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PHOTO BY MATT DE SIMONE

**The Botetourt County Circuit Courthouse in Fincastle is now framed, while exterior work carries on.**

# Botetourt Courthouse project remains on track for 2027 completion

**Matt de Simone**
*mattdesimone@mainstreetnewspapers.com*

The construction of the new Botetourt County Circuit Courthouse remains on schedule for completion in fall 2027, County Capital Projects Manager Rich Evans told Fincastle Town Council Thursday at the Fincastle Volunteer Fire Department Meeting Room.

Evans provided council with an update on both the courthouse and the planned reconstruction of the historic Breckinridge Law Office and Hotel during the council's September meeting. He provided several exterior and interior photos from the ongoing courthouse project.

"The project is still absolutely on schedule," Evans said of the courthouse.

Much of the courthouse is now framed, Evans added, while the building's exterior masonry and brickwork continue to progress.

The west side of the building has been completed with masonry, and crews have begun installing the brick veneer on the north side. Evans said that work will continue before crews move to the remaining exterior sections and then the front of the building.

All of the courthouse windows are now

See **Courthouse**, page 10



PHOTO COURTESY OF BCPS

**Superintendent Dr. Janet Womack (left), Vicki Brown (center) and Troutville Elementary School Principal Steven Anderson (right) pose with members of the Botetourt County School Board and Brown's students, who represented the "Browntown" administration during the September School Board meeting.**

# BCPS officially establishes a 'town' at Troutville Elementary

**Matt de Simone**
*Managing Editor*

There's a new town in Botetourt County. It has its own residents, its own jobs and, as of Thursday night, its own charter.

The town of "Browntown" was the featured presentation at Thursday's Botetourt County School Board meeting as part of the division's new "Better Together: Stories from Our School Community" series.

Superintendent Dr. Janet Womack introduced the monthly feature, which will highlight activities and programs taking place throughout Botetourt County Public Schools (BCPS). For its first installment, the board got a look inside the classroom of Troutville Elementary School second grade teacher Vicki Brown.

Brown has created a miniature community inside her classroom in which students take on jobs and responsibilities– giving them an opportunity to learn some of the skills and expectations that come with having a job and being part of a community.

Students learn practical skills such as handshakes, eye contact and greetings. They also go through an application process for classroom jobs and learn that having a job comes with responsibilities which include consequences when those responsibilities aren't met.

Brown was joined at the meeting by Troutville Elementary Principal Steven Anderson, who also shared thoughts about the classroom initiative.

The project represents a return of sorts for BCPS. Womack noted that a similar concept

See **BCPS**, page 5

# Botetourt County faces leadership transition as longtime officials prepare to depart

FILE GRAPHIC

Botetourt County is preparing for a significant transition in its leadership ranks, with three longtime officials in key positions departing within a relatively short period of time.

Deputy County Administrator David Moorman will conclude his service with the county at the end of the year after more than three decades with Botetourt County, while Community Development Director Nicole Pendleton will leave her position Sept. 30 after more than a decade leading the department.

The departures follow the July announcement that Fire & EMS Chief Jason Ferguson was leaving Botetourt County after 25 years to become chief of the Bedford County Department of Fire & Rescue.

Together, the three departures represent decades of experience and institutional knowledge across several areas of county government.

Botetourt County Communications Manager Brent Watts provided the county's responses to recently asked questions about the leadership changes.

The county has not disclosed whether Moorman or Pendleton are leaving for other positions, saying it generally does not discuss an employee's plans or reasons for leaving.

"Our focus is on making the transition as smooth as possible," the county said when asked recently about the departures.

Moorman has given the county several months' notice of his departure, allowing time to plan for the transition. The county said staff is prepared to keep his work moving forward and that the public will be updated on next steps.

In Community Development, County Planning Supervisor Jon McCoy will serve as interim director following Pendleton's departure. The county has said it will begin the search process for permanent replacements and noted it will look both internally and broadly for candidates to fill the

See **Officials**, page 10

# Paving work underway in Fincastle

Paving and curb-milling work is underway on streets throughout historic Fincastle, with the project having begun Monday.

The work is taking place essentially on all streets on the east side of U.S. 220, according to the town manager. Streets closest to the courthouse construction area will not be paved until that construction project is completed.

No Parking signs have been placed throughout town advising motorists that street parking is prohibited from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. while the work is being completed.

Adams Paving, the contractor performing the work, is attempting to avoid school bus times, according to the town manager. Crews also will knock on doors if vehicles are parked on a street when they reach that particular area.

Residents who park vehicles on gravel lots adjacent to paved streets are asked to move their vehicles at least three feet away from the street to allow crews sufficient room to complete the work.

Town officials have been contacting residents and others in the community to make them aware of the project and help minimize disruptions.

The town acknowledged that the paving project may cause some temporary inconvenience but said officials are looking forward to the improvements.

"Hopefully, this disruption will not be too excessive but I look forward to having some nice streets," Town Manager Melanie McFadyen said in the announcement last week.

*~ Fincastle Herald staff report*




**Paving work continues in Fincastle this week.**

PHOTO BY MATT DE SIMONE




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## Botetourt County History



PHOTO COURTESY OF BCMHC

Handkerchiefs were once considered a status symbol. Not too long ago, women took pride in their intricate embroidery. This one is part of the "Home Grown: Botetourt's Agricultural History" exhibit. It has blue swallows flying above pink and white flowers on white cotton. A farm woman's work was never done, but she relaxed by doing needlework. Embroidered handkerchiefs were always carefully hand washed. It is displayed in a glass case at the Botetourt Museum of History & Culture in Fincastle and was donated in 2023 by Valerie Brugh.

Etiquette is constantly changing. What was once considered proper behavior may become laughably outdated or even inappropriate over time. However, with a new generation of nostalgic young people the customs of the past are being revived and sought after again. Throughout history handkerchiefs have held a special sentimental meaning. There are books written on the subject of ladies' handkerchiefs.

*~ Botetourt County Museum of History & Culture*

## Looking Back: 1776 - Botetourt County and Beyond

# *September 1776: Crises from New York to the southwestern frontier*

### United States

September 1776 was one of the most consequential months of the American Revolution. Two months after Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence, the United States faced its first major military crisis: the British campaign to seize New York. After General William Howe's army defeated Washington's forces on Long Island in late August, Washington successfully evacuated his army across the East River, but the British retained the initiative.

On September 11, Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, and Edward Rutledge met Admiral Lord Richard Howe at the Staten Island peace conference. Howe hoped to encourage reconciliation, but he lacked authority to recognize American independence or negotiate with Congress as the government of a separate nation. The American delegates would not abandon independence in exchange for pardons or a return to imperial rule. The conference ended without agreement.

Four days later, British troops landed on Manhattan. American resistance collapsed and British forces occupied New York City. Washington's army withdrew northward. On September 16, the Americans won a valuable morale-boosting action at the Battle of Harlem Heights. Though small, this victory showed that the Continental Army could still fight the British effectively.

On September 21, a fire of disputed origin broke out in New York and burned approximately 25% of the buildings in the city.

The month also produced an enduring symbol of the Revolution. Captain Nathan Hale, who had entered British-held territory to collect intelligence about enemy positions and movements, was captured and hanged as a spy on September 22. His traditionally attributed final words – "I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country" – made him a national martyr.

Meanwhile, Congress continued nation-building despite the military emergency. On September 9, it passed a bill establishing the name of the nation as "United States" rather than "United Colonies." Congress also adopted the "Model Treaty" on September 17, setting principles for future relations with foreign countries. Delaware and Pennsylvania adopted new state constitutions on September 20 and 28, respectively. Thus, September brought military setbacks, but it also demonstrated that the American cause had become a struggle for an

See **BPP**, page 10




# Historical Society announces 2026 Founder's Day Dinner

The Botetourt County Historical Society will celebrate its 18th annual Founder's Day Dinner on Sunday, Oct. 4, in the newly renovated Botetourt Room at The Glebe in Daleville.

The signature fundraising event will commemorate Botetourt County's history during the nation's 250th anniversary year.

This year's dinner will feature William "Bill" Barker, one of the nation's premier historical interpreters, whose portrayal of Thomas Jefferson has captivated audiences for decades.

Barker will step into the role of Jefferson for an evening exploring the life and ideas of America's third president, as well as his connections to the people, places and events that shaped Botetourt County and the early American republic.

For Botetourt audiences, Jefferson's story has a particularly local connection. The Lewis & Clark Expedition was commissioned by Jefferson, and the expedition's connection to Botetourt County runs deep. Local tradition and historical markers recognize Fincastle as the place from which Meriwether Lewis and William Clark departed as they began their journey west.

Jefferson's connections to the region extend beyond Lewis and Clark. Col. James Breckinridge, a prominent Botetourt figure who represented the county in the Virginia House of Delegates, corresponded with and was a friend of Jefferson and played a significant role in the political world of early Virginia.



FILE PHOTO

**William "Bill" Barker will portray Thomas Jefferson during this year's dinner.**

Jefferson also had a well-known connection to Natural Bridge, a landmark he owned and considered one of Virginia's great natural wonders. Natural Bridge was once located within the boundaries of Botetourt County.

Through Barker's portrayal, guests will have an opportunity to encounter Jefferson not simply as the author of the Declaration of Independence and the nation's third president, but as a Virginian whose life, interests, relationships and ambitions intersected with the history of Botetourt County.

Barker portrayed Jefferson at Colonial Williamsburg for more than 20 years and now serves as Jefferson at Monticello, where he continues to bring the life, words and vision of Jefferson to visitors from around the world.

His presentation is expected to make this year's Founder's Day Dinner a memorable evening as communities across the Commonwealth and nation mark the 250th anniversary of American independence.

The Founder's Day Dinner also serves as an important fundraiser for the Botetourt County Historical Society. Proceeds support the society's efforts to preserve and share Botetourt County's history through museum exhibits, educational programs, artifact conservation, public events and community outreach.

