FALL HOME IMPROVEMENT INSIDE!

The Fincastle Herald

& Botetourt County News

www.fincastleherald.com

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County Planning Commission continues review of solar ordinance

The Botetourt County Planning Commission spent much of its Sept. 14 work session reviewing the county's recently adopted solar ordinance, with commissioners and staff examining provisions related to environmental protections, development standards and emergency response.

The commission did not take action on the ordinance during the work session. Instead, staff was directed to research several provisions and return with additional information as commissioners continue working through the language.

Planning Commission Director Dr. Beth Leffel said the current review is intended to clarify the ordinance adopted recently by the Board of Supervisors. Once the Planning Commission completes an addendum to the county's Comprehensive Plan, the ordinance may need to be revisited to ensure it remains aligned with the plan.

Commissioners reviewed the ordinance section by section, including provisions concerning native plants, wildlife corridors, migratory routes, prime farmland and erodible soils.

The commission also discussed setbacks, fencing, vegetation, mowing and other development standards, including how solar facilities can maintain security while allowing wildlife to move through properties.

Staff will examine guidance from the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) as the ordinance language is refined. Commissioners also questioned portions of the mowing standards and language that could inadvertently encourage the use of invasive species.

Commissioners expressed support for protections involving prime farmland and erodible soils and requested additional information about how those areas are identified at the parcel level.

The commission also asked staff to examine whether a one-mile separation requirement should be incorporated directly into the solar ordinance. The county was still working to clarify details of the provision following the meeting.

Other environmental issues discussed included wildlife corridors, migratory routes, glare and potential

See **Solar**, page 10



FILE GRAPHIC

The Botetourt County Planning Commission discussed the county's recently adopted solar ordinance at its Sept. 14 work session.

For one Troutville father, his son's military career is a proud legacy

Matt de Simone
Managing Editor

For Col. Glenn Hammond, the retirement of his son, Lt. Col. Barry Hammond, represented something more than the conclusion of a 20-year military career.

It was, he said, the crowning touch of his own life.

Barry Hammond, a 2002 graduate of Lord Botetourt High School and a 2006 graduate of Virginia Military Institute, recently retired from the U.S. Air Force during a ceremony at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Fla.

His father, who lives in Troutville, was there to watch it happen.

"I think as a father, the crowning touch of my entire life, I think, is not what I accomplished," Glenn said. "This is what it really, really got my attention."

Glenn knows something about military service himself. But as he reflected on his son's career, he spoke less about his own accomplishments and more about the path Barry had taken and the lessons he had carried with him along the way.

He distinctly remembers bringing his young son, now 41, along as he worked on various electrical and radio projects.

One memory in particular stands out.

Barry was about 3 years old when Glenn took him to a radio station in Halifax County where Glenn was working on a 7,500-volt transformer.

Glenn warned his son not to touch anything.

"I saw him reach for a screwdriver and head directly to that transformer," Glenn recalled.

Glenn quickly intervened.

See **Hammond**, page 10



PHOTO COURTESY OF GLENN HAMMOND

Retired Col. Glenn Hammond (left), a Troutville resident, stands with his son, a Lord Botetourt graduate and newly retired Air Force Lt. Col. Barry Hammond.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PIXABAY

County says Google will pay for infrastructure specifically required to serve its Botetourt data center, while broader costs will be subject to SCC review.

House data center bill puts new focus on electricity costs for proposed Google campus

A bill approved overwhelmingly by the U.S. House of Representatives last week is putting a new focus on who should pay for the electricity infrastructure needed to serve large data centers, including the proposed Google campus in Botetourt County.

The House voted 417-3 on Sept. 16 to approve the Ratepayer Protection Act, which would require state utility regulators to consider standards requiring large data centers to pay for the power and transmission infrastructure needed to serve them. The bill now moves to the U.S. Senate.

For Botetourt County, the issue has a direct local connection.

Appalachian Power (APCo) has proposed the Daleville Area Transmission Improvements Project, which includes upgrades to substations and transmission facilities as well as infrastructure associated with the proposed Google campus. The project is subject to review by the Virginia State Corporation Commission (SCC).

The SCC has been developing safeguards intended to prevent large-load customers, including data centers, from shifting costs to other electric customers. The commission says it is reviewing additional safeguards for APCo and electric cooperatives.

See **Data center bill**, page 10

Fincastle Festival set for Saturday

The annual Fincastle Festival will return to the historic town of Fincastle this Saturday, Sept. 26, bringing a full day of arts, crafts, music, food, history and family activities to the community.

Hosted by Historic Fincastle Inc., (HFI) the festival will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. throughout the center of town and will be held rain or shine.

Visitors can browse the work of local artists and crafters, enjoy a variety of food vendors and take part in activities spread along Main Street, Roanoke Street and Academy Street. The event is being held as part of the community's celebration of the nation's 250th birthday.

The Botetourt County Museum of History & Culture will be open with displays highlighting the county's history, while Revolutionary War interpreters with the Fincastle Company will have an encampment on Roanoke Street. Visitors also will find a small classic car display, fire trucks and emergency vehicles.

Children's activities will include a petting zoo at Wysong Park featuring ducks, alpacas, donkeys and other animals. Period games and other activities will be available near the museum.

The Wysong Blacksmith Shop also will be operating as a working blacksmith shop, with Patrick Mattingly demonstrating the craft. The shop will also feature information about planned blacksmithing classes.

Live music will be presented at two locations. Students of Mike Lee will perform throughout the day on the front porch of the Chamber of Commerce building beside First Bank on Roanoke Street. Performers are scheduled for 10 a.m., 11 a.m., noon, 1 p.m., 2 p.m. and 3 p.m.

The music tent beside Conviction Coffee at the old

See **Festival**, page 10





FILE PHOTOS

Visitors have the chance to browse the many activities, exhibits, crafts and historic demonstrations featured during the annual Fincastle Festival.

Bank of Botetourt

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Botetourt County History



PHOTO COURTESY OF BCMHC

This quilt was created in 1982 as a collaborative project of the Botetourt County 4-H program, Extension Homemakers, 4-H leaders and community volunteers. Designed to teach sewing and quilting skills to young people, the project also strengthened connections between local 4-H clubs and Extension Homemakers groups while raising funds to support Botetourt County 4-H programs. It serves as a reminder of the creativity, cooperation and community spirit that has long been a hallmark of Botetourt's agricultural youth programs.

Forty-three individuals created the quilt's 48 appliquéd and embroidered squares, many depicting scenes, landmarks, farms, livestock and organizations important to Botetourt.

Michael Beahm won the quilt when it was raffled in 1982. He has loaned it to the Botetourt Museum of History & Culture in Fincastle for the current exhibition: "Home Grown – Botetourt's Agricultural History."

The green four-leaf clover at the top represents the four foundations of 4-H.

Head: managing, thinking, clearer reasoning and making sound decisions

Heart: relating, caring, developing empathy and building strong personal values

Hands: giving, working, practicing useful skills and serving others

Health: being, living, maintaining personal well-being and practicing healthy lifestyles

~ Botetourt County Museum of History & Culture

Botetourt County launches online FOIA Document Center



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF BOTETOURT CO.

Botetourt County recently launched a new online FOIA Document Center at www.botetourtva.gov/foiadocs.

Botetourt County has launched a new online Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Document Center that allows residents to search for and view public records that have already been processed and released by the county.

The new Document Center is part of JustFOIA, a records-management system launched by the county and the Botetourt County Sheriff's Office in August to provide a more structured way to submit, track and respond to FOIA requests.

County officials said the system was developed as the volume and complexity of FOIA requests increased, making the county's previous reliance primarily on email more difficult for staff to manage.

In addition to helping staff track requests, manage responsive documents and process invoices when applicable, JustFOIA allows the county to proactively publish records through the Document Center.

That means residents may be able to find records online without having to submit a new FOIA request.

"The goal of the FOIA Document Center is to provide as much public access to records as the law allows," county officials said.

The Document Center is continuing to grow as records are processed and published. County officials said more than a dozen FOIA requests to date have involved the data center and Project Raspberry, as well as Orchard Lake, with responsive records related to those topics being added to the center.

The county said records processed for release and considered appropriate for proactive publication may be added to the Document Center.

For example, plans, permits and other records associated with major projects such as the proposed data center can be added when they are appropriate for public release.

The center will be updated on an ongoing basis. In some cases, records may be added shortly after a FOIA request has been processed. The county

See **FOIA center**, page 5

Groundbreaking held for Wilson Warehouse annex



PHOTO COURTESY OF BUCHANAN TIS

Taking part in the groundbreaking were (from left): Marty Rickman; Buchanan Town Council member; Victor Morales; Botetourt County Parks & Recreationdirector; Sue Way; Mayor of Buchanan; Brenda Noszek; Town Improvement Society Treasurer Susan Davis; TIS Events Coordinator Tim Noszek; Steve Davis, TIS; Wilson Warehouse Historian Sherry Crumley; TIS Vice-President Delegate Terry Austin; Mark Dunbar, MW Dunbar Construction Inc.; and Kathy Austin, TIS president.

A special event in the 187-year history of Buchanan's most significant 19th century building, the 1839 Wilson Warehouse, was held at noon on Friday, Sept. 18. Through a grant from the Commonwealth's VA250 Commission and with local funds, a groundbreaking ceremony celebrated the beginning of construction on an annex to the building on Lowe Street.

The new building will connected to the east side of the building by an enclosed walkway. The annex will contain ADA-compliant restrooms and an ADA-compliant alternate entry and exit for the historic structure.

Owned by the non-profit Buchanan Town Improvement Society (TIS) since 1937, the building has figured prominently in civic activities, private events and historical presentations. The society's volunteer members work continually to preserve the building and to make it accessible to the public. The Wilson Warehouse, opened in 1839, was the center of commerce in Buchanan dating to the years prior, during and after the era of the James River & Kanawha Canal (1851-1881).

Designed by architect Derek Cundiff, in coordination with the TIS and the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, the annex will pay homage to the 1839 building in accordance with state and federal guidelines for construction projects that are adjacent to historic structures.

