The Fincastle Herald

& Botetourt County News

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Botetourt County Fair returns this weekend with family fun, agricultural traditions



FILE PHOTO

The Botetourt County Fair returns to Buchanan Town Park this Friday evening, 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.

The Botetourt County Fair returns to Buchanan Town Park this weekend, bringing two days of livestock exhibitions, agricultural demonstrations, live entertainment and longtime traditions celebrating the county's rural heritage.

The free event will be held Friday, July 31, from 5:30-9 p.m., and Saturday, Aug. 1, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Organized by the Botetourt County Fair Association, the annual fair is designed to preserve the county's agricultural traditions while educating future generations. According to the association, the fair's mission is the "preservation of the past, promotion of the present, and education of the future of agriculture," with a particular emphasis on showcasing the talents and projects of local youth through 4-H and FFA programs.

Friday evening's festivities begin at 5:30 p.m. with the fair opening, live music by Craftmatic and the opening of the beer garden. Events continue with the Pedal Tractor Pull at 6 p.m. in the agricultural demonstration tent, Open Show Poultry Showmanship at 6 p.m. and Feather to Fork Showmanship at 7 p.m.

Food and beverages will be available from Mill Creek Baptist Church, the Lord Botetourt High School FFA, The Local Lemon, the fair's beer garden and Virginia Mountain Vineyards, which will offer wine and wine slushies for guests 21 and older.

Saturday's schedule is slated to begin with the fair opening at 9 a.m., followed by wood carving demonstrations at 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. The Youth Livestock Show is scheduled for 10 a.m. in the livestock tent, followed by The Honey Bowl at 11 a.m. at The Farmhouse. The annual Local Food Walk, one of the fair's signature traditions, is scheduled for 1 p.m. on the stage before the Livestock Auction begins at 2 p.m. The fair concludes at 4 p.m.

See **Fair**, page 11

A Virginia story… at 253 mph



PHOTO BY MATT DE SIMONE

From left, Joey Arrington, Del. Terry Austin and Danny Turner gather in Austin's office to discuss the VA250 Car Project and the Virginia Missile's record-setting 253-mph run. Here, Austin hold a commemorative trophy marking the achievement.

Matt de Simone
Managing Editor

Four months after helping shatter the world stock car land-speed record, Joey Arrington isn't dwelling on the number that made headlines.

Instead, the legendary Martinsville engine builder is talking about the students he hopes will one day build something even faster.

"It's excitement," Arrington said. "You've got to keep the youth excited to keep their attention. Especially if they see the accomplishments at the end, they've got something to shoot for."

For Arrington, former Martinsville Mayor Danny Turner and Del. Terry Austin, that has become the lasting purpose behind the VA250 Car Project. While the specially built "Virginia Missile" established a new world stock car land-speed record of 253 mph earlier this year, the trio believes the project's greatest achievement may ultimately be inspiring young Virginians to pursue careers in engineering, manufacturing and the skilled trades while showcasing the Commonwealth's contributions to both its past and future.

The project was conceived as part of Virginia's commemoration of America's 250th anniversary, offering a different way to celebrate the Commonwealth's history than traditional museums or historic landmarks.

"Not everybody in the United States likes old buildings and history," Austin said. "But the 250th anniversary is not only about old buildings and history. It's about the 250th anniversary of our nation."

Austin said organizers wanted Virginia's semiquincentennial celebration to reflect every region of the Commonwealth and the unique stories each has to tell.

"We wanted something in every region of the state that showed that we were investing in history in every region of the state," he said. "Southside's got a history of racing."

That vision began taking shape as project organizers met with Austin to discuss pairing Virginia's rich motorsports heritage with the state's anniversary celebration.

Austin still remembers the initial meeting.

"They asked me to [help] kick off the money," he recalled. "When they left, I

See **VA250**, page 11



PHOTO COURTESY OF OFFICE OF DEL. TERRY AUSTIN

The Virginia Missile, which set a new world stock car land-speed record earlier this year, was developed as part of the VA250 Car Project to celebrate Virginia's contributions to innovation, engineering and motorsports.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BOTETOURT CO.

Jason Ferguson

Ferguson to leave Botetourt Fire & EMS, return home to lead Bedford department

Matt de Simone
mattdesimone@mainstreetnewspapers.com

Jason Ferguson, who spent 25 years with Botetourt County's emergency services system, rising from the county's first staff paramedic to fire and EMS chief, will leave next month to lead Bedford County's Department of Fire & Rescue.

Ferguson announced last week that he has accepted the position of chief in Bedford County. His final day with Botetourt County will be Aug. 14, and he will begin his new role Aug. 17.

While Ferguson said leaving Botetourt was not something he had been pursuing, the opportunity to return to his hometown ultimately proved too meaningful to pass up.

"I have enjoyed an absolutely wonderful career in Botetourt and had not looked for any other opportunities," Ferguson said. "When I saw the Bedford County posting, I saw it as an opportunity to go home."

See **Ferguson**, page 10

Google to use air cooling for first Botetourt data center building; officials say change expected to reduce water demand

Matt de Simone
Managing Editor

Google announced last week that the first building of its planned data center campus at the Botetourt Center at Greenfield will use air-cooling technology, a move county officials and the Western Virginia Water Authority (WVWA) say is expected to reduce the project's overall water demand without affecting its timeline or existing agreements.

The announcement marks the first major design update since the project was approved earlier this year. While the cooling systems for the campus's second and third buildings remain under evaluation, Google said it will continue working with WVWA to minimize water usage and maintain its sustainability goals.

County Administrator Gary Larrowe called the announcement "a positive update for the county."

"By moving forward with air-cooling technology for the first building, Google has provided greater certainty for the first phase of the project and reinforced that this transformational investment in our county's future remains on schedule," Larrowe said.

Google said the decision to use air cooling for the first building followed its standard design evaluation process.

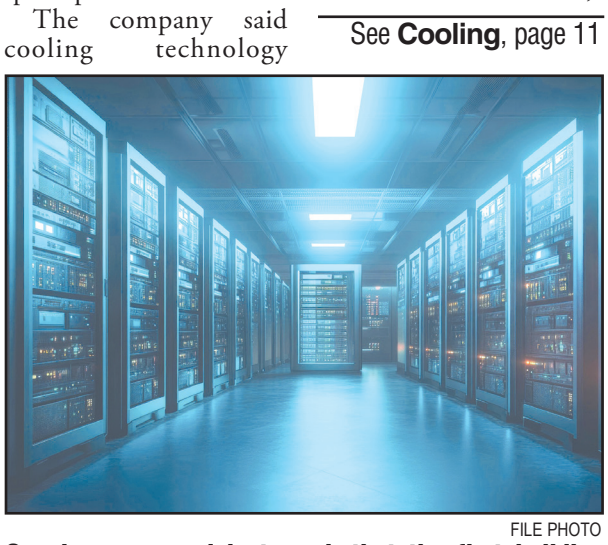
"For the first building in Botetourt County, we determined that air cooling was the appropriate solution based on the needs of the facility and our focus on operating efficiently and responsibly," a Google spokesperson said.

The company said cooling technology decisions are based on factors including facility design, operational requirements, efficiency and responsible resource management, while also emphasizing its commitment to engaging with the local community.

WVWA also welcomed the change, stating that it anticipates the project's overall water demand will be lower than originally projected. However, the authority said revised demand figures are not yet available.

"The existing agreements previously posted on the Authority's website remain in effect,"

See **Cooling**, page 11



FILE PHOTO

Google announced last week that the first building of its planned data center campus at the Botetourt Center at Greenfield will use air-cooling technology, a design change officials say is expected to reduce the project's overall water demand.

2026 SEASON

Daleville town center

Scan here for complete event schedule, and details.

AUGUST 1

BOTETOURT FARMERS MARKET DALEVILLE TOWN CENTER

8:30 to NOON

KARLEE RAYE BAND

5-9PM

AUGUST 8

THE BOGEYS

5-9PM

Botetourt County History



PHOTO COURTESY OF BCMHC

As the 2026 Botetourt County Fair approaches on July 31 and August 1, here is a look back at the program from 1939. It was printed in Fincastle by C. Hedrick.

After the Great Depression, agriculture was the largest economic driver in the county and the state. In 1939 farming was labor intensive, relying on mules, oxen and horse-drawn plows. At the fair there were horse races and livestock competitions. There were grandstands where it was located in 1939.

This program is on display downstairs in the Botetourt Museum of History & Culture's exhibit "Home Grown-Botetourt's Agricultural History." There are artifacts from the past showing how agriculture shaped Botetourt's history. There are also stories, pictures and real life talks with today's local century farmers. Botetourt's family farmers are dealing with the challenges of labor shortages, extreme weather, changing markets and pressure from developers. Farming has never been easy. "No farm, No food" is the logo of the American Farmland Trust (wwwfarmland.org).

~ Botetourt County Museum of History & Culture

Special election set for Botetourt circuit court clerk position

Botetourt County voters will choose a new clerk of circuit court in a special election to be held alongside the Nov. 3 general election.

The election will fill the unexpired term of Circuit Court Clerk Tommy L. Moore, who will retire Dec. 31 after 35 years of service to Botetourt County.

The candidate elected in November will take office Jan. 1, 2027, and serve the remainder of the current term, which expires Dec. 31, 2031.

Individuals interested in seeking the office must file the required paperwork with the Botetourt County Registrar's Office by 5 p.m. Friday, Aug. 14.

Information on candidate qualifications, filing requirements and election procedures is available through the Virginia Department of Elections candidate bulletin for the Nov. 3, 2026, local special election.

~ Fincastle Herald staff report



Jeter Farm Truck and Tractor Pull returns Aug. 1 in Buchanan

Engines will roar once again at The River Farm on Saturday, Aug. 1, as Jeter Farm hosts its annual Truck and Tractor Pull, marking the ninth year of the summer tradition.

Presented by Bank of Botetourt, the event is expected to draw competitors and spectators from across Virginia and neighboring states for an evening of truck and tractor pulling, food vendors and mountain views overlooking the James River.

