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& Botetourt County News

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The 40th running of the First Bank Fall Run 5K and 10K took place last Saturday morning in Fincastle.



Fall Run 5K winner Braden Jones (312) leads the pack during the 5K.

Runners of all ages turn out for 40th annual First Bank Fall Run

Matt de Simone
Managing Editor

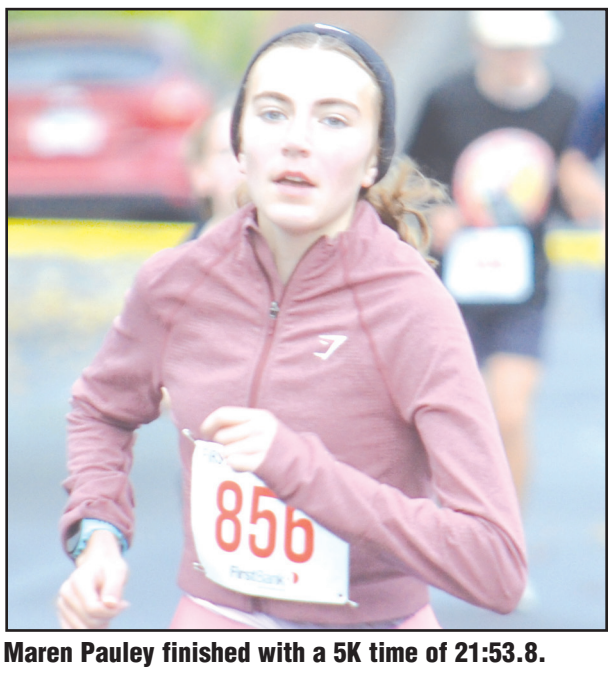
Runners and walkers filled the streets of historic Fincastle on Saturday as more than 600 participants took part in the 40th annual First Bank Fall Run, continuing a Botetourt County tradition that brings together local students, families and competitive runners.

"First Bank is very proud to continue the long-standing tradition of the Fincastle Fall 5K & 10K race," a First Bank representative said. "The passion of our employees, volunteers and sponsors is what has allowed this community event to last for generations. It's not uncommon to see grandparents, great-grandparents, parents and grandchildren sharing the streets and posing for pictures. This is exactly who First Bank is, a community bank with long standing roots in Western Virginia. We are proud to be part of this community and look forward to growing alongside the people that make this such a wonderful place to live, work and raise a family. Special thanks to all those who volunteered throughout the event, our sponsors, Botetourt County Schools, Botetourt Co Sheriff's Department, Troutville Fire Department, EMS and The Town of Fincastle. Without them this wouldn't be possible."

Buchanan's Braden Jones, 17, won the 5K in 17 minutes, 37.9 seconds. Mark Voight, 17, of Fincastle finished second in 17:48.2, followed by Fincastle's Nolan Linthicum, 16, in 18:49.2.

Mason Tuck, 16, of Troutville won

See **Falll Run 2026**, page 10



Maren Pauley finished with a 5K time of 21:53.8.



Runners pass the Botetourt Museum of History & Culture.



A group begins the turn at Church and Main Streets.

PHOTOS BY MATT DE SIMONE



PHOTO COURTESY OF BOTETOURT CO.

Botetourt County recently shared photos of construction activity at Google's data center campus at Greenfield Industrial Park in Daleville.

Google allocates $1.5 million for Botetourt home repairs, energy assistance

Matt de Simone
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Google has committed approximately $1.8 million to support Total Action for Progress' (TAP) work in Botetourt County, including home repairs, energy-efficiency improvements and workforce development. Over the next year, the initiative is expected to help about 80 households make home repairs and energy-efficiency improvements, according to a Google spokesperson.

See **Google**, page 11

Buchanan boy finds his superpower in welding, building and big imagination

Matt de Simone
Managing Editor

For 7-year-old Frye "Reece" Hill, superheroes aren't about capes or superhuman strength. They're about building, inventing and solving problems.

His favorite superhero is Iron Man, a character who shares those interests.

"He loves building, inventing, solving problems, and figuring out how things work," said his mother, April Hill.

Frye, a second-grader at Buchanan Elementary School, recently entered Colossal's Super Kid competition, an online contest offering children the chance to

See **Hill**, page 12



PHOTO COURTESY OF APRIL HILL

Frye "Reece" Hill is a 7-year-old who recently competed in Colossal's Super Kid competition.

Bank of Botetourt

Switching made easy.
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Botetourt County History



PHOTO COURTESY OF BCMHC

This is a photo of Ed Brewbaker in June of 1957 with a large crowd of men at Lauderdale Farm near Buchanan. The photograph was taken for the "Make Hay Now With Your Own One-Man Hay Day Demonstration."

According to local newspaper advertisements, the John Deere machinery allowed one man ALONE to handle his hay crop from mowing to storage. It showed how mechanized farming could reshape agricultural life in Botetourt (and America) by reducing the need for large labor forces in the field. Once again John Deere was at the forefront of innovation.

The photograph was donated by R.D. and Cathy Henderson. It is in the permanent collection of the Botetourt County Historical Society, Inc. Visit the Botetourt Museum of History & Culture in Fincastle to see the "Home Grown: Agricultural History of Botetourt" exhibit for more information on farming history in the county.

~ Botetourt County Museum of History & Culture

DAR: Our Patriot Ancestors

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

AMERICA 250!
Daughters of the American Revolution

GRAPHIC COURTESY OF DAR

Michael Cloyd is a Patriot ancestor of DAR associate member Megan Hawkins.

Michael Cloyd was an early settler and Revolutionary War patriot of Botetourt County. Born around 1735, he was the son of David and Margaret Cloyd. His family came to Virginia while the western part of the colony was still frontier country, and Michael settled near present day Amsterdam in Botetourt County.

During the Revolutionary War, Cloyd served in Captain Robinson's Company of the Botetourt County militia, raised from Virginia's 40th militia district. Local militia companies provided men for military service while helping protect settlements and defend Virginia's western frontier. Cloyd also supported the Patriot cause by providing supplies to American forces during the Revolution.

Cloyd was already familiar with frontier warfare. In 1764, the Cloyd family was attacked by Shawnee raiders at their homestead on the property later known as Stonelea. Michael's brother, John, was killed, and his mother, Margaret, was seriously wounded and succumbed to her injuries in the following days. Michael joined a party of local men who pursued the raiders. The historic Stonelea property remains today near the community of Amsterdam, although the present stone house was built in 1799, after the Cloyd family's time there.

Michael also performed public service in Botetourt County. On February 14, 1770, the county court appointed him surveyor of a section of public road near his plantation, making him responsible for overseeing its maintenance and required labor.

Cloyd's Revolutionary contributions

See **DAR**, page 12

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Lord Botetourt FFA students excel at the State Fair of Virginia



T.J. Burns, Matthew Staley, and John Williamson

Students from the Lord Botetourt FFA represented their school and community at the State Fair of Virginia, competing in Junior Dairymen, Lawn Mower Driving, Small Engine Repair, and Career Applications in Horticulture. The competitions provided students with an opportunity to demonstrate their agricultural knowledge, technical abilities, problem-solving skills, and dedication while competing against students from across the state.

Lord Botetourt students earned several notable finishes, showcasing the hard work and preparation that go into agricultural education and FFA activities.

In Small Engine Repair, James Resse Lane earned an impressive third place finish. The competition challenged students to demonstrate their mechanical knowledge, troubleshooting abilities, and understanding of small engines.

In Lawn Mower Driving, Noah Meyer placed eighth, demonstrating precision, control, and driving skills as competitors navigated their lawn mowers through a challenging course.

Lord Botetourt was also well represented in the Junior Dairymen competition. The A team, consisting of Briggsley Grant, Lilah Barker, Julia Mosley, and Layla Cook, placed 17th. The B team, made up of John Vaughan, Joshua Frederickson, Anastasia Lovasz, and Matthew Barker, finished 19th. The competition tested students' knowledge of the dairy industry and dairy cattle, allowing them to apply what they have learned through their agricultural studies.

The following Monday, Lord Botetourt students returned to the State Fair to compete in Career Applications in Horticulture. Team members T.J. Burns, Matthew Staley, and John Williamson demonstrated their horticultural knowledge and ability to work together under competitive conditions. Matthew Staley and John Williamson tied for eighth place in the high individual standings, while the Lord Botetourt team earned an outstanding third-place overall finish.

Participation in the State Fair competitions provided valuable experiences for these students, allowing them to strengthen their practical skills, build confidence, and learn from other students with similar interests. These opportunities are an important part of agricultural education, helping students prepare for future educational pursuits and careers in agriculture, mechanics, horticulture, and related fields.

~ Submitted by Briggsley Grant, Chapter reporter



PHOTOS COURTESY OF LBHS FFA

Lord Botetourt FFA members (from left): bottom row, James Resse Lane, John Vaughan, Julia Mosley, Briggsley Grant, Lilah Barker, Layla Cook, Joshua Frederickson, and Anastasia Lovasz; top row, Noah Meyer and Matthew Barker

Town of Fincastle explores truck route alternatives, parking lot improvements

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Fincastle officials are continuing efforts to redirect large trucks away from downtown and considering improvements to the Town Office parking lot after confirming ownership of the property.

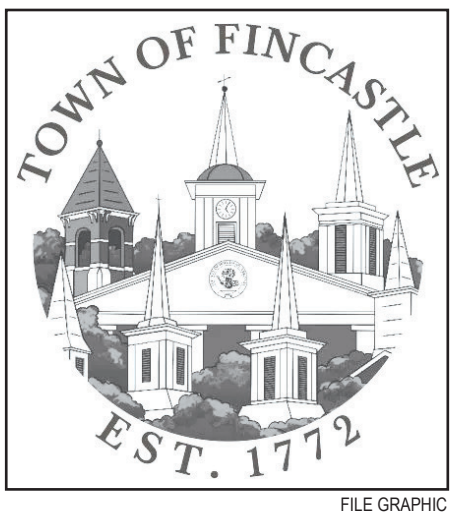
During its Oct. 8 meeting, Town Council discussed efforts to establish an alternative route for large trucks traveling through downtown.

Town Manager Melanie McFadyen described discussions with the Virginia Department of Transportation about a proposed route that would direct trucks along Blue Ridge Turnpike and Springwood Road before reaching Poor Farm Road.

However, VDOT has raised concerns about sight distance where Poor Farm Road meets U.S. 220, particularly for trucks attempting to enter the highway.

McFadyen said VDOT did not consider the proposal likely to rank highly for funding. A revenue-sharing arrangement involving the county could be necessary to advance the project, but county participation has not appeared likely.

Town officials also discussed working with navigation services such as Google Maps and Waze to encourage truck drivers to use different routes.



FILE GRAPHIC

In other business, McFadyen reported that research confirmed the town owns the property beneath and surrounding its municipal office. The property was transferred to the town in 2010, resolving questions about ownership.

With ownership clarified, the town is considering improvements to the office's parking lot. The project likely would move forward next year, with the town seeking quotes for the work.

The town has also installed two new welcome signs, one at each end of Fincastle. McFadyen said The Sign

See **Improvements**, page 10

Buchanan manager eyes budget changes to give town more financial flexibility

Buchanan Town Manager Tim Mack plans to meet with Town Council early next year to discuss potential budget changes aimed at giving the town's General Fund more flexibility when unexpected expenses arise.

Mack told council during its Oct. 13 meeting that he wants to explore shifting a portion of the town's contract with Inboden Environmental Services (IES) from the General Fund to the water and sewer funds.

The contract is one of the General Fund's largest expenses, Mack said in a follow-up response. Moving an appropriate portion of the cost to the water and sewer funds could help free up money for other municipal needs.

"We don't have enough wiggle room if we need it," Mack said, explaining that unexpected or unusually large expenditures can affect budget performance and limit the town's ability to pursue other work.

Mack said he is still developing potential options for council to consider. He anticipates holding a work session in early to mid-January, following the holidays and his planned leave for the arrival of his new baby.

The proposed funding shift would be intended to better align a portion of the IES contract's costs with the water and sewer funds, while maintaining the services provided under the contract. No changes have been approved, and the proposal remains under development.

In other business, council unanimously approved a $6,100 proposal from John Calhoun Electric to troubleshoot and restore electrical service to receptacles and timers on approximately 21 utility poles along Main Street.

The work will address problems with the existing electrical system, including deteriorated insulation at several splice locations. The approved option covers troubleshooting, repairs, inspection of wiring and receptacles, and evaluation of timers. It does not include replacing all receptacles with new weather-resistant GFCI outlets, which was offered as part of a more expensive option.

Council also unanimously adopted a resolution setting Buchanan's allocation under the Personal Property Tax Relief Act for the 2026 tax year. The town received $11,608.54 in state funding for the program, which provides tax relief for qualifying personal-use vehicles.

Council members asked Mack to revise a proposed invoicing schedule for high grass, weeds and other foreign growth rather than approve it as presented. Members requested that the proposed equipment fee increase from $100 to $150 and that the schedule include a separate line for miscellaneous materials, such as weed-eater string. The item is expected to return to council as old business in November.

Mack's monthly report also covered ongoing infrastructure work and other town projects.

Buchanan is awaiting an update from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development on its application for a $75,000 planning grant to study the wastewater treatment plant. The town's comprehensive plan update is in its final design and quality-assurance phase, with adoption targeted for November or December.

The town also continues to address lighting issues at the swinging bridge and Town Park, coordinate sewer work associated with the Wilson Warehouse, movie theater renovation, and seek reimbursement from CSX for repairs involving a water meter on Old Mill Road and a manhole cover and sewer line along Water Street.