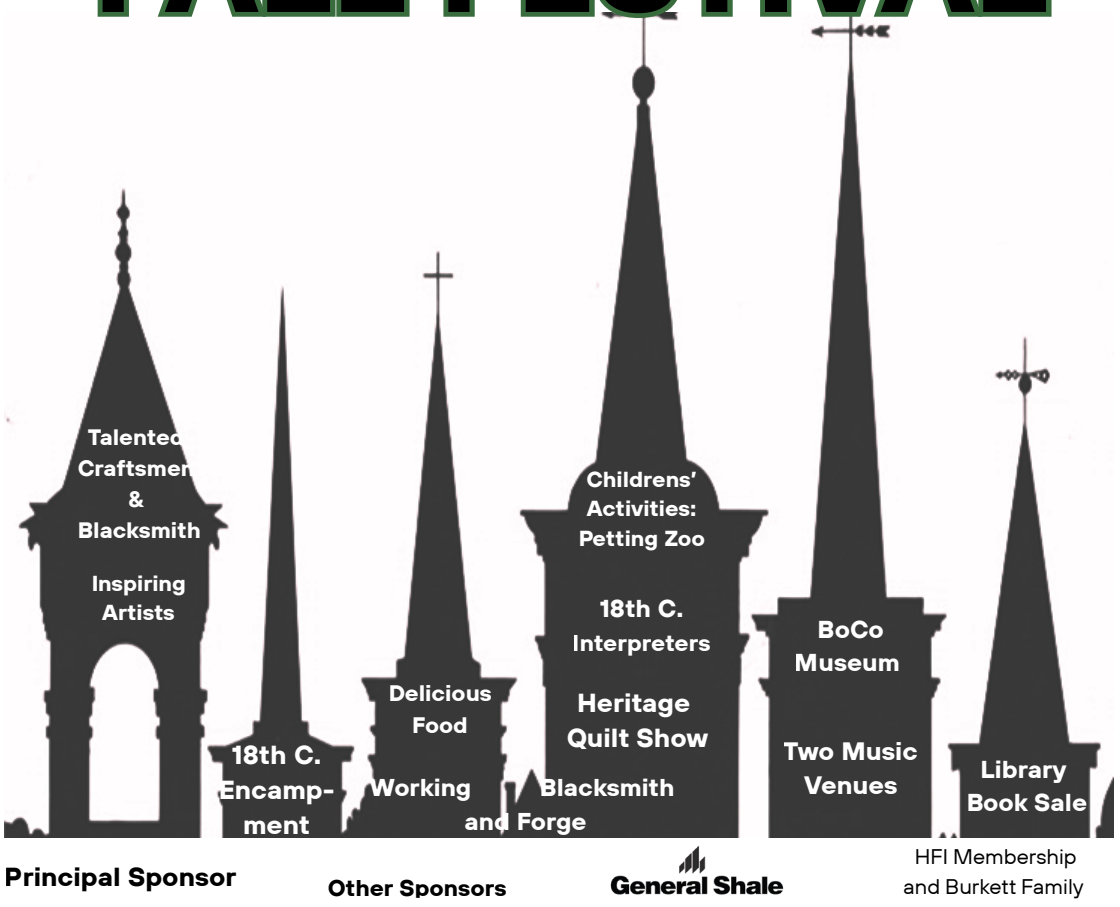
During construction, efforts will be made to protect existing mature plantings and the extensive root system of the Warehouse's English elm tree, designated as the largest such tree in Virginia. Local contractor Mark Dunbar will oversee construction. Dunbar's firm is currently constructing the addition and renovation of the Buchanan Theatre, another significant project in the Town of Buchanan.

The Town Improvement Society was one of 35 historic organizations in Virginia to receive a VA250 Commission Grant. Established by the General Assembly in 2020, VA250 serves to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution, the Revolutionary War, and the Independence of the United States in the Commonwealth of Virginia. As part the VA250 mission, the Commonwealth of Virginia established preservation funds for grants, each requiring a one-third local match.

Assistance with the grant process was provided by Delegate Terry Austin, who also assisted the Buchanan Theatre in receiving a state grant. An extensive application and review process was involved with the Town Improvement Society being awarded a VA250 grant. Other VA250 grant recipients included Colonial Williamsburg and Monticello.

~ Town Improvement Society

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10 am – 4 pm
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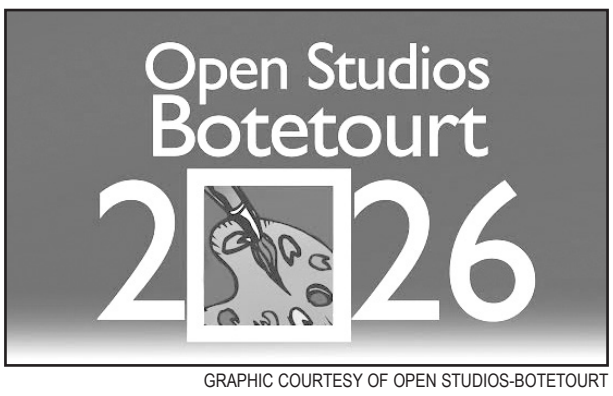
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Open Studios-Botetourt returns Oct. 17-18



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF OPEN STUDIOS-BOTETOURT

Open Studios-Botetourt, "Art in the Country," will return Oct. 17-18 for its annual open studio and workshop tour.

The event will feature artists working in photography, jewelry, painting, collage, wood carving, printmaking and woodworking. Studios, workshops and residences at seven locations throughout Botetourt County will showcase 16 artists.

The tour will run from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 17, and from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 18.

A new location this year is the Botetourt Museum of History and Culture. The tour will extend from the Daleville/Troutville area into historic Fincastle and slightly beyond, with stops ranging from several artists working together at a single location to individual studios.

Returning Botetourt artists include Ed Bordett, Leah Coffman, Vera Dickerson, Dan Jones, Diane Harto, Kristen Corbett, Brett LaGue, Cheryl Miller Lackey, Judith F. Lochbrunner, Jim Stadtlander and Mark Woodie. Returning guest artist Karin Carlson also will participate.

New guest artists are Richard Fuman, Michele Walter, Chelsea Dudley and Julie Gale.

Visitors can learn more about the artists and tour locations at openstudiosbotetourt.com, which includes a map with addresses and contact information. Visitors also can begin the tour at 5 East Main Street in Fincastle, where they can pick up a brochure containing the map and artist information. Brochures also are available at Roanoke Valley Bank of Botetourt locations.

Open Studios-Botetourt also maintains a Facebook page and an Instagram account at @openstudiosbotetourt.

For more information, email openstudiosbotetourtinfo@gmail.com or contact Judith Lochbrunner at 540-293-9642.

The event is sponsored by Botetourt County, Bank of Botetourt, Virginia Mountain Mortgage, Jay Kilby RE/MAX Realty, Thomas Diesel, Colonial Title and Settlement, Visit Virginia's Blue Ridge, the Town of Fincastle and Bible Accounting.

~ Fincastle Herald staff report





PHOTOS COURTESY OF LAP

(Left photo) Jo Jo Sutliff presents Pat Shaver of the League for Animal Protection with a check following the league's Sept. 9 fundraiser at Don Ho's. The event raised funds for the organization's no-kill shelter. (Right photo) Master quilter Paula Thompson, left, displays her donated quilt with League for Animal Protection Director Pat Shaver. The quilt, titled "Ribbon Box," is being raffled to raise money for the league's no-kill shelter.

League for Animal Protection reports successful fundraiser, continues quilt raffle

The League for Animal Protection recently benefited from a successful fundraising event at Don Ho's in Fincastle and is continuing its fundraising efforts with a quilt raffle.

The Sept. 9 fundraiser at Don Ho's drew a steady stream of supporters, with takeout orders beginning at 3 p.m. and customers continuing to arrive into the evening.

Pat Shaver, director of the League for Animal Protection, said the event was a "rousing success" and thanked Don and Jo Jo Sutliff and the restaurant staff for their support. The league also has been invited back for another fundraising event next year.

The league also is holding a raffle for a quilt titled "Ribbon Box," a 54-by-62-inch quilt made by master quilter Paula Thompson.

Thompson previously donated a quilt to the league, and this is the second quilt she has donated to help raise money for the no-kill shelter in Fincastle. The "Ribbon Box" quilt is stitched on both sides.

Raffle tickets are $5 each. Tickets can be purchased by sending a check to the League for Animal Protection, P.O. Box 561, Fincastle, VA 24090, or through Venmo at P-Shaver-2 or PayPal at LAPFincastle.

The drawing will be held Oct. 1.

~ Fincastle Herald staff report

Lions Club inducts new members

At the September 15 monthly meeting of the Daleville Fincastle Lions, District 24-C Governor Babbette Newman was a guest at the local club. In addition to her message to the membership, she inducted new members into the club. Pictured (from left) are new members Doug Sherk, Colleen Sherk and Stephen Ward, District 24-C Governor Babbette Newman, and Daleville Lions Club President Robin Ward. Ward is also the sponsor of new member Stephen Ward. Not pictured are the sponsor of Doug Sherk, Jim Reynolds, and the sponsor of Colleen Sherk, Betty Reynolds.

The Daleville Fincastle Lions is a very active service club in Botetourt County. The motto of Lions Worldwide is "We Serve." Anyone who would like information on how to provide service to the community through the Lions Club may contact Club Secretary Lion Lowell Skelton by texting to (540) 420-2427 or emailing to lskelton0169@jetbroadband.com.

~Submitted by Lowell Skelton



PHOTO COURTESY OF LOWELL SKELTON



FILE GRAPHIC

VDOT public information meeting scheduled for Rt. 460/Alt. 220 work

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) in conjunction with contractor Branch Civil, Inc. will hold a "Pardon Our Dust" public information meeting on Thursday, Oct. 1 to discuss construction impacts and traffic management for upcoming roadwork for Route 460 (Challenger Avenue) and Alternate 220 (Cloverdale Road).

The meeting will be held from 5-7 p.m. at Bonsack Elementary School, 5437 Crumpacker Drive, Roanoke.

There will be a brief pre-recorded presentation given at 5:15 p.m. and 6:15 p.m. and representatives will be available to answer questions and provide information.

The first VDOT project starts at Blue Hills Village Drive and extends about 1.1 miles east. The second VDOT project starts 0.29 mile east of Route 1220 (Huntridge Road) and extends about 0.5 mile east. These projects entail improving traffic flow and safety by reconfiguring multiple intersections or locations on Route 460 using innovative intersection designs such as a restricted crossing U-turn (RCUT), a thru-cut or a displaced left turn.

An RCUT would redirect traffic that currently turns left onto Route 460 from a side street to make a right turn and proceed to make a U-turn. A thru-cut would redirect side street through traffic to turn left or right at a signal and make a U-turn. A displaced left turn intersection requires left-turning vehicles to cross to the other side of the road temporarily.

~ VDOT

Friends of Botetourt K9 to host annual golf tournament



FILE GRAPHIC

Friends of Botetourt K9 will host its annual golf tournament Saturday, Oct. 17, at Ashley Plantation.

Check-in will begin at 8:30 a.m., followed by a 9 a.m. shotgun start.

Registration is open for four-person teams. Those interested in participating can register through FOBK9.org.

The team package includes a gift bag and lunch following the tournament, provided by Mission BBQ. Coffee and doughnuts will be provided by Dunkin' Donuts and Krispy Kreme, with bagels provided by Donnie D's.

Prizes will be awarded for longest drive, closest to the pin, and first-, second-, third- and last-place finishes.

The tournament will support Friends of Botetourt K9 and its work benefiting the community.

Organizers thanked Munters, Botetourt Veterinary Hospital and Metal Roofing for sponsoring the event.

~ Fincastle Herald staff report



FILE GRAPHIC

Local fitness organizations to host event for Special Olympics athletes

TF/40 Speed & Strength and BOCO Fit Rage will host a "Push, Pull & Carry" event for Special Olympics athletes at 10 a.m. Oct. 10 at the Botetourt Training Center, 2726 Lee Highway in Troutville.