Gates will open at 4 p.m., with the first competition scheduled to begin at 6 p.m. Admission is $20 at the gate, while children ages 10 and younger will be admitted free.

This year's competition will feature seven classes: 8,000-pound Light Limited Pro Stock, 10,000-pound Super Pro Farm, 11,000-pound Altered Farm, 6,300-pound Modified Street, Truck Outfitters 6,300-pound Outlaw 4x4, National Sportsman's and Street Diesel Run What You Brung.

In addition to the competition, attendees can enjoy a variety of food vendors and beverages throughout the evening. Outside coolers will not be permitted because of Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control regulations.

"One of the things that makes this event special is that it's something the whole family can enjoy," co-organizer and farmer Ned Jeter II said. "You have the excitement of the truck and tractor pull, but you also get to spend an evening outdoors with incredible views of the mountains."

Co-organizer Darrell Jeter said the event has become a popular destination for families looking to make a full day of activities in Botetourt County.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JETER FARM

"We love seeing generations of families come out together to the farm," Jeter said. "It really makes for a great Saturday in Buchanan– spend the day at the Botetourt County Fair, then bring the family down to The River Farm for an evening of truck and tractor pulling."

Organizers said the event has grown into one of the area's signature community gatherings while maintaining the small-town atmosphere that has helped make it a favorite over the years.

The Jeter family also expressed appreciation to title sponsor Bank of Botetourt, along with the event's sponsors, volunteers and community partners for helping continue the annual tradition.

The River Farm is located at 1320 Mount Joy Road in Buchanan. Organizers encourage attendees to follow The River Farm or Jeter Farm on Facebook for event updates and additional information.

~ Fincastle Herald staff report

Rainwater harvesting project in Eagle Rock

David and Kim Pinkney of Eagle Rock dreamed of transforming their lawn into flower, fruit, and vegetable gardens, but were doubtful that their well could sustain such irrigation demand while also being the source of their drinking water. They were also frustrated by precipitation runoff from their house roof negatively impacting their landscaping.



Kim Pinkney PHOTO COURTESY OF MCSWCD

In search of a solution to these problems, the Pinkneys attended a workshop hosted by Mountain Castles Soil and Water Conservation District where they became interested in rainwater harvesting and learned of a cost-share program designed to assist homeowners aspiring to install stormwater Best Management Practices.

They decided to submit an application in October 2025 to the Virginia Conservation Assistance Program (VCAP) for a rainwater harvesting system. Their application was approved with a design of a system using four cisterns to collect rainwater from the roof of their residence and distribute stored runoff for non-potable uses.

Between November 2025 and March 2026, the Pinkneys purchased the materials for and

See **Rainwater**, page 10



FILE PHOTO

Register now for First Bank's 40th Anniversary 5K, 10K Fall Run

First Bank has announced that registration is now open for the 40th Annual First Bank Fall Run on October 17. The race, featuring 5K and 10K events, winds through the historic Town of Fincastle. As the race celebrates

See **Fall Run**, page 10

CORRECTION *July 22 edition*

An incorrect phone number for the Buchanan Presbyterian Food Pantry appeared in the July 22 edition. The correct phone number is **(540) 254-1390.**

Additionally, the Troutville Food Pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. on the third Saturday of each month. The correct phone number for information is **(540) 992-1026.**

In Botetourt County History, Angela Coon's painted chalk horse prize from the late '40s was won using a long ladle to scoop a plastic fish out of a watering trough, not bucket.

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SALEM RIDGEYAKS VS FAYETTEVILLE WOODPECKERS
SALEM RIDGEYAKS
AUGUST 4th 6:35 PM
2 for 1 Tuesday
AUGUST 5th 6:35 PM
Bark in the Park
AUGUST 6th 6:35 PM
AUGUST 7th 6:35 PM Toy Story Night
AUGUST 8th 6:35 PM Outdoors Night
AUGUST 9th 4:05 PM

Bank of Botetourt Awards $7,000 in 2026 Scholarship and Graduation Grant Programs



Aaron Petty and Lyn Hayth



Breely Mitchell



Chelsy Hall



James Knox



Cadyn Woolridge



Garrett Honts



Landon Hayes



Serenity Shearer

PHOTOS COURTESY OF BANK OF BOTETOURT

Bank of Botetourt awarded $7,000 through its 2026 Scholarship and Graduation Grant Programs, recognizing students connected to the bank for their academic achievement, leadership, community involvement and commitment to future success.

The were presented through three annual initiatives— the Hayth High School Graduation Grant, the "Focused on You" Community Scholarship and the Bank of Botetourt William Fleming High School Scholarship.

Now in its third year, the Hayth High School Graduation Grant was established in 2024 to support Bank of Botetourt employees whose children are graduating high school seniors. For the Class of 2026, the bank awarded a total of $4,000 in grants to recipients representing James River High School, Lord Botetourt High School, Cave Spring High School, Acellus Academy and Rockbridge County High School– Sarah Seay, Garrett Honts, Layla Halsey, Cadyn Woolridge, Serenity Shearer, Nolan Burrows, Landon Hayes, and Aaron Petty.

"It is an honor to be associated with a grant that supports students as they pursue their educational goals," said G. Lyn Hayth, former chief executive officer and current vice chairman of the Bank of Botetourt Board of Directors. "Education has always been a cornerstone of my life and career, and it remains a vital foundation for opportunity and long-term financial stability. This program reflects the bank's commitment to investing in its employees and the next generation."

The bank also awarded its 10th annual "Focused on You" Community Scholarships to three students pursuing higher education and careers that will positively impact their communities.

Chelsy Hall, a student at Hollins University, received a $1,000 scholarship and plans to pursue a career in veterinary medicine, with a focus on providing accessible care for animals in rural communities.

Breely Mitchell, a recent Lord Botetourt High School graduate, received a $600 scholarship and will attend Elon University, where she plans to study education and become a mathematics teacher.

James Knox, a homeschooled student, received a $400 scholarship and will attend Grove City College in Pennsylvania to study mechanical engineering.

Bank of Botetourt also awarded its fifth annual William Fleming High School Scholarship, recognizing graduating seniors for their academic achievement, leadership and future aspirations.

This year's recipients are: Aveyah Graham, who received a $500 scholarship and will attend Winston-Salem State University to study nursing with a minor in physical therapy; and Ernesto Gomez Meza, who received a $500 scholarship and will attend Swarthmore College to study economics while continuing his collegiate soccer career.

Since establishing these Scholarship and Graduation Grant Programs, Bank of Botetourt has awarded more than $29,500 to 63 students, reflecting the bank's long-standing commitment to expanding educational opportunities and investing in the next generation of leaders throughout the communities it serves.

~ Bank of Botetourt

Volunteers helping keep Virginia's roads beautiful and litter free



PHOTO COURTESY OF VDOT

About once a week for 15 years, James Downing has been cleaning trash from a stretch of road in Prince George County. Dirty diapers. Alcohol bottles. Cigarette butts. You name it, he says he's picked it up.

"It devalues the whole community," Downing said. "There's no point in it, when there are so many places these days you can get rid of your simple trash in your vehicle. It boggles my mind why you would throw something out of your window."

Downing is just one of thousands of volunteers for the Virginia Department of Transportation's (VDOT) Adopt-a-Highway program, which empowers people to take charge of cleaning a section of a public roadway. As you drive along Virginia's highways, take a moment to appreciate the hard work volunteers contribute to maintain the commonwealth's natural beauty and consider joining the movement by adopting a section of roadway.

The Adopt-a-Highway program started in Virginia in 1988, and together, participants have removed nearly 1 million bags of trash from roadsides. But the program is not just about picking up litter, it's about the collective spirit of stewardship around keeping the roadways clean while fostering a culture of environmental responsibility and community engagement.

"I find it terribly disgusting that people are out here littering like this," said volunteer Kordelia Coyne, who adopted part of a roadway near her home. "It's sad to watch because it flows right into our ecosystems. The trash they throw goes into the ditches and then washes down into the creeks here. That's really gross to think our animals are drinking out of that, children are playing in that."

The program has more than 3,500 adopted locations, with volunteers representing schools, businesses, civic organizations and families picking up trash from more than 8,000 miles of roadway each year. Together, they make a valuable contribution that produces cleaner roadsides, reduces maintenance costs funded by taxpayers and raises awareness about the litter problem.

"I feel like I do have some impact," said Wendy Teeter, who has been an Adopt-a-Highway volunteer for about 20 years. "Even if the next day there's some trash and litter again, you feel you've made some impact. If you can do something, do it."

Help keep Virginia beautiful and litter free by considering participating in the Adopt-a-Highway program. Volunteers must commit to cleaning a two-mile stretch of VDOT-maintained roadway twice a year. VDOT supplies volunteers with trash bags, safety equipment and training. After two reported litter pickups, if requested, VDOT will install a blue sign along the road recognizing the group.

Learn more about the Adopt-a-Highway program, including a map of what roadways are available for adoption, on VDOT's webpage.

In addition to providing details to VDOT through the Adopt-a-Highway program, people can compete for prizes and earn recognition by reporting their litter pickups on the Keep Virginia Beautiful app.

Watch videos spotlighting VDOT's Adopt-a-Highway volunteers on the agency's YouTube page.

~ VDOT

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Library Buzz

Upcoming Programs

Cultivating a County: History of Agriculture in Botetourt

Thu, July 30, 6 PM, Wilson Warehouse, Buchanan

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

Yoga for Beginners

Thu, July 30, 6:30 PM, Blue Ridge

Tue, Aug 4, 9 AM, Fincastle

Learn gentle yoga stretches. Mats and yoga blocks provided or bring your own. Instructor: Jaime Thrasher, Botetourt County Parks & Recreation.

Best for adults.

*Registration required. Register at https://botetourtva.libcal.com/ or call 540-928-2900 with questions.

Special Needs StoryTime

Sat, Aug 1, 10:30 AM, Fincastle

Special needs kids get extra time, attention, and support in this interactive StoryTime. Activities include stories, songs, finger play and rhymes, flannel board, bubbles, and sensory/tactile activities. Best for ages 3-8.