The Historical Society invites businesses, organizations, community members and history enthusiasts to attend the event and celebrate Botetourt County's place in the larger American story.

Tickets are $50 and are available for purchase at the museum in Fincastle or through Eventbrite. Seating is limited.

*~ Fincastle Herald staff report*

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

The Buchanan Lions Club will present "Minions and Monsters" free to the public this 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.




GRAPHIC COURTESY OF BUCHANAN LIONS CLUB

*~ Submitted by Tim Heinlein*

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FILE GRAPHIC

# Virginia Cooperative Extension offers affordable water testing clinics

What's in your water?

Using a well, spring, or cistern for your drinking water? Take charge of your water quality.

Virginia Cooperative Extension offers affordable water testing clinics across the state through the Virginia Household Water Quality Program.

A $70 sample kit (subsidized kits may be available) tests for: Coliform bacteria, E. coli, lead, copper, arsenic, hardness, pH, nitrate, sulfate, fluoride, and more.

Pre-registration is required. Register for a kit online at https://tinyurl.com/VAHWQP-B.

If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate in this activity, contact the Botetourt Extension Office at 540-928-3210/ TDD*) during business hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. *TDD number is (800) 828-1120.

*~ Fincastle Herald staff report*

# RMMS students compete in mountain biking



PHOTO COURTESY JESSICA SPICKARD YATES

Two Read Mountain Middle School students kicked off the Virginia NICA mountain biking season with impressive podium finishes this past weekend at Miller School in Charlottesville.

Lauren Yates and London Merchant, both members of the Roanoke Star Cycling Team, competed in the first race of the Virginia Interscholastic Cycling Association (NICA) series. NICA, part of the National Interscholastic Cycling Association, provides student-athletes the opportunity to compete in mountain biking.

Yates earned second place out of 20 riders in her division, while Merchant finished fourth out of 40 riders in his division. Both finishes earned the young cyclists a place on the podium.

The two athletes proudly represented Read Mountain Middle School, Roanoke Star Cycling and Botetourt County as they began their season on the trails.

*~Submitted by Jessica Spickard Yates*

# Land transfers - August 2026

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

- A&E Properties to Darryl A. Laprade, 7 parcels, $130,000
- Richard E. Anderson to William Jacob Hopkins, lot, Tinkerview Townhouse, $229,000
- Frances B. Arthur, by attorney, to Cavalier Developers, 4 lots, Updike Addition, $142,500
- Ashley Investments to Joseph A. Overbay, 0.720 acre, Jackson at Ashley Plantation, $110,000
- Ashley Investments to Joseph Overbay, lot, 0.799 acre, $112,500
- Tony R. Ayers to Lawrence Investments, 0.75 acre, $187,000
- Vance Barrett to Hunter C. Barrett, lot, Daleville Town Center, $0
- Lynda D. Bartsch to Charles E. Herstine, 16 lots, $110,000
- Dwayne Beachy, trustee, to Todd W. Oberg, 0.151 acre and 0.047 acre, $0
- Barry C. Bellamy to ADN Investments, 3.7297 acres, Rustic Lodge Acres, gift deed
- Barry C. Bellamy to ADN Investments, 1.392 acres, Mountain Estates, gift deed
- Kristi Marie Johnson Berry to Barker's Home Buying, parcel, $85,000
- Gary L. Beveridge to Gary L. Beveridge, trustee, lot, Stonegate, $0
- Aaron Chadwick Blevins to Gary Louis May, lot, Hearthland, $258,000
- James Guy Bolton to Tejendra Kumar Patadia, 1.01 acre, Autumn Wood, $57,111
- Hallie Bondurant Gibson to Hallie Bondurant Gibson, 1.252 acres, lot, gift deed
- Emily Falls Bowman to Leslie Huthwaite, lot, Jefferson Hills, $295,000
- Boxley Materials Company to Martin Marietta North Texas Cement, parcels, $1,000,000
- Henry N. Brogan Jr. to Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Transportation, parcel, $3,000
- Roger Brogan to Vicki Lynne Eastman, 0.635 acre, $0
- Loren D. Bruffey Jr. to Donald L. Lamb, 2 parcels, $250,000
- Oscar D. Bryant to Oscar D. Bryant, trustee, lot, Daleville Town Center, $0
- Randy Lee Bryant to Shemar K. Jones, 0.402 acre, $149,950
- Pedro L.M. Burrows to Justin E. Stevenson, 6.691 acres, $318,000
- Patricia A. Burton to James Michael Yoder, 38 acres, gift deed
- Joyce J. Cahoon to Kellie A. Joyce, 2 acres, $267,000
- Donna E. Caldwell to Donna E. Caldwell, trustee, lot, Daleville Farms, $0
- James D. Carroll to Anthony Wayne Sparks, lot, $30,000
- Lee S. Carter to Paul D. Moser, 1.7280 acres, $724,000
- Harry L. Chappell to Eric Lawhorn, 1.251 acres, $130,000
- Jon P. Claud to Jason A. Hill, parcel, 2.745 acres fronting Lee Highway, $420,000
- Patrick J. Climer to Climer Family Revocable Trust, lot, Ashley Plantation, $0
- Rodney W. Cooper III to Sarah Kelly, 1.25 acres, $230,900
- Crowell Gap Investments to JC Constructions, 2.352 acres, $45,000
- Dustin Davis to Eric Euler, for informational purposes only in Botetourt, 5.893 acres, $0
- Gary W. Dove to Levi Kasey, lot, Stratford Place, $339,900
- Phyllis N. Dowdy to Anthony Dean Nunley, lot, Botetourt East, gift deed
- Beverly J. Duvall to Tracey Duvall, 0.119 acre, $182,300
- Edwin D. Edsall to Hugh William Jones, lot, Apple Tree Village, $650,000
- Derek Ferguson to Evan Merchant, 2 parcels, $30,000
- Sharon K. Fitzgerald to Leslie F. Schmidt, lot, Rainbow Forest, $0
- Cynthia Southers Ford to Sheila Barnette, 4 parcels, $176,500
- Fralin & Waldron to Stateson Homes, 0.160 acre, Daleville Town Center, $86,654
- Fralin & Waldron to Stateson Homes, 0.210 acre, Daleville Town Center, $86,654
- Edward A. Funkhouser to Murray F. Buchanan IV, 25.1 acres, $97,450
- Grand Hospitality to Uma Beta Hospitality, 2 parcels, $8,500,000
- Grand Land Group to Omni OM, parcel, 4.907 acres, $500,000
- John Michael Griffin, co-trustee, to ASI Properties, lot, Ashley Plantation, $616,000
- James Grigsby to James Grigsby, portion of lot, Windy Hill Estates, gift deed
- Debra T. Hale to Rebecca Coordes, lot, Hunters Green, $378,000
- Dalton Lane Harper to Michael Meeks, 0.492 acre, $225,000
- Robert B. Harris to Sydney Harris, 25 acres, gift deed
- Roger B. Harris to Broady Matheson Harris, 25 acres, gift deed
- Christopher Hollish to Tracy Newman, lot, Rainbow Forest, $292,800
- Douglas A. Hollish to Christopher Hollish, lot, Rainbow Forest, $360,000
- Jody D. Hoover to Elijah D. Hoover, 3.137 acres, gift deed
- Sean A. Howes to Christopher L. Mize, 0.290 acre and 0.071 acre, Town of Buchanan, $85,000
- Joanne F. Hudson to Michael Hudson, two parcels, $0
- Karen S. Huffman to Haskel W. Colegrove, parcel, gift deed
- Hunt Family Trust Dated November to Travis L. Spence, lot, 5 acres, Virginia Hills, $493,000
- Ricky L. Jackson to Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Transportation, parcel, $60,000
- David B. Johnson to Dwayne Beachy, trustee, 0.500 acre, to be combined with former tract containing 8.76 acres, $15,000
- Johnny R. Johnson to Quick Fix Real Estate, 0.45 acre, $74,000
- Tina N. Johnson to Quick Fix Real Estate, 0.262 acre and 0.267 acre, $122,000
- William M. Johnson Jr. to Robert Radford, lot, The Preserve at Ashley, $550,000
- Jonathan Trent Jolin to Morgan Wyatt Curry, 93.169 acres, $250,000
- Ronald S. Jones to Parker Jones Revocable Living Trust, 10.050 acres, $0
- Mary C. Kasey to Sean M. Kasey, lot, Stratford Place, $0
- James Kessler to Rhino Financial Marketing, 0.801 acre, $90,000
- Melody Renee King to Isaac Noah Underwood, two parcels, $110,000
- Wilson J. Light to Johnny Gunnell, lot, Apple Tree Village, $475,000
- Mark A. Mabry to Mark Anthony Mabry Living Trust, lot, Daleville Town Center, $0
- Gary Manning to Carl B. Matney Jr., lot, Altamira, $489,500
- NGB Properties of Roanoke to Mohammed H. Taha, lot, Tinkerview Townhouse, $185,000
- Adrian V. Michalski to Kevin T. Lowder, 3.0 acres, Rainbow Ridge, $1,025,000
- Ronald R. Mitchell to Leslie K. Williams, 5.525 acres, $800,000
- Linda F. Morris to Crystal Morris Jack, two parcels, $0
- Judy C. Mueller to Toby Earl Cahoon, lot, Tinkerview Townhouse Property, $0
- Andrew M. Neville, special commissioner, to Thomas Lythgoe, 1.285 acres, $33,000
- Joseph C. Newbill to Bryan R. Snare, 15.102 acres, $89,000
- Christopher D. Obenshain to Joshua E. McWilliams, 0.473 acre, $200,000
- Christopher Davis Obenshain to Joshua E. McWilliams, 115-1/2 acres, $1,055,000
- Donald Thomas Obenshain, co-trustee, to Donald Thomas Obenshain, 2 parcels, $0
- Jeffrey Scott Oitring to Justin E. Young, lot, Heatherstone, Botetourt Forest, $590,000
- Steve H. Park to Jessica Buehring, lot, Williamsburg Estates, $450,000
- Jean Anne Parrella to Taylor A. St.Clair, 20.28 acres, $525,000
- Patsy's House LLC to Donna E. Caldwell, lot, Daleville Farms, $0
- Dean Fuller Penley to Jonathan E. White, parcel, $0
- John W. Powell to Robert Smith Jr., 1.844 acres, $175,000
- Quick Fix Real Estate to Afterburner Inc., 0.262 acre and 0.267 acre, $157,000
- Quick Fix Real Estate to Foundation Holdings, 0.45 acre, $100,000
- Susan K. Richardson to Susan K. Richardson, trustee, 2 parcels, gift deed
- Dwayne L. Robinson to Dwayne L. Robinson, trustee, 2 parcels, $0
- Russell D. Sanders to Gary L. Creed Jr., trustee, tract, 12.520 acres, gift deed
- Robert J. Schroeder to Mary J. Schroeder, lot, Botetourt Forest, gift deed
- Brenda G. Sloane to Kenneth Haywood Snare, 5.238 acres, $190,000
- Mary R. Smith to Mary R. Smith, trustee, 0.97 acre, gift deed
- Brenda M. Snell to Richard Goad Jr., lot, Knollwood, $335,000
- Stateson Homes to Donald Leroy Garey Jr., trustee, 0.161 acre, Daleville Town Center, $577,905
- Stateson Homes to Beverly Faville, lot, Daleville Town Center, $525,005
- Stateson Homes to Richard R. Benson, lot, Stonegate, 0.358 acre, $669,630
- Stateson Homes to Charles Benjamin Sanders Sr., lot, Millstone, $603,520
- Stateson Homes to Jessica Gardner, lot, Millstone, $769,465
- Stateson Homes to Lisa McDade Kline, lot, Millstone, $592,535
- Stateson Homes to Marcia A. Powell, lot, Daleville Town Center, $379,900
- Stateson Homes to Caitlin DeMarco, lot, Millstone, $422,610
- Stateson Homes to Mary M. Phipps, lot, Daleville Town Center, $662,710
- Ethel M. Stevens to Scott A. Stevens, 0.4692 acre, $0
- Ethel M. Stevens to Scott A. Stevens, 2 parcels, $0
- Gregory S. Stinnett to Troy Gusler, 16 acres, $45,000
- Molly M. Strang to Molly M. Strang, trustee, 13.56 acres, $0
- Summers Properties to Appalachian Power Company, 39.008-acre parcel, grantor quitclaim 0.896-acre hatched area, $2,000,000
- Donald Sutliff to Franklyn Gisiner, 4 acres, more or less, $275,000
- The Village at Stonegate to Stateson Homes, lot, 0.567 acre, Millstone, $108,000
- The Village at Stonegate to Stateson Homes, lot, 0.225 acre, Millstone, $108,000
- The Village at Stonegate to Stateson Homes, lot, Millstone, $108,000
- The Village at Stonegate to Stateson Homes, lot, Millstone, $108,000
- The Village at Stonegate to Stateson Homes, lot, Millstone, $108,000
- Brandon Lee Thompson to Brandon Lee Thompson, lot, Heatherstone, gift deed
- Robert J. Thompson to Robert Jeffrey Thompson, trustee, 20 acres, $0
- U.S. Bank Trust National Association to Eric Reese, three parcels, $135,000
- Marcie Elise Umberger to Logan M. Mueller, lot, Knollwood, $280,000
- Mark K. Waldeck to Brady Austin Waldeck, lot, Steeplechase, $0
- Bruce E. Warf to Rodney W. Cooper III, 3 parcels, $262,500
- Douglas C. Waters, trustee, to Kristin Campbell Waters, 11.272 acres, gift deed
- Toria Whorley to Toria Whorley, lot, Quail Ridge West, gift deed
- Tony Williamson to Patricia R. Sevcik, lot, Sanderson Ridge, $487,500
- William Wills Jr. to Deborah Faye Tlockowski Trust, lot, Steeplechase, $336,925
- Melissa Wood to Melissa Ramsey Dillon, 2 lots, Greenacres, gift deed
- Norman O. Woods to Joyce Cahoon, lot, Tinkerview Townhouse, $229,950
- William D. Woodson to Matthew Woodson, 100 feet wide by 210 feet, $48,000
- Susan Porter Wyche, executor, to Mark A. Shay, lot, Stonebridge Estates, $402,000
- Justin Young to Andrew W. Ernest, 8 acres, $153,000
- ZRK LLC to Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Transportation, parcel, $1,200