The event will provide Special Olympics athletes with an opportunity to participate in strength and fitness activities in a supportive, inclusive environment.

BOCO Fit Rage, a Troutville-based fitness facility, is a Special Olympics-affiliated gym and offers dedicated Special Olympics fitness programming. Special Olympics Virginia promotes fitness opportunities designed to bring athletes and people of all abilities together to work toward their fitness goals.

The Oct. 10 event is open to Special Olympics athletes and will be held at the Botetourt Training Center.

~ Fincastle Herald staff report

October is
Pastor Appreciation Month
Want to thank your pastor for all of the wonderful work they do?
Reserve your paid acknowledgement in the Fincastle Herald with a Special Tribute to honor Clergymen in the Botetourt Area
The Fincastle Herald
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email: tfrye@ourvalley.org



Library Buzz

Yoga for Beginners

Mon, Sep 28, 10 AM, Eagle Rock
Thu, Sep 29, 6:30 PM, Blue Ridge

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.

Stop the Bleed

Sat, Sep 26, 10 AM, Buchanan

Join us for this hands-on training and learn how to stop life-threatening bleeding through direct pressure, wound packing, and tourniquet use. Presented by Botetourt County Fire & EMS. Best for ages 13+.

Rain Barrel Workshop

Sat, Sep 26, 11 AM, Eagle Rock

Learn about water conservation and build a rain barrel to take home. Presented by Tim Miller of Mountain Castles Soil and Water Conservation. Best for ages 19+. Registration required. Register at https://botetourtva.libcal.com/ or call 540-928-2900 with questions.

Watercolor Landscape Series

Mon, Sep 28, 11 AM, Blue Ridge

Whether you're picking up a paintbrush for the first time or looking to refresh your foundational skills, this program offers a relaxing environment to build confidence and take home four beautiful, completed scenes. Best for ages 19+. Class size limited to 12. Registration is required, call 540-928-2900.

Botetourt Courthouse Update

Tue, Sep 29, 2 PM, Fincastle

Botetourt County Libraries and Town of Fincastle invite you to meet Capital Project Manager Rich Evans to get the latest updates, plans, and goals on the demolition and construction of the Botetourt Courthouse.

Learn more about Botetourt Libraries at bocolibraries.info

BCO LIBRARIES

LBHS Class of '70 get-together this Saturday

The Lord Botetourt High Class of 1970 is having an informal get-together "to touch base, catch up, and discuss our aches and pains" on Saturday, September 26. It will be held at Bellacino's in Daleville from 6-8 p.m. For more information, text 540-520-2662 or 540-798-1762.

~ Submitted by Cheryl Ratliff

League for Animal Protection's Waif of the Week



Georgie

Georgie is a 2-year-old Beagle mix. He is neutered and up to date on vaccines. Georgie is a very affectionate, loving dog. He is definitely an inside dog and loves to play with stuffed animals.

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

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On The Web At www.fincastleherald.com

Letters to the Editor

Extending real estate reassessment period loses thousands in taxes to county

At the January 27, 2026 Board of Supervisors (BoS) meeting, Item 11 on the agenda titled "Real Estate Reassessment Schedule" was presented by County Administrator Larrowe. After his presentation, Dr. Scothorn asked Mr. Larrowe a couple of questions and then said, "I would like to hear from the board and see what their thoughts are." With no hesitation and no questions, the Disgruntled Californian (DC) Buchanan District Supervisor Rottman made a motion to approve changing the reassessment cycle to once every five years instead of once every four years! Mr. Michael and Mr. Snyder said they were okay with it. Dr. Scothorn then moved to approve the proposal and the DC seconded it. It passed on a unanimous vote.

Why did it happen so quickly without any questions or discussion? Did DC Rottman, in her first at bat, move quickly to approve it because she wanted the appraisal on her property (which has yet to be appraised for as much as she paid for it 13 years ago) to continue for an additional year? Will anyone, including her, ever know?

Imagine that anyone could have bought a house and 25-plus acres in Botetourt County for $376,000 in August of 2013 and, if what the Botetourt County GIS says the "Current Land Card" is, in fact, the current land card, what was bought in 2013 is now only valued for tax purposes at $368,500 which is $7,500 less than what was paid for it 13 years ago! Not to mention that a 75'x150' covered riding rink built in 2023 is valued at only $67,500 on top of that. Did anyone wonder why she did not suggest it be moved out until 2030 instead?

While I was in Fincastle earlier this month, I stopped by the Clerk's Office to glance at recent sales of existing single-family properties. I randomly chose a three-day period and found that there were eight such transactions during those three days. Without setting all eight out individually, those eight transfers were of property that had a cumulative 2024 tax assessed value (TAV) of $3,532,800 and they sold for $4,517,500, which is $984,700 more than their cumulative TAV.

While I realize there could be an explanation for one or two of them other than that they are not assessed for what they are worth, it appears that there might be a significant flaw or two in the process used to value real property for tax purposes.

One of those sales was for only 3.21% more than its TAV, while one was for 47.02% more than its TAV. Others were 32.12%, 45.91%, 38.50%, 35.27%, 28.36% and 24.35% more than their TAV.

And, now that the BoS has seen fit to wait another year before a reassessment, the tax on those properties will remain the same until 2029. If they were assessed in 2027 for 90% of what sellers not forced to sell accepted from buyers not forced to buy, those eight properties alone would generate over $12,000 in additional revenue in the next two years. Multiply that by how many times (30, 50, 75?) that probably happens. Additionally, how could anyone legitimately complain about being taxed on a value of 10% less than what they just paid for their property?

And the above scenario is repeated daily. All one has to do is take a look at the land records. I look at this frequently and seldom, if ever, see a property sold for less than its TAV. If it ever were to happen, there probably would be a sound reason for it. When property sells for 20%, 30%, 40% and more than its

See **Letters**, page 5

Arrests

Sept. 14-18, 2026

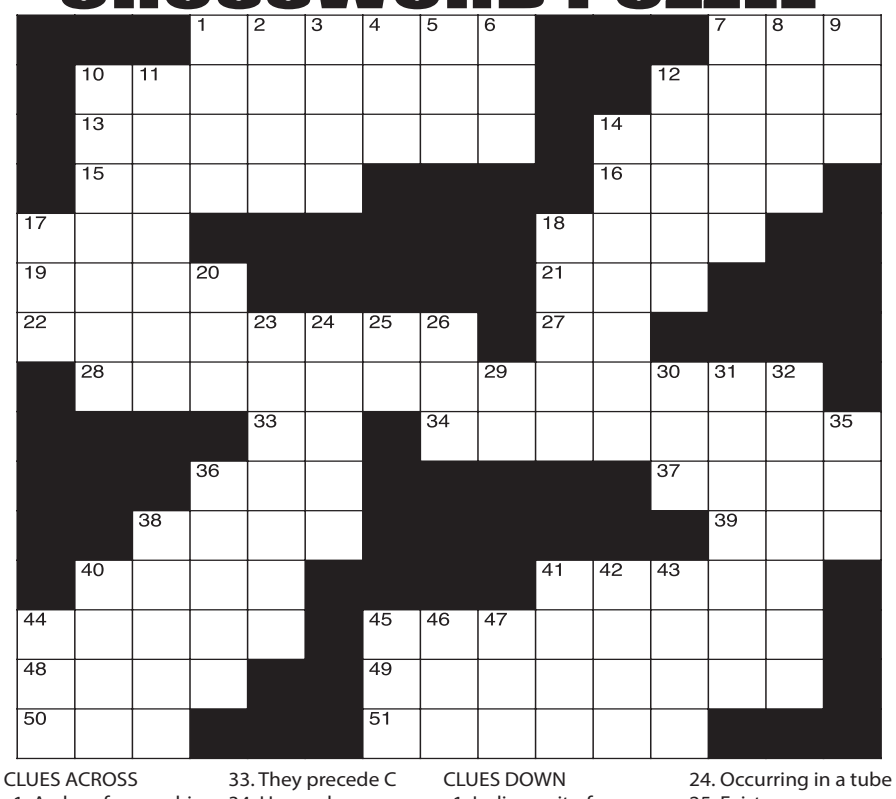
The Botetourt County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests Sept. 14-Sept. 18:

- Christopher W. Creech, 55, of Richmond, burglary, vandalism, grand larceny, Sept. 14
- Kelly B. Elizabeth, 41, of Roanoke, driving under the influence, Sept. 14
- Caleb E. Petrauskas, 31, of Troutville, drunk in public, Sept. 14
- Jeremy J. Bursey, 42, of Eagle Rock, drugs/alcohol screening test, adulterate sample, Sept. 15
- Henry A. Santos Romero, 40, of Fort Washington, Md., drunk in public, Sept. 15
- Thomas V. Herrell Sr., 62, of Fincastle, drunk in public, Sept. 15
- Paul V. Simmons Jr., 24, of Manassas, driving under the influence, Sept. 17
- Lisa K. St.Lawrence, 69, of Troutville, driving under the influence, Sept. 17
- Julia L. McIntyre, 31, of Roanoke, assault and battery, obstruction of justice, Sept. 18


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CROSSWORD PUZZLE



CLUES ACROSS
1. A place for worship
7. Referee declaration
10. Torsos
12. Used to introduce something
13. Healing method
14. Takes to the sea
15. Make law
16. French coastal city
17. Hawaiian dish
18. Young of domestic cattle
19. Women's undergarments
21. 60-minute intervals (abbr.)
22. One after another
27. It's a hot topic these days
28. Folk band frontman
33. They precede C
34. Heavenly
36. Fiddler crabs
37. Major Hindu deity
38. Hebrew given name
39. Cost per mile
40. __ Romeo, car
41. Rural municipality in Manitoba
44. Narratives
45. "A tragedy had __ him"
48. Iranian city
49. Praises publicly
50. Founding Father Franklin
51. Herbal teA

CLUES DOWN
1. Indian unit of mass
2. "Tears in Heaven" singer Clapton
3. Part of a sailing vessel
4. Part of (abbr.)
5. Polynesian garland of flowers
6. Keyboard key
7. One who steals
8. Large oven
9. Former CIA
10. Idea
11. Solomon Islands capital
12. Afrikaans
14. Remove thatch
17. Television network
18. Jalen Brunson is one
20. Title of respect
23. Flowering trees
24. Occurring in a tube
25. Exists
26. Woman (French)
29. Expression of doubt
30. NHL legend Bobby
31. Accomplished
32. Makes slightly wet
35. National Assn. of Manufacturers
36. Not sated
38. Poe's middle name
40. Swiss river
41. Rhythmic pattern in Indian music
42. "Shane" actor Ladd
43. Popular whodunit board game
44. Bar bill
45. Ballplayer's tool
46. Indicates near
47. Feet per second

Submit your letters to the editor today.

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See **Answers**, page 10

School division ranks fourth statewide in SOL pass rates

Botetourt County Public Schools (BCPS) ranked fourth overall among Virginia school divisions in Standards of Learning pass rates for the 2025-26 school year, Superintendent Dr. Janet Womack reported to the School Board during its September meeting.

