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Land Transfers - Page 3

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& Botetourt County News
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Botetourt County food pantries provide lifeline across the county

Matt de Simone
Managing Editor

The freezers are stocked with frozen meat. Refrigerators hold fresh fruits and vegetables. Shelves are lined with cereal, pasta, canned vegetables, peanut butter, soup and breakfast foods. Around the corner are paper towels, laundry detergent, shampoo and even pet food.

For many first-time visitors, the Botetourt Food Pantry doesn't resemble the image they may have had in mind.

Operating from St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Fincastle, the pantry functions less like a warehouse and more like a neighborhood grocery store, where clients can select many of the items that best fit their household. It is one of several food pantries across Botetourt County quietly serving hundreds of families each month through a network of churches, volunteers, civic organizations, businesses and donors.

The need, those involved say, is greater than many residents realize.

"It is an issue because of everything else that has increased– rent and everything else," Martha Rodgers, co-chair of the Botetourt Food Pantry, explained. "Our numbers have increased."

The pantry has been serving Botetourt County for nearly five decades, first operating out of a closet in the basement of St. Mark's before eventually moving into its current location. Rodgers and co-chair Kathy McClung have helped oversee the operation for approximately 20 years, supported by dozens of volunteers who sort food, stock shelves, place orders, and assist clients every distribution day.

During the first six months of 2026, the pantry served 839 families representing 2,736 individuals. In 2025, it distributed more than 80,000 pounds of food and welcomed more than 4,000 pantry visits.

Those numbers, Rodgers noted, represent neighbors from every corner of Botetourt County.

"We see a combination," she said when asked who typically seeks assistance. "But I would say it leans more toward people 55 and older."

Communities such as Eagle Rock and Buchanan often experience greater need, she acknowledged, but food insecurity doesn't stop at town limits or income brackets.

"I've delivered to people off Country Club Road," Rodgers recalled. "Ours is open to everybody."

Rodgers believes rising housing costs, utility bills, prescription expenses and other everyday necessities have placed increasing pressure on household budgets, leaving many families searching for ways to stretch each dollar.

"This helps offset those costs," she said.

One of the pantry's defining features is its client-choice model.

Rather than handing out pre-packed boxes, volunteers walk with each client through the pantry, allowing them to choose items based on the size of their household and the foods they know their family will eat.

The idea grew out of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"When we had to pack bags, we realized a lot of stuff was wasted," Rodgers explained. "People know what they need."

Depending on inventory, visitors may choose fresh produce, frozen meat, eggs, milk, canned goods, cereal, snacks and bread. Hygiene products, laundry detergent, dish soap, toilet paper and pet food are also available, helping families manage expenses that often receive little attention.

Much of that food arrives through partnerships with Feeding Southwest Virginia, local grocery stores, area farmers and generous community members. Gardeners routinely donate fresh vegetables, hunters provide venison, farmers share eggs and produce, and businesses contribute everything from financial support to volunteer hours.

The pantry itself bears the fingerprints of the community. An Eagle Scout constructed many of the sturdy shelving units now holding thousands of pounds of food, while organizations such as the Botetourt Lions Club and local businesses like MicroHarmonics regularly volunteer their time and assist with grant opportunities.

Rodgers emphasized that the Botetourt Food Pantry is only one piece of a much larger effort.

"If I get an excess of something, I'll call the others," she said. "We work together."

Those "others" include pantries operated by Buchanan Presbyterian Church, Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Springwood Baptist Church and Troutville Baptist Church. Although each serves a different area of the county, they share a common mission.

At Springwood Baptist Church, the pantry is preparing to begin its 15th year of operation. Director Linda Johnson

See **Food pantries**, page 5









PHOTOS BY MATT DE SIMONE



PHOTO COURTESY OF ROB JOHNSON

Above, fresh produce, pantry staples, frozen meats and household essentials fill the shelves and refrigerators at the Botetourt Food Pantry in Fincastle. Below, volunteers with the Springwood Baptist Church Food Pantry gather behind bags of groceries prepared for distribution.

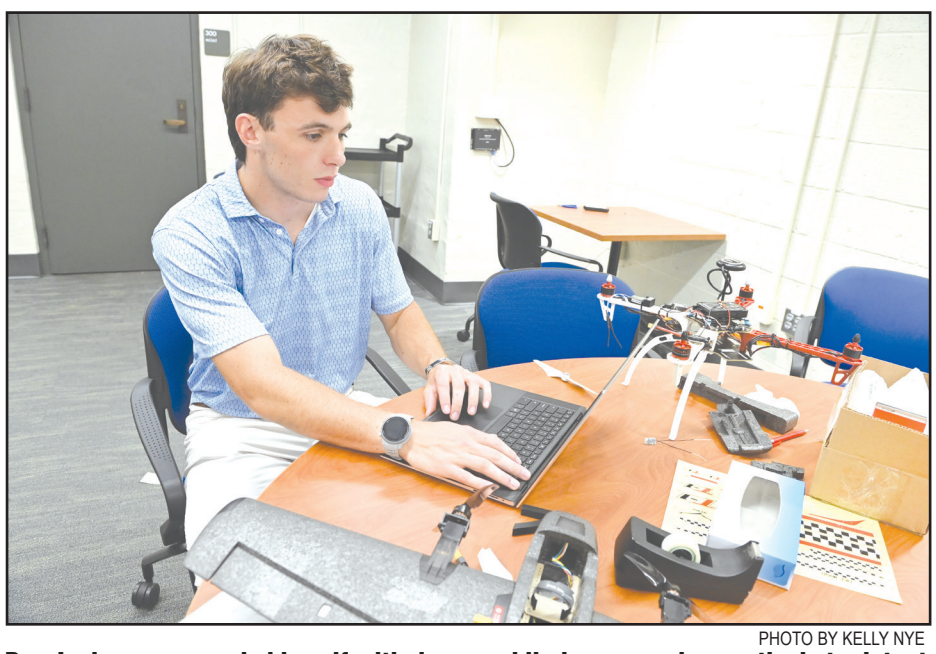


PHOTO BY KELLY NYE

Rye Jackson surrounds himself with drones while he researches methods to detect them.

Drone detection focus of student's research

According to the website, Drone-Warfare, "2025 marked a watershed year in drone warfare, featuring history's first drone battle between nuclear-armed nations, the first combat kill by naval drones against fighter jets, and the first underwater drone attack on a submarine."

Understanding the critical need for spotting approaching hostile drones, Rye Jackson from Daleville, an international studies major and computer science minor in the Class of '28 at Virginia Military Institute, is researching drone detection for his 12-week Summer Undergraduate Research Institute (SURI) project, "A Multi-Modal Survey of Drone Detection Methods: Acoustic, Visual, RF, and Fusion Approaches."

Jackson, a graduate of Lord Botetourt High School, is the son of Adam and Heather Jackson.

Jackson was inspired to research drone detection while taking a business course during his rat year at VMI. "Drones are now widely used in both civilian and military settings, but their misuse near airports, critical infrastructure, and military bases creates serious security risks. By working with artificial intelligence, and computer coding, this is a real-world

See **Jackson**, page 3

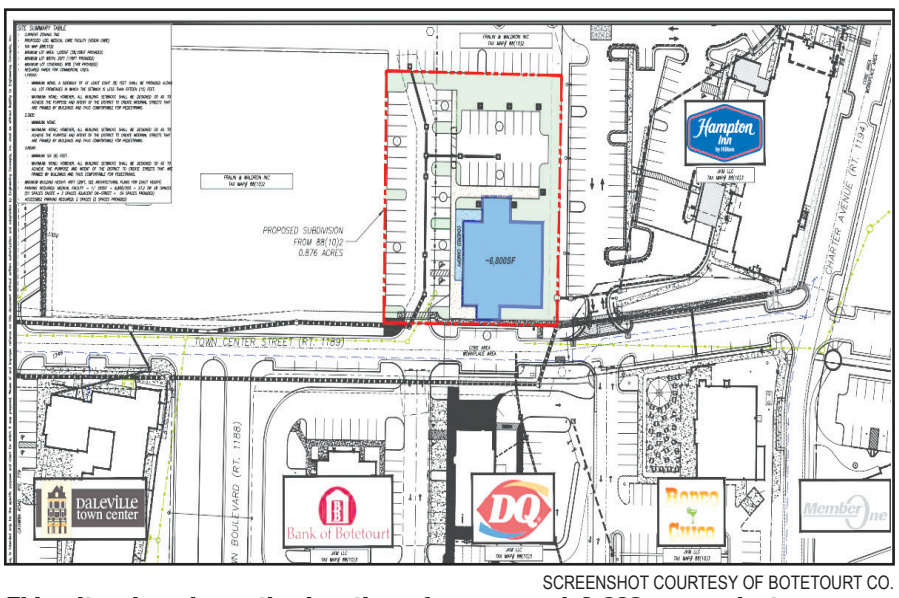
Planning Commission recommends approval of new eye care facility in Daleville Town Center

The Botetourt County Planning Commission voted July 13 to recommend approval of a Special Exception Permit for a proposed eye care facility in Daleville Town Center following a public hearing and work session discussion.

The proposal calls for construction of a nearly 7,000-square-foot, two-story medical office building on the final undeveloped parcel within Daleville Town Center. The building would include 22 exam rooms and 51 parking spaces. The applicant stated the facility is intended to serve as an eye care or vision center.

During its discussion,

See **Planning**, page 5



SCREENSHOT COURTESY OF BOTETOURT CO.

This site plan shows the location of a proposed 6,800-square-foot eye care facility (green) on the final undeveloped parcel in Daleville Town Center. The two-story medical office building would be constructed along Town Center Street, between the Hampton Inn and Bank of Botetourt, pending final approval by the Botetourt County Board of Supervisors.

2026 SEASON
Daleville town center
Scan here for complete event schedule, and details.
JULY 24
JORDAN RAINER
5-9PM
JULY 25
BOTETOURT FARMERS MARKET
DALEVILLE TOWN CENTER
8:30 to NOON
AUGUST 1
KARLEE RAYE BAND
5-9PM

Botetourt County History



PHOTO COURTESY OF BCMHC

This painted chalk horse is from the Botetourt County Fair when it was held at the former fairgrounds adjacent to Hawthorne Hall Road and Old Fincastle Rd from 1879-1949. As a child, Angela Coon won it there playing "Go Fish" in the late 1940s. It wasn't a card game, but a bucket up high with numbered plastic fish that could be scooped up with a long ladle. The number on the fish determined the prize– Angela won this horse won this horse.

It is part of the Botetourt Museum of History & Culture exhibit called "Home Grown– Botetourt's Agricultural History." According to Botetourt County Director of Economic Development Kyle Rosner, "Agriculture has been our dominant land use since 1770, thriving today with over 500 farms generating $23 million in annual product value."

Volunteers resurrected Botetourt's County Fair in 2013. This year, it will be held Friday, July 31 (5:30-8:30), and Saturday, August 1 (9 a.m.-4 p.m.), at the Buchanan Town Park with free admission.

~ Botetourt County Museum of History & Culture

WVWA clarifies its Google data center water agreement

FILE GRAPHIC

The Western Virginia Water Authority (WVWA) is addressing what it calls misinformation circulating in the community regarding water service for the proposed Google data center and is encouraging residents to rely on the terms of its official agreement with the company.

According to the authority, an early proposal discussed during negotiations in 2024 would have provided the project with 10 to 11 million gallons of water per day. WVWA said it rejected that proposal.

Before providing service to any large customer, the authority says it conducts engineering studies to evaluate available water supply, treatment capacity, drought resilience and potential impacts on existing customers.

WVWA said the only binding agreement governing water service to the proposed data center is the Utility Service Agreement approved by the Authority Board of Directors on Sept. 10, 2025, and fully executed on Oct. 14, 2025. The agreement is available on the authority's website at www.westernvawater.org/datacenter.

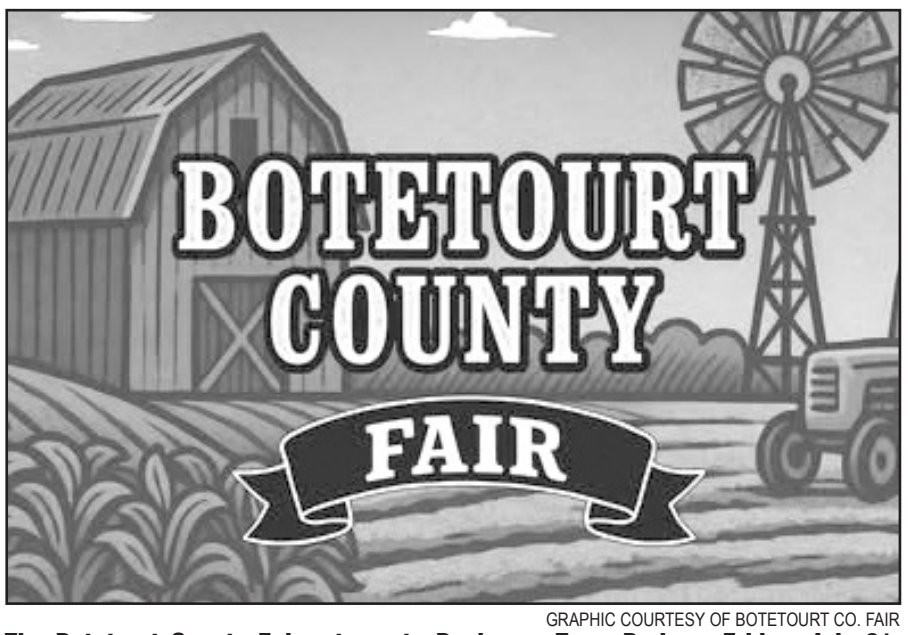
Under the agreement, WVWA will initially provide no more than 2 million gallons of water per day to the data center as part of the project's "Day 1 Water Solution."