# Library Buzz

## Prepare Your Emergency Binder

Fri, Sep 18, 2 PM, Blue Ridge

Attorney Sarah Bidwell will guide you through creating an Emergency Binder to ensure your important information is organized in the event of sudden incapacitation, such as a debilitating illness or injury. This binder will help you or your loved ones know who to contact, where to find financial and medical information, and more in an emergency situation. Class size is limited to 10. Registration required. Register at https://botetourtva.libcal.com/ or call 540-928-2900 with questions.

## Estate Planning Essentials

Fri, Sep 18, 3PM, Blue Ridge

Attorney Sarah Bidwell explains common estate planning documents such as wills, powers of attorney, trusts, and advance medical directives. Class size limited to 20. Registration required. Register at https://botetourtva.libcal.com/ or call 540-928-2900 with questions.

## Yoga for Beginners

Thu, Sep 17, 6:30 PM, Blue RidgeTue, Sep 22, 9 AM, at Big Spring Park

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

## Buchanan Movies in the Park

Sat, Sep 19, Around Sunset, Buchanan Town Park

Enjoy a free, family-friendly movie at the Buchanan Town Park. Popcorn, drinks, and candy will be available for purchase from the Buchanan Friends of the Library. Presented by Buchanan Lions Club, Botetourt Parks & Recreation, Buchanan Library, Buchanan Friends of the Library, Standing Room Only, and the Town Improvement Society.

## Kids Art Club

Wed, Sep 23, 3:30 PM, Fincastle

Kids will explore different art mediums through hands-on activities. September 23: Roman Mosaic Art (Italy) Best for ages 6-12.

**Learn more about Botetourt Libraries at bocolibraries.info**

BCO LIBRARIES

# The Sheriff's Post

SHERIFF MATTHEW T. WARD

## Free car seat check scheduled Sept. 19 in Daleville




GRAPHIC COURTESY OF BCSO

Parents and caregivers can have their children's car seats checked for proper installation during a free safety event Sept. 19 in Daleville.

The Botetourt County Sheriff's Office, Carilion Children's and Safe Kids Southwest Virginia will host the event from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Kroger parking lot at 72 Kingston Drive.

Certified child passenger safety technicians will help families ensure seats are properly installed and used.

According to information provided by Botetourt County, Virginia law requires children younger than 8 to be properly secured in an approved child restraint system.

Families needing assistance obtaining a car seat may also qualify for the state's low-income safety-seat program.

*~ Fincastle Herald staff report*

# Letters to the Editor

## We the People: Why the Constitution still matters

Every year, from September 17 to September 23, Americans observe Constitution Week – a time to remember the remarkable document that established the framework of our government and continues to shape our nation more than two centuries after it was written.

The United States Constitution was signed on September 17, 1787, in Philadelphia. It was the result of months of difficult discussions, disagreements, and compromises among delegates who did not always agree about what the new nation should look like. Yet they shared an important goal: creating a government strong enough to serve the people while protecting their freedom.

After the American Revolution, the newly independent states were governed under the Articles of Confederation. The Articles created a national government, but that government was intentionally weak. It had difficulty raising money, regulating commerce and addressing problems that affected the country as a whole. By the 1780s, many American leaders believed a stronger national government was necessary. In 1787, delegates gathered in Philadelphia for what became known as the Constitutional Convention. Rather than simply revising the Articles, the delegates created an entirely new plan for government.

Constitution Week gives us an opportunity to look back at the remarkable achievement of the men who gathered in Philadelphia in 1787. But it is also an opportunity to look forward.

As we observe Constitution Week, we can take a moment to appreciate what those three words – "We the People" – really mean.

The Constitution belongs to all of

See **Letters**, page 7

# Arrests

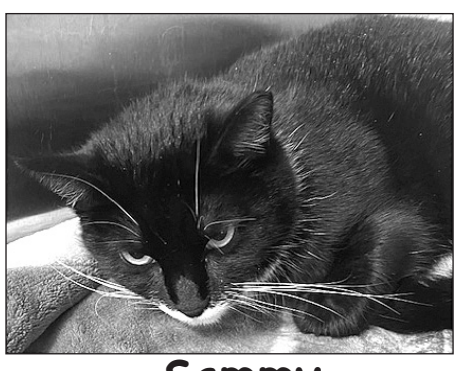
Aug. 31-Sept. 13, 2026

The Botetourt County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests Aug. 31-Sept. 13:

- Mark A. Laprade, 71, of Buchanan, drunk in public, Aug. 31
- Lyle L. Cochran, 39, of Aurora, Ind., possession of Scheduled drugs, burglary, Sept. 2
- Kalin Bond, 35, of Lynchburg, petit larceny, Sept. 7
- Robert J. Budnick, 44, of Roanoke, shoplifting, Sept. 8
- Debbie J. Galbraith, 63, of Roanoke, driving revoked, possession of Schedule drugs, Sept. 10
- Kylie D. Kegley, 22, of Troutville, driving under the influence, Sept. 10
- Nicole M. Benschine, 53, of Princeton, N.J., trespass, interfere with property rights of another, Sept. 12
- Adonahi Gonzalez, 27, of Roanoke, drunk in public, Sept. 13

**www.FincastleHerald.com**

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



### Sammy

Sammy is about 4 years old, neutered, and up to date with vaccines. Sammy is very sweet but just shy at first. He is just a really relaxed cat! He would be great for someone who isn't very active.