According to Womack's monthly report, BCPS ranked fourth statewide in both mathematics and science and fifth in reading.

The Virginia Department of Education's release represents the first phase of reporting for the 2025-26 school year. Womack said the VDOE's School Performance and Support Framework results are expected during the first week of October, with a formal presentation planned for the October School Board meeting.

Womack also highlighted several other developments across the school division.

The second instructional funds disbursement has been issued to all schools, while central office representatives have begun visiting schools to provide information about the FY27 health insurance increase. A meeting was held with Lord Botetourt High School staff Sept. 2, with additional meetings planned at other schools.

The division's first New Teacher Academy meeting was held Sept. 8 at Greenfield Elementary School, bringing together 28 teachers who are new to BCPS. The teachers received information about the division's strategic direction and developed action steps for implementing it. Additional sessions are planned for October, January and February.

BCPS also is working to evaluate and enhance its clinical faculty and mentoring programs for new teachers, interns, apprentices and student teachers. Three BCPS principals are assisting with the effort, with the goal of mapping the current system, identifying opportunities for improvement and launching an updated system next school year.

FILE GRAPHIC

In addition, the division is developing a new initiative to recognize employees for their years of service. Employment records for all 814 current BCPS employees have been reviewed to identify those with at least five years of service for recognition later this semester.

Maintenance and operations projects continue at Central Academy Middle School and James River High School, while Trane U.S. Inc. has installed

See **BCPS**, page 7



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF BOTETOURT BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Botetourt County Honey Festival returns this Saturday

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

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

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

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

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

~ Fincastle Herald staff report

Letters from page 4

TAV, there is one reason for that happening – the sales price represents the fair market value of that property!

Furthermore, the value of real estate for tax purposes should not be determined by when it is purchased. I looked at properties purchased a month or two before the 2024 reassessment. Some of those properties sold for $130,000 to $140,000 more than the 2020 TAV. While that certainly represents the fair market value of those properties, their 2024 assessment was increased to something near to what they had paid in late 2023 (and I daresay that, absent those recent transfers, their 2024 reassessment would not have been anywhere near what they paid), and those people now get to pay the extra taxes for five years just because they bought a month or two or three before the 2024 reassessment.

And, the opposite of that is not fair either. Those who bought in early 2024 for $165,000 to $275,000, or more, than the TAV (and there are certainly those out there) now enjoy paying real estate taxes at the low TAV until 2029 instead of 90% of the fair market value which was established by their purchase over two years ago.

I do not know the solution to this problem. It is a problem because the way it is done does not treat all fairly. I believe that what I saw happen in three days earlier this month happens more often than not and that the revenue generated by doing it uniformly and fairly would exceed the cost of tracking the sales and increasing the value of properties sold during the year to 90% of what was paid for them. Why don't those who complain about everything complain about a situation such as this, which could actually result in lowering their taxes? Is it because they all know their property is worth more than the amount for which it is assessed and they do not want to pay their fair share? Or, will they come to realize that taxing real estate at its fair market value together with tax revenues from economic development may be the only way to avoid or delay an increase in future real estate tax rates?

Bob Patterson
Fincastle
Buchanan District

Spanberger data center framework lacks urgency

Southwest Virginia Data Center Transparency Alliance welcomes Gov. Abigail Spanberger's announcement Friday of Virginia's new Data Center Accountability Framework. It includes important measures to regulate existing data centers. Yet it is not enough and there is still much work to do.

Large issues of public subsidy and developer accountability remain. The data center sales and use tax exemption continues to take billions out of our pockets. We still do not have total assurance that big tech will pay their fair share of the cost of their developments.

In Southwest Virginia especially we continue to need to fight, harder than ever, to take back control of our limited resources that have been ceded by elected officials and their administrative proxies. We are in a major drought and water shortage already, without hyperscale data centers drinking up our resources.

The executive order does not do anything to stop the Google campus at Greenfield, the suspected sale of Wood Haven to Meta that was just approved by the Western Virginia Regional Industrial Facility Authority, and other projects already in motion in Wythe, Pulaski, Carroll, Pittsylvania, and other counties, that were approved without residents' knowledge or consent.

We continue to call on Gov. Spanberger to call a special session of the General Assembly, and for the General Assembly to pass a moratorium to halt these developments. Only then will there be real local input and protections.

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

FOIA center from page 2

also may proactively publish newly received documents that are likely to be of significant public interest.

However, the county said the Document Center is not intended to serve as a repository for every document maintained by the county.

The county also does not currently plan to retroactively upload all records from previously fulfilled FOIA requests.

County officials said the county has fulfilled many FOIA requests over the years, but reviewing and uploading all of those records would require significant staff time and resources. The primary focus instead is on publishing records from requests going forward and building the Document Center into a resource residents can use to find information without submitting a new request.

Not every record will be available through the center.

Some records, or portions of records, cannot be publicly released because of privacy protections, statutory exemptions or other legal requirements. In some cases, records can be released after personal or otherwise protected information is redacted.

Each request and record is evaluated under applicable FOIA requirements and other laws governing the information, county officials said.

The Sheriff's Office also uses JustFOIA but maintains its own policies and procedures regarding the release and publication of records.

Residents can search the FOIA Document Center and submit new FOIA requests through the county's website at botetourtva.gov/FOIAdocs.

Virginia's FOIA law generally requires public bodies to respond to requests within five working days, although a response may include the requested records, a denial, a request for clarification or notification that additional time is needed. The county also notes that reasonable fees may apply to requests that require more than 30 minutes of staff time.

~ Fincastle Herald staff report



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Botetourt Worship Directory

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).

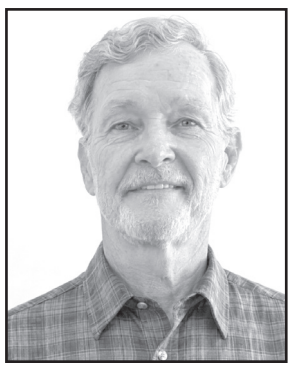
Everything does not always go well for us either. We face challenges that seem overwhelming, and we do not always see a clear path through the jungle of everyday life. But God is our Source of help, and we can trust Him to get us through!

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

Elliott, Robert L.



1946-2026

Bob was born in Danville, Va., to Albany and Helen Elliott. He is survived by his loving wife, Bonnie; sister, Carolyn; niece and nephew, Catherine and Rick, and their five children.

He was employed by the Botetourt School System and upon retirement worked at The Bank of Fincastle (First Bank). His favorite pastime was making music and gardening.

He was a 44-year member of Catawba Lodge and was excellent at ritual.

At his request, there will be no funeral service.

King, Julia Hale



Julia Alline "Judy" Hale King, 86, of Eagle Rock, died on Thursday, September 17, 2026 at the Brian Center Health & Rehabilitation in Low Moor, Va.

Judy was born on November 18, 1939 in Alleghany County to the late Arthur Grant and Edna Alline Worley Hale. She was retired from Gala Industries, but also worked as Special Education aide for the Botetourt County School System for many years. She was an active member of Galatia Presbyterian Church in Gala.

In addition to her parents, Judy was preceded in death by her husband, Joseph Wesley King; three sisters, Nigal Cisco, Fleeta Newcomb and JoAnn Hicks; two brothers, Jerry Hale and Rodney Hale; a sister-in-law, Bobbie Hale; her father- and mother-in-law, Norman F. and Lenna A. King; and three brothers-in-law, Bernie King, Coy King, and Norman Cletus King.

She is survived by two daughters, Cindy K. Wright (Jeff) of Buena Vista and Robin K. Thompson (Richard) of Eagle Rock; three sons, Tim King (Lindsay), Chris King, and Steven King, all of Eagle Rock; two sisters, Brenda Adcock of Eagle Rock and Dixie Hale of Clifton Forge; and two sisters-in-law, Georgia Knighton (Larry) of Eagle Rock and Betty King of Covington; five grandchildren, Eric Wright, Allison Clark (Jonathan), Paul Thompson, Ashley Thompson, and Jeremy Thompson; four great grandchildren, Abel, Axton, Ainsley, and Nicholas; as well as a number of nieces and nephews.

A funeral service will be held on Thursday, September 24, 2026 at 2 p.m. in Galatia Presbyterian Church at Gala in Botetourt County with the Rev. Dr. Emily Hook, the Rev. Robert McRae, Pastor Tommy Hurt, and Mr. Chris Fisher officiating. Interment will follow in Galatia Presbyterian Cemetery. The family will visit with friends on Thursday from 12:30 p.m. until the time of service at the church. Pallbearers will be Eric Wright, Jeremy Thompson, Paul Thompson, Jonathan Clark, Jerry Hale, Jr., and Jeff Wright. Honorary pallbearers will be Jerry O. Caldwell, Axton Clark, Abel Clark, and Nicholas Thompson.

The family suggests memorial tributes take the form of contributions in Judy's name to Eagle Rock Elementary School, 145 Eagles Nest Drive, Eagle Rock, 24085.

Nicely Funeral Home, Clifton Forge is handling arrangements. To send condolences to the family online, visit www.nicelyfunerlhome.com.

CHURCH NEWS

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.

Springwood Baptist pork barbecue dinner

The annual pork barbecue dinner, prepared by Aaron's Smokehouse, will be held on Saturday, October 3, from 4-6 p.m. at Springwood Baptist Church, 88 Copps Hill Road, Buchanan.

Each meal includes two pork barbecue sandwiches, coleslaw, baked beans, and a drink for $15. Desserts will be available for an additional charge.

This is a takeout-only event, with meals available on a first-come, first-served basis. No pre-sold tickets or reservations will be accepted. The community is invited.

Homecoming at Mount Olivet UMC

Homecoming at Mount Olivet United Methodist Church is Sunday, October 4, beginning at 11 a.m. There will be music by Keith Wood, followed by a potluck luncheon. Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy the fellowship, music and food. The church is located at 26310 Lee Highway, Buchanan,

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.

Dickerson retiring from Fincastle Presbyterian

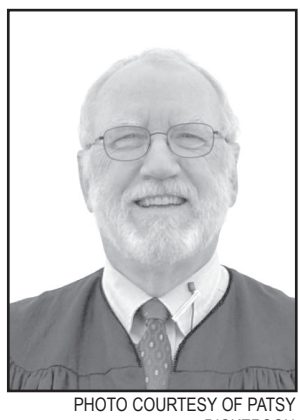


PHOTO COURTESY OF PATSY DICKERSON

Rev. David A. Dickerson

The Rev. David A. Dickerson has served as Fincastle Presbyterian Church's part-time Interim Stated Supply since Fall 2017. This coming Sunday, September 27, will be his last Sunday in the pulpit. He will be retiring for the second time. His last retirement was in 2017 from the Presbyterian Church of Radford. He graduated from Union Theological Seminary in Richmond in 1985 and served Olivet Presbyterian Church in the Charlottesville area, Bethesda Presbyterian Church and McElwee Chapel in Rockbridge Baths, and then The Presbyterian Church of Radford.