The authority said its first responsibility is ensuring a reliable water supply for existing customers. WVWA currently treats approximately 21 million gallons of water per day and has previously treated as much as 23 million gallons per day. Officials said they are confident the system can meet both existing customer demand and Google's initial water needs.

The agreement also allows Google to request an increase to a maximum of 8 million gallons of water per day in the future. Any additional service beyond the initial 2 million gallons per day would require WVWA to determine that it can continue meeting both current and future water demands throughout its service area before approving such a request.

WVWA says that any figures exceeding those outlined in the executed agreement are either speculative or were part of proposals rejected during earlier negotiations.

~ Fincastle Herald staff report



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF BOTETOURT CO. FAIR

The Botetourt County Fair returns to Buchanan Town Park on Friday, July 31, and Saturday, Aug. 1, offering two days of free family-friendly entertainment, agricultural exhibits, livestock shows, live music, traditional contests and activities celebrating the county's agricultural heritage. Admission is free.

Botetourt County Fair returns July 31-Aug. 1 with family fun, agricultural traditions

A longtime Botetourt County tradition celebrating agriculture, livestock and community will return to Buchanan Town Park later this month as the Botetourt County Fair welcomes visitors for two days of free, family-friendly activities.

The 2026 Botetourt County Fair is scheduled for Friday, July 31, from 5:30-8:30 p.m., and Saturday, Aug. 1, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Buchanan Town Park. Admission is free.

This year's fair will feature live music, youth livestock shows, draft horse pulls, agricultural demonstrations, a Kids Corral, traditional fair contests open to the public, a local food walk and a variety of additional activities celebrating Botetourt County's agricultural heritage.

The fair traces its roots back to 1879, when the first Botetourt County Fair was held on fairgrounds located off U.S. 220 near Hawthorne Hall Road in Fincastle. The event remained there for approximately 70 years before ending after the 1948 fair.

After a 63-year hiatus, the county fair was revived in 2013 at Buchanan Town Park, where it has been held each year since.

In 2023, organizers established the Botetourt County Fair Association Inc. to oversee the annual event and other fair-related activities. The association's board of directors serves as the governing body for the fair with the support of volunteers who work throughout the year to organize the event.

Organizers say the fair continues its mission of showcasing Botetourt County's agricultural heritage while providing educational opportunities and family entertainment for residents and visitors alike.

A complete schedule of events, contest information, entry rules and additional details are available at BotetourtCountyFair.com.

~ Fincastle Herald staff report

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Last week to head 'Into the Woods' at Attic



Characters from four of the tales in the show: Cayton Savinda, Cinderella, Tela Jo, Little Red Riding Hood, Cameron Wimbish, Jack, Carolyn Alvarez, Jack's mother, Elizabeth Brancati, Baker's Wife, and the Baker, Jason Cox

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.

~ Attic Productions



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ATTIC PRODUCTIONS

Blake Arney as Rapunzel's Prince and Cinderella's Prince, Hudson Elswick

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 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

Jackson from page 1

application I can explore after I graduate," he explained.

He described how researchers have explored several drone sensing approaches, including acoustic detection, deep learning-based visual methods, radiofrequency (RF) monitoring, and multi-sensor fusion systems. He studied 15 recent literature reviews across those approaches, focusing on techniques that could realistically be deployed in noisy, cluttered, and contested environments.

"Because when it's raining, you can't see it; when there's a thunderstorm, you can't hear it; and when both of those things are happening, RF is essentially the only way you can detect a drone. There are even stealth drones, which are very difficult to spot," Jackson said. The best means of drone detection is not just one method, but a combination of all three: acoustical, visual and RF, he said.

He plans to continue his research for his capstone project during the next two academic years. He envisions building a small device equipped with a camera, microphone, and an RF sensor. The device would be controlled by an app on his phone, and attached to a drone, which he would fly to detect other drones in the area.

Jackson's faculty mentors for the project are Dr. Sherif Abdelhamid, assistant professor in the Department of Computer and Information Sciences (CIS) and team member of the Cyber Defense Lab, and Lt. Col. Doug Wainwright, CIS instructor and IT manager.

In June, Sherif and Jackson attended a workshop on drone principles, hardware and flying, organized by VMI and Virginia Tech at Tech's drone park.

Wainwright said Jackson's work is an excellent business prospect. "He can start a company with his idea, or sell the idea to a drone company, or to the Army or the Marines, who are now both working with drone strategy and drone detection and defense. It is extremely important and relevant."

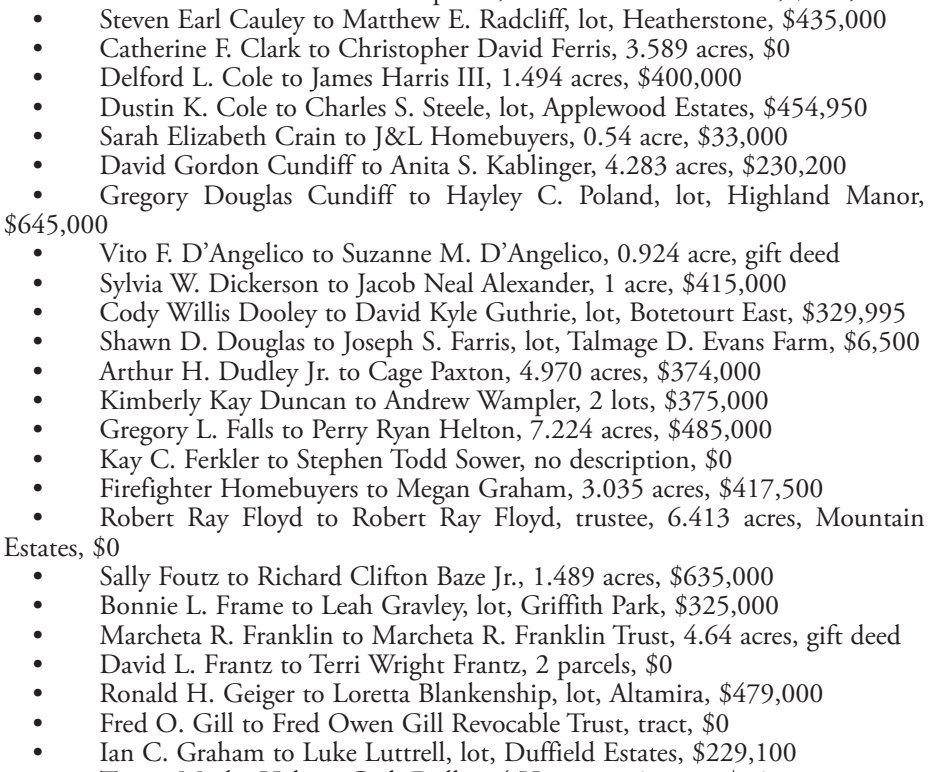
Jackson is a member of VMI's track team, and leads the Fellowship of Christian Athletes for the team. He is a participant in the Investment Club and the Drone Club. His goal after graduation is to become an entrepreneur.

~ Virginia Military Institute

Land transfers - June 2026

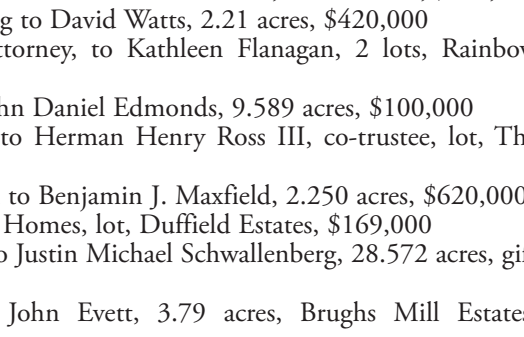
The following land transfers were recorded in the Botetourt County Courthouse in June 2026. The names of only one seller and one buyer are listed; others may be involved in the transaction.