The annual Mountain Magic festival was held Oct. 3, but weather affected the event. Final revenue figures were not yet available, according to Mack's report.

The town's Main Street Committee, which held its first organizational meeting Sept. 16, selected Adam McBryde as its first chair. The committee's next meeting is scheduled for Oct. 28.

~ Fincastle Herald staff report



FILE GRAPHIC

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF AN APPLICATION BY APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY FOR APPROVAL AND CERTIFICATION OF THE DALEVILLE AREA TRANSMISSION IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT UNDER TITLE 56 OF THE CODE OF VIRGINIA

CASE NO. PUR-2026-00132

On September 4, 2026, Appalachian Power Company ("APCo" or "Company") filed with the State Corporation Commission ("Commission") an application ("Application") for approval and certification of electric transmission facilities in Botetourt County, Virginia. APCo filed its Application pursuant to § 56-46.1 of the Code of Virginia ("Code") and the Utility Facilities Act, Code § 56-265.1 et seq.

Through its Application, APCo seeks permission to construct, own, operate, and maintain the Daleville Area Transmission Improvements Project ("Project"). The Company represents that the Project would improve approximately 19.5 miles of existing transmission lines and provide for a new substation installation and several upgrades to existing substations. Specifically, APCo proposes to:

- Upgrade and expand the Botetourt Substation from 69 kilovolts ("kV") to 138 kV;
- Upgrade and expand the Mount Union 138-kV Substation;
- Upgrade the Cloverdale 138-kV Substation within the existing fence;
- Upgrade the Trinity Substation from 69 kV to 138 kV within the existing fence;
- Install the new Windy Pass 138-kV Substation on a parcel adjacent to the existing Trinity Substation;
- Rebuild approximately 5.3 miles of the Cloverdale - Trinity 138-kV Transmission Line (currently operated at 69 kV) and upgrade from 69 kV to 138 kV;
- Rebuild approximately 4.0 miles of the Mount Union - Trinity 138-kV Transmission Line (currently operated at 69 kV) and upgrade from 69 kV to 138 kV;
- Reconductor approximately 7.4 miles of the Cloverdale - Mount Union 138-kV Transmission Line and replace approximately two existing structures and add one new structure;
- Construct two new 138-kV feeder lines, parallel to each other, approximately 1.3 miles in length from Botetourt Substation into a new customer's data center campus;
- Construct a new approximately 0.1-mile-long 138-kV tie line between the new Windy Pass 138-kV Substation and existing Trinity Substation;
- Extend the Trinity - Wheatland 69-kV Transmission Line approximately 0.1 miles to the new Windy Pass 138-kV Substation;
- Construct one new structure on the Mount Union - New Castle 34-kV Transmission Line; and
- Install associated fiber and distribution upgrades.

The Company asserts that the proposed Project is "necessary to create a 138-kV loop fed from the Cloverdale Substation that has sufficient capacity during system normal and outage conditions defined by North American Electric Reliability Corporation planning criteria." APCo further avers that the Project would "ensure that the Company is able to adequately and reliably operate and maintain electric service for existing customers in Botetourt County and accommodate a new customer interconnection request."

The Company represents that the proposed route for the Project's transmission line aspects would generally follow existing 80- and 100-foot-wide rights-of-way ("ROWs") for the rebuilt and reconductored lines. The Company further states that these lines would generally follow existing centerlines, although in certain locations, structures may be shifted within the existing corridor to accommodate constructability considerations, outage constraints, and site-specific conditions. APCo represents that the proposed route of the new-build tie lines and parallel customer feeder lines would be located on new ROW that is 80 or 75 feet wide, respectively. The Company states that the filing corridor would be generally 150 feet wide and would encompass the full extent of the existing and proposed ROWs, which would allow for minor adjustments where needed. According to APCo, the proposed route for the Project would reasonably minimize adverse impact on the scenic assets, historic districts, and environment of the Project area.

The Company represents that the upgrades and expansions at the Cloverdale, Botetourt, Trinity, and Mount Union Substations, as well as construction of the new Windy Pass Substation, would occur primarily within existing substation properties, with limited expansion beyond current footprints where necessary to accommodate new equipment, system reconfiguration, and interconnection facilities.

Per the Application, the total estimated conceptual cost of the Project is approximately $264 million, which includes

approximately $143 million for substation-related work and $121 million for transmission-related work. The Company's proposed in-service date for the Project is November 15, 2029.

Description of the Route

The Proposed Route consists of four sections.

Cloverdale to Windy Pass

The Proposed Route for the Cloverdale - Windy Pass 138-kV Transmission Line would begin at the Company's existing Cloverdale 138-kV Substation, located at 364 Olde Route 604 in Botetourt County, Virginia. From the Cloverdale Substation, the existing Cloverdale - Trinity 138-kV Transmission Line would be rebuilt within the existing transmission line ROW for approximately 4.6 miles. Along this section, the Proposed Route would cross Olde Route 604, U.S. Route Alternate 220, Gateway Crossing (State Route 167), Humbert Road (State Route 653), Roanoke Valley Loop (U.S. Route 11), Interstate 81, the Appalachian Trail at Valley Road (State Route 779), Summit Ridge Road (State Route 1128), Greenfield Street (State Route 673), U.S. Route 220, South Center Drive (State Route T843), and International Parkway. The Proposed Route would then turn into the existing Botetourt Substation on Company property at 4219 Roanoke Road.

From the Botetourt Substation, the Proposed Route for the Cloverdale - Windy Pass 138-kV Transmission Line would continue north in the Company's existing ROW for approximately 0.7 miles to the proposed Windy Pass Substation at the southwest corner of Country Club Road and U.S. Route 220.

Between the proposed Windy Pass Substation and the existing Trinity Substation (269 Country Club Road), the new Trinity - Windy Pass 138-kV Transmission Line would extend approximately 0.1 miles on property to be purchased by the Company. On this same property, the existing Trinity - Wheatland 69-kV Transmission Line would be extended approximately 0.1 miles to the proposed Windy Pass Substation.

The predominant structure type anticipated for the Cloverdale to Windy Pass section of the Project would be single-circuit 138-kV galvanized-steel monopole with braced posts. The proposed structure heights would range from 40 feet to 110 feet with an average above-ground height of 80 feet.

Daleville Area Customer 138-kV Feeder Lines

From the Company's Botetourt Substation (4219 Roanoke Road), the two proposed Daleville Area Customer 138-kV Feeder Lines would each extend approximately 1.3 miles in parallel west across customer-owned property to connect to the customer's facility.

The predominant structure type anticipated for the Daleville Area Customer 138-kV Feeder Lines would be single-circuit 138-kV galvanized-steel monopole with braced posts. The proposed structure heights would range from 85 feet to 100 feet with an average above-ground height of 90 feet.

Mount Union to Windy Pass

The Proposed Route for the Mount Union - Windy Pass 138-kV Transmission Line would span northwest from the proposed Windy Pass Substation for approximately 0.2 miles to the existing Mount Union - Trinity 138-kV Transmission Line ROW. The Proposed Route would then follow the existing ROW west for approximately 3.8 miles before terminating at the existing Mount Union Substation. Along this segment of the Project, the Proposed Route would cross Shawnee Trail (State Route 735), Deerfield Road (State Route 760), Etzler Road (State Route 672), Catawba Road (State Route 779E), and the Norfolk Southern Railway.

The predominant structure type anticipated for the Mount Union to Windy Pass section of the Project would be single-circuit 138-kV galvanized-steel monopole with braced posts. The proposed structure heights would range from 70 feet to 110 feet with an average above-ground height of 80 feet.

Cloverdale to Mount Union

The Proposed Route for the Cloverdale - Mount Union 138-kV Transmission Line would follow the existing ROW west from Mount Union Substation (4533 Catawba Road) for approximately 0.7 miles. The Proposed Route would then turn southeast in the existing ROW and continue along the side of Tinker Mountain for approximately 5.7 miles, crossing Greenway Hollow Road (State Route 672) once and the Appalachian Trail three times. The Proposed Route would then turn east, parallel to existing transmission lines, for approximately one mile and cross a Norfolk Southern Railway track. Tinker Mountain Road (State Route 816), Interstate 81, and U.S. Route 11 before terminating at the existing Cloverdale 138-kV Substation.

The predominant structure type anticipated for the Cloverdale to Mount Union section of the Project would be single-circuit 138-kV galvanized H-frames. The proposed structure heights would range from 45 feet to 135 feet with an average above-ground height of 81.5 feet.

All distances, heights, and directions are approximate. A sketch map of the proposal accompanies this notice. A more detailed map may be viewed on the Commission's website: scc.virginia.gov/consumers/public-utility/electricity-faqs/transmission-line-projects. A more complete description of the proposed Project may also be found in the Company's Application.

The Commission may consider a route not significantly different from the route described in this notice without additional notice to the public.

The Commission entered an Order for Notice and Comment that, among other things, directed the Company to provide notice to the public and provided interested persons an opportunity to comment on the Company's Application, participate as respondents, or request a hearing.

To promote administrative efficiency and timely service of filings upon participants, the Commission has directed the electronic filing of testimony and pleadings, unless they contain confidential information, and required electronic service on parties to this proceeding.

Electronic copies of the public version of the Application and other supporting materials may be inspected at: https://aep transmission.com/Virginia/DalevilleArea/ or may be obtained, at no charge, by submitting a written request to counsel for the Company: Matthew P. Pritts, Esquire, Woods Rogers Vandeventer Black PLC, 10 South Jefferson Street, Suite 1800, Roanoke, Virginia 24011, or matthew.pritts@woodsrogers.com. Interested persons may also download unofficial copies of the public version of the Application and other documents from the Commission's website: scc.virginia.gov/case-information.

On or before December 2, 2026, any interested person may file comments on the Application by following the instructions on the Commission's website: scc.virginia.gov/case-information/submit-public-comments. Those unable, as a practical matter, to submit comments electronically may file such comments by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the State Corporation Commission, c/o Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2118. All such comments shall refer to Case No. PUR-2026-00132.

On or before December 2, 2026, any person or entity wishing to participate as a respondent in this proceeding must do so by filing a notice of participation with the Clerk of the Commission at: scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling. Those unable, as a practical matter, to file a notice of participation electronically may file such notice by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the Commission at the address listed above. Such notice of participation shall include the email addresses of such person or entity and their counsel. The respondent simultaneously shall serve a copy of the notice of participation electronically on counsel to the Company, Commission Staff ("Staff"), and all other respondents. Pursuant to 5 VAC 5-20-80 B, Participation as a respondent, of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure,5 VAC 5-20-10 et seq. ("Rules of Practice"), any notice of participation shall set forth: (i) a precise statement of the interest of the respondent; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent then known; and (iii) the factual and legal basis for the action. Any notice of participation filed by a person not represented by counsel shall also set forth why the filer's positions in this matter are not adequately represented by another party to this proceeding and cannot be expressed through written public comments as provided for in this proceeding. Any organization, corporation, or government body participating as a respondent must be represented by counsel as required by 5 VAC 5-20-30, Counsel, of the Rules of Practice. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2026-00132. For additional information about participation as a respondent, any person or entity should obtain a copy of the Commission's Order for Notice and Comment.

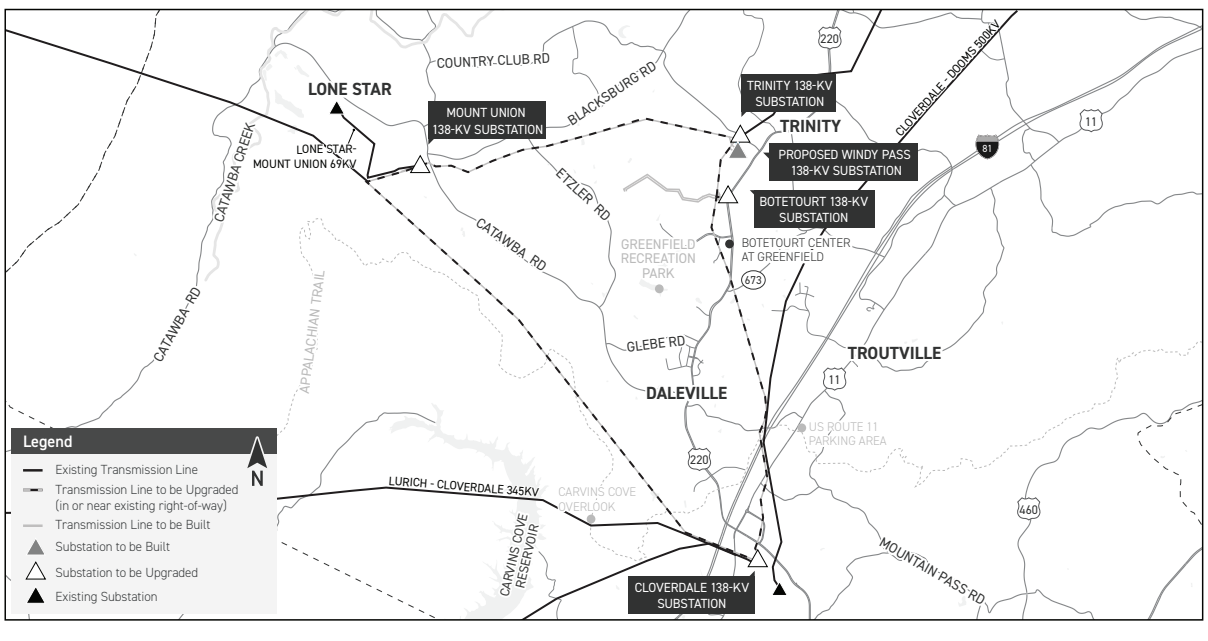
On or before December 2, 2026, any interested person or entity may request that the Commission convene a hearing in this matter by filing a request for hearing electronically with the Clerk of the Commission via scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling. Those unable, as a practical matter, to file electronically may file a request for hearing by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the Commission at the address listed above. Such request for hearing shall include the email addresses of such parties or their counsel, if available. Requests for a hearing shall include: (i) a precise statement of the filing party's interest in the proceeding; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent then known; (iii) a statement of the legal basis for such action; and (iv) a precise statement why a hearing should be conducted in this matter. The interested person or entity shall simultaneously serve a copy of the hearing request electronically on counsel to the Company, Staff, and all respondents. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2026-00132.