David and his wife Patsy are residents of Fincastle and will remain in Fincastle. He was born to Mary Lee and Eli Dickerson and grew up in Hillsville, Va.

When he reflects on his ministry in Fincastle, he said that his service was a "symbiotic" relationship. He feels like he was able to "steer" the congregation through the Covid era and that the congregation helped him grow in his ministry through persistence. It was a very tough time for many congregations, but Fincastle Presbyterian Church persevered and came out stronger after the experience of no "in-church" worship services, he commented.

Dickerson said he feels that it is time for the church to support a full-time pastor and grow as only full-time pastor can lead a congregation.

~Submitted by Patsy Dickerson

News from Eagle Rock Ruritans



PHOTO COURTESY OF JANE MCRAE

From left, Jessica Davis, Erin Slusser-Pease, and Melissa Fleming presented the program at the Eagle Rock Ruritan Club meeting.

When the Eagle Rock Ruritan Club met in August, members and guests were treated to a catered meal as a gift from the women of Mt. Bethel Church of the Brethren. They expressed their appreciation to the women for their generosity.

The program was given by Ruritan member Erin Slusser-Pease and two guests representing the Eagle Rock Elementary School PTA. Erin is the president of the PTA and her guests were Melissa Fleming, second grade teacher, and Jessica Davis, an instructional assistant working in a self-contained classroom with students who need more special attention. They reminded club members of many of the ways the PTA supports the educational programs and students at Eagle Rock. The PTA encourages many local businesses to give financial support to purchase supplies and equipment to enhance the students' learning experiences. The PTA also has several fundraisers during the school year.

The Ruritans commend the PTA members for all their efforts in giving students many opportunities to enhance their educational experience that would not be possible without those efforts, adding that the community is fortunate that individuals volunteer their time to support the PTA in all of its activities which support the local elementary school.

Ruritan Robin Bolton introduced her daughter Amber as a special guest.

In Community Service Committee reports, Vice-President Donna Vaughn acknowledged club member Audrey Clark's gift of books for the Little Free Library located in front of the Community Center. The Little Free Library provides books for children and adults.

Citizenship and Patriotism Committee Chair Bill Critcher gave a report on the August 4 Republican Primary.

Environment Committee Chair Mark Ingram reported that he is investigating some possibilities for improving the Nature Trail at Eagle Rock Elementary School.

The Social Development Committee reminded members of the Senior Social offered quarterly by the Botetourt County Sheriff's Department.

The Finance Committee announced the fish fry fundraiser to be held on Saturday, October 17 at the Community Center. Tickets may be purchased from club members. Tickets are $15 and include fish, parsley potatoes, slaw, dessert, and water. It will be drive-through only from 4-6 p.m.

The Ruritan Club offers the Eagle Rock Community Center for use by individuals and groups in the Eagle Rock area for a nominal fee to help with utilities. Call 540-884-2775 for reservations.

~ Jane McRae, Eagle Rock Ruritans



PHOTO COURTESY OF NANCY WADDELL

Tuesday Morning Club supports Botetourt Resource Center

The Tuesday Morning Club met at Pleasant Hill Baptist Church on September 8 with 15 members and one guest attending. Ruby Taylor called the meeting to order. Nancy Waddell was hostess, had devotions, and the read minutes, and Faye Kessler gave the treasurer's report. Carolyn Stanfield was the guest and shared information about Spirit's Rest, A Home Away From Home for Hospice Patients. The September project was donations to the Botetourt Resource Center, and October's project will be donations to the League for Animal Protection in Fincastle. Barbara Harris won hostess gift. Sheryl Meador and Jill Defede won game prizes. The club meets on the second Tuesday each month at the church. From left are: front, Sheryl Meador, Faye Kessler, Anne Christensen, Nancy Waddell, Barbara Harris, Dot Hillard, Dorothy Brogan, Carolyn Bayne, and Rita Bruffey; back, Cheryl Wood, Jill Defede, Ruby Taylor, Linda Harris, Pam Obenchain, and Priscilla Hedrick.

~ Submitted by Nancy Waddell

BCPS from page 5

dehumidification controls for the music room and gymnasium units at Central Academy.

The VDOE also conducted an operations assessment of the BCPS Transportation Department Aug. 26.

The Technology Department reported closing 1,447 helpdesk requests during June and July. Staff also replaced computers at several school and administrative facilities, installed a replacement voicemail server at James River High School, distributed Chromebooks to fifth- and ninth-grade students, and replaced outdated network equipment at Read Mountain Middle School.

~ Fincastle Herald staff report

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Legals - Town of Vinton

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF VINTON, VIRGINIA NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Please be advised that the Vinton Town Council will hold a public hearing at its meeting on
Tuesday, October 6, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, in the
Council Chambers of the Vinton Municipal Building, located at 311 South Pollard Street, Vinton, Virginia, concerning the proposed amendments, transfers, and additional appropriations to the Town of Vinton's FY 2026-2027 budget to appropriate funding for projects and activities that were budgeted and appropriated in the previous fiscal year in the total amount of $1,429,915 in the General Fund and the Capital Fund. These previously funded projects include equipment purchases and repairs, contractual services, and capital projects for the Vinton History Museum, water infrastructure, and stormwater infrastructure. State law requires a public hearing to be held whenever a proposed budget amendment exceeds 1% of the locality's total budget.
Any additional information on this public meeting is available in the Town Manager's Office, located in the Vinton Municipal Building. Persons requiring special assistance to attend and participate in this public meeting should contact the Town Manager's office at (540) 983-0607.

Megan Lawless
Town Clerk

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF VINTON, VIRGINIA NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Please be advised that the Vinton Town Council will hold a public hearing at its meeting on Tuesday, October 6, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, in the Council Chambers of the Vinton Municipal Building, located at 311 South Pollard Street, Vinton, Virginia, concerning the proposed amendment and additional appropriation to the Town of Vinton's FY 2026-2027 budget.

The proposed budget amendment would appropriate $2,500,000 received from a General Obligation Bond and $1,150,000 from unappropriated fund balance in the Capital Fund for the funding of the Vinton War Memorial Renovation Project in the total amount of $3,650,000.

State law requires a public hearing to be held whenever a proposed budget amendment exceeds one percent (1%) of the total expenditures shown in the currently adopted budget. The Town Council intends to consider and may adopt the proposed budget amendment following the public hearing, in accordance with § 15.2-2507 of the Code of Virginia.

Any additional information on this public meeting is available in the Town Manager's Office, located in the Vinton Municipal Building. Persons requiring special assistance to attend and participate in this public meeting should contact the Town Manager's Office at (540) 983-0607.
Megan Lawless
Town Clerk

Legals - Montgomery County

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN,

By the Board of Supervisors of the County of Montgomery,
Virginia that the Board of Supervisors hereby schedules a public hearing on Tuesday, October 13, 2026, at 7:15 p.m. or as soon thereafter at the Montgomery County Government Center, 2 nd Floor Board Room, 755 Roanoke Street, Christiansburg, Virginia, to hear citizen comments on the proposed ordinance entitled "Ordinance Amending Chapter 2, Division 5, Section 2-107 of the Code of the County of Montgomery, Virginia Entitled Tax Exemption and Deferrals for Elderly and Disabled by Increasing the Net Combined Financial Worth and the Income Limits to be Eligible for Tax Relief".
A copy of the full text of the Ordinance is on file in the Office of the County Administrator and
is available for public inspection or copying.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Angela M. Hill
County Administrator

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
(

Public Notice – Environmental Permit

PURPOSE OF NOTICE: To seek public comment on the proposed modification of a permit that allows
the land application of potable water treatment plant residuals in Pulaski County.
PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: September 23, 2026 – October 23, 2026.
PERMIT NAME AND NUMBER: Virginia Pollution Abatement VPA02069 – Radford City Water Treatment Plant issued by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) pursuant to applicable water laws and regulations.
APPLICANT NAME AND ADDRESS: City of Radford; 20 Forest Avenue; Radford, VA 24141.
PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The City of Radford has applied for the modification of a permit that would authorize land application of water treatment plant residuals as a fertilizer on a total of 220.61 acres of agricultural land in Pulaski County. Additional land totaling 129.02 acres are proposed to be added to the

Legals - Montgomery County

permit, with some minor modification to existing fields. The permit will limit the application of nutrients and metals contained in these materials to amounts that protect water quality and human health. For site-specific information about these applications and additional information about the DEQ permitting program for industrial residuals visit the following website:
http://www.deq.virginia.gov/VPAnotices
TENTATIVE AND FINAL PERMIT DECISION PROCEDURES: DEQ's tentative decision is to issue the permit. Based on comments received on the draft permit, DEQ may make a final decision on the permit, or hold a public hearing on the draft permit before making a final permit decision.
HOW TO COMMENT AND/OR REQUEST A PUBLIC HEARING: DEQ accepts comments and requests for public hearing by hand-delivery, e-mail, or postal mail. All comments and requests must be in writing and be received by DEQ during the comment period. Submittals must include the permit number, and name, postal mailing or email address of the commenter/requester. A request for a public hearing must also include 1) Name and permit number for which the hearing is requested.
2) The reason why a public hearing is requested.
3) A brief, informal statement regarding the nature and extent of the interest of the requester, including how and to what extent such interest would be directly and adversely affected by the permit.
4) Specific references, where possible, to terms and conditions of the permit with suggested revisions. A public hearing may be held, including another comment period, if public response is significant, based on individual requests for a public hearing, and there are substantial disputed issues relevant to the permit.
CONTACT FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS, DOCUMENT REQUESTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Brad Morrison, DEQ Central Office, 1111 E Main St, Richmond, VA 23219, Phone:
(804) 659-1545; E-mail: bradley.s.morrison@deq.virginia.gov. The public may review the draft permit and associated documents at the DEQ office named above by appointment or may request copies of the documents from the contact person listed above.

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

Legals - Montgomery County

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.

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 13, 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.

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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
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Jimmy Wayne Huffman, Jr.
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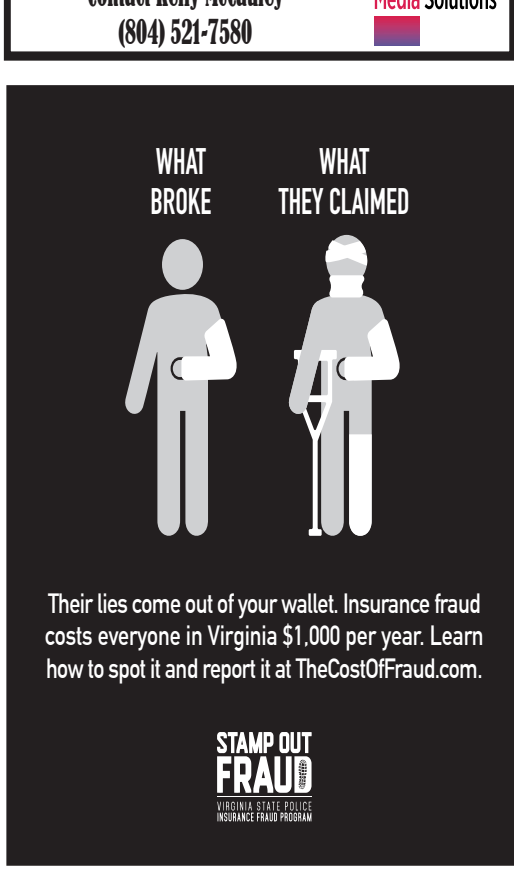
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Festival from page 1

courthouse square will feature Easy Pickins at 10 a.m., Deepwoods Still at noon and The Henry Downing Band at 2 p.m.

