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& Botetourt County News

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PHOTO BY MATT DE SIMONE

Renovation work continues on the rear of the Buchanan Theatre, where crews are restoring and rebuilding portions of the historic building.

Buchanan Theatre renovation takes shape as historic venue prepares for new life

Matt de Simone

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Behind the plywood, exposed framing and construction equipment, the future of the Buchanan Theatre is beginning to take shape.

The historic Main Street theatre is roughly 40% through a major renovation that will preserve much of the building's original structure while transforming its interior into a modern, flexible community venue.

Del. Terry Austin, R-Botetourt, provided a tour of the ongoing work Thursday alongside Adam McBryde, chairman of Standing Room Only, the non-profit organization behind the theatre project, and local contractor Mark Dunbar.

While the finished building will look significantly different inside, the goal is to retain the character and history that have made the theatre a part of Buchanan for generations.

"The front of the building, we're trying to leave as intact as possible," Austin said.

The theatre is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, Austin said, creating an additional consideration as the renovation team works to modernize the building without stripping away its historic character.

Much of the original structure will remain, including brick walls, floors, roof elements and massive original floor joists.

McBryde pointed out the 2-by-12 floor joists running approximately 30 feet through portions of the building.

"They don't make trees like that anymore," he noted.

Rather than completely gutting the building, the project is largely adding modern materials and systems around the original structure. Insulation is being added to walls that previously had none, and new drywall will replace older lath-and-plaster interior finishes.

The changes inside the auditorium, however, will be substantial.

Five rows of seats – approximately 40 seats – have been removed from the front portion of the theatre. The area will be flattened to create a flexible space that can accommodate folding chairs, tables, children's birthday parties and other events.

The theatre also will eventually receive new seating, including wider seats and cupholders, as part of a planned capital campaign. The new configuration will allow the project to regain some of the lost seating by adding additional rows.

Accessibility also is being significantly improved.

Plans call for wheelchair spaces within the auditorium, an ADA-compliant lift to the stage and new ADA-compliant restrooms. A new restroom is also being constructed in the backstage area so performers and staff will not have to leave the backstage area to use a restroom. The stage itself is being extended farther into the rear of the building, gaining roughly 4-1/2 feet of depth, with additional space

See **Theatre**, page 5

Breckinridge Law Office and Western Hotel reconstruction advances to conceptual design



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF BOTETOURT CO.

A rendering shows the rear view of the planned reconstruction of Fincastle's historic James Breckinridge Law Office and Western Hotel.

The reconstruction of Fincastle's historic James Breckinridge Law Office and Western Hotel took another step forward as the Botetourt County Board of Supervisors received an update at the Aug. 25 meeting on the project's conceptual design.

Capital Projects Manager Rich Evans introduced Allison Blanton, an architectural historian with Hill Studio, and Carter Smith, the project's architect, who presented the design to the board.

Blanton said the project team has completed the conceptual design after working through the building's history, potential uses and relationship to the planned courthouse square improvements.

The project initially envisioned reconstructing the Breckinridge Law Office as a stand-alone building along with a separate building representing the Western Hotel. After studying how the two structures could fit on the available site, however, the advisory committee determined that two separate buildings would not be practical.

"There really was not enough room on the site to do two stand-alone buildings, nor would there be sufficient budget to do that," Blanton said.

The conceptual design instead combines the two historic periods into a single reconstructed building.

The original 1790s Breckinridge Law Office will receive the most historically accurate treatment, with the interior intended to be replicated to museum-quality standards. The remainder of the building will provide flexible,

See **Design**, page 3

Sunflower Festival returns this Friday



FILE PHOTO

The annual Beaver Dam Farm Sunflower Festival returns to Buchanan next weekend, with the 2026 festival set for Sept. 11-20.

The 11th annual festival will feature thousands of sunflowers, hayrides, photo opportunities, food and handmade crafts from more than 115 vendors.

Festival hours are 4-7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 11; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 12-13; 5-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 16; and 10 a.m.-5

See **Festival**, page 4

Botetourt Remembers Sept. 11... 25 years later

Memorial walk this Friday in Buchanan

Matt de Simone

Managing Editor

It is hard to believe that 25 years have passed since the unforgettable morning of Sept. 11, 2001, when Americans learned their country had been attacked.

Four commercial airplanes had been hijacked that morning. Two were flown into the World Trade Center towers in New York City, another struck the Pentagon in Arlington and a fourth crashed into a field near Shanksville, Pa., after passengers and crew attempted to regain control of the aircraft. The first plane struck the North Tower at 8:46 a.m., followed 17 minutes later by the attack on the South Tower. By the end of the day, nearly 3,000 people had been killed, including 343 firefighters.

For those old enough to remember, Sept. 11 remains more than a date in history. The memories are tied to where people were, who called them, what they saw on television and how they tried to make sense of an event that seemed impossible to comprehend as it unfolded.

Those memories will be remembered in Buchanan Friday morning, when Sirens and Salutes holds its annual 9/11 Memorial Walk beginning at 8:30 a.m. at the Buchanan Fire Department.

The walk has been held since 2019, when organizer Bill Price began looking for a way to create a local memorial that would be accessible to everyone. Rather than climbing the equivalent of the 110 floors of the World Trade Center, participants walk together along Main Street in Buchanan.

The 102-minute walk corresponds with the period from the first attack on the World Trade Center to the collapse of the North Tower. Price said the slower pace gives participants an opportunity to think about where they were, the people who died and the families who were left behind.

As the 25th anniversary approaches, Price said the walk has taken on an added importance. Many of the first responders who experienced the aftermath firsthand are now getting older, while some continue to deal with illnesses associated with their work at Ground Zero. He wants those people to know that their friends, co-workers and fellow first responders are still remembered.

The walk also is intended to pass those memories to a generation that has no personal recollection of Sept. 11. Price has provided sets of memorial tags to James River High School (JRHS), Central Academy Middle School (CAMS) and Botetourt Technical Education Center (BTEC) so students can hold their own ceremonies and learn about the first responders who were killed.

"Remembering and educating our youth and passing it on are equally important," Price said.

Price said the memorial also provides an opportunity for the community to put aside the issues that can divide it.

"We have a lot of divisive issues in the community—politics, data centers, all kinds of stuff," he said. "For 102 minutes, we can put all that aside and have one common goal, and that's to remember."

One of Price's most memorable walks involved a woman who told him she wanted to participate but was in a wheelchair. Price encouraged her to come, and participants took turns pushing her for the entire 102 minutes.

"She cried at the end," Price recalled.

For Price, the moment captured what the memorial walk is intended to be: a community coming together

See **9-11 Walk**, page 10



PHOTO COURTESY OF NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Friday marks the 25th anniversary of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack on New York City's World Trade Center. That day, Sirens and Salutes will hold its annual memorial walk in Buchanan.

2026 SEASON

Daleville town center

Scan here for complete event schedule, and details.

SEPTEMBER 11

BOTETOURT FARMERS MARKET DALEVILLE TOWN CENTER

8:30 - NOON

BIG MATT AND THE TIME MACHINE

5-9PM

OCTOBER 3

OUT OF SPITE

THAT 80's SHOW

5-9PM

Botetourt County History



PHOTO COURTESY OF BCMHC

As summer fades into fall, farmers are busy harvesting their crops. This single-blade scythe is a traditional harvesting and mowing tool which features a curved steel blade attached to a long wooden handle that can be held in two places. The one shown is displayed on the parlor wall at the Botetourt Museum of History & Culture. It is part of the exhibition "Home Grown: Botetourt's Agricultural History" and part of their permanent collection.

Before mechanization, harvesting was laborious work and often required the help of many people. Wheat, oats and other crops were cut close to the ground using the curved blade with a swinging motion. The grain was then gathered by hand to dry.

Scythes are ideal for clearing grass or woody growth and still sold today in local hardware stores and online.

~ Botetourt County Museum of History & Culture



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANN LAYMAN

Bleecker earns rank of 6th Degree Black Belt

Karate instructor Douglas Bleecker is shown holding two certificates he recently received with some of his students. One certificate recognizes his promotion to rank of Rukudan "6th Degree Black Belt." The second Uechi Ryn International Karate-Do certificate has awarded him "Master Teaching Title–Renshi."

Both were awarded in Massachusetts by the International Karate-Do Association Board of Directors. He also received a certificate of appreciation "For the Advancement of Uechi Ryu Karate-Do" and a proclamation from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts House of Representatives. It is in recognition of his "2026 Outstanding Contributions to the Art of Uechi Ryn Karate-Do" and is signed by Speaker of the House Ronald Mariano on August 15, 2026, in Boston.

Bleecker earned his Bachelor of Science in Economics at George Mason University and his Master of Science in Education at Old Dominion University. After starting his martial arts career in 1988 he opened the Okinawan Karate School in 2001 at Botetourt Carilion Wellness.

This year he is celebrating the 25th anniversary of serving Botetourt and Roanoke children and adults. Under his instruction his students have learned respect, confidence, self-defense and leadership skills. Karate is more than breaking boards and what's shown in the movies. Classes are taught Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. For more information call 540-309-6221.

~ Submitted by Ann Layman



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF BOTETOURT BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Botetourt County Honey Festival returns Sept. 26

The fifth annual Botetourt County Honey Festival is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 26, at Buchanan Town Park.

Hosted by the Botetourt Beekeepers Association, the festival will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and will feature a celebration of honey, beekeeping, and the county's beekeeping community.

For those planning to attend the Fincastle Festival that Saturday, the Honey Festival offers another stop to add to the day. Visitors can make the short trip from Fincastle to Buchanan and take in both community events.

Additional details about activities at the Honey Festival have not yet been announced. The association is seeking vendors and volunteers, with information available through the QR code on the festival's save-the-date announcement.

The event marks the fifth year of the Botetourt Beekeepers Association's Honey Festival. Organizers are encouraging residents to save the date for what they promise will be "a sweet time."

~ Fincastle Herald staff report

HFI gearing up for Fincastle Festival



PHOTO COURTESY OF HFI

Saturday, Sept. 26, Historic Fincastle, Inc. will once again offer visitors an array of fine art, handmade crafts, blacksmiths, and Revolutionary War Interpreters in celebration of the nation's 250th birthday at the annual Fincastle Festival.

The Botetourt County Museum of History & Culture will offer visitors a collection of local artifacts that tell the story of Botetourt's long history and impact through the years. A small classic car show will be located along Academy Street in addition to some fire trucks and emergency vehicles. Encounters with Revolutionary soldiers walking around town can also be expected…don't hesitate to ask them questions about their lives while fighting for America's independence!

Food trucks this year will offer an even larger variety of choices than in previous years – including the Asian food truck, the BBQ grilled meats including chicken, hot dogs, hamburgers, funnel cakes, fresh squeezed lemonade, kettle corn, various sweets and ice cream….and the list goes on.

As noted in an earlier article, the quilt show will again present beautiful quilts, and a Quilts of Valor presentation will be made again this year.

Two venues providing live music, activities for the youngsters, and a display of youth art along with historic documents from the late 1700s will round out the variety of things to see and do on Saturday, Sept. 26, beginning at 10 a.m., rain or shine.

~ Lynne Bolton, HFI

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SWVA DCTA condemns the beginning of Google data center grading

Botetourt County's decision to allow Google to begin site grading for its proposed Greenfield data center campus is a disgraceful abdication of duty and trust. The decision disregards not only the widespread community opposition and anger over the project's development and risks, but the company's disregard for the process in its other permit applications.

