



# 2026 Fall Sports Preview Section Inside!

# The Fincastle Herald

& Botetourt County News [www.fincastleherald.com](http://www.fincastleherald.com)



VOL. 161 NO. 35 1 SECTION • 12 PAGES (USPS 190-680) WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2026 \$1.50

## Orchard Lake Dam deemed high hazard, but county says finding does not mean failure is imminent

A state-required engineering study has concluded that Orchard Lake Dam should be classified as a high-hazard dam, but Botetourt County officials emphasize that the finding does not mean the dam is in imminent danger of failing.

According to the county's press release, the classification is based on what could happen downstream if the earthen dam were to fail. Engineers determined that three homes and nearby roads could be affected by floodwaters before they spread and diminish.

"High hazard" is a regulatory classification based on the potential consequences of a dam failure, rather than a finding about the dam's current structural condition.

The study did, however, identify a significant issue with the existing structure. The county said in its press release that the dam's spillway does not have sufficient capacity to meet the applicable state requirements for a high-hazard dam. If the dam remains in place, upgrades likely will be necessary.

The findings are the latest development in a dispute that has unfolded over several years involving the dam's safety, ownership and the cost of bringing it into compliance with Virginia regulations.

Orchard Lake is a roughly 13.5-acre private lake in the Orchard Lake subdivision in Daleville. About 50 residences are located in the subdivision, while the lake is divided among 11 private properties.

The dam dates to the early 1900s, when it was built as an agricultural irrigation pond. The subdivision developed around the lake in the 1970s.

Botetourt County

See **Study**, page 10



A recently completed engineering study of Orchard Lake in Daleville found the dam should be classified as high hazard because a failure could affect three downstream homes and nearby roads.



Del. Terry Austin and Botetourt County Economic Development Director Kyle Rosner (center right) join other project partners and supporters last week for the ribbon-cutting ceremony marking the official opening of the new Andy Layne Trail trailhead, parking area and bridge over Catawba Creek.

## New Andy Layne Trailhead officially opens along Catawba Creek

A new trailhead, parking area and pedestrian bridge over Catawba Creek officially opened Thursday, Aug. 20, providing improved access to the Andy Layne Trail and one of the most popular destinations along the Appalachian Trail in Virginia.

Del. Terry Austin, joined representatives from the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club, Titan America and Botetourt County for a ribbon-cutting ceremony celebrating the completion of the project.

"Projects like this don't happen overnight," Austin said in a post on his Facebook page. "They are the result of years of partnership, collaboration and planning."

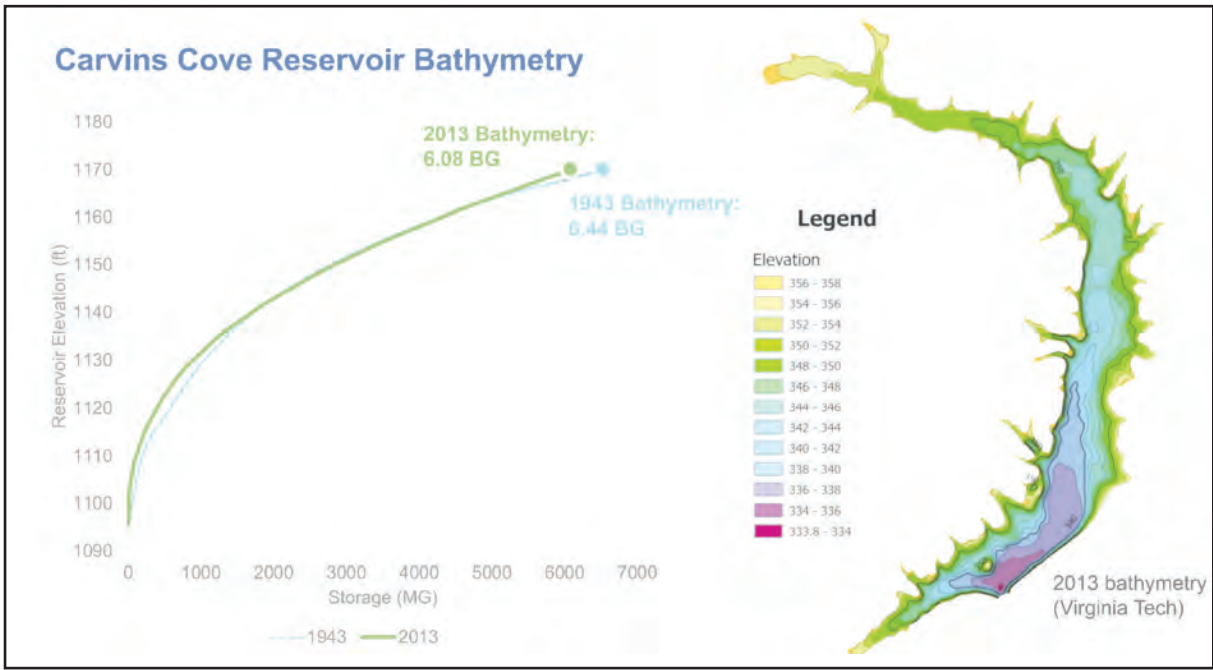
The 3-mile Andy Layne Trail serves as a connector to the Appalachian Trail near Tinker Cliffs, one of the three destinations that make up Virginia's Triple Crown along with McAfee Knob and Dragon's Tooth.

The new trailhead is located less than a mile south of the former trailhead and includes space for 50 vehicles and a rerouted beginning section of the trail leading to a new pedestrian bridge over Catawba Creek. Roanoke Cement Co. fully funded the project.

The improvements address long-standing issues at the former trailhead. According to the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, the old parking area frequently overflowed with visitors on busy spring and fall weekends, while the previous bridge over Catawba Creek was nearing the end of its lifespan.

Kathryn Herndon-Powell, Virginia regional director for the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, said in an Aug. 20 news release that the project is part

See **Trailhead**, page 10



A comparison of 1943 and 2013 surveys shows sedimentation has reduced the reservoir's storage capacity from 6.44 billion to 6.08 billion gallons.

## Water Authority clarifies Carvins Cove levels, Google water demand

The Western Virginia Water Authority (WVWA) is clarifying the condition of the Carvins Cove Reservoir and the potential water demand from the proposed Google data center in Botetourt County as voluntary water conservation measures remain in effect across the region.

In an Aug. 21 response to questions about the region's water supply, the authority said an apparent sharp decline in the reservoir's reported water level earlier this month was caused by a damaged monitoring sensor, not an actual loss of nearly 2 billion gallons of water.

The sensor that automatically records the reservoir's water level was damaged during a storm and defaulted to the bottom of the published scale. The authority said the inaccurate graph was removed after it was discovered and replaced with information about the sensor problem, while accurate manual readings continued to be published.

At the time of its response, WVWA reported Carvins Cove was 17.9 feet below the spillway. The region remains under Stage 1 voluntary water conservation measures, with mandatory

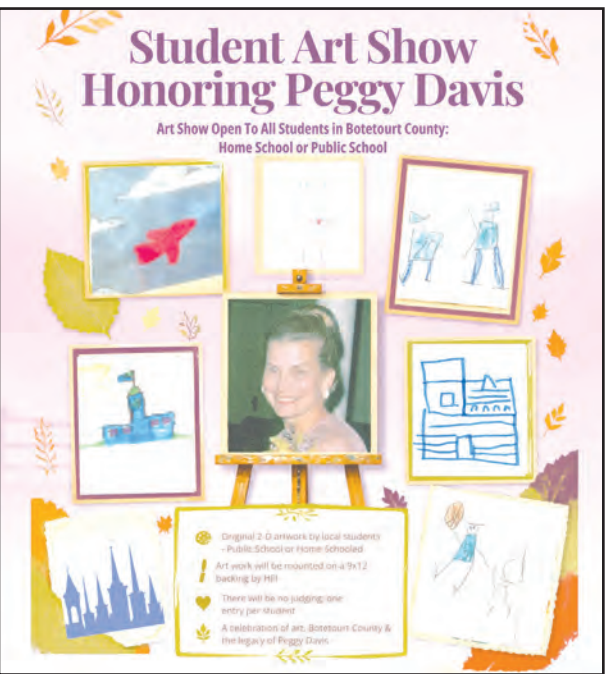
See **Water**, page 10

## Student art show to honor Peggy Davis at Fincastle Festival

**Matt de Simone**  
Managing Editor

For nearly six decades, Peggy Davis helped preserve Fincastle's history and promote the arts. This year, the Historic Fincastle Festival will honor her legacy by putting the spotlight on a new generation of local artists.

See **Art show**, page 5



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF HFI

2026 SEASON

**Daleville**  
town center

Scan here for complete event schedule, and details.

**AUG 29**

**BOTETOURT FARMERS MARKET**

8:30 to NOON

**SEPT 5**

**THE KINGS**

5-9PM

**SEPT 11**

**BIG MATT**

AND THE TIME MACHINE

5-9PM

Barcode: 33463 00107 5



# Blasting and slow rolls scheduled on Interstate 81 in Botetourt

As part of the ongoing Interstate 81 widening project between exits 143 to 150 in Roanoke and Botetourt counties, drivers can expect noise and delays due to blasting and slow rolls on Interstate 81.

Starting the week of August 24 and continuing into mid-October, blasting will occur for about eight weeks between 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., Tuesday through Thursday. Exact days and times will be communicated weekly. Message boards will alert drivers.

Slow rolls will be used in both directions:

- Northbound lanes beginning at the 146 on-ramp (Plantation Road)
- Southbound lanes beginning at the 156 on-ramp (Troutville)

During a slow roll, law enforcement will slow and possibly stop traffic to allow for a safe and traffic-free space on the roadway within the construction zone during blasting operations. Each slow roll is anticipated to last up to 15 minutes.

Drivers should expect loud noises and are encouraged to allow extra travel time. Updated information will appear on message boards in the area.

Expect delays, heavy congestion and use alternate routes.

In addition, in the coming days, construction entrances will be finished along the inside left lane northbound and southbound next to the median and existing barrier wall. Lane markings in yellow and movement of barrier walls will allow space for a modified turn lane on the interstate for these trucks to use to enter the work areas. These entrances are for construction and delivery trucks entering the work zone only and signage will be posted accordingly. Drivers should watch for trucks slowing down for access and allow them space as needed.



For the latest road conditions in Virginia, use VDOT's 511 free mobile app, visit 511 Virginia and follow the VDOT Salem District on Facebook or X.

FILE GRAPHIC ~ Virginia Department of Transportation

## Chamber Chatter



PHOTO COURTESY OF BOTETOURT CO. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
Sheriff Matthew Ward, Teresa Fridley, and Maiya Ashby

## Tinsel Trail donation supports Botetourt County Sheriff's Office

Proceeds from the Botetourt Chamber of Commerce's annual Tinsel Trail are giving back to the community through a \$500 charitable donation to the Botetourt County Sheriff's Office.

Teresa Fridley of First Bank and Chamber Board Member Maiya Ashby of Craig-Botetourt Electric Cooperative recently presented the donation to Sheriff Matthew Ward. According to the Chamber, the funds will support community-focused events and initiatives provided by the Sheriff's Office throughout the year.

The donation is part of the Chamber's annual Tinsel Trail, a holiday tradition featuring 45 decorated Christmas trees.

The Sheriff's Office also has a direct connection to the event. Deputy Jonathan Mason has served on the Tinsel Trail Committee for several years and works with his workforce group each season to help install all 45 trees.

The Chamber said Mason and the group's assistance is an important part of bringing the Tinsel Trail to life each year.

The Chamber encouraged community members to participate in this year's Tinsel Trail by reserving a tree and helping continue the event's tradition of giving back to the community.

Trees for the upcoming Tinsel Trail can be reserved through the Botetourt Chamber of Commerce.

~ Fincastle Herald staff report

## Salem VA to host upcoming Veteran Enrollment Fair



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF SALEM VA

The Salem VA Health Care System will hold a Summer VetFest Veteran Enrollment Fair from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 29, at the Salem VA Medical Center, 1970 Roanoke Blvd., Salem.

The event, open to all veterans, their family members and caregivers, will be a one-stop shop for all major Veterans Administration services and resources – connecting veterans to VA care and benefits with same-day services.

At VetFest, veterans can enroll in VA health care on the spot. Then, after enrolling they can receive an initial Primary Care appointment with a VA doctor on the same day. To enroll, veterans should bring their DD-214, a valid photo ID, and any insurance information.

VetFest is also an opportunity for veterans to file a Veteran Benefits Claim, or to check on the status of an existing claim. Local Veteran Benefits Administration representatives will be on-site to offer one-on-one claims counseling.

Other services offered at VetFest will include toxic exposure screenings, one-on-one private mental health support, and the opportunity to connect and learn more about a large variety of VA programs. Featured veteran programs include Women's Health, Homeless Care/Housing, Suicide Prevention, Caregiver Support, Social Work, Whole Health, Roanoke VET Center Support, and VA volunteering opportunities.

"A key part of fulfilling our mission is ensuring that veterans within our community receive the health care they have earned for serving our nation," said Tammy Snyder, executive director of the Salem VA Health Care System. "This engaging, accessible event allows veterans to easily connect with our team to access the care and benefits they deserve. They served us, now it's our duty and honor to serve them."

For a head start on enrolling in VA health care, veterans can complete an online form before the event. There is no requirement to complete this form, but its completion will assist with the enrollment process. Learn more at [www.va.gov/salem](http://www.va.gov/salem) health-care or call 540-982-2463 for enrollment information.

Complimentary summer picnic food, snacks, and drinks will be available to attendees.

~ Fincastle Herald staff report

SALEM RIDGEYAKS VS HILL CITY HOWLERS

SEPT. 1st 6:35 PM

2-for-1 Tuesday

SEPT. 2 6:35 PM

SEPT. 3 6:35 PM

SEPT. 4 6:35 PM

Fan Appreciation Night

SEPT. 5 6:35 PM

First Responders Appreciation Night

SEPT. 6 2:05 PM

SIRENS AND SALUTES

9/11 Memorial Walk

Buchanan, Va

Friday, September 11

Walk starts at Buchanan Fire House,

Meet at 08:30

Walk promptly starts at 8:46

ALL ARE WELCOME

GRAPHIC COURTESY OF SIRENS AND SALUTES

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## Buchanan Movie in the Park

Sat, Aug 29, Buchanan Town Park  
Enjoy a free, family-friendly movie at the Buchanan Town Park, beginning around sunset. Popcorn, drinks, and candy will be available for purchase from the Buchanan Friends of the Library. This community event is presented by Buchanan Lions Club, Botetourt Parks & Recreation, Buchanan Library, Buchanan Friends of the Library, Standing Room Only, and the Town Improvement Society.