The Heritage Quilt Show will be held at the historic Baptist Church on East Main Street, with a Quilts of Valor presentation scheduled for 11:30 a.m. on the church's front steps.

A student art show honoring the late Peggy Davis also will be featured during the festival. The show celebrates Davis' longtime involvement with Historic Fincastle and her commitment to the arts and the community.

The Fincastle Library will hold its annual book sale, while historic documents and other displays will offer visitors additional opportunities to explore the town's past.

With activities taking place throughout the center of Fincastle, festival organizers encourage visitors to explore the town and experience the various offerings during the day.

Admission to the festival is free.

~ Fincastle Herald staff report

Data center bill from page 1

According to Botetourt County, however, the basic principle behind the federal legislation is already reflected in the arrangements for the proposed Google project.

"For Project Raspberry, the county's understanding is that the underlying principle of the legislation is already reflected in the project's electric-infrastructure arrangements," the county said. "Infrastructure required specifically to serve the Google campus is to be paid for by Google."

The county said Google will pay for 100% of electrical infrastructure required specifically to serve its data center project.

That includes, according to the county's public project information, new substations, transmission lines and distribution improvements specifically required for the data center.

The county said it does not currently anticipate that passage of the federal legislation would change the existing arrangements for the project.

Any questions concerning utility rates or cost recovery, the county said, would ultimately be matters for the SCC and the applicable utility proceedings.

Del. Terry Austin similarly said large-load customers should pay an appropriate share of the costs associated with serving them.

"The large-load customer creating the need for new infrastructure should pay the appropriate share of the costs associated with serving that customer," Austin said.

Austin said APCo has stated that infrastructure specifically required to serve the Google project is the developer's responsibility, while the SCC will review the project and its cost allocation.

The distinction, Austin said, is that not every transmission improvement in a growing area is necessarily caused by a data center.

"Some improvements can strengthen reliability and increase capacity for homes, businesses and future economic development," he said. "The SCC's role is to determine how those costs should appropriately be allocated."

The county likewise said it expects the SCC's review of Appalachian Power's Daleville project to address the proposed infrastructure and related regulatory and cost-recovery issues.

The county said Google has agreed to pay for the utility infrastructure required specifically to serve the campus, while the SCC – rather than the county – has authority over Appalachian Power's cost recovery.

Virginia's regulatory framework is also continuing to evolve as data-center electricity demand grows.

Austin said he supported legislation during the most recent General Assembly session aimed at protecting existing customers from cost shifting. He also pointed to additional SCC safeguards being developed for Appalachian Power and electric cooperatives.

The issue received additional attention Friday when Gov. Abigail Spanberger signed Executive Order 22, which directs the Commonwealth to pursue more equitable allocation of electric transmission and generation costs associated with large-load customers and stronger financial commitments from data center developers.

Austin said the state should continue working to ensure that customers driving new investments bear the costs they create while recognizing that some infrastructure can provide broader benefits to the electric system.

"I welcome efforts at both the state and federal level to ensure everyday ratepayers are not left footing the bill for infrastructure built primarily to serve large industrial users," Austin said.

The Ratepayer Protection Act has not become law. Its consideration by the Senate would be the next step in the federal legislative process.

~ Fincastle Herald staff report

Hammond from page 1

Barry laughed. His father, however, saw something else in the moment.

"I said, 'Future engineer, electrical engineer, I'm certain of it,'" he recalled. "And I said, 'You got the attitude to be special ops one of these days.' He said, 'What's special ops, Dad?' And I said, 'I will show you over the years.'"

Barry would eventually become an electrical engineer and an Air Force officer whose career included assignments involving advanced military technology.

He was commissioned in May 2006 through ROTC at VMI, where he earned a degree in electrical and computer engineering. He later earned a master's degree in electrical engineering with a radar concentration from the Air Force Institute of Technology.

His Air Force career began at Edwards Air Force Base, where he served as a developmental test engineer working with targeting pods on the F-16, B-1 and B-52 platforms.

He later served with the National Reconnaissance Office, the Air Force Rapid Capabilities Office and other organizations before becoming the program manager for Remote Capabilities within Special Operations Forces Acquisition, Technology and Logistics.

His work included managing programs involving unmanned air and ground systems, unmanned aerial systems and space-based intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities.

But for Glenn, the titles and assignments were never the most important part. What mattered was the person his son became.

As Barry was growing up, Glenn remembers him insisting that he would be different from his father.

"He said, 'I'm totally different from you, Dad,'" Glenn recalled.

Barry had chosen his own path: VMI, electrical engineering and the Air Force.

Yet Glenn eventually saw similarities between their careers, particularly in the way they viewed leadership and responsibility.

Glenn said that when he was commissioned in 1969, he was given advice that stayed with him throughout his military career: The rank of second lieutenant was a "learner's permit," and young officers needed to learn from the people they were responsible for leading.

Years later, Glenn passed that lesson on to Barry.

When Barry was a new second lieutenant at Edwards, Glenn visited him at the base. At one point, Barry looked at his father and told him he wasn't cleared to hear what was being discussed.

Glenn didn't argue.

"I said, 'You're right,'" he recalled.

He stepped outside and waited until Barry could return.

For Glenn, the moment was another indication that his son understood the responsibilities that came with his uniform. Not long afterward, Barry was selected as Edwards Air Force Base's Junior Officer of the Month and then Junior Officer of the Year, Glenn said.

Over the years, Glenn watched his son's career continue to develop. He also watched Barry develop into the kind of leader Glenn had hoped he would become.

At the retirement ceremony in Tampa, Glenn went through a receiving line with people who had worked with his son.

The comments he heard from them meant more to him than any title or award.

"They all said, 'Colonel Hammond, whatever you did, you did right because he looks out for all of us,'" Glenn recalled. "He treats his people like number one. I mean, you know, he would sacrifice himself to take care of us."

That, Glenn said, was what he had tried to teach his son.

The ceremony included remarks by senior defense official David M. Breede, a medal presentation, retirement orders, certificates and a presentation about Barry's work with Remote Capabilities before Hammond delivered his own remarks.

For Glenn, however, the most meaningful part was simply being there.

He remembered taking Barry to visit the Air Force Academy, West Point and the Naval Academy when his son was considering his future. Barry ultimately chose VMI, graduating with the Class of 2006.

Nearly two decades later, Glenn stood beside his son as Barry's military career came to an end.

Looking back, Glenn said he remains proud not only of what Barry accomplished, but of how he accomplished it.

The little boy who once reached toward a 7,500-volt transformer became an engineer, an officer and a leader.

And for his father, that journey is the accomplishment that matters most.

"I think as a father, the crowning touch of my entire life," Glenn said, "is not what I accomplished."

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
OF THE BOTETOURT COUNTY
PLANNING COMMISSION

The Botetourt County Planning Commission will hold a public hearing **Tuesday, October 13, 2026,** at 6:00 PM in the Botetourt County Administration Center at 57 S. Center Drive, Daleville, Virginia to consider and receive comment on the following:

Amsterdam District: Timberbrook Associates, LLC requests a Special Exception Permit, with possible conditions, in the Shopping Center (SC) Use District in accordance with Sec. 25-583 Special Exceptions and Sec. 25-462(e)(3) Electronic message board/L.E.D. of the Botetourt County Code to construct and maintain an electronic message board located at the corner of Commons Parkway and Kingston Drive. The parcel totals 0.723 acres, located at 101 Kingston Drive, and is identified as tax parcel 101(13)4B.

Blue Ridge District: Diamond Communications requests a Special Exception Permit, with possible conditions, in the Industrial (M-2) Use District in accordance with Sec. 25-323 Special Exceptions and a commission permit to construct a Freestanding Telecommunications Tower as part of the County's 911 System. This project is located at the corner of Cloverdale Road (Alt. 220) and East Park Drive (VA 1499), 40 East Park Circle in Roanoke, VA. This parcel covers 6.835 acres and is identified on tax maps as 108(13)9B.

Valley District: Summers Property LLC requests a Rezoning from the Medium Density Residential (R-3) Use District to the High Density Residential (R-4) Use District, with possible conditions, and a Special Exception Permit (SEP) for "Dwellings, single-family attached, up to twelve (12) dwelling units per net acre" on a parcel located 168 Bonny View Lane and is identified on tax maps as parcel 107-200.

The Botetourt County Board of Supervisors, at their September 22, 2026, meeting, authorized a text amendment to revise Ch. 25 Article IV Div. 1 Sec 25-441 – Telecommunications Facilities to address modernizing regulations pertaining to setback requirements.

The Botetourt County Board of Supervisors, at their July 28, 2026, meeting, authorized a text amendment to revise Ch. 25 Art. II Div. 7 Sec.s 25-171 – Building requirements; minimum yards to consider an update that would reduce the minimum required number of attached dwelling units per grouping from six (6) to three (3) in the High Density Residential (R-4) Use District.

Botetourt County requests a Comprehensive Plan Amendment to update map 9.6 – "Telecommunication Towers in Botetourt County" to show the proposed location of a new 911 Telecommunication Tower located at 40 East Park Circle, Roanoke, VA and shown on tax maps as parcel 108(13)9B.

Information is in the Botetourt County Planning & Zoning Office, 57 S. Center Drive, Daleville, VA, and online at www.botetourtva.gov/planningcommissionagenda. Individuals may comment at the meeting in-person, by email at planning@botetourtva.gov, via the online form at www.botetourtva.gov, or by mail at 57 S. Center Drive, Daleville, VA 24083. Postal mail comment deadline is the Friday before the hearing. Website and email comments are due 9:00 AM, day of the hearing.

Jonathan McCoy, AICP
Interim Director of Community Development
Botetourt County, Virginia

Solar from page 1

impacts on pollinators and wildlife.

Commissioners also discussed minor ground-mounted solar facilities and whether they should be permitted in the R3, R4 and Traditional Neighborhood Districts. Several commissioners expressed support for removing those districts from eligibility for minor ground-mounted facilities, favoring roof-mounted installations in those areas.

Staff will review applicable state requirements and return with additional information.

Emergency response and battery energy storage also received attention during the work session.

Leffel asked the commission to consider adding requirements that solar applicants collaborate with county fire and EMS personnel on written emergency response plans and help cover the cost of specialized training for county emergency providers.

The discussion comes amid concerns about the challenges associated with responding to fires involving battery energy storage systems.

The commission also discussed lighting requirements, including whether lighting plans should be part of the special exception process and whether measures such as motion-activated lighting could address safety concerns while limiting unnecessary nighttime impacts.