Google is months overdue in completing its application for a Virginia Stream Protection permit application with the Department of Environmental Quality. It has blown past its original completion date of June 26 due to having been asked five times for additional information and materials due to deficiencies in the application. The company's application for a minor air permit has been delinquent twice in as many months.

There has been no update given from the Army Corps of Engineers on their joint permit application, which received more than 700 public comments and requests for a public hearing.

The Board of Supervisors only last month voted to appoint a special "Independent Commission" to examine the air, water, and other environmental concerns, grabbing authority over it from the Planning Commission in the process. Yet,appointments to the "Independent Commission" have not been announced, let alone begun their work.

Virginia DEQ bears some responsibility for this mismanagement. Allowing Google to keep an incomplete application open allowed them to move their other permits forward on lower standards for months. DEQ is trying to improve their public outreach, after disputing and delaying the release of air and water studies critical of the data center industry. We call on them to close this application and only reconsider Google's proposal when it has complete information and higher standards.

Yet, the Botetourt County Board of Supervisors and Economic Development Authority, are ultimately responsible for this project, and its increasing risks. Allowing grading to commence signals a compete disregard for public concerns and their public duty, and feeds into a growing crisis of legitimacy with their constituents. Expediting approvals for a company that is strategically slow-rolling its applications is playing directly into Google's and Big Tech's strategy of taking advantage of ill-informed public officials and the communities they are supposed to protect. Google and the Botetourt County administration are determined to break ground, and in the process break the county apart.

The Southwest Virginia Data Center Transparency Alliance is a non-partisan group of Roanoke Valley residents concerned about the rapid growth of data center development in the greater Roanoke region and Southwest Virginia, and the Commonwealth as a whole. We believe the presence of these industrial facilities does not benefit the long-term prosperity of our local economy, our natural resources, our neighborhoods, or our selves. Learn more about SWVA DCTA's work at https://swvadcta.org.

Julie Bivins and Ben Verschoor, Co-Founders
Southwest Virginia Data Center Transparency Alliance

Questions remain about Dal-Nita Hills waterline

My letter is to commend the Botetourt County Planning Commission for its 2-2 vote on the Dal-Nita Hills subdivision double loop waterline. I have never met or spoken with any of the four members of the Planning Commission.

The two positive votes still had concerns but voted to move forward because the folks living in the subdivision had suffered with water issues for many years. The waterline was passed over years ago with nothing being done to alleviate the problem.

One has to wonder why the Botetourt County Board of Supervisors (BoS) and the Western Virginia Water Authority (WVWA) ignored the situation for years. (In 1975, I sat in Professor Dan Amos's soils class and heard him speak of doing soil work in the subdivision.) The problem became public again and a tie vote was made by the Planning Commission on the waterline issue. The tie vote was then overridden by the Board of Supervisors at its last meeting in late August.

Near the end of the BoS meeting an unnecessary rude comment was made by one of the BoS about one of the Planning Commission member's negative votes. Let's review the situation. The application packet published and signed by the county administrator was in print that required a 10x magnifier to read. The packet showed the waterline crossing Etzler Road about halfway to the subdivision. After reviewing the papers several times, the waterline crossed the road because the county administrator or his office staff had shuffled the papers. But this mistake created concern until the error was discovered. It was mentioned the waterline could be installed in the road. It was also mentioned the soils along the way were no problem for installation, they had been used before in construction. One of the soils is wet during the winter with soil water around the pipe. The second soil may require 18 to 24 inches of rock to be removed from the trench. The third soil has high shrink swell which may move the pipe over the years during wetting and drying cycles.

No one from the WVWA attended the Planning Commission meeting or the Board of Supervisors meeting to aid in understanding the application packet. Once the waterline reached the subdivision no additional information was provided to the Planning Commission. Probably a million-dollar project with incomplete information supplied to the Planning Commission.

Here, there should have been a drawing of the double loop waterline around the back of the subdivision. There was nothing for the Planning Commission to visualize. There were no easement maps showing where the lines would go or how they would be sited adjacent to the present drain fields.

Botetourt County residents have spoken of taxes and spending. But no comment was made to have two large water pipes installed in the same trench when only one pipe can be used for the homes. It would also probably be cheaper and faster to go along the streets in front of the homes instead of cycling the homes from the back.

A suggestion for the future– the BoS should hire the young soil scientist in the county and assign him to the Planning Commission. He could make site visits ahead of the meetings and update the commission members of potential concerns.

Working all over the state of Virginia from the late 1970 to mid-2015, I worked on problem sites. Never had I witnessed or heard of a double loop waterline. I have sent the WVWA a FOIA request of get additional information.

Being someone that appreciates history I wonder if the large (12-inch) waterline will be used for the planned subdivision across from the back entrance to the Greenfield sports area. Will any easements the homes give up be used for that subdivision?

Gary Whitley
Troutville

Design from page 1





GRAPHICS COURTESY OF BOTETOURT CO.

Renderings of the interior of the new building, as shown by Hill Studio during the Aug. 25 Board of Supervisors meeting.

unfinished "white box" space that can accommodate a future tenant or other community use.

Blanton said the design will tell the story of the building's evolution through its exterior.

The original law office was later expanded during the 19th century and eventually became part of the Western Hotel, which was associated with Fincastle's development as a resort community. The proposed reconstruction will incorporate different brick patterns, colors and materials to help illustrate those changes.

The project team also benefited from extensive documentation of the original building before it was demolished, including work by historic preservation specialists.

Historic materials salvaged from the original building also could be reused in portions of the reconstruction, particularly in the Breckinridge Law Office section.

The proposed building would include a 494-square-foot recreation of the James Breckinridge Law Office, 1,266 square feet of multi-purpose interior space, 154 square feet of restrooms and 349 square feet of balcony space.

The first floor would include the reconstructed law office, flexible multi-purpose space and an area corresponding to an 1830s addition to the original law office.

The former Western Hotel portion would include a large, two-story open space. Blanton said the space could provide a unique opportunity for future use in downtown Fincastle.

The project also includes two Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant restrooms. One could potentially be accessed from outside the building for use during downtown events, while the other would serve the interior.

Blanton said the advisory committee considered a number of potential uses for the building before settling on the flexible-space concept.

The approach was informed in part by a market analysis completed as part of the Town of Fincastle's revitalization planning, as well as input from members of the advisory committee and other community representatives.

"We've come up with this concept that has been recommended by the advisory committee," Blanton said.

She said initial conversations with members of the construction industry indicate the proposed design can be constructed within the project's allocated budget.

The conceptual design also takes into account the building's location within the planned courthouse square.

Blanton said the project team determined that constructing two separate buildings would interfere with available parking and the memorial garden, where some of the planned monuments already have been placed.

The single-building concept maintains the same general square footage as the historic structure while fitting within the planned site.

The presentation included site plans, floor plans, elevations and renderings showing how the reconstructed building would fit into the courthouse square.

Blanton said the project team is currently preparing a final report on the conceptual design.

The project also has support from Del. Terry Austin, who Blanton said is working with Colonial Williamsburg on the possibility of obtaining historically appropriate bricks for the reconstruction.

The reconstruction is part of the county's broader courthouse square project and is intended to preserve and interpret an important part of Fincastle's and Botetourt County's history while creating flexible space that could contribute to downtown revitalization.

Project updates can be followed through the county's online project tracker at botetourtva.gov/projects.

~ Fincastle Herald staff report

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Library Buzz

Featured Event: 140 Years of The Fincastle Herald

Mon, Sep 14, 6 PM, Fincastle

Join Ed McCoy, editor of The Fincastle Herald from 1984-2018 and longtime Botetourt County historian, for a look back at 140 years of The Herald – the stories it has covered and the history it has helped preserve. *Best for ages 19+

Upcoming Events: Uncovering America's Story Through Quilts

Thu, Sep 10, 6 PM, Fincastle

Learn how quilts have shaped and reflected American history for more than 250 years, touching on topics like trade, war, migration, civil rights, child labor laws, and cultural memory. Presented by Neva Hart, quilt historian, author, appraiser, and consultant. Best for ages 19+

Lock and Talk Virginia

Thu, Sep 10, 6 PM, Eagle Rock

Suicide prevention starts with awareness, connection, and conversation. Learn how to recognize warning signs, respond supportively, and promote safety during moments of crisis. Free medication lockboxes and gun locks will be available to participants. Presented by Blue Ridge Behavioral Health. Best for ages 19+. Registration required. Register at https://botetourtva.libcal.com/ or call 540-928-2900 with questions.

Watercolor Landscape Series

Mon, Sep 14, 11 AM, Blue Ridge

Unleash your inner artist and explore the beauty of nature through paint! Over the course of this four-week workshop, you'll learn essential watercolor techniques while bringing four distinct seasonal landscapes to life. Guided step-by-step, you will practice blending, layering, and brushwork to create a vibrant fall woodland scene. Best for ages 19+. Registration required. Register at https://botetourtva.libcal.com/ or call 540-928-2900 with questions.

Creative Writing Workshop with Local Author Aaron Bond

Tue, Sep 15, 6:30 PM, Blue Ridge

Join us for a special series of creative writing workshops led by Botetourt County's very own published authors. Whether you are a seasoned writer looking to get your work noticed by libraries and reviewers, or a beginner ready to take your first steps into character development, these sessions offer practical insights, expert guidance, and inspiration. Best for ages 19+. Registration required. Register at https://botetourtva.libcal.com/ or call 540-928-2900 with questions.

Needlecraft

Wed, Sep 16, 1 PM, Buchanan

Bring your project to work on, share tips, and learn from others in this informal gathering. All types of needlecrafts are welcome. Best for ages 19+.

Learn more about Botetourt Libraries at bocolibraries.info

BCO LIBRARIES

DAR: Our Patriot Ancestors

In recognition of the 250th celebration of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence, the DAR America 250! Committee of the Botetourt County Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution is placing a spotlight on members' Patriot ancestors who helped the country achieve American Independence. Patriot ancestors are men and women whose service to the American Revolution has been documented through careful research. Whether they served as soldiers, provided supplies, or performed essential public service, their contributions have been proven by previous members of DAR. **Captain Thomas Amis** *is a Patriot ancestor of DAR members Betty Holt and Sarah Beth Richardson.*

Thomas Amis was born in 1744 in Northampton County, N.C. On January 27, 1763, at the age of 19, he married Alice Gale. The Seven Years' War ended that year, and colonists in North Carolina began expanding westward into lands occupied and controlled by the Cherokee.

By the age of 31, Thomas was father to six children and lived in Bladen County, N.C., where he established a gristmill. In January 1776, he was appointed captain under the command of Col. Richard Caswell. He served in the 3rd Regiment and fought in the Battle of Moore's Creek. Thomas was elected to the Provincial Congress and voted to approve the Halifax Resolves, which called for independence from England.

In December 1776, he became the commissary for the 3rd Regiment, North Carolina Continental Troops. As commissary, he addressed the critical issues of logistics and resupply during a time when infrastructure and supply lines were inadequate. In April 1778, voters elected him to a term in the House of Assembly, but the following month he resigned his seat to accept an appointment as a militia contractor where he continued to provision

See **DAR**, page 7

Fincastle Friends of the Library book sale September 24-26

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 music. Donations will continue to be accepted during the sale.