- Daniel C. Adams to Daniel C. Adams, 2.252 acres, Santillane, $80,000
- ALG Trustee to Willy Cruise LLC, 1.916 acres, $281,501
- Iyad Alshami to I&R Investment of Va., lot, Ashley Plantation, gift deed
- Judy B. Anderson to Judy B. Anderson, lot, Stonegate, gift deed
- Eric W. Anhold to Justin P. Hatter, 2 parcels, $375,000
- Margaret Jane Arnold to Shawna Burkhart, 1.146 acres, gift deed
- Donald Arthur to Jeremy S. Hall, 1.366 acres, Thornblade, $72,000
- Charles W. Atkins to Atkins Family Trust, 1.4 acres, 1.524 acres, 1.252 acres, Hickory Hills, gift deed
- Karen Baader, trustee, to Property Privacy Services, trustee, lot, Orchard Hill, $0
- Jennifer N. Backman to Bridget T. Marshall, 2 parcels, $275,000
- Michael Brian Baker to Jeffrey Kyle Baker, 0.83 acre, one-half undivided interest conveyed, $41,500
- Robert Frederick Balmer II to Shawn Paul Lukacs, 6.543 acres, $619,000
- Christopher G. Baradat to Shayne Rodney Short, 1.034 acres, $435,000
- Kristi Marie Johnson Berry to Kristi Johnson Berry, 30.857 acres, gift deed
- Kristi Marie Johnson Berry to Pine Crest Place, five parcels, gift deed
- Kristi Marie Johnson Berry to Rolling Hills Place, three parcels, gift deed
- Kristi Marie Johnson Berry to Johnson Place, six parcels, gift deed
- Rebecca S. Bondurant to Rebecca S. Bondurant, 6.232 acres, gift deed
- W. Wayne Booze Jr., trustee, to Dustin Lee Ware, 86.2 acres, $422,000
- Barbara Lee Brown to Donna Rae Brown, 1.347 acres, gift deed
- John Daniel Brugh to Adam Brugh Ferguson, 22.999 acres, gift deed
- Deborah Buehring to Tod J. Haley, 1.252 acres, Deer Haven, $500,000
- Anthony L. Burkhart to Susan S. Wilson, 2.7523 acres, $142,900
- Shawna Burkhart to Susan Wilson, 1.146 acres, $41,100
- Alan Ray Burton to Camron Smith, 4.21 acres, Shawnee Village, $825,000
- Darrell A. Cameron to Samuel Jacob Leap, 1.647 acres, $260,000
- Doris S. Campbell to Doris S. Campbell, lot, $0, quit claim deed
- Sharon L. Carr to Aaron Humphries, 37.671 acres and 5 acres, $645,000
- Steven Earl Cauley to Matthew E. Radcliff, lot, Heatherstone, $435,000
- Catherine F. Clark to Christopher David Ferris, 3.589 acres, $0
- Delford L. Cole to James Harris III, 1.494 acres, $400,000
- Dustin K. Cole to Charles S. Steele, lot, Applewood Estates, $454,950
- Sarah Elizabeth Crain to J&L Homebuyers, 0.54 acre, $33,000
- David Gordon Cundiff to Anita S. Kablinger, 4.283 acres, $230,200
- Gregory Douglas Cundiff to Hayley C. Poland, lot, Highland Manor, $645,000
- Vito F. D'Angelico to Suzanne M. D'Angelico, 0.924 acre, gift deed
- Sylvia W. Dickerson to Jacob Neal Alexander, 1 acre, $415,000
- Cody Willis Dooley to David Kyle Guthrie, lot, Botetourt East, $329,995
- Shawn D. Douglas to Joseph S. Farris, lot, Talmage D. Evans Farm, $6,500
- Arthur H. Dudley Jr. to Cage Paxton, 4.970 acres, $374,000
- Kimberly Kay Duncan to Andrew Wampler, 2 lots, $375,000
- Gregory L. Falls to Perry Ryan Helton, 7.224 acres, $485,000
- Kay C. Ferkler to Stephen Todd Sower, no description, $0
- Firefighter Homebuyers to Megan Graham, 3.035 acres, $417,500
- Robert Ray Floyd to Robert Ray Floyd, trustee, 6.413 acres, Mountain Estates, $0
- Sally Foutz to Richard Clifton Baze Jr., 1.489 acres, $635,000
- Bonnie L. Frame to Leah Gravley, lot, Griffith Park, $325,000
- Marcheta R. Franklin to Marcheta R. Franklin Trust, 4.64 acres, gift deed
- David L. Frantz to Terri Wright Frantz, 2 parcels, $0
- Ronald H. Geiger to Loretta Blankenship, lot, Altamira, $479,000
- Fred O. Gill to Fred Owen Gill Revocable Trust, tract, $0
- Ian C. Graham to Luke Luttrell, lot, Duffield Estates, $229,100
- Twana Mosby Hale to Cash Dollars 4 Homes, 0.50 acre, $75,000
- Joseph Hancock to Royce M. Hutchinson, 2 parcels, $360,000
- James R. Harris III to Donald R. Pollack, trustee, lot, Applewood Estates, $390,000
- Sandra Harvey to Sandra G. Harvey, trustee, 0.161 acres, gift deed
- Billy H. Hatter to Christopher Eanes, 1.37 acres, $359,950
- Cheryl K. Hines, trustee, to Lauren G. Brown, 12.023 acres, $588,000
- Aaron J. Humphries to Gideon Martin, lot, Steeplechase, $501,000
- Lucio F. Ingalls to Corey Hackett, lot, $379,900
- Joella H. John to Joella H. John, trustee, two parcels, $0
- Sherry Annette Johnson to Charles Alan Brown, lots near Town of Iron Gate, $175,000
- David G. Kessler to Gerard R. Snyder, 63.75 acres, $200,000
- Joshua A. Kotval to Jonathan Bock, lot, Rainbow Forest, $385,000
- Gordon D. Lapradd to Cody Hosey, 1 acre, $36,000
- Lorisa Hyatt Lawson to Jon Andrew Matlock, lot, Apple Tree Village, $350,000
- Alan Stuart Leonard to Alan Stuart Leonard, parcel, $150,700
- Joseph H. Lescure to Joseph H. Lescure, trustee, parcels, gift deed
- Joyce Anne McPherson to Darren Chilson, lot, Stratford Place, $305,000
- Robert A. Meador to Robert A. Meador, 0.98 acre, gift deed
- William D. Meador Jr. to Leanne J. Harney Wood, 1.960 acres, $239,950
- Jonathan H. Metz to Nancy Julian, 0.545 acre, $181,000
- Christopher Patrick Moore, executor, to Spradlin Commercial Holdings, lot, Chadwick, $700,700
- Christopher J. Mullins to Logan Scales Stanley, 1.259 acres, $316,950
- Nicely Investments to Jessica Bolling Wilhelm, unit, Tinkerview Townhouse, $224,500
- Summer Simmons Overfelt to Wilbert Arley Overfelt, 1 acre, $1, quit claim deed
- PCK Luxe Properties to Tinker View Properties, 0.689 acre, gift deed
- Keith Perrin to Deborah Buehring, lot, Rosamae Gardens, $385,000
- Phyllis S. Petty, trustee, to Kristie Petty Simmons, five parcels, gift deed
- Edward F. Powell Jr. to Matthew Puryear, 1.464 acres, $387,200
- Rebecca P. Powell to John P. Lepard Sr., lots, Iron Gate Land and Development Company, $12,000
- R. Fralin Construction to Value Housing Partners, lot, The Orchards of Ashley, $90,000
- Bernard R. Rakes to Amy M. Hodges, lot, Steeplechase, $585,000
- RAS Trustee Services to Wilmington Savings Fund Society, 1 acre, Greenfield Acres, $149,527.28
- Charles Benny Reid II to Donald Richard Griffin II, 45.307 acres, $156,800
- Rhino Financial Marketing to David Watts, 2.21 acres, $420,000
- Doris C. Ridgway, by attorney, to Kathleen Flanagan, 2 lots, Rainbow Forest, $315,000
- Douglas B. Robison to John Daniel Edmonds, 9.589 acres, $100,000
- Herman Henry Ross III to Herman Henry Ross III, co-trustee, lot, The Preserve at Ashley, $10
- Michael Anthony Rossetti to Benjamin J. Maxfield, 2.250 acres, $620,000
- Shane Rupe to T. Crouch Homes, lot, Duffield Estates, $169,000
- Keith W. Schwallenberg to Justin Michael Schwallenberg, 28.572 acres, gift deed
- Benjamin W. Silcox to John Evett, 3.79 acres, Brughs Mill Estates, $1,130,000
- Patricia W. Simpson, executor, to Tristan Daniel Lytton, 2 acres, $275,000
- Tammy Ann Stafford to Charles Weckel, 2.97 acres, $68,500
- Kevin Scott Stevens to Paul W. Turner Jr., 1.544 acres, Santillane, $58,000
- Stonegate Properties to Stateson Homes, lot, Stonegate, $122,709.26
- Wendi Taylor to Madison Treat, lot, Hawknest subdivision, $261,000
- Brian G. Tew to Joseph Ranson, lot, Daleville Town Center, $565,000
- The Village at Stonegate to Stateson Homes, lot, Millstone, $108,000
- The Village at Stonegate to Stateson Homes, lot, Millstone, $108,000
- The Village at Stonegate to Stateson Homes, lot, Millstone, $108,000
- Robert J. Thompson to Robert J. Thompson, 10 acres, $0
- Linda C. Vail to Jeffrey D. Vail, 2.908 acres, gift deed
- Ismeta Vulgdali Smith to Jonathan Hunter Metz, 1.642 acres, $377,500
- Kevin F. Walker to Kevin Forrest Walker Recovable Trust, lot or parcel, Stratford Place, $0
- Jessica Bolling Wilhelm to Kathleen Fields, lot, Daleville Town Center, $365,000
- Jacob Williamson to John C. Theimer, 2.861 acres, $35,000
- Wilmington Savings Fund Society to Calderon Montalvan, 10.2 acres, $200,000
- Adam Giles Witt to Cody Willis Dooley, lot, Ashley Plantation, $775,000
- Anita L. Wyrick to James R. White, 1.043 acres, $18,000
- Cynthia Young Preston to Stephen M. Spicer, 2.620 acres, Longview, $72,500
- Nelson D. Zicafoose Jr. to Trevor J. Torgerson, 5 acres, $510,000



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Library Buzz

Summer Reading ending with ice cream parties

Botetourt County Libraries' "Unearth a Story" Summer Reading Challenge comes to a close on Saturday, July 25. Readers have until then to turn in their completed reading logs and dig up a prize from the treasure chest, get a free book, and free ticket to a Roanoke Rail Yard Dawgs game. Completed logs also earn an entry into the grand prize drawing of a family experience at Dinosaur Kingdom, plus a toy drawing at each branch. Join us for an end-of-summer ice cream party at any Botetourt County library from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Thank you to everyone who joined us on this summer's excavation — happy reading!

Upcoming Programs

Escape Room: The Hidden Dig Site

Fri, July 24, Various Times, Fincastle

Step into the boots of a paleontologist in this high-stakes, 45-minute escape room challenge! Solve puzzles, decode field journals, and search the stacks to uncover a legendary "Golden Fossil" hidden within a secret dig site. Best for ages 12-18. Registration required. Register at https://botetourtva.libcal.com/ or call 540-928-2900 with questions.

Rocks & Minerals Uncovered

Tue, July 28, 2 PM, Fincastle
Wed, July 29, 10:30 AM, Buchanan
Wed, July 29, 2 PM, Blue Ridge

Explore the bountiful resources of the earth through rock and mineral samples. Presented by Virginia Museum of Natural History. Best for ages 6-11. Registration required. Register at https://botetourtva.libcal.com/ or call 540-928-2900 with questions.

Botetourt Courthouse Update

Wed, July 29, 2 PM, Fincastle

Get the latest updates, plans, and goals on the construction of the Botetourt Courthouse, presented by Rich Evans, Botetourt County Capital Projects Manager.

Learn more about Botetourt Libraries at bocolibraries.info

Arrests

July 13-July 19, 2026

The Botetourt County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests July 13-19:

- Courtney N. Lafferty, 35, of Blue Ridge, domestic assault, July 13
- Levi D. Nolen, 24, residence address unavailable, threat in writing, threats to bomb, damage, or discharge a firearm within or at buildings or means of transportation, violation of protective order, July 13
- Donald R. Smitley Jr., 42, of Roanoke, domestic assault, July 14
- Morris D. Bates, 50, of Fincastle, sexual battery, July 15
- Hudson C. Cummings, 18, of Troutville, driving under the influence, July 18
- Jonathan I. Bowen, 18, of Troutville, drunk in public, July 18
- Adam Hopkins, 20, of Roanoke, trespassing, interfering with property rights of another, July 19

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

League for Animal Protection's Waif of the Week

Mecca



Mecca is an Italian Grey Hound mix. He is about 3 years old and up to date on vaccines. Mecca is a good boy when he gets used to you but he is going to take time and patience. He is a little snippy at first and will bark and growl. But he is a sucker for treats and calms down after he's been around you awhile.

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

THE FINCASTLE HERALD & Botetourt County News

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Letters to the Editor

Contact supervisors to support water studies

When people hear about my proposed Virginia Water Transparency Act, one of the first questions they ask is, "Does it protect the environment?"

The answer is yes, but perhaps not in the way they expect.

This legislation does not create new endangered species protections. It does not rewrite air or water quality laws, regulate noise, or replace Virginia's existing environmental permitting process. Those laws already exist.

Instead, this bill addresses a different problem: the public's ability to know what is happening before major decisions involving our public water resources are made.

In Botetourt County, many citizens have spent months trying to obtain public records related to a proposed data center and the associated water infrastructure. Information that should have been readily available often required Freedom of Information Act requests, significant expense, and in some cases litigation before documents were released.

Regardless of where someone stands on the data center itself, I believe most people can agree on one principle: decisions involving public water should be made openly.

Transparency is one of the strongest environmental protections a community can have. Citizens cannot ask informed questions about water availability, environmental impacts, endangered species, wetlands, or infrastructure if they do not know what is being proposed until after decisions have effectively been made.

When information is available early, scientists can evaluate it. Engineers can review it. Property owners can understand it. Conservation groups can weigh in. Local governments can make better-informed decisions. Most importantly, the public has an opportunity to participate before commitments become irreversible.

The Virginia Water Transparency Act is designed to ensure that major commitments involving public water resources cannot be hidden behind non-disclosure agreements or negotiated without meaningful public awareness. It strengthens accountability without creating unnecessary bureaucracy or duplicating existing environmental regulations.

Whether you support or oppose a particular project, transparency benefits everyone. Good decisions are strengthened by public scrutiny. Poor decisions are exposed by it.

Here in Botetourt County, we have an immediate opportunity to put that principle into practice. On July 28, the Board of Supervisors is expected to vote on whether to authorize independent water studies related to the proposed Google data center. I encourage every citizen, regardless of your position on the project itself, to contact your supervisor before that meeting and ask them to support the independent studies. Facts should never be feared. Independent science and due diligence benefit everyone.

Water sustains every person, every farm, every business, and every ecosystem. Data centers can bring investment and innovation, but data itself is not a resource we drink, grow crops with, or leave to future generations.

Water is life. Data is just data.

Chad Bean
Fincastle

Urges supervisors to approve public water forum

As a Botetourt County landowner, I urge the Board of Supervisors to authorize the Planning Commission's request for a public forum on the water supply implications of the proposed Google data center at the Botetourt Center at Greenfield. The board will consider this request on July 28.

Agreements released by the Western Virginia Water Authority show that the project would initially reserve up to 2 million gallons per day from Carvins Cove Reservoir, with the potential to expand to 8 million gallons per day. These figures were reported in The Fincastle Herald (March 3, 2026) and by WSLS-TV and Virginia Business. County and authority statements note that Google would follow the same drought restrictions as other customers and would fund much of the associated infrastructure, while a new regional supply source was already anticipated for the 2040s-2060s.

Current conditions highlight the need for transparent review. As of July 18, 2026, the Western Virginia Water Authority reports Carvins Cove at 15.3 feet below full pond (64.5% capacity) and Spring Hollow at 18.6 feet below full pond (77.1% capacity), with voluntary conservation in effect. During the severe 2001-2002 drought, Carvins Cove experienced substantial drawdown before recovery.

Analyses presented to the Planning Commission demonstrate why independent examination matters. Reservoir levels depend on the balance of inflows and outflows. When outflows exceed inflows over time– as in past droughts– the level declines at a measurable rate. Adding significant new demand would accelerate depletion during low-inflow periods. For claims that the system can accommodate this use without affecting residents or necessitating new supplies to hold true, the reservoirs would need to maintain levels well above critical thresholds even under drought conditions similar to 2001-2002, with replenishment rates consistently offsetting the added draw. Current drought trends and historical performance indicate that verifying these conditions through open discussion is prudent.

The Planning Commission voted unanimously on July 13 to submit its water situation summary, infrastructure request, and Primary Water Assessment White Paper, and compiled questions to the board and to request authorization for a public forum featuring expert perspectives. Virginia law positions the commission in an advisory role, making board approval the appropriate step.