Decommissioning requirements were another topic of discussion. Commissioners requested clarification about when financial bonds or other assurances must be provided for the eventual removal of solar facilities, emphasizing the importance of ensuring required funds are in place before construction begins.

The Planning Commission also reaffirmed plans for a countywide survey as part of the broader review of solar development.

The commission requested a survey similar to one conducted as part of the county's Comprehensive Plan updates. Commissioners are expected to reach consensus on a draft Comprehensive Plan addendum in October, with the county targeting early November for the survey to be made available electronically.

Paper copies will also be available at each county library branch.

Leffel said the survey will allow residents to comment on the actual draft addendum rather than simply provide general opinions about solar development.

The Planning Commission has scheduled a special meeting for Oct. 5 to continue its work, including discussion of the solar ordinance and the survey.

~ Fincastle Herald staff report

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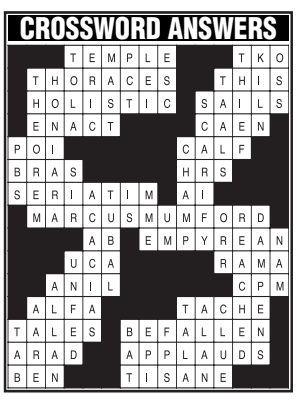
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Lord Botetourt is regular season golf champ in BRD

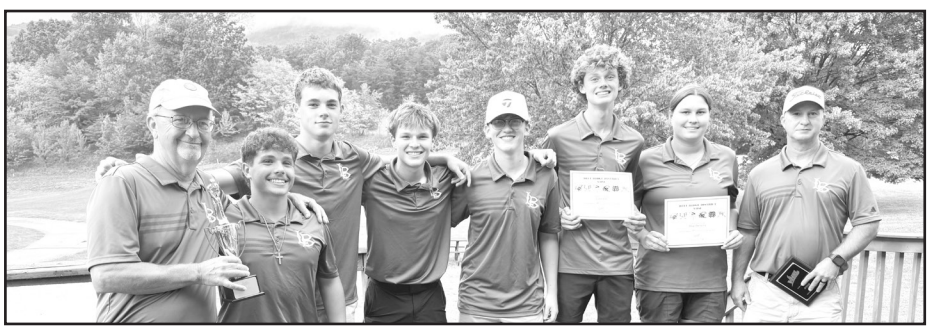


PHOTO COURTESY LBHS GOLF

Lord Botetourt is the Blue Ridge District season golf champion. Left to right are Coach Tim Rasnick, Derek Bond, Jonah Dunker, Jackson Taylor, Eli Hall, Cole Cecil, Alisa Davidova and Coach Todd Smith.

The Blue Ridge District golf tournament was rained out, but not before Lord Botetourt was crowned regular season district champion.

The BRD tournament was scheduled to be played on Monday at the Hanging Rock Golf Club in Roanoke County. However, afternoon storms made it impossible to play and the tournament will not be made up.

The final regular season tournament was held at Blue Hills last week and LB won the round, clinching the regular season championship. Botetourt shot a team score of 309 as Alisa Davidova took medalist honors with a six under par 65. Also scoring for LB were Eli Hall with an 80 and Derek Bond and Jackson Taylor at 82 each.

Second place at Blue Hills went to William Byrd, who was the host team for this round. The Terriers shot 317 followed by Northside at 325, Franklin County at 329 and Staunton River at 361.

With the final round in the books Lord Botetourt won the regular season with a six round total of 1,404, nine strokes better than Northside at 1,413. Northside led the standings by seven strokes going into the last round at Blue Hills, but the Cavaliers finished strong to pass them and take the season title. Byrd and Franklin County tied for third at 1,461 and Staunton River finished at 1,621.

Individually, Ryland Stump of Northside was the individual champion with 134 points. Davidova, who didn't play every round, still finished second with 120 and Byrd's David Foster was third with 115. LB's Cecil was seventh, Bond was 13th and Taylor was 14th. Davidova and Cole were named first team All-Blue Ridge District and Bond made the second team.

LB will now advance to the Region 3D tournament next Monday, September 28, at the Draper Golf Course hosted by Abingdon.

Three Rivers golfers are rained out Monday; River's Bolling is District Player of the Year

The Three Rivers District golf match at Great Oaks was rained out on Monday and will not be made up. That was the final scheduled regular season match of the season and the teams will now advance to sub-region play next Monday, September 28, also at Great Oaks.

With the regular season now complete, James River's Landon Bolling has been named the Three Rivers District Player of the Year. Bolling highlights an All-District first team that includes teammate Mason Gilliland from River. Braden Persinger of James River made the second team.

The Three Rivers District tour made a stop at the Hanging Rock Golf Club last Thursday for what proved to be the final district match. As usual, Floyd County shot the low score with a 309. Radford edged James River for second on the day, 312 to 313, while host Glenvar was fourth at 325. Patrick County was next at 329 and Carroll County had 361.

River's top two players, Bolling and Gilliland, tied for medalist with 71 each. Also scoring for the Knights were Tucker Hall with an 85 and Persinger at 86.

The sub-region at Great Oaks next Monday will begin at 11 a.m. The top three teams will qualify for the Region 2C tournament along with the top six scores from individuals not on those teams.

The region tourney is at Stoney Creek at the Wintergreen Resort on Monday, October 5, and the top two teams in the region will advance to the state tournament along with the three top scores from individuals not on those teams. The state Golf Championships will be held at the Hobbs Hole course in Tappahannock on Monday, October 12.

The Knights will play in a non-district "fun" match at Hanging Rock Thursday of this week with Glenvar and Northside.



FILE PHOTO

James River's Landon Bolling has been named the Three Rivers District Player of the Year.

Five LB greats will be inducted into Athletic Hall of Fame Friday

The Lord Botetourt Athletic Hall of Fame will induct five new members into the Hall this weekend. The five new members, in alphabetic order, are Kate Spradlin Failla, Ryan Fralin, Emily Martin Keogh, Bradley Lythgoe and Barry Williams.

The five new members will be inducted at a ceremony at Lord Botetourt High School this Friday at 10 a.m. They will also be recognized at the Friday night football game against George Washington of Danville at the LB stadium.

Failla distinguished herself through excellence on the basketball court and in the classroom, first at Lord Botetourt and later as a Division I student-athlete at Longwood University.

Fralin was a versatile three-sport athlete at Lord Botetourt High School. A standout in football, basketball, and baseball, he earned numerous postseason honors and helped lead the Cavaliers to championship-level success.

Fralin was named Lord Botetourt's 2015 B'nai B'rith nominee and The Fincastle Herald Male Athlete of the Year. He was a four-year letterman in football, a three-year letterman in baseball and a two-year letterman in basketball.

Keogh distinguished herself as one of the area's top volleyball players during her career at Lord Botetourt High School. Her senior season she was named Blue Ridge District Player of the Year and Honorable Mention All-State.

Emily's defensive ability and success at Lord Botetourt provided the foundation for her continued volleyball career at Roanoke College. Emily enjoyed an outstanding four-year career with the Maroon program, establishing herself among the most accomplished defensive players in school history.

Lythgoe was a standout defensive back and key contributor during one of the most memorable periods in Lord Botetourt football history. He was a two-time All-State defensive back, Region Defensive Player of the Year as a junior and helped lead Lord Botetourt to the first state championship game appearance in school history

Bradley earned an athletic scholarship to the Virginia Military Institute. After his collegiate career he earned a bachelor's degree in electrical and computer engineering from Liberty University.

Williams' lifelong love of sports began in Cloverdale where he first played Pee-Wee football for the Cloverdale Cougars at age 6. At Botetourt Intermediate, Barry became a starting tight end and defensive end but his athletic path changed when physical education teacher Mark Agner encouraged him to try wrestling.

Barry continued to excel in both football and wrestling. On the football field, he played tight end and defensive end and became a four-year letterman. On the mat, Barry developed into one of the region's elite wrestlers. During his senior season at 160 pounds, he captured both the District Championship and Regional Championship before placing fourth at the Virginia State Wrestling Championship.

Cavaliers, Knights will run in Covington Saturday; Vaughn sets course record at Longwood University

The Lord Botetourt and James River cross country teams will run in the Alleghany Invitational in Covington this Saturday. The Cavaliers ran in a race at Longwood University last Saturday while the Knights had the weekend off.

Prince Edward High School partnered with Longwood University to host the Eagle Invitational cross country meet last Saturday. The races took place at Longwood's home cross country course, which regularly hosts collegiate meets including the Big South Conference Championships.

In the men's race Preston Vaughn broke the course record to lead the Cavalier men to victory. Preston was content to sit-back through the first mile before going solo off the front for the second half of the race. He was never caught, and gets to take home not only the victory, but the course record as well.

Archer Lee clocked a personal best to take third, followed by John Moughrabi, Mason Tuck, Caleb Thorne and Thomas Mattarocchia.

"The Lord Botetourt men ran a very intelligent team race," said coach Noel Preece. "A conservative first mile allowed them to move up when it counted, taking valuable points as the humidity caught up with other runners. From an individual perspective it was fantastic to see Preston Vaughn and Archer Lee take home first and third, but for the team it was Mason Tuck and Caleb Thorne who really sealed it for us."

In the women's race, Julia Thorne kept pressure on the leaders from the gun, coming home second on the day with a time faster than the previous course record. Addison Purser finished next for LB and fourth on the course ahead of a strong mid-pack showing from the underclassmen ladies.

"Today was a mixed bag for the ladies," said Preece. "Most of our athletes ran incredibly well, but our team score was handicapped by three big names who were either missing or scored outside of our varsity squad. All of our ladies are leaving the meet healthy, and it is incredibly encouraging to have the depth of talent to still be fighting towards the front even on a day where multiple things go sideways. We are excited to come back next week at full-force and really see where we stand as a team."

JR football from page 12

two Class 3 teams along with 3-1 Parry McCluer and 3-1 Auburn.

With that said, Baker knows his team will have their hands full with Radford. The Bobcats won last year's game, 38-22, and Radford has won four of the last five meetings.

"It's a typical Radford team," said Baker of this year's version of the Bobcats. "They have a little size and a whole lot of speed."

Some coaches worry about distractions that may occur from Homecoming, but Baker isn't concerned with that.

"I don't worry about it, we have a fairly mature football team," he said. "They'll do some goofy things during the week, but when they're here it's up to us to get them ready to play."

The Knights went to Bogle Field ready to play last week and laid the hammer down on host Hidden Valley, 41-7. River jumped on top early, leading 14-0 after the first quarter and 27-0 at the half.

Sam Wilson scored the first touchdown for the Knights on a 47-yard run, then Eli Baldwin recovered a fumble in the end zone for a 14-0 lead with Knox Taylor drilling both extra points.

Quarterback Merit Hammons scored twice in the second quarter as River pulled away. The first was a 12-yard run just two minutes into the quarter and the other was a 66-yard jaunt to close the first half.

Wilson scored again, this time on a 45-yard run, early in the second half. Hammons added his third TD on the first play of the fourth quarter and that set the clock running continuously with a 41-0 lead. The Titans scored a late touchdown to deny River the shutout after Baker substituted on the defensive side of the ball.