Proceeds from the sale help support the Fincastle Library through contributions toward furnishings, supplies, programs, special events, and Summer Learning activities. Community support through donations, volunteer service, and purchases at the sale are greatly appreciated.

~ Fincastle Friends of the Library

League for Animal Protection's Waif of the Week

River



River is neutered and up to date on all vaccines. He is about 6 years old but has plenty of energy still. He is such a snuggle bug. He loves affection and petting.

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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On The Web At www.fincastleherald.com

FILE GRAPHIC

Free 'Minions and Monsters' movie at the Buchanan Park Sept. 19

The Buchanan Lions Club will present "Minions and Monsters" free to the public on Saturday, Sept. 19, at dusk (8 p.m.) at the Buchanan Town Park (weather permitting). With renovations at the historic Buchanan Theater now underway, the Lions will show G-Rated movies numerous times over the next year.

With funding help from the Buchanan Library, Buchanan Lions, Friends of the Buchanan Library and the Town Improvement Society, the Lions are presenting the movies along with the coordinated help of Botetourt Parks and Recreation (supplying the projector and screen), and the Buchanan Theater, (use of its popcorn popper).

Also, the Town Improvement Society will be selling a hot dog, chips, and a soda for $5.

The Lions suggest you bring folding chairs, a blanket and bug spray, and to turn off all cell phones and arrive early for best seats. Parking is free across the street.

They will also be polling the audience at the food tables for the next G-Rated showing October 10.

~ Submitted by Tim Heinlein



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Festival from page 1

p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 19-20.

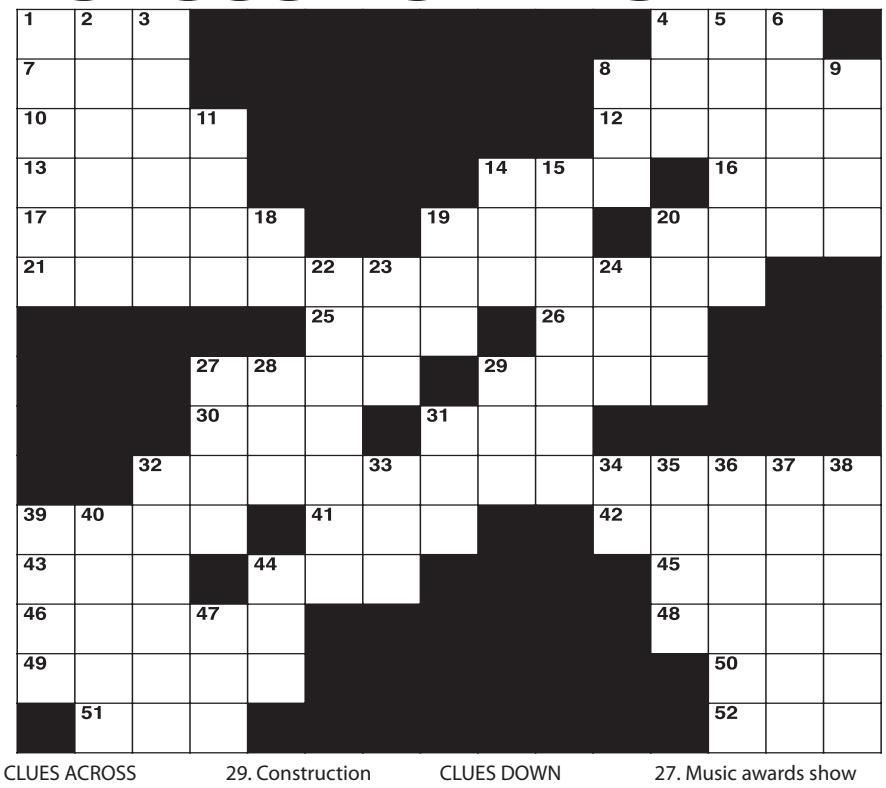
Special events also are scheduled throughout the week, including preschooler, senior citizen and special abilities field trips, as well as ticketed dinners.

The Field of Heroes will be open whenever the festival is open.

Tickets and additional information are available at BeaverDamSunflowers.com.

~ Fincastle Herald staff report

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



CLUES ACROSS
1. Utilitarian fashion accessory
4. Engine additive
7. Macaws
8. Listens to
10. Self-righteously moralistic person
12. Made of wood
13. Chinese lute
14. Beginning military rank
16. Indicates near
17. Ties the score
19. Chum
20. Long ago
21. Localities
25. Midway between northeast and east
26. Make fun of
27. Tennis great Arthur
29. Construction location
30. Cow's noise
31. Blue
32. One of the Fab Four
39. Formula 1 team
41. Dash
42. Lifting device
43. Basics
44. Keyboard key
45. Old Irish alphabet
46. Shaking of the EarthÕs surface
48. Covered stadium
49. Sword handles
50. Longing or yearning
51. Creators' social network
52. Boxing's GOAT

CLUES DOWN
1. Occur
2. Show up
3. Capital of Taiwan
4. Ocean
5. Givers and ___
6. Gets ready
8. Ad __
9. Fit of irritation
11. Criminal organization
14. Exclamation that denotes disgust
15. American state
18. Sensor hub
19. Before
20. The boundary of a surface
22. Witnesses
23. Singular
24. Type of meal
27. Music awards show
28. Former French coin of low value
29. A bag-like structure in an animal
31. Schenectady County Airport
32. Calm down
33. Partner to cheese
34. Cola brand
35. Stepped on
36. Japanese city
37. Type of coating
38. A citizen of Yemen
39. Popular breakfast item corned beef __
40. On a line at right angles to a ship's length
44. First responders
47. Short-term memory

Submit your letters to the editor today.

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The Fincastle Herald

Serving Botetourt Since 1866

See **Answers**, page 10

Theatre from page 1





PHOTOS BY MATT DE SIMONE

The Buchanan Theatre's auditorium shown in 2025 (left) and during the ongoing renovation (right) illustrates the transformation underway at the historic venue. The theater's original details are being preserved as work to restore and renovate the building continues.

gained at the front.

The result will be a considerably larger stage, Austin said.

The renovation also addresses one of the theatre's longstanding problems: its limited backstage space.

The expanded rear portion will include dressing rooms, a green room, a kitchen, laundry facilities and an ADA-compliant restroom. The layout will allow performers and staff to move through the backstage area without disrupting activities in the auditorium. McBryde said the expanded facilities will make it possible to bring smaller theatrical productions to Buchanan, including potential performances from the Barter Theatre and other groups.

The building will not have the traditional wings required for large theatrical productions, so its live-performance capabilities will be geared more toward smaller productions, one-act plays, recitals and school performances.

That flexibility is intentional. The theatre is being designed to accommodate much more than movies. Concerts, community events, children's activities, school productions, recitals and other performances could all become part of its future.

The projection screen will be retractable, allowing the building to transition between movies and live performances without major changes to the space.

"Venues change a lot," McBryde said. "We want to be very adaptable."

The renovation also expands the lobby and concession areas.

A new merchandise area will provide space for visiting performers to sell shirts, albums and other merchandise. Austin said the additional lobby space also has a business purpose: rather than immediately sending patrons into the auditorium, the theatre will give them room to gather and spend time at the concession stand.

That could create an additional source of revenue for the nonprofit while also making the theatre more useful for touring performers.

McBryde said the theatre could potentially attract performers who are willing to play for little or no fee if they have the opportunity to sell merchandise. The expanded backstage facilities could also allow performers to stay overnight in Buchanan rather than having to find accommodations elsewhere.

For Dunbar, the renovation has presented the challenges typical of working on an old building: discovering what is hidden behind walls and beneath floors only after construction begins.

The project has encountered rotten material and other surprises, but Dunbar and the renovation team said nothing discovered so far has created a major setback.

"You never know, between door number one, two or three, you're going to find mice, you're going to find termites, you're going to find rotten walls," McBryde said.

Dunbar, whose family has longstanding ties to Botetourt County, is leading the construction with a largely local team of contractors and tradespeople.

Austin and McBryde repeatedly praised the local contractors for their involvement in the project and their willingness to work with the renovation team as unexpected issues arise. One of the biggest remaining construction challenges is the roof and ensuring the expanded portion of the building remains weatherproof. Once the building is weathered in, plumbing, HVAC and electrical work can move forward more quickly, Austin said.

The project is currently expected to be completed next year.

Funding remains a major part of the theatre's future. Austin said existing funds are sufficient to cover the basic project, but additional money will be needed for interior improvements that are not included in the current construction.

Standing Room Only plans to launch a capital fundraising campaign to help fund those improvements, including new theatre seating and other interior upgrades.

The organization has deliberately kept much of the renovation out of the public eye while the project progressed.

"We sort of kept it quiet to the point of, let's get the project about halfway through," Austin said.

With construction now approaching that point, the group plans to begin publicly promoting the project and its capital campaign.

For those involved, the renovation is about more than restoring an old movie theatre.

Throughout the project, residents have stopped at the construction site to share memories of the building – stories about seeing movies there as children, working at the theatre and even living upstairs.

McBryde said that response demonstrates the role the building has played in Buchanan.

"It is a central point in town," he said. "It's something to do. It's a very important thing."

The hope is that the renovated theatre will give future generations a place to make similar memories. Austin said the goal is to maintain the experiences people associate with the Buchanan Theatre while bringing the facility into the modern era.

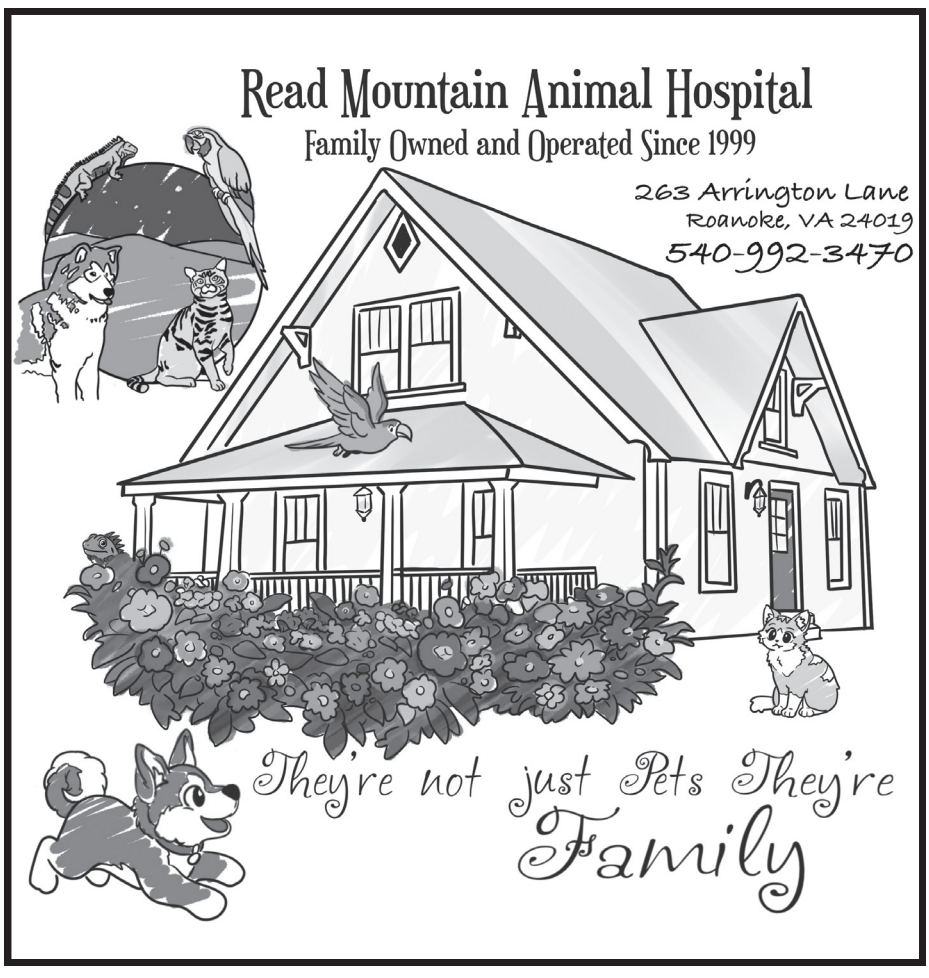
"We want it to have the same functionality so that people can have the same experiences that they've had for generations," he said.