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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**& Botetourt County News**
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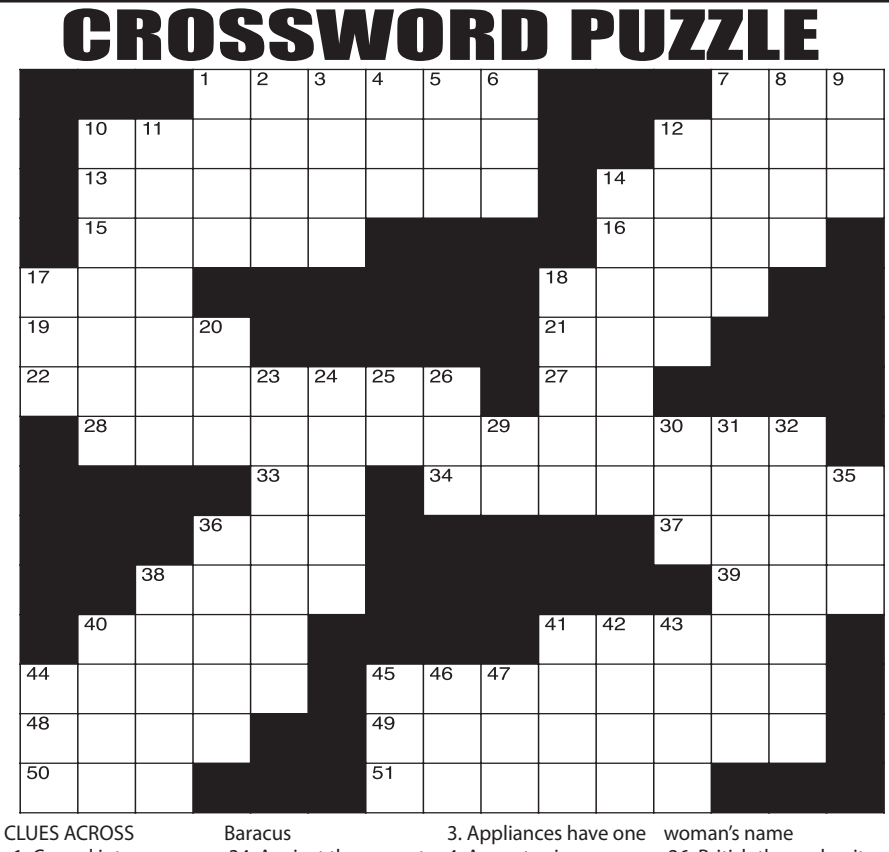
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## CROSSWORD PUZZLE



CLUES ACROSS
1. Carved into
7. __ Rogers, cowboy
10. Unruly locale
12. Edible mushroom
13. Influential noblemen
14. Rattling breaths
15. David __ George, Brit. P.M.
16. Musician Clapton
17. Small Eurasian deer
18. Invests in little enterprises
19. Perimeter
21. Chicago ballplayer
22. Animal body part
27. It's everywhere these days
28. Fictional ad exec
33. Mr. T character Baracus
34. Against the current
36. Subway rodent
37. Armor plate
38. Hair on the head
39. Strong insect
40. Swollen lymph node
41. A way to lessen
44. Walter White poison
45. Sleeveless garment
48. Long accompanied song
49. Without features
50. Yankee great Mattingly
51. Removes from record

CLUES DOWN
1. Root of taro plant
2. Those ones
3. Appliances have one
4. A way to sing
5. Midway between east and southeast
6. Animal dwelling
7. An object that as survived from the past
8. Oil cartel
9. Affirmative
10. Foul smell
11. Brisk tempo
12. S. American indigenous person
14. Restored
17. Official
18. Skin lesions
20. Electroencephalograph
23. Middle Eastern country
24. Extremely angry
25. Title used before a woman's name
26. British thermal unit
29. By the way (abbr.)
30. Anger
31. Nullifies
32. Ones who acquire
35. Time zone
36. Arabic name
38. Protein in mucus
40. Ballpoint pen
41. Mimics
42. Humans have a lot of it
43. Expressions of good wishes
44. Cool!
45. One point east of due south
46. City of Angels football team (abbr.)
47. A way to save for retirement

**Submit your letters to the editor today.**

fincastle@ourvalley.org

The Fincastle Herald
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See **Answers**, page 10

# Daleville VFW assistance program helps veterans address benefits concerns

Veterans in the Botetourt County area now have a monthly opportunity to receive assistance with problems involving their veterans benefits through a new program established by VFW Post 1841 in Daleville.

The program's first session, held in August at the VFW building, was deemed a success, according to Post 1841 Commander Paul Johnson.

More than 15 veterans met with a representative from the Virginia Department of Veterans Services during the initial session. Johnson said the veterans' concerns were reviewed and complaints were opened as research issues.

A representative from the Virginia Department of Veterans Services will continue to be available to meet with veterans on the third Thursday of each month from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the VFW building at the intersection of U.S. 220 and Country Club Road in Daleville.

The service is free and is open to all military veterans in the Botetourt County area.

The program is intended to provide veterans with assistance in addressing questions or problems related to their benefits.

*~ Submitted by VFW Post 1841Commander Paul Johnson*

## BCPS from page 1



**Steven Anderson (left), BCPS Employee of the Month Nikki Bryant (center) and Buchanan District School Board representative Jenny Wilson**



**Read Mountain Middle School Principal Kara Halsey (left), Employee of the Month Sarah Catron (center) and Valley District School Board representative Tim Davidick**



PHOTOS COURTESY OF BCPS

**Lord Botetourt High School Principal Beth Mast (left), VHSL Class 3 tennis boys singles runner-up Ethan Sternyos, tennis coach Blake Johnson and School Board Vice Chair Matt East**

was in place before the COVID-19 pandemic, but had not been part of the school division for several years.

And now, Browntown has its charter.

Board Chair Anna Weddle read the document aloud, officially giving the students a framework for their little community and providing a fitting conclusion to the presentation.

While Browntown may not appear on a Virginia map, the lessons being taught there are very real: responsibility, cooperation, communication, accountability and the understanding that every member of a community has a role to play.

For Brown's students, those lessons begin with something as simple as applying for a job and learning how to do it well.

For the School Board, Browntown offered a lighthearted and very fitting first entry into BCPS' new effort to showcase the people and programs helping the division "get better together."

Later in the meeting, two BCPS employees were recognized as its August Employees of the Month.

Dr. Ken Nicely, BCPS Director of Human Resources, presented this month's recognitions. He noted that more than 35 nominations were submitted for the monthly recognition, which is part of the division's strategic direction focusing on "Every Student, Every Employee, and Every Learning Environment."

Nikki Bryant, an administrative assistant at Troutville Elementary School, was named the August Classified Employee of the Month. Bryant is in her third year with BCPS.

Her nomination praised her for consistently going above and beyond for staff and students, answering questions, helping wherever needed and keeping the school running smoothly while making people feel welcome and cared for.

Sarah Catron, a sixth and seventh grade English teacher at Read Mountain Middle School, was named the August Certified Employee of the Month. Catron is in her first year with BCPS.

Her nomination highlighted her engaging and well-designed lessons, including the use of visuals, word banks and graphic organizers to support students with different learning needs. She was also recognized for building strong relationships with students while maintaining high expectations.

The board also recognized Lord Botetourt High School senior Ethan Steryous for his accomplishments on the tennis court last school year.

Steryous was the VHSL Class 3 boys singles runner-up, earning recognition from the board for the accomplishment.


# Community Service Directory

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*Saturday, September 26, 2026*
*10 am – 4 pm*

# FINCASTLE FALL FESTIVAL



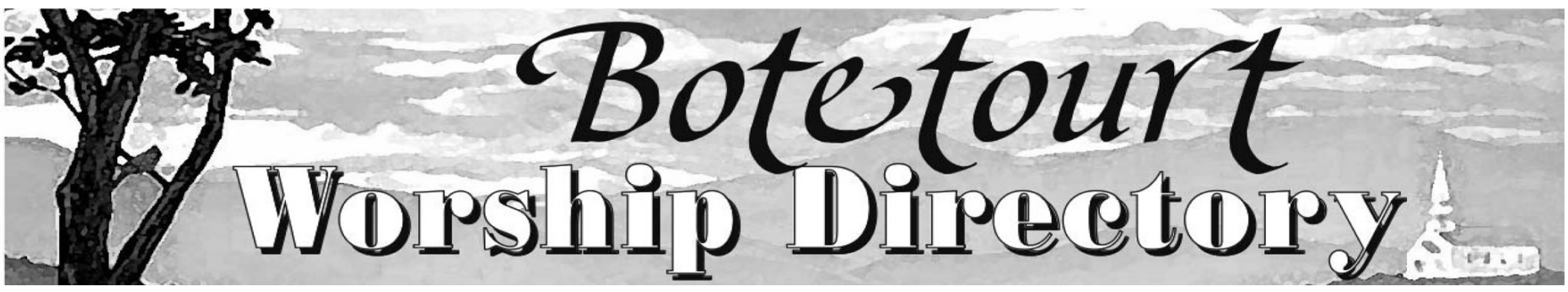

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**ANGLICAN**

**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.

## I Need Help

Read Psalms 11:1 through 18:50

Many of the Psalms are full of praise to God. We sometimes visualize David as peacefully strumming a harp as he quietly watches a flock of sheep grazing on a grassy slope. Psalm 13 presents a different picture.

David apparently had doubts, troubling thoughts, and enemies. Things did not always go well for him. In the first part of this psalm, David, in authentic transparency, expressed some real concerns. He apparently had enemies who were getting a little too close for comfort. The amazing part is how, in spite of the chaos around him, David made a decision to trust God.

But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation (Psalm 13:5).

Everything does not always go well for us either. We face challenges that seem overwhelming, and we do not always see a clear path through the jungle of everyday life. But God is our Source of help, and we can trust Him to get us through!

Prayer Suggestion: Father, I do not feel up to the task that is before me at times, but I have decided that I will trust You.