Any document filed in paper form with the Office of the Clerk of the Commission in this docket may use both sides of the paper. In all other respects, except as modified by the Commission's Order for Notice and Comment, all filings shall comply fully with the requirements of 5 VAC 5-20-150, Copies and format, of the Commission's Rules of Practice.

The Company's Application and other documents filed in this case, the Commission's Rules of Practice, and the Commission's Order for Notice and Comment may be viewed at: scc.virginia.gov/case-information.

Daleville Area
Transmission Improvements Project

APPALACHIAN POWER
An AEP Company



APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY

Library Buzz

Uncovering the World of Fungi

Fri, Oct 23, 2PM, Eagle Rock

Step into the fascinating hidden world of fungi during this engaging presentation. Together, we'll explore how mushrooms and other fungi quietly sustain our forests—recycling nutrients, supporting plants and wildlife, and keeping entire ecosystems balanced.

You'll learn how to recognize different types of fungi, uncover surprising facts about their unique survival strategies, and discover why these often-overlooked organisms are far more important than they might appear. Presented by Hannah Johnson, Douthat State Park Chief Ranger of Visitor Experience.

Halloween Storytime

Sat, Oct 24, 11, AM (Toddlers), Blue Ridge

Sat, Oct 24, 11:30, AM (Elementary), Blue Ridge

Enjoy books, songs, and tactile activities that build literacy, motor, and social skills with a Halloween inspired twist! At 11 a.m. we'll read a fun Halloween story for toddlers. Elementary aged kids and siblings can join us at 11:30 a.m. for a "spooky" story. Take home a free Halloween book after! (While supplies last) Best for ages 0-11.

STEM Electronics

Tue, Oct 27, 4 PM, Fincastle

Get hands-on experience with electrical projects that focus on safety and real-world engineering skills. Presented by engineer David Sproles. No prior experience required – just curious minds! October 27 – Sound Effects Circuits Best for ages 10+. Registration required. Register at https://botetourtva.libcal.com/ or call 540-928-2900 with questions.

Intro to Mahjong

Wed, Oct 28, 10 AM, Buchanan

Learn this popular tile-based game. Class size limited to 6. Best for ages 19+. Registration required. Register at https://botetourtva.libcal.com/ or call 540-928-2900 with questions.

Learn more about Botetourt Libraries at bocolibraries.info

Rena Worthen remembered for preserving Botetourt County history



Rena Worthen PHOTO COURTESY OF BOTETOURT CO. LIBRARIES

Rena Worthen, who spent more than 25 years helping people trace their family histories and preserve the stories of Botetourt County, is being remembered for her contributions to local history and genealogy.

Botetourt County Libraries announced Worthen's passing in a memorial posted Friday, honoring her longtime service as the libraries' genealogist and her work connecting researchers with the families, places and stories that shaped the region.

Worthen also contributed for years to The Fincastle Herald's "Forgotten Cemeteries" series, sharing the histories of local cemeteries and helping preserve the stories of the people buried there. Her work reflected a longstanding commitment to documenting the county's past and making that history accessible to the community.

Throughout her career with the libraries, Worthen helped thousands of people discover their family roots, assisting researchers from across the United States and around the world. She also taught genealogy classes, guiding beginners through the research process and helping experienced researchers explore more advanced topics, including identifying maiden names and researching passenger lists.

Her contributions extended well beyond the library. In 2001, she co-authored the third volume of "Botetourt County Virginia Cemetery Readings" with Margaret Tynan and Stephen Taylor. She also worked with community members to photograph and document grave markers throughout the region, making the information available online and encouraging others to contribute their discoveries.

Worthen served as Botetourt County coordinator for VAGenWeb and played an instrumental role in building and curating Botetourt Memory, the library's digital collection dedicated to preserving the county's history.

She also served as the point of contact for the 2007 Botetourt County Genealogy Fair, which brought together the Botetourt Genealogy Club, the Botetourt Historical Society, Fincastle Branch Library and other regional partners to celebrate and preserve local history.

A Navy veteran, grandmother and great-grandmother, Worthen

See **Worthen**, page 7

Book sale at Blue Ridge Library

Friends of the Blue Ridge Library will hold a book sale October 22-24. The sale begins on Thursday, Oct. 22, from 5-8 p.m. The sale continues Friday, Oct. 23, from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., and Saturday, Oct. 24, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. There will be a large variety of books for sale. Hardcover books are priced at $1 each and paperback books are priced at 50 cents each. Saturday is Bag Day when you may purchase a bag of books for only $3.

Proceeds from the book sale help the Friends to support library programs such as the annual Summer Learning Challenge or to purchase materials that the library needs, especially those not covered in the annual operating budget.

Blue Ridge Library is located at 28 Avery Row on U.S. 460 East about a half-mile east of the Bonsack Walmart. For directions, call 540-928-2900.

~ Friends of the Blue Ridge Library

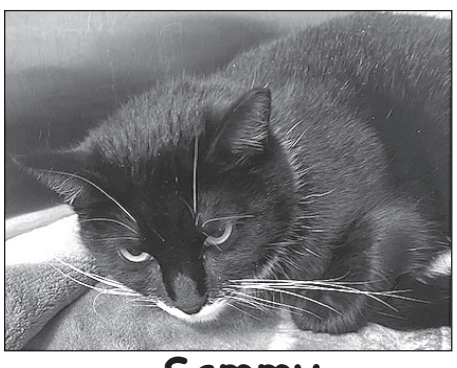
ARRESTS

October 13-17, 2026

The Botetourt County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests Oct. 13-17:

- Roger L. Ray, 39, of Lexington, trespassing, dumping trash, Oct. 13
- David S. Vineyard, 36, of Daleville, grand larceny, Oct. 13
- Alaina V. Belcher, 38, of Buchanan, abuse and neglect of children, Oct. 14
- Joshua W. Lucion, 45, of Fincastle, violate protective order, Oct. 14
- Jesse C. Boston, 28, of Troutville, driving under the influence, Oct. 15
- Andrew N. Woodyard, 43, of Daleville, disorderly conduct, Oct. 15
- Joshua L. Gustaitis, 45, of Lynchburg, manufacture, sell or distribute Schedule drugs, Oct. 17
- Tela J. Espelage, 25, of Roanoke, domestic assault, Oct. 17

League for Animal Protection's Waif of the Week



Sammy

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

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

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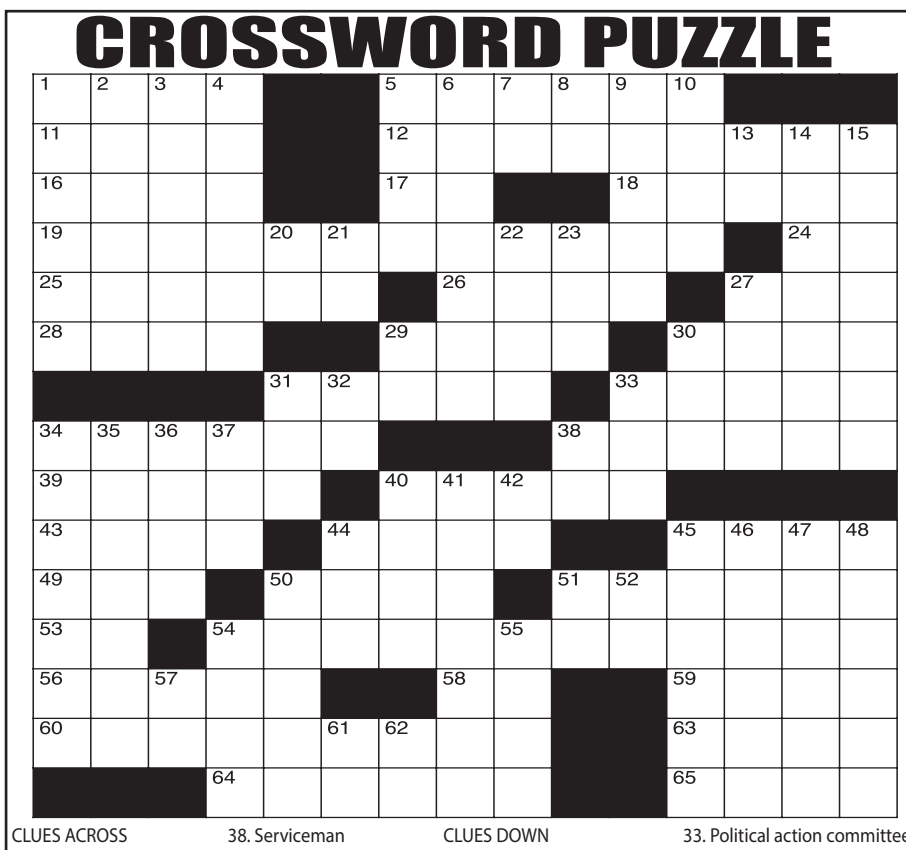
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CROSSWORD PUZZLE



CLUES ACROSS
1. Nocturnal rodent
5. Requesting
11. Give temporarily
12. Frivolousness
16. Military arm
17. "Westworld" actor Harris
18. Persian Gulf port city
19. Air hostesses
24. Partner to "Pa"
25. Percussion instrument
26. Raincoats
27. Lower the light
28. Asian mountain range
29. Every one of two or more
30. Lack of difficulty
31. A public announcement of a proposed marriage
33. Reduces in size
34. Make an impact
38. Serviceman
39. A French river
40. Prehistoric people
43. Messenger ribonucleic acid
44. "Layla" singer Clapton
45. Ancient Greek sophist
49. Largest English dictionary (abbr.)
50. "Top Gun: Maverick" actor Powell
51. A way to disentangle
53. Atomic #93
54. Manifesting approval
56. Indigo bush
58. Larry and Curly's pal
59. Off-Broadway theater award
60. Fencers
63. Masses of fish eggs
64. Passerine birds
65. Arrange systematically

CLUES DOWN
1. Colorless part of blood
2. Of a main artery
3. Photog's tool
4. Blues Traveler hit "But __"
5. Grew older
6. Not the leader
7. __ Lang: country singer
8. A driver's license is one
9. Nests of pheasants
10. Antelopes
13. One quintillion bytes
14. Japanese lute
15. A type of cat
20. It cools your home
21. Dorm official
22. Pouches
23. German trigraph
27. Form of Persian
29. __ route
30. Upper body part
31. Bridge building degree
32. Indicates position
33. Political action committee
34. Edible nuts
35. Front part of a quadruped
36. Locate
37. Geological time
38. Of I
40. Northern Utah city
41. They work in the trenches
42. Hammer is one
44. Tall deciduous tree
45. Performers
46. Slang for mistake
47. More open
48. Most slick
50. Provokes
51. Home of the NCAA's Flyers
52. Sodium
54. Large fish of the mackerel family
55. Not one
57. __ and behold
61. Atomic #21
62. "The Great Lakes State"

See **Answers**, page 10

Submit your letters to the editor today.

fincastle@ourvalley.org



The Fincastle Herald
Serving Botetourt Since 1866

Church News

Buchanan Food Pantry open Saturday

The Buchanan Presbyterian Church Food Pantry will be open Saturday, Oct. 24, from 9-11 a.m. Volunteers from the Mission Team at Mill Creek Baptist Church will distribute meat, bread, milk, eggs and staples at the curb. Anyone in need is welcome. The pantry is open every second and fourth Saturdays of the month. The church is located at 19559 Main Street, Buchanan.

All of the pantry partners and those who contribute their resources to this mission are appreciated. If you would like to volunteer, just show up on any second or fourth Saturday. To contribute financially, checks can be mailed to the church at P.O. Box 517, Buchanan, 24066 or food or checks can be dropped off at Southern Girls Mercantile, 19812 Main Street, Buchanan.

Daleville Baptist Fall Festival, Trunk-or-Treat

Daleville Baptist Church is having a Fall Festival and Trunk-or-Treat on Sunday, Oct. 25, from 3-5 p.m. at the church, 375 Orchard Drive. The free event for the entire family will include a bounce house, hayrides, face painting, cake walk, hot dogs and trunk-or-treat.

Trunk-or-Treat at Eagle Rock UMC

Eagle Rock United Methodist Church, in partnership with local churches, is hosting a Trunk-or-Treat on Sunday, Oct. 24, from 5-7 p.m. in the church parking lot. All are welcome.

Wheatland Lutheran holding Tractor Treat

Wheatland Lutheran Church is having the annual Tractor Treat on October 24 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Those attending are asked to bring canned goods to be distributed to the local food pantry. Children are encouraged to dress in their Halloween costumes.

There will be a bake sale and hot dogs for sale. The church is located at 1560 Wheatland Road, Buchanan.

'Jesus Fest' at Solomon's Mission

Solomon's Mission, located at 592 Lowe Street in Buchanan, will host the annual "Jesus Fest" event on October 31, from 6-8 p.m.

This free community celebration welcomes everyone for an evening of fellowship, fun, and family-friendly activities. Enjoy games, cake walks, food, candy and the Good News.