That could mean a movie on a Saturday afternoon, a local school recital, a small play, a concert or a community celebration. Austin offered the Fourth of July as one example. Rather than holding all of the day's activities outdoors, the renovated theatre could provide a venue for readings, musical performances or other programming before residents continue on to other festivities.

For McBryde, the most important part of the project may be giving local children and performers a place to begin.

"We'd love to have kids up here end up on Broadway one day," he explained. "Who knows what could happen."

For now, the Buchanan Theatre remains a construction site, but beneath the construction, much of the original building remains. And if the renovation team's plans come together, the theatre will soon be ready to write another chapter in Buchanan's history.



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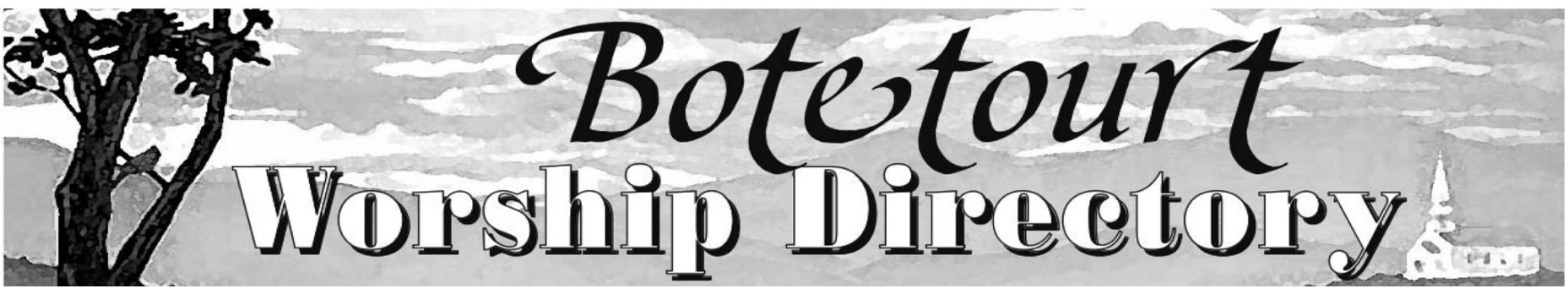
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ANGLICAN

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

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

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

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

INDEPENDENT BAPTIST

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

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

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

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

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

SOUTHERN BAPTIST

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

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

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

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

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

Troutville Church of the Brethren - 5133 Lee Hwy., 992-1571; Terry R. Johnson, Pastor; Don Obenshain, Choir Director. Sunday Morning Services: Sunday School, 10 am; Worship Service, 11 am. Sunday Night Meetings: Family Fellowship Sept-May. Wednesday Night Bible Study, 6:00 pm Sept-May. Choir practice, 7:00 pm. Praise Band Family Practice Thursdays 7p.m. Family Fellowship Time will be held each 3rd Sunday of the month. Our email address is: troutvillecob@hotmail.com and website is troutvillecob.org.

ECKANKAR

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

EPISCOPAL

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

LUTHERAN

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

Wheatland Evangelical Lutheran Church– 1560 Wheatland Road, Buchanan, 24066; 540-254-1605. Sunday worship service, 10:30 a.m. (Services are live streamed on Face Book). Interim Pastor: Phyllis Diamond. Facebook, http://www.wheatlandlutheran.org; teemwheatland@gmail.com

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

Grace Bible Church of Botetourt – 148 Amsterdam Rd. (beside the south lane of 220 in Amsterdam, 1.5 miles north of LBHS). Sunday Worship, 10 a.m. Pastor Jay Robinette - 855-4620.

Mt. Carmel Church, 6 miles south of Eagle Rock at intersection of Rt. 43 and 688; pastor, Richard Ronk; phone # (540) 884-3653; Sunday School at 10:00 A.M., Worship at 11:00 A.M., Wed. Prayer Meeting at 7:00 P.M.

Woodland Church – ***We Present Christ*** – 45 Woodland Rd. Troutville, VA. Corner of Blacksburg/Country Club Rds., 3.5 miles W. of Fincastle. 540-632-1515. Pastor: Caleb Lythgoe. Sunday School, 10AM; Worship, 11AM, Wed. Prayer Meeting 6:30PM. Website: woodlandchurchbc.com. E-mail address: woodlandchurchbc@gmail.com.

PRESBYTERIAN

Buchanan Presbyterian Church – 19559 Main St. Buchanan. 540-254-1390. Donna Hopkins Britt, Pastor. Choir rehearsal at 9:00 am. Sunday School at 10:00 am. Worship at 11:00 am. Videotaped services can be viewed on YouTube. The Food Pantry is open from 9-11 a.m. on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month. Handicap accessible. Facebook page or website: www.buchananpresbyterian.org. Contact www.admin@buchananpresbyterian.org

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

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

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

ROMAN CATHOLIC

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

UNITED METHODIST

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

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

Fincastle United Methodist Church – Sunday School at 9 a.m. in the Family Life Center. In person services Sunday, 10 a.m. in the sanctuary, 136 S. Church St., Fincastle. Service is also live streamed on YouTube at https://www.youtube.com/@FincastleUMCMedia or on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100068517955699. Reverend Scott A. Robertson-Gouge, office, 540-473-3001. Office hours: Tues., Wed., & Thurs.: 9a.m.-2p.m. E-mail: office@fincastleumc.org.

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

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

Living Water

Read Ezekiel 47:1 through 48:35

Many old Western movies show parched travelers, desperate for water. Their boots shuffle in the dust, their legs give way. Finally, they see water in the distance. One cowboy runs up, cupping his hands into the watering hole, but his companion stops him short. Soon, we realize why. The camera pans the watering hole. There are no living things—not one sign of life. A skeleton or two reinforce the scene. Stagnant water brings death.

By contrast, where water is flowing, life thrives. This water can quench, refresh, and sustain the thirst of a weary traveler.

"Swarms of living creatures will live wherever the river flows. There will be large numbers of fish, because this water flows there and makes the salt water fresh; so where the river flows everything will live" (Ezekiel 47:9).

Feeling fatigued? Parched? Are our souls thirsty for a drink? Or maybe you're fine. Whatever the case, we can kneel, cup our hands in prayer, and soak up the satisfying, living water God provides.

Challenge for Today: Immerse yourself in God's living water today.

Quicklook: Ezekiel 47:1–12

OBITUARIES

Proffitt, Billy Waid

6/12/1925 – 9/3/2026



Billy Dudley Moore "Sis" Waid Proffitt, 101, was born on June 12, 1925, in Fincastle. She died peacefully on Thursday, September 3, 2026. She was the daughter of Fulton and Helen Houseman Waid.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Joseph "Ike" Proffitt of Clifton Forge, Va.; her sister, Dreama Waid Johnson (Joseph); her brother, Robert Archer Preas Waid (Reedie); and her daughter, Debby Proffitt.

She is survived by her daughter, Jody Haltom (Guy); grandchildren, Cody and Laurie Paige; and great-grandchildren, Eva and Roman. She had many nieces, nephews and extended family that she loved dearly.

Sis and Ike shared the love for golf and played courses from Europe to Hawaii and many states in the continental United States. In the mid-70s, her ladies' foursome was ranked No. 2 in the U.S.

Sis was the "Matriarch of the Waid Ladies Sisterhood." Her family meant the world to her. She had a wonderful sense of humor, was a great prayer warrior and she will be forever missed.

A service was held at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, September 8, 2026, at Oakey's North Chapel with the Rev. Willis Logan officiating. A graveside service was held at 3:30 p.m. in Godwin Cemetery in Fincastle.

Thanks to her St. Mark's Episcopal family and her Friendship Assisted Living family, especially Linda Ross, Shafagh Ganjikia and friends.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to St. Mark's Episcopal Food Pantry, St. Jude Children's Hospital or to a charity of your choice. Condolences may be shared with her family at www.Oakeys.com. Arrangements were entrusted to Oakey's North Chapel, Roanoke, 540-362-1237.

Patriot Day Fish Fry September 11

The Knights of Columbus Fish Fry on Friday, Sept. 11 is in honor of all First Responders. There will be no charge for all First Responders, and 100% of net proceeds will be donated to local fire, rescue and police organizations. The charge for all others is $12; ages 7 and under are free.

Eat in or take out from 5-7 p.m. at the Church of the Transfiguration, 7624 Roanoke Road, Fincastle. Meals consist of two filets of lightly breaded flounder, or six chicken nuggets (for children), fries, sweet cornbread, homemade coleslaw, and choice of one dessert. A 50/50 drawing will be held. There are no advance ticket sales. Call 540-904-3126 with questions.

~ Knights of Columbus

LAP fundraiser tonight at Don Ho's

The League for Animal Protection (LAP) in Fincastle is holding a fundraiser at Don Ho's Restaurant on Wednesday, Sept. 9. From 3-9 p.m., 10% of the cost of all meals eaten in-house or to-go will go to LAP (excludes alcohol).

Don Ho's is on Lee Highway, Roanoke, across from the Pepsi plant.

~ Submitted by LAP

CHURCH NEWS

Pleasant Hill distributing food Saturday

Pleasant Hill Baptist Church will hold its monthly Food Box Ministry distribution on Saturday, September 12. If you or someone you know is in need of food, stop by one of the two pick-up locations from 9-10:30 a.m.:

Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, 4930 Country Club Road, Troutville (at the corner of Haymakertown and Country Club Roads); and the Eagle Rock Library, 55 Eagle's Nest Drive, Eagle Rock.

News from Solomon's Mission

The Second Saturday Lunch will return at Solomon's Mission on September 12 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The lunch is free and open to all. Solomon's Mission is located at 592 Lowe Street in Buchanan.

Buchanan Food Pantry open September 12

The Buchanan Presbyterian Church Food Pantry will be open Saturday, September 12, from 9-11 a.m. Volunteers from St. Mark's Methodist Church will distribute meat, bread, milk, eggs and staples at the curb. Anyone in need is welcome. The church is located at 19559 Main Street, Buchanan.

The pantry appreciates all who support this mission in any way. If anyone would like to contribute food, it can be left at Southern Girls Mercantile Antique Shop, across the street from the library, or checks can be mailed to Buchanan Presbyterian Church, P.O. Box 517, Buchanan, 24066.

Troutville AOG hosting luncheon

Troutville Assembly of God is hosting a luncheon from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. on Saturday, September 12. All are invited for a time of food and fellowship. The luncheon will be held at the church, 118 Conner Lane in Troutville.