Eclectic Readers Book Club

Sat, Aug 1, 11 AM, Eagle Rock

Discuss books and authors with fellow readers. August 2026: The Most Fun We Ever Had by Claire Lombardo Best for adults

Seasons of the Gnome Art Exhibit

Mon, Aug 3, 6 PM, Blue Ridge

Drop in to view gnome -themed artwork from participants in the painting workshop "Seasons of the Gnome". For all ages

Learn more about Botetourt Libraries at bocolibraries.info

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 Danny Fainter

Arrests July 21-July 26, 2026

The Botetourt County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests July 21-26:

- Jeremy R. Conner, 46, of Fincastle, failure to appear, July 21
- Caleb G. Hartwell, 23, of Roanoke, possession of Schedule drugs, July 21
- Morris D. Bates, 50, of Fincastle, violation of a protective order, July 23
- Richard G. Austin, 42, of Troutville, violation of a protective order, unlawful dissemination or sale of images of another, July 23
- Alexander J. Laviolette, 40, of Covington, possession of Schedule drugs, July 23
- Christopher Brown, 25, of Roanoke, domestic assault, July 25
- Nicholas L. Wade, 30, of Roanoke, drunk in public, July 26
- Jay J. Dell, 47, of Natural Bridge Station, driving revoked, July 26
- Kendyl R. Niedermeier, 18, of Troutville, carrying concealed weapons, July 26

League for Animal Protection's Waif of the Week

Missy



Missy is a wonderful solid black cat. She's a bit shy at first, but very quickly becomes a lap kitty. She is about 3 years old and definitely is ready for her forever home.

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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FILE PHOTO

Buchanan's Reggae by the River returns Aug. 15 at Town Park. Volunteers are welcome to help with this year's event.

Volunteers sought for Reggae by the River festival

Volunteers are being sought to help with this year's Reggae by the River festival, scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 15, at Buchanan Town Park.

The Town of Buchanan announced the volunteer opportunity on social media over the weekend, inviting community members to assist with making the annual event a success.

Those interested in volunteering may register through an online sign-up form available at SignupGenius.

For more information, contact Events Coordinator Jessica Bates at jbates@buchanan-va.gov.

~ Fincastle Herald staff report



PHOTO COURTESY OF TUESDAY MORNING CLUB

Tuesday Morning Club donates school supplies

The Tuesday Morning Club met at Pleasant Hill Baptist Church on July 14 with 12 members present. Ruby Taylor called the meeting to order. She was hostess this month and led devotions. Faye Kessler won hostess gift. The July project was a donation of school supplies to Solomon's Mission in Buchanan for Back-to -School Day on July 25. The August project will be supplies for the Greenfield Elementary pre-school classes. Game prizes were won by Nancy Waddell and Faye Kessler. From left are: front, Dot Hillard, Dorothy Brogan, Nancy Waddell, Linda Harris, Priscilla Harris, and Barbara Harris; back, Cheryl Wood, Faye Kessler, Jill Defede, Ruby Taylor, Pam Obenchain, and Rita Bruffey.

~Submitted by Nancy Waddell



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CLUES ACROSS

1. Disco light
7. London radio station
10. Aerospace Co. Morton ___
11. Capital of Puglia, Italy
12. A phantom or apparition
13. Packed wine
14. The ocean below 6000 meters
15. 1st dynasty: AKA Xia
16. Every
17. Six (Spanish)
18. His ark
20. Segment or a circle
21. Pres. Johnson or Obama
26. 12th Greek letter
27. The First Lady
32. A blood group
33. Takes to task
35. Prints money (abbr.)
36. Airbus manufacturer
37. A instance of selling
38. 12th month (abbr.)
39. Baseball's Ruth
40. 1959 Nobel biochemist Severo
43. Weights deducted to obtain net
44. To lie scattered over
47. 6th Jewish month
48. Physical maltreators
49. Founder Franklin
50. Published

CLUES DOWN

1. Fish of the genus Alosa
2. Rock singer Turner
3. Muslim weight from 1 to 5 pounds
4. Turkish unit of weight
5. Bovine genus
6. Popular shade tree
7. The principal foundation of
8. La ___ Tar Pits
9. Spanish hero soldier
10. Brains egg-shaped grey matter
11. Fundamental
12. Bast
13. Small angels
16. Not or
17. S Pacific island group
19. Ad ___: impromptu
22. Gen. ___ DeGaulle
23. Hasidic spiritual leader
24. Aluminum
25. Considerate and solicitous care
28. Popular Canadian phrase
29. Consumed food
30. Hayfields
31. About Andes
34. Secondary School Certificate
35. Pen maker Castell
37. Brand of clear wrap
39. Past tense of bid
40. Resort city on Lake Biwa
41. Big Bear was chief
42. A group of cattle
43. The bill in a restaurant
44. People of the Dali region of Yunnan
45. One point S of due E
46. Pig genus

Submit your letters to the editor today.

fincastle@ourvalley.org

The Fincastle Herald

Serving Botetourt Since 1866

See **Answers**, page 11

VDOT projects may soon impact traffic in Botetourt



PHOTO COURTESY OF VDOT

The following is a list of forecasted highway projects from the Virginia Department of Transportation that may impact traffic in Botetourt County this week. Work schedules and construction project timelines are always subject to change and weather dependent.

• Interstate 81 bridge rehabilitation over Route 670 in Botetourt County

A bridge rehabilitation project is underway on I-81 at the bridge over Route 670 (Trinity Road). Drivers can expect periodic nighttime lane closures on northbound and southbound I-81. Work will also be performed under the bridge on Trinity Road which may also require lane and road closures. Expected completion is summer 2027.

• Interstate 81 acceleration ramp extension at exit 162 in Botetourt County

This ramp extension project is underway and as part of the project, the on-ramp from Route 11 onto northbound 81 was previously closed but is now back open. This project will extend the on-ramp onto northbound I-81 about 1,000 feet. The project also includes installing drainage structures and constructing a retaining wall alongside the slope. As work progresses, additional ramp and lane closures may be in place during nighttime hours. During construction, barrier wall will be installed along the right shoulder of northbound I-81 at exit 162. Electronic message boards will alert drivers to the upcoming ramp closure and announce any schedule changes. Work is expected to be completed in late 2026.

• Lane closures

Weather permitting, alternating northbound and southbound lane closures for drainage improvements will be in place on Route 11 in Buchanan between I-81 and the Exxon station next to the northbound off ramp at exit 162. All I-81 ramps will remain open.

Drivers can expect other nighttime right and left lane closures in place on I-81. Drivers use caution in the area of the work zone.

• Interstate 81 bridge work at exit 156 in Botetourt County

Bridge work is underway on northbound and southbound I-81 at exit 156. Milling and paving the bridge deck will take place in both directions beginning with the northbound side first and then southbound once northbound is completed. Drivers can expect lane closures on I-81 during nighttime hours. Slow roll operations are expected periodically, and flagging operations will be used during barrier wall placement on Route 640 (Brughs Mill Road). Expected completion is fall 2026.

• I-81 widening from mile marker 143 to 150

The I-81 widening project is underway. Northbound and southbound lane closures possible during nighttime hours. Various tasks are being performed throughout the project. The expected completion for this project is summer 2031.

• Botetourt County Route 460 and Laymantown Road intersection improvements

An intersection improvement project to replace a bridge and add a right turn lane on westbound Route 460 for drivers turning onto Laymantown Road is currently underway. Drivers should pay attention to signs and traffic control devices and use caution in the work zone. The road closure part of the project is expected to be completed in summer 2026.

• Road closure with detour: Laymantown Road is closed with a detour in place at its intersection with Route 460. Signage will direct traffic to use Knoll Road and Knollwood Drive to travel around the closure. Lane closures: Drivers who use Route 460 (Orange Avenue) and Route 658 (Laymantown Road) in Botetourt County should expect possible lane closures on Route 460 from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. and on Laymantown Road from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. to 7 a.m.

• Craig Botetourt Scenic Trail brush cutting and stabilization work

Residents along the former Chesapeake and Ohio (C&O) Craig Valley Branch railbed in Botetourt and Craig counties may notice maintenance work continuing on the old railbed. These activities are intended to prevent additional deterioration and to help designers who are developing plans for the Craig-Botetourt Scenic Trail. VDOT continues to collect data and conduct site visits and field reviews on the railbed. The design plans for the Craig-Botetourt Scenic Trail are still being refined and a specific schedule for construction has yet to be determined

~ VDOT

Chamber Chatter

Chamber highlights upcoming events, welcomes new members

The Botetourt County Chamber of Commerce is highlighting a busy slate of upcoming events, new member growth and business opportunities as it heads into the late summer and fall.

In its July 24 newsletter, the chamber promoted its annual Meeting of the Membership, scheduled for Thursday, July 30, from 5-8 p.m. at Virginia Mountain Vineyards. The event will feature Google Strategic Negotiator Cathie Vick as keynote speaker, along with the introduction of the chamber's incoming Board of Directors and Executive Committee, networking opportunities and the debut of the 2026 Botetourt Living magazine. Tickets remain available for members and prospective members.

The chamber also announced the addition of eight new members this summer: Kembel Tax Service, Pure Grass Farm, Bosserman Farm & Retreat, 604 Minute Market, The Dix Bousman Team, Sign Systems of VA, Atlantic Bay Mortgage Group and Ascend Financial Strategies LLC. Chamber officials said the businesses represent a variety of industries and reflect continued growth in the local business community.

Executive Director Jacqui Sobieski recently represented the Botetourt chamber at the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives Annual Convention in New Orleans, where chamber leaders from across the country met to discuss economic development, community engagement and best practices for supporting local businesses.

Looking ahead, the chamber is accepting registrations and sponsorships for its annual golf tournament, scheduled for Oct. 16 at Botetourt Golf & Swim Club. A portion of the proceeds will benefit area food banks through Food Lion Feeds.

The newsletter also encouraged businesses interested in working on the proposed Google data center project to complete a supplier interest form through the Roanoke Regional Partnership and directed readers to Botetourt County's online information hub for project updates.