## Blue Connection Music at the Library

Sat, Aug 29, 11 AM, Blue Ridge  
Join us for fellowship and music, featuring the Virginia-based bluegrass band Blue Connection.

## Yoga for Beginners

Thu, Aug 27, 6:30 PM, Blue Ridge  
Tue, Sep 1, 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.

## STEM Projects

Mon, Aug 31-Sat, Sep 4, All Day, Fincastle  
Drop in for STEM projects. August 31-September 4. Flexangles are paper models that can be flexed to reveal hidden images. Best for ages 6-18.

## Creative Writing Workshop

Wed, Sep 2, 6:30 PM, Blue Ridge  
Meet others who share a passion for writing and get prompts for when you're feeling writer's block, suffering from a lack of ideas, or simply wanting to try something new. Best for ages 16+. Registration required. Register at <https://botetourtva.libcal.com/> or call 540-928-2900 with questions.

Learn more about Botetourt Libraries at [bocolibraries.info](http://bocolibraries.info)

# Longbeards annual banquet September 17

The Botetourt Longbeards Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation is holding its annual fundraising banquet on Thursday, Sept. 17. Again this year the event will be held at the Barn at Back Creek, 528 Back Creek Lane, Buchanan. Tickets may be purchased from

any Longbeards member or online by accessing [events.nwtf.org](http://events.nwtf.org). Questions can be directed to Richard Pauley (540-254-2564) or Ed McCoy (540-339-0622).

~ Botetourt Longbeards

League for Animal Protection's  
**Waif of the Week**

**Dazzle**

Dazzle is a German Shepherd mix. Dazzle is about 9 months old and such a sweet girl. She is a little timid at first but quickly warms up! She's spayed and up to date on vaccines.

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

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**CROSSWORD PUZZLE**

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| 62 |    |    |    |    | 63 |    |    |    | 64 |    |    |

CLUES ACROSS

1. Taxis  
5. Space Systems Command  
8. Plant seed by scattering  
11. Alliances  
13. Fiddler crabs  
14. Heroic tale  
15. Yemen capital  
16. Misleading gesture  
17. Cain and \_\_\_\_  
18. Simple shoe  
20. Hundredweight  
21. Children's toy in the snow  
22. Gets rid of  
25. Free of deceit  
30. Performed a dance  
31. Chinese philosophical principle  
32. Exaggerated  
33. Refrain from inflicting

38. A doctrine  
41. Can be subdued  
43. A place to bathe  
45. Land used for pasture  
48. Curved piece of iron  
49. Automobile  
50. Fencing sword  
55. Breezes through  
56. Child  
57. NBA legend Iverson  
59. Horsley and Iacocca are two  
60. Midway between northeast and east  
61. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation  
62. U.S. leader during much of WW2  
63. Lair  
64. Fibrous material

CLUES DOWN

1. Home of O60 Minutes  
2. Expression of sorrow or pity  
3. \_\_\_\_ fide: legitimate  
4. Immune response  
5. Assistance and support  
6. Glared  
7. Spanish saloon  
8. Pitch black  
9. S-shaped lines  
10. Statistical test  
12. \_\_\_\_ Paulo, city  
14. Graduation garb  
19. A way to record  
23. Not good  
24. Weather events  
25. A pituitary hormone  
26. Jamie Foxx film  
27. Rocker's accessory  
28. One point east (clockwise) of due north

29. One who obtains pleasure from another's pain  
34. Consume  
35. Licensed for Wall Street  
36. Sick  
37. Israeli city \_\_\_\_ Aviv  
39. Removed the husk  
40. Mass of rocks and sediment  
41. Two-year-old sheep  
42. Area units  
44. Prison overseer  
45. Walked  
46. Wartime escort aircraft carrier  
47. Tax  
48. 50 percent  
51. Swiss river  
52. Tattle  
53. Actor Idris  
54. Resist authority (slang)  
58. Egg of a louse

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Patterson questions Tyson's retaliation claims

To borrow an often used phrase from Paul Harvey, we may be learning “the rest of the story,” or at least part of it, regarding the alleged retaliation which, at the August 10, 2026 Planning Commission (PC) meeting, Mark Tyson proclaimed is being directed toward him, apparently regarding his actions at the July 28 Board of Supervisors (BoS) meeting.

He had staff display on the big screen an “excerpt” from a letter he said was provided by “a supervisor” which was highlighted in yellow, and he read it aloud. All guesses made about the identity of the supervisor who “provided” this to him were correct!

The Disgruntled Californian (DC) Buchanan District Supervisor Rottman sent an email to nine people (all members of the PC, one former member of the PC, the county attorney and his legal assistant, the county administrator and the chairman of the Board of Supervisors) on August 3, 2026. The subject of this email was listed as a “2026-08-03 letter to M. Tyson (BOS and Planning Commission), etc.”

I have now been advised that said letter is an attorney-client privileged communication, so that letter must be the “word salad” response Mr. Tyson said he had received from the county attorney. Could it be that the county attorney witnessed his unhinged behavior on July 28 and his letter did not say what Mr. Tyson wanted to hear?

Why could not Mr. Tyson reveal that the “excerpt” from that email was sent by the DC rather than saying it was provided by “a supervisor”? Did he want the public to think it was any

supervisor other than the DC who might think anyone who questioned his appalling outburst at that BoS meeting was an act of retaliation against him? Or, did he not want to revisit the shameful incident she referenced in the first and only other sentence thereof in which she stated, “I have no personal information about encounters between David, Mark Tyson and his wife, so have no comment about what may or may not have occurred”? Had she seen it, one can rest assured she would have characterized it as a display of “great fervor,” which would be an extremely kind and sympathetic description of what he bellowed!

If Mr. Tyson were so wrongly mistreated for something he did or didn't do, why not tell the whole story? Was it because he doesn't think there is anything questionable about his abysmal behavior at the BoS meeting on July 28? Why doesn't he just provide a copy of the “rather lengthy letter that I sent to Mr. Lockaby” which he mentioned while consuming the first part of the meeting with this nonsense? We can then compare what he said therein to what actually happened. Does he fear that, if the truth be told, he would look like the villain rather than the victim he claims to be? Does he think he is fooling anyone with this charade?

Mr. Tyson asks a lot of questions. Perhaps he needs to look into a mirror to get answers to most, if not all, of them. Does he not think that people have serious questions about his conduct, which he calls “passionate,” but which others call outrageous, disgraceful and shocking? It occurs to many that whatever caused him, as he said, to be banned from having any contact with the planning department or any supervisor, must have been far, far beyond his just being passionate.

See **Letters**, page 7

# ARRESTS

Aug. 17-Aug. 23, 2026

The Botetourt County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests Aug. 17-Aug. 23:

- Casey M. Bindas, 31, of Thomason, Ga., indecent exposure, Aug. 17
- James T. Jones, 34, of New Castle, violation of a protective order, Aug. 17
- Kendall J. Turner, 24, of Hardy, assault and battery, Aug. 18
- Jonathan R. Brunk, 47, of Bedford, drunk in public, Aug. 19
- Savannah A. Gatewood, 21, of Bedford, unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, Aug. 19
- Spencer C. Mumpower, 37, of Roanoke, obstruction of justice, Aug. 19
- Julianna R. Savoy, 58, of Williamsburg, grand larceny, Aug. 20
- Dakota A. Hall, 18, of Buchanan, vandalism, Aug. 21
- Trevor C. Nelson, 38, of Bedford, sell, distribute, transport, or market human urine in the Commonwealth with the intent of using the urine to defeat a drug or alcohol screening test, contributing to the delinquency of a minor, Aug. 22

- Jessica R. Doyle, 36, of Thaxton, driving revoked, contributing to the delinquency of a minor, sell, distribute, transport, or market human urine in the Commonwealth with the intent of using the urine to defeat a drug or alcohol screening test, Aug. 22
- Lacey N. Lawhorne, 21, of Buchanan, drunk in public, Aug. 22
- Alvestar M. Lewis Jr., 29, of Christiansburg, driving under the influence, Aug. 23
- Joses A. Cisneros-Perez, 50, of Council Bluffs, Iowa, driving under the influence, Aug. 23
- Sarah K. Fielder, 40, of Goode, possession of Schedule drugs, Aug. 23

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See **Answers**, page 10

# Attic Productions to open ‘Puffs’ Thursday

Attic Productions will bring a different perspective to the world of wizardry when it opens its latest production, “Puffs (or: Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic and Magic),” Thursday at the D. Geraldine Lawson Performing Arts Center in Fincastle.

Written by Matt Cox and directed by Kalee Weimann, “Puffs” follows a group of students who attend a certain famous school of magic during the same seven years as a certain famous boy wizard, only this story focuses on the students who were never destined to save the world.

The fast-paced comedy offers a humorous look at the magical school experience through the eyes of the Puffs, a group



PHOTO COURTESY OF ATTIC PRODUCTIONS  
“Puffs” opens Thursday night at the Attic in Fincastle.

known for being loyal, hardworking and perhaps a little less celebrated than some of the school’s more famous students.

The show opens Thursday, Aug. 27, and continues through Sept. 6. Performances are scheduled for 7:30 p.m.

Thursdays and Fridays, with 2:30 p.m. matinees on Saturdays and Sundays.

For more information, visit Attic Productions’ website or contact the theater at 540-473-1001.

- Fincastle Herald staff report



PHOTO COURTESY OF DALEVILLE FINCASTLE LIONS  
Pictured at the check presentation are (from left) Ashley Osborne, Food Pantry shift supervisor; Bill Walker, Lions Club treasurer; Betty Reynolds, Lions Club; Jim Reynolds, Lions Club; Martha Rogers, Food Pantry co-chair; Lowell Skelton, Lions Club secretary; and Pat Tayloe, Lions Club.

## Lions donate \$12,000 to Botetourt Food Pantry

The Daleville Fincastle Lions Club presented a \$12,000 donation to the Botetourt Food Pantry in Fincastle at the club members’ regular workday on August 22. The donation was funded by \$4,000 from the local Daleville Fincastle Lions and an \$8,000 from a grant received from the Lions of Virginia Foundation.

In addition to supporting the local Food Pantry financially and working there once a month, the local Lions Club is active by providing service to the community by performing the annual required Vision Screening in the Botetourt County Public Schools, volunteering at the Troutville Volunteer Fire Dept., supporting diabetes by participating in the annual Diabetes Walk and Camp Too Sweet for Type 1 diabetic children, conducting the Bland Music contest for local young musicians, financially supporting the Botetourt County “Character Counts” program

for rising sixth graders, collecting eyeglasses to be recycled, providing eyeglasses assistance, participating in the annual Youth Extravaganza at the YMCA, participating in the annual “Tinsel Tree” project in Fincastle, financially supporting the Botetourt Technical Education Center, participating in the Bombas Socks distribution program, and financially supporting Lions charities and local charities.

The motto of Lions Worldwide is “We Serve.” Anyone who would like information on how to provide service to the community through the local Lions Club may contact Lion Lowell Skelton by texting to (540) 420-2427 or emailing to lskelton0169@jetbroadband.com.

- Submitted by Daleville Fincastle Lions Club

## Fincastle Friends of the Library book sale

Just in time for the Fincastle Festival, the Fincastle Friends of the Library will hold a used book sale on Thursday, September 24 (9 a.m. to 8 p.m.); Friday, September 25 (9 a.m. to 5 p.m.); and Saturday, September 26 (9 a.m. to 4 p.m.).

Shoppers will find a wide selection of gently used books, puzzles, games, and movies for all ages and interests. On Thursday, items will be

individually priced. On Friday, books may be purchased by the bag for \$10, and on Saturday, bags of books will be available for \$5. Plan to pay with cash or check.

Thanks to generous donations from members of the community, the Fincastle Library meeting room will be filled with books, movies, and

See Book sale, page 7

## Art show

from page 1

Historic Fincastle, Inc. (HFI) is sponsoring a student art show during the festival Sept. 26, inviting students from throughout Botetourt County to create artwork celebrating the county.

Davis, who passed away in January, was one of the 16 original signers of Historic Fincastle’s Articles of Incorporation in 1968 and was the last surviving member of that group, according to information provided by HFI President Patsy Dickerson. She remained active with the organization for 58 years, serving in numerous positions, including treasurer, president, publicity director, art show chairwoman and Fincastle Festival chairwoman.

“She was her own person,” said Angela Coon, one of Davis’ longtime friends. “She definitely had her own ideas about things, and was glad to share them.”

Coon said Davis was always interested in the arts and volunteered at the Taubman Museum of Art in Roanoke. Davis also maintained a private art collection that included works by numerous local artists. Her passion for the arts extended well beyond her work with Historic Fincastle.

“She loved to travel,”

Coon said. “And she was interested in music and art and all kinds of things.”

Davis’ involvement with the Fincastle Festival was particularly meaningful. Coon, who helped run the festival for eight or nine years, served alongside Davis on the festival board.

“She always enjoyed the festival, obviously,” Coon said. “And she liked to be associated with the art show in particular.”

Davis also helped oversee the festival’s longtime art show, which traditionally featured artwork displayed along the fencing around the Botetourt County Courthouse.

Lynne Bolton, another longtime friend, said Davis was a prominent presence in the Fincastle community.

“She was a force to be reckoned with all through Fincastle,” Bolton said.

Bolton said she grew up with Davis and their families were close enough that Davis was known as “Aunt Peggy,” despite not being a blood relative.

Davis’ commitment to the community extended beyond Historic Fincastle. She volunteered with local cultural organizations and remained involved in the arts throughout her life.

Historic Fincastle President Patsy Dickerson

said Davis’ home reflected that passion. Artwork filled the rooms, including pieces by well-known artists, local creators and Davis’ grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Davis also devoted much of her life to her family. She was the mother of five children, grandmother of seven and great-grandmother of eight.

Now, HFI hopes children throughout Botetourt County will help continue the artistic tradition Davis worked so hard to foster.

The art show is not a competition. Students may submit artwork in any two-dimensional medium, excluding photography, with the artwork depicting something related to Botetourt County.

Artwork will be displayed in the Luster Building during the Fincastle Festival, which will be held Sept. 26 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Entries must be submitted by Friday, Sept. 17, at any First Bank branch or Botetourt County library. HFI is also working with local schools in hopes that they will help collect submissions.

Entry forms and additional information are available at hisfin.org.

For those who knew Davis, the tribute honors a member of the community who spent much of her life promoting the arts and preserving the community she loved.

“I think she’d love it,” Coon said of the student art show. “I think she’d absolutely love it.”