Organizers are gratefully accepting donations of bagged candy, which may be dropped off during regular business hours.

Cakes for the cake walk are also needed and can be delivered by 2 p.m. on October 31. Monetary donations to help purchase pizzas for the event are appreciated as well.

Fincastle Baptist Harvest Fest

Fincastle Baptist will have Harvest Fest on October 31 from 5-7:30 p.m. There will be an illusionist, food trucks, Trunk-or-Treat and more. This free event is open to the whole family.

St. Mark's UMC Trunk-or-Treat

All are invited for some Halloween fun at St. Mark's United Methodist Church for Trunk-or-Treat on Friday, Oct. 30 from 5:30-7 p.m. St. Mark's UMC is located at 19 Cedar Ridge Drive in Daleville. In case of bad weather, Trunk-or-Treat will be held inside the Family Life Center. Everyone is encouraged to wear a costume and bring a container to collect candy.

Trinity UMC Baby Pantry open October 24

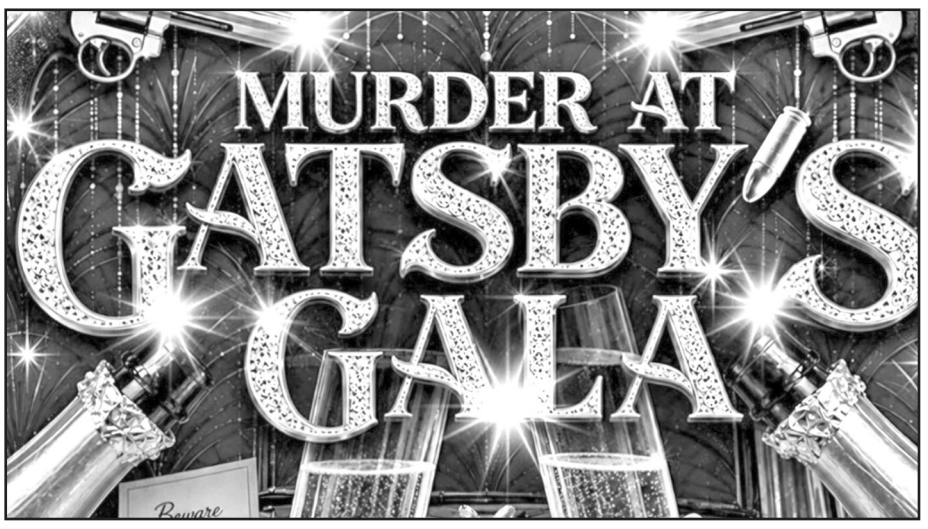
Those in need of diapers and baby formula may come to the Baby Pantry at Trinity United Methodist Church, 19637 Main Street, Buchanan, from 9 a.m. to noon on the fourth Saturday of the month. Enter on Washington Street side of the building. The Baby Pantry will be open this month on October 24..

Diaper and wipes donations may be left at the Buchanan Library and Family Dollar Store.

Fincastle Clothes Closet open date

Fincastle United Methodist's Clothes Closet will be open on Saturday, Oct. 31, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., in the Family Life Center at 137 S. Church Street. Donations of gently worn, clean clothing and shoes also will be accepted. Call the church office at 540-473-3001 to arrange to bring donations during office hours, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Tuesday-Thursday.

See **Church News**, page 7



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF BUCHANAN TIS

Murder-mystery dinner fundraiser at Wilson Warehouse

A murder-mystery dinner, presented by the Buchanan Town Improvement Society and Night of Mystery, will take place at the historic 1839 Wilson Warehouse in Buchanan Friday, Nov.13, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Entitled "Murder at Gatsby's Gala," it will be a 1920s-era "who-done-it" where all dinner guests help to solve a "murder" that has taken place that evening. Guests will enjoy a three-course dinner that echoes some of the classic meals of the 1920s. Participants may arrive in 1920s era attire, should they choose.

A fictional murder will take place during the event. Guests are assigned specific character roles — ranging from innocent bystanders and prime suspects to the hidden killer. Participants examine clues, interrogate suspects (who may be the evening's host or other guests), share secrets, and analyze motives. At the end of the evening, everyone submits their final guess, the culprit is unmasked, and prizes are awarded.

This is a fundraising event for the Buchanan Town Improvement Society, a 501(c)3 non-profit whose mission is to preserve one of Botetourt's oldest, existing commercial structures, the Wilson Warehouse.

Tickets are $60 per person and are available by calling (540) 817-5772.

~ Submitted by Buchanan Town Improvement Society

AARP Scam Alert

Fake Bank Alert: Don't Hand Over Your Code

The AARP Fraud Watch Network Helpline (877-908-3360) is hearing from more people about bank impersonation scams. People are being targeted, usually through a call or text, by a criminal pretending to be from your bank.

They claim there's suspicious activity on your account, and you need to act immediately to protect your money. The warning can sound convincing because they are impersonating your actual bank and may have specific information about you and your account.

A major red flag is being told to transfer or withdraw money to keep it "safe." The bank impersonator may instruct you to wire funds, use a payment app, or withdraw cash and feed it into a designated cryptocurrency kiosk for "safekeeping."

The playbooks for this and other financial crimes are focused on a form of manipulation that serves to get past the logic center in our brains and go right to action through emotion. Any unexpected or unsolicited contact these days is a fraud risk. If you receive a concerning message from your bank, contact it using a phone number you know belongs to your bank, or check your account online or in the app if you have that access.

Learn how to spot and avoid scams with AARP Fraud Watch Network. Suspect a scam? Call the free helpline at 877-908-3360 and talk to a fraud specialist about what to do next.

~ AARP Virginia

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

As Election Day approaches, candidates appearing on the ballot and their supporters are welcome to submit Letters to the Editor for consideration in *The Fincastle Herald.*

Letters must follow the Herald's standard guidelines for Letters to the Editor. Submissions must be received by **10 a.m. Monday** for consideration in that week's edition and will be considered for publication on the same basis as other submissions.

Botetourt County Chorus presents concerts this November

Celebrate "Christmas All Over the World" at the Botetourt County Chorus concerts in November. The chorus will present the concerts on Sunday, Nov. 8, at 3 p.m. at Daleville Baptist Church, 375 Orchard Drive in Daleville, and on Sunday, Nov. 15, at Buchanan Baptist Church, 19730 Main Street, Buchanan.

The chorus is under the direction of Stephen Harris and accompanied by Debbie Lester. The program will feature a selection of holiday favorites including "Deck the Halls" and "Away in a Manager," and fun tunes "I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas," "Mele Kalikimaka" and many more.

The concert is free, but donations to help offset chorus expenses will be accepted during the program.

For more information, contact Faye Bolt at 540-798-4049 or Kristie Claytor at 540-556-1563.

~ Submitted by Kristie Claytor

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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.

The God With Heart

Read Luke 7:1 through 8:56

Visit any Sunday School, Bible study, or small group and during their prayer time you're likely to hear of heartbreaking situations—financial difficulties, people dealing with cancer and other illnesses, teens getting killed in car accidents or gang-related violence, parents lamenting prodigal children, and so on.

When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her and he said, "Don't cry" (Luke 7:13).

Troubles are nothing new in this world. The people in Jesus' day had lives overflowing with trauma too. But Jesus didn't ever say, "Oh, stop whining and get on with life." Instead, the Bible tells us "his heart went out to her" in compassion.

That feeling of compassion hasn't changed. When we face minor troubles or major tragedies, God still lingers nearby, and His heart still goes out to us with compassion and mercy and love. He does not scold us for not trusting Him or tell us to get over it. He understands our feelings, pains, and frustrations. We do not serve a sterile God, but a God with a heart.

Thought for Today: When we cry, so many times God cries with us.

Quicklook: Luke 7:11–17

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.

OBITUARIES

Keesee, Betty Harris

Betty Jane Harris Keesee, 87, of Apopka, Fla., passed away, September 27, 2026.



Betty was born in Botetourt County, the daughter of the late Claude A. and Evelyn Harris.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, William I. Keesee, and her brother, Claude Harris, Jr.

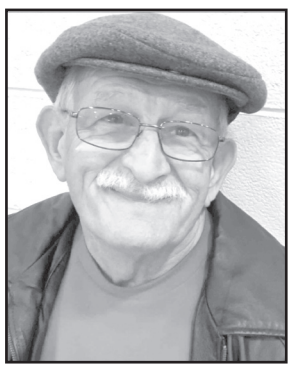
She is survived by her brother, Dennis Harris; her son, Eric Keesee of Tallahassee, Fla.; daughter, Vickie (Don) Baty of Apopka, Fla.; daughter , Kim (Brian) Doss of Apopka, Fla.; nine grandchildren, Tara, Stacey, Stephen, Kyle, Kevin, Loren, Tyler, Emily, Cody; 17 great-grandchildren and one great-great grandchild.

Betty was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and great-great grandmother. Betty grew up in Virginia and her first job was working in a hair salon. She began dating her future husband, Bill, while still in high school. She believed it was important to go to church and made sure the family went every week. Betty also taught Vacation Bible School while her own kids were young. Betty was a homemaker most of her married life, but did do a few things along the way such as: attended nursing school, became a secretary for her husband Bill's company and also worked putting out coupons and displays in a variety of stores. Betty was also very active in her involvement with the Christian Women's Club meetings until their closing in 2008.

A service was held at Thrive Church in Apopka at 2 p.m. on Sunday, October 18.

Loope, Roy Lee

Roy Lee Loope, 84, of Buchanan, passed away peacefully on Sunday, October 11, 2026.



He was welcomed into Heaven by his beloved wife of 40 years, Carol Loope; his parents, Robert and Doradean Loope; brother, Larry Loope; and sister, Lois Senick.

Left to cherish his memory are his children and their spouses, Kevin Loope (Connie), Sara Loope Boucher (Brian), Teresa Mullins Hodges (Michael), and Lisa Mullins Taylor (Garry); nine grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; his brother, Terry Loope (Barbara); sister, Margaret Booze (Charles); special friend, Rosalie Goad; and many extended family members and friends who were blessed to know him.

Roy was a true country gentleman whose life was defined by faith, family, hard work, and kindness. Born and raised on a farm in Buchanan, he spent his entire life connected to the land, caring for cattle and appreciating the view of the farm and the Peaks of Otter from his front porch.

Roy was honored to have served his country in the U.S. Air Force and was immensely proud of his 56-year career as a truck driver, often sharing that accomplishment with anyone willing to listen and never quite understanding why he was asked to retire at age 82. His children often joked about the size of his big, hard-working hands. Working from sunup to sundown for decades, those hands belonged to a protector, a provider, and a man whose love was shown more through actions than words. Though Roy was known for his physical strength and tireless work ethic, those who knew him best knew that his greatest strength was his gentle heart.

Roy especially enjoyed old cars and loved attending car shows and cruising in his Ford Falcons. Affectionately known as "Pooh Bear" by his family, Roy never met a stranger and was always willing to lend a helping hand to anyone in need. He exemplified what it meant to be a Christian, living his faith daily through compassion, generosity, humility, and love for others. His family takes comfort in knowing that the Lord he faithfully served throughout his life welcomed him home.

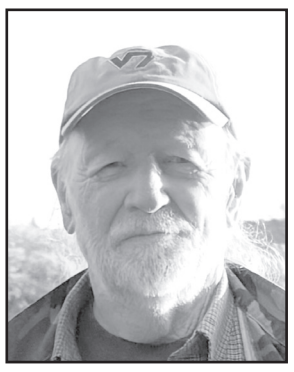
The family would like to extend a special thank you to Spirit's Rest Hospice and to his brother and sister-in-law, Terry and Barbara Loope, and to Rosalie Goad, whose love and faithful presence remained a source of comfort and support to Roy until the very end.

The family will receive friends on Sunday, October 25, 2026, at 1 p.m. at Botetourt Funeral Home, 14920 Lee Highway, Buchanan. A Celebration of Life service will follow at 2 p.m., officiated by Pastor Scott McLucas.

Following the service, family and friends are invited to continue celebrating Roy's life and sharing memories at a reception at Wheatland Lutheran Church, 1560 Wheatland Road, Buchanan.

Martin, Glenn Lewis

Glenn Lewis Martin, 74, passed away on October 8, 2026.



Born on July 23, 1952, Glenn lived a life centered on devotion to his family, pride in his work, and the values he carried throughout the years. Although he spent the last year in Manassas, he spent the majority of his life where he was born and raised – in Fincastle. He was especially proud of his career and of his connection to the IBEW (Local 26), which reflected the strong work ethic, skill, and commitment that meant so much to him. That pride remained an important part of who he was and how he was known by those who loved him. He also served in the United States Navy.

Above all, Glenn will be remembered as a husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and brother. He shared 49 years of marriage with his beloved wife, Deborah, a lasting partnership built over five decades of life together.

He is survived by his son, Joshua, and his wife, Lauren, and by their children, Milo, Lehua, and KJ. He is also survived by his daughter, Dawn, and her husband, Wayne. Glenn also leaves behind his oldest granddaughter Heather and her husband, Alex, along with his great-granddaughter, Lyla. His cat "Kitty" also held a special place in his heart for the last 18 years. His family was a lasting source of pride and joy in his life, and he treasured the generations that followed him.

Glenn is also survived by his brothers, Weldon (Susan), Hugh (Dawn), and Joe (Lori), and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his father, Hubert; his mother, Marjorie; and his brother, Jay.

Glenn's life will be remembered with love, gratitude, and respect by all who knew him. His legacy lives on in the family he cherished, in the work he took pride in, and in the many memories shared by those closest to him.

A private service with the family will be held at a later date.