Quicklook: Psalm 13:1–6

# OBITUARIES

## Blankenship, Leslie Emory

Leslie Emory Blankenship, Jr., 94, of Daleville, passed away peacefully at his home on September 11, 2026. He was born on January 21, 1932 in Roanoke to Leslie and Lillian Blankenship. Les was preceded in death by his parents; his brother, Bobby; sister, Ilene; his beloved wife, Rader; and his daughter, Phyllis.



He iss survived by his children, Jim Blankenship (Lisa), Deb Moore (JD); grandchildren, Scott, Josh, Laura, Chris and Zach; and great-grandchildren, Riley, Andrew, Noah, Gabe, Hunter, Camryn, George, Zachary, Chandler and Scottie.

Les proudly served in the United States Air Force during the Korean War. He was a Radio Operator on the B17 Bomber and received an honorable discharge July 1954. After his military service he married the love of his life, Rader. They shared 64 years of marriage until Rader's passing in January 2020. Les started his career with the Federal Aviation Administration as an Air Traffic Controller and retired from the Roanoke Air Traffic Control Tower in January 1985 as a Tower Supervisor.

A graveside service was held at 11 a.m. Monday, September 14, 2026 in Sherwood Memorial Park, Salem, with Pastor Warren officiating. Online condolences may be made at www.botetourtfh.com or by calling 540-254-3000.

## Waddell, Timothy Allen

Timothy "Tim" Allen Waddell, 63, of Asheboro, N.C., passed away August 22, 2026 at his home surrounded by loved ones. He was born February 12, 1963 in Roanoke, the son of Carol Faye Scaggs Waddell and the late Sterlie "Sonny" Robnet Waddell Jr.



Tim's journey through life was one marked by dedication, service, and the quiet strength. Tim served his country with honor in the United States Air Force, retiring as a Technical Sergeant after more than two decades of committed service. His expertise in ground radar systems and his leadership acumen made him an invaluable asset, earning him accolades such as the three Oak Leaf Clusters, a Bronze Star, and a Silver Oak Leaf Cluster. His service took him across the globe to places like Korea and Saudi Arabia, where his contributions extended beyond duty to humanitarian efforts.

Beyond his career, Tim's passions painted a picture of a man deeply engaged with the world around him. He found solace and excitement in the pages of mysteries and westerns, while his love for the Marvel Universe revealed his appreciation for stories of heroism. Faith played a central role in his life, guiding him as an active member of Parks Crossroads Christian Church of Ramseur. Tim's creativity shone through in his woodworking projects, crafting beautiful furniture pieces that became heirlooms for family and friends.

A lover of nature, Tim enjoyed the simple pleasures of camping and fishing, memories he cherished from his days as an Eagle Scout. His heart was large, encompassing not only people but also the four-legged companions he adored–his cats Bob, Ocie, Gabby, and Millie, and his faithful dog, Lacey. Yet above all, Tim's greatest treasure was his family. They were the center of his world, providing him with boundless joy and fulfillment. His legacy lives on in the lives he touched with his kindness, integrity, and unwavering devotion.

Left to cherish his memory are his beloved wife of 23 years, Pamela "Pam" Hudson Waddell; his mother, Carol Waddell; his sister, Susan Jennings; niece, Heather Murrell; nephew, Ryan Jennings; great-niece, Reygan Shires; his children from North Carolina, Hannah Hoover (Matt), Josh Dickens (Jennifer) and Chris Dickens; grandchildren, Trevor Grimsley (Jenny), Emma Hoover (Arlin), Harmony Hoover, Julian Daniels, Jaylen Saunders (Chase), Ace Dickens and Alice Dickens; great-grandchild, Addie Grimsley; and many other beloved cousins, family members and friends.

A celebration of Tim's life was held Saturday, Sept. 5, 2026, at 3 p.m. at Parks Crossroads Christian Church in Ramseur, N.C., with full military honors.

# More activities scheduled for the Fincastle Festival





FILE PHOTO/COURTESY OF HFI

**A working blacksmith returns Sept. 26 along with music from Deepwoods Still.**

In just 10 days, the Fincastle Fall Festival will open on September 26 at 10 a.m. on Main Street, Roanoke Street and Academy Street. During the past two weeks you may have read about the Quilt Show, the crafters, the food vendors, the antique car show, the library book sale, the Touch-A-Truck, the Fincastle Company Encampment, and the Botetourt Museum of History and Culture. Here are a couple more activities that will be going on that day around the center of town.

There will be two music venues. The front porch of the Chamber of Commerce building beside First Bank on Roanoke Street will have students of Mike Lee performing during the day: 10 a.m., Avery Saunders; 11 a.m., Alexis Chocolate; noon, Kim Bennett; 1 p.m., Austin Mayres; 2 p.m., Kaeli Berry; 3 p.m., Ruby Boblett.

The Music Tent next to Conviction Coffee (on the old courthouse square) will feature Easy Pickins at 10 a.m.; Deepwoods Still at noon; and The Henry Downing Band at 2 p.m.

The Quilts of Valor presentation honoring two veterans from Botetourt County will take place at 11:30 a.m. on the porch of the Saunders House (the old Baptist church) outside of the Quilt Show.

Children are encouraged to visit the petting zoo at Wysong Park. There will be ducks, alpacas, donkeys and more. There will also be period games for children in the yard behind the museum and maybe games at the Fincastle Company Encampment.

Every year, the festival features a blacksmith. This year will be no different. In addition to a blacksmith, the Wysong Blacksmith Shop will also have the new "school for blacksmithing classes" set up. All the plans for the classes have not been "hammered out," but those interested will have an opportunity to sign up for more information as well as see the changes in the blacksmith shop.

Entries for the Peggy Davis Art Show should be submitted by September 17 to teachers, the library in Fincastle, Eagle Rock, Buchanan or Blue Ridge, or a branch of First Bank in Fincastle, Troutville, Cloverdale/Hollins, or Blue Ridge.

The information booth in the center of town will have a selection of HFI souvenirs including the newest design for a T-shirt.

*~ Historic Fincastle, Inc.*

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# CHURCH NEWS

## Springwood Food Pantry open Saturday

The Springwood Baptist Food Pantry will be open on, Saturday, September 19, from 8:30-9:30 a.m. at 88 Copps Hill Road, Buchanan. This is a drive-through pantry, so clients may remain in their cars and volunteers will load the food for them. The pantry is open each month on the third Saturday from 8:30 until 9:30 a.m. It partners with Feeding America Southwest Virginia and anyone in need of food is invited to visit.

## 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.

## Trinity UMC Baby Pantry open September 26

Those in need of diapers and baby formula may come to the Baby Pantry at Trinity United Methodist Church, 19637 Main Street, Buchanan, from 9 a.m. to noon on the fourth Saturday of the month. Enter on Washington Street side of the building. The Baby Pantry will be open this month on September 26.

Diaper and wipes donations may be left at the Buchanan Library, Family Dollar Store and North Star Restaurant.

## 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.

# Special dedication service Sunday at Fincastle Presbyterian

Fincastle Presbyterian Church is holding a special service on Sunday, Sept. 20, for the dedication of the new sound system.

Gathering music will begin at 10:15 a.m., with the service starting at 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary at 108 E. Back Street in Fincastle.

The worship leader for the day will be the Rev. David A. Dickerson. Music Director Lori Turner has planned a large variety of special worship music that will feature congregational singing, the Botetourt Brass Ensemble, Soloist Evie Huwe, the BackStreet Ringers (bell choir), and The Joyful Singers.

Following the worship service will be a congregational meeting, and immediately after that meeting, there will be a potluck luncheon to which everyone is invited.

The service will also be live-streamed. Go to https://www.facebook.com/fincastlepresbyterianchurch/ on a computer or phone. Once the service starts, if you don't see the new Facebook post with the Facebook Live Video on the page, refresh the page, or close it and go to the url again.

*~ Fincastle Presbyterian Church*

# Fincastle author publishes new book

Fincastle resident Don Woodard has published a new book, "Your Relationship with You," focusing on personal growth, faith and developing a stronger relationship with God.

According to the book's description, Woodard explores the idea that an individual's relationship with himself or herself is an important foundation for relationships with family, friends and coworkers.

The book draws on Scripture and practical biblical applications to examine topics including identity, attitudes, emotions and spiritual growth. Woodard encourages readers to develop a biblical understanding of themselves while addressing fear, discouragement and destructive thinking.

The book also focuses on developing healthy spiritual disciplines and finding greater joy, purpose and peace through a stronger relationship with God.

According to the publisher's description, "Your Relationship with You" is intended for readers seeking spiritual renewal, personal growth or encouragement and emphasizes the believer's identity in Christ rather than self-esteem based solely on personal achievement.

The paperback is available through Amazon. Woodard said the book may also soon be available at Scripture Truth in Fincastle.

*~ Fincastle Herald staff report*

# Letters from page 4

us. It is a continuing promise that the government derives its power from the people, that individual liberty matters, and that our differences can be addressed through laws and institutions. More than 235 years after it was signed, that remains something worth remembering – and worth protecting.

The Botetourt County Chapter of the NSDAR encourages everyone to celebrate Constitution Week September 17 -23.

*Botetourt County DAR*



Congratulations to Daniel Finn of Good Samaritan Hospice,
Oakey's June 2026, Hospice Caregivers Award winner. Thank you, Daniel, for all you do. To nominate a hospice caregiver, visit oakeys.com/hospice-caregiver-award.
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## Burial Plots

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## 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
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

ADVERTISE!
389-9355

## Legals - Montgomery County

### NRV HOME Consortium and Town of Blacksburg Notice of Public Comment Period

HOME AND CDBG CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL PERFORMANCE EVALUATION REPORT (CAPER) PROGRAM YEAR 2025 In accordance with guidelines established by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the New River Valley HOME Consortium and the Town of Blacksburg seek public comment on the Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER) for the 2025 program year. The report includes an assessment of projects supported by Blacksburg's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and the New River Valley HOME Consortium's HOME Investment Partnerships Grant (HOME.) The report details expenditures to community objectives, progress on HUD financed activities, and an analysis of program beneficiaries. The report is available online at http://www.blacksburg.gov/HUDreport and by request from the Office of Housing and Community Connections. Public comment will be received from September 11 to September 26, 5:00 PM. Submit comments in writing to housing@blacksburg.gov or Housing and Community Connections, P.O. Box 90003, Blacksburg, VA 24062. Accommodations for persons with disabilities and non-English speaking residents will be provided upon request. For additional information, please call (540) 443-1615.