Additional chamber activities include Ambassador Meetings, Beyond Networking meetups, the Emerging Leaders program and the seventh annual Tinsel

See **Chamber**, page 10

Sign up now for JRHS Class of '76 reunion

The James River High School Class of 1976 will celebrate its 50-year reunion on October 31. Class members interested in attending can contact the reunion committee by email: jrhsclassof1976@gmail.com or on its Facebook page: James River High School Class of 76 Reunion.

Class members should share their intent to attend (along with contact information) by July 31.

~ JRHS Class of 1976


FILE PHOTO

Botetourt Courthouse update canceled

The Fincastle Courthouse Update scheduled for today, July 29, has been canceled and will be rescheduled.

Organizers hope to hold the program in September and will announce the new date and details once they are finalized.

The library apologizes for any inconvenience and appreciates the community's understanding. Residents are also encouraged to attend other upcoming library programs.

~ Fincastle Herald staff report

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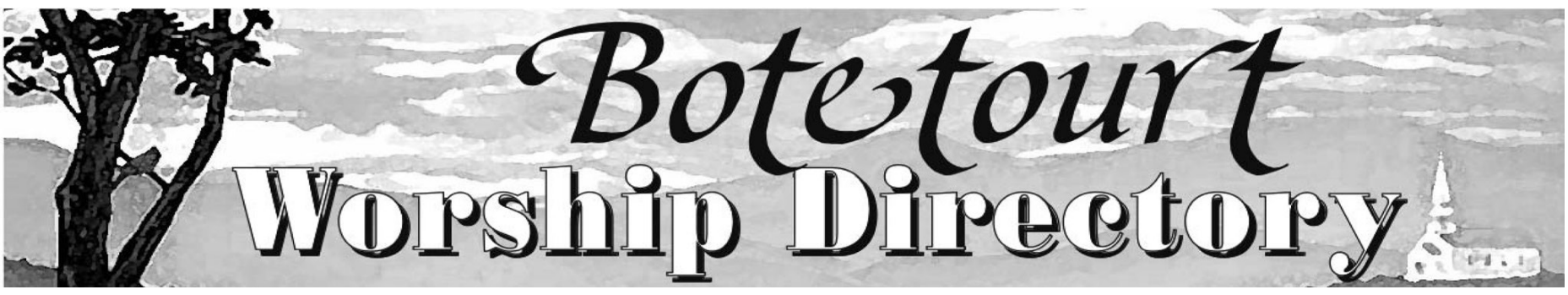
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ANGLICAN

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.

Presence Bread

Read 2 Chronicles 1:1 through 4:22

Solomon also made all the furnishings that were in God's temple: the golden altar; the tables on which was the bread of the Presence (2 Chronicles 4:19).

The bread of the Presence, also called showbread, was considered sacred. The literal Hebrew name (lechem hapanim) means "bread of the face." Some references make it plural, rendering it "bread of faces." Made with the finest flour, it was baked into twelve loaves. They were set out on a special table, called the table of the Presence, in two rows of six each. The table was made of acacia wood and overlaid with pure gold. Every Sabbath, the priests removed the loaves and replaced them with freshly baked ones. They would eat the old loaves in the holy sanctuary area.

The bread of the Presence, which sat on the table of the Presence, has divine significance for all believers. Besides the obvious connection to the twelve tribes of Israel, the showbread represents a deeper truth about the manifest presence of God: His face is always before His people—and we are always before Him. We can have no greater assurance in Him.

Prayer Suggestion: Thank You, Lord God, for always watching over me.

Quicklook: 2 Chronicles 4:19–22

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: Family Fellowship Sept-May. Wednesday Night Bible Study, 6:00 pm Sept-May. Choir practice, 7:00 pm. Praise Band Family Practice Thursdays 7p.m. Family Fellowship Time will be held each 3rd Sunday of the month. Our email address is: troutvillecob@hotmail.com and website is troutvillecob.org.

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 Scott A. Robertson-Gouge, office, 540-473-3001. Office hours: Tues., Wed., & Thurs.: 9a.m.-2p.m. 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.

OBITUARIES

Overstreet, Joseph L.

Joseph L. Overstreet, 87, of Roanoke, passed away on Sunday, July 26, 2026, at Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital with his family by his side.

He was a member of Hollins Road Baptist Church, and retired from Norfolk Southern Railway with 30 years of service. He loved watching sports and spending time with his kitties.

Joseph was preceded in death by his parents, Willie and Emmie Overstreet; brothers, Patton Overstreet and Willie Overstreet, Jr.; and a sister, Ella Ruff.

He is survived by his wife, Ruby Angles Overstreet; children, J. Terry Overstreet (Jacki), Wanda Pilkinton, Adam S. Overstreet; grandson, Brandon Johnson (Laura); great-grandson, Dylan Johnson; one brother, Jackson Overstreet (Marilyn); one sister, Rose Creasy (Larry); granddaughter, Sydney Whorley; and his special buddy, Mr. Snuggles.

Funeral services will be held on Thursday, July 30, 2026 at 10 a.m. at Oakey's East Chapel with Pastor Mark Washington and the Rev. Foster Covington officiating. Interment will follow in Old Dominion Memorial Gardens. The family will receive friends on Wednesday, July 29, 2026, from 3-7 p.m. at Oakey's East Chapel.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Hollins Road Baptist Church or Angels of Assisi.

Arrangements are by Oakey's East Chapel, 540-977-3909.

Spickard, Peggy Jane

Peggy Jane Spickard went home to be with her Lord on Monday, July 20, 2026.



Peggy was born on December 1, 1931. She lived 94 wonderful years of her life with her family whom she adored.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Elmer Conrad Spickard Sr., and Esther "Ettie" Thompson Spickard; her siblings, Elmer Conrad Spickard Jr. and wives Mary and Marie; Doris Chewning and husband Trubie; Joyce St. Clair and husband Tom; Adele Ayers and husband Al; Iris Graham and husband Bill; Nancy Clarke; Emmanuel Spickard; and Dale Spickard; and her sister-in-law, Eunice Cook Spickard.

Left to cherish her memory are her brother, William "Haynes" Spickard, and her in-laws, Ellsworth Clarke, Sarah Spickard, and Sue Spickard. Peggy leaves many nieces and nephews who loved her dearly and will miss her very much.

The family would like to thank Greg Spickard for taking wonderful care of Peggy for her last 10 years.

A service was held for Peggy at 12 p.m. on Saturday, July 25, 2026 at Lotz Funeral Home Vinton. Interment followed in Glade Creek Baptist Church Cemetery.

Botetourt Chorus rehearsals set to begin Aug. 10

The Botetourt County Chorus will begin practice on Monday, Aug. 10 at 7 p.m. at Ebenezer United Methodist Church, 85 Nace Road, Troutville. The chorus is officially on the "Countdown to Christmas." There will be two concerts: November 8 at Daleville Baptist Church, 375 Orchard Drive, and November 15 at Buchanan Baptist Church, 19730 Main Street.

The chorus is under the direction of Stephen Harris with accompanist Debbie Lester.

Anyone who likes to sing is welcome. No auditions are held. For more information, contact Faye Bolt at 540-798-4049 or Kristie Claytor at 540-556-1563.

~ Submitted by Kristie Claytor

CHURCH NEWS

Solomon's Mission undergoing remake, not accepting donations

Solomon's Mission is not accepting donations until August 19 in order to make the area safer with incoming donations and to enlarge the Thrift Store. The store remains open during the remake; isf the store needs to close at any point during the remake, updates will be posted on Solomon's Facebook page.

From July 30 to August 8, all household items and furniture will be 50% off.

Homecoming at Mt. Joy Church of the Brethren

All are invited to Mt. Joy Church of the Brethren Homecoming this Sunday, Aug. 2, for great fellowship, memories, and food. Sunday School is at 10 a.m., the worship service at 11 a.m., and the meal at noon. There will be special music.

Buchanan Baptist Homecoming Celebration

Everyone is invited to Homecoming on August 9 at Buchanan Baptist Church. The church is celebrating its 190th year. Morning worship begins at 11 a.m. and will feature a special message by Caleb Bittler.

A potluck lunch will be served immediately following the worship service. A time of special music and fellowship will follow lunch. There will also be plenty of fun for children with activities on the lawn, plus treats from the Smooshed Ice Cream Truck and the Delcio Icee Truck. Everyone is welcome

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.

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.

Sale Saturday to benefit Buchanan Rescue Squad

A $2 per box yard sale for the Buchanan Rescue Squad will be held at the Carson Building in downtown Buchanan from 8 a.m.-12 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 1. There is a large selection of household goods, Christmas decorations, used books, media, puzzles, and so much more. Bring a box or use one there to fill for only $2.

A selection of furniture also has been marked down drastically for this final sale.

This is a cash or check sale only. The sale is for the benefit of the Buchanan Rescue Squad that served the Buchanan community and Botetourt County for many years. The Carson Building is located at 19673 Main Street, directly across from the Fire and Rescue Building.

~ Submitted by Susan Davis

Back-to-school event at Troutville Park Aug. 1

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



FILE PHOTO



Post 240 Notes

American Legion Post 240 announces raffle winner

American Legion Post 240 has announced the winner of its recent raffle benefiting local veterans.

Jennifer Montgomery of Buchanan won the $1,000 prize during a drawing held July 13. The prize may be redeemed at Williamson Farms on Trinity Road in Fincastle for a selection of locally produced items, including beef, pork, lamb, eggs, homemade jellies and other food products. Montgomery may use the full amount in a single visit or spread her purchases over multiple visits.

Post member Stan Cichowski sold the winning ticket and presented the prize to Montgomery.

Proceeds from the raffle will be used to support the needs of veterans in Botetourt County.

~ Submitted by American Legion Post 240

James River High School Class of 1966 plans 60-year reunion

The James River High School Class of 1966 will celebrate its 60-year class reunion on Saturday, Sept. 26.

Organizers are asking classmates who have not yet responded to complete and return their reunion forms as soon as possible. Those who did not receive a mailing or need additional information are encouraged to contact reunion organizer Linda Henninger.

Henninger is also seeking updated contact information for several classmates whose reunion notices were returned because of incorrect addresses. Anyone with information on Jackie Haymaker Key, Dreama Tolley Wykle, Dwight McDilda, Alice Selby Horton or Delores Hagar is asked to get in touch.