Community Meal at Eagle Rock

The Eagle Rock Potluck Community Meal will be September 14 at 12 noon at the Eagle Rock Community Center. Bring a dish or dessert to share with everyone and come for good fellowship and food.

St. Mark's 'Meal Packing' event to fight hunger

St. Mark's United Methodist in Daleville will once again host "Meal Packing" for Rise Against Hunger from 10 a.m.-noon on Saturday, September 19 in the church Family Life Center. This is open for anyone between the ages of 5 to 95. Volunteers are asked to help reach the goal of packing 20,000 meals. Those who can help may register on the church website, stmarksmethodist.com.

Ebenezer holding yard sale September 19

Ebenezer United Methodist Church is having a community yard sale Saturday, September 19 from 7 a.m. till noon. Ebenezer is located 85 Nace Road, Trouville.

Fincastle Clothes Closet open dates

Fincastle United Methodist's Clothes Closet will be open on Saturday, Sept. 19, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., and Tuesday, Sept. 22, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., in the Family Life Center at 137 S. Church Street. Donations of gently worn, clean clothing and shoes also will be accepted. Call the church office at 540-473-3001 to arrange to bring donations during office hours, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Tuesday-Thursday.

Cloverdale Church of the Brethren Thrift Store

All clothes and shoes are half off at the Thrift Store in September. Shoes and pocketbooks are needed. Donations are welcome and appreciated. The store is open Saturdays, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Historical Society to celebrate Botetourt County 4-H history

The Botetourt County Historical Society will celebrate the history and impact of 4-H in the county with a special program Thursday, Oct. 8, as part of National 4-H Week.

The program will feature Glenda Snyder, who served as Botetourt County's 4-H Extension agent from the 1980s through the 2000s. During her tenure with Virginia Cooperative Extension, Snyder worked with thousands of young people, helping them develop leadership skills and confidence while encouraging an appreciation for agriculture, community service and personal growth.

Several former Botetourt 4-H members also will participate in the program, sharing personal stories and discussing how their experiences in 4-H influenced their lives.

The program will explore the traditions, friendships, projects and opportunities associated with 4-H and its role in Botetourt County over the years.

The event coincides with the Historical Society's current exhibit, Home Grown: Botetourt's Agricultural History, which examines the county's agricultural heritage and the people who helped shape the community.

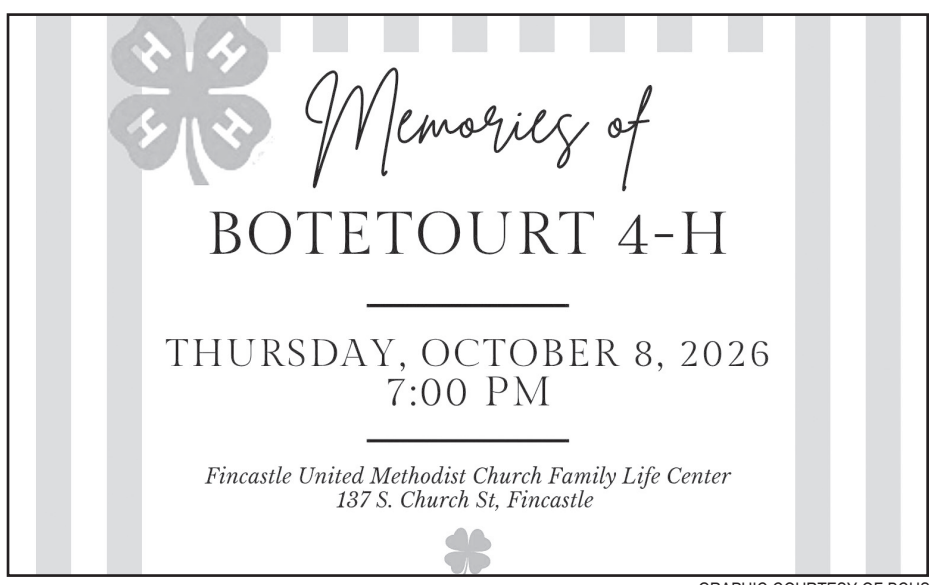
According to the Historical Society, 4-H's emphasis on practical skills, civic engagement and leadership reflects the longstanding connection between agriculture, education and community in Botetourt County.

The program will begin at 7 p.m. at the Fincastle United Methodist Family Life Center, 137 S. Church Street, Fincastle.

Admission is free, and the public is invited. Former 4-H members, volunteers, parents and others interested in local history are encouraged to attend.

For more information, contact the Botetourt County Historical Society at 540-473-0148 or execdirectorbchs@gmail.com.

~ Fincastle Herald staff report



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF BCHS

Botetourt County Retired Educators meeting September 14

The Botetourt County Retired Educators (BRE) will meet on Monday, September 14, at Fincastle United Methodist Church's Family Life Center, 137 South Church Street, Fincastle. The meeting will begin at 11 a.m. After the meeting the group will go to Bellacino's in Daleville for lunch. Anyone who has retired in the field of education living in the Botetourt County area is eligible for membership. At this meeting dues ($45) may be paid for 2026-2027. Donations for the Book Fund and for the 2027 scholarships will be collected.

At the meeting, non-perishable food items will be collected for the Buchanan Food Pantry in memory of Elizabeth Provost, who was a long-time treasurer of the BRE. The program will be making members aware of the ways people with food insecurities in Botetourt County are helped. Ideas will also be solicited for meeting places and programs for future meetings.

New members are always welcome. If you have any questions, contact Susan Martin at susanmartin730@gmail.com.

~ Submitted by Susan Martin

DAR from page 4

the army into 1779.

At Thomas's property near the South Carolina border, Gen. Francis Marion, a Revolutionary raider known as the "Swamp Fox," frequently camped near Amis' mill on Drowning Creek. Marion used the site as an area to regroup and rest in the relative safety of a community friendly to the Cause.

The Battle of King's Mountain in October 1780 ended major fighting on the Carolina frontier, but Amis continued his work as commissary agent. Believing his family and fortune were threatened in Bladen County, he moved his family to western North Carolina on 1,000 acres along Big Creek that he received as a Revolutionary veteran. Once there, he continued serving as superintendent commissary for Washington and Sullivan counties until 1783.

Today, his property lies in Hawkins County, Tenn., which was part of North Carolina at that time. Thomas directed workers to build and operate a tavern, store, water-powered mill, blacksmith shop, tannery and distillery, while also cultivating fields and raising livestock. His property became a frontier trading center where travelers, many of them Revolutionary War veterans, stopped as they headed west to claim their Revolutionary War land grants.

A proud member of the Society of the Cincinnati, he died on December 4, 1797, and was buried in the Amis Cemetery near his home. His legacy continues: the mill he built is now a popular restaurant, Amis Mill Eatery in Rogersville, Tenn., and his descendants live in the stone house that Thomas and Alice built. His service to a new nation is one that will be remembered through the ages.

The Daughters of the American Revolution is a non-profit, non-political organization open to any woman who can document her lineage to a Patriot who contributed to the success of the American Revolution. Founded over 135 years ago, it is focused on service to the community through its mission of Historic Preservation, Education, and Patriotism. If you are interested in joining the chapter or have questions about membership, contact Membership Chair Emily Talbot-Guillote by email at eptg1019@gmail.com, or Registrar JoElla John at jjohnregistrar@gmail.com. We welcome your interest and would be happy to help you explore your Revolutionary War ancestry and the membership process.

~ Botetourt County DAR

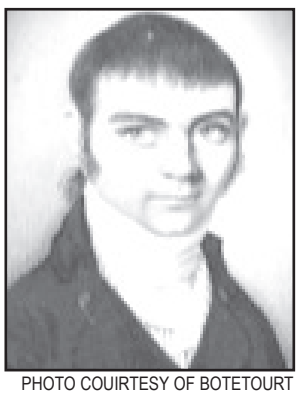


PHOTO COUIRTESY OF BOTETOURT DAR

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Garage Sale

Gethsemane Baptist Church Garage Sale

Saturday September 12th
Gibson Activities Building
8 am to 2 pm
Many free items will be available as well!
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Help Wanted

tap into hope Founded 1965

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

SALARY $90,000-$115,000/YEAR
The Director of Finance functions in an administrative role to oversee and be responsible for the operations of the Finance Department within the organization.
 Carries out the plans and the activities of the Finance component of TAP;
 Manages the preparation and administration of TAP's budget and advises other TAP officials regarding the same;
 Manages the submission of reports and timely draw-downs of accounts receivable;
 Manages other components with the development and implementation of financial systems;
 Comprehensive knowledge of fiscal controls, laws and regulations governing receipt, custody and expenditures of federal moneys under agency contract;
 Comprehensive knowledge of Accounting principles and practices;
 Ability to evaluate financial systems and efficiently formulate and install applicable methods, procedures, forms and records;
 BS in Accounting or Finance from an accredited college or university with major work in accounting, finance or business administration. This is to be supplemented with graduate level courses and/or extensive experience in finance, administration, budgeting, federal funding practices and regulations, purchasing and property management.
 MBA and/or CPA highly desirable.
 10+ years in progressively responsible financial leadership roles, preferably in real estate development, property management, and/or construction industry.
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Roanoke VA 24011
or fax to 540-345-1944
TTY: 540-345-4096
AA/EOE/Drug Free Workplace
Bilingual ability is a plus

Help Wanted

tap into hope Founded 1965

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

SALARY $78,000-$96,000/YEAR
The Assistant Director of Finance performs complex professional and difficult administrative work directing the activities of the Finance component of TAP.
 Assists in carrying out the plans and the activities of the Finance component of TAP;
 Assists in the preparation and administration of TAP's budget and advises other TAP officials regarding the same;
 Assists in the submission of reports and timely drawdowns of accounts receivable; Assists other components with the development of implementation of financial systems;
 Comprehensive knowledge of fiscal controls, laws and regulations governing receipt, custody and expenditures of federal money under agency contracts;
 Comprehensive knowledge of principles and practices;
 Ability to evaluate financial systems and efficiently formulate and install accounting methods, procedures, forms and records;
 Bachelor's degree in accounting and/or finance.
 Extensive experience in finance and administration, budgeting, insurances policies, benefit programs, federal funding practices and regulations, purchasing and property management.
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AA/EOE/Drug Free Workplace
Bilingual ability is a plus

Legals - City of Salem

Notice is hereby given to all interested persons that the City of Salem Planning Commission, at its regular meeting on September 16, 2026 at 6:30 p.m., in Council Chambers, City Hall, 114 North Broad Street, in the City of Salem, Virginia, will hold a public hearing, pursuant to Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia, as amended, to consider approval of the following requests relative to the CODE OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA:

1.Consider the request of Roanoke College Trustees, property owner, to rezone the property located at 102 North Market Street (Tax Map # 106-6-1) from RB Residential Business District to CUD College and University District with proffered conditions.

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

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

THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA
BY: Christopher J. Dorsey
Executive Secretary

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Legals - City of Salem

VDOT Virginia Department of Transportation

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, Botetotourt and Craig 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, 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 Employe

Legals - Botetourt County

Order of Publication

Commonwealth of Virginia
VA Code§§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316, -317,20-104
Case No.CL26-485
VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF BOTETOURT
In re: Surplus Funds Derived from the Foreclosure Sale of Property Located at 4427 Lee Highway, Troutville, Virginia 24175
PETER M. PEARL, BRYSON J. HUNTER and TIMOTHY J. LOVETT, Trustees *Petitioners*, v. UNKNOWN HEIRS OF JIMMY W. HUFFMAN and JIMMY WAYNE HUFFMAN, JR.
Respondents.