### 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.

## Legals - Montgomery County

### Order of Publication

Commonwealth of Virginia
VA Code§§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316,-317,20-104
**Case No.CL26-1624**
MONTGOMERY COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT, 55 EAST MAIN STREET, SUITE 1, 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

### 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
(

## Legals - Montgomery County

### 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, October 6, 2026, at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073, pursuant to Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia, as amended. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments concerning:
A. An ordinance of the Town of Christiansburg amending the 2013 Comprehensive Plan by adopting a revised Comprehensive Plan consisting of the following elements:
Government, Environment, Economic Development, Recreation and Destination, Infrastructure, Transportation, Public Safety, Housing, and Future Land Use, including the Future Land Use Map.

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

### TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 4681 FISHERSVIEW ROAD, PILOT, VA 24138.

In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated November 22, 2013, in the original principal amount of $196,000.00 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Montgomery County, Virginia as Instrument No. 2013011218. The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for the City of Radford, 619 Second St., W., Radford, VA, or any such temporary alternative Circuit Court location designated by the Judges of the Circuit Court, on October 8, 2026, at 4:15 PM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: ALL THAT CERTAIN LOT OR PARCEL OF LAND, LYING AND BEING IN THE SHAWSVILLE MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VIRGINIA, LOCATED SOUTHWEST OF VIRGINIA STATE ROUTE NO. 609, MORE PARTICULARLYDESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEING THAT CERTAIN PARCEL CONTAINING 11.703 ACRES IN THE AGGREGATE, AS SHOWN ON A PLAT BY L.J. QUESENBERRY, LAND SURVEYOR, DATED MARCH 30, 1978, AND REFERRED TO AS JOB NO. 115, A COPY OF WHICH IS RECORDED IN DEED BOOK 396 AT PAGE 926, IN THE CLERK`S OFFICE OF THE CIRCUITCOURT OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VIRGINIA. TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit of ten percent (10%) of the sale price or ten percent (10%) of the original principal balance of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, in the form of cash or certified funds payable to the Substitute Trustee must be present at the time of the sale. The balance of the purchase price will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Purchaser's deposit may be forfeited to Trustee. Time is of the essence. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser may, if provided by the terms of the Trustee's Memorandum of Foreclosure Sale, be entitled to a $50 cancellation fee from the Substitute Trustee, but shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. A form copy of the Trustee's memorandum of foreclosure sale and contract to purchase real property is available for viewing at www.aldridgepite.com. Additional terms, if any, to be announced at the sale and the Purchaser may be given the option to execute the contract of sale electronically. This is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. The sale is subject to seller confirmation. Substitute Trustee: Equity Trustees, LLC, 8100 Three Chopt Road, Suite 240, Richmond, VA 23229. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Virginia Pre-Sale Department of counsel for Equity Trustees, LLC at 301-961-6555, website: www.aldridgepite.com. VA-384975-1.

### TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 1449 LAKERIDGE CIRCLE, TROUTVILLE, VA 24175.

In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated January 4, 2006, in the original principal amount of $175,000.00 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Botetourt County, Virginia as Instrument No. 060000421. The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for Botetourt County, Main Street, Fincastle, VA 24090, or any such temporary alternative Circuit Court location designated by the Judges of the Circuit Court, on November 2, 2026, at 2:45 PM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: ALL THAT CERTAIN LOT OR PARCEL OF LAND, WITH ALL THE APPURTENANCES THEREUNTO BELONGING LYING AND BEING THE COUNTY OF BOTETOURT, STATE OF VIRGINIA, AND MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS, TO WIT: BEING LOT 17, BLOCK 5, ACCORDING TO THE MAP OF RAINBOW FOREST, PROPERTY OF, BOTETOURT DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, BOTETOURT COUNTY, VIRGINIA, MADE BY C.B. MALCOLM AND SON, S.C.E.`S, DATED AUGUST 15, 1960 OF RECORD IN TILE CLERK`S OFFICE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BOTETOURT COUNTY, VIRGINIA, IN PLAT BOOK 4, PAGE 102. TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit of ten percent (10%) of the sale price or ten percent (10%) of the original principal balance of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, in the form of cash or certified funds payable to the Substitute Trustee must be present at the time of the sale. The balance of the purchase price will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Purchaser's deposit may be forfeited to Trustee. Time is of the essence. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser may, if provided by the terms of the Trustee's Memorandum of Foreclosure Sale, be entitled to a $50 cancellation fee from the Substitute Trustee, but shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. A form copy of the Trustee's memorandum of foreclosure sale and contract to purchase real property is available for viewing at www.aldridgepite.com. Additional terms, if any, to be announced at the sale and the Purchaser may be given the option to execute the contract of sale electronically. This is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. The sale is subject to seller confirmation. Substitute Trustee: Equity Trustees, LLC, 8100 Three Chopt Road, Suite 240, Richmond, VA 23229. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Virginia Pre-Sale Department of counsel for Equity Trustees, LLC at 301-961-6555, website: www.aldridgepite.com. VA-372477-1.

## STATEWIDE ADS

AUCTIONS

PUBLIC AUCTION! Old Dominion Metal Products, Inc. No Reserve Auction. Fabrication Equip, Welders, Materials, & More. Sept 22, 10am. Online Only. Richmond, Va. www.MotleysIndustrial.com. VAAL#16.

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# BPP from page 2

independent nation rather than a quarrel within the British Empire.

On the southwestern frontier, 2,500 North Carolina militiamen under the command of General Rutherford and 2,000 South Carolina troops under the command of Colonel Williamson moved into Cherokee lands in a coordinated action. They burned crops, fields and villages in their path. On September 19, Williamson's troops were ambushed by a Cherokee counterattack at "Black Hole," but fought their way out. On September 26, the two forces united near present day Murphy, N.C.

## Virginia

In September 1776, Virginia confronted the Revolution on several fronts: military defense, frontier diplomacy, and the difficult process of creating a new state government. The government faced immediate pressure from British operations along the coast and from instability on the western frontier.

The Constitution adopted in June created a bi-cameral legislature in Virginia for the first time. During September, the process of electing the first 24 senators was finishing the election process begun in July. It is interesting to note that there was no uniform election date, but instead each County Court set the date for their election.

Virginia's western frontier was closely connected to the wider Cherokee War of 1776. On Long Island in the Holston River in what is now Tennessee, Colonel William Christian was gathering and training 1,800 Virginia troops to strike back against Cherokee raids.

Virginia remained militarily overstretched during September, supporting Washington's national war effort, defending the Chesapeake from British naval activity, securing the frontier, and organizing its own state institutions. September 1776 showed the new Commonwealth's central challenge: independence required not only defeating Britain on major battlefields, but also holding a long and vulnerable frontier where local warfare would determine if settlers and communities remained secure.

## Botetourt

At the confluence of the Ohio and Kanawha Rivers, near present-day Point Pleasant in then Botetourt County, Captain Matthew Arbuckle's state troops from Botetourt had established and were maintaining Fort Randolph. The fort stood near the site of the 1774 Battle of Point Pleasant and served as an exposed Virginia outpost facing the Shawnee, Mingo, Wyandot, and other Native Nations. Its purpose was to protect river travel, provide warning of raids, and maintain Virginia's military presence in the trans-Allegheny frontier region.

Colonel William Christian, brother-in-law of Governor Patrick Henry and son of Israel Christian (who donated the land for the seat of government in Botetourt County, which became the Town of Fincastle) had resigned his commission in the Continental Army and returned to Virginia to organize, train and command Virginia's troops in the Cherokee War. During September, he was elected to represent the counties of Botetourt and Fincastle in the newly formed Virginia Senate.

*~ Ed Holt, Botetourt Preservation Partnership*

# Officials from page 1

positions.

"We are fortunate to have a talented team of employees who understand the county's operations and are already prepared to help maintain continuity while these searches take place," the county said. "At the same time, we will look broadly and internally for candidates who can bring new ideas and expertise to these important leadership roles."

The county did not indicate that any additional senior leadership departures are currently anticipated. It directed interested applicants to its website, where current job openings are posted.

The leadership changes come as Botetourt County continues to manage a number of major projects and initiatives.

Among them is Google's planned data center campus at Botetourt Center at Greenfield, along with continued development activity, infrastructure projects and other efforts affecting the county's future growth.

County officials said planning for leadership transitions is an ongoing part of county operations.

"The county has always placed a strong emphasis on planning for continuity," the county continued. "Leadership transitions occur in any organization, and we know the success of the county does not rest on any one individual. It is the result of a team working together."

The county pointed to experienced employees throughout its departments who are familiar with the Board of Supervisors' priorities, county projects and daily operations.

"That depth of knowledge allows us to continue moving important initiatives and projects forward while transitions take place," the county said.

While the county expressed confidence in its existing staff, it also acknowledged the significance of losing several longtime leaders in a relatively short period.

"We understand that having several leaders leave within a relatively short period of time can feel unsettling for employees and the community," the county said. "We don't take that lightly."

The county said it has emphasized documenting procedures, cross-training employees and providing continuing education so critical responsibilities and processes are understood by more than one person.

That preparation, officials said, is important even outside periods of leadership turnover, including when employees are on extended leave or simply away from work.

"We will certainly miss the experience and institutional knowledge these longtime leaders have brought to the county," the county said, "while also being confident in the talent we have in place and their ability to carry that important work forward."

*~ Fincastle Herald staff report*

# Courthouse from page 1

installed, and Evans said the building is expected to be "dried in" within about two weeks. The roof is also beginning to take shape, with the green metal roofing expected to begin going up soon.