For more information, contact Henninger at -540-589-0958 or by email at lhenninger1@verizon.net.

~ Submitted by Linda Henninger

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Send announcements to fincastle@ourvalley.org or P.O. Box 127, Fincastle, 24090



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

Indoor Outdoor Moving Sale

Indoor/Outdoor Moving Sale
Furniture, books, wall décor, and decorations
Friday and Saturday
8am to 4pm
116 Crystal Lane
Newport VA

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

BUSINESS STRATEGIST

Torc Robotics, Inc. seeks Business Strategist based out of U.S. headquarters in Blacksburg, VA. However, purely telecommuting/WFH position - EE may reside anywhere within U.S. Position requires up to 25% dom. & int'l travel/yr. Offered Salary: $113,797/yr. Job duties: Support design, development, construction, testing operations, and eventual commercialization of the Autonomous Truck Hubs and their network; and lead design, development, and implementation of Class 8 terminals designed to enable and optimize the use of Torc's self-driving trucks. To apply, email resume to careers@torc.ai with subject REQ#810.

STAFF SOFTWARE ENGINEER

Torc Robotics, Inc. seeks Staff Software Engineer based out of U.S. headquarters in Blacksburg, VA. However, purely telecommuting/WFH position - EE may reside anywhere within U.S. Position requires up to 20% dom. & int'l travel/yr. Offered Salary: $207,870/yr. Job duties: Execute full software development life-cycle activities using modern C++; analyze and improve current ego-motion estimation and localization algorithms; define software requirements, design software architecture, and develop robust verification strategies, among other duties. To apply, email resume to careers@torc.ai with subject REQ#809.

SENIOR SYSTEMS ENGINEER

Torc Robotics, Inc. seeks Senior Systems Engineer based out of U.S. headquarters in Blacksburg, VA. However, purely telecommuting/WFH position - EE may reside anywhere within U.S. Position requires up to 20% dom. & int'l travel/yr. Offered Salary: $184,500/yr. Job duties: Evaluate full system performance, understanding the contributions of relevant sub-systems, providing feedback to development teams; derive product requirements; support integration of new and existing self-driving software onto vehicles and test benches, among other duties. To apply, email resume to careers@torc.ai with subject REQ#808.

Process Engineer sought by Virginia Transformer Corp. (VTCR) (Roanoke, VA)

to develop and improve manufacturing processes, perform process analysis and engineering changes, and support tooling and documentation. Apply Lean Manufacturing, Six Sigma, and root cause analysis. Email resumes to: Kyle_vorst@vatransformer.com

Public Auction

SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION TO SATISFY MECHANIC'S LIEN PROPERTY TO BE SOLD IN C/O EXCEL EQUIPMENT, LLC

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that pursuant to Virginia Code §43-34, Excel Equipment, LLC, will offer for sale at public auction, outside the main entrance of the Botetourt County Circuit Courthouse, 205 North Roanoke St., Fincastle, VA, 24090, on August 12, 2026 , at 12:00 p.m., a New Holland L228 Loader (Serial No.: NGM418546) ("Loader"). For reference, a picture of the Loader is included below:



In accordance with Virginia Code § 43-34, Excel Equipment, LLC, is advertising the aforementioned public auction in this newspaper of general circulation in Botetourt County, Virginia. Likewise, notice of the aforementioned sale has been provided to the present owner of the Loader by certified or registered mail at least ten (10) days prior to the sale and notice has been provided to any secured party who has filed a financing statement against the Loader.
TERMS: Cash- Bidder's deposit of one-hundred (100%) of the sales price at the time of sale.
For Information Regarding the Sale, Contact: Woods Rogers Vandeventer Black, PLC. 10 S. Jefferson St. Suite 1800, Roanoke, VA 24011. (540) 983-7560.
For Information Regarding the Loader, Contact: Dustin Cole, Vice-president, Excel Equipment, LLC. (540)-580-6747. The Loader is currently located at 1020 Lee Highway, Roanoke, VA 24019.

Legals - Botetourt County

Commissioner's Sale

Pursuant to the Single Family Mortgage Foreclosure Act of 1994, 12 U.S.C. Chapter 38A and the Secretary's Foreclosure Commissioner designation, a COMMISSIONER'S SALE of 360 Maple Ridge Lane, Fincastle, VA 24090 (Short Legal Description: TAX ID 27569) will occur at public auction outside the main entrance to the building of the Circuit Court of Botetourt County Circuit Court, VA located at 1 W Main Street, Fincastle, VA 24090 on August 21,2026 at 1:00 PM, pursuant to a default of a note secured by a deed of trust executed by Cary W. Obenshain and Patricia Y. Obenshain recorded 4/24/2012, in the Circuit Court for Botetourt County Circuit Court, VA, Instrument Number 120001707, and the Assignment in favor of the Secretary of HUD recorded 10/31/2019, in the Circuit Court for Botetourt County Circuit Court, VA Instrument Number 190004095. THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.
TERMS OF SALE
can be reviewed by the recorded notice of default on file with the Botetourt County Circuit Court Circuit Court, for which all terms are incorporated herein into this notice. A 10% deposit payable to Secretary of Housing and Urban Development is immediately required for winning bidder in certified funds. Third party certified checks will not be accepted. Full Terms of Sale and opening bids are listed at http://www.virginialawoffice.com/hud.
Anderson Law,
2492 N. Landing Rd, #104,
Va Beach, VA 23456.

ABC NOTICE

THE GLEBE INC. trading as THE GLEBE INC.,
200 The Glebe BLVD,
Daleville, Botetourt County, VA 24083.

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

ELLEN D'ARDENNE,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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

Legals - City of Salem

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

Legals - City of Salem

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given to all interested persons that the Council of the City of Salem, at its regular meeting on 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 allow a retail sales, smoke shop on the property located at 501 West 4th Street (Tax Map #143-3-14).

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

Copies of the proposed plans, ordinances or amendments may be examined in the Office of Community Development, 21 South Bruffey Street, Salem, Virginia.
At said hearing, parties in interest and citizens shall have an opportunity to be heard relative to the said requests.
THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA
BY:
H. Robert Light
Clerk of Council

Notice is hereby given to all interested persons that the City of Salem Planning Commission,

at its regular meeting on August 12, 2026, at 6:30 p.m., in Council Chambers, City Hall, 114 North Broad Street, in the City of Salem, Virginia, will hold public hearings, pursuant to Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia, as amended, to consider approval of the following requests relative to the CODE OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA:

1.Consider the request of Terry Properties of VA Inc., property owner, for the issuance of a Special Exception Permit to allow a two-family dwelling on the property located at 432 Chestnut Street, (Tax Map # 161-3-1).

2.Consider amending Chapter 66, Signs, Article I In General, Section 66-11.1 Minor signs during voting, of the CODE OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA, pertaining to minor signs during voting.

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

At said hearing, parties in interest and citizens shall have an opportunity to be heard relative to the said requests.

THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA

BY:
Christopher J. Dorsey
Executive Secretary

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 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.

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

The Town of Christiansburg Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, August 17, 2026, at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073, pursuant to Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia, as amended. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments concerning:

A. Code Amendment request by Town of Christiansburg, Applicant, to amend the Christiansburg Town Code, Chapter 42, Sec. 42-397 – Permitted uses. Data centers are currently allowed by right in the General Industrial (I-2) Zoning District, and the request is to require a conditional use permit for data centers in the General Industrial (I-2) Zoning District.
Town Hall will be open and available to receive public comment in-person at the time of this Public Hearing. A copy of the application, the Town's Zoning Map, Zoning Ordinance, and Future Land Use Map may be viewed in the Planning Department Office, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073, during normal office hours of 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contact the Planning Department, at (540) 382-6128, Ext. 1902 or by email at planning@christiansburg.org, with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations.

NOTICE OF TRUSTEES' SALE OF COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

7120 Roanoke Road,
Shawsville, Virginia
(a/k/a Shawnee Mini Mart)

9311 Roanoke Road,
Elliston, Virginia
(a/k/a Elliston Food Mart)

Pursuant to the terms of a Deed of Trust (the "Deed of Trust") dated as of July 22, 2016, recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Montgomery County, Virginia (the "Clerk's Office") as Instrument Number 160005662, and an Appointment of Substitute Trustee dated November 19, 2018, recorded in the Clerk's Office as Instrument No. 2018008463, the property briefly described below (the "Property") will be offered for sale at public auction on August 14, 2026, at noon, at the Shawnee Mini Mart, 7120 Roanoke Road, Shawsville, VA 24162.

Shawnee Mini Mart - 7120 Roanoke Road, Shawsville, VA 24162:

All that certain lot or parcel of land situate in the County of Montgomery, Commonwealth of Virginia, and being more particularly described as follows:

PARCEL 1: Tax Map Nos. 083-C1 3 13, 083-C2 5 14A, 083-C2 5 17

BEING all of Lots 13, 14A, and 17 as shown on a plat of survey entitled, "Plat Showing Boundary Survey of Lot 13 and Lot 17, Boundary Line Vacation on Lot 14, Lot 15, and Lot 16, and Vacation of Drainage Easement on Lot 14 and Lot 15 'Map of Shawsville Subdivision' located in Shawsville Magisterial District, Montgomery County, Virginia", prepared by Marvi D. Stine, LS, dated November 15, 2007, designated as Plan No. S-83269, a copy of which is recorded in the Clerk's Office of Montgomery County, Virginia, as Instrument Number 2008001140.

BEING the same property conveyed to 7 Hills, Inc., a Virginia corporation, by deed from Gary D. Creed and Linda M. Creed, dated November 17, 2006, and recorded in the aforesaid Clerk's Office as Instrument Number 06013235.