Newcomb, Deanna Kay

Deanna Kay Newcomb, 60, of Daleville, earned her wings on September 23, 2026.



Deanna was the beloved daughter of Cleatus "Honey" Newcomb and Joyce Boblett Newcomb. She was preceded in death by her grandparents, Cledius T. and Gladys A. Newcomb and Dennis I. and Kathleen Wirt Boblett.

She is survived by her aunts and uncles, Norma Broughman; Brenda Elliott; Carroll Boblett; Donna Hobbs (Paul); Steve Boblett (Carolyn); and Donald "Shorty" Boblett. She is also survived by her many cousins whom she loved dearly; her chosen family and friends all over the world, including her special friends Bird, Stephanie, Alvaro, and Nick; and her best friend and fur baby, Nooga.

From an early age, Deanna forged her own path in the world. Born and raised in Buchanan, she graduated from James River High School in 1984, where she played both softball and basketball. After graduation, she joined the United States Air Force, where she served as a radio operator on an EC-135 and flew with Strategic Air Command's Operation Looking Glass.

A decorated veteran, Deanna held certificates of technical training from Sheppard Air Force Base in Texas and Keesler Air Force Base in Mississippi, and she completed Combat Survival Training at Fairchild Air Force Base in Washington.

After she took flight with the Air Force, she spread her wings and explored the world, finding her favorite corner of it in Galway, Ireland. Deanna returned to Galway often to visit dear friends and had hoped to retire there.

While Deanna loved to travel, she was also deeply rooted in her Virginia heritage. When she returned home, she built an extensive, close-knit community and could often be found cooking, hosting, and entertaining friends and neighbors. She was an amazing cook, and a seat at her table was a gift to anyone lucky enough to have one.

Deanna was feisty, loyal, and uncompromising in every aspect of her life. She was passionate about politics, justice, and equality for all people, and she never backed down from standing up for what she believed in. Her quick wit and sharp sense of humor could light up any room. She was also a huge UVA fan who cheered for the Hoos through every season.

Visitation was held from 6-8 p.m. on Friday, October 16, 2026, with a memorial service at 1 p.m. on Saturday, October 17, 2026. All services were held at Botetourt Funeral Home, Buchanan, with Pastor Donna Hopkins Britt officiating.

While flowers are beautiful, the family kindly requests that donations be made in Deanna's name to the SPCA of your choice or to the Buchanan Presbyterian Church Food Pantry, P.O. Box 517, Buchanan, sss24066.

Fly high, Galway Girl. We love and miss you.

Church News from page 5

Special services at Lapsleys Run Baptist

Lapsleys Run Baptist Church will celebrate the annual Harvest Homecoming and the 158th church anniversary on Sunday, Nov. 8, beginning at 11 a.m. Brother Edgar Freeman will be the speaker for the morning service. Dinner will be served after the morning service.

The 158th church anniversary service will begin at 2 p.m. The guest speaker will be Bishop Mark Nichols of Lovely Zion Baptist Church in Bedford.

Everyone is welcome to these and all services at Lapsleys Run Baptist Church, 608 Zion Hill Road, Fincastle. Regular services are held on the second and fourth Sundays of each month at 11 a.m.

Eagle Rock Clothes Closet dates

The Eagle Rock Community Clothes Closet on Church Street in Eagle Rock will be open on Saturdays, Nov. 7 and 11, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, and Wednesday, Nov. 11, from 5-6:30 p.m. The Clothes Closet offers free clothes, shoes, household items and toys to all patrons. Bags are provided. Please honor the for-bag limit per household so everyone has the opportunity to find what they need.

Cloverdale Church of the Brethren Thrift Store

Get in the Christmas Spirit at the Thrift Store. It has trees, decorations, ornaments, and more. The outerwear sale has sweaters for $1.50 and jackets, $2. Donations are welcome and appreciated. The store is open Saturdays, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Worthen from page 4

understood that behind every name, document and grave marker was a story worth sharing. Through her research, teaching and willingness to help anyone who approached her with a question, she helped countless people discover connections to the families and places that shaped their lives.

Her work will continue to guide researchers and preserve the stories of Botetourt County for generations to come. Her dedication to the community's shared history leaves a lasting legacy, and she will be deeply missed.

~ Fincastle Herald staff report



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Legals - Montgomery County

ABC NOTICE

Siya Shiv Inc., trading as Highland Mart, 125 E. Main Street, Radford, VA 24141

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

Hardikkumar Patel
Owner

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

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 747 UNION VALLEY ROAD, RINER, VA 24149.

In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated February 5, 2007, in the original principal amount of $115,710.00 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Montgomery County, Virginia as Instrument No. 07001559. The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for the City of Radford, 619 Second St., W., Radford, VA, or any such temporary alternative Circuit Court location designated by the Judges of the Circuit Court, on December 22, 2026, at 11:15 AM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: ALL THAT CERTAIN PARCEL CONTAINING 2.1685 ACRES, AS SHOWN ON THE PLAT SHOWING SURVEY PREPARED BY MATHEW AND HENEGAR, PLC, DATED 10/13/2003, ENTITLED, "BOUNDARY LINE ADJUSTMENT ON THE PROPERTY OF PHYLLIS M. PALMER AND RICHARD S. & ALICE L. ALLEY", AND DESIGNATED AS JOB NO. 108696, A COPY OF WHICH PLAT IS OF RECORD IN THE CLERK`S OFFICE OF THE CIRCUITCOURT OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VIRGINIA, AS INSTRUMENT NO.04004601, IN PLATBOOK 24, PAGE 243. TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit of ten percent (10%) of the sale price or ten percent (10%) of the original principal balance of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, in the form of cash or certified funds payable to the Substitute Trustee must be present at the time of the sale. The balance of the purchase price will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Purchaser's deposit may be forfeited to Trustee. Time is of the essence. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser may, if provided by the terms of the Trustee's Memorandum of Foreclosure Sale, be entitled to a $50 cancellation fee from the Substitute Trustee, but shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. A form copy of the Trustee's memorandum of foreclosure sale and contract to purchase real property is available for viewing at www.aldridgepite.com. Additional terms, if any, to be announced at the sale and the Purchaser may be given the option to execute the contract of sale electronically. This is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. The sale is subject to seller confirmation. Substitute Trustee: Equity Trustees, LLC, 8100 Three Chopt Road, Suite 240, Richmond, VA 23229. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Virginia Pre-Sale Department of counsel for Equity Trustees, LLC at 301-961-6555, website: www.aldridgepite.com. 1113-991B.

Legals - Montgomery County

Order of Publication

Commonwealth of Virginia
VA Code§§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316,-317,20-104
Case No.CL26001794-00
MONTGOMERY COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT, 55 EAST MAIN STREET, SUITE 1, CHRISTIASNBURG, VA 24073
CARMEL JACINTA CULLOP
v.
AARON CHANCE LYALL

The object of this suit is to: ANNULMENT
It is ORDERED that AARON CHANCE LYALL appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before NOVEMBER 20, 2026 @ 9:00 AM.
Entered September 17, 2026
Honorable
K. Mike Fleenor, Jr.
Judge

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 3322 MT ZION ROAD A/R/T/A 3306 MT ZION ROAD, BLACKSBURG, VA 24060.

In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated September 5, 2003, in the original principal amount of $62,000.00 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Montgomery County, Virginia as Instrument No. 03016736. The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for the City of Radford, 619 Second St., W., Radford, VA, or any such temporary alternative Circuit Court location designated by the Judges of the Circuit Court, on December 11, 2026, at 12:00 PM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: ALL THAT CERTAIN PROPERTY SITUATED IN CITY OF BLACKSBURG IN THE COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY AND STATE OF VIRGINIAAND BEING DESCRIBED IN A DEED DATED 07/05/1977 AND RECORDED 08/25/1977 IN BOOK 388, PAGE 226 AMONG THE LAND RECORDS OF THE COUNTY AND STATE SETFORTH ABOVE. TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit of ten percent (10%) of the sale price or ten percent (10%) of the original principal balance of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, in the form of cash or certified funds payable to the Substitute Trustee must be present at the time of the sale. The balance of the purchase price will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Purchaser's deposit may be forfeited to Trustee. Time is of the essence. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser may, if provided by the terms of the Trustee's Memorandum of Foreclosure Sale, be entitled to a $50 cancellation fee from the Substitute Trustee, but shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. A form copy of the Trustee's memorandum of foreclosure sale and contract to purchase real property is available for viewing at www.aldridgepite.com. Additional terms, if any, to be announced at the sale and the Purchaser may be given the option to execute the contract of sale electronically. This is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. The sale is subject to seller confirmation. Substitute Trustee: Equity Trustees, LLC, 8100 Three Chopt Road, Suite 240, Richmond, VA 23229.
If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Virginia Pre-Sale Department of counsel for Equity Trustees, LLC at 301-961-6555, website: www.aldridgepite.com. 1113-1075B.

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Legals - City of Salem

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given to all interested persons that the Council of the City of Salem, at its regular meeting on Monday, November 9, 2026, at 6:30 p.m., in Council Chambers, City Hall, 114. N. Broad Street, in the City of Salem, Virginia, will hold a public hearing, pursuant to Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia, as amended, to consider the following requests relative to the CODE OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA:

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

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

Order of Publication

Commonwealth of Virginia
VA Code§§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316, -317,20-104
Case No.CL26-620
VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF ROANOKE
COUNTY OF ROANOKE, VIRGINIA, Complainant,
vs.
CAROLYN S. SPANGLER, *et al*, Respondents.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

TO: THE RESPONDENTS: The object of this suit is to enforce the lien for taxes assessed by the County of Roanoke, Virginia against certain real property designated as Tax Map Parcel No. 072.02-02-24.00-0000.
An affidavit having been made and filed that diligence has been used without effect to ascertain the location of Carolyn Spangler and that there are or may be persons with an interest in the subject property, including heirs, devisees, and successors in title of Carolyn S. Spangler, who may be deceased, whose names and addresses are unknown, it is hereby ORDERED that each of the parties appear on or before the December 15, 2026, and do whatever is necessary to protect their interests in said land.
It is further ORDERED, pursuant to Va. Code Ann §8.01-321, that this Order of Publication be published once a week for four successive weeks in the *Salem Times Register*, a newspaper of general circulation in the County of Roanoke, and that a copy be posted at the front door of the Courthouse in County of Roanoke, Virginia.
Entered this 13th day of October, 2026.
Honorable
James R. Swanson
Judge
I ASK FOR THIS:
Amy H. Geddes, Esquire
VSB #38650
OPN Law
3140 Chaparral Drive, Suite 200-C
Roanoke, VA 24018
Phone: (540)725-8181
Fax: (540) 772-0126
Email: ageddes@opnlaw.com
Counsel for Complainant

Legals - Botetourt County

Town of Fincastle Concrete Pad – RFP October 8, 2026

The Town of Fincastle is soliciting proposals until Noon Wednesday October 28, 2026, for the installation of a concrete pad at the main town well site located at 381 S. Church Street for the installation of a trailer-mounted generator. A metal Carport type structure will also be mounted on this pad. This pad will be located to the right or north side of the pump house. Scope of work

Legals - Botetourt County

Furnish all necessary materials and install a concrete pad. Vender is to follow all best practice guidelines including vapor barrier, reinforcement and gravel base.
Selected venders are responsible for clean-up of their own debris after completion of the work.
The generator is permanently mounted on a single axle trailer with rubber tires. Trailer weight is approximately 5k lbs.
Pad will be 12 feet wide x 20 feet long.
Minimum Requirements
Concrete pad shall be a minimum of 4" thick using a 4,000psi fiber blended mix.
The vender is responsible to recommend if any additional reinforcement is needed.
5 feet from each end of the pad the vender shall supply a 4" in diameter anchor loop made of at least ¾" steel. These anchor loops shall be part of the pour to ensure their security.
Additional Considerations
Time is of the essence as the generator is on order and it's wished to be installed before winter.
Vendors should indicate how soon they can begin after receiving notice to proceed and how long installation will take.

Additional Information
For questions about the project or to arrange for a site visit contact Council Member Clay Fitzgerald @ 540.588.1574
Proposals / Quotations can be dropped in person at the town office or emailed to the Town Manager at townmanager@townoffincastle.org Town Pays on net 30.

Legals - Botetourt County

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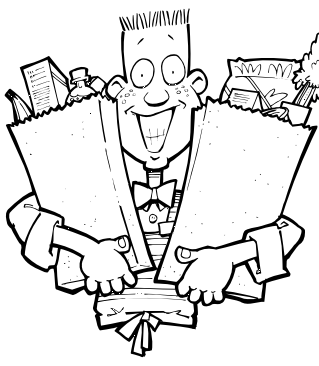
SERVICES

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

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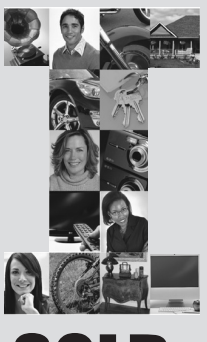


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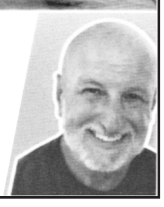

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Supervisors approve telecommunications setback amendment, 911 tower

The Botetourt County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved changes to the county's telecommunications tower setback regulations last week, rejecting the Planning Commission's unanimous recommendation that the amendment be denied.

The supervisors also approved the applications needed to build a new telecommunications tower at 40 East Park Circle in Roanoke, near the intersection of Cloverdale Road and East Park Drive. The tower will support the county's 911 communications system.