The object of this suit is to Interplead surplus funds remaining following the foreclosure sale of certain real property commonly known as 4427 Lee Highway, Troutville, Virginia 24175. It appearing the Respondents' identity and present whereabouts are unknown, and that diligence has been used by or on behalf of the Petitioners without effect to ascertain the identity and location of any unknown heirs, it is ORDERED that any potential heirs appear on or before October 5, 2026, in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court for the Botetourt County, Virginia and do what my be necessary to protect their interest in this suit.

IIT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a copy of this Order be posted at the front door of the Courthouse, on the Court Website, AND a copy mailed to each party at their addresses below.
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Order be published once per week for four successive weeks in the Fincastle Herald.
The Clerk of this Court shall post this Order at the front door of the Courthouse and Shall mail a copy of this Order to the parties at their last known and provided addresses, if any, herein.
Entered 8/27/26
Joel R. Branscom, Circuit Court Judge

Legals - Botetourt County

I ask for this:
Timothy J. Lovett
(VSB No. 97438)
Spilman Thomas & Battle, PLLC
P.O. Box 90
Roanoke, VA 24002-0090
540-512-1800
540-342-4480 (facsimile)
tlovett@spilmanlaw.com

Last Known addresses for Respondents
Unknown Heirs of
Jimmy W. Huffman
4427 Lee Highway,
Troutville Va 24175

Jimmy Wayne Huffman, Jr.
172 Trading Ford Way
Lexington, NC 27292

Legals - Montgomery County

ABC NOTICE

VD RETAIL LLC., trading as GOOSE CREEK MARKET, 2370 Roanoke St, Montgomery County, Christiansburg, VA 24073

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Convenience Grocery Store Wine and Beer OFF Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

Deep Patel, Owner

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

NOTICE

Arcola Towers proposes to build a 160-foot monopole communications tower at the approx. vicinity of Meadow Creek Road, Christiansburg, Montgomery County, VA 24073 (37.09310277,-80.50018333). In accordance with the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the FCC regulations implementing Section 106 review, public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted to: Trileaf Corp, Samantha, s.mertz@trileaf.com, 303 International Circle, Hunt Valley, MD 21030. 410.853.7128.

VDOT Virginia Department of Transportation

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

Legals - Montgomery County

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY NOTICE OF TAKING PROOF OF DEBTS AND DEMANDS

At the request of the agent for the Executor of the Estate of Michael Glenn Mantz, deceased, as provided by §64.1-171 of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, I hereby designate 11:00 a.m. on October 6, 2026 as the time, and my office located at 207 Washington Street, S.W., Blacksburg, Virginia 24060, as the place for receiving proof of debts and demands against the estate.
Given my hand this 1st day of September, 2026.
Warren S. Neily, Jr.
Commissioner of Accounts

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 28, 2026, at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073, pursuant to Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia, as amended. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments concerning:
A. Conditional Use Permit request by Kevin T. Carter and Anne M. Carter, Property Owners, and Tow 360 LLC, Applicant, to allow a towing service on approximately 4.396 acres located at 492 Kiwanis Lane SE and further identified as Tax Parcel 528 - ((A)) - 73 (Parcel ID 014664), in the General Industrial (I-2) zoning district. The property is designated as Business/Commercial on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.
Town Hall will be open and available to receive public comments in-person at the time of this Public Hearing. A copy of the application, the Town's Zoning Map, Zoning Ordinance, and Future Land Use Map may be viewed in the Planning Department Office, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073, during normal office hours of 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contact the Planning Department, at (540) 382-6128, ext. 1902 or by email at planning@christiansburg.org, with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations.

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 22, 2026, at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073, pursuant to Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia, as amended. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments concerning:

A. Conditional Use Permit request by The Economic Development Authority of Montgomery County, Virginia, Property Owner and Applicant, to allow a structure greater than 70 feet in height, specifically a manufacturing area with a footprint of 8,500 square feet and a height of 105 feet, in the General Industrial (I-2) zoning district on property located at 2040 Parkway Drive SE, identified as Tax Parcel 558-((A))-24A (Parcel ID 300149), consisting of approximately 38.102 total acres. The property is designated as Mixed Use w/ Buffer (Industrial) on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg

Legals - Montgomery County

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

NOTICE OF TERMINATION OF FEE-FOR-SERVICE REMOTE PATIENT CARE SERVICES

CopilotIQ will permanently end its fee-for-service remote patient monitoring (RPM) services on October 15, 2026.
This affects only patients receiving RPM on a fee-for-service basis; patients enrolled through a health plan are unaffected and will continue without interruption. Affected patients should arrange alternative care before that date.
For a copy of your records, submit a written request to the address below; to transfer records to another provider, submit a written authorization including the provider name and address.

CopilotIQ
40 Burton Hills, Suite 200
Nashville, TN 37215
Phone: (800) 930-5144

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, CHRISTIASNBURG, 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

Legals - Montgomery County

Order of Publication

Commonwealth of Virginia
VA Code§§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316,-317,20-104
Case No.**CL26001226-00**
MONTGOMERY COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT, 55 EAST MAIN STREET, SUITE 1, CHRISTIASNBURG, VA 24073

LUZ MARIA LOPEZ
v.
ILIAK LOPEZ

The object of this suit is to:
DIVORCE
It is ORDERED that ILIAK LOPEZ appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before October 23, 2026 @ 9:00 AM.
Entered August 24, 2026
Honorable Circuit Court
Clerk, Tiffany M. Couch
(

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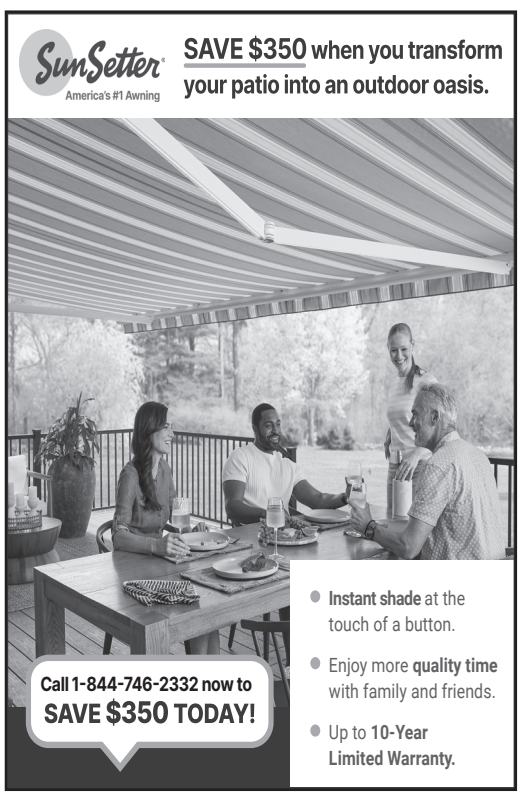
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9-11 Walk

from page 1

to remember people who lost their lives while trying to help others.

The memories of Sept. 11 remain vivid throughout Botetourt County.

Fincastle resident Robin Reed was working in the weather department at WDBJ that morning. He had arrived early to help Leo Hirsbrunner, who was having trouble with the station's computer systems, and the two were dealing with the shock of the attacks while separated from the newsroom.

"Both buildings had been struck and we were dealing with the shock of that," Reed recalled.

The news was particularly significant for Hirsbrunner, whose hometown was Boston and who knew one of the hijacked planes had departed from there.

The weather office was in the studio, so Reed and Hirsbrunner could not see or hear what was happening in the newsroom. At one point, they looked at the television in their office and realized the second tower was no longer visible.

"Our most startling memory early on came when we glanced at the TV in our office and couldn't see the second tower," Reed said. "We missed the collapse and couldn't process what we were seeing."

Reed said he remembers the "many layers" of the event—the twin towers, the Pentagon, which was near where he grew up, and the images of people running through New York streets covered in white dust.

"The news coverage was mainly video, disbelief and shock," he said. "Then being numb for days afterwards."

Botetourt County Communications Director Brent Watts was also working in television news at WDBJ when the attacks occurred. He had worked the late evening shift the night before and was sleeping when his wife called.

"She had a frantic tone in her voice, and I knew something was wrong," Watts recalled.

Like millions of Americans, Watts initially did not know exactly what was happening. As the reports and images continued throughout the morning, however, the magnitude of the attacks began to sink in.

"The feeling in the newsroom was unlike anything I had ever experienced before," Watts remembered. "There was no playbook for something like this. It's that sense of urgency, but at the same time, a feeling of confusion."

The national story quickly took over WDBJ's airwaves. Watts said the station carried national coverage for more than 24 hours, with limited or no commercials, as journalists concentrated on getting information to viewers. Regular programming did not return for two or three days.

When local coverage did resume, much of it focused on the Roanoke Valley's response, including fire department boot drives, local reactions and efforts to find connections to the attacks.

"There was an added responsibility because this was happening hundreds of miles away, but people here in the Roanoke Valley were frightened too," Watts said.

For Watts, the experience reinforced the importance of local journalism, particularly during times of crisis.

"Whether it was a big news event, or weather, people turn to their local news organization when they need information from people they can trust," he continued. "Building that reputation as a trusted source beforehand is critical."

The attacks also reinforced the responsibility that comes with delivering information during a crisis, Watts said. The pressure to be first can be enormous, but accuracy remains more important.

"People are making life-changing decisions based on what you're telling them," he noted.

Watts said the images of Sept. 11 are impossible to forget, but what has stayed with him most is the realization that those watching were witnessing an event that would permanently change the country.

"The most important thing is we have to remember the people behind the story," Watts said. "It's easy, 25 years later, to talk about 9/11 in terms of dates, numbers and images."

He also remembers something else from the weeks and months afterward: a sense of unity that he wishes had lasted.

"I just remember during the weeks and months that followed, political beliefs were put aside," Watts recalled. "It didn't matter whether you were rich or poor, Black or white, or where you came from. We were Americans, and there was a tremendous sense of community and shared purpose."

That same impulse was present inside Botetourt's firehouses on Sept. 11, even as local firefighters watched the tragedy unfold from hundreds of miles away.

Michael Morrow was working at Carris Reels near Fincastle that morning. He was returning to start a machine after a line break when another employee asked whether he had heard about a plane hitting the towers in New York.

"It was a beautiful day, and it was weird," Morrow recalled.

When another plane struck the second tower, Morrow said he immediately understood that the first crash had not been an accident.

"This is a terrorist attack," he remembers thinking.

Morrow finished his workday but found a small television that employees used for training and moved it into the maintenance area. Using a piece of copper wire and a washer as an improvised antenna, they watched the coverage.

After going home and watching the news, Morrow went to the Buchanan firehouse. He was captain of the Buchanan Volunteer Fire Department at the time, and he said he needed to be there.

A number of firefighters were already at the station. They were emotional and talked about what had happened and about the firefighters, police officers and EMS personnel who were missing.

"Everybody wanted to go help," Morrow said.

Buchanan firefighters were placed on a standby list in case personnel or equipment were needed. Morrow was later asked whether he would be available to go to New York if needed. He said yes.

The department ultimately was not called, but Morrow said his perspective as a firefighter and EMT made the deaths of emergency responders particularly personal.