Inside the building, crews are framing walls throughout much of the courthouse. Evans said work was briefly slowed by a disagreement over the number of data outlets needed in the building.

"The only reason we a little bit slowed down the framing was some internal conflict on how much data outlets to put in, believe it or not," Evans said.

The issue arose because the Supreme Court and the architects had different requirements for the number of outlets, Evans said, resulting in a higher number than necessary. He pointed out that the construction team is intentionally maintaining some schedule cushion.

"Every time we save a little time, we put it in our pockets, because there's going to be something that'll get us at some point in time," he said.

The construction project is also approaching a significant change to the area around the courthouse. Evans said the construction team plans to clear the area in front of the clerk's office and jail after the upcoming Fincastle Festival and begin tearing up that portion of the site. Before the front parking lot can be disrupted, however, the rear parking lot must be brought to grade and prepared for parking.

Evans also discussed the courthouse bell, which has become something of a running issue during construction. The bell is equipped with an electric ringer, and the current plan is for it to ring automatically at noon each day, following a request from Judge Hoel Branscomb. When the bell was first tested, Evans said, its transformer burned out.

"That bell's been my nemesis for a long time," Evans joked.

Evans said the town and project team are working to find someone capable of servicing the system and intend to have it operating.

He also updated council on the Breckinridge Law Office and Hotel project with renderings that were also presented to the Botetourt County Board of Supervisors last month.

The law office portion will be reconstructed as closely as possible to the historic structure, although Evans said he does not like describing it as an exact replica. Different sections of the building will use slightly different brick colors and masonry styles to reflect how the original structure was expanded over time.

The hotel portion will be a one-story, open design rather than the original two-story configuration. Construction cannot begin until the site is turned over to the county by Jamerson-Lewis. Evans said construction could begin as early as late 2027, although the project is expected to be completed around mid-2028. Evans said the biggest challenge will be the logistics of moving construction materials in and out of the tightly confined site.

Council members also received updates on several town projects.

Town Manager Melanie McFadyen said paving is scheduled to begin Monday, Sept. 14, on the east side of Fincastle, generally the area to the right of U.S. 220. Council discussed parking arrangements and ways to notify residents and businesses about the work.

McFadyen noted that the town planned to use social media and other notices to help residents move vehicles before paving crews arrive.

The town also will undergo PFAS sampling on Sept. 16. McFadyen said the town has never had PFAS detected in its samples, but the state now requires two samples a year.

The town's new backup generator has been ordered, with council member Clay Fitzgerald assisting with the purchase and preparations for installation. Work is underway to prepare a level pad at the well site.

McFadyen also reported progress on efforts to have Settlers Road and Ridgely Lane incorporated into the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) system. Settlers Road is essentially complete, she said, but Ridgely Lane still requires additional work and coordination with the developer.

The issue took on added importance following last year's ice storm, when Ridgely Lane was not plowed because it was not yet part of the VDOT system.

Big Spring Park also continues to receive improvements. McFadyen said the bridge has been refurbished, the monument is complete and fencing has been installed. The U.S. Forest Service is expected to assist with invasive plant removal later this year.

The park also has begun seeing increased use, including by local cheerleaders for practice.

Council reviewed upcoming community events, including the Fincastle Fall Festival on Sept. 26, the First Bank Fall Run on Oct. 17, Open Studios – Botetourt, Oct. 17-18, Halloween on Oct. 31 and the Christmas Parade and Tinsel Trail kickoff Dec. 5.

During citizen comments, a resident asked about a FEMA grant intended to fund the town's generator.

McFadyen said the town has not yet received word on the grant, which has been delayed. Because of the uncertainty, the town decided to purchase a generator for its main well using remaining ARPA funds. If the FEMA funding eventually comes through, the town plans to use it for a second well.

Council also discussed the possibility of creating a volunteer effort to help Fincastle homeowners who are struggling with yard and property maintenance. Fincastle Mayor Mary Bess Smith said the town wants to preserve the appearance and historic character of Fincastle without unnecessarily escalating conflicts with residents.

"I think we owe it to our neighbors, and to the historic elements of the town to try to preserve, you know, our oldest buildings," Smith said.

Council members discussed potential partnerships with churches, civic groups and young people seeking volunteer hours, with Smith asking members to consider ways to make such an effort "helpful and neighborly" rather than an example of government overreach.

The next meeting of Fincastle Town Council is Oct. 8.

**PUBLIC NOTICE for November 3, 2026**
**General & Special Election**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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600-699 $227.00

**Graded Heifers**
400-499 $330.00-331.00
500-599 $315.00

**Kill Cows** $79.00-173.00

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The next regular meeting of the Botetourt County Board of Supervisors will be held on Tuesday, Septemberr 22, 2026, beginning at 2:00 p.m. at the Botetourt County Administration Center at 57 South Center Drive in Daleville, Virginia.

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

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# LB golfers are third at Hanging Rock



PHOTO BY JOHN WACHER

**Jonah Dunker hits a drive for Lord Botetourt.**

The Lord Botetourt golfers shot a team score of 157 in a nine-hole Blue Ridge District match at Hanging Rock Golf Club in Roanoke County last week. Northside won the round with a 147 followed by William Byrd at 154.

Botetourt was playing without Alisa Davidova, a perennial contender for medalist honors in the BRD matches. Byrd's Ethan Sink was medalist with a nine-hole 34 while LB's best score was a 37 by Cole Cecil.

Also scoring for LB at "The Rock" were Derek Bond with a 39, Jackson Taylor at 40 and Eli Hall at 41. Kelly Carpenter had 43 and Jonah Dunker came in at 45.

This week the district was scheduled to play at Blue Hills on Tuesday, William Byrd's home course. Today the Cavs have a non-district match at Blacksburg, and next Monday they're back at Hanging Rock.

# LB volleyball team has busy schedule

The Lord Botetourt volleyball team will have a full day of action Saturday when the girls participate in the Kirk Nairn Foundation Tournament at Abingdon High School this Saturday. The Cavs will play four matches against some strong competition.

The day starts with a 10:30 a.m. game against Castlewood, followed by a match against Lebanon at 12:30 p.m. Next is Northwood at 1:30 p.m. and the day will wrap up with a 3:30 p.m. meeting with Christiansburg, the third time the girls will play the 2025 Class 3 state runners-up this season.

Botetourt was scheduled to play Christiansburg in Daleville on Tuesday of this week but that match was too late for publication. The Cavs lost a five set thriller in Christiansburg on August 27 that went five sets after LB had won the first two and had the Demons on the ropes before losing

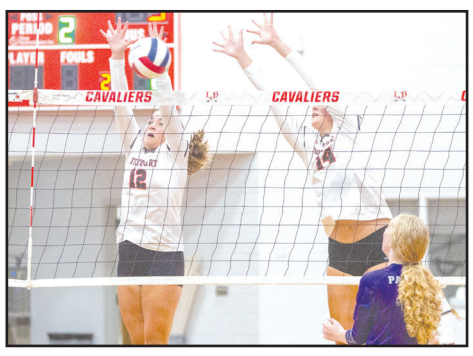



PHOTO BY REGINA DEVINNEY

**Sydney Bergsten (12) and Ava Stephens (14) put up a block for LB.**

the third set, 26-24.

The Cavaliers come into the week at 2-3, with two losses to a strong Tunstall team in addition to the loss to Christiansburg. Last week in Dry Fork the host Trojans pulled out a five set win over visiting LB after the Cavs led 1-0 and 2-1 in sets. The final tally was 22-25, 25-18, 24-26, 25-18 and 15-13 in Tunstall's favor.

Ava Stephens led LB with 17 kills, three blocks and three aces. Addalyn Underwood had 22 digs and a pair of aces and Lilly Crenshaw had 34 assists and 17 digs.

Next Tuesday, September 22, the Cavaliers will open their Blue Ridge District schedule with a home game against Franklin County.

# River golfer finish second in district matches

The James River golfers took second place behind Three Rivers strong boy Floyd County in two district matches in the past week. The Knights also hosted a non-district match at the Botetourt Golf & Swim Club last Thursday.

On September 8 the district played at the Olde Mill course and River took second, seven strokes behind Floyd and two strokes better than Radford. The Knights were led by Mason Gilliland with a 74, and having his best high school match was Braden Persinger with a 75 on a very difficult course.

"The top of our district is super competitive," said River coach Donna Cox.

On Monday at the River Course the Knights tied host Radford for second place with a 322, four strokes behind Floyd. Landon Bolling led the team with a one under par 71 and Gilliland was close on his heels, shooting three over par 75. Tucker Hall shot his best match score with an 88.

Last Thursday the Knights hosted Glenvar at the Botetourt Golf & Swim Club. The top two players from JR and Glenvar played a "fun" match play format with Bolling and Gilliland representing River and John Deel and Mason Young playing for Glenvar.

"These four have developed a great friendship and the camaraderie between them is astounding for high schoolers," said Cox.

Bolling paired up with Glenvar's



PHOTO BY JOHN WACHER

**Mason Francis tees off at the Botetourt Golf & Swim Club last week.**

number two, Young, and Gilliland paired up with Glenvar's number one, John Deel. Glenvar's pair eventually won the match.

"Mason Young stated how much fun he had playing with Landon and just how much he learned from playing with him," said Cox. "It will be sad to see Landon and Mason graduate this year because their leadership, experience, and deep knowledge of the game have been invaluable both on and off the field. They have helped guide younger players, set an example through their hard work and dedication, and contributed countless memories along the way."

The Knights are scheduled to play today against Galax and Floyd and on Thursday they're back at Hanging Rock for a makeup of a Three Rivers match that was previously rained out. Next Monday they're at Great Oaks for a district match hosted by Floyd County.




**Lord Botetourt's Anna Thorne led the Cavaliers with a 99th place finish out of 350+ runners in the Knights Crossing Red race at Green Hill Park.**

# Cavaliers, Knights run in big meet at Green Hill

The Lord Botetourt and James River cross country teams competed in a massive Knights Crossing invitational cross country event last Saturday. Cave Spring hosted the event at Green Hill Park in west Roanoke County.