## Community Service Directory

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**ANGLICAN**  
**Orchard Hills Church** - 6032 Cloverdale Rd. next to Read Mountain Fire Station. Worship at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sundays. Home group Bible studies available throughout the week. Pastor Scott McClucas, 977-6800. To find out more about Orchard Hills Church go to the website at [www.orchardhillschurch.org](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:jwr56fbc@yahoo.com), Church website: [fincastlefaith.com](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.phbcweb.com).

**Springwood Baptist Church** – 88 Copp's Hill Rd., Buchanan; Rev. Mike Anderson, 540-819-4616, Email [pmike09@outlook.com](mailto: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.

### God Repays

Read Ezekiel 24:1 through 27:36

Why do people sometimes seem to get away with sinning? Does God look away when these evils come against His children?

““Your wealth, merchandise and wares, your mariners, sailors and shipwrights, your merchants and all your soldiers, and everyone else on board will sink into the heart of the sea on the day of your shipwreck”” (Ezekiel 27:27).

When Israel turned away from the Lord, the people became prey for the enemies of God. The nations that attacked Israel assumed God would not judge their sin, but they were mistaken. God watched and recorded every evil deed. A day of accounting was decreed. In time, Israel's enemies lost wealth, status, and strength. Some even disappeared from the world altogether.

When trials come, Christians should not presume that God is unconcerned with their struggles. He sometimes uses difficulties to discipline and train them for righteousness. As His people wait upon Him, their faith grows.

One day you will be lifted above your trials, and retribution will be given to those who would plunder you.

Prayer Suggestion: Lord, I trust You even now.

Quicklook: Ezekiel 27:26–31

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](mailto: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](mailto:troutvillecob@hotmail.com) and website is [troutvillecob.org](http://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](http://www.eck-va.org) or call 540- 535-5365. 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](http://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 [osloanoke.com](http://osloanoke.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](mailto: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](http://woodlandchurchbc.com). E-mail address: [woodlandchurchbc@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.buchananpresbyterian.org). Contact [www.admin@buchananpresbyterian.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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.





# Marketplace

  
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Public Auction

**Notice of Public Auction**  
The contents of the following storage unit(s) will be sold at Public Auction to enforce our owner's lien: Unit #434  
Sale will be conducted at B&B Storage, At 1015 Radford St., Christiansburg VA on Friday, August 28, 2026, at 10:00 A.M.  
All sales are final & CASH only

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 Monday, September 14, 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 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 COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA  
BY: H. Robert Light  
Clerk of Council

  
ADVERTISEMENT FOR SNOW REMOVAL EQUIPMENT SERVICES WITH OPERATOR SIGNUP

The Virginia Department of Transportation invites heavy equipment owners to sign up for the rental of their equipment with operators for SNOW & ICE REMOVAL purposes in Salem Residency which includes the counties of Roanoke, Botetourt and Craig during the winter of 2026-2027. Price per hour shall include operators, fuel, tire chains, supplies

Legals - City of Salem

and required insurance. VDOT will need dump trucks, pickups with plows, motorgraders, backhoes, dozers, track loaders, tractors, rubbertire loaders and farm tractors. All equipment shall be equipped for night work and be in good mechanical condition to ensure a safe and dependable 24/7 operation. VDOT reserves the right to determine acceptability of equipment size and condition for the task. Contractors submitting prices meeting the requirements of the Agreement may be contracted with and may be eligible to receive a bonus payment and a minimum guaranteed payment for the season. Contractors must submit their application on the electronic M7B bidding site at <https://plow4va.vdot.virginia.gov>. All new and returning Contractors must be active in the Virginia eProcurement Portal (eVA) in order to do business with the Commonwealth of Virginia (<https://eva.virginia.gov>). Applications received by 7:00 PM on Friday September 18, 2026 may be eligible for a bonus payment. See the EVA posting for additional information, including contract requirements. Questions can be directed to the Salem Residency from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Monday – Friday. Phone: 540-387-5497. Email: SalemDistrictSnow@vdot.virginia.gov  
EEO/AA Employee

Legals - Montgomery County

  
ADVERTISEMENT FOR SNOW REMOVAL EQUIPMENT SERVICES WITH OPERATOR SIGNUP

The Virginia Department of Transportation invites heavy equipment owners to sign up for the rental of their equipment with operators for SNOW & ICE REMOVAL purposes in Christiansburg Residency which includes the counties of Floyd, Giles, Montgomery, and Pulaski during the winter of 2026-2027. Price per hour shall include operators, fuel, tire chains, supplies and required insurance. VDOT will need dump trucks, pickups with plows, motorgraders, backhoes, dozers, track loaders, tractors, rubber-tire loaders and farm tractors. All equipment shall be equipped for night work and be in good mechanical condition to ensure a safe and dependable 24/7 operation. VDOT reserves the right to determine acceptability of equipment size and condition for the task. Contractors submitting prices meeting the requirements of the Agreement may be contracted with and may be eligible to receive a bonus payment and a minimum guaranteed payment for the season. Contractors must submit their application on the electronic M7B bidding site at <https://plow4va.vdot.virginia.gov>. All new and returning Contractors must be active in the Virginia eProcurement Portal (eVA) in order to do business with the Commonwealth of Virginia (<https://eva.virginia.gov>). Applications received by 7:00 PM on Friday September 18, 2026 may be eligible for a bonus payment. See the EVA posting for additional information, including contract requirements. Questions can be directed to the Christiansburg Residency from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Monday –Friday. Phone: 540-381-7201 Email: SalemDistrictSnow@vdot.virginia.gov  
EEO/AA Employer

  
**The best place to find it, sell it, buy it, and announce it.**  
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Legals - Montgomery County

**Order of Publication**  
Commonwealth of Virginia  
VA Code §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316,-317,20-104  
**Case No. CL26-1624**  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT, 55 EAST MAIN STREET, SUITE 1, CHRISTIANSBURG, VA 24073  
VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY  
ALISON JUSTUS, Plaintiff,  
v.  
UNKNOWN HEIRS OF MELVIN E. SCOTT, INDIVIDUALLY, AND AS TRUSTEE UNDER THE SCOTT LIVING TRUST DATED JUNE 16, 1999,

UNKNOWN HEIRS OF NAOMI W. SCOTT, INDIVIDUALLY, AND AS TRUSTEE UNDER THE SCOTT LIVING TRUST DATED JUNE 16, 1999,

UNKNOWN SUCCESSORS IN TRUST UNDER THE SCOTT LIVING TUST DATED JUNE 16, 1999, and

UNKNOWN BENEFICIARIES UNDER THE SCOTT LIVING TRUST DATED JUNE 16, 1999, Defendant(s).

The object of this suit is to reform the Deed dated August 21, 2003, recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Montgomery County, Virginia, as Instrument No. 2003014538, and confirm title in Alison Justus. An Affidavit having been filed stating that due diligence has been used, without effect, to ascertain the location of the named Defendant(s), that the Defendant(s) may be non-residents of Virginia and maintain no domicile with ion the borders of the Commonwealth, or are deceased, or that there may be parties who have an interest in the property but are unknown, namely, heirs, devisees, and successors in title of the named Defendant(s), made Defendant(s) by the general description of Parties Unknown, it is hereby ORDERED that he named Defendant(s) and all Parties Unknown appear on or before October 14, 2026, and do what may be necessary to protect their interests in this cause.  
Entered 8/17/26  
Honorable Robert M.D. Turk  
Judge  
I Ask For This:  
N. Reid Broughton (VSB No. 38899)  
Katie M. Decoster (VSB No. 82696)  
Sands Anderson PC  
P.O. Box 2009  
Christiansburg, VA 24068-2009  
(540)260-9011  
(540) 260-0022 fax

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, September 14, 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. An ordinance of the Town of Christiansburg amending the 2013 Comprehensive Plan by adopting a revised Comprehensive Plan consisting of the following elements:  
Government, Environment, Economic Development, Recreation and Destination, Infrastructure, Transportation, Public Safety, Housing, and Future Land Use, including the Future Land Use Map. Town Hall will be open and available to receive public comments in-person at the time of this Public Hearing. A copy of the proposed revised Comprehensive Plan 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](mailto:planning@christiansburg.org), with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations.

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, September 8, 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. 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.  
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](mailto:planning@christiansburg.org), with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations.

Trustee's Sale

1990 Reesedale Road, Elliston, Virginia 24087 (Parcel ID: 022175; Tax Map No.: 057- 2 6)  
Default having been made in the terms of a certain Deed of Trust dated December 29, 2015, in the original principal amount of \$106,837.00 and recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of the County of Montgomery, Virginia in Instrument No. 150009429, the undersigned Substitute Trustees will sell at public auction on September 25, 2026, at 3:00 PM in front of the building housing the Montgomery County Circuit Court, 55 East Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073, the property designated as Lot number six (6), as shown on plat entitled "Survey for [...] Kaulback" showing Subdivision of 45.86 acre tract, Mt. Tabor District, Montgomery County, Virginia, which plat is dated June 18, 1979, prepared by T.P. Parker and Son, C.L.S., designated no. 6256, and recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court in Montgomery County, Virginia, in Plat Book 9, page 197. Sale is subject to all prior liens, easements, restrictions, covenants, and conditions, if any, of record, or other matters which would be disclosed by an accurate survey or inspection of the premises. TERMS: CASH. A deposit of \$11,000.00 or 10% of the sale price, whichever is lower, will be required of the successful bidder at time of sale. Prior to the sale, interested bidders will be required to register with and must present a bid deposit which may be held during the sale by the trustee. The bid deposit must be certified funds and/or cash, but no more than \$9,900.00 of cash will be accepted. The successful bidder's deposit will be retained at the sale and applied to the sale price. If held by the trustee, all other bid deposits will be returned to the unsuccessful bidders. Settlement is to be made within 15 calendar days. The successful bidder will be responsible for obtaining possession of the property, and for all costs and fees related to recording the Trustee's Deed, including the grantors tax. The successful bidder will be required to execute a Memorandum of Trustee's Sale, available for review on the Foreclosure Sales page of [www.glasserlaw.com](http://www.glasserlaw.com), outlining additional terms of sale and settlement. A Trustee's Deed will be prepared by Trustee's attorney at high bidder's expense. This is a communication from a debt collector, Glasser and Glasser, P.L.C. on behalf of Atlantic Trustee Services, L.L.C., and/or M. Brennan Hutt d/b/a H&H Abstracting, and/or NFPDS-VA LLC, Substitute Trustees, Crown Center Building, Suite 600, 580 East Main Street, Norfolk, VA 23510, File No. 233457-02, Tel: (757) 321-6465, between 10:00 a.m. & 12:00 noon only.

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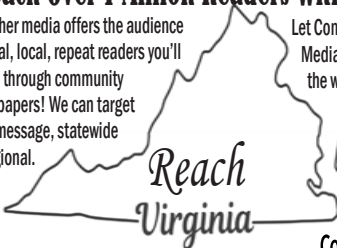
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# Water

from page 1

conservation not expected until later this fall under current water-use conditions.

According to the authority, Carvins Cove reached levels of approximately 25 to 30 feet below full pond during late August in the 1999 and 2002 droughts. Spring Hollow Reservoir was 17.5 feet below full pond, or 78.3% of its capacity.

To reduce reliance on Carvins Cove, WVWA said it is increasing water from Spring Hollow, using wells, purchasing some water from Salem and repairing system leaks.

The authority’s website lists Carvins Cove’s full-pond design capacity at 6.42 billion gallons.

Questions have also been raised about whether that figure includes water that cannot be accessed for normal water-supply operations.

WVWA said the 6.42-billion-gallon figure is the reservoir’s design capacity. Multiple intake pipes are positioned at different elevations at the dam, allowing operators to draw water from different levels as reservoir conditions change, according to the authority. The lowest intake is at an elevation of 1,120 feet, while additional infrastructure below that level can be used to flush sediment. Temporary pumping systems could also be deployed to capture remaining water if necessary.

The authority’s bathymetric studies—the measurement of

water depth and the shape of the bottom surface—indicate some sedimentation has occurred over the reservoir’s approximately 80-year history and estimate a loss of about 4% to 5% of storage capacity, concentrated below the lowest intake. WVWA said sedimentation has not had a significant effect on the reservoir’s overall storage capacity.

An engineering curve showing the relationship between reservoir elevation and storage capacity is available, according to WVWA. Its website also provides current reservoir levels, gallons remaining, percentage of capacity and historical measurements.

The proposed Google data center has become a particular focus of water-supply questions because the company’s potential demand could increase as the project expands.

At a recent Amsterdam District town hall, Google representatives said the company’s current agreement with WVWA provides for up to 2 million gallons of water per day for its initial operation. The authority confirmed that figure.

If Google seeks additional water as the project expands, the agreement allows the company to request up to another 6 million gallons per day, for a potential total of 8 million gallons per day, according to WVWA. Any additional allocation would require a request to the WVWA

Board of Directors.

The 8-million-gallon figure therefore represents a potential maximum allocation rather than Google’s current water allocation.

The first data center building will use air cooling instead of water cooling, according to WVWA. As a result, water for that building will primarily be used for restrooms, sinks and fire protection rather than cooling computer equipment.

WVWA said Google has not announced the cooling systems planned for the second and third buildings. The authority said the project’s total water demand is expected to be lower than originally anticipated because the first building will not use water for cooling.

The authority also noted that maximum-day demand figures are used for peak system planning and that average daily demand is expected to be lower because cooling requirements vary seasonally.

WVWA’s existing Drought Contingency Plan was developed in 2007, before the possibility of a large data center customer in the region was anticipated. The authority plans to update the plan in the future to account for very large water users, but said it will not make changes while the region is experiencing a drought.

Google has agreed to follow the authority’s existing drought requirements, according to

WVWA.

The authority reviewed Google’s request for up to 2 million gallons per day for the project’s first phase before the Water Authority’s Board of Directors approved the request.

The county said future water demand will be considered through broader regional water-resource planning. According to the county, WVWA’s drought planning and consideration of future water users will be part of that process, while the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission is undertaking an updated regional water plan.

A representative from the Regional Commission was expected to update the Board of Supervisors on regional water planning at its Tuesday meeting, according to the county.

The county said those planning efforts will consider future water demand, system capacity, drought conditions and other factors as the region plans for the coming decades. As the Google project moves through future phases, its water needs will be considered as part of that broader planning and regulatory process.

WVWA also pointed to changes in regional water use and infrastructure since the 2002 drought. The authority said it treated approximately 23 million gallons of water per day for about 55,500 customers 20 years ago. Today, it treats approximately 21

million gallons per day for about 70,000 customers, which WVWA attributed to increased efficiency.

The regional system also has additional water sources and improved connections between them, according to the authority. Crystal Spring and Muse Spring are now contributing to the system, while a project completed two years ago allows treated water from the Spring Hollow distribution area to flow into the Carvins Cove distribution area.