"As an American, I saw a terrorist attack," he added. "As a firefighter and EMT, my thoughts were especially with the fellow firefighters and EMS on the ground who were missing or lost."

In the days that followed, the initial shock at the firehouse gradually gave way to a desire to help. Morrow said firefighters contacted other departments and organizations to determine whether they could send equipment or personnel.

Twenty-five years later, Morrow said Sept. 11 remains a reminder of the sacrifices made by people who ran toward danger to save others.

His daughter was 9 years old when the attacks occurred. He recently talked with her about Sept. 11, and she told him that she did not understand what was happening at the time but understands it now.

Morrow said that is part of the responsibility of those who remember.

"Never forget means honoring those who sacrificed," he said. "Not just on Sept. 11 every year, but every day."

Capt. Scott Gathje of the Botetourt County Sheriff's Office was also watching the events unfold from inside a Botetourt school, but from the perspective of a law enforcement officer.

Gathje was serving as the school resource officer at CAMS on Sept. 11. After the first plane struck the World Trade Center, the assistant principal came into his office and the two went to the break room, where a television was showing the breaking news.

The principal, assistant principal and Gathje watched the coverage together, initially wondering whether the first crash had been a terrible accident.

"Then we saw the second plane hit the second tower," Gathje said. "I remember looking at each other and realizing that this was no accident."

As a law enforcement officer, Gathje said the uncertainty that followed was particularly unsettling.

"We were extremely on edge," he remembered. "Like many of my colleagues, I wondered how far this would go. We didn't know what was coming next or whether other attacks were imminent."

Gathje had served nine years in the U.S. Marine Corps before joining the Sheriff's Office. For a brief period after the attacks, he felt the desire to return to military service, but ultimately decided his place was in Botetourt County.

"I had a renewed sense of pride and dedication as a deputy sheriff," Gathje said. "I had only been with the Botetourt County Sheriff's Office for three years at the time, but I knew this was where God had led me and my family."

His strongest memory, however, came when he returned home that evening. His oldest son was not yet 5 years old, and his youngest was 1½.

"I remember holding them close and thinking about all of the people who would never have the opportunity to hold their loved ones again," Gathje said. "That thought has stayed with me for 25 years."

For Troutville volunteer firefighter Greg Sleboda, Sept. 11 began at home.

Sleboda was working remotely from his home office when his mother called and asked whether he had heard about a plane hitting one of the large buildings in New York. He turned on the television mounted above his computer screens and quickly became glued to the coverage.

"When the second plane hit, you know, it's like everything at that point just changed," Sleboda said.

As a longtime volunteer firefighter and an officer at the time, Sleboda immediately thought about the firefighters who would still be inside the towers.

"I knew looking at the building, you know, where there was so many people in the building," he said. "There had to still be firefighters way up in those buildings."

When the first tower collapsed, Sleboda said he was in shock because he knew firefighters would still be inside trying to rescue people and fight the fires. The second collapse brought the same disbelief.

Not long afterward, Sleboda and other Troutville responders were dispatched to a motor vehicle accident on northbound Interstate 81. He does not remember much about the accident itself, but he remembers the emergency vehicles passing by.

"There were police, fire and EMS vehicles of all types heading north with lights and sirens," Sleboda said. "Sometimes there would be a single vehicle and sometimes they would be in a small convoy of up to a dozen emergency vehicles all heading north."

The sight made the attacks feel much closer to home.

"It just made it seem closer," he recalled. "Seeing so many first responders heading up Interstate 81 made it somehow seem so much closer."

Sleboda also remembers the possibility that the attacks could have affected a small community. The plane that crashed in Pennsylvania had traveled through the region, and the Pentagon was much closer than New York.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Firefighters unfurl a large American flag over the damaged Pentagon in Arlington on Sept. 12, 2001, one day after the terrorist attacks.

"It could have affected any small community, not just big communities," he said.

A few weeks later, Sleboda experienced another memorable expression of solidarity when he joined firefighters and EMTs from the region representing Botetourt County at Virginia Tech's first home football game following the attacks.

The Sept. 29, 2001 game against the University of Central Florida included a tribute to first responders. Sleboda and the other responders lined up in the tunnel before being escorted onto the field.

One detail has stayed with him for 25 years: the Hokie Stone.

"I remember seeing the 'Hokie Stone' that I watched so many Hokies touch when coming out of the tunnel," Sleboda said. "Watching the other first responders in full turnout gear heading out the tunnel each touching the Hokie Stone through their fire gloves is such a vivid memory for me."

The group then received a standing ovation from the crowd.

"It was very emotional to each of us to have been given the opportunity to represent our area," Sleboda said.

While Sleboda remembers Sept. 11 as a firefighter, CJ Boothe, now president of the Troutville Volunteer Fire Department, remembers it first as a high school student.

Boothe was attending Lord Botetourt High School in 2001 and was at BTEC in a building trades class taught by Philip Simmons when news of the attacks appeared on the classroom television.

"We just kind of stopped what we were doing, watched that for a while," Boothe recalled.

When Boothe returned to Lord Botetourt, the coverage continued. At first, he said, he did not fully understand what was happening. As the morning progressed, however, the description of the attacks changed from an incident to a terrorist attack.

"By the time we went from BTEC to the school, the narrative had changed," Boothe said. "The news was picking up on that."

Reports about the Pentagon and another missing plane added to the uncertainty.

Boothe remembers the days and weeks afterward as a time when he was trying to understand why someone would deliberately attack people they did not know. More than anything, he said, the attacks made him realize that the United States was vulnerable.

"It was the first time like the U.S.—we're actually can be vulnerable in our own country," he said.

Twenty-five years later, Boothe has a different perspective on the people he watched responding that day.

He is now a volunteer firefighter and EMS provider, following a path that was influenced in part by his father, who was also a volunteer firefighter. Community service was instilled in him from a young age, he said, but becoming a first responder changed how he understood the sacrifices made by the people who entered the World Trade Center.

"It's something bigger than yourself," Boothe said of fire and EMS service. "Showing up on somebody's worst day and trying to make a positive outcome, that's something that you never will see happen in other aspects of your life."

Boothe said the images from Sept. 11 have remained with him, particularly the repeated television footage of the planes striking the towers and the buildings collapsing. But his understanding of the first responders in those images has changed.

"Those people gave their lives trying to save people," he said. "It's a humbling experience."

That same experience of trying to understand an unimaginable event played out in Botetourt classrooms, where teachers suddenly found themselves helping students process a tragedy that was still unfolding.

Bruce Ingram was teaching English 9 Advanced Studies at Lord Botetourt when he heard about the attacks over the intercom. One student immediately expressed concern about an uncle who lived in New York City.

"I tried to reassure him that everything would be okay, but I wasn't able to assure him," Ingram recalled.

Ingram initially tried to continue teaching, hoping that keeping students occupied would prevent them from worrying about what was happening elsewhere. But Sandra Sowers, then head of the English Department, came to his classroom and told him how serious the situation was.

"She also said it would be impossible for me to continue with my lesson," Ingram said.

Parents soon began calling the school and coming to pick up their children.

For Ingram, the attacks also brought back memories of other major events he had experienced during his lifetime,

See **Walk**, page 11

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500-599 $308.00-356.00
600-699 $250.00-289.00

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500-599 $313.00-356.00
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Lord Botetourt wins Blue Ridge District round of golf at Copper Cove

Alisa Davidova shot five strokes under par to win medalist honors and lead Lord Botetourt to an 18-hole victory in a Blue Ridge District golf match in Hardy last week. The Cavaliers shot 312 at the Copper Cove Course.

Davidova scorched the course on a very hot day with a 67 on the par 72 course. Ryland Stump of Northside was second with an even par 72 and Derek Bond of LB was third with a three-over 75. Also scoring for the Cavaliers were Cole Cecil at 82 and Jonah Dunker with an 88.

Botetourt's team score of 312 was eight strokes better than Northside and Franklin County, who both shot 320. The district golfers were scheduled to play at Hanging Rock on Tuesday of this week, and next Tuesday, September 15, they're at Blue Hills.



Jackson Taylor tees off for LB. PHOTO BY JOHN WACHER



James River's Mason Gilliland hits a shot. PHOTO BY SCOTT GARDNER

River golfers shoot 314 at Olde Mill

Landon Bolling of James River shot six under par to win medalist honors at the Olde Mill Golf Course last week in a Three Rivers tournament hosted by Carroll County.

Floyd County won the round with a score of 309 but River was just five strokes behind. Bolling was medalist by eight strokes on the par 72 course. Also scoring for River were Mason Gilliland with a 75, Braden Persinger at 79 and first year golfer Tucker Hall with a 94.

The district was scheduled to be back at Olde Mill on Tuesday of this week for a match hosted by Patrick County. The Knights will have a match with Glenvar at the Botetourt Golf & Swim Club on Thursday of this week.

Maroons to add women's flag football

The Roanoke College Athletic Department has announced the addition of women's flag football, starting as a varsity sport in the spring of 2028. The new program brings the college's varsity sport offerings to 29 teams.

Women's flag football is an NCAA Emerging Sport and is positioned to pursue NCAA championship status, with the potential to host its inaugural championship as early as spring 2028. The sport is also set to make its Olympic debut at the 2028 Summer Games in Los Angeles, further highlighting its rapid growth and increasing global recognition.

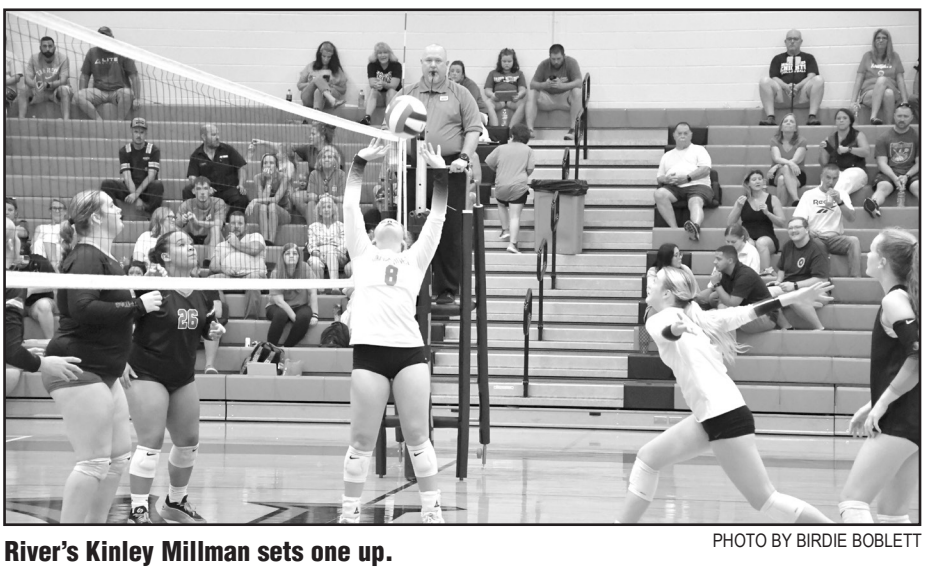
The Maroon flag football team will be a member of the Old Dominion Athletic Conference (ODAC), which could be the league's next full varsity sport with hopes of an automatic qualifier to the NCAA Tournament.

"With women's flag football growing in popularity, we felt that this was the next logical varsity sport to add to our athletics program," said RC Director of Athletics Curtis Campbell. "Roanoke has a proud tradition of success in women's athletics, and we are excited to be able to offer additional opportunities for student-athletes."