Elliston Food Mart - 9311 Roanoke Road, Elliston, VA 24087:

All that certain lot or parcel of land situate in the County of Montgomery, Commonwealth of Virginia, and being more particularly described as follows:

PARCEL II: Tax Map Number 059-A A 109

BEGINNING at a point on marked by a monument found, being the point of intersection of Route 754 and U.S. Route 11 & 460 (Roanoke Road); thence N. 29 deg. 59' 21" E. 174.84 feet (shown as 175.00 feet in Deed Book 1037, page 659), to a point marked by an iron pin set; thence S. 58 deg. 41' 04" E. 136.47 feet to a point marked by an iron pin set; thence S. 28 deg. 11' 16" W. 75.63 feet to a point marked by an iron pin set; thence N. 58 deg. 59' 50" W. 55.00 feet to a point marked by an iron pin set; thence S. 27 deg. 32' 15" W. 97.80 feet to a point marked by an iron pin set; thence N. 59 deg. 35' 06" W. 88.00 feet to a point marked by an iron pin set, THE POINT AND PLACE OF BEGINNING, containing 0.433 acres as shown on that certain plat of survey entitled "Physical Improvement Survey for P.P. Raj, Inc.", dated January 24, 2002, prepared by John R. McAden of Balzer and Associates, Inc., and recorded as Instrument Number 2012006665. Said property further shown and described on Plat of Survey prepared by Anderson & Associates, Inc., dated January 14, 1986, and recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Montgomery County, Virginia in Deed Book 572, Page 679.

BEING the same property conveyed unto 7 Hills, Inc., a Virginia corporation, by Deed from P.P. Raj, Inc., dated August 7, 2012, and recorded in the aforesaid Clerk's Office as Instrument Number 12006665.

Terms: A deposit in the form of cash or certified funds in the amount of ten percent (10%) of the successful bid will be required at the time of sale. Closing within thirty (30) days of sale. Time is of the essence. The Property is being sold "AS IS" without representation or warranty of any sort or nature concerning its condition. Obtaining possession of the Property shall not be the responsibility of the Trustee or the holder of the note secured by the Deed of Trust, but shall be at the sole cost, risk, and expense of the successful bidder. The successful bidder shall pay for all recording charges, examination of title, settlement fees, and all costs of conveyancing, which shall be by Special Warranty Deed. The Trustees reserve the right to reject any bid(s), withdraw the Property from the sale at any time before the termination of the bidding, keep the bidding open for any length of time, postpone the sale, review the qualifications of all bidders, and amend and/or supplement the terms of sale by verbal and written announcements prior to and/or during the sale. For more information visit Linkous Auction Group at www.linkousauction.com.

The Substitute Trustee may be able to respond to inquiries concerning the sale:
N. Reid Broughton,
Substitute Trustee
Sands Anderson PC
P.O. Box 2009
Christiansburg, Virginia
24068-2009
540-260-9011
540-260-0022 (facsimile)
rbroughton@sandsanderson.com

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STATEWIDE ADS

AUCTIONS

PUBLIC AUCTION! Lotscapes No Reserve Auction. Land Clearing, Earth Moving Equipment, Trucks, and More. Aug 4, 10am. Online Only. Hanover, Va. Bid at motleysindustrial.com. VAAL#16/NCAL#5914

H O M E IMPROVEMENT

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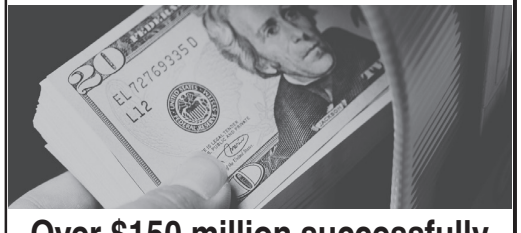
D I V O R C E - Uncontested, $525.00 + $89.00 court cost. WILLS-$295.00. No court appearance. Estimated completion time twenty-one days. Hilton Oliver, Attorney (Facebook). 757-490-0126. Se Habla Espanol. BBB Member. https://hiltonoliverattorneyva.com

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ADVERTISE! 389-9355

Virginia Treasury Announces a New Record for Unclaimed Property Funds Reunited to Rightful Owners!



Over $150 million successfully reunited to citizens in FY2026!

Have you lost track of any dormant accounts or checks? To locate and claim your unclaimed funds, visit our free search site today at:

vaMoneySearch.gov Click and Claim
VIRGINIA TREASURY Stewardship-Integrity-Excellence



Their lies come out of your wallet. Insurance fraud costs everyone in Virginia $1,000 per year. Learn how to spot it and report it at TheCostOfFraud.com.

STAMP OUT FRAUD
VIRGINIA STATE POLICE INSURANCE FRAUD PROGRAM

AARP Scam Alert:
Jury Duty Scams

Scammers often use fear and intimidation to convince people of their scheme. In jury duty scams, criminals call or message posing as court officials, U.S. marshals, or sheriff's deputies. They falsely claim that you missed a jury summons and threaten you with immediate arrest unless you pay right away.

To heighten the panic, criminals often spoof caller ID screens to display a local courthouse or police department number. They aggressively demand that you stay on the phone while you purchase gift cards, send a wire transfer, or deposit money into a cryptocurrency account. In other instances, they may ask for your Social Security number under the guise of checking records.

Real courts will never contact you out of the blue to demand immediate payment or sensitive information over the phone, nor do they threaten jail time for a missed jury summons. Official court business regarding jury service is managed exclusively through the mail. If you receive a suspicious call, hang up immediately and verify the claim by calling your local courthouse directly.

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 PHOTO

~ AARP

Chamber from page 5

Trail, which returns to Historic Fincastle beginning Dec. 5.

The newsletter also promoted several community events and member initiatives, including the Botetourt County Fair, the First Bank Fall Run, a new agriculture exhibit at the Botetourt County Historical Society Museum, volunteer opportunities and local nonprofit programs.

~ Fincastle Herald staff report

www.FincastleHerald.com

New legislation establishes penalties for invasive plants sold in Virginia

Retailers, landscapers and contractors who fail to provide written notification to property owners when installing invasive plants are guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor and face civil penalties.

A bill has been signed into law that establishes escalating civil penalties for businessmen who install plants that the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation lists as invasive. Invasive species can spread beyond private landscapes and into natural and agricultural areas—disrupting ecosystems, harming farmland and economies.

But state organizations, task forces and local groups are fighting back. Residents can

See **Plants**, page 11

Fall Run from page 2

its milestone 40th anniversary, runners, walkers, families, and community supporters are invited to be part of the tradition.

For 40 years, the Fall Run has welcomed thousands of participants from across the Roanoke Valley and beyond, becoming one of the region's most anticipated annual community events. "This year is about so much more than reaching the finish line," said Todd Ross, Roanoke Valley Market president. "It's an opportunity to celebrate 40 years of neighbors coming together, volunteers giving their time, local businesses lending their support, and families creating memories that have lasted for generations. We are incredibly grateful to everyone who has helped make the Fall Run what it is today."

The First Bank Fall Run begins at 9 a.m. at Central Academy Middle School and journeys through the Town of Fincastle. Custom medals and trophies are presented to the top finishers in both the adult and youth age groups. "We always look forward to the excitement among all the runners, but especially the elementary school teams who compete for trophies for their schools," said Ross.

"Our community has embraced this race year after year, and that support is something we never take for granted," Ross commented. The success of the Fall Run depends on the dedication of countless volunteers and community members who work together each year to make the event possible.

"I want to offer a heartfelt thank you to Botetourt County Public Schools, the Town of Fincastle, our volunteers and the race participants. We also want to thank Botetourt County and our first responders who help make this event a success," Ross added. "Your commitment has built something truly special over the past 40 years, and we couldn't be more excited to celebrate this milestone together."

Participants of all ages and experience levels are encouraged to register. Online registration is available through RunSignUp.com. Everyone who registers by October 9 will receive a custom long-sleeve shirt commemorating the 40th anniversary. The cost to enter is $15 for students age 17 and under and $35 for adults 18 and older who register prior to October 9. After October 9, adult registrations are $45.

First Bank awards scholarships to area graduating high school seniors who have participated in a previous Fall Run. The 2026 recipients were Georgia Miller of James River and Abby Perkey from Lord Botetourt.

For additional information, email First Bank at 5k10krun@fbvirginia.com or visit https://runsignup.com/Race/VA/Fincastle/FirstBankFallRun.

~ Fincastle Herald staff report

Rainwater from page 2

completed construction of the rainwater harvesting system. Inspection of the system was completed in March by Mountain Castles staff. In April 2026, cost-share reimbursement was issued to the Pinkneys at the rate of $4/gallon per runoff volume as calculated from a one-inch precipitation event.

The Pinkneys' rainwater harvesting system collects runoff from 3,528 square feet of roof and has a storage capacity of 4,100 gallons. By retaining rainwater on-site for irrigation and other non-potable uses, the system effectively disconnects impervious surface from the stormwater conveyance, reduces the quantity of surface runoff leaving the property, and reduces peak-flow downstream. Over the course of one irrigation cycle, the demand for water on the couple's property is approximately 120 gallons. By using the stored runoff from the rainwater harvesting system to meet the irrigation demand, their valuable well water is conserved for drinking, washing, and other potable uses. Additionally, because the distribution system is gravity fed, electricity consumption by and wear on their well pump is reduced.

With assistance provided by the District through VCAP, the Pinkneys have realized their dream. In the midst of a severe drought, their gardens are flourishing without compromising their drinking water. Because of their commitment to sustainability, their downstream neighbors also benefit.

~ Mountain Castles Soil and Water Conservation District


PHOTO COURTESY OF MCSWCD

PUBLIC NOTICE for November 3, 2026
General & Special Election

In-Person Early Voting Begins: Friday, September 18, 2026 **Ends:** Saturday, October 31, 2026 @ 5pm. All qualified, registered voters are eligible to vote early during this time

Location: Department of Elections & Voter Registration Office, 2 East Main Street, Fincastle (corner of Roanoke & Main Streets)

Hours: Monday – Friday, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

Saturday & Sunday Hours:
Sunday, October 18, 2026 11:00 am – 4:00 pm
Saturday, October 24 2026 8:30 am – 4:30 pm
Sunday, October 25, 2026 11:00 am – 4:00 pm
Saturday, October 31, 2026 8:30 am – 5:00 pm
(Final day of early voting)

Deadline to register or update registration:
Friday, October 23, 2026
5:00 pm for in-person registrations;
11:59 pm for online registrations

Deadline to request a Vote By Mail ballot:
Friday, October 23, 2026 at 5:00 pm
NOTE: Vote By Mail ballot is the same ballot used for Early Voting and at polling locations on Election Day. If you receive a Vote By Mail ballot and wish to vote in-person during Early Voting or on Election Day, you must bring the Vote By Mail package to surrender.