The authority said it has not received a request from a new customer for up to 1 million gallons per day, disputing a recently circulated claim that such an agreement had been reached.

WVWA remains in the voluntary conservation phase of its drought plan and is closely monitoring reservoir levels. The threshold for mandatory conservation varies during the year and, based on current water use, is expected to be reached at about 26 feet below full pond later in the fall, according to the authority.

The authority’s current reservoir information and drought updates are available at <https://www.westernvawater.org/level>.

~ Fincastle Herald staff report

# Trailhead

from page 1

of a broader effort to improve trails and accommodate visitors while protecting the natural resources that draw hikers to the region.

“These changes are also evidence of broader trail



PHOTOS COURTESY OF OFFICE OF TERRY AUSTIN

**Hikers prepare to cross the new pedestrian bridge over Catawba Creek.**

improvements along the A.T. as it passes Roanoke due to the region’s popularity as a hiking destination,” Herndon-Powell said in the release.

The Andy Layne Trail has been maintained through a partnership between Roanoke Cement, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy and the Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club since 1991. The trail is marked by blue blazes and crosses land owned by Roanoke Cement.

As the company has expanded its operations, it worked with the trail organizations to maintain public access.

“For 35 years, Roanoke Cement has partnered with the Appalachian Trail Conservancy because being a responsible operator and community partner means caring for the natural resources and recreational opportunities that surround our operations and that make our region special,” said Kevin Baird, president of Titan America’s Mid-Atlantic Business Unit.

Baird said the partners have maintained trail access, repaired storm damage and designed the new route with a safer creek crossing, expanded trailhead and additional parking to serve the thousands of hikers who visit each year.

Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club President Linda Mulheren said in the Appalachian Trail Conservancy release that the Andy Layne Trail provides an important entry point to Tinker Cliffs, which is relatively remote.

“Without Andy Layne Trail, the awesome sights from

atop Tinker Cliffs would be far more difficult for hikers to reach,” Mulheren added. “People come from around the world to hike Virginia’s Triple Crown.”

Tinker Cliffs, along with McAfee Knob and Dragon’s Tooth, is among the most visited locations on the more than 2,100-mile Appalachian Trail, which stretches from Georgia to Maine.

The Andy Layne improvements follow the completion of a dedicated pedestrian bridge over Virginia 311 in spring 2025. That project improved access to McAfee Knob, another destination on the Virginia Triple Crown.

The Andy Layne Trail is named in honor of Andy Layne, a World War II veteran, outdoors enthusiast and longtime member of the Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club.

Austin said the Andy Layne Trail is “a tremendous asset for Botetourt County and the entire region” and praised Titan America, the Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy for working together to improve access while protecting the recreational resource.

The Appalachian Trail Conservancy said the new trailhead provides access to a 7-mile round-trip hike to Tinker Cliffs.

~ Fincastle Herald staff report

# Study

from page 1

became involved after an engineer hired by the private dam owners discovered that part of the dam extended onto county-owned property.

The county eventually acknowledged ownership of a portion of the dam, making it responsible for complying with state dam-safety requirements along with the private owners.

In 2022, the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR)

notified the dam’s owners that they needed to provide engineering and safety documents, including a professional inspection, emergency action plan and dam-break inundation study. The requirements also include regular inspections and maintenance.

According to the county’s history of the project, the private owners concluded that complying with the regulations would be difficult and expensive. Several options were discussed, including repairing the dam,

lowering its height, or breaching it, which would drain Orchard Lake and restore the creek.

The private owners also expressed concerns about downstream safety, liability and the cost of maintaining a regulated dam. There was no agreement among lake property owners to form a homeowners association or otherwise share the cost of maintaining or repairing the dam.

By August 2024, the private owners and county staff had concluded that breaching the dam and draining the lake appeared to be the most viable option, given the projected costs, liability concerns and lack of a collective funding arrangement.

The county subsequently helped the private owners pursue a grant for engineering work associated with a potential breach and lake drainage. But the county did not ultimately commit to removing the dam.

Instead, the Board of Supervisors directed staff to examine alternatives, including repair, lowering the dam or breaching and removing it. The county later authorized Timmons Group to conduct the engineering work, including the Dam Break Inundation Zone, or DBIZ, analysis and an alternatives analysis.

When the contract was approved, county Capital Projects Manager Rich Evans said the dam was

labeled high hazard on a presumptive basis, but that “nobody really knows that answer until the DBIZ study is completed.”

The completed study now provides that analysis. Timmons Group modeled several scenarios, including sudden failure under normal conditions and failures during major storms. The study concluded that the dam should be classified as high hazard because a failure could affect three downstream homes and nearby roads.

The county is not currently planning a separate interim action while the alternatives analysis is underway. Instead, officials say they are proceeding with the engineering review and required coordination with DCR.

According to the

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county, the alternatives analysis will examine the measures needed to address the spillway deficiency and bring the dam into compliance with state requirements. Timmons Group’s alternatives analysis is expected to be completed later this fall and will provide preliminary costs, timelines and engineering considerations for repair, lowering or removal.

Once the study is complete, the county will review its findings. Any significant decision regarding the future of the dam would involve the Board of Supervisors and a public process, according to the county.

The county said the purpose of the alternatives analysis is to fully evaluate the options before a determination is made.

For Orchard Lake residents, the completed DBIZ study provides a clearer picture of the potential consequences of a dam failure and what must be addressed to meet state requirements. The remaining question is which solution makes the most sense and what it will cost to implement.

~ Fincastle Herald staff report

# Hall is new varsity wrestling coach at James River

James River has finally announced a new wrestling coach and didn't have to look far to find one. Mike Hall, who has been the coach at Central Academy Middle School for the past three years, has been named to replace Bobby Stewart as head coach of the Knights.

Hall led the CAMS team to an undefeated season in 2025 as well as the championship of the valley-wide Norseman Invitational. He's excited to continue working with many of the wrestlers he has already coached and developed strong relationships with.

"I didn't accept this position because I wanted the title of head coach, and I certainly didn't accept it because I believe I'm the most qualified person for the job," said Hall. "I accepted it because I love coaching kids. Over the last several years I've had the privilege of coaching an incredible group of young men and women at Central Academy Middle School, and the relationships we've built have grown far beyond the wrestling mat. I've also seen what this sport has done in the lives of my two boys, Tucker and Sam. Wrestling builds confidence, resilience, discipline, and lifelong relationships, and that's what drew me to this opportunity."

Hall believes wrestling prepares young people for life by teaching them to face adversity, believe in themselves, and be accountable to something bigger than themselves. He welcomes both new and returning wrestlers, and looks forward to continuing to build on the strong foundation of wrestling in the Botetourt County community.

"Our goal is to build more than a winning wrestling team," he said. "We want to build a culture where every athlete knows they matter, knows they belong, and knows someone believes in them."

Hall is ready to hit the ground running. He knows a championship team won't be built overnight.

"My grandfather worked at the Norfolk Southern car shop and was also a master craftsman woodworker," he said. "Watching him taught me that nothing great starts finished. A piece of steel could become a train wheel capable of carrying

an entire train. A piece of wood could become furniture that would last for generations. It all depended on the craftsmanship and the willingness to invest the time.

"That's the inspiration behind our wrestling room, which we'll call The Foundry. Every athlete who walks through those doors arrives with potential. Our job is to pour three things into them every day: purpose, toughness, and character. The hard practices, the pressure, and the adversity aren't there to break them. They're there to shape them.

"As the home of the Knights, every knight needs an armory. The Foundry is ours. It's where we'll forge hammers, not because hammers tear things down, but because they build, create, and leave things stronger than they were before. That's the kind of young men and women we want to send into the world."

Mike is still finalizing the coaching staff. He's looking for community support as well.

"I know no great program is built alone," he said. "It's built by great assistant coaches, committed parents, volunteers and a community that believes in its kids. While we're still finalizing our coaching staff, I'm excited about the people who are coming alongside me and what I believe we'll accomplish together."

The Knights have traditionally been strong on the mats. Stewart coached a variety of state champions but last year he had trouble getting kids out for the team. Hall is hoping to reverse that trend and put strong team scores on the board again.

"Make no mistake, we're going to compete to win," he said. "We expect to wrestle hard, pursue championships, and build a program our community is proud to support. Winning matters because it reflects the commitment



PHOTO COURTESY JAMES RIVER HS

Mike Hall

and discipline our athletes invest every day, but in the end, my goal isn't simply to produce better wrestlers. It's that every young man and young woman who graduates from James River after being part of The Foundry leaves with purpose, toughness, and character. I believe if we stay focused on developing those three qualities every single day, the championships and the wins will take care of themselves."

# Lord Botetourt finishes second in district golf match at home course

The Lord Botetourt golf team shot team score of 323 to finish second in a Blue Ridge District golf match at the Botetourt Golf & Swim Club last week. LB's Alisa Davidova was the medalist with a 65.

Northside won the round with a team score of 313, Camden Spangler shot a 74 and Ryland Stump came in at 75 to lead the Vikings. Franklin County was third at 330, followed by William Byrd at 331 and Staunton River at 374.

Davidova took medalist honors by

# Football

from page 12

the game was resumed with Botetourt holding a 9-6 lead. That evaporated when Rye Cove scored in the final minute for the killer score.

Feeny led LB with 44 yards rushing on six carries as the Cavalier offense was held to 126 total yards. The Cavaliers were hurt by 13 penalties resulting in 109 yards.

"We just didn't get the job done," said Leftwich. "Last week was our first game and it should have been our second scrimmage, but I'm not

using that as an excuse. The kids were angry about Saturday and that's good. We'll get better."

The Cavaliers will host Rustburg for their home opener this week. The Red Devils are a Region 3C team from the Seminole District and they're coming off a rough 2025 season. They finished 0-10 last year under first year coach Trey Ross, including a 28-14 loss to Lord Botetourt.

"They have some athletes," said Leftwich.

"They're not big, but they have some speed. They run the option and we'll have to prepare for that type of offense."

The Lord Botetourt jayvees will play at Rustburg on Thursday, beginning at 6 p.m. The jayvees opened at home with Blacksburg last week and lost 7-0.

Look for a rundown of the 2026 Cavaliers in a special Fall Sports Preview section included in this week's Fincastle Herald.

# Cross country

from page 12

High, Christiansburg Middle, Fort Chiswell, Hidden Valley High, James Breckinridge Middle, James Madison Middle, John P. Fishwick Middle, Maury River Middle, North Cross, Northside High, Patrick Henry-Glade Spring, Radford, Shelburne Middle, William Byrd High and Woodrow Wilson Middle.

Look for previews of the James River and Lord Botetourt teams in a special Fall Sports Preview section included in this week's Fincastle Herald.

# LeBron dunks on long-time Sixers fan

I never thought LeBron James would keep me from doing something I love, but that seems to be the case.

I've been a Philadelphia 76ers fan all my life. In fact, I'm old enough to remember when Wilt Chamberlain played for the Philadelphia Warriors. When I was a little kid I cut pictures and box scores out of the Philadelphia Bulletin sports section and made scrapbooks of the Warriors, who had Chamberlain, Guy Rogers, Al Attles and some other players you probably haven't heard of unless you're a big basketball fan and a "baby boomer" like myself.

When the Warriors left Philly for San Francisco the city of Philadelphia was left without a team for the 1962-63 season, but then the Syracuse Nationals moved in and were renamed "76ers." They debuted in Philadelphia in November of '63 when I was turning 11 and I've been a big fan ever since.

To my delight, the Sixers traded for Wilt Chamberlain in January of 1965 and he returned to Philadelphia and helped them win a championship in 1967. However, most of the time those Sixers of the '60s finished second to the Celtics in the East, one of the reasons the Celtics are one of my least favorite teams to this day.

My first live NBA game was at Philadelphia's old Convention Hall when the Chamberlain 76ers played the Bill Russell Celtics. My dad asked me what I wanted for my birthday that year and that was my request. My dad hated driving in the city and wasn't at all a basketball fan, but he took me to that game for my birthday and it was a great thrill.

For most of the years since, I've attended at least one 76ers game and often several. They've had some really bad teams and some really good ones, but I always managed to buy tickets to a game or two, and as I grew older I took my kids, and now my grandsons, to Sixers games. It's been a passion of mine and I've never grown tired of it.

This season, however, that tradition might come to an end. Sixers' single game tickets officially went on sale August 15 and I was sad to see what the asking price was. And it's all because of the newest 76er, LeBron James.

Last year my wife and I took my

Sports column by  
Brian Hoffman

stepson and his wife and two grandsons to a game when the Sixers played in Charlotte. The Sixers won, Joel Embiid actually played and we had a great time.

The total cost of six tickets, in the lower bowl in the corner about two-thirds of the way up, was \$1,004. Of course, that's not counting food, souvenirs, parking, a hotel room and gas. Still, it was a once in a season deal and well worth it.

When the Sixers traded for Jaylen Brown, then signed LeBron, I knew the price would go up. However, I didn't know HOW MUCH it would go up.

Last Saturday my wife and I got right on the website at 10 in the morning when single game tickets officially went on sale. We targeted a game in Charlotte at the end of October. It was a perfect time, I wouldn't have to miss a Friday night high school football game, the Hokies were on the road and the Eagles and Washington play the 8 o'clock Sunday night game, giving us plenty of time to get home from Charlotte. Only thing is, the game was somewhat cost prohibitive.

The tickets in the same area from last year, that cost about \$150 each plus service fees, are now going for \$450. Instead of the \$1,004 I spent last year the new price would be over \$2,800 in the very same location. Being on a fixed income as I am, that's going to be out of my price range, and I blame LeBron.

It's ridiculous what tickets go for these days. The cheapest seats for that Sixers game in Charlotte are about \$100, and that's four rows from the very top in the upper deck. My grandsons agreed that we're better off watching the game on my wide screen high definition TV rather than sitting so high that you can't read the numbers on the uniforms.

Basketball has been, for most of my life, the most popular game of inner city folks. Now, it's gotten to the point where only the well-to-do can afford to attend a live NBA game. Even your middle class folks can't afford more than a game or two, with most of the seats being filled by wealthy fans or corporate giveaways. Sort of sad, isn't it?

I don't get a break because I bought tickets to the games when Freddie Carter was the best player on the Sixers team. We went every year through "the



Maddex UMBER runs for a good gain at Emory & Henry in LB's season opener.



PHOTOS BY KATIE PERRY

The Cavaliers score a two-point safety in Saturday's game with Rye Cove when Jordan WhITTEN pressured the Rye Cove quarterback in the end zone.

# Golf

from page 12

with an impressive six under par 65. Landon Bolling was on his heels with three under par, 68. Once again Braden Persinger was solid in

the third spot, shooting a 76. Camden Saunders rounded out the top four with a season best 92.