A forum would promote informed decision-making without prejudging outcomes. I encourage the board and readers to support this request.

Larry Ceola
Fincastle

Urge Cline to support Alzheimer's bill

There is a bill in Congress that should be a no-brainer.

See **Letters**, page 10



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CLUES ACROSS
1. Listen to
5. Presents
10. A type of guitar
14. Actor Idris
15. A citizen of Iran
16. Pretentiously artistic
17. Harness
18. Diamond weight measurement
19. "Better Call __"
20. Fervent support
22. Male cat
23. Jewish spiritual leader
24. Disposed to venture or take risks
27. A way to nail
30. Cool!
31. Women's __ movement
32. "Losing My Religion" rockers
35. Step-shaped recess
37. A princess can detect it
38. Tractor-trailer
39. Leslie and Leon are two
40. Color at the end of the spectrum
41. Lines where fabrics are sewn
42. Dodgers great Hershiser
43. Floor covering
44. Traveled aimlessly
45. Rocker Stewart
46. Body art
47. Congressman (abbr.)
48. No seats available
49. Breaks apart
52. Hand gesture
55. Ballplayer's tool
56. Sword
60. Baseball team
61. Upper bract of floret of grass
63. Italian Seaport
64. Mars crater
65. Tube on a shoelace
66. U. of Miami mascot
67. South American nation
68. Video game series
"Max __"
69. Upper body part

CLUES DOWN
1. German courtesy title
2. Ancient Greek personification of mercy
3. Jewish calendar month
4. Family of long-legged frogs
5. Photo
6. Delivered a speech
7. Lute used in Indian music
8. Decorated
9. Cease to stand
10. The bottom layer
11. Member of a Semitic people
12. Part of a ticket
13. Defunct monetary unit
21. Challenges
23. Body part
25. Tell on
26. By way of
27. Shady green alcove
28. Egyptian city
29. __ and flowed
32. Widens a hole
33. Eurasian wheat
34. Act incorrectly
36. "Be back later"
37. Al Bundy's wife
38. Ocean
40. Large root eaten as a vegetable
41. Units of subjective loudness
43. Music genre
44. A way to drench
46. Popular hot beverage
47. Silk-like cotton fabric
49. Rumanian city
50. Come back
51. Vaccine developer
52. Canadian law enforcers
53. Wings
54. Observational comedian Bill
57. Small fry
58. __ Clapton, musician
59. Take a chance
61. Semi-liquid food for babies
62. Consumed food

See **Answers**, page 10

Submit your letters to the editor today.

fincastle@ourvalley.org

The Fincastle Herald

Serving Botetourt Since 1866

Food pantries

from page 1

said the organization assists 25 to 35 families each month through a drive-through distribution model staffed entirely by volunteers. The pantry relies on donations, grants, fundraisers and support from the church while partnering with Feeding Southwest Virginia and local retailers.

Johnson challenged a common misconception that hunger is largely an urban problem.

"A general attitude among people seems to be that there couldn't possibly be hungry people in our county," she said. "However, our volunteers see the faces of hunger each time the pantry is open."

She said the pantry serves the working poor, seniors living on fixed incomes, individuals with disabilities and people experiencing homelessness. Requests frequently include nutritious foods such as meat, fresh fruits and vegetables, eggs, milk and cereal, along with hygiene products that can strain already tight budgets.

Johnson also pointed to another challenge unique to northern Botetourt County.

"The northern end of Botetourt County... is considered to be a food desert," she observed, noting the lack of public transportation can make something as simple as reaching a grocery store difficult for residents without reliable transportation.

At Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Pastor Danny Barham said transportation remains one of the greatest obstacles his pantry encounters.

Rather than waiting for families to travel long distances, volunteers often bring food directly to them.

The church regularly packs about 35 food boxes and distributes them at the Eagle Rock Library, where the boxes are typically gone within 45 minutes. Library staff also maintains food items inside the building during the week, allowing people to stop in discreetly if they need assistance.

Barham said the ministry intentionally provides items families often cannot purchase with SNAP benefits, including toilet paper, paper towels and other household essentials.

"The biggest shift we've seen over the past few years is simply the sheer volume," he said. "The need has skyrocketed."

Buchanan Presbyterian Church has likewise become a cornerstone for residents in the county's western end.

Volunteer William Stull said the pantry has distributed food since 2010, providing more than 25,000 grocery bags valued at more than $500,000. Community partners including the Buchanan Lions Club and several local churches help distribute food twice each month, regardless of where recipients live.

"We want everyone to know that there is no shame in asking for help," Stull noted. "There is certainly no judgment on our part."

Troutville Baptist Church's food pantry, established in 2010, has also watched the landscape evolve over the years. While the church has seen fewer families visiting its pantry as additional food pantries have opened throughout the county, volunteers stress that the need remains. The ministry continues to receive generous support from Troutville Grocery and Goods, the Botetourt Longbeards, area churches and individual donors– including one couple who donated 150 pounds of ground beef.

Taken individually, each pantry tells only part of the story.

Together, they paint a picture of a county where volunteers quietly stock shelves, unload trucks, collect donations, answer phone calls and greet neighbors with compassion rather than judgment.

Rodgers hopes more residents come to understand that food insecurity exists in every community– including Botetourt County– and that there are many ways to help.

Whether it's donating food, contributing financially or giving a few hours of volunteer time, she believes every effort matters.

For those who may be struggling, the message shared by every pantry director interviewed for this story was remarkably similar.

There is help available.

And no one should ever feel ashamed to ask for it.

Need food assistance?

Several food pantries serve residents throughout Botetourt County. **The Botetourt Food Pantry,** located at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Fincastle, is coordinated by Martha Rodgers and Kathy McClung. For information, call Rodgers at (540) 597-0025 or McClung at (540) 589-0001.

Buchanan Presbyterian Church Food Pantry, 19559 Main Street, Buchanan, is open the second and fourth Saturdays of each month from 9-11 a.m. and can be reached through William Stull at (540) 354-1537.

Pleasant Hill Baptist Church Food Pantry is coordinated by Pastor Danny Barham, who can be reached at (540) 529-5960.

Springwood Baptist Church Food Pantry operates a drive-through distribution on the third Saturday of each month from 8:30-9:30 a.m. For more information, contact Linda Johnson at (540) 520-4585.

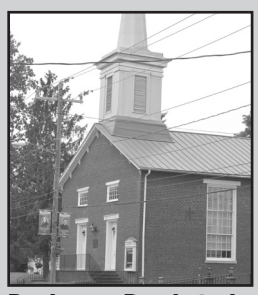
Troutville Baptist Church Food Pantry is open the second and fourth Saturdays from 9-11 a.m. and can be reached by contacting Ed Miller at (540) 798-0016 or Lucy Miller at (540) 798-0015.

Residents interested in volunteering or making food or monetary donations are encouraged to contact any of the pantries directly.



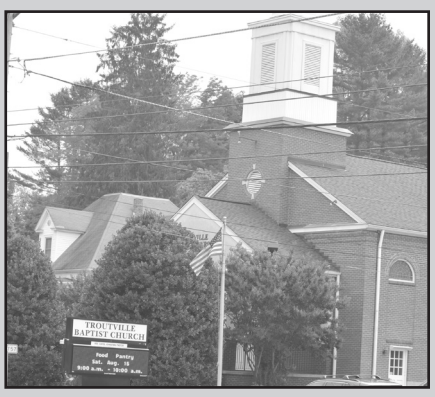
Botetourt Food Pantry


Springwood Baptist


Buchanan Presbyterian



Pleasant Hill Baptist Church



PHOTOS BY MATT DE SIMONE

Troutville Baptist Church

Planning

from page 1

the Planning Commission reviewed why medical facilities require a Special Exception Permit in the Town Center zoning district rather than being permitted by right.

Planning staff explained that the permit process allows the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors to evaluate whether a proposed medical use is appropriate for the site. Staff also noted that the commission's responsibility is to evaluate the proposed land use– not the identity of the future business operator.

Several commissioners expressed concern that approving a general medical office could allow other healthcare providers to occupy the building in the future without additional review. Commissioners cited examples from other localities where medical office buildings later housed different types of medical practices because zoning regulations already permitted medical office uses.

In response, the applicant agreed to a condition restricting the building's use exclusively to an eye care facility.

During the public hearing, residents raised several concerns, including:

- The loss of parking currently used during concerts and other community events, with requests that public parking remain available during off-hours
- The future location of the seasonal Botetourt Farmers Market, which currently operates on the property
- The loss of one of the remaining open green spaces in Daleville Town Center
- A request that county officials ensure no conflicts of interest exist involving the future occupant of the building

The applicant responded that recorded covenants governing Daleville Town Center require parking areas to remain shared among property owners, including the proposed development.

Regarding the farmers market, the applicant said organizers were notified earlier this year that the market could continue operating at the site through the 2026 season. Beginning in 2027, an alternative location has been offered in the parking lot of a nearby medical office building across from the YMCA. The applicant also stated the future tenant is willing to continue working with market organizers once construction is complete.

A motion by Commissioner Mark Tyson to deny the Special Exception Permit failed for lack of a second.

The commission then considered adding a condition limiting the building to use as an eye care facility. Planning staff confirmed the condition could be incorporated into the permit.

The Planning Commission voted 4-1 to recommend approval of the Special Exception Permit with all recommended conditions, including the requirement that the building be used exclusively as an eye care facility.

The recommendation will now be forwarded to the Botetourt County Board of Supervisors, which will hold a future public hearing before making a final decision.

~ Fincastle Herald staff report

SALEM RIDGEYAKS
VS AUGUSTA GREENJACKETS
JULY 22nd 6:35 PM
JULY 23rd 6:35 PM
Murder Mystery Night
JULY 24th 6:35 PM
Christmas in July
JULY 25th 6:35 PM
Nick at Nite
JULY 26th 4:05 PM

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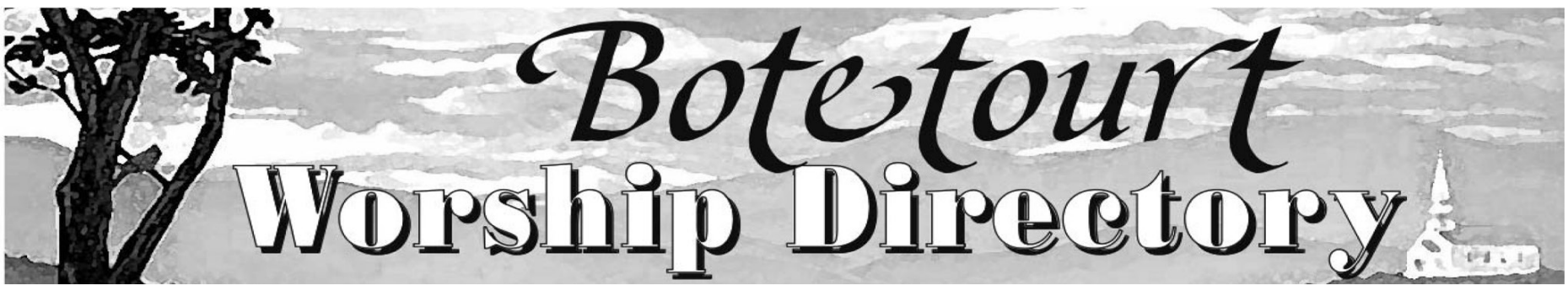
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ANGLICAN

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.

DEALING WISELY

1 Samuel 18:1 through 20:42

"In everything he did he had great success, because the Lord was with him"

(1 Samuel 18:14).

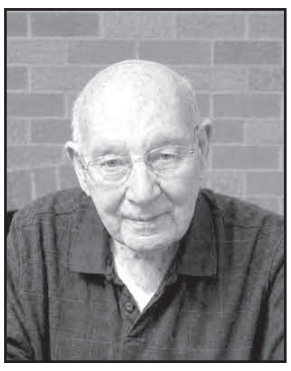
If ever there were ample reason to justify retaliation, David certainly qualified. Repeatedly wronged by King Saul, David always responded with respect and love. Even when he had the opportunity to kill the treacherous king, David restrained himself. Because of his willing submission to Saul's God-given authority, David was crowned king over Israel. There are times when we too are wronged by those in authority over us. At such times, we often feel justifi ed in rebelling, thinking that we are simply standing up for ourselves. But rebellion will only reduce us to the spiritual maturity (or immaturity) level of the authority who is hurting us. Instead of rebelling, we should seek to discuss any problems with our abusive authority (Romans 12:18). If our authority continues in the abuse, then we, like David, must do all we can to protect ourselves by leaving the abusive situation. Leaving, however, does not imply license to judge our abusive authority. Only God has the right to judge and to vindicate.

Thought for Today: Abusive people are wounded people, and wounded people often hurt others.

OBITUARIES

Boggs, Rev. Billy Joe

Reverend Billy Joe Boggs, 91, formerly of Roanoke, passed away peacefully on July 16, 2026, at his home in Winston-Salem, N.C., surrounded by his family.