Vote By Mail Drop Locations:
- Department of Elections & Voter Registration Office, 2 East Main Street, Fincastle (corner of Roanoke & Main Streets)
Dropbox slot for marked Vote By Mail ballots located in vestibule of office entrance
- Voters may personally deliver their marked ballot to the Department of Elections & Voter Registration Office during regular business hours. (Hand-delivered ballots can only be accepted from voter ballot issued to. All others must go in drop box or need to be mailed.)
- All polling locations on Election Day, Tuesday, November 3, 2026, from 6:00 am – 7:00 pm

Offices on ballot:
Statewide Offices
- US Senate (6-year term)
- US House of Representatives (2-year term)

Local Offices:
- Town of Buchanan -- Town Council - 2 seats (4-year term)
- Town of Fincastle -- Mayor (4-year term)
- Town of Fincastle -- Town Council - 3 seats (4-year term)
- Town of Troutville -- Mayor (2-year term)
- Town of Troutville -- Town Council - 3 seats (2-year term)

Special Election:
- Clerk of Circuit Court -- Unexpired term ending December 31, 2031

Traci S. Clark
Director of Elections & General Registrar
Botetourt County, Virginia

Ferguson from page 1

Originally from Bedford County, Ferguson said he carefully weighed the decision with his family before applying.

"I thought on it, prayed on it and talked it over with my family before hitting submit," he said. "My heart and head were telling me to take a chance."

Ferguson's career in emergency services began in 2000 as an emergency department technician-paramedic with Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital. He joined the Botetourt County Department of Fire & EMS in 2001 as the county's first staff paramedic and later rose to become chief.

During his tenure, Botetourt's Fire & EMS system underwent significant growth and modernization. According to the county, Ferguson helped expand operational capabilities, strengthen partnerships with volunteer agencies, invest in personnel and apparatus, improve emergency preparedness, and place a greater emphasis on firefighter and EMS health and wellness.

Ferguson said he believes the department is well positioned for the future.

"I feel that Botetourt's Department of Fire & EMS is positioned in an excellent spot to continue to evolve to meet the needs of the community," he said. "I feel certain that Botetourt will remain in highly capable hands."

Reflecting on his career, Ferguson said the people he worked alongside stand out most.

"I am most proud of the team that we've built and the level of services we provide to the Botetourt community," he said. "There are many milestones along the way that I can look back and point to, but ultimately those are just moments in time along the road of my 25-year journey. What matters most to me about our accomplishments is that the coordinated Botetourt Fire & EMS system now has a strong foundation and strategic vision into the future."

Ferguson acknowledged there is still work to do but said the department is well positioned to meet the challenges facing modern fire and EMS agencies.

"The state of the department is strong," he said. "That is not to say that there isn't more work to do, because there certainly is."

Ferguson said he is confident the department's firefighters, EMTs and volunteers have the knowledge, talent and determination to continue moving the department forward.

Asked what he hopes his legacy will be, Ferguson emphasized that the department's future matters more than any one individual.

"I hope that my legacy is one of humility and grace," he said. "My hope is that future generations can look back and see how our organization was led through changing circumstances, challenging times and cultural change to develop what will serve this community for generations to come.

"The organization will outlast every individual within it," he added. "That is always important to remember, to stay grounded."

As he prepares to leave, Ferguson expressed gratitude to the community and the firefighters, EMS personnel and volunteers he served alongside for a quarter-century.

"I am forever grateful for the opportunities afforded to me over the past 25 years and will cherish those memories for years to come," he said.

"Botetourt is an amazing place, with amazing people."

Martin's Farm
818 Martins Lane
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Stockyard Report

Monday's sale at the Roanoke-Hollins Stockyard:

The sale report was not received from the stockyard this week.

Plants from page 10

join the cause by reporting sightings that help limit their spread.

When spotting a potential invader, Kevin Heffernan, in the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, said to look for organisms that "don't play nice with others."

Heffernan said invasive plants like wavyleaf grass, Japanese stiltgrass, fountain grass and Callery pear—commonly known as Bradford pear—are expanding and overwhelming landscapes.

The DCR recommends the following methods to help control invasive plants:

- Regularly mow or pull invasive plants before they produce seed.
- For large infestations, apply herbicides carefully according to label instructions.
- Choose native plants and grasses when landscaping and gardening.
- Explore tree exchange programs. The Virginia Department of Forestry facilitates replacing Bradford pears with native varieties.

~ Virginia Farm Bureau

VA250 from page 1

asked Matt, who works with me, 'What do you think about this project?'"

The response helped cement Austin's support.

"He said, 'Not everybody likes old buildings and history. NASCAR fans are patriotic.'"

Once he saw the plan come to fruition, Austin said, "I was instantly impressed."

That early investment helped launch a project that eventually grew into a statewide collaboration.

For Arrington, however, success would ultimately be determined on a runway nearly 700 miles away.

The team chose Kennedy Space Center's Launch and Landing Facility rather than the famed Bonneville Salt Flats, where previous stock car records had been established.

Arrington said there was a practical reason.

The 2006 record-setting car—whose engine he also built—eventually deteriorated because of repeated exposure to the salt.

"I said, 'No, I'm not going to take it there,'" Arrington recalled.

Instead, the team located the former space shuttle runway, giving the team a smooth, three-mile surface on which to pursue the record.

Looking back, Arrington describes the day with characteristic understatement.

"You know, it's a sport," he said. "Whether you win the basketball game, football game or whatever, you won that event that day. We had to break the record first, which was 244.9, and then we had to make sure we were over 250. Everything just fell into place."

Although Arrington has spent decades building championship-caliber engines and was involved with the previous stock car land-speed record, he said this accomplishment ranks above the others because the team had a hand in every aspect of the vehicle.

"It was number one because we were more involved with it—from the front bumper to the rear bumper, and certainly under the hood," he added.

Austin watched the record attempt unfold in person and came away impressed not only by the speed but by the preparation behind it.

"They rolled that car off the trailer, jacked it up, put the tires on it, put the fairing on the bottom, filled it up, put water in the radiator, took it out there and it made nine runs and never had such a fault," Austin recalled. "The second run, it broke the record."

For him, the flawless execution reflected Arrington's decades of experience.

"To me, that showed me his knowledge and skill—that he knew what he was doing," Austin said.

Yet as the conversation turned from the record itself, Arrington repeatedly steered it toward education.

Turner described partnering with engineering students from the University of Virginia, who analyzed data gathered during the car's development and even recommended adjustments to the parachute configuration after reviewing the results.

"They came back with a different tilt on the parachutes that actually helped," Arrington said.

The trio sees those experiences as every bit as important as the record itself.

"When I was in school, I couldn't focus on anything that didn't make any sense to me," Arrington said. "All of a sudden, if you can connect the dots– the sound, the excitement, the buildup before you get there– it keeps their attention."

He hopes students who encounter the Virginia Missile see more than a race car.

"It draws attention from a standpoint of motorsports," he said. "Then we can sort of show what we can accomplish in Southside Virginia."



"The Virginia Missile" PHOTO COURTESY OF OFFICE OF DEL. TERRY AUSTIN

Austin agreed, saying the project demonstrates that innovation remains part of Virginia's identity.

"I think what's inspiring to me is his willingness to do something with his time, energy and knowledge that benefits the Commonwealth of Virginia," Austin said of Arrington.

That educational mission will continue as the Virginia Missile travels to appearances around the region.

Arrington said one of the next major stops will be Virginia International Raceway in Alton, where the team expects to interact with students and racing enthusiasts alike..

"We're expecting a lot of kids," he said.

He hopes those conversations leave a lasting impression.

"The biggest thing they would take away is excitement," Arrington added. "If they see the accomplishments at the end, they've got something to shoot for."

For Austin, the project has become another chapter in Virginia's story.

As lawmakers and local communities commemorate the nation's founding through historical sites, reenactments and educational programs, he believes projects like the Virginia Missile broaden the conversation by highlighting achievements that reflect the Commonwealth's enduring spirit of innovation.

"We've got a proud history here," Austin said.

That history, he noted, stretches from the Fincastle Resolves and the Revolutionary War to Southside Virginia's rich motorsports tradition.

For Arrington, those connections matter because they remind people that history isn't only something preserved in museums. Sometimes, it's built in a race shop.

Sometimes, it's tested on a runway.

And sometimes, it inspires the next generation to imagine what might be possible if they keep asking questions, solving problems and chasing something that has never been done before.

The record of 253 mph secured the Virginia Missile's place in motorsports history.

But for the men who envisioned it, built it and championed it, the project's real legacy may be measured by the young Virginians who decide to write the next chapter.

Cooling from page 1

according to the statement. "The Authority remains committed to protecting existing customers by ensuring that development-related costs are covered by the developer and that reliable service and supply remains our top priority."

In response to questions, county officials said the move to air cooling for the first building means water usage is expected to be less than initially anticipated under an all-water cooling approach. However, officials said they have not received updated estimates for average daily or peak water usage beyond the statement released by WVWA.

County officials said they have not been informed of any changes to planned infrastructure improvements as a result of the announcement. They noted the project will be built over multiple years and that each facility will incorporate the newest available technology. Officials added that all Greenfield users must connect to WVWA's water and sewer system, and the Authority will continue leading infrastructure planning.

As for public outreach, the county said it will continue posting new information about the project on its website and social media channels as it becomes available.

The announcement also comes as county leaders continue discussing how to address public concerns surrounding the data center.

During its July meeting, the Planning Commission asked the Board of Supervisors to authorize a public forum on the county's water supply and demand, particularly as it relates to current and future development. County staff, however, is recommending the creation of an independent commission that would evaluate the proposed Google campus' potential impacts on water resources, the environment, infrastructure and quality of life before issuing a public report.