"I was really impressed at how the

team bounced back from a few adversities to beat Radford, who shot a 313, and Giles with a 327," said River coach Donna Cox.

process" when the Sixers were tanking to get high draft picks. Robert Covington was their best player, and he's no LeBron.

I can remember calling the Sixers office for tickets (remember when you could do that?) and asking if there were still seats available, only to be met with a chuckle on the other end. One year when they were really bad you could buy an entire second in

the upper deck for under \$100.

Oh well, such is life for the average guy. I told my grandsons if I win the lottery the first thing I'm going to buy is front row tickets to a Sixers game, maybe even next to Allen Iverson.

I'm not holding my breath. And can you imagine if you paid that price for a ticket and LeBron doesn't play?

BOTETOURT

Sports

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Brian Hoffman

Sports Editor

# Rye Cove scores late to spoil Cavaliers’ season football debut; Botetourt has home opener this Friday against Rustburg



New LB head coach Nick Leftwich (right) talks things over with quarterback Cael Burton in Saturday’s game at Rye Cove.

Rye Cove scored a touchdown with 34 seconds left to edge Lord Botetourt in the season opener for both teams last Friday night. The Eagles pulled out a 12-9 win in a “Week Zero” game played at Emory & Henry University.

“That loss is on me,” said first year LB coach Nick Leftwich. “We weren’t disciplined and had too many self-inflicted wounds. We’ll fix it this week.” The game started late due to a lightning delay. Then the Eagles struck



Callum McCoy (5) and Jackson Crenshaw (10) combine on a tackle Saturday.

PHOTOS BY KATIE PERRY

first when they capped off a drive with a one yard run with 4:29 remaining until the half. The Cavs cut the lead to 6-2 when LB’s Jordan Whitten forced the Eagle quarterback to ground the ball in the end zone for a safety. Botetourt then took the lead on an 18-yard run by Gus Freeny with 10:28 to go in the game. Another lightning delay followed but

See Football, page 11



PHOTO BY REGINA DEVINNEY

River center Keegan Price is ready to snap the ball to Merit Hammons. Number 12 is Ben Whitt and number 55 is Gary Brunner. The Knights open the season at home Friday with Auburn.

## James River football team will open at home Friday

The James River football team will play its season opener at home this Friday when the Auburn Eagles come to Springwood. Kickoff time is 7 p.m. Auburn is coming off a 4-6 2025 season. They didn’t have enough boys to field a team in 2024 but have come back strong under coach Scott Mikowicz. River coach Jack Baker expects them to be much better than last year’s team, which the Knights beat in the 2025 season opener in Riner, 49-12. “They have a lot of kids

back,” said Baker. “They like to throw the ball and they have a good screen game. I expect it to be a hard-fought game.” River is coming off a scrimmage with Nelson County last Thursday. “I thought it was a good scrimmage,” he said. “We started out really well and moved the ball well on our first possession and scored. We had a good second possession but then we had a turnover and they had a big play on defense that gave them life.” River had two scores to one for Nelson when

the first teams were on the field. “I saw some improvement,” said Baker. “We were about to look real good then a bad thing or two happened. The big thing is we got some good experience.” The James River jayvee team will be at Northside to open their season on Thursday. Game time is 6 p.m. at Northside’s Hickam Field. Look for a preview of the Knights in a special Fall Sports Preview section included in this week’s Fincastle Herald.

## Volleyball teams will open season this week

The Lord Botetourt and James River volleyball teams will have their first varsity matches of the season this week with home, road matches. The first day of the VHSL regular season was Tuesday, and both Botetourt County teams

had home matches. Lord Botetourt was scheduled to host Patrick Henry and Staunton River was at James River. On Thursday both teams hit the road. LB is at Christiansburg for a match against the Blue Demons, who finished

second in the state in Class 3 last season. James River has a non-district match at Parry McCluer. Look for a preview of both teams in a special Fall Sports Preview section of this week’s Fincastle Herald.



PHOTO BY SCOTT GARDNER

Mason Francis of James River drives the ball.

## James River golfers are at Hanging Rock on Thursday

The James River golfers will have a Three Rivers District match on Thursday of this week at the Hanging Rock Golf Club, hosted by Glenvar. All seven district schools are expected to attend and a shotgun tee-off time is scheduled for 1 p.m. Last week the Knights competed in a match against Giles and Radford High Schools at the Giles Country Club in an “Old District Matchup” hosted by a former Three Rivers school. The Knights were on fire shooting a combined team score of 301. This was the first time any of the River golfers had ever played the Giles Country Club course. Mason Gilliland led the team

See Golf, page 11

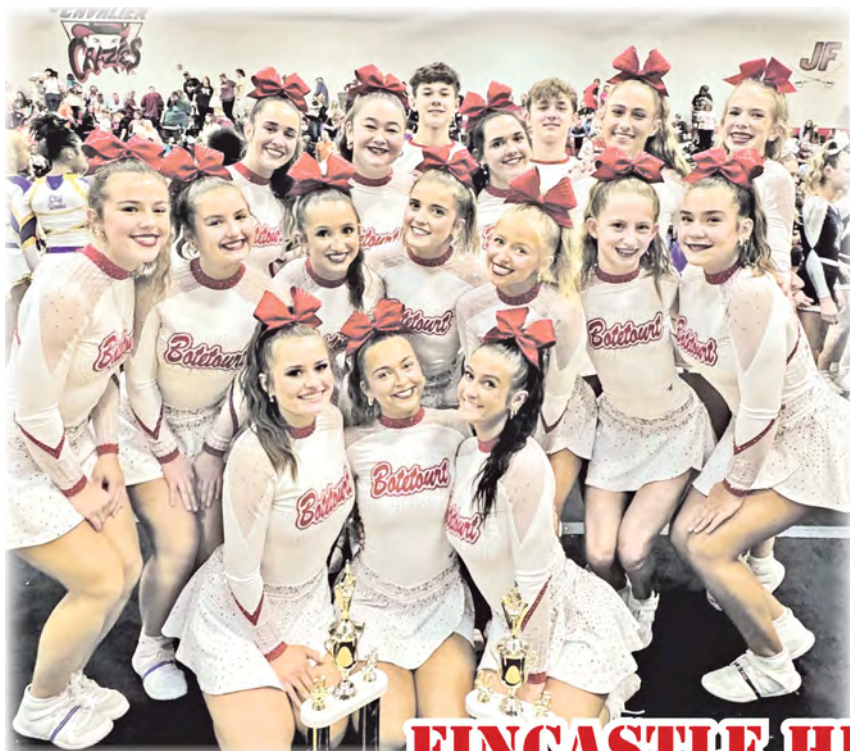
## First cross country meet is today at Greenfield

The first cross country meet of the season is scheduled for today at the Greenfield Recreation Complex in Daleville. Lord Botetourt and James River will host 23 other high school and middle school teams on the Greenfield course. The first race begins at 4 p.m. and it’s a 3K girls’ middle school race. A boys’ 3K race will follow at 4:30 p.m., followed by a girls’ varsity 5K race beginning at 5 p.m. A boys’ 5k race is scheduled for 5:45 p.m. and the event will conclude with a combined jayvee boys and girls race at 6:15 p.m. James River and Lord Botetourt High School teams will be included as well as runners from Botetourt County middle schools Read Mountain and Central Academy. Other schools attending include Appomattox High and Middle Schools, Auburn Middle, Benjamin Franklin Middle, Blacksburg Middle, Cave Spring

See Cross country, page 11



FILE PHOTO



# **FINCASTLE HERALD FALL SPORTS PREVIEW**

**AUGUST 26, 2026**



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# 2026 James River High School Football Team



PHOTO BY MATT DE SIMONE

## James River football will open at home Friday with Auburn

The James River football fans will be seeing red when the season opens at home Friday night in Springwood. Second year coach Jack Baker has scrapped the black jerseys the team has worn in recent years to go back to his roots.

The Knights will not only be red-shirted, but they have new red pants as well. That may not be good for a bullfight, but Baker remembers when red was the main color at James River. He broke out the uniforms in the first pre-season scrimmage and the reviews were good.

"We're going to wear all red at home," he said. "When I played in high school we had red jerseys and black pants. We might have some white pants as well."

If the team wins it probably doesn't matter what color the team is wearing, and that's the objective at James River as Baker enters his second year as head coach. Last fall the Knights were 5-5 during the regular season, then lost a

26-21 game to Floyd County in the playoffs. It was just the second regular season with as many wins as losses since 2018 and the Knights have never won a playoff game in 11 tries since the first James River team put the equipment on in 1959. Most likely they were wearing red that season.

"We certainly want to improve this year," said Baker, whose father John coached the Knights to six winning seasons in nine years from 1964 to '72. "The main thing is to just be better this Friday night than we were last week."

James River has 35 kids in the program and 24 listed on the varsity roster. Baker has been pleased with the effort the players have put forth in the off-season.

"We don't have large numbers but they've been great in the weight room," he said. "Going all the way back to January we've had good participation and they've lifted all summer."

River opens the season with Merit Hammons returning at quarterback. He won the job as a freshman last year and had a good season. This year, with a season of starting under his belt, the speed of the game has slowed down for him.

"He's a good athlete, a good runner and a tough kid," said Baker. "It's always a plus to have your quarterback return."

Bryson Spangler, a ninth grader, will be the backup.

River graduated speedy ball carrier Gavin Binns from last year's team and those fast shoes will be hard to replace in the backfield. Sophomore Ashton Orange and junior Ben Whitt are next in line and Sam Wilson is a solid back who played a big role last year. Ryan Daniels, Wyatt Dewhirst and Cade Cook will also see time in the backfield.

Receivers come from a group that includes seniors Eli Baldwin, Bentley Painter and Brennen Monaghan and junior Jay Hipes. Baldwin and Hipes can also play tight end.

The offensive line is anchored by Keegan Price, who returns at center. It's a good position to have some experience.

"He's a great practice player and a very positive young man," said Baker.

Starting guards are senior Efraim Echavarria and Reese Brunner. Senior Briar Sink and junior Alijah Orange are the tackles. Backups include sopho-

more Isaac Theimer at center, juniors Easton Sink and Owen Newcomb at guard and sophs Paxton Montgomery and Zaylen Fridley at tackle.

River will run a "four-four" defense with mostly the same players. Price and Easton Sink are the tackles and Ashton Orange and Echavarria are the starting ends. Echavarria was one of the team leaders in tack-

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les last year and looking for an even better senior season. Backups are Brunner and Newcomb at tackle and Hipes and Alijah Orange at end.

Baker has a solid group of linebackers. Baldwin and Sink will start inside with Wilson and Whitt on the outside, giving River some experience and “dawg” at the position. Theimer and Fridley will back up the inside backers with Cook and Spangler looking for some time on the outside.

“I like this group a lot,” said Baker. “Our defense has nine players who were either starters or part-time players last season.”

Dewhirst and Hammons will be the corners with Daniels playing the free safety. Painter and Monaghan are backups.

On special teams Knox Taylor returns as the placekicker and Knox or Dewhirst will punt. Painter will return punts and a mix of Knights are available for kickoff returns.

Baker’s entire coaching staff returns from his initial season, including defensive coordinator Jesse Witt, who will also coach tackles on offense. Donald Tucker works with the center and guards on offense and also has the defensive line.

Luke Peay returns to coach the slot backs and he also works with the defensive line. Chad Sink has the inside backers and fullbacks, Logan Baker has the quarterbacks and defensive backs and Trey Chilcott has the outside backers, linebackers and receivers. Chilcott is also the junior varsity coach.

The Knights won’t

## James River Varsity Football Schedule

|          |           |                    |
|----------|-----------|--------------------|
| AUG. 28  | 7:00 P.M. | vs. AUBURN         |
| SEPT. 4  | 7:00 P.M. | vs. BLACKSBURG     |
| SEPT. 11 | 7:00 P.M. | at PARRY MCLUER    |
| SEPT. 18 | 7:00 P.M. | at HIDDEN VALLEY   |
| SEPT. 25 | 7:00 P.M. | vs. RADFORD        |
| OCT. 2   | 7:00 P.M. | at MARTINSVILLE    |
| OCT. 9   | 7:00 P.M. | at GLENVAR         |
| OCT. 23  | 7:00 P.M. | at FLOYD COUNTY    |
| OCT. 30  | 7:00 P.M. | vs. PATRICK COUNTY |
| NOV. 6   | 7:00 P.M. | vs. CARROLL COUNTY |

be on a bus until September 11 when they play Parry McCluer in Buena Vista. After two home scrimmages they play their first two games at home against Auburn this week and Blacksburg on September 4.

Auburn is coming off a 4-6 season in 2025. The Knights beat them in the opener in Riner, 49-12, but the Eagles turned around and won their next four games. After that they didn’t win a game for the rest of the season.

“I know they have a good back,” said Baker.

The Three Rivers District should be strong again. Glenvar went to the state final last year and finished as Class 2 runner-up, Radford and Floyd are expected to be strong again and there isn’t a weak team in this district.

“We’re going to have our hands full for 10 Friday nights,” said Baker.

## JAMES RIVER VARSITY FOOTBALL

| Name              | Year | Position |
|-------------------|------|----------|
| Bentley Painter   | 11   | WR/LB    |
| Ashton Orange     | 10   | RB/DL    |
| Merit Hammons     | 9    | QB/DB    |
| Jarrett Jennings  | 10   | WR/DB    |
| Brennen Monaghan  | 11   | WR/DB    |
| Eli Baldwin       | 11   | TE/LB    |
| Ryan Daniels      | 11   | WR/DB    |
| Wyatt Dewhirst    | 10   | RB/DB    |
| Bryson Spangler   | 9    | QB/LB    |
| Ben Whitt         | 10   | RB/LB    |
| Jay Hipes         | 11   | TE/DL    |
| Cade Cook         | 11   | RB/LB    |
| Sam Wilson        | 11   | RB/LB    |
| Knox Taylor       | 11   | K/P      |
| Efraim Echarravia | 11   | OL/LB    |
| Isaac Theimer     | 10   | OL/LB    |
| Keegan Price      | 11   | OL/DL    |
| Briar Sink        | 11   | OL/LB    |
| Reece Brunner     | 10   | OL/DL    |
| Easton Sink       | 10   | OL/DL    |
| Zaylen Fridley    | 10   | OL/LB    |
| Paxton Montgomery | 10   | OL/DL    |
| Alijah Orange     | 10   | OL/DL    |
| Owen Newcomb      | 11   | OL/DL    |

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# 2026 Lord Botetourt High School Football Team



PHOTO BY MATT DE SIMONE

## Cavaliers look to keep the ball rolling under new coach Nick Leftwich

There's no doubt Nick Leftwich has a tough act to follow, but he's bringing his own swagger to Daleville for the 2026 football season. He's changing things up and looking forward to another exciting season of Lord Botetourt football.