Billy Joe was born on August 12, 1934, in Second Creek, W.Va., to Marshall and Mary Boggs, one of 17 children. Reverend Boggs' journey of faith began early in life, leading him to Holmes Bible College in Greenville, S.C., where he graduated in 1956. He also did Graduate Studies at Eastern Mennonite College. He lived a life of profound faith and dedication, marked by his unwavering commitment to his Lord and Savior and his deep love for his family. He battled Lewy Body Dementia and Parkinson's with courage and grace for 14 years, serving as an inspiring testament to his enduring spirit and resilience.

For 43 plus years, Reverend Boggs tirelessly served as a pastor and evangelist, retiring in 1999. His pastoral journey took him to numerous communities across West Virginia (Second Creek, Organ Cave) and the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia (Roanoke, Bedford, Harrisonburg, Winchester) and his last pastorate in Fries, Va., as he shared the Good News of the Gospel with unwavering devotion. While pastoring, he drove a school bus for over 40 years and was also a postal carrier, and an EMS volunteer.

Billy Joe leaves behind a legacy of love and faith through his five children, Pamela Boggs Stewart and husband Mike of Dunn, N.C.; Susan Boggs Cleary of Floyd, Va.; Mark Boggs and wife Clara of Troutville;, Kimberly Falkenberry and husband, Meadows of Santa Rose Beach, Fla.; and Karin Boggs Kirby of Winston-Salem, N.C.; eight grandchildren, Jacob Carpenter and wife, Stacey of Winchester, Va.; Zachary Carpenter and Melissa of Abingdon, Va.; Justin Stewart of West Covina, Calif.; Joshua Stewart and Carley of Hampstead, N.C.; Jonathan Boggs of Troutville; Zachary Hart of Santa Rosa Beach, Fla.; Scott Huettner and wife Shannon of Pensacola, Fla.; and Jaimie DeClement and her husband, Jake of Santa Rosa Beach, Fla. He is also survived by eight great-grandchildren, Bailey and Raegan Carpenter, Isaiah and Caleb Carpenter, and Peyton Ewing, Paris Hart, Kori DeClement and Elijah Huettner.

Billy has five surviving siblings– Phyllis Scruggs of Roanoke; Juanita Jewell of Verona, Va.; Isabelle Fogus of Pulaski, Va.; Mary Marshall Pence of Santa Rosa Beach, Fla.; and one brother, Clayton Boggs of Roanoke.

Billy Joe was proceeded in death by his parents, Marshall and Mary Boggs, 11 of his 16 siblings, and his wife of 59 years, Betty Jo Boggs.

The Boggs family extends their heartfelt gratitude to Trellis Supportive Care-Winston-Salem, N.C., for their compassionate care during Billy Joe's final days. They also wish to express their deep appreciation to Reggie Greenleaf, Tandy Jackson, Paula Fightmaster, Barbara Lemmons, and Michele Jett Brown whose dedication and loving care provided comfort and support.

A service to celebrate life will be held at Botetourt Funeral Home, 14920 Lee Hwy, Buchanan, on Saturday, July 25, 2026, at 1 p.m. The family will receive friends from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The interment will be at Old Dominion Memorial Gardens, 7271 Cloverdale Road, Roanoke, following the service.

Reverend Billy Joe Boggs (Dad, Poppy, & Papa) will be remembered for his gentle spirit, his compassionate heart, and his unwavering dedication to his faith and family. His life was a testament to the power of love and service, and his legacy will continue to inspire those who had the privilege of knowing him. In his honor, Share the Gospel with everyone you meet. John 3:16

Hundley, Robert Boyd

Robert Boyd Hundley passed away on July 1, 2026, on the family farm he loved in Botetourt County, Eagle Rock. A lifelong Virginian, his years were filled with animals, especially horses, along with his constant canine companions happily tagging along.

Robert and his three siblings shared a rich heritage that shaped his love of land, culture, history, and family adventures.

He was a graduate of James River High School and attended Dabney Lancaster Community College before working for Westvaco in Covington. Like his father, as a member of Scout Troop 2 in Clifton Forge, Robert earned the honors of Eagle Scout, God and Country, and the Order of the Arrow awards. Robert loved football, was known to tackle with abandon, and was selected to the first-team, all-district, as a linebacker. His passion for history eventually led him to memorize chapters of his favorite stories, including Lonesome Dove, Will Rogers, and speeches by Senator Davy Crocket, to the astonishment of his lucky audience. Hunting, horseback riding, and living off the verdant land became his way of life.

He is survived by his son, Robert Boyd Hundley, Jr.; with his parents, Raymond E. and Faye A. Hundley, predeceasing him. Robert also leaves his three beautiful granddaughters (Boulder, Colo.). His siblings are Ridge Hundley (Va., Fla.), Stephen Hundley (Mt.), and Melissa Hundley, Clifton Forge.

A memorial service will be held on Wednesday, July 22, at 11 a.m. at the Fincastle Presbyterian Church, with the Rev. David Dickerson is presiding.

Memorial gifts may be sent to the Virginia Horse Center, Lexington, Scout 2 in Clifton Forge, or the Wildlife Center of Virginia. Any correspondence may be sent to Steve Hundley, P.O. Box 1541, Ennis, MT 59729.

Myers, Harold Haden

Harold Haden Myers, 82, of Troutville, passed away peacefully on Thursday, July 16, 2026. He was preceded in passing by his wife of 38 years, Susan Stevens Myers; and parents, David Rudolph Myers and Avis Caldwell Myers.



Harold served in the Army National Guard for 6 years, while working in marketing for Norfolk Southern, from which he retired. After he retired, he was a part-time farmer for many years, alongside his son, Marshall. He was a very good-hearted neighbor; whether it was plowing snow or bush hogging, he was always there to help.

Harold lived a simple life with his four-legged best friend, Sammie, who was so much more than a pet– he was a constant source of comfort, unconditional love, and loyal friendship. Wherever Harold was, Sammie was never far behind, offering support through life's happiest moments and its greatest challenges. Harold had a dry sense of humor, and his go-to response was "we'll just have to wait and see." He was an avid member of Wheatland Lutheran Church and served as an usher, as well as his dedication to the setup and presentation of the Christmon tree. He will be greatly missed.

The family would like to thank everyone at The Glebe and Good Samaritan Hospice for their compassionate care of Harold before his passing.

Left to cherish Harold's memory are his children, Marshall Myers (Kristie), and Susanne Marshall (Matt); grandchildren, Konner and Kayla Myers, and Bryce, Blake, and Madison Marshall; brothers, Danny, Terry, and David Myers; sisters, Shirley Overfelt, and Martha Sicora; sister and brother-in-law, Connie and Steve Robeson; and special four-legged friend, Sammie.

The family received friends from 2-3 p.m. on Sunday, July 19, 2026, at Wheatland Lutheran Church. A funeral service celebrating Harold's life followed at 3 p.m. at the church, with Pastor Phyllis Diamond officiating. Interment was in the church cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donations in Harold's honor to Wheatland Lutheran Church, The Glebe, or Good Samaritan Hospice. Online condolences may be shared with the family at www.botetourtfh.com or by calling 540-254-3000.

CHURCH NEWS

Buchanan Food Pantry open this Saturday

The Buchanan Presbyterian Church food pantry will be open Saturday, July 25, from 9 a.m. till 11 a.m. Volunteers will be distributing meat, canned fruit and vegetables and other groceries at curbside. Anyone in need is welcome. The church is at 19559 Main Street in Buchanan.

If you are not in need and would like to support the cause, donations can be dropped off at Southern Girls Mercantile on Main Street any day between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monetary donations are also welcome and can also be dropped off there, or mailed to the church at P.O. Box 517, Buchanan, 24066.

Fincastle Clothes Closet open July 25

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

Eagle Rock Baptist VBS Saturday

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.

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.

Eagle Rock Clothes Closet dates

The Eagle Rock Community Clothes Closet at Eagle Rock United Methodist Church is opening again in August on Saturdays, August 1 and 15, from 9 a.m. to noon, and Wednesday, August 5, from 5-6:30 p.m. It offers men's, women's and children's clothing and shoes along with toys and household items. Bags will be provided and patrons are asked to honor the bag limit posted.

To celebrate 20 years of continuous service to the community and surrounding area, organizers will have a free gift for each customer until they are gone.

Brown receives Richard Newton Scholarship

Jacob Brown received the Richard A. Newton Scholarship on June 14 during Family Day services at Troutville Church of the Brethren. Jacob graduated in May from Lord Botetourt High School and will be attending Liberty University in the fall. His parents are Michael and Rose Brown. Pictured is Jacob receiving the scholarship from Pastor Terry Johnson as his mother looks on.

~ Submitted by Pastor Terry Johnson



PHOTO COURTESY OF TERRY JOHNSON

AARP Scam Alert:

Beware of fake QR code scams

QR codes have become a convenient part of daily lives, from viewing restaurant menus to paying for parking meters. However, scammers are increasingly taking advantage of this technology to steal personal information and money through a tactic known as "squishing." By physically pasting fraudulent stickers over legitimate ones, or sending fake codes via email or text, criminals can redirect users to malicious websites meant to mimic trusted businesses.

In public settings, you might unknowingly scan a tampered code on a flyer or parking meter, sending your payment directly into a scammer's account.

Protecting yourself requires extra caution. When scanning a physical QR code, ensure it's not a sticker layered over the original. When in doubt, avoid the QR code entirely, and use your phone's web browser and type in the official web address yourself. Additionally, keeping your devices' operating systems updated and using antivirus protection can offer an important second line of defense.

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



FILE GRAPHIC

~ AARP

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

Serving With Compassion
Botetourt
Funeral Home & Crematory
Buchanan 254-3000
14920 Lee Highway
Eagle Rock 884-2276
14777 Church Street
Karen C. Young, Funeral Director
Locally owned & operated by I. Ray & Bobbi Sloan

Share Church news today! fincastle@ourvalley.org

MAIN STREET CLASSIFIEDS
Marketplace
ourvalley.org
The Fincastle Herald · The Vinton Messenger · The New Castle Record · Salem Times-Register · News Messenger · Radford News Journal

Help Wanted

Fincastle United Methodist Church is seeking a part-time Adult Choir Director

to join our worship team, lead our adult choir effectively and joyfully, and improve and encourage the musical capabilities of our musicians. Responsibilities include selecting music for the choir, leading weekly choir rehearsal (September – June), conducting the choir and congregation for Sunday morning and special services, planning and coordinating special music for summer services, and serving as coordinator/advisor for related musical groups.
Qualifications:
• Experience directing church choirs.
• Formal education and background in music or music education.
• Ability to collaborate with, teach, and inspire volunteer musicians in an affirming manner.
Compensation:
• Choir Director: $11,000 - $13,000
Please reply to office@fincastleumc.org or call (540) 473-3001

Fincastle United Methodist Church is seeking a part-time Piano and/or Organist

Accompanist to join our worship team and help lead our congregation in meaningful, spirit-filled worship. Responsibilities include playing music for Sunday morning and special services, practicing with and accompanying the choir and other musicians, selecting music, and maintaining our instruments in good working order.
Qualifications:
• Proficiency with piano and/or organ
• Ability to sight-read music
• Ability to work collaboratively with clergy, choir, and other musicians
• Strong sense of musicality and sensitivity to worship flow
Compensation:
• Pianist: $5,000 - $7,000
• Organist: $12,000 - $16,000
Please reply to office@fincastleumc.org or call (540) 473-3001

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."

Notice

NOTICE

Cellco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) proposes to collocate wireless communications antennas at a top height of 29.5 feet on a 24-foot building at the approx. vicinity of 109 College Ave, 235 North Main St, Blacksburg, Montgomery County, VA 24060. In accordance with the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the FCC regulations implementing Section 106 review, public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted to:
Trileaf Corp,
Maggie Vincent,
m.vincent@trileaf.com,
303 International Circle, Suite 150, Hunt Valley, MD 21030, 410-853-7128.

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

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given to all interested persons that the Council of the City of Salem, at its regular meeting on August 10, 2026, at 6:30 p.m., in Council Chambers of the City Hall, 114 North Broad Street, in the City of Salem, Virginia, will hold a public hearing and consider the establishment of a Stormwater Utility and associated fees.
Questions concerning the proposed Stormwater Utility may be addressed to the City of Salem Community Development Department, 21 South Bruffey Street, Salem, Virginia, at 540-375-3032. At said hearing, parties in interest and citizens shall have an opportunity to be heard relative to the said request.

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA
H. Robert Light
Clerk of Salem City Council

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given to all interested persons that the Council of the City of Salem, at its regular meeting on Monday, August 10, 2026, at 6:30 p.m., in Council Chambers, City Hall, 114. N. Broad Street, in the City of Salem, Virginia, will hold a public hearing, pursuant to Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia, as amended, to consider the following requests relative to the CODE OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA:

1. Consider the request of Community Church Inc, property owner and Cornerstone Classical Academy, lessee, for the issuance of a Special Exception Permit to allow for an Educational Facility, Primary/Secondary, on the property located at 1923 East Main Street (Tax Map #78-1-14).

