservation and the authority's drought response is available through the Western Virginia Water Authority's WaterWise program.

~ Fincastle Herald staff report

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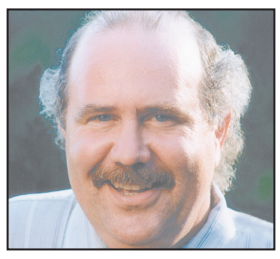


Brian Hoffman

Sports Editor

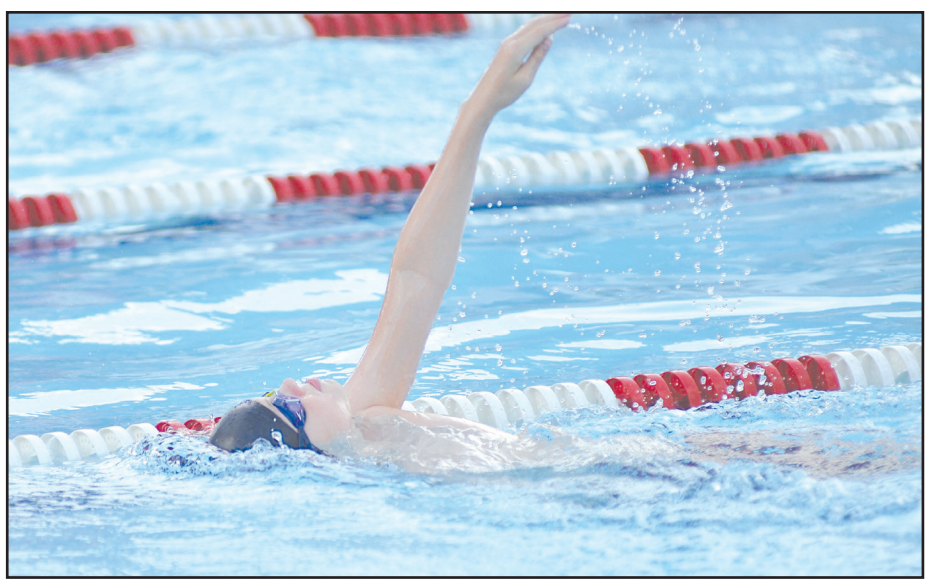
RVAA City-County Meet is July 24-25 at Liberty University













PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

The local Roanoke Valley Aquatic Association pools concluded their Monday night meets this week and are getting ready for the City-County Meet at the Liberty University Natatorium the weekend of July 24 and 25. Last week Read Mountain hosted a meet with Our Lady of Nazareth and the LancerLot. Here, boys take the horn for the 200 medley, Eleanor Weddle (top right) swims freestyle, and Sidney Strickler (middle left) of the Muskies does the breaststroke. The Limestone Park team was at Stonegate for a meet last week. The girls are on the block (middle right), Wyatt Spangler (bottom left) does the backstroke, and Piper Clarke (bottom right) swims the butterfly.

Holland was one of the best to come out of the Roanoke Valley

By Brian Hoffman

I was sad to learn of the passing of Roanoke native Al Holland, who passed away on the 4th of July in South Carolina. Holland would have been 74 on August 16.

Holland's athletic feats are legendary in Roanoke. Raised by a single mother along with three brothers, he attended a segregated Lucy Addison High School and played multiple sports. Al was not only a terrific baseball player but also excelled in football, playing both sports for North Carolina A&T on a college football scholarship.

Holland was a quarterback in high school but was moved to running back in college, playing four years for the Aggies. His younger brothers would follow him to North Carolina A&T in Greensboro.

While he was good in football, baseball became Holland's best sport in college. He was an All-American twice and the most celebrated player in program history. He's one of three Aggie student-athletes to have his jersey retired along with Naismith Hall of Famer Al Attles in basketball and Pro Football Hall of Famer Elvin Bethea.

Holland was drafted by the Texas Rangers in the 30th round of the Major League Baseball amateur

See **Hoffman**, page 11

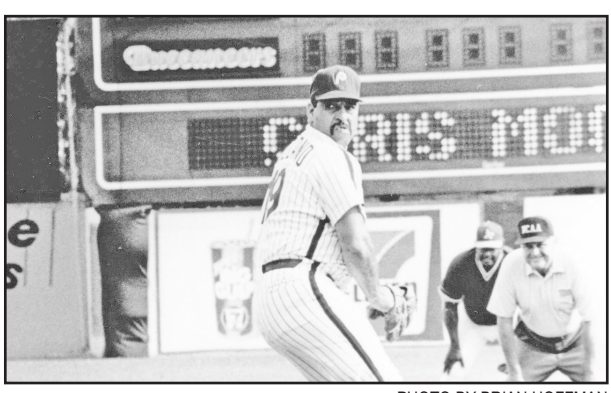


PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Al Holland pitches at Salem's Kiwanis Park in an Old Timers' Day game after retiring from Major League baseball.

Fulton leaving LB athletic director position

Tim Fulton is stepping down as athletic director at Lord Botetourt High School after four years on the job. Fulton will leave his post at the end of the month to take a similar position at Smith Mountain Lake Christian Academy.

"You could say I'm retiring from public education," said Fulton. "I'm 60 years old now and I saw this as a good opportunity."

Fulton is eligible for retirement after 33 years in public schools. Although Smith Mountain Lake Christian Academy is now a member of the Virginia High School League the Ospreys are a private school located off Hendricks Store Road in Moneta. The academy has between 350 and 400 students from pre-school through 12th grade.

As far as sports, SMLCA fields teams in most sports, including football, volleyball and golf in the fall. The Ospreys have wrestling and basketball for boys and girls in the winter, and in the spring the school has baseball, softball, tennis, track and boys' and girls' soccer. They compete in the Dogwood District with Altavista, Appomattox County, Chatham, Dan River, Galileo Magnet, Gretna, Nelson County and William Campbell.

Fulton leaves Lord Botetourt after four years, having succeeded Chuck Pound as athletic director beginning with the 2022 fall season. He's been on board for the hiring of a new football coach, a boys' soccer coach, two boys' basketball coaches and new coaches for swimming, track and cross country.

"I'm very appreciative of the time I've had here at Lord Botetourt," said Fulton. "This was a great opportunity for me and I feel like I've grown professionally and been a part of the community. I appreciate the support we've had from the school, the administration and the Botetourt community."



FH FILE PHOTO

Tim Fulton is leaving Lord Botetourt after four years as athletic director.

Tim isn't heading for the exit just yet. This is a busy time of year for the athletic department and he wants to make sure his successor isn't overwhelmed when the new hire is made.

"When I came here Chuck Pound had everything set up for me, and I really appreciated that," he said. "For the next couple weeks I'm going to do everything I can to make sure the transition goes as smoothly as possible."



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