Leftwich was hired after Jamie Harless left LB to become head coach at Union High School in Big Stone Gap, just a big stone's throw away from where grew up. Harless had great success with the Cavaliers, including 14 straight winning seasons. The Cavaliers made the playoffs every year under Harless and three times reached the championship game, settling for bridesmaid all three times.

Leftwich hasn't been

chopped liver. In three years at William Fleming he was 25-11 and made the Class 5 playoffs every year, posting a 5-3 playoff record. The Colonels are a fellow Blue Ridge District member with LB, and after losing to the Cavs in his first season, 14-13, Nick's Fleming team won 35-17 in Roanoke in 2024 and 46-0 in Daleville last season.

Leftwich isn't riding the coat tails of Harless' success. In fact, he's changing the offense to what he ran at William Fleming and Cave Spring before that. It's the same scheme that has been so successful for Salem High for many years, including when Nick was a quarterback for the Spartans.

"We'll run an I-Formation

with some spread," he said. "Thus far it's worked for me, it's a very versatile offense that you can do so many things out of. You have play-action passing and you can get in the spread as well. We're going to do whatever works."

Like when Nick played at Salem, the offensive line will be a key to the success of the offense.

"We'll go as far as the offensive line will take us," he said. "In this offense we have the ability to control the game and wear teams down."

It all starts up front and LB is strong in the middle with Gabe Towe, a 6'2", 240-pounder, at center. On the left side junior Matthew Fuller is the guard with 270 pound junior Braeden Harvey

manning the "blind side" left tackle position.

Most teams like to run to the right, and senior Ethan Hardin will be the right guard. At press time juniors Blake Markham and Leyton Cook were battling for the starting right tackle spot. Senior Rylen Wright and sophomore Jackson Crenshaw are the tight ends.

Botetourt will have already played a game when this story comes out, but prior to the opener with Rye Cove last Friday Leftwich was deciding between junior Cael Burton and sophomore Beau Lonker to be the starting quarterback.

"They're both pretty similar," said Leftwich. "They both did pretty well against New Kent (first scrimmage)

and no matter who starts I'm going to feel comfortable. The best one will play, but I consider them to be 1A and 1B."

Junior Maddex UMBER is the starting tailback with junior Tanner Gore slated to start at fullback. Junior Gus Freeney is a backup and also available in the backfield are two fullbacks, Junior Callum McCoy and senior Kobe Hairston.

The receiving corps will include seniors Chris Paderick and Jerry Smith and juniors Jayden Windsor and Dalton Bradley. They'll all play.

"It's a solid group," said Leftwich. "We'll have a rotation and I'm comfortable with all of them."

On defense the Cavaliers will play a "4-2-5." Again, it's something Leftwich has been

## LORD BOTETOURT VARSITY FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

|                 |                  |                       |
|-----------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>AUG. 28</b>  | <b>7:00 P.M.</b> | vs. RUSTBURG          |
| <b>SEPT. 11</b> | <b>7:00 P.M.</b> | vs. MAGNA VISTA       |
| <b>SEPT. 18</b> | <b>7:00 P.M.</b> | at CHRISTIANSBURG     |
| <b>SEPT. 25</b> | <b>7:00 P.M.</b> | vs. GEORGE WASHINGTON |
| <b>OCT. 9</b>   | <b>7:00 P.M.</b> | vs. FRANKLIN COUNTY   |
| <b>OCT. 16</b>  | <b>7:00 P.M.</b> | at STAUNTON RIVER     |
| <b>OCT. 23</b>  | <b>7:00 P.M.</b> | vs. WILLIAM BYRD      |
| <b>OCT. 30</b>  | <b>7:00 P.M.</b> | at WILLIAM FLEMING    |
| <b>NOV. 6</b>   | <b>7:00 P.M.</b> | at NORTHSIDE          |

## LORD BOTETOURT VARSITY FOOTBALL

| NAME               | YEAR | POSITION |
|--------------------|------|----------|
| Dalton Bradley     | 11   | WR/DB    |
| Cael Burton        | 11   | QB/DB    |
| Kobe Hairston      | 12   | FB/LB    |
| Callum McCoy       | 11   | FB/LB    |
| Gus Feeny          | 11   | RB/DB    |
| Chris Paderick     | 12   | WR/DB    |
| Maddex Umber       | 11   | RB/DB    |
| Tanner Gore        | 11   | RB/LB    |
| Jackson Crenshaw   | 10   | TE/LB    |
| Rylen Wright       | 12   | TE/DE    |
| Michael Aliveto    | 9    | QB/LB    |
| Beau Lonker        | 10   | QB/DB    |
| Jayden Windsor     | 11   | WR/DB    |
| Isaiah Irons       | 9    | RB/DB    |
| Brody Crigger      | 10   | WR/DB    |
| Josh Sherman       | 10   | TE/DE    |
| Jerry Smith        | 12   | WR/DB    |
| Mason Hibbs        | 9    | WR/DB    |
| Buddy Lennartson   | 11   | OL/DL    |
| Nathan Moore       | 12   | TE/DL    |
| Gabe McCurry       | 11   | TE/LB    |
| David Aldrich      | 11   | OL/LB    |
| Lleyton Cook       | 11   | OL/DL    |
| Gabe Towe          | 12   | OL/DL    |
| Deacon Witt        | 11   | OL/DL    |
| Ethan Hardin       | 12   | OL/DL    |
| Braeden Harvey     | 11   | OL/DL    |
| Matthew Fuller     | 11   | OL/DL    |
| Marshal Phillips   | 11   | OL/DL    |
| Levi Troutt        | 11   | OL/DL    |
| Blake Markham      | 11   | OL/DL    |
| Lucas Hipes        | 12   | OL/DL    |
| Brady McConnaughey | 10   | OL/DL    |
| Jordan Whitten     | 10   | OL/DL    |
| Rylan Wilcher      | 11   | OL/DL    |
| Jay Perry          | 9    | OL/DL    |
| Jax Palmer         | 10   | OL/DL    |
| Walter Duffield    | 11   | OL/DL    |

familiar with since he played at Salem and sees no reason to change what has been successful.

"We did it at Cave and we did it at Fleming," he said. "It's basically a four-man front and we'll adjust according to who we play. Sometimes it's going to look like a 4-4 and sometimes it's going to look like a 5-2."

The safety is a key man in this defense and whoever doesn't start at quarterback, Burton or Lonker, will be the starting safety. He'll be the "quarterback of the defense," so to speak.

Paderick is the player Leftwich calls "the assassin." He's like a linebacker but can play several positions according to what the opposing offense is showing. Crenshaw and McCoy are linebackers and Gore will be the "rover," another versatile position. Bradley and Smith are the starting corners. Hairston could also play some linebacker.

Up front, Towe and Wright will start at defensive end and sophomore Jordan Whitten will be a tackle. There was still a battle for the other tackle spot at press time.

On special teams, Harvey and Matthew Fuller are kickers. They're both big boys but won't be confused with Lou Groza as they're both soccer-style kickers. Lonker will punt while Windsor will return punts and be back on

kickoffs along with a few others.

Leftwich brought his dad along to be the defensive coordinator. Jeff Leftwich coached at Northside and Salem before retiring after the Spartans won the 2021 spring COVID season Class 4 state championship. However, shortly thereafter Cave Spring hired Nick to be head coach and Jeff has been with him for the ride, two years at Cave Spring and the last three at Fleming.

"He's been a coach for 37 years and he does a great job," said Nick. "He's up in the box and I'm on the field. It's a unique experience, not everyone gets to do that. It's very special."

Jeff also coaches the defensive line, and assembling the rest of the staff was easier than you might expect when taking over a previously successful program. The new guy has to pick and choose and usually someone goes away unhappy.

"I met with everyone on last year's staff," he said. "I ended up retaining three and bringing in three new ones, but the ones who were here last year and are no longer on the staff indicated they weren't going to return anyway. Josh Oliveto stepped away to watch his son on the jayvee team, but he may end up helping us some."

Returning from Harless' staff are linebackers coach Chuck

Burton, rovers and defensive line coach Woody Nixon and offensive line coach Ricky Lonker. Ty Maas also is back to coach the middle school team. Nick will coach the quarterbacks himself.

Newcomers to the staff are defensive backs coach Wil Marks, running backs coach Justin Pentecost and receivers coach Ryan Keith. Pentecost and Keith followed Nick from Fleming and Marks comes from Hanover High.

By the time this story hits the newsstands LB will already have played Rye Cove, one of just five games in the state to play in the "zero week." Next year, when the new two-year schedule starts, Botetourt won't play until week one against Amherst. It's been a challenge to put in a new system with one week less to work but Nick has seized the opportunity and is excited to get the "Leftwich Era" underway. Certainly no one is going to forget Jamie Harless but Nick is planning to make some noise in his own right.

"Everyone has been very welcoming," he said. "The community has been great and I've found the kids to be very coachable. I'm excited about this opportunity. Cave Spring was a great spot and Fleming was a great spot, but this just seems like the perfect fit."





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# 2026 James River High School Volleyball Team

JAMES RIVER



PHOTO BY MATT DE SIMONE

## River volleyball team looks to take big step forward

The James River volleyball team was eliminated from region play by perennial state contender Glenvar last year and, as the new season starts this week, coach Linsey Firebaugh is fired up to up the ante in Region 2C. The Knights were scheduled to open at home with Staunton River on Tuesday followed by a trip to Parry McCluer on Thursday, August 27.

“Last season I felt limited with the time I was able to put into the girls,” said Firebaugh. “This season my goal is to put a lot of time into these girls to help develop them as people and leaders. They are a

very talented group, so helping them mesh and learn to play together will be essential to our success.”

The Knights finished with a very respectable 16-8 record last year. River has a strong group of returnees from that group. Ashby Wilkes and Lighton Tate will be outsiders and they both bring aggressiveness and good court awareness.

“Ashby brings a lot to the table,” said Firebaugh. “She is able to swing aggressively and is a very strong player. Lighton is new to the outside hitter position but she is athletic and able to step into this

role for us.”

Kinley Millman and Leanna Steger will be middles and they both are well rounded.

“They move well and swing aggressively,” said Firebaugh. “Kinley brings height and a big block while also having a very aggressive mindset, wanting to get a kill any chance she can. Leanna is new to our middle spot, however you would not recognize that watching her. She moves well and has learned things quickly.”

Kendall Childs and Ayden Jennings will be setters. Both are very talented at the position, read the court well and are able to set hitters effective-

ly to take good quality swings.

Kyliegh Napier will be the libero/DS this season.

“She has really stepped into a big role,” said Firebaugh. “It’s important for us to control our first touch in order to run our offense effectively and she contributes to that well.”

Firebaugh is excited about River’s senior class of girls with the season ready to open.

“Our seniors are our glue,” she said. “Ayden, Leanna, Kyliegh and Lighton bring so much to the table. They are so close and bring everyone else into their circle. They beam with excitement every day and are a very talented group.”

Whitleigh Ronk is a new OH/RS while Hailee Vassar and Paige Shotwell are both liberos/DS.

“Whitleigh is very aggressive and is able to take good quality swings,” said Firebaugh. “Hailee and Paige bring a lot of hustle and help us have good ball control, which is essential for us to run our offense.”

As far as assistants, once again Lilli Clevenger will be with Firebaugh but moving into a different role as varsity assistant. The JV coach is Kenleigh Gunter, who played at Lord Botetourt and went on to play at Randolph College.

# JAMES RIVER VARSITY VOLLEYBALL

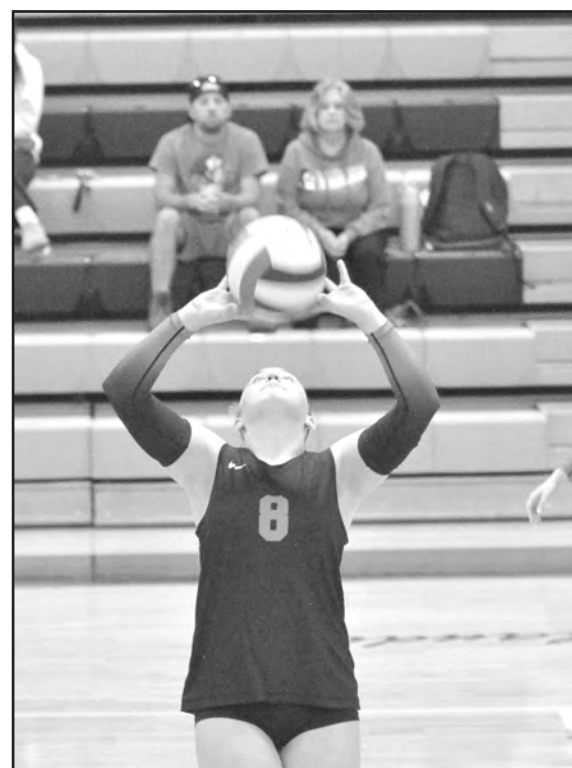
## NAME

Laighton Tate  
Kyleigh Napier  
Kendall Childs  
Leanna Steger  
Paige Shotwell  
Ayden Jennings  
Ashby Wilkes  
Whitleigh Ronk  
Kinley Millman  
Hailee Vassar

## JAMES RIVER

### GIRLS VARSITY VOLLEYBALL SCHEDULE

| DATE     | TIME       | WHERE / WHO                   |
|----------|------------|-------------------------------|
| AUG. 25  | 7:00 P.M.  | vs. STAUNTON RIVER            |
| AUG. 27  | 7:00 P.M.  | at PARRY MCLUER               |
| SEPT. 1  | 7:00 P.M.  | at STAUNTON RIVER             |
| SEPT. 3  | TBA        | vs. PARRY MCLUER              |
| SEPT. 8  | 7:00 P.M.  | vs. RADFORD                   |
| SEPT. 10 | 7:00 P.M.  | at MARTINSVILLE               |
| SEPT. 15 | 7:00 P.M.  | at GLENVAR                    |
| SEPT. 17 | 7:00 P.M.  | vs. FRANKLIN COUNTY           |
| SEPT. 19 | 10:00 A.M. | vs. HERITAGE                  |
| SEPT. 19 | 10:00 A.M. | JAMES RIVER VARSITY TRI MATCH |
| SEPT. 19 | 11:30 A.M. | vs. MONTICELLO                |
| SEPT. 22 | 7:15 P.M.  | at FLOYD COUNTY               |
| SEPT. 24 | 7:00 P.M.  | vs. PATRICK COUNTY            |
| SEPT. 29 | 7:00 P.M.  | at CARROLL COUNTY             |
| OCT. 1   | 7:00 P.M.  | at RADFORD                    |
| OCT. 6   | 7:00 P.M.  | vs. MARTINSVILLE              |
| OCT. 8   | 7:00 P.M.  | vs. GLENVAR                   |
| OCT. 12  | 7:00 P.M.  | at FRANKLIN COUNTY            |
| OCT. 15  | 7:00 P.M.  | vs. FLOYD COUNTY              |
| OCT. 20  | 7:00 P.M.  | at PATRICK COUNTY             |
| OCT. 22  | 7:00 P.M.  | vs. CARROLL COUNTY            |



"Both bring a lot of knowledge and experience," said Firebaugh. "I'm very thankful to have both of them with me this season. We each bring a different position to the table in order to train our team to be well rounded."