2. Consider the request of Robertson Family Revocable Trust, property owner and Amer Alsayadi, lessee, for the issuance of a Special Exception Permit to

Legals - City of Salem

allow a retail sales, smoke shop on the property located at 501 West 4th Street (Tax Map #143-3-14).

3. Consider the request of The Preston Place Preservation Foundation Inc., property owner, for a Special Exception Permit to allow an assembly hall, nonresidential uses in an accessory structure, and nonresidential uses out of doors, and a Use Not Provided for Permit for outdoor gatherings of less than 500 people on the property located at 1936 West Main Street (Tax Map #138-2-7).

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

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 on August 10, 2026, at 7:15 p.m. or as soon thereafter at the Montgomery County Government Center, 2nd Floor Board Room, 755 Roanoke Street, Christiansburg, Virginia, to hear citizen comments on the proposed Ordinance amending Chapter 2 entitled Administration, of the Code of the County of Montgomery, Virginia by amending Section 2-36 Return Check Fee, to include electronic payment of taxes or any other sum due, which is subsequently returned without payment by the receiving bank, depository institution or other recipient of the order. No fee shall be imposed under this section as the result of an electronic payment order that is not honored as the result of the nonexistence of any account matching the account information provided by the taxpayer, provided that the taxpayer has not tendered any other electronic payment order that was no honored during the 12 months preceding the tender of the payment order in question. This fee shall be in addition to any other fee or penalty provided by law.
A copy of the full text of the Ordinance is on file in the Office of the County Administrator and is available for public inspection or copying.
BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Angela M. Hill
County Administrator

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

The Town of Christiansburg Town Council will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, August 11, 2026, at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments concerning:

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

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

Legals - Montgomery County

approximately 0.18 acres. The property is designated as Residential on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.

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

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 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

Legals - Montgomery County

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.

ADVERTISE!
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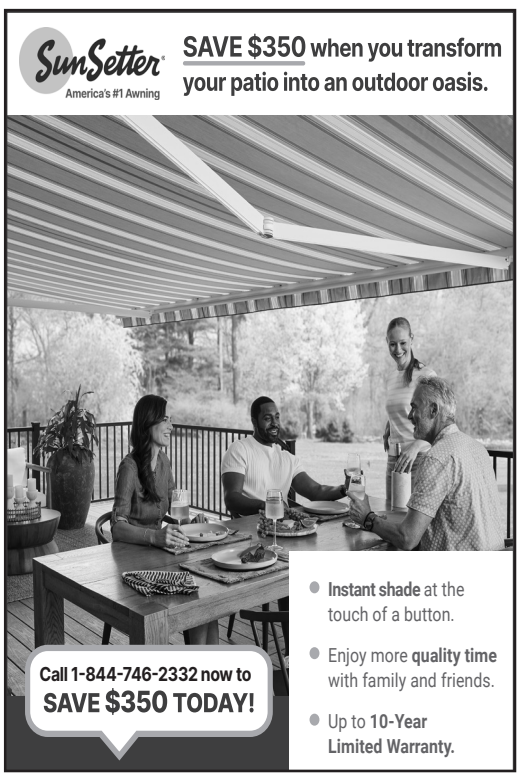
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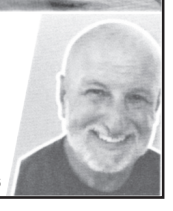
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Letters from page 4

But then in Ben Cline's district, that could mean two different things.

The bill is ASAP, the Alzheimer's Screening and Prevention Act. It would require Medicare to cover dementia screening for people without symptoms. Just like Medicare covers cancer screening for people without symptoms.

It is endorsed by the Alzheimer's Association.

It makes all kinds of sense and provides savings for patients, families, Medicare, and Medicaid… saving government funds with early prevention and early treatment.

ASAP would allow Medicare to take good, commonsense medical steps. The bill is now endorsed in the U.S. Senate by 18 Republicans and 8 Democrats; in the U.S. House by 37 Republicans and 65 Democrats.

His opponent in the coming election, Beth Macy, will support the bill if elected.

So, you would think Rep. Cline would join 128 other U.S. elected representatives (so far) to support this bill. Nope, the "no-brainer" tag is only a shameful title for Congressman Cline.

Many have reached out to Cline with no response. If you get a chance, reach out to him yourself. Let him know there is a bi-partisan solution to a bi-partisan problem that he can help fix.

Bill Tanger
Hollins
(Amsterdam area)

Data centers are a necessary evil

I am usually confident that whatever position Bob Patterson takes, I should believe the opposite. But his recent defense of the Google data centers coming to Botetourt made me pause. Do I like Google as a company and its track record of using our personal information and manipulating searches? No. Do I know many wonderful people who are passionately opposed to data centers being built in Botetourt County? Yes. Do I believe that AI has the potential to dumb us down even more than we already are? Yes. But there is something bigger going on. We are in the equivalent of an arms race with China for AI supremacy. Is China feeding us misinformation about data centers to fuel American opposition? Probably.

Take electric costs. I looked at average residential electric costs in Ashburn, the data center capital of the world, and they are cheaper than the current rates in Daleville. And there is the concern about noise. I have driven through Ashburn many times in the past eight years and have often stopped in traffic next to a data center. They make noise but they are no louder than the Munters facility currently operating in Greenfield. The concerns about water consumption, however, are another story. The severe drought we are in seems providential, occurring as the arguments against the proliferation of data centers in rural areas have become more heated.

The actual misinformation on data centers may be coming from closer to home. What we're being told and not told by Google, the county administration, and the water authority on what will be Google's actual water usage – is it two, six, eight, 12 million gallons a day? – and the impact on areas served by private wells have been muddy at best. It's been documented that a low reservoir, like Carvin's Cove, can affect wells whether they are tapping into an unconfined or confined aquifer.

Loudoun County – where Ashburn is located – has experienced an increase in wells going dry over the last couple of years even though the primary source for data center water there is the Potomac River. Another concern is the current plan for Google to return the water it uses, which will have added chemicals to prevent corrosion in its equipment, back into Carvin's Cove and Smith Mountain Lake after it has been "treated." Clean water like clean air shouldn't be gambled away on a bet for a theoretical amount of tax dollars in the county coffers.

In conclusion, data centers are a necessary evil in the world we live in as AI does have positive applications for national defense, medical research, etc. But does it make sense to build data centers in rural areas where the infrastructure is fragile and the natural resources are already threatened by irresponsible growth?

Charles Ruhl
Fincastle

Honest research needed to settle water issue

For several years now, I have used every means possible to encourage the members of the Botetourt Board of Supervisors to invest time and energy in learning basic leadership skills and practices. I have repeatedly explained that those skills can be learned and are advantageous. I have explained the essential need for and how to build trust among the people they are supposed to be leading. Although two of our newer board members have displayed those skills, the rest continue to undermine that essential trust, through secret agreements (NDA's Google), surrendering their elected authority to a major for-profit company, and unilateral decision making that overrides community input.

Now comes the real concern.

The board and the "administrator" signed a secret contract with Google, knowing the data center would be a massive consumer of public water. There was no community input or even knowledge of that risk to an essential public necessity. When the public attempted to find valid information on the water use, the BOS, "administrator," and the Western Virginia Water Authority (WVWA) conspired to prevent the public from getting that information. Eventually, after FOIAs and having the court order that the information should be public, and after threat of ongoing legal action, we were told up to 8 million gallons per day. Then, the public has repeatedly been told 2 million gallons, which is just for the first of three buildings. Now, a FOIA has uncovered conversations mentioning 10-11 million gallons! So what is the truth??

When pressed for valid information instead of having Google approve all communications from elected officials, there has been no proof of actual study or investigation into the actual usage or into whether our public system can successfully function with such massive water consumption. There has been a lot of obviously inaccurate information from both the public and more importantly, those who claim to serve us as officials. We have been told they will find a new water source, but nothing but vague promises, references to a 2029 plan, and a $200 million citizen price tag.

When a member of the Planning Commission suggested that we conduct a water study hearing to clear up the confusion and possible deception, he met with resistance, delays, obstruction, and anger. His suggestion, as clearly stated in his white paper, is to settle the confusion and anger by doing actual independent research (which was not done prior to the contract) with professional experts with no conflict of interest with Google. His goal is to get dependable information and end the fear and anger of uncertainty and lack of trust. Such a study could also possibly improve the trust level of county leaders IF the experts support their decisions.

So why are the BOS and "administrator" opposing and trying to invalidate such a study? There in no evidence that they conducted such a study before the contract was signed. Why have they publicly said that the Planning Commission is to advise the board, but openly opposed the commission's efforts to provide valid, supported advice?

I don't know the details of (Commissioner Mark) Tyson's plan, but I suggest a combination of people from the Planning Commission and the BOS (those who did not sign the NDA or vote for the data center through process), and selected members of the public to meet with non-Google affiliated researchers and professionals to learn and report on the viability of the required water supply, including provisions for severe drought. We need honest research and reporting to settle the conflict.

The main reason seems to be that the board and "administrator" seem to think that they can use their elected positions as they choose and are not accountable to the citizens. Ironically, on our nation's 250th anniversary, they seem to have forgotten the very foundations of our government. It is time for them to be reminded that they work for the citizens and are accountable to them. Contact your district supervisor by phone, email, etc. and let them know you need facts from people who are not under Google's thumb!

Rick Painter
Blue Ridge District

Will the Board of Supervisors kill water investigation?

Botetourt County and surrounding area residents have been asking for full transparency and protection for our water supply since 2024. Now, the fate of a widely popular water investigation rests with the very board that made it possible for Google's proposed "Project Raspberry" to take root in Botetourt. If it is allowed to proceed, this hyperscale data center project is slated to be one of the most water-intensive ever constructed.

The Botetourt County Board of Supervisors, the county administrator, the Western Virginia Water Authority, and the Roanoke Regional Partnership cleared the way for data centers to come to the Historic Greenfield area with blatant disregard for the horrific overall risks. This is shocking. Officials have suffered no consequences whatsoever and, feeling they answer to no one, have instead awarded themselves with praise for how well they fast-tracked the process to avoid scrutiny from the people of Botetourt and the surrounding areas.

Thankfully, many other local officials have started to see the seriousness of the issue. Roanoke City Vice Mayor Terry McGuire has stated that city "made a terrible mistake" in initially supporting the project, and the Botetourt Planning Commission has repeatedly called for a full assessment and public forum on the lack of water.

In their June meeting, the Planning Commission voted to conduct such a meeting only to have the county administration issue a media release using a narrow interpretation of the law rather than a chance for collaboration. The official statement read that "the [Planning] Commission does not have the legal authority to independently convene or direct public hearings." When the Planning Commission still pressed forward on the issue at their last meeting, they were joined by an unprecedentedly large crowd of residents showing support for water transparency. When Commissioner [Mark] Tyson insisted on discussion of the media release and the legality of scope, Botetourt County dispatched a sheriff's deputy to sit directly behind him. The action appeared to visually demonstrate that Botetourt County administration was prepared to arrest Commissioner Tyson. In doing so, Botetourt County also intimidated all of the concerned citizens who attended the meeting in a unified display of support for a water hearing. Whether you agree with his methods or not, Commissioner Tyson is expressing the views of the vast majority of area residents – the people that he and the rest of the county officials are sworn to represent.

It is a travesty that the same Board of Supervisors and the county administrator with an undue amount of influence will now decide on the outcome of a public hearing and investigation into their own credibility. They may have the legal authority to either approve, limit, or deny the Planning Commission's motion, but without citizen input, their decisions will be considered suspect by definition – a public relations gesture as useless as Google's (Un)Fair event in which conflicting or little information was provided – rather than an opportunity to give the community even a modicum of the transparency we have been asking for.

To Achieve A Truthful Dialogue:

- We call upon the Botetourt County Board of Supervisors to approve the motion to have a full, unbiased assessment and study of the site and the area's water concerns as well as providing a forum and full transparency to the public.
- We encourage the citizens of Botetourt County to turn out in overwhelming numbers at 2 p.m. on July 28 at the Botetourt County Board of Supervisors meeting at 57 South Center Drive Daleville, to demand the following:

- An unbiased and unconstrained water investigation and assessment led by a committee with full transparency and no further suppression.
- That the water investigation be unbiased – scientists, investigators, and any experts involved should not have conflicts of interest such as "Google scholar" or any similar funding or standing.
- A joint hearing with both Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors but administered only by those that are not conflicted in having voted to allow data centers. That would exclude all supervisors aside from Linda Rottman and planning commissioners aside from Steve Hartman and Mark Tyson. Those who voted in favor should be available for questions on their actions.
- Adequate funding must be made available to cover all expenses for the appropriate, unbiased experts to attend the joint hearing.
- That a member or members of the public be invited to serve on the committee who would manage all the public's submitted questions to the panelists and ask those questions on their behalf.