"It's always nice to get the shutout, but we were able to play a lot of kids," he said.

Hidden Valley never did stop the Knights' rushing attack. River rolled up 376 yards rushing on 49 carries, an average of 7.6 yards per attempt. Ashton Orange led he attack with 162 yards rushing on 20 carries. Wilson had 101 on just three attempts, scoring a touchdown on two of them, and Hammons ran seven times for 58 yards. Ben Whitt had 48 yards on 12 carries.

Hammons passed just four times, completing three for 110 yards. Wilson, Whitt and Bentley Painter had one reception each.

Baldwin had seven tackles including one for a loss and a sack. Wilson had seven tackles as well and Hammons had an interception. Alijah Orange had three tackles for losses.

River will try to keep the ball rolling with Friday's Homecoming game. Believe it or not this Friday will mark the midway point of the regular season and the Knights have only been 4-1 at the halfway mark twice since 2003.

LB football from page 12

coach Nick Leftwich. "We need to lock in this week in practice and come out ready to play our best."

The Cavs are coming off what may be their best game of the season thus far, a 27-0 shutout of the Blue Demons in Christiansburg last Friday. The Demons never came close to scoring against a fired-up Cavalier defense.

"I thought our defense played a great game," said Leftwich. "It's always nice to get a shutout."

Callum McCoy led the LB defense with six solo tackles, including two for losses, and an assist. Jackson Crenshaw and Rylen Wright had four solos each while Cael Burton had three solos and an interception.

The Cavaliers needed all the defense they could get with just a 7-0 lead at the half. Gus Feeny scored a first half touchdown but the Cavs had a punt return called back by a penalty and it was still anyone's game at the half.

"We had some missed opportunities, it could have easily been 28-0 at the half," said Leftwich.

Botetourt put it away in the second half as Tanner Gore rushed for three touchdowns. Feeny finished with his first 100-yard rushing game of the season, hitting the number right on the nose on 19 carries. Quarterback Burton had 68 yards on seven carries and Gore finished with 30 yards on 10 attempts.

Burton was four for eight passing for 42 yards while Beau Lonker completed two passes for 30. Gore and Chris Paderick had two receptions each.

With the win LB improved to 2-2 on the season. This week's game is the final non-district game for the Cavaliers and it's also Hall of Fame Night. After this week the Cavs will have a bye before five straight Blue Ridge District games, beginning with a home game against Franklin County on October 2.

Volleyball from page 12

Ava Stephens finished the win with 23 kills and seven blocks. Sydney Bergsten had 18 kills and three blocks and Addison Naff had 10 kills, 16 digs and a pair of aces. Lilly Crenshaw dished out 49 assists and also had 15 digs and four aces on a long but exciting night of high school volleyball.

The Cavaliers were scheduled to host Franklin County in their Blue Ridge District opener on Tuesday, but results were too late for publication. The LB girls are at Staunton River Thursday.

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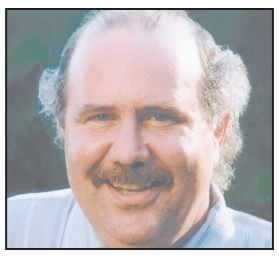
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Brian Hoffman

Sports Editor



Cael Burton intercepts a Christiansburg pass prior to the end of the second quarter.

LB football team shuts out Christiansburg, awaiting George Washington this Friday

The Lord Botetourt football team will play host to George Washington of Danville this Friday and if George was still here he wouldn't lie and say this will be an easy game. The Eagles are 3-0 to open the season and coming off an 11-2 2025 campaign.

Last year's game was in Danville and it was one of just three regular season losses for LB, a 34-31 thriller. This year the Eagles have opened with wins over Reidsville, N.C., Amherst County and E.C. Glass and they've had two weeks to study the Cavs as they're coming off a bye week.

"As usual, they have size and some real good athletes," said Botetourt

See **LB football**, page 11



PHOTOS BY KYMN DAVIDSON-HAMLEY

Tanner Gore reacts in the end zone after scoring the third TD for the Cavaliers in the game.

James River will host Radford in football for Homecoming



Easton (56) and Briar (54) Sink of James River combine to tackle a Titan.



River's Efraim Echavarria (50) fights through a Hidden Valley double team.

It will be a big night in Springwood this Friday as the James River football team will host Radford at 7 p.m. It's the Three Rivers District opener for both teams and it's also Homecoming for James River.

Both teams come in with three wins. Radford is undefeated in three games and the Knights are 3-1 after hammering Hidden Valley at Bogle Field last Friday, 41-7. The Knights could easily be unbeaten as well save for a two-point loss to Blacksburg on the second week of the season.

"We're only a couple plays from being undefeated," said River coach Jack Baker. "Our kids have played hard every game."

While Radford is 3-0 the wins have come against 1-3 George Wythe, 0-4 Giles and 0-4 Galax, and George Wythe's win was against an 0-4 Fort Chiswell team that has given up 254 points in four games. Meanwhile, River has faced

See **JR football**, page 11



PHOTOS BY REGINA DEVINNEY

River's Sam Wilson is off and running for a long TD.

River volleyball team wins two in Springwood Saturday







PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Ashby Wilkes (left) goes low to accept a Glenvar serve in last week's match. Kendall Childs (middle) sets one up for the Knights. Leanna Steger (right) goes high for a spike against Glenvar.

The James River volleyball team dropped from the ranks of the unbeaten last week, but bounced back to win two matches on Saturday.

The Knights were 6-0 prior to playing at 6-1 Glenvar last Tuesday and the host Highlanders gave River their first loss, 25-13, 24-19 and 25-23. Ashby Wilkes had 13 kills and 18 digs for the Knights and Ayden Jennings had 23 assists and 14 digs.

"Glenvar was a tough night," said River coach Linsey Firebaugh. "We could not get anything productive going. Our serve receive was very inconsistent, so we were unable to run our offense effectively."

Last Thursday the Knights hosted Class 5 Franklin County and lost in three. The first two sets both went 25-23 and the Eagles put it away with a 26-16 win in the third. Kinley Millman led River with eight kills and Jennings had 17 assists.

"The Franklin County game was a competitive match," said Firebaugh. "They had a talented team and we competed well the first two sets."

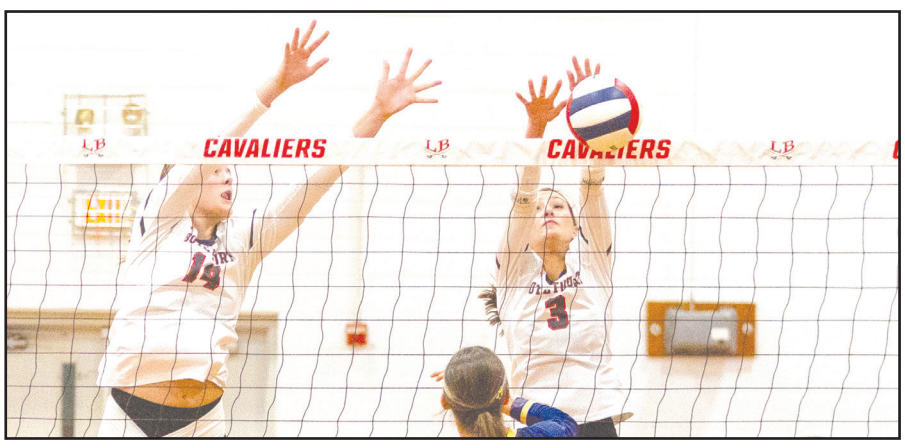
River hosted a tri-match on Saturday in Springwood and bounced back with two wins. The Knights opened with a three set win over Heritage, 25-14, 25-15 and 25-13. Wilkes had 11 kills and Jennings had 16 assists and six aces.

In their second match River defeated Monticello in four sets. The Mustangs won the first set, 25-19, but River won the next three, 25-18, 25-22 and 25-20. Wilkes had 13 kills, Millman had nine, Jennings had 26 assists and Kyleigh Napier had 15 digs.

"This was a long and busy week for us," said Firebaugh. "The tri-match we hosted on Saturday was two good wins for us. During the Heritage match we served well and kept them out of system enough to dominate the match. The Monticello game was much closer. They have a talented team but we serve received well and attacked effectively."

The Knights took an 8-2 overall record to Floyd County on Tuesday, but results were too late for publication. They're at Carroll County next Tuesday for a Three Rivers District match.

Want to stay informed on local fall sports news?
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PHOTOS BY JIM & REGINA DEVINNEY

LB's Ava Stephens (14) and Addison Naff put up a block against Christiansburg.

LB volleyball team hosting Spike Out Kids Cancer Night

When William Byrd visits Lord Botetourt for a Blue Ridge District volleyball game next Tuesday, it will be for more than a district win. It will be a fundraiser for a very important cause as the event is a fundraiser to "Spike Out Kids Cancer."

It's appropriate that these two teams play in this game, as both schools lost beloved classmates to cancer in the past year, Dalton Close at LB and Cam Thepsimuong at William Byrd. Dalton's mother will be speaking at the event.

"Last year we raised over $8,000 for the event and things will be very similar as last year with the silent auction, raffle, serving contest and bake sale," said LB coach Samantha Wilkins. "One hundred percent of the proceeds will benefit the local Life Ring organization to help children with cancer and rare blood disorders in our area to have quality care here at home without having to travel such long distances for treatments."

Some terrific items have been donated for the auction. For Virginia Tech fans, there will be a football autographed by Tech coach James Franklin, a VT lunch pail signed by former defensive coordinator Bud Foster, a basketball signed by Tech women's coach Megan Duffy and a Hokie Wall Plaque and four piece glass set. Other items include tickets to the Rail Yard Dawgs hockey games, a one year membership to the Taubman Museum, golf at three different area courses and much, much more.

The jayvee game will begin at 5:30 p.m. with the varsity to tip off at 7 p.m. T-shirts commemorating the event will be on sale for $20 and there's also a 50-50 raffle. It will be a big night for a great cause and a large turnout is anticipated to watch two good high school volleyball rivals go at it.

The Cavaliers are 7-4 after finishing in third place in the Kirk Narin Foundation volleyball tournament in Abingdon last Saturday. LB played five best-of-three matches and won four, including wins over Castlewood, Lebanon, Northwood and Magna Vista. The only loss was a 25-21, 25-17 loss to Christiansburg, a team the Cavaliers beat in five sets last Tuesday in Daleville.

Christiansburg was the Class 3 state runner-up in 2025 and the LB girls were pumped up for revenge after losing a thrilling five setter in Christiansburg in their second match of the season. In that match LB won the first two sets and was on the verge of a sweep before the Demons battled back to win the third set, 26-24, and went on to win the match.

This time Christiansburg won an "extra points" first set, 28-26. Botetourt won by two in the second to even the match, 25-23, but the Demons went ahead two sets to one with a 25-13 win in the third. It went extra points again in the fourth set but Botetourt pulled even with a 29-27 win, then capped off the marathon with a 15-5 win in the fifth and deciding set for a huge win.

See **Volleyball**, page 11