Firebaugh has revamped the schedule. This season River has added Parry McCluer, Staunton River, Monticello, Heritage and Franklin County. Off the schedule are Bassett, Liberty, and Roanoke Catholic, and River will no longer

host a tournament during the season.

Once again River figures to battle Glenvar for district and region honors. A key match will be September 15 when the Knights travel to Glenvar for the first of two meetings.

"We had a very successful season as far as wins," said Firebaugh of last year's team. "We unfortunately matched up to play a very talented Glenvar team in the first round (of region) and lost."

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## 2026 Lord Botetourt High School Volleyball Team

LORD BOTETOVRT



PHOTO BY MATT DE SIMONE

## Cavaliers will be district contender again in volleyball

The Lord Botetourt volleyball team will open the season this week with matches against Patrick Henry and Christiansburg. The Cavaliers were scheduled to host PH in the season opener at home Tuesday and LB is scheduled to go to Christiansburg on Thursday.

The Cavs are coming off a 17-8 season that ended one win away from a trip to the state

championship tournament. LB lost in the Region 3D semifinal to Christiansburg in four sets as the Blue Demons remained undefeated at 25-0 with the win. Botetourt coach Samantha Wilkins is hoping to extract some revenge from that loss this Thursday.

The Cavaliers graduated three players who were all-district last fall, including Blue Ridge District Player

of the Year Gracelynn Clark. Three 2025 all-district players return, including rising senior middle hitter Ava Stephens from the first team and senior libero Addalyn Underwood and junior Addison Naff from the all-district second team.

"Ava will bring back her competitive energy and be a huge force at the net," said Wilkins.

Other Cavaliers who will play a big role

this year include senior right side/outside hitter Skyla Corkins and senior setter Lilly Crenshaw. Rounding out the roster are seniors Adyson Greathouse and Addison Harper, juniors Olivia Bergsten, Eliza Payne, Bailey Hutchins and Brielle Nunley, and one freshman, Sydney Bergsten.

Wilkins will be assisted by Alexis Ellis on the varsity and Michelle Bower, who

will be the head jayvee coach.

"Both are past players who know the program well and do a great job with the team," said Wilkins.

Once again the Cavaliers will have a challenging schedule. They've added Tunstall and tournaments at Abingdon and Cave Spring.

"We'll see a lot of good competition," said Wilkins.

Botetourt is in a very strong region. Last year the Cavaliers, Christiansburg and Hidden Valley all had excellent teams but only two could come out of the region and make the state tournament. Unfortunately, the Cavs were the odd girls out and it's going to be tough again in Region 3D.

"Our goal this year is to win the Blue Ridge District," said Wilkins.

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# LORD BOTETOURT VARSITY VOLLEYBALL

| Name              | Year |
|-------------------|------|
| Sydney Bergsten   | 9    |
| Olivia Bergsten   | 11   |
| Skyla Corkins     | 12   |
| Lillian Crenshaw  | 12   |
| Adyson Greathouse | 12   |
| Addison Harper    | 12   |
| Bailey Hutchins   | 11   |
| Addison Naff      | 11   |
| Brielle Nunley    | 11   |
| Eliza Payne       | 11   |
| Ava Stephens      | 12   |
| Addalyn Underwood | 12   |

## Lord Botetourt Varsity Volleyball Schedule

|          |            |                                  |
|----------|------------|----------------------------------|
| AUG. 27  | 7:00 P.M.  | at CHRISTIANSBURG                |
| AUG. 31  | 7:00 P.M.  | vs. TUNSTALL                     |
| SEPT. 3  | 7:00 P.M.  | at PATRICK HENRY ROANOKE         |
| SEPT. 8  | 7:00 P.M.  | at TUNSTALL                      |
| SEPT. 15 | 7:00 P.M.  | vs. CHRISTIANSBURG               |
| SEPT. 19 | TBA        | KIRK NAIRN FOUNDATION TOURNAMENT |
| SEPT. 19 | 10:30 A.M. | vs. CASTLEWOOD                   |
| SEPT. 19 | 12:30 P.M. | vs. LEBANON                      |
| SEPT. 19 | 3:30 P.M.  | at CHRISTIANSBURG                |
| SEPT. 19 | 7:30 P.M.  | vs. NORTHWOOD                    |
| SEPT. 22 | 7:00 P.M.  | vs. FRANKLIN COUNTY              |
| SEPT. 24 | 7:00 P.M.  | at STAUNTON RIVER                |
| SEPT. 29 | 7:00 P.M.  | vs. WILLIAM BYRD                 |
| OCT. 1   | 7:00 P.M.  | at WILLIAM FLEMING               |

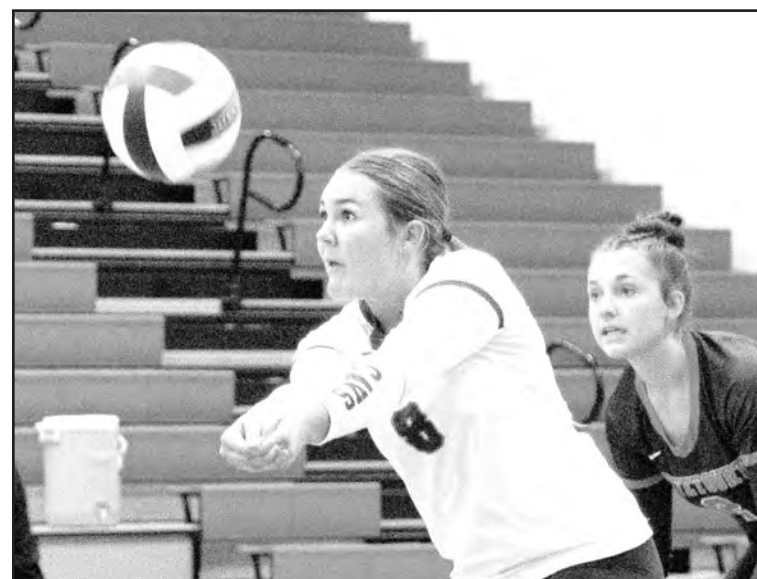


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# 2026 James River High School Cross Country Team



PHOTO BY MATT DE SIMONE

## Knights will open cross country season with run at Greenfield

The James River cross country team will be one of the host teams today, August 26, for the Blue Ridge Invitational at Greenfield Park. Head coach Daphne Davidson is excited to build upon the success of previous years while welcoming new faces to the team. This year's roster features experienced leaders, talented returning athletes and enthusiastic freshmen who are eager to begin their high school running careers.

"Cross country in our district and region is among the most competitive in Virginia," said Davidson. "Every championship race is filled with talented athletes and outstanding programs, making every opportunity to compete both exciting and challenging. We are hopeful to once again host the regional championships, allowing our athletes to race on familiar ground while welcoming some of the state's best competition."

"Our goals remain consistent each season: improve individually, support one another as teammates, and advance as far as possible together," Davidson continued. "While qualifying individuals and teams for the VHSL state championships is certainly an objective, our

greatest measure of success will always be the growth each athlete experiences throughout the season."

This year's River boys' team will be led by three seniors, Braden Jones, Mark Voight, and Charlie Stull. Jones is a four-year runner and year-round competitor in cross country, indoor track, and outdoor track. He returns as the leader of the boys' team with a personal best of 17:14.

"Braden has his sights set on breaking the 17-minute barrier while preparing to continue his running career at the collegiate level," said Davidson.

Voight is also entering his fourth season, providing outstanding leadership and consistency.

"His goals are to break into the low 18-minute range, maintain a strong GPA, and finish his senior year healthy and injury-free," said Davidson.

Stull enters his second season of cross country after becoming a valuable member of the team. His goal is to lower his personal best into the low 19-minute range while continuing to contribute as a dependable varsity runner.

Junior boys include Nolan Linthicum, Barrett

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Pace and Brody Stewart. A third-year runner who competes in cross country, indoor track, and outdoor track, Linthicum continues to develop into one of the team's key contributors. He is aiming to consistently run in the low 19-minute range this season.

Pace is also entering his third year and is focused on breaking into the 19-minute range and maintaining that consistency throughout the season while balancing a demanding academic schedule. Stewart returns for his third season after competing in cross country and outdoor track. His objective is to remain consistently in the 20-minute range while continuing to improve each race.

The Knights have one varsity freshman, Brandon Baka-Collins.

"Brandon begins his high school cross country career with enthusiasm and determination," said Davidson. "His goal is to embrace the challenges of his freshman year, surprise himself with his accomplishments, and grow as both a runner and teammate."

Sophomore Maddie Davidson leads an impressive group of young River women. After competing in all three running seasons as a freshman, Maddie returns with ambitious goals.

She hopes to break into the 19-minute range while earning a medal at the VHSL state championships.

Sophomore Maren Pauley enjoyed an exceptional summer of training and appears ready for a breakout season. After competing in cross country and outdoor track last year, she is aiming to run consistently in the 20-minute range, earn a state medal, and post significant personal bests throughout the season.

Holly Weddle, a junior now in her third year, has dramatically increased her endurance through dedicated summer training. She hopes to pair that new-found stamina with increased racing speed as she pursues times in the 22–23 minute range.

Sophomore Alex Bona returns after battling some injuries during the summer. She looks forward to returning healthy and stronger than ever while working toward times in the 23–24 minute range. Junior Jacey Walker has also faced preseason injuries but continues to demonstrate resilience. Her goal is to return to consistent racing in the 25-minute range while enjoying a healthy season.

Macy Weddle, a freshman, begins her high school career after competing in

middle school track. She has aspirations of running in the 23–24 minute range and making an immediate contribution to the team. Another freshman, Jasmine Montgomery, also joins the program after a successful middle school track experience. She is excited to discover her potential, break into the 24-minute range, and make the most of her first high school cross country

season.

Davidson is joined on the coaching staff by assistant Bill Divers.

"With more than 20 years of coaching experience, Coach Divers brings invaluable knowledge and reliability to every practice and competition," said Davidson. "His experience has become an integral part of the program's continued growth."

## JAMES RIVER

### VARSITY CROSS COUNTRY SCHEDULE

| DATE     | TIME       | WHERE / WHO                 |
|----------|------------|-----------------------------|
| AUG. 26  | 3:00 P.M.  | BOYS: vs. RADFORD           |
| AUG. 26  | 5:00 P.M.  | GIRLS: vs. RADFORD          |
| AUG. 26  | 5:45 P.M.  | BOYS: vs. LORD BOTETOURT    |
| SEPT. 3  | 3:00 P.M.  | BOYS: at ABINGDON           |
| SEPT. 3  | 3:00 P.M.  | GIRLS: at ABINGDON          |
| SEPT. 3  | 4:00 P.M.  | BOYS: at TBA                |
| SEPT. 3  | 4:00 P.M.  | GIRLS: at TBA               |
| SEPT. 12 | 12:00 P.M. | BOYS: at CAVE SPRING        |
| SEPT. 12 | 12:00 P.M. | GIRLS: at CAVE SPRING       |
| SEPT. 19 | 9:15 A.M.  | BOYS: at BATH COUNTY        |
| SEPT. 19 | 9:15 A.M.  | GIRLS: at BATH COUNTY       |
| SEPT. 26 | 10:00 A.M. | BOYS: at ALLEGHANY          |
| OCT. 10  | 10:00 A.M. | BOYS: at PULASKI COUNTY     |
| OCT. 28  | 3:45 P.M.  | BOYS: vs. APPOMATTOX COUNTY |

## JAMES RIVER

### VARSITY CROSS COUNTRY

#### NAME

Brandon Baka-Collins  
 Braden Jones  
 Joel Laughridge (mgr)  
 Nolan Linthicum  
 Barrett Pace  
 Brody Stewart  
 Charlie Stull  
 Mark Voight  
 Macy Weddle  
 Alexandra Bona  
 Maddie Davidson  
 Ellie Laughridge (mgr)  
 Jasmine Montgomery  
 Maren Pauley  
 Jacey Walker  
 Holly Weddle

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# 2026 Lord Botetourt High School Cross Country Team



PHOTO BY MATT DE SIMONE

## Cavaliers run it back without state standouts Thorne and Duncan

The 2026 Lord Botetourt cross country season begins this week with two of the top runners ever to compete in the program having graduated. Ethan Thorne and Eric Duncan finished first and second in the Virginia High School League Class 3 championship race last November, leading the Cavaliers to a third place state finish, their best ever.

Thorne has committed to Virginia Tech and Duncan is at Liberty University after a 2025 season that saw him setting the Class 3 state record. The two Cavaliers went on to win a total of five individual titles between cross country and track, and they led the LB men's indoor and outdoor track and field teams to back-to-back state titles as a team in the spring.

"This year, we look forward to an opportunity for the women to join the spotlight," said LB coach Noel Preece. "

Leading the charge will be senior and school record-holder Anne Thorne, who is set for a return to form after battling injury last season. As the only Lord Botetourt lady to ever break the 19-minute barrier, Thorne will be looking to lower her mark of 18:45 and fight for all-state honors come November. She is joined by fellow senior Ember

Wiley to lead a much larger team this year of mostly underclassmen, including first-timer sophomore mid-distance specialists from track and field Brookelyn Fadia and Cora Clark.

"We are excited to see how these ladies, along with a large freshman cohort, develop," said Preece.

Other girls on the LB roster include seniors Laurel Wiley and Addison Purser, juniors Analise Buyalos and Maddie Moore, and four freshmen, Claire Conn, Grace Hoover, Allison Vess and Cameron Vess.

On the men's side, coach Preece expects senior Preston Vaughn and junior Archer Lee to break into the all-time Top 10 list for LB.

"While Vaughn already sits at seventh on that list, we expect these two to fight for all-state honors come November," he said. "They will lead a small but mighty group of returners, including varsity members from last year's strongest-ever men's team in seniors John Moughrabi and Lucas Carswell and junior Mason Tuck, among others."