This is a watershed moment for the well being of Botetourt County and our community at large. We must get the full truth regarding our precious and limited water supply that is now at risk. New documents released through a Freedom of Information Act request show that the first data center building will use more water than what current contracts have described and that the construction timeline is far more aggressive than the community was originally told. Further FOIA requests have been paid but are still pending far beyond their normal delivery date.

We call on Google, the Western Virginia Water Authority, and Botetourt County to provide full disclosure and contractual protections for residents – now – before any permits are granted or ground broken for this project that could permanently fracture the health and well being of our entire area.

Members of Southwest Virginia Data Center Transparency Alliance
www.SWVADCTA.org

Bring Planning Commission notices back to The Herald

Following up on last week's letter, I have now seen the exact figures regarding the amount which was spent by Botetourt County on legal advertisements in all media it used (The Fincastle Herald, The Roanoke Times and Cardinal News) for Planning Commission (PC) matters over the past five fiscal years. That total

See **Letter**, page 11

PUBLIC NOTICE

The next regular meeting of the Botetourt County Board of Supervisors will be held on Tuesday, July 28, 2026, beginning at 2:00 p.m. at the Botetourt County Administration Center at 57 South Center Drive in Daleville, Virginia.

For information regarding this meeting, please see www.botetourtva.gov or contact the County Administrator's Office at 540-928-2006.

Botetourt County Public Schools Annual Public Notice Career and Technical Education

Botetourt County Public Schools Career and Technical Education offers a variety of Career and Technical Education programs to all students at the middle and high school levels. The program areas include:

- Agriculture Education
- Business and Information Technology
- Career Connections
- Family and Consumer Sciences
- Health and Medical Sciences
- Marketing
- Technology Education
- Trade and Industrial Education

Dual Enrollment opportunities are available for students who are entering the workforce and/or post-secondary education through agreements with Virginia Western Community College and Mountain Gateway Community College (formerly Dabney S. Lancaster). For more information about Career and Technical Education, call Mike Ketron @ (540) 473-8216.

The Virginia Department of Education and Botetourt County School Board are committed to nondiscrimination with regard to sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, race, color, national origin, disability, religion, ancestry, age, marital status, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions, military status, genetic information or any other characteristic protected by law. No person shall be denied educational opportunities solely because of impairment, which is unrelated to the ability to engage in activities involved in the program for which application has been made.

Mike Tetrealt, Supervisor of Instruction
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Ken Nicely, Director of Human Resources
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James River Hall of Fame seeking nominations

James River High School is currently seeking and accepting nominations for the Sports Hall of Fame.

Readers who know a deserving candidate can submit their nomination to James River Athletic Director Ryan Firebaugh at rfirebaugh@bcps.k12.va.u. Be sure to include details about their accomplishments and why they deserve this special recognition.

Hoffman from page 12

in many areas. Adult leagues are available in our town and in most any town of medium size or above.

We still suffer from having many of our most talented athletes attracted to the money sports– football and basketball. That will be slow to change. The spotlight on the games being domestic and the US having a viable national team will increase interest at all levels. This is more true for the guys. Our women's team has been the best in the world for years. We have a lot of youth soccer for the girls, but the spectator aspect still lags behind. I don't mind that, but it would be nice to have more women's games available for our players to watch.

Looking Back: 1776 - Botetourt County and Beyond

A nation is formed

By Ed Holt

United States of America

On July 2, 1776, the Continental Congress finally voted on the Lee Resolution, which had been introduced in June, declaring that the United Colonies had separated from Great Britain and were free and independent states. The committee tasked with writing the Declaration of Independence presented its draft, which was debated and approved on July 4 by 12 of the 13 colonies. The New York delegation forwarded the document to its Provincial Congress, which ratified the Declaration on July 9. On July 19, Congress ordered the Declaration to be formally engrossed on parchment for signing. Thus, the United Colonies became the United States of America.

In New York, General Howe landed on Staten Island on July 2 with 9,000 professional troops. Continental soldiers fired a few shots before retreating. Many members of the Staten Island militia switched their allegiance to the British, as the island had a large Loyalist population. By the end of the month, more than 150 British ships were anchored off Staten Island, and Howe's army had grown to approximately 32,000 British and Hessian troops.

On July 9, to boost morale among his troops, General George Washington had the Declaration of Independence read aloud to the Continental Army. That night, a mob tore down the equestrian statue of King George III at Bowling Green in New York City, where it was later melted down to make musket balls. Washington continued to fortify New York in preparation for the coming British attack, but his troops were vastly outnumbered.

On July 12, the British warships Phoenix and Rose sailed up the Hudson River through a furious American artillery barrage and severed one of Washington's critical supply lines.

In Virginia

On July 5, the Fifth Virginia Convention adjourned, unaware that Congress had already voted for independence. On July 6, Patrick Henry was sworn in as the first governor of the independent Commonwealth of Virginia.

Royal Governor Dunmore clung to a toehold in Virginia on Gwynn's Island with a fleet of ships in the Chesapeake Bay. On July 9, Virginia troops under the command of General Andrew Lewis of Botetourt opened an artillery barrage on Dunmore's position. General Lewis is said to have aimed the first cannon shot at Dunmore's flagship and personally lit the fuse, scoring a direct hit.

Virginia troops, including a rifle company from Botetourt under the command of Captain Thomas Posey, crossed the inlet between the mainland and the island and drove off or captured what remained of the British troops, Loyalists, and escaped slaves. Smallpox had spread rapidly among the British and Loyalists, greatly diminishing their strength and numbers. The escaped slaves were particularly hard hit by the disease. Most of those who remained with Dunmore's party sailed away from Virginia, never to return.

Botetourt County

In July 1776, Botetourt County was a vast and strategically important area stretching from the Blue Ridge Mountains in the east to the Ohio River in the west. A company of Botetourt soldiers was stationed at Fort Randolph at Point Pleasant on the Ohio River in western Botetourt County to defend the colony's western frontier. As mentioned earlier, Botetourt had also supplied troops to eastern Virginia to defend Williamsburg and drive off Lord Dunmore.

During July, the British, operating from the colony of British West Florida, incited and supplied the Cherokee, who launched attacks along the western frontier from Georgia to far southwestern Virginia. A company of Botetourt militia under Captain Gilmer fought the Cherokee on the Holston River frontier under the command of Colonel William Christian, who had moved from the Stone House in Cloverdale to Dunkard's Bottom several years earlier. Christian's home, Mahanaim, located in what was then Fincastle (now Pulaski) County, now lies beneath the waters of Claytor Lake.

Back in Botetourt County, Colonel George Skillern continued gathering supplies, wagons, and men for the various armies, with Fincastle and his plantation adjacent to Cherry Tree Bottom.

FILE GRAPHIC

Botetourt Rotary welcomes new member

Tim Brinkman is the newest member of the Botetourt County Rotary Club. He officially joined our club in early June. Tim is a financial planner with Integrity Investing, Inc. in Daleville, a fee-only independent firm specializing in retirement, wealth management, financial planning and real estate. Integrity Investing has been operating in Virginia for over 20 years.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BOTETOURT COUNTY ROTARY CLUB

New Rotary Club member Tim Brinkman (left) and Don Nichols, past president of the club

The Botetourt County Rotary Club was formed in 1938. The club coordinates and participates in various service projects throughout the year, and money raised through fundraising activities goes directly back into the community.

The club meets on the first Wednesday of each month at the Fincastle Library from noon until 1 p.m. Later in the month, the club typically holds an after-hours social at various restaurants in Botetourt County. Anyone who would like to learn what Rotary is all about is encouraged to attend one of the meetings.

~ Botetourt County Rotary Club

Solomon's Mission to host back-to-school giveaway July 25

Solomon's Mission will host its annual Back-to-School event from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. July 25. Children must be present to receive school supplies.

The organization is accepting donations of school supplies through July 23. Current needs include three-prong folders, glue sticks and one-subject notebooks.

Solomon's Mission also announced it will suspend donations from July 20 through Aug. 17 while its store undergoes a remodel. The store may be closed for several days during that time. Updates will be posted on the organization's Facebook page.

~ Fincastle Herald staff report

JRHS Class of '71 reunion in August

The James River High School Class of 1971 is having a 55-year reunion on August 22, beginning at 6 p.m. in the Washington Room at Natural Bridge Hotel.

For more information, contact Sharon Britt at 540-620-2625 or Danny Fainter, 540-339-1719.

~ Submitted by Sharon Britt

Letter from page 10

is shown to be $51,845.08, or an average of $10,369.02 per year. The 2020 census said the population of Botetourt County was 33,596, so that comes out to less than 31 cents per citizen per year.

Is it possible that the Disgruntled Californian Buchanan District supervisor's math ($2.4 million for 800 school employees said by her to be $30,000.00 per employee, instead of the actual $3,000.00 per employee) came out to a much higher figure for which she could take credit for saving so many taxpayer dollars?

And the 31 cents per citizen per year was not spent solely on PC legal advertisements in The Fincastle Herald! It was difficult, if not impossible, to tell from what was furnished exactly how much was paid to The Fincastle Herald, but you may rest assured it was far less than 31 cents per citizen, maybe more like 15 to 20 cents per citizen? Furthermore, a large percentage of those expenses were collected from the entity requesting consideration of their matter by the PC, so that figure goes even lower if we are talking only of spending taxpayer dollars.

Maybe the PC can schedule a public hearing, which many citizens will not even know about unless The Fincastle Herald writes and publishes one of their informative and free detailed articles regarding same, to delve deeper into this huge drain of taxpayer dollars!

Or, maybe Botetourt County can just return to publishing PC legal advertisements in The Fincastle Herald? By so doing, their over 4,000 weekly consumers (who may or may not look at Cardinal News online) can continue to learn of these matters as they have done for the last 40-50 years, or longer?

The PC meeting on July 13 was an experience few, if any, Botetourt County citizens would want to experience, which is why few of them who are not members of the Chronic Complainers Club (CCC) attend such meetings. Government meetings should be conducted with some semblance of behavior that is polite, proper, dignified, and well-suited to the conduct of governmental business, but this meeting (and others recently held) exhibited the continuing and unpleasant rudeness and bad manners displayed by the CCC members and one of the PC members who may be a member of the club, or maybe he is just the head coach of the cheerleading squad? It was more like a three-ring circus rather than a governmental meeting!

At the next CCC meeting, maybe the recording of the legally advertised joint meeting of the Board of Supervisors (BoS) and the PC held on November 26. 2024, should be shown. It was at that meeting that approval was granted for (1) the rezoning requested by the Economic Development Authority of Botetourt County (EDA) which added 62.767 acres to the Research and Advanced Manufacturing (RAM) Use District in Greenfield, and (2) the text amendment requested by the BoS adding data centers as a "By-right" use in the RAM Use District in Greenfield. Four people spoke at those two public hearings (one of them speaking twice, as usual) and not one of them ever even mentioned the word "data center," as it appeared they were only concerned about green spaces and a 200-foot buffer zone. But yet, they still are heard to whine and moan "We didn't know."

The public hearings held that night regarding the request of the EDA for the aforementioned rezoning and the request of the BoS for text amendment lasted about 42 minutes. Where were all of those who so vehemently oppose data centers when all of this occurred? Whatever the reason was for no one mentioning "data center," or expressing any opposition to the proposed text amendment which was passed, it certainly was not because "We didn't know"!

Bob Patterson
Fincastle (Buchanan District)

Post 240 Notes

American Legion Post 240 supports young driver safety program

Members of American Legion Post 240 volunteered during the Tire Rack Street Survival young driver safety course held May 3 at the Salem Civic Center, helping provide hands-on instruction designed to improve driving skills and reduce crashes among new motorists.

The Tire Rack Street Survival program is a one-day course for drivers ages 15 to 21 that builds on the fundamentals taught in traditional driver's education classes. The program focuses on helping participants recognize and avoid dangerous situations before they lead to a crash.

Using their own vehicles and working alongside certified driving coaches, students learn how a vehicle's weight shifts during emergency maneuvers, how to regain control if the vehicle leaves the pavement, how to recover from a skid and how to properly use anti-lock braking systems. The course also includes classroom instruction and practical driving exercises covering a variety of defensive driving techniques.

Post 240 supports the program by providing volunteers and sponsoring the participation of children and grandchildren of military veterans. Legion members also encourage eligible young drivers to participate before they reach the program's maximum age of 21.

The next Tire Rack Street Survival course is scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 4.

For more information about registering as a student or volunteering, visit streetsurvival.org or contact Post 240 member Ed Bennett at 540-529-7129.

~ American Legion Post 240 Board of Directors

Art by David Eakin on display at The Glebe

For the month of July, The Glebe is showcasing the artwork of artist David Eakin of Forest.

A native Virginian, Eakin received degrees in fine art and graphic arts, and he is a signature member of the American Watercolor Society and the Virginia Watercolor Society. He has also been instrumental in the annual Lynchburg Art Club's Art Festival for over 20 years, and his work has received awards in regional as well as national and international exhibitions.