"Knights Crossing is one of the most competitive meets of the season, drawing over 100 high schools from all over the East Coast," said LB coach Noel Preece. "This was our first time running full rosters for both men's and women's teams this season."

LB ran in the "Red" Division for Virginia public schools and out of state teams. For the ladies, senior Anne Thorne led the charge with a 99th place finish out of over 300 runners. Following her home were standout freshman Grace Hoover and senior Addison Purser. The freshman trio of Laurel Wiley and the Vess twins, Cameron and Allison, rounded out the varsity roster, posting impressive performances in their 5K debuts.

For the men, Preston Vaughn posted one of the fastest times in school history, moving up to fourth all-time for LB behind only Eric Duncan ('25), Ethan Thorne ('25), and Zeke Hunsberger ('09). Behind Vaughn, Archer Lee and Mason Tuck both posted PRs to lead home freshman Caleb Thorne and junior Owen Mattarocchia.

"Between both teams, every non-debutant ran a personal best with the exception of one athlete who is returning from injury and two who are returning from seasons in non-running sports," said Preece. "Coach Altman, Coach Foutz, and I are incredibly proud of these young athletes and excited to see them continue to showcase the fitness that they have built over the summer."

Cardinal Gibbons won the boys' Red team title among 39 teams competing while Blacksburg won the girls' title.

James River ran in the "Black" division, for smaller Virginia public schools and private schools. Covenant Day School won both the boys' and girls' divisions.

For the Knights, Braden Jones was a little under the weather, but still had a season PR of 20 seconds. Mark Voight improved by almost a minute over last year's time, 19:20 to an 18:28, and Charlie Stull earned an all-time PR by over 40 seconds with a new PR of 19:00.

Nolan Linthicum earned an all time PR by 24 seconds and ran a 19:04 while Barrett Pace improved his season PR by over a minute and beat his last year's time by over a minute and 30 seconds. Brody Stewart got a season PR by over a minute and beat last year's time by a minute while Brandon Baka-Collins had a four-minute PR.

For the girls, Maddie Davidson raced 30 seconds faster than last year's time and had a season PR by over a minute. She also medaled 20th.

Maren Pauley was slightly under the weather but still ran a minute faster than last year. Macy Weddle had a 10 second PR, Jasmine Montgomery earned a minute and 20 second PR and Holly Weddle ran a season PR by about 15 seconds. Alex Bona had a very strong race and earned a season PR by over three minutes and Jacey Walker ran a season PR and dropped four minutes off of her time this year.

"The girls as a whole team are showing lots of growth and improvement together," said River coach Daphne Davidson. "It's exciting to see them work towards common and also individual goals.

"Our boys team is steady as it has always been and continues to push through and gain ground."

The Knights also ran in the Bengal Clash at the Smith River Complex in Axton last week. Jones ran 20 seconds faster than he did on the same course last year while Voight ran almost a minute faster than last year. On the girls' side Holly Weddle and Bona both ran 30 seconds faster on the course than last year.

This Saturday James River will run at the New Market Battle Field cross country course while Lord Botetourt will run at Longwood University.




PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING

**Lord Botetourt's Preston Vaughn completes a strong race at Knights Crossing with a 30th place finish in a time of 16:08.9.**

## Football from page 12

are back on the road to play Hidden Valley at Bogle Stadium in Roanoke County. The Titans have fallen on tough times, coming into the game on a 25-game losing streak going back to the 2023 season. They're 1-33 in the past four seasons, including a 50-0 loss to James River in Springwood last fall. With that said, River coach Baker is making sure the Knights don't take them lightly this Friday.

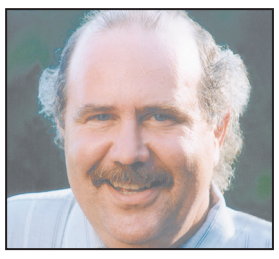
"They've improved," said Baker. "We're different and they're different, and size-wise they're going to have an advantage so there's no reason to think this is going to be an easy game."

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BOTETOURT

# Sports

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**Brian Hoffman**

Sports Editor

## Cavaliers look to bounce back after loss to Magna Vista



LB's Rylen Wright (11) blocks as Gus Feeny (6) takes a handoff.



Beau Lonker picks up yards against Magna Vista.



PHOTOS BY KATIE PERRY

Botetourt's Cael Burton brings down a Warrior.

The Lord Botetourt football team hopes to get back on track after a tough night in Daleville last Friday. The Cavaliers will be in Christiansburg this Friday after falling at home to Magna Vista last week, 40-0.

The Warriors have been a thorn in the side for LB the last two seasons. Magna Vista eliminated Botetourt from playoffs last year when they rang up a big number in a 65-34 win over LB in Ridgeway. While the 40 points given up last Friday is a little better, first year coach Nick Leftwich wasn't the least bit pleased.

"We're not about moral victories," he said. "That was last year and this is this year and we're all about 'right now.' They have some really good athletes but we hurt ourselves and we're going to have to get better. They're in our region and we hope to see them again."

The Warriors held LB to just 88 yards rushing. Gus Feeny led the team with 41 yards on 14 carries while Tanner Gore had 30 yards on eight attempts.

Cael Burton was 10 for 18 passing for 92 yards. Rylen Wright caught three passes for 58 yards while Feeny and Jayden Windsor had three catches each.

Callum McCoy led the defense with five solo tackles and 10 assists. Jackson Crenshaw had two solos and nine assists. Gabe Towe had a sack and Chris Paderick had an interception.

"I was pleased with the way we kept fighting, things just didn't go our way," said Leftwich.

Now 1-2, the Cavaliers are hoping to bounce back this week at Christiansburg. The Blue Demons are 1-2 with a win over Abingdon and losses to Carroll County and William Byrd. The Demons lost to Byrd in Vinton last Friday, 41-10.

"They're coming off a tough loss like us," said Leftwich. "They had a good win over Abingdon and they have some good athletes. It's going to be two 1-2 football teams both looking for a win."

The jayvees also fell to Magna Vista and they'll host Christiansburg Thursday evening.



Briar Sink tackles a Parry McCluer ball carrier.

## Knights rally for football win over Parry McCluer

James River broke a 6-6 tie with 15 fourth quarter points to pull out a 21-6 win over Parry McCluer in Buena Vista last Friday. The Knights are now 2-1 after getting a win in their first road game of the season.

"It was a hard fought football game that wasn't decided until the fourth quarter," said River coach Jack Baker. "We had to overcome some adversity, but it just shows you have to play the entire game."

The Knights led 6-0 at the half. Sam Wilson got loose for a 49-yard touchdown run with 2:15 left in the half but River missed the extra point.

The Blues tied the game with 1:41 remaining in the third period on a one yard run, but they also missed the extra point and the game was tied at 6-6 heading into the fourth quarter.

River regained the lead with 5:16 remaining on a big play. Quarterback Merit Hammons found Wilson for a 61-yard pass play and Bentley Painter ran in for a two-point conversion, giving River a 14-6 lead. The Knights then scored an insurance TD with 1:10 to go on a three-yard run by Hammons, and Knox Taylor drilled the extra point.

River finished with 255 yards of offense. Wilson had a big game with 72 yards rushing on just five carries and the 61-yard reception, the only pass completion of the game on four attempts by Hammons. Merit had 44 yards rushing, Ashton Orange had 47 and Ryan Daniels had 28.

"We had our moments on offense," said Baker.

On defense Briar Sink had 21 tackles to lead the team. Eli Baldwin had 17 and Orange had a baker's dozen.

"I thought we played pretty solid on defense," said coach Baker. "For most of the game the defense held them in check."

Baker always likes to beat Parry McCluer, something he never did when he was a student athlete at James River. The two played 25 times before James River beat the Blues in 1995, then River lost the next five meetings. The worm has turned since then, as River has won 20 of the last 24 games since 2001.

This week the Knights

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PHOTOS BY MORGAN WILSON

Bentley Painter (1) runs for good yardage against Parry McCluer.



PHOTO BY BIRDIE BOBLETT

Ayden Jennings sets one up for James River.

## Big week for James River volleyball

The James River volleyball team was scheduled to put its unbeaten record on the line Tuesday against Three Rivers District rival Glenvar. It was the first of two big matches for the Knights this week, as they host Class 5 Franklin County on Thursday in Springwood.

The Knights are off to a great start. Last Tuesday at home they knocked off a strong Radford team in three close sets, 25-23, 25-22 and 25-23. Ashby Wilkes had 18 kills, Kinley Millman had 11 and Ayden Jennings had 26 assists and nine digs.

"Radford was a big win for us," said River coach Linsey Firebaugh. "They lost a lot from last year's state championship team, but their coach always has them well prepared. We knew it would not be an easy game. The girls attacked aggressively and responsibly, not making many mistakes. They came into the game confident and ready to play and it showed."

On Thursday in Martinsville River won another Three Rivers match, downing the host Bulldogs in three sets, 25-6, 25-9 and 25-8. Jennings had 15 assists and eight aces, Millman had 10 kills and Wilkes had eight kills and half a dozen aces.

River comes into the week at 6-0. Glenvar was 6-1 prior to Tuesday's match with the only loss coming against Class 5 Patrick Henry.

## Read Mountain is home for football game Thursday

The Read Mountain Middle School football team will host Franklin County Thursday at 5 p.m. Read Mountain is 3-1 after falling for the first time against unbeaten Andrew Lewis Middle School in Salem last week. Here, Malachi Perdue runs for a long touchdown, the first points scored against Lewis all year. In the other photo, Jack Nancarrow (50) and Micah Eggleston bring down a Wolverine ball carrier.





PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN



PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

## RC is 2-0 after win over Greensboro

Lord Botetourt High grad DJ Toliver (65), a junior from Troutville, pulls from his left guard position to lead the blocking in last Saturday's Roanoke College football win over Greensboro. Roanoke took a 28-14 win at Salem Stadium to improve to 2-0 on the young season.