On Oct. 13, the Planning Commission voted 5-0 to recommend denial of an amendment to Chapter 25, Article IV, Division 1, Section 25-441 of the county code, which governs telecommunications facilities. Commissioners expressed concern about changing the county's regulations to accommodate a particular tower. The Board of Supervisors voted 5-0 to approve the amendment as proposed, after authorizing it to move forward at its Sept. 22 meeting.

Under the existing regulations, telecommunications towers generally must be set back from property boundaries by a distance equal to their height and from off-site residences by twice their height, subject to provisions in the ordinance. For the proposed 199-foot tower, those standard setbacks would be 199 feet from property boundaries and 398 feet from off-site residential structures unless requirements for reduced setbacks are met.

The amendment establishes a process through which the zoning administrator may approve reduced setbacks based on a failure-mode and fall-zone analysis prepared by a Virginia-licensed professional engineer. The analysis would be submitted at the building permit stage, and reduced setbacks would be subject to specified safeguards.

The supervisors also unanimously approved a comprehensive plan amendment updating Map 9.6, "Telecommunication Towers in Botetourt County," to show the proposed tower location. The Planning Commission had recommended approval of the map amendment in a 5-0 vote.

Diamond Communications requested a special exception permit and commission permit to construct the tower on a 6.835-acre parcel identified as tax map 108(13)9B. The Planning Commission unanimously recommended approval of both permits, with a change to the special exception recommendation shortening the period of equipment inactivity that would trigger removal from 24 months to 12 months.



FILE GRAPHIC

The Board of Supervisors' summary states that the tower applications were approved as proposed but does not specify whether the board adopted the Planning Commission's recommended 12-month inactivity period or detail any conditions attached to the final approval.

According to information previously released by the county, the 199-foot tower is intended to connect northern and southern regional radio networks, link seven tower sites and support the county's new 911 dispatch center. Construction is expected to be completed in spring 2027, with testing planned for summer 2027, the county has said.

~ Fincastle Herald staff report

Improvements from page 2

Factory in Roanoke made and installed the signs Sept. 22. A smaller sign for the Town Office is expected to arrive soon.

Work at Big Spring Park is nearing completion. McFadyen reported that work on the park itself is almost finished, while trail improvements continue. The next phase includes removing invasive plants along the trail, with the Forest Service scheduled to assist beginning Oct. 26.

Council members also reviewed the town's finances. Mayor Mary Bess Smith noted that expenses had exceeded revenues over the previous six months, citing generator costs and needed repairs around town.

"I'm not used to seeing our expenses exceed our revenues so much each time," Smith said. She added that the expenditures addressed needed work and expressed hope that spending would return to a more normal pattern.

The monthly bills included payments for work around the park and a partial payment to Fidelity Power Systems for generator expenses. Council approved the monthly bills and treasurer's reports.

The town's Planning Commission meeting, originally scheduled for Oct. 2, was postponed until Oct. 29 to allow additional time to review responses to a survey for the town's comprehensive plan update.

Approximately 50 responses had been received by the time of the council meeting. Residents who have not completed the survey may contact the Town Office to obtain a copy. Completed surveys can be returned to the Town Office or the library.

Upcoming events include the First Bank Fall Run on Oct. 17, with road closures planned from 9 to 10:30 a.m.; Open Studios on Oct. 17-18; Halloween activities on Oct. 31; and the Christmas Parade and Tinsel Trail kickoff on Dec. 5.

The next Town Council meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. Nov. 10 in the Fincastle Volunteer Fire Department meeting room.

Fall Run from page 1



A group begins the turn at Church and Main Streets.


Hydration stations provided water for participants.



The Fincastle branch of First Bank greets runners and walkers during last Saturday's event.



The First Bank Fall Run is most certainly not limited to only two-legged participants.

the 10K in 45:13.7. Darin De Lannoy, 32, of Bonaire finished second in 45:37.2, while Hannah Laiti, 38, of Fincastle placed third overall in 46:42.8.

Maren Pauley, 15, of Troutville was the first female finisher in the 5K, placing 12th overall in 21:53.8. Jasmine Montgomery, 14, of Buchanan finished second among female runners in 22:47.9, and J. Immel, 11, of Buchanan was third in 23:13.9.

Laiti, 38, of Roanoke led the female finishers in the 10K. I. Williams, 12, of Daleville finished second among women in 50:42.8, followed by Michelle Gentry, 28, of Troutville in 52:18.3.

The oldest finishers listed in the results were Jerry Wright, 76, who completed the 5K in 41:21.7, and Mary Rinker, 74, who finished in 1:09:44.7. In the 10K, Anne Kohinke, 73, of Salem finished in 1:18:24.3, while David Corman, 70, of Blue Ridge completed the race in 1:26:48.1.

Forty years after the Bank of Fincastle-sponsored race began in 1987, the Fall Run continues to draw participants of different ages and abilities to Fincastle each October.

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Stockyard Report

Monday's sale at the Roanoke-Hollins Stockyard:

233 Head

Bred Heifers
$3450.00- 3975.00

Graded Steers
400-499 $398.00-437.00
500-599 $241.00-437.00
600-699 $283.00-345.00

Graded Bulls
400-499 $430.00
500-599 $367.00
600-699 $327.00

Graded Heifers
300-399 $368.00
400-499 $358.00
500-599 $340.00
600-699 $290.00

Kill Cows $ 69.00-135.00

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

P	A	C	A			A	S	K	I	N	G	
L	O	A	N			G	I	D	D	I	N	E	S	S
A	R	M	Y			E	D			D	U	B	A	I
S	T	E	W	A	R	D	E	S	S	E	S		M	A
M	A	R	A	C	A		M	A	C	S		D	I	M
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PHOTO BY DAPHNE DAVIDSON
Mark Voight finished second in the 5K with a time of 17:48.2.



PHOTOS BY MATT DE SIMONE
Nolan Linthicum, who finished third in the 5K, makes his way down Church Street.

Google from page 1

The investment is part of Google's $15 million Virginia Energy Impact Fund, announced in June to support energy affordability and community resilience across the state. Google's Oct. 5 announcement detailed $10 million of that commitment, including $9.5 million for the Virginia Community Action Partnership (VACAP) and $500,000 for FLIPP Inc.

Of that investment, approximately $1.5 million is allocated for projects and direct assistance within the county, according to Google and Botetourt County officials. The broader figure also includes workforce development and other program costs.

TAP is expected to lead implementation of the initiative locally, working with VACAP to connect eligible households with home repairs and energy-efficiency improvements. Google said the program will prioritize low- and moderate-income families and households closest to its data centers.

"We've been working with TAP and VACAP to understand our neighbors' greatest needs in Botetourt," a Google spokesperson said. "We know many households live in older homes with inadequate insulation, inefficient heating and cooling, leaky roofs, moisture problems, and old electrical systems. These factors not only increase utility expenses but can also create health and safety concerns."

The initiative also includes $260,000 for workforce development, with the goal of preparing 40 people for careers in construction, heating and air conditioning, electrical work, weatherization and other skilled trades.

Google said the investment will help expand the workforce needed to complete weatherization and energy-efficiency improvements while strengthening existing local programs.

Botetourt County Administrator Gary Larrowe participated in discussions with Google and VACAP regarding implementation of the initiative before the announcement, according to the county.

"This investment will be a tremendous benefit to many residents across Botetourt County," Larrowe said. "Programs that help families improve the safety, efficiency and affordability of their homes can make a meaningful difference in their quality of life. We appreciate Google, VACAP and TAP for partnering to bring these resources to our community and helping residents reduce costs while improving their homes."

The county said specific details regarding the number of households that may benefit had not yet been provided to officials.

Residents interested in weatherization assistance or workforce training can visit TAP's Home Weatherization program website at tapintohope.org/program/weatherization-program for information about available resources and how to access them.

The initiative is expected to run for one year, with VACAP reporting on program progress and outcomes.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT – QUESTION 2

To Be Voted On at the November 3, 2026, Election

BALLOT QUESTION

Should the Constitution of Virginia be amended to (i) remove the ban on same-sex marriage; (ii) affirm that two adults may marry regardless of sex, gender, or race; and (iii) require all legally valid marriages to be treated equally under the law?

EXPLANATION FOR VOTERS
QUESTION 2

Present Law

Marriages, civil unions, and other legal relationships with the same rights, benefits, and effects of marriage between persons of the same sex or gender are prohibited under Virginia's Constitution. This prohibition is no longer enforceable as a result of the United States Supreme Court decision in *Obergefell v. Hodges* in 2015, but the prohibition on marriages between persons of the same sex or gender remains in the state's Constitution. If the Supreme Court were to overturn its previous decision, that prohibition would be enforceable again.

Proposed Amendment

The proposed amendment removes the prohibition on marriages between persons of the same sex or gender from the Virginia Constitution's Bill of Rights. It is replaced with the fundamental right to marry, requiring the state to recognize and treat equally under the law any lawful marriage between two adult persons, regardless of the sex, gender, or race of either person. The proposed amendment prohibits the state from denying a marriage license to two adult persons because of their sex, gender, or race.

FULL TEXT OF AMENDMENT

[Proposed new language is underlined. Deleted old language is ~~stricken~~.]

ARTICLE I

BILL OF RIGHTS

Section 15-A. Marriage.

That ~~only a union between one man and one woman may be a marriage valid in or recognized by this Commonwealth and its political subdivisions~~ marriage is one of the vital personal rights essential to the orderly pursuit of happiness.

This Commonwealth and its political subdivisions shall not ~~create or recognize a legal status for relationships of unmarried individuals that intends to approximate the design, qualities, significance, or effects of marriage~~ deny the issuance of a marriage license to two adult persons seeking a lawful marriage on the basis of the sex, gender, or race of such persons. ~~Nor shall this Commonwealth or its political subdivisions create or recognize another union, partnership, or other legal status to which is assigned the rights, benefits, obligations, qualities, or effects of marriage~~ This Commonwealth and its political subdivisions shall recognize any lawful marriage between two adult persons and treat such marriages equally under the law, regardless of the sex, gender, or race of such persons.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT – QUESTION 1

To Be Voted On at the November 3, 2026, Election

BALLOT QUESTION

Should the Constitution of Virginia be amended to (i) protect the freedom to make personal decisions about prenatal care, childbirth, postpartum care, birth control, abortion, miscarriage management, and fertility care; (ii) protect doctors, nurses, and patients from being punished for these decisions; and (iii) allow for restrictions on access to abortion during the third trimester of pregnancy except when the patient's health is at risk or the pregnancy cannot survive?

EXPLANATION FOR VOTERS
QUESTION 1

Present Law

Currently, the Virginia Constitution does not explicitly provide to its citizens a right to reproductive freedom nor does it explicitly protect or prohibit certain kinds of health care procedures or decisions.

Proposed Amendment

The proposed amendment would add to the Virginia Constitution's Bill of Rights the fundamental right to make and carry out decisions about a person's own reproductive care with only certain, specific exceptions. The proposed amendment specifically allows the state government to pass laws to regulate abortion care in the third trimester of pregnancy, but requires any such law to allow for abortion care when it is medically needed to protect the life and health of the pregnant person or because the fetus is not viable.

FULL TEXT OF AMENDMENT

[Proposed new language is underlined. Deleted old language is ~~stricken~~.]

ARTICLE I

BILL OF RIGHTS

Section 11-A. Fundamental right to reproductive freedom.

That every individual has the fundamental right to reproductive freedom, including the ability to make and carry out decisions relating to one's own prenatal care, childbirth, postpartum care, contraception, abortion care, miscarriage management, and fertility care.

An individual's right to reproductive freedom shall not be, directly or indirectly, denied, burdened, or infringed upon unless justified by a compelling state interest achieved by the least restrictive means.

Notwithstanding the above, the Commonwealth may regulate the provision of abortion care in the third trimester, provided that in no circumstance shall the Commonwealth prohibit an abortion (i) that in the professional judgment of a physician is medically indicated to protect the life or physical or mental health of the pregnant individual or (ii) when in the professional judgment of a physician the fetus is not viable.

The Commonwealth shall not discriminate in the protection or enforcement of this fundamental right.

The Commonwealth shall not penalize, prosecute, or otherwise take adverse action against an individual based on such individual's own exercise of this fundamental right or such individual's own actual, potential, perceived, or alleged pregnancy outcomes, including miscarriage, stillbirth, or abortion. The Commonwealth shall not penalize, prosecute, or otherwise take adverse action against any individual for aiding or assisting another individual in exercising such other individual's right to reproductive freedom with such other individual's voluntary consent.

For the purposes of this section, a state interest is compelling only if it is for the limited purpose of maintaining or improving the health of an individual seeking care, consistent with accepted clinical standards of care and evidence-based medicine and does not infringe on that individual's autonomous decision making.

This section shall be self-executing. Any provision of this section held invalid shall be severable from the remaining portions of the section.

www.FincastleHerald.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT – QUESTION 3

To Be Voted On at the November 3, 2026, Election

BALLOT QUESTION

Should the Constitution of Virginia be amended (i) to provide for the fundamental right to vote in the Commonwealth, (ii) to revise the qualifications of voters so that a person convicted of a felony is not entitled to vote during his period of incarceration but is automatically invested with the right to vote upon release from incarceration, and (iii) to update the existing prohibition on voting by persons found to be mentally incompetent to instead apply to persons who have been found to lack the capacity to understand the act of voting?

EXPLANATION FOR VOTERS
QUESTION 3

Present Law

Virginia's Constitution currently provides that a person who is convicted of any felony loses the right to vote for the rest of their life unless the Governor of Virginia takes administrative action to restore that specific person's right to vote. This is the only means of getting back the right to vote after a felony conviction.