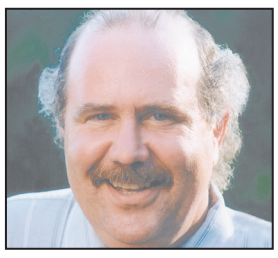
Eakin explained that he likes to experiment, but he says he always paints in watercolor, gouache, acrylic, and oil. Examples of the last three of these styles are on display along the Gallery Walk.

~ Submitted by Lynne Bolton

BOTETOURT

Sports

www.fincastleherald.com



Brian Hoffman

Sports Editor

Firebaugh is new girls' basketball coach at River

James River native Chris Firebaugh will be moving over a couple seats on the bench to coach the James River girls' basketball team this winter. Firebaugh has been named to replace Donald Eggleston as girls' head coach after spending the past two years as his assistant.

A James River High School graduate, Chris is a familiar face in the Springwood community. He was coached by Randy Howard and Gehrig Ferguson at River and played travel basketball under Nicky Firebaugh and Marshall Gates. During Chris' junior year the Knights beat Parry McCluer in Buena Vista when the Blues were ranked 10th in the state.

In addition to assisting with the girls team, Chris has coached both his sons' recreation teams. He'll draw from his experiences playing and coaching as head coach of the Knights.

"I'll use a little bit from each coach I have played for," he said. "As far as style, it will vary from year to year based on the personnel."

Chris has an advantage as he knows the girls, having been in the program the past two years. The Knights made it to the first round of the Region 2C tournament last season, finishing with an 11-13 record.

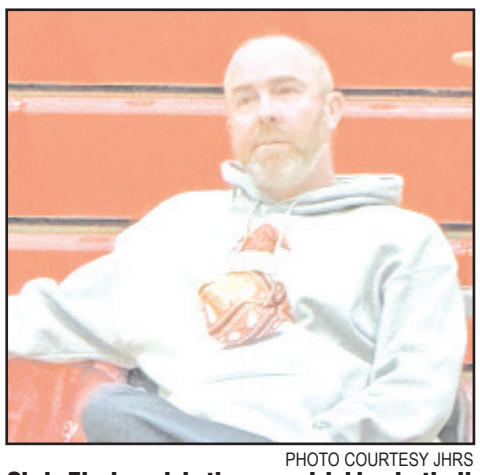


PHOTO COURTESY JHRS

Chris Firebaugh is the new girls' basketball coach at James River.

"We had six girls graduate last year, and the ones returning are a solid nucleus for the upcoming season," said Firebaugh. "I look forward to building on that this year. Everyone will have an opportunity."

Chris has yet to fill out his staff, having been officially hired just last week. He indicated that Nathan Ives will return as jayvee coach with Shannon Lynch as assistant. The varsity assistants have yet to be finalized.

Roanoke Martial Arts Legend Grand Master Eddie Thomas to receive prestigious 2026 G.O.A.T. Honors award

Grand Master Eddie Thomas of Roanoke has been selected as a recipient of the prestigious 2026 G.O.A.T. Honors (Greatest of All Time) Martial Arts Award, recognizing his extraordinary lifetime of leadership, championship achievement, and service to the international martial arts community.

The G.O.A.T. Honors Awards, founded by Grand Master Lawrence Arthur, recognize exceptional martial artists from around the world whose lifelong commitment to excellence, leadership, instruction, and community service has made a lasting impact on generations of students and instructors. The 2026 awards ceremony will be held on July 25 in Lynchburg.

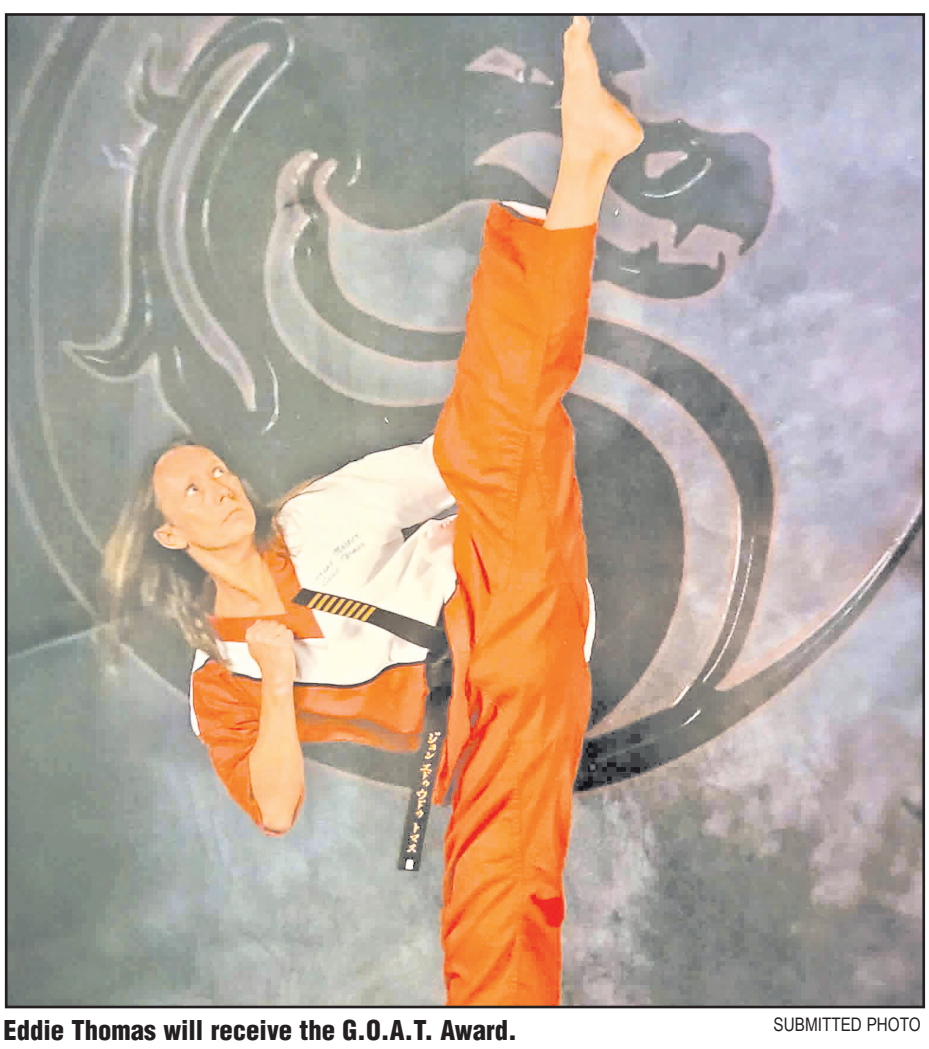
Grand Master Thomas began his martial arts journey in 1975, studying Shotokan Karate before expanding his training under legendary martial artists including Joe Lewis, Steve "Nasty" Anderson, Charlie Lee, and numerous East Coast masters in Filipino Martial Arts, Thai Boxing, and Nihon Goshin Aikido. Drawing from decades of competition, travel, and instruction, he developed the curriculum that became the foundation of American Freestyle Karate, one of Virginia's most respected martial arts schools.

Over the course of more than four decades, Grand Master Thomas has won more than 500 karate trophies, including five World Championships, and has taught over 10,000 students. In addition to his accomplishments in martial arts, he is also an actor and independent film maker, having appeared in numerous films while producing the martial arts feature "Talos" and its sequel. His lifelong commitment to teaching, competition, and innovation has earned him widespread respect throughout the martial arts community.

"Grand Master Eddie Thomas exemplifies everything the G.O.A.T. Honors were established to recognize," said Grand Master Lawrence Arthur, Founder of the G.O.A.T. Honors. "His remarkable career as a world champion, instructor, filmmaker, and mentor has inspired thousands of students and martial artists. His passion for excellence and his dedication to changing lives through martial arts have created an extraordinary legacy, and we are honored to recognize his accomplishments."

The G.O.A.T. Honors Awards celebrate martial artists whose influence extends beyond the dojo through education, mentorship, leadership, innovation, and community service. Honorees are nominated by their peers and selected based upon their enduring contributions to the martial arts profession.

For additional information about the G.O.A.T. Honors, visit www.goathonors.org.



Eddie Thomas will receive the G.O.A.T. Award. SUBMITTED PHOTO



FILE PHOTO

Soccer coaches are big fans of the World Cup

Column By Brian Hoffman

The World Cup is now over and I've watched more soccer on TV in the past month than I have in the past four years. I really enjoyed watching these exceptional athletes compete on the world's biggest stage.

I'm amazed at not only the skill these players have, but the condition their bodies are in. As you know, it's been hot the past month and there are few breaks in the game of soccer. For the most part the participants are running for 45 minutes save for a short "hydration break" or when a goal is scored or there is an injury. Compared to other team sports it's probably the most grueling, and you'll notice I didn't count individual stuff like cross country and tennis.

Let's take a look at our most popular sports in this country. In football, you have short bursts of effort, then a break. I know those bursts are difficult, but you have time to catch your breath.

Basketball is another grueling sport, but other than college men's games you have four quarters, and there are lots of timeouts and substitutions. Plus, you get a blow during the many foul shots in a game.

We won't even get into baseball. I recall John Kruk relating how a fan yelled at him from the stands, "Hey Kruk, you're a disgrace for an athlete," to which Kruk replied, "I'm not an athlete, I'm a baseball player."

Motor sports can be draining, especially for the long races, but at least you're sitting down. Pro golfers have a long walk but they have someone to carry their bag.

As I've mentioned before, I'm a far cry from an expert on soccer. The closest I got to playing was recess in elementary school, when the teacher rolled the ball onto the field and 30 9-year- olds all started kicking at it at the same time.

With that in mind, I've reached out to folks who I consider to be experts at the game. I put four questions to Lord Botetourt boys' coach Tim Wright and James River girls' coach Bill Smith and following are their responses.

A)-Did you watch a lot of the games and did you enjoy them?

WRIGHT

Yes, I've been keeping up with the matches as much as I can and have really enjoyed them. I've actually had a few of our soccer players attend games, which has made it even more exciting to follow.

One thing I've noticed is how the World Cup has sparked conversations with people who I wouldn't normally consider to be soccer-savvy. It's been fun hearing their thoughts and seeing so many people become interested in the sport.

SMITH

I have tried to watch one game a day. Life is busy, but this is good soccer.

I enjoy the variety of teams and the subtle differences in style of play. The game has become so international that the differences are not as profound as they used to be. Many of the national teams have players who play for club teams in other countries. This, like our high school players also playing for travel teams.

B)- What is your impression of the skill level?

WRIGHT

The quality has been outstanding. At this stage, every team is talented and tactically organized. What has impressed me most is how quickly teams transition from defense to attack and how technically clean they are under pressure.

SMITH

The skill level is hard to judge overall because even great teams look medium when faced with the hard pressure of a quality opponent.

The ability of so many great players to receive a long ball under pressure is still impressive to me. They take it for granted, but this is a major difference in the game at the higher level.

Of course, these guys can play longer than our game, but the control aspect is what is impressive to me. The few stars who can effectively beat great defenders on the dribble are fun to watch.

C)- Did you pick up anything that might help coaching your own team?

WRIGHT

Absolutely. As coaches, we're always learning. I've paid close attention to how teams defend collectively, their movement off the ball, and how disciplined they remain without sacrificing creativity. It's a reminder that the best teams are committed to the little details and work relentlessly for one another.

SMITH

I watch a lot of the EPL during the year, so I am used to high-level soccer. The lessons from the World Cup are more just a reinforcement of things I already knew.

Consistent high pressure on defense makes a strong opponent less strong. Movement off the ball makes many more opportunities in the attack. The whole team must be part of the attack and the defense. You often see all 20 field players in or near one penalty area at the high levels.

Fast transitions are a result of this type of play. Defenders have to be some of the fastest players on the team to make it work.

Goal keepers are critical to the team. Some of the World Cup games were definitely decided by a few great saves and smart decisions on the part of the keeper. I have seen this in the high school as well. When we advanced to the State semifinals several years ago, it was in large part due to the quality of Colleen (Peery), our keeper at the time.

D)- Do you feel having the games in the United States will be a big factor in growing the game in our country?

WRIGHT

I do. Soccer has been growing steadily in the United States for years, and hosting the World Cup gives people a chance to experience the atmosphere and passion that make the tournament so special. I think it will inspire a lot of young players, but just as importantly, it's introducing the game to people who may never have paid attention to soccer before. That's one of the biggest wins for the sport.

SMITH

I think it will help with the growth of the game as a spectator sport. We have already grown the game in that respect quite a lot. You can find large MLS stadiums with capacity crowds now. You can find soccer on streaming services year around.

The sport does not compete with football or basketball, but it is taking its place in the culture. We already have a lot of soccer at the participation level. Rec, club and school soccer are all pretty big

See **Hoffman**, page 11