The board was expected to consider the Planning Commission's request, the staff recommendation or another course of action at Tuesday's meeting, which occurred after this edition went to press. More from that meeting will appear in next week's edition.

Some residents have raised questions about the potential environmental impacts associated with air-cooled data centers. County officials acknowledged those concerns but cautioned against drawing conclusions from projects elsewhere.

"We know that with new technology comes questions," the county said. "It's easy to find stories online about extreme situations involving data centers in other parts of the country. However, those examples involve different locations, different regulations, different infrastructure, and different facility designs. They are not necessarily representative of what is proposed here." Officials said they remain committed to sharing updated information as it becomes available.

The county also said Google's latest announcement does not alter the assumptions used when the Board of Supervisors approved the project's water service agreement.

According to the county, the campus will be constructed in phases, allowing each building to undergo its own engineering and design process as cooling technologies and water conservation measures continue to evolve.

Google did not provide updated water consumption estimates or quantify how much water the revised cooling approach is expected to save, saying those details will become available as project planning advances. The company also said decisions regarding cooling technologies for buildings two and three will be made as planning, permitting and development continue.

The company added that the announcement does not affect the project's construction schedule, planned investment or anticipated employment levels in Botetourt County.

"We remain focused on advancing the project through the appropriate review and permitting processes and do not have any additional updates to share at this time," the spokesperson said.

Transparency Alliance says questions remain

Opponents of Google's proposed Botetourt County data center welcomed last week's announcement but said it leaves many of their concerns unresolved.

The Southwest Virginia Data Center Transparency Alliance (SWVADCTA) says Google's decision to use air cooling for the first building of its proposed Botetourt County data center campus does not resolve many of the concerns it has raised about the project.

In a statement released following Google's announcement, the organization questioned whether the change would result in meaningful reductions in water usage until the project's existing performance agreement is amended.

"At first glance, this appears to be a step towards finally listening to the community," said Julie Bivins, co-founder of the Southwest Virginia Data Center Transparency Alliance. "But there are still many questions and concerns to be answered. Also, the current performance agreement still stands, stating that Google is allowed to use up to 8 million gallons per day (MGD) of water at full build-out. Until that contract changes, I'm not sure that an announcement stating something different actually means anything."

The group also argued that while air cooling may reduce water use, it could require additional electrical infrastructure. The organization said it remains concerned about the project's potential effects on energy demand, noise, pollution, property values and wildlife, and called for continued transparency as planning moves forward.

Google has said the first building's air-cooling design was selected based on the facility's operational needs and that updated information on water consumption and future cooling technologies will be released as project planning advances.

Fair from page 1

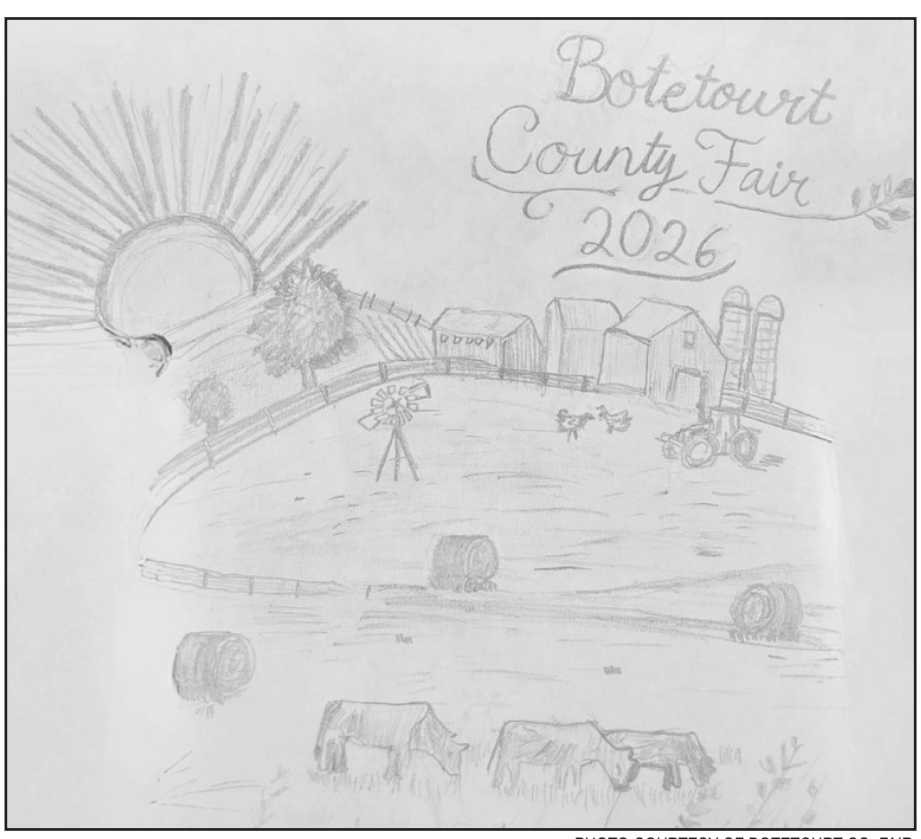


PHOTO COURTESY OF BOTETOURT CO. FAIR

Local artist Brianna Link provided the artwork for this year's fair booklet.

The Local Food Walk puts a fresh twist on the traditional cake walk, giving participants the chance to win locally grown produce, homemade treats and other products donated by Botetourt County farms, markets and small businesses.

Beyond the scheduled events, fairgoers can browse vendors, visit educational exhibits, watch agricultural demonstrations and explore displays highlighting everything from baked goods, canned goods and honey to photography, woodworking, crafts, fine arts, produce, floral arrangements and eggs entered by community members. The fair grounds also include a touch-a-truck area and exhibits celebrating local agriculture and youth involvement.

The Botetourt County Fair dates to 1879, when it was first held near Hawthorne Hall Road in Fincastle before ending after the 1948 fair. The tradition was revived in Buchanan in 2013, and the Botetourt County Fair Association was established in 2023 to oversee the annual event and other agricultural initiatives.

Additional information, including the complete schedule of events, sponsorship opportunities and volunteer information, is available at BotetourtCountyFair.com.

~ Fincastle Herald staff report

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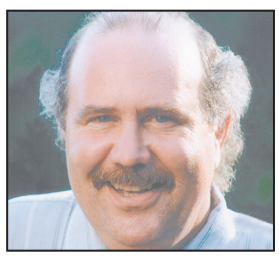
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BOTETOURT

Sports

www.fincastleherald.com



Brian Hoffman

Sports Editor

New Cavalier coach Leftwich has camp for kids; high school practice opens this week for LB, River











PHOTOS BY REGINA DEVINNEY

New Lord Botetourt High School head football coach Nick Leftwich (bottom right) conducted a youth football camp at Cavalier Stadium last week for kids ages 8 to 14. The camp stressed skill development, agility, team building and a positive football experience for the future Cavalier players. Leftwich will open his first preseason camp at LB this week as the Cavaliers prepare for their season opener on August 22 against Rye Cove High School at the Emory & Henry University football stadium. James River will also open practice this week starting at 8 a.m. Thursday. The Knights will open the season August 28 at home against Auburn. Look for a special fall sports preview edition in the August 26 edition of The Fincastle Herald.

Clevenger, Maroons honored by NABC



PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Patrick Clevenger, a James River High and Roanoke College graduate, has been recognized by the National Association of Basketball Coaches.

The National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC) has announced the recipients of the 2025-26 NABC Team Academic Excellence Awards and NABC Honors Court, representing achievement in the classroom by men's college basketball teams and individual players. Roanoke College earned the Team Academic Excellence Award and seven Maroons nabbed spots on the honor roll, including Troutville's Patrick Clevenger.

The NABC Team Academic Excellence Awards recognize programs that completed the 2025-26 academic year with a team GPA of 3.0 or higher. The NABC Honors Court, meanwhile, includes junior, senior and graduate student men's basketball players who finished the 2025-26 year with a cumulative GPA of 3.2 or higher.

The seven Maroons honored included Clevenger, a graduated senior Sports Management major from James River High School, Andrew Maddalon, Business Administration, junior; Colin Fayed, Business Administration, junior; Gavin O'Malley, Business Administration, junior; Jack Adair, Business Administration, junior; Porter Stanley, Business Administration, jenior; and Zach Rosenthal, Business Administration, graduate student.

The NABC's academic awards are presented annually to teams and athletes from all levels of college basketball.

"College basketball student-athletes do incredible things on the court, but their achievements in the classroom are equally worthy of celebration," said NABC Executive Director Craig Robinson. "Education is one of the NABC's core values, and the hundreds of programs and thousands of athletes represented on these awards reinforce the commitment to academic success that exists across all levels of our sport."

Fall sports are near. Read about them here.
www.FincastleHerald.com

FILE GRAPHIC

Student-athletes earn ODAC honors

Student-athletes Emma Ruhlman of Blue Ridge and Ava Thacker of Buchanan were selected to the 2025-26 Old Dominion Athletic Conference's All-Academic list announced by the league on July 17.

To qualify for ODAC All-Academic honors, student-athletes must earn a cumulative 3.25 GPA or higher during the academic year.

Ruhlman and Thacker were selected from Shenandoah University in Winchester.

James River Hall of Fame seeking nominations

James River High School is currently seeking and accepting nominations for the school's 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.

Tickets are available for 2026 Roanoke College football games

Tickets are now on sale for 2026 Roanoke College home football games. Tickets will be sold for $10 individually or $40 for all five home games if purchased online in advance. Tickets purchased at the gate on game day will be $15.

The Maroons finished the 2025 season 5-4 overall and 4-4 in conference play in their first season of varsity competition since 1942. Roanoke will open the 2026 season on Thursday, Sept. 3, at 6 p.m. on the road at the Virginia University of Lynchburg.

RC's first home game is Saturday, Sept. 12, against Greensboro College. Salem Stadium, near Roanoke's Elizabeth Campus, will serve as the Maroons' home field once again and four of the five home contests will have 2 p.m. kickoffs. Roanoke's Oct. 10 game vs. Hampden-Sydney College will have a 4 p.m. kickoff.