The current constitutional provision also imposes a broad restriction, while using outdated terminology, on voting by persons found to be incapacitated. A person who is determined by a court to be incapacitated, regardless of the kind of incapacity, loses the right to vote, and only a court can restore the person's right to vote later.

Proposed Amendment

The proposed amendment enshrines in the Constitution the fundamental right of all qualified persons in the Commonwealth to vote. Two exceptions to this right are for persons who are serving a sentence of incarceration for a felony conviction and persons who are determined by a court to not understand the act of voting. Such right cannot otherwise be restricted by laws.

Under the proposed amendment, a person who is convicted of a felony loses the right to vote during their period of incarceration. Once released from incarceration, the person gets back the right to vote without needing to apply for restoration by the Governor.

The proposed amendment also requires a specific finding by a court that a person does not understand the act of voting in order for that person's right to vote to be taken away.

With the right to vote, a person also has the right to be a juror, the right to be elected to an office, and the right to be a notary public.

FULL TEXT OF AMENDMENT

[Proposed new language is underlined. Deleted old language is ~~stricken~~.]

ARTICLE II.

FRANCHISE AND OFFICERS.

Section 1. Qualifications of voters.

(a) In elections by the people, the qualifications of voters shall be as follows: Each voter shall be a citizen of the United States, shall be eighteen years of age, shall fulfill the residence requirements set forth in ~~this section~~ subsection (b), and shall be registered to vote pursuant to this article. Every person who meets these qualifications shall have the fundamental right to vote in the Commonwealth, and such right shall not be abridged by law, except that:

(1) No person who has been convicted of a felony shall be ~~qualified~~ entitled to vote ~~unless his civil rights have been restored by the Governor or other appropriate authority.~~ during any period of incarceration for such felony conviction, but every such person, upon release from incarceration for that felony conviction and without further action required of him, shall be invested with all political rights, including the right to vote; and

~~As prescribed by law, no~~ (2) No person who has been adjudicated ~~to be mentally incompetent~~ by a court of competent jurisdiction to lack the capacity to understand the act of voting shall be ~~qualified~~ entitled to vote during such period of incapacity until his ~~competency~~ capacity has been reestablished as prescribed by law.

(b) The residence requirements shall be that each voter shall be a resident of the Commonwealth and of the precinct where he votes. Residence, for all purposes of qualification to vote, requires both domicile and a place of abode. The General Assembly may provide for persons who are employed overseas, and their spouses and dependents residing with them, and who are qualified to vote except for relinquishing their place of abode in the Commonwealth while overseas, to vote in the Commonwealth subject to conditions and time limits defined by law. The General Assembly may provide for persons who are qualified to vote except for having moved their residence from one precinct to another within the Commonwealth to continue to vote in a former precinct subject to conditions and time limits defined by law. The General Assembly may also provide, in elections for President and Vice President of the United States, alternatives to registration for new residents of the Commonwealth.

(c) Any person who will be qualified with respect to age to vote at the next general election shall be permitted to register in advance and also to vote in any intervening primary or special election.

DAR from page 2

are preserved in county records. A claim for service or supplies was certified by the Botetourt County court on October 10, 1782. His military and civil contributions place him among the local patriots who supported the struggle for American independence.

Remarkably, Michael Cloyd's 18th century log home also survived. Rediscovered beneath later siding and additions in 1995, the original structure was saved from demolition, dismantled, moved approximately two and a half miles north, and restored. The Michael Cloyd House still stands today on Roanoke Road in Botetourt County, providing a tangible connection to a Revolutionary patriot.

Michael Cloyd's story reminds us that American independence depended not only upon famous generals and battles, but upon local patriots who served their country and communities in many different ways.

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

~ Botetourt Chapter DAR

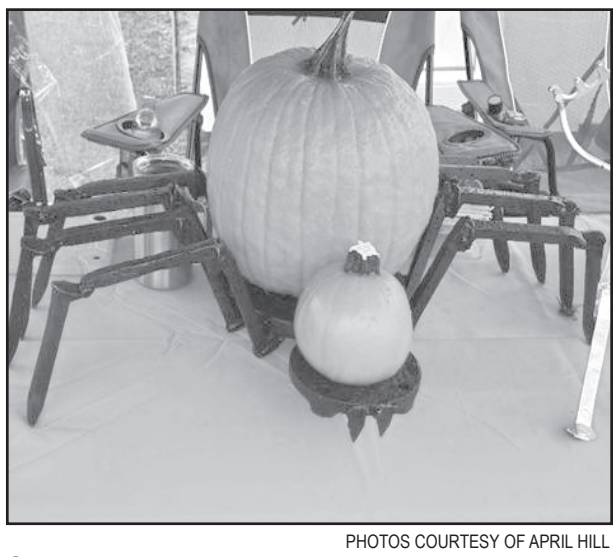
Hill from page 1



Frye practices his welding skills.



Here, Frye processes tomatoes for homemade soup.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF APRIL HILL

One of Frye's creations just in time for the fall season

appear in a Stan Lee comic book and win other prizes.

As of Tuesday, Frye was in fourth place. Voting ends Oct. 22 at 10 p.m. To vote, visit thesuperkid.org/2026/frye-f14e.

For April, the competition has become about more than the potential prizes. It's been an opportunity to watch her son discover what he can accomplish.

"When I first entered him, I thought maybe he would get a certificate or a little recognition out of it," she said. "I thought that alone would be pretty exciting for him. I never imagined it would become this big."

As the competition progressed, Frye realized people were voting for him. He responded by making flyers and delivering them to all eight houses on his road. He also shared them with his teachers and went door to door asking neighbors to vote.

But Frye's understanding of the prize remains refreshingly simple: a comic book about him welding, inventing and helping others.

"To him, that alone would be the coolest prize in the world," April said.

That enthusiasm reflects an interest in building that began long before the competition. April said Frye has always preferred taking things apart, experimenting and figuring out how they work. Given the choice between a toy and a tool, she said, he would pick the tool.

"He doesn't just want to know that something works," she said. "He wants to know why it works and whether he can build it himself."

His curiosity eventually led him to welding after he watched United Association videos on YouTube and the television show "Forged in Fire." His father, Michael Hill, helped him learn the basics and turn his ideas into projects.

Frye comes up with the designs and identifies the metal he needs. Michael handles much of the cutting, while Frye builds and April removes rust and buys paint.

What the family initially thought might be a passing phase has become an almost nightly pursuit.

"He may be the inventor in the family, but he has somehow managed to make all of us part of his workshop," April said.

One of Frye's most meaningful projects was a star he made for his teacher, helping him see how his skills could be used to create something for someone else.

Another project is considerably larger: a spider weighing more than 50 pounds, assembled from discarded materials including pipe, spikes and part of a mole trap.

The pieces weren't intended to become a spider. Frye saw something different in them.

"He can look at an old piece of rusty metal and see something none of us see yet," April said. "He brings it to us and says, 'That looks like ...' and suddenly we all have jobs to do."

The family's superhero connection began with Frye's former foster brother, Isaiah, who loved the Hulk. The boys came into the Hill family's home as infants, and Frye has always considered Isaiah his brother.

When Frye was 2, he chose an Iron Man Halloween costume because Isaiah planned to dress as the Hulk. The boys soon began drawing their own comic books and casting themselves as the superheroes.

Iron Man remains Frye's favorite because he builds his own abilities rather than relying on supernatural powers.

"He loves that Iron Man builds his own superpower," April said. "He invents, uses tools, solves problems, and relies on his mind to create things that other people might never imagine."

Frye says he wants to restore a 1930s Plymouth with a tree growing through it and drive it to school. He also plans to raise the Titanic and sail it around the world.

Practicality can wait, April said. At 7, Frye still believes that even the most broken or forgotten things can be fixed with the right tools and enough imagination.

"There is something incredibly special about being 7 and still believing that if something is broken, forgotten, rusted, or even sitting at the bottom of the ocean, maybe you just need the right tools and a big enough imagination to fix it."

When asked what his superpower is, Frye has a simple answer.

"My brain."

April sees that as one of his greatest strengths: his ability to imagine what something could become rather than accept what it is.

"Where someone else sees scrap metal, he sees what it could become," she said. "Where someone sees something broken, he wonders how he could fix it. And when someone says an idea is impossible, his first thought is usually how he could make it possible."

That imagination is matched by a desire to help others. When the family recently ran out of welding wire, April asked Frye what he wanted to do instead. Rather than play video games or watch television, he chose to load firewood onto his tractor and deliver it to a neighbor.

He hauled two trailer loads and stacked the wood in the neighbor's woodshed.

"He wants to build things. He wants to work. He wants to figure out how things work," April said. "But more than anything, he seems happiest when what he is doing helps someone else or makes someone happy."

For now, Frye is still 7, still welding and still dreaming about restoring a car with a tree growing through it and raising the Titanic. His imagination may take him anywhere, but he is already putting his talents to use right where he lives.

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS
BOTETOURT COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

The Botetourt County Board of Supervisors will hold public hearings on Tuesday, October 27, 2026, at the times shown below or as soon thereafter as the agenda permits, in Room 212 of the Botetourt County Administration Building, 57 South Center Drive, Daleville, Virginia. The public hearings are to consider and receive comment on the requests listed below. Information may be viewed at County Administration Office at 57 South Center Drive, Daleville from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.

2:30 pm Public Hearing

Amsterdam District: Ordinance Vacating a Portion of a 50' Right-of-Way Adjacent to Tugel Dr. (Route 1055) - James Alan Powers seeks to vacate a portion of an unimproved right of way as shown upon a plat prepared by Pierson Engineering and Surveying, Inc., dated August 21, 2026 to allow for property consolidation and driveway improvements. The portion of right of way requested to be vacated measures approximately 50 feet in width by 150 feet in length, is located adjacent to Tugel Dr. (Route 1055) between Tax Map Parcels 87D(4)5 and 87D(4)6, and is no longer needed for public access. A copy of the proposed ordinance and associated plats/maps showing the right-of-way to be vacated are on file and available for public inspection.

6:00 pm Public Hearings

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.

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 July 28, 2026, meeting, authorized a text amendment to revise Ch 25 Art II Div 7 Sec 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.

Information regarding each request is available at the Botetourt County Administration Office, 57 S. Center Drive, Daleville, VA, and online at www.botetourtva.gov/agendacenter. Persons wishing to comment may attend the hearing, mail comments to the Botetourt County Administrator's Office, 57 South Center Drive, Daleville, VA 24083, email comments to cparker@botetourtva.gov, or submit comments through the online form on the County's website at www.botetourtva.gov.

Postal mail comments must be received by the Thursday preceding the hearing. Website and email comments are due 9:00 a.m. on the day of the hearing.

Gary Larrowe
County Administrator
Botetourt County

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
OF THE BOTETOURT COUNTY
BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS

The Botetourt County Board of Zoning Appeals will hold a public hearing Tuesday, November 10, 2026, at 9:00 AM in the Botetourt County Administration Center at 57 S. Center Drive, Daleville, Virginia to consider and receive comment on the following:

Amsterdam District: Gracey's Daleville LLC requests a variance in accordance with *Section 25-551.- Variance procedure of the Botetourt County Code*. Gracey's Daleville LLC seeks a 7-foot side and rear yard setback variance for the construction of a dumpster enclosure and a 10-foot front setback variance for the placement of a freestanding monument sign. This 0.602-acre lot is located within the Business (B-2) Use District, at 490 Roanoke Road, Daleville, and is identified on the Tax Map as 101-64.

Valley District: David and Dawn Ostrom request a variance in accordance with *Section 25-551.- Variance procedure of the Botetourt County Code*. David and Dawn Ostrom seek a 15 feet front yard setback variance for the construction of a residence. This 1.814-acre lot is located within the Rural Residential (RR) Use District and is identified on the Tax Map as 102(8)1.

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 by 12:00 noon, the day before the hearing.

Jonathan McCoy, AICP
Interim Director of Community Development

PUBLIC NOTICE

The next regular meeting of the Botetourt County Board of Supervisors will be held on Tuesday, October 27, 2026, beginning at 2:00 p.m. at the Botetourt County Administration Center at 57 South Center Drive in Daleville, Virginia.

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

PUBLIC NOTICE
TOWN OF TROUTVILLE
MACHINERY AND TOOL TAX

Pursuant to § 58.1-3507 of the Code of Virginia and § 23-350 of the Code of the Town of Troutville, the Town of Troutville will mail Machinery and Tool Tax forms for Tax Year 2026 on January 1, 2027.

There will be no change to the Machinery and Tool Tax rate or the method of valuation for Tax Year 2026.

Questions or comments regarding the Machinery and Tool Tax may be directed to:

Mayor, Town of Troutville
P.O. Box 276
Troutville, VA 24175

Botetourt girls edge Byrd in marathon volleyball match

The Lord Botetourt girls remained undefeated in Blue Ridge District volleyball matches with a five set win over William Byrd in Vinton last Thursday. LB improved to 18-6 overall with the win.

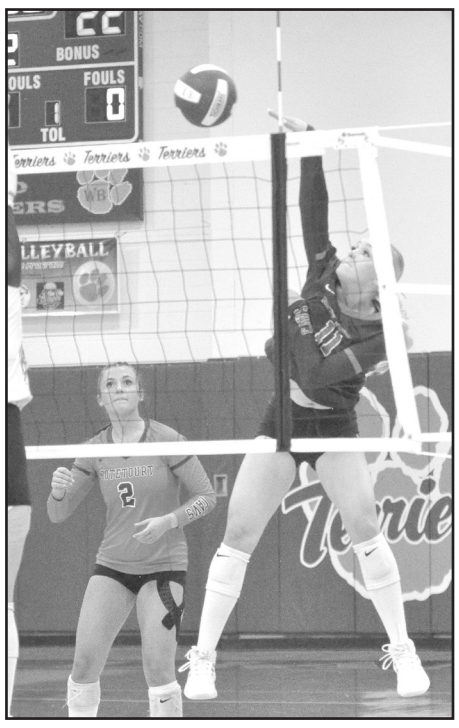
This one was a nail-biter. LB won the first set, 25-21, but Byrd bounced back to take the second, 25-18. Botetourt regained the lead with a 25-20 win in the third set and had the Terriers on the ropes in the fourth before letting them getting away, 28-26, to tie things up at two sets each. Botetourt then rallied for a win in the fifth set to 15 by a 15-13 score after Byrd had the lead late in the set.