Rounding out the men's roster are senior Daniel Estep, juniors Owen Mattarochia and Mason Tuck, and sophomore Gabe Puckett.

## LORD BOTETOURT VARSITY CROSS COUNTRY

| Name                       | Year |
|----------------------------|------|
| Analise Buyalos            | 11   |
| Lucas Carswell             | 12   |
| Cora Clark                 | 10   |
| Claire Conn                | 9    |
| Daniel Estep               | 12   |
| Brooklyn Fadia             | 10   |
| Grace Hoover               | 9    |
| Maggie Hoover              | 12   |
| Archer Lee                 | 11   |
| Everly Lucas               | 9    |
| Thomas (Owen) Mattarocchia | 11   |
| Maddie Moore               | 11   |
| John Moughrabi             | 11   |
| Addison Purser             | 12   |
| Julia Thorne               | 12   |
| Caleb Thorne               | 9    |
| Mason Tuck                 | 11   |
| Preston Vaughn             | 12   |
| Allison Vess               | 9    |
| Cameron Vess               | 9    |
| Ember Wiley                | 12   |
| Laurel Wiley               | 9    |

## LORD BOTETOURT VARSITY CROSS COUNTRY SCHEDULE

| DATE     | TIME       | WHERE / WHO              |
|----------|------------|--------------------------|
| AUG. 26  | 5:00 P.M.  | BOYS: at JAMES RIVER     |
| AUG. 26  | 5:00 P.M.  | GIRLS: vs. WILLIAM BYRD  |
| SEPT. 19 | 10:00 A.M. | BOYS: at APPOMATTOX CO.  |
| SEPT. 19 | 10:00 A.M. | GIRLS: at APPOMATTOX CO. |
| OCT. 3   | 9:00 A.M.  | BOYS: at ATLEE           |
| OCT. 28  | 1:00 P.M.  | BOYS: at ABINGDON        |
| OCT. 28  | 1:00 P.M.  | GIRLS: at ABINGDON       |

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"Our goal is to qualify both the men's and women's team to the state meet this year," said Preece. "The two teams have only shared this honor in two of the 26 seasons since the turn of the century."

Preece will be joined by assistant coaches Callie Altman and Amber Foutz this year. Altman returns from 2025, having helped

immensely during the championship season. Foutz is new to the cross country staff, but no stranger to coaching successful runners having helped lead LB to back-to-back team state titles in track during the spring.

The Cavaliers will open today with the Blue Ridge Invitational at Greenfield Park. The meet is scheduled to begin at 5:45 p.m.

## LORD BOTETOURT VARSITY CROSS COUNTRY

| Name                       | Year |
|----------------------------|------|
| Analise Buyalos            | 11   |
| Lucas Carswell             | 12   |
| Cora Clark                 | 10   |
| Claire Conn                | 9    |
| Daniel Estep               | 12   |
| Brooklyn Fadia             | 10   |
| Grace Hoover               | 9    |
| Maggie Hoover              | 12   |
| Archer Lee                 | 11   |
| Everly Lucas               | 9    |
| Thomas (Owen) Mattarocchia | 11   |
| Maddie Moore               | 11   |
| John Moughrabi             | 11   |
| Addison Purser             | 12   |
| Julia Thorne               | 12   |
| Caleb Thorne               | 9    |
| Mason Tuck                 | 11   |
| Preston Vaughn             | 12   |
| Allison Vess               | 9    |
| Cameron Vess               | 9    |
| Ember Wiley                | 12   |
| Laurel Wiley               | 9    |

## LORD BOTETOURT VARSITY CROSS COUNTRY SCHEDULE

| DATE     | TIME       | WHERE / WHO              |
|----------|------------|--------------------------|
| AUG. 26  | 5:00 P.M.  | BOYS: at JAMES RIVER     |
| AUG. 26  | 5:00 P.M.  | GIRLS: vs. WILLIAM BYRD  |
| SEPT. 19 | 10:00 A.M. | BOYS: at APPOMATTOX CO.  |
| SEPT. 19 | 10:00 A.M. | GIRLS: at APPOMATTOX CO. |
| OCT. 3   | 9:00 A.M.  | BOYS: at ATLEE           |
| OCT. 28  | 1:00 P.M.  | BOYS: at ABINGDON        |
| OCT. 28  | 1:00 P.M.  | GIRLS: at ABINGDON       |

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# 2026 James River High School Cheerleaders

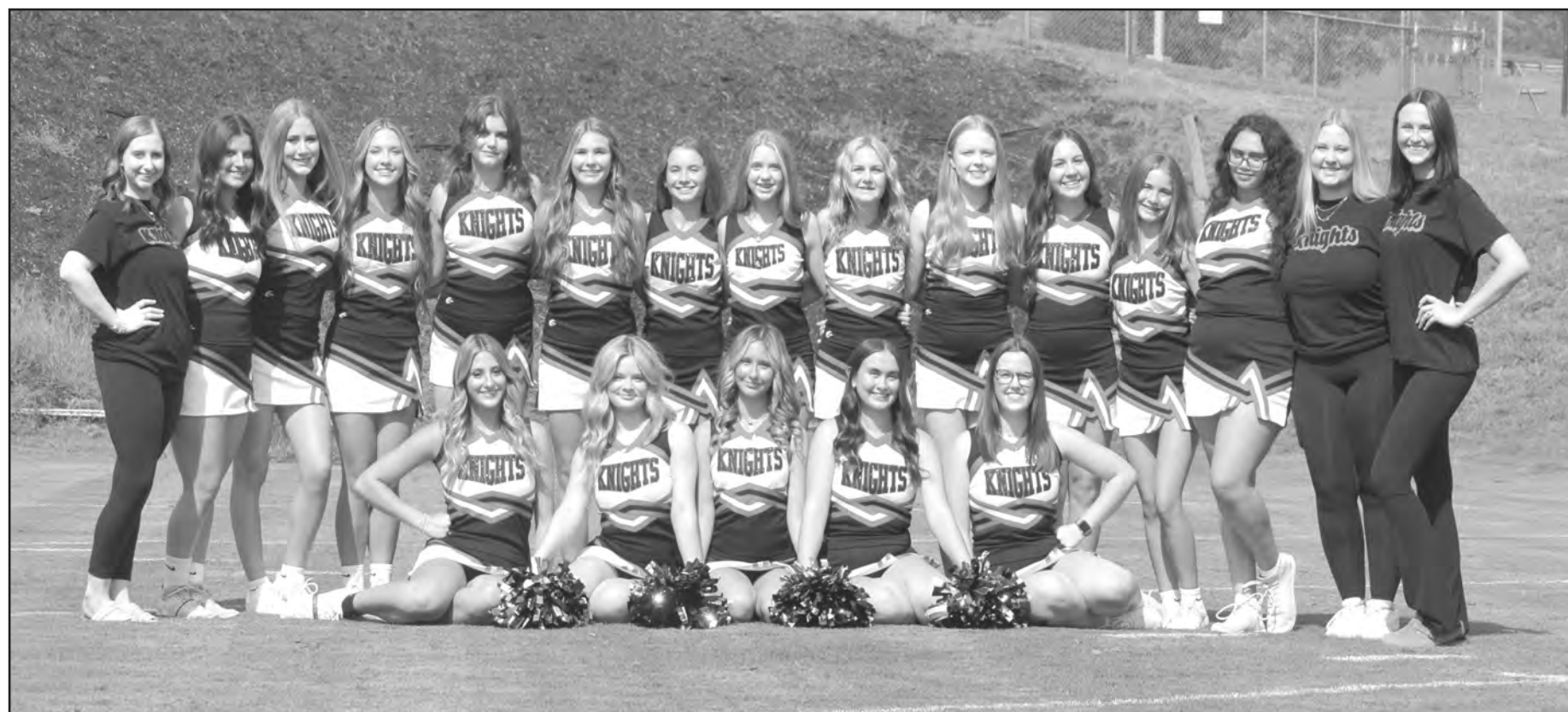


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## 2026 Lord Botetourt High School Cheerleaders

LORD BOTETOURT



PHOTO BY MATT DE SIMONE

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# 2026 James River High School Golf Team



PHOTO COURTESY OF JRHS GOLF

## JAMES RIVER VARSITY GOLF

| Name             | Year |
|------------------|------|
| Landon Bolling   | 12   |
| Mason Gilliland  | 12   |
| Mason Francis    | 12   |
| Trenton Taylor   | 12   |
| Camden Saunders  | 12   |
| Aiden Davis      | 12   |
| Braden Persinger | 10   |
| Tucker Hall      | 10   |
| Camden Newman    | 10   |
| Charlie Tingler  | 10   |
| Dylan Davis      | 10   |
| Jules Banka      | 10   |
| Hudson Saunders  | 9    |
| Noah Horne       | 9    |
| Everett Hash     | 8    |

## JAMES RIVER VARSITY GOLF SCHEDULE

| DATE     | TIME      | WHERE / WHO              |
|----------|-----------|--------------------------|
| AUG. 27  | 1:00 P.M. | BOYS: at CARROLL COUNTY  |
| AUG. 31  | 1:00 P.M. | BOYS: at CARROLL COUNTY  |
| SEPT. 1  | 1:00 P.M. | BOYS: at CARROLL COUNTY  |
| SEPT. 1  | 1:00 P.M. | BOYS: at CARROLL COUNTY  |
| SEPT. 8  | 1:00 P.M. | BOYS: at CARROLL COUNTY  |
| SEPT. 8  | 1:00 P.M. | GIRLS: at PATRICK COUNTY |
| SEPT. 10 | 1:00 P.M. | BOYS: vs. GLENVAR        |
| SEPT. 21 | 1:00 P.M. | BOYS: at CARROLL COUNTY  |
| SEPT. 24 | 2:00 P.M. | BOYS: at GLENVAR         |

# 2026 Lord Botetourt High School Varsity Golf Team



PHOTO BY MATT DE SIMONE

## LORD BOTETOURT VARSITY GOLF

| NAME              | YEAR |
|-------------------|------|
| Derek Bond        | 12   |
| Kennedy Carpenter | 11   |
| Cole Cecil        | 11   |
| Alisa Davidova    | 12   |
| Jonah Dunker      | 11   |
| Josiah Dunker     | 9    |
| Eli Hall          | 9    |
| Avery Huffman     | 10   |
| CJ Johnson        | 11   |
| Brady O'Quinn     | 9    |
| Micah Perdue      | 9    |
| Peyton Poff       | 12   |
| Jackson Taylor    | 11   |

## LORD BOTETOURT VARSITY GOLF SCHEDULE

| DATE     | TIME      | WHERE / WHO                         |
|----------|-----------|-------------------------------------|
| AUG. 31  | 5:00 P.M. | BOYS: at SMITH MTN. LAKE CHRISTIAN  |
| AUG. 31  | 5:00 P.M. | GIRLS: at SMITH MTN. LAKE CHRISTIAN |
| SEPT. 8  | 2:00 P.M. | BOYS: at FRANKLIN COUNTY            |
| SEPT. 15 | 1:00 P.M. | BOYS: at FRANKLIN COUNTY            |
| SEPT. 21 | 1:30 P.M. | BOYS: at FRANKLIN COUNTY            |
| SEPT. 28 | 9:00 A.M. | BOYS: at ABINGDON                   |

# Knights, Cavaliers ready to hit the links

Both James River and Lord Botetourt are looking to build on promising starts as the high school golf season gets underway. The James River Knights return a strong group led by seniors Landon Bolling, Mason Gilliland and Trenton Taylor, along with Aiden Davis, Camden Saunders and Braden Persinger. Bolling, Gilliland and Persinger have already established themselves as a productive top three, while players such

as Mason Francis, Tucker Hall, Camden Newman, Charlie Tingler, Dylan Davis, Jules Banka, Hudson Saunders, Noah Horne and Everett Hash give the Knights depth as they look to find consistent scores throughout the lineup.

Lord Botetourt also brings a mix of experienced golfers and younger players to the course. Alisa Davidova, Jackson Taylor, Jonah Dunker and Derek

Bond have been among the Cavaliers' contributors early in the season, while Kennedy Carpenter, Cole Cecil, Josiah Dunker, Eli Hall, Avery Huffman, CJ Johnson, Brady O'Quinn, Micah Perdue and Peyton Poff round out a roster that gives LB plenty of options as the season progresses. Both teams will have plenty of opportunities to test themselves against regional competition as they work toward the postseason.





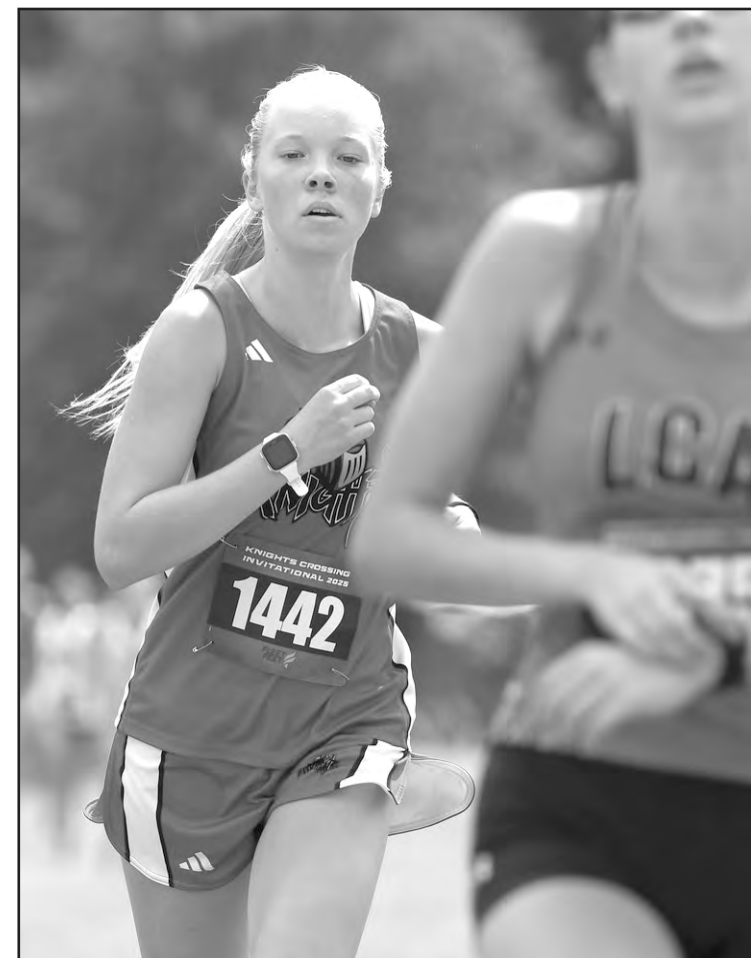
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