Women's collegiate flag football, which spans from February to May, is a 7-on-7 competition played in four 12-minute quarters on a football field 40 yards wide by 80 yards long. Each team moves offensively by running or passing a football, while the defense tries to "tackle" by pulling flags on the ball carrier's belt. Teams play around 8-9 games with a total roster size of 20-25 athletes.

A nationwide search for a head coach to lead the Maroon program is now underway.

River from page 12



River's Kinley Millman sets one up. PHOTO BY BIRDIE BOBLETT

"This was a good win for us against a tough Staunton River team," said James River coach Linsey Firebaugh. "We struggled to get going in the first two sets but once our serve receive improved and we limited our errors we were able to easily take the last two."

Ashby Wilkes led River with 19 kills to go with 11 digs and six aces. Kinley Millman served up seven aces, Ayden Jennings had 20 assists and Kendall Childs dished out 16 assists.

Last Thursday the Knights hosted Parry McCluer and won in three, 25-9, 25-7 and 25-13. Millman had nine kills and five aces and Jennings had 14 assists as River cruised to the win.

"This was a good game to allow us to focus on being aggressive while limiting errors," said Firebaugh. "I'm happy the girls were able to dominate this match."

LB, James River will run in big cross country event this Saturday

The Lord Botetourt and James River cross country teams will be among a plethora of schools attending Saturday's annual Knights Crossing event. Cave Spring is the host for the distance running extravaganza at Green Hill Park in west Roanoke County.

This is the 22nd annual Knights Crossing event and it will be one of the largest cross country invitationals ever held in Southwest Virginia. There will be a total of 11 different races beginning with the Joe LaRocco open 5K race at 8 a.m. for men and women, and ending with an unlimited girls and boys "Gold Race" 5K at 2:30 p.m.

"We are very excited about this year's invitational that currently has 105 high schools and 62 middle school teams attending," said Cave Spring's Tommy Maguire. "We already have well over 2,000 runners entered to race on September 12. This will be one of our largest Knights Crossing Cross Country Invitationals yet and one of the largest athletic events held in the Roanoke Valley this year."

"Red" races for Virginia public schools and out of state teams will begin with a girls' race at 10:45 a.m. and a boys' race at 11:30 a.m. "Black" races for Virginia public schools and all private schools will take off at noon for the girls and 12:45 p.m. for the boys.

"We have 22 teams traveling from North Carolina, Tennessee and West Virginia," said Maguire. "We also have several teams making the trip from Richmond and Northern Virginia areas. Every local school will be represented on Saturday. This historic year also looks to be one of the fastest fields in our 22 years of hosting."

Walk from page 10

including the Cuban Missile Crisis, the assassination of President John F. Kennedy and the 1999 Columbine High School shooting.

He was teaching at Lord Botetourt when Columbine occurred. Although he had planned to take a personal day afterward to go turkey hunting, he canceled those plans because he knew his students would have questions.

Sept. 11 became another event that teachers would eventually have to explain to students who had not experienced it themselves.

Stuart Byrd was also teaching at Lord Botetourt that morning. Students entered his agriculture classroom shortly before the start of first block and told him the United States was under attack.

"I did not believe them at first and took it as a prank that the students were trying to get other students excited," Byrd said.

The seriousness of the situation became clear after an announcement over the intercom. Teachers began putting live coverage on their classroom televisions, and Byrd remembers watching with his students as the second plane struck the second tower.

"All of my students were glued to the coverage as new information came out about the tragedy," he said.

Teachers attempted to return to classwork, but many students and teachers were in shock. Parents called to have student drivers released or came to the school to pick up their children.

Byrd eventually combined his class with another and spent the rest of the day watching the coverage and trying to comfort students, either in the classroom or by sending them to guidance.

Lord Botetourt librarian Kendal Lively experienced Sept. 11 from home. She was on maternity leave and watching The Today Show when she briefly left the room to get her son from his crib.

When she returned, the television hosts were discussing a plane that had crashed into the World Trade Center. Lively continued watching and saw the second plane strike the other tower live on television.

"We all realized at this point that the planes had crashed on purpose," Lively said.

She called her husband and parents and spent the day holding her baby while watching the events unfold.

Later that afternoon, she had an appointment with an eye doctor and wondered whether it was safe to leave the house. The fear and uncertainty were overwhelming, she said, but there was a small moment of comfort when she arrived at the doctor's office.

"I remember everyone in the waiting room being so happy to see a baby," Lively said. "I think the innocence of a baby was comforting on a day with so much horror and uncertainty."

Today, Lively is a librarian at Lord Botetourt and works with students who were not alive when Sept. 11 happened.

She said teaching the significance of the attacks to a generation without a personal memory of them is difficult, but important. The historical consequences matter, but so does the legacy of people helping one another.

"Sept. 11, 2001 was a watershed event in U.S. history," Lively said. "I also think the legacy of 9/11 is full of amazing examples of perseverance and kindness and people helping others."

Those stories, she said, can help a generation that did not experience Sept. 11 understand why it remains important.

Twenty-five years later, the memories of Sept. 11 remain remarkably specific for those who lived through them: a television in a WDBJ weather office, a classroom at BTEC, a firehouse in Buchanan, an emergency call on Interstate 81 and a line of first responders touching the Hokie Stone at Virginia Tech.

For those who remember, "never forget" means honoring the people who were lost and the people who ran toward danger to help others. For those who were too young to remember—or who had not yet been born—it means making sure those stories continue to be told.

That is also why the memorial walk continues in Buchanan.

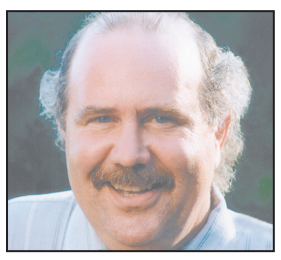
On Friday morning, residents will have an opportunity to do more than remember Sept. 11 as a date, a collection of photographs or a chapter in a history book. For 102 minutes, they can walk together, hear the stories, remember those who were lost and stand alongside the first responders and community members who continue to carry those memories.

Twenty-five years later, Botetourt County still has an opportunity to come together and remember.

The 9/11 Memorial Walk begins at 8:30 a.m. Friday at the Buchanan Fire Department.

Read all about fall sports in Botetourt County right here. www.FincastleHerald.com

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Brian Hoffman
Sports Editor

Blacksburg edges James River football with late field goal



The Knights are lined up and ready to move against Blacksburg.



Ashton Orange (2) is congratulated as he comes off the field.



PHOTOS BY BIRDIE BOBLETT

Ben Whitt (12) battles four Bruins for extra yards.

Blacksburg's Lowdermilk kicked a 28-yard field goal with 8:05 to go to spoil a James River comeback and give the visiting Bruins a 16-14 win in Springwood last Friday.

The Knights trailed 6-0 at the half and 13-0 midway through the third quarter before rallying to take the lead. Merit Hammons' had a 10-yard touchdown run with 5:09 to go in the third period, then Sam Wilson went over from the three a minute and a half into the fourth period. Knox Taylor Ethan was successful on both extra point kicks and that was good for a 14-13 lead as River had blocked the conversion try on Blacksburg's first touchdown.

The Knights kept Blacksburg out of the end zone on the ensuing drive but Lowdermilk's kick snuck inside the post as the Bruins retook the lead. River had a couple chances in the final minutes but couldn't pull out the win.

"It was a heck of a game," said River coach Jack Baker. "We had a chance or two late and it wasn't a sure deal until the very end. I thought our kids played real hard. There are no moral victories but you don't get to win 'em all and our kids have nothing to be ashamed of."

It was an even game on the stat sheet as well as on the field. The Knights had nine first downs and the Bruins had 10. River rushed for 144 yards to 117 for Blacksburg, but the Bruins held a big advantage in the passing game, outgaining the Knights 140-0. River had just one penalty for 10 yards while the Bruins drew six flags for 45.

Individually, Wilson led the Knights with 57 yards rushing while Ashton Orange had 38 yards on 11 attempts. Hammons ran for 36 yards but was 0-for-5 passing, and Ben Whitt had 14 yards rushing on five attempts.

Defensively, Eli Baldwin and Wilson had 14 tackles each to lead James River while Ryan Daniels had a dozen. Wilson and Efraim Echavarria had two tackles for losses each and 15 different Knights had tackles in the game.

With the loss the Knights fell to 1-1 on the season and they'll go on the road for the first time this Friday night when they head to Buena Vista to meet Parry McCluer. The Blues are off to a 2-0 start with a 36-14 win over Rockbridge County and a 31-14 win over Page County last Friday.

"They run a full house backfield and try to control the tempo, and sometimes they'll go four wide," said Baker.

The River jayvee team will host Parry McCluer in Springwood Thursday.





PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Former Cavs make college debuts

Two former Lord Botetourt football players made their 2026 college debuts last week. Here, KJ Bratton (3) of Roanoke College battles for extra yards after catching a pass in last week's 37-7 win over Virginia University of Lynchburg at Lynchburg City Stadium. Right, Jakari Nicely saw action with the VMI defense in Saturday night's game in Blacksburg. Unfortunately, the Keydets were no match for the host Hokies as Tech took a 73-3 win at Lane Stadium.

Cavaliers are back in action after football bye week

The Lord Botetourt football team is back on the gridiron this Friday after an early bye week. The Cavaliers will be at home for a 7 p.m. game against Magna Vista.

The Warriors are off to a good start to the season. They opened with a 41-12 win over Rockingham County, and last week they hammered Martinsville, 48-14.

"Magna Vista is athletic and physical," said LB coach Nick Leftwich. "They're the defending region champs coming off back-to-back wins."

Lord Botetourt comes in at 1-1. After losing their opener to Rye Cove the Cavs bounced back with a 38-12 win over Rustburg. With the early opener LB got an early bye week, and it was probably a good time to have one considering last week's unusually hot temperatures.

"It was a good bye week, especially with the weather effecting practices," said Leftwich. "We concentrated on ourselves and got better at what we do."

Cavaliers top PH in volleyball





PHOTOS BY JIM & REGINA DEVINNEY

LB's Addison Harper (left) is in ready position. Olivia Bergsten (right) of the Cavs goes up for a spike.

The Lord Botetourt volleyball team evened its record with a four-set win over Patrick Henry in Roanoke last Thursday. The Cavaliers lost the first set, 25-17, but ran the table in the next three to take the match, 25-23, 25-20 and 27-25.

Ava Stephens led LB with 14 blocks and two kills. Sydney Bergsten had seven kills and five blocks while Adyson Greathouse had five blocks and four kills.

The Cavaliers were at Tunstall on Tuesday but results were too late for publication. Next Tuesday, September 15, Christiansburg comes here for a rematch of a prior loss. When the two played in Christiansburg the Cavaliers won the first two sets but the Demons rallied to win the next three.

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The Knights celebrate a point.

Knights are undefeated after four volleyball matches, will open district season this week against Radford

James River defeated Staunton River and Parry McCluer in three sets each to improve to 4-0 in high school volleyball last week. The Knights were scheduled to host a tough Radford team in their Three Rivers District opener on Tuesday but results were too late for publication.

Last Tuesday in Moneta the Knights beat home-standing Staunton River in four sets, sweeping the season series from the Eagles. River won 25-22, 18-25, 25-13 and 25-20.

See **River**, page 11



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Ashby Wilkes of James River goes up for a spike.