"Everyone stepped up and did a great job for us," said LB coach Samantha Wilkins. "Our girls showed a lot of composure and grit in big moments to come away with the win, especially in the fifth set coming back from being down 11-13."

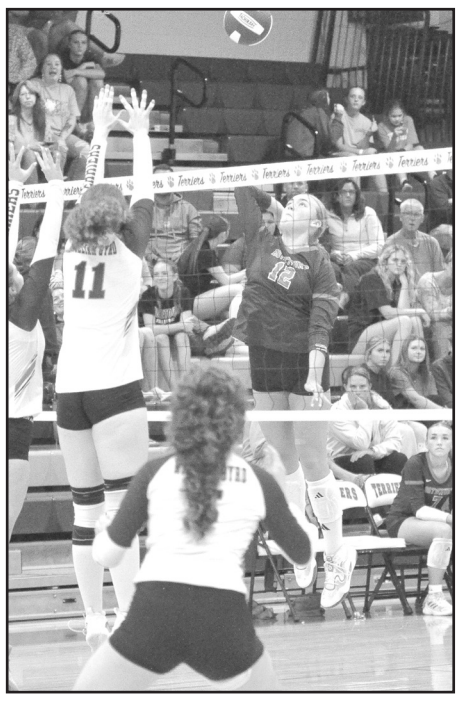
Sydney Bergsten filled up the box score with 18 kills, 11 aces, a dozen digs and three blocks for LB. Ava Stephens had 13 kills, four blocks and a pair of aces and Adyson Greathouse had six blocks.

"This was a hard-fought team win," said Wilkins. "It will put us in a great position for the upcoming district tournament."

Lord Botetourt also defeated Staunton River last week in four, 25-10, 25-16, 23-25 and 25-16. The Cavaliers were scheduled to play at home with William Fleming on Tuesday and they'll wrap up the regular season tonight at Northside.



Skyla Corkins makes a big hit for LB in last week's win over Byrd.



PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Sydney Bergsten goes up for a spike against the Terriers.

Botetourt runners compete in prestigious meet



PHOTO COURTESY LB CC

Anne Thorne of LB runs in last week's Virginia Showcase.

Last Saturday three athletes from Lord Botetourt High School competed at The Virginia Showcase in Mechanicsville, one of the most competitive meets in the nation.

"This meet attracts some of the fastest runners from Oregon to Florida," said LB coach Noel Preece.

Anne Thorne and Preston Vaughn represented LB in the "Showcase" races, the fastest of six divisions at the meet. Thorne, a senior, finished 255th with a time of 20:53. Vaughn, also a senior, was 71st in the men's race with a time of 16:03.

LB junior Archer Lee competed in the "Elite" race, the second fastest of the six divisions. Archer was 92nd with a time of 17:35.

"Conditions were brutal on Saturday," said Preece. "It was the coldest weekend that we have had this fall, and pouring rain. I'm proud of how our runners handled the mud."

A handful of LB runners who did not travel to Mechanicsville chose to compete in the local Fincastle Fall Run, including Mason Tuck, who took home the overall victory in the 10K.

LBHS cross country is now officially in the championship season, with the district, region, and state meets all right around the corner. Franklin County will host the Blue Ridge District meet at Waid Park today. Abingdon will host the Region 3D Championship meet at Dugar Hollow Park in Bristol on Wednesday, Oct. 28. The VHSL Class 3 State Meet will take place at Green Hill Park in Salem on Saturday, Nov. 7.

James River's cross country teams also are preparing for the regional championships, which the Knights will host at Greenfield on Wednesday, Oct. 28. The girls' race is scheduled for 3 p.m., followed by the boys' race at 3:45 p.m., according to the team's coach, who said both squads are looking strong heading into the meet.

Knights come off the bye with a game at Floyd County

James River football coach Jack Baker and his staff got a first-hand look at two of the Knights' last three regular season opponents last Friday. With the bye week, Baker headed to Hillsville to watch Carroll County host Floyd County.

River will play at Floyd this Friday, then wrap up the regular season with home games against Patrick County and Carroll County. Jack might want to put some extra time in on defense this week after watching Carroll beat Floyd in a shootout, 48-29.

"Carroll's scored a lot of points against everyone and Floyd did a good job of pushing the ball downfield," said Baker. "They (Floyd) hung in there pretty good."

The Knights will have had two weeks to prepare for Floyd and it's a big game. Floyd is second in the VHSL Region 2C rankings at 5-2 and River is fifth with a 3-4 record. In fact, the Three Rivers District has the top five teams in the region with Radford at the top followed by Floyd, Martinsville, Glenvar and James River. A win over Floyd could move the Knights into the top four, and the top four at the end of the regular season open the playoffs with a home game.

While Baker certainly used the bye to get ready for the final run, he also used it to try to get some of the banged-up players back on the field. The Knights don't have a lot of depth, and every man is important.

"We were down two or three and I'm hoping to get everyone back," he said. "We only have a 21- or 22-man roster, but I feel like we've been pretty physical on Friday nights."

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Gus Feeny (6) finds a big hole to run through against the Eagles.



PHOTOS BY KATIE PERRY

Josh Sherman (20) and a host of Cavaliers combine to make the tackle.

had an interception and Gabe Towe and Jordan Whitten had sacks.

With the win the Cavaliers improved to 4-3 on the season and also moved from eighth to fourth in the VHSL Region 3D rankings. They're currently behind three undefeated teams, as William Byrd, Magna Vista and Carroll County are all 7-0.

LB can pick up a bunch of points this week if they can beat Byrd in Daleville this Friday night. This has been a big rivalry in recent years, and the players made first year coach Leftwich aware of this as the game approaches.

"Not being here, I didn't realize what a rivalry this has been," said Leftwich. "I told them they have to give everyone the same treatment. If they're going to get super hyped for Byrd, they should have that same mindset for whoever we play."

With that said, this is a big one.

"It's a big district game and it's a big region game," said Leftwich. "I know Byrd will come in here and play all four quarters. I'm glad it's at home, our bleachers have been full and our students have really shown up at the home games."

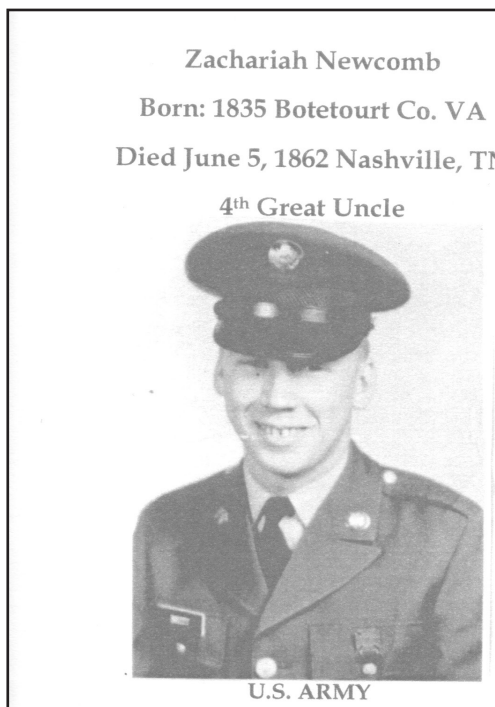


Britt receives UDC Service Award

Fincastle Chapter 797 of the United Daughters of the Confederacy met at VFW Post 1841 on August 1 to honor Richard W. Britt with the UDC Military Service Award. Several guests were in attendance. The UDC meets every first Saturday at one of the county libraries. New members are welcome; contact bowershz@aol.com for more information.

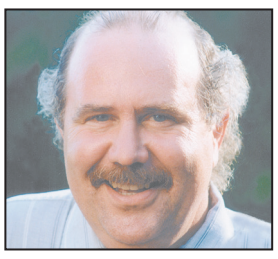
Pictured are (from left): back row, Loretta Caldwell, President Harriett Francis, Richard Britt, Yvonne Cox, and Linda Hanson; second row, Susan Hudson, Judy Lee, Geneva Jenkins, Kim McDonagh, Helen Camper, and Treva Campbell; and seated, oldest member Anne Jeter Lee at 102 years.

~ UDC Chapter 797



PHOTOS COURTESY OF FINCASTLE UDC

BOTETOURT
Sports
www.fincastleherald.com



Brian Hoffman
Sports Editor

LB's Davidova is state champion in Class 3 golf

Lord Botetourt senior Alisa Davidova shot a six-under-par 66 to win the Virginia High School League Class 3 golf championship last week. The tournament was held at the scenic and challenging Cutalong Course at the Tributer Resort in Mineral, Va.

Davidova started with a bogey on the first hole but didn't look back, scorching the course for the remainder of the day. She finished with seven birdies and 10 pars to win the event by four strokes.

"She didn't let that bogey on the first hole mess up her round," said Botetourt coach Todd Smith. "She made a bunch of clutch putts throughout the round. It was fun watching her play with a smile on her face."

Davidova, who recently committed to play college golf at Clemson University, finished four strokes ahead of Hidden Valley's Harris Camp and Liberty Christian Academy's Tanner Hesse. Kennedy MacCleery of Western Albemarle also shot under par with a one-under 71.

Western Albemarle won the team championship with a 303, four strokes better than second place LCA and five fewer than Hidden Valley.



PHOTO COURTESY LB GOLF

Alisa Davidova is the VHSL state champion in Class 3 golf. Here, she proudly holds her state medal alongside assistant coach Tim Rasnick, who retired from coaching the team after the state tournament. "It sure was a great way to go out for my golf coaching career with a state champion," said Rasnick.



PHOTO BY KATIE PERRY

LB defenders swarm a Staunton River ball carrier in last week's win.

Cavs put on late drive to defeat Staunton River in football

The Lord Botetourt football team went on a 70-yard, 12-play drive to pay dirt to beat Staunton River in football last Friday. Botetourt scored with 17 seconds left to pull out a 14-7 win in Moneta.

"It was a stressful one," said LB coach Nick Leftwich. "Our defense played well but our offense struggled."

The host Eagles scored the only touchdown of the first half and still held a 7-0 lead heading into the fourth quarter. The Cavs tied it up on a three-yard sweep by Gus Feeny and took over at their own 30 after holding the Eagles on the ensuing possession.

With a fourth and 10, LB quarterback Cael Burton was shaken up and replaced behind center by Beau Lonker. On Beau's first play at quarterback, he scrambled 13 yards to pick up the first down and keep the drive alive. Then, with the clock running down, Lonker scored on a quarterback sneak to give the Cavaliers their first lead of the game with 17 seconds on the clock.

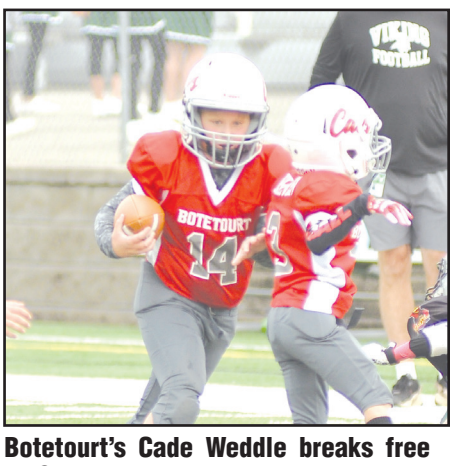
And, it still wasn't over. The Eagles had a final "Hail Mary" from midfield that Dalton Bradley knocked down on the last play of the game.

Feeny finished with 170 yards rushing on the night on 23 carries. Lonker was next with 16 yards on two attempts, but they were both big, a first down on fourth down and a touchdown.

Burton was four for 10 passing for 45 yards. Feeny had two receptions for 12 yards and Chris Paderick and Jayden Windsor had one each.

On defense, Callum McCoy led the team with six solo tackles and four assists. Lonker and Burton had three solos and three assists each. Bradley

See **LBHS**, page 13



Botetourt's Cade Weddle breaks free in Saturday's sandlot win over North Roanoke.



PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Noah Rose breaks free around the right end to score a touchdown for Botetourt in Saturday's Sandlot Super Bowl playoff win.

Botetourt has three teams in Sandlot Super Bowl tournament semifinals

The Sandlot Super Bowl football tournament semifinals are this Saturday and Botetourt County has teams in all three divisions. Tournaments are being held for 8U, 10U and 12U teams.

In the 8U division, Botetourt-Divers defeated North Roanoke, 36-6, at Bogle Field in Roanoke County to reach the semifinals. They'll play Cave Spring-Simcox this Saturday at Bogle Field at 11:30 a.m. Cave Spring defeated Franklin County-Chapman in the quarterfinals, 12-0. Glenvar-Hudson and Salem-Chaney will play in the other 8U semifinal at Franklin County's Cy Dillon Stadium.

In the 10U tournament, Botetourt-Phillips will represent the county in the semis at 10:15 a.m. in Franklin County this Saturday. Botetourt defeated Salem-Abbott, 32-8, at Cy Dillon Stadium last week and will play Glenvar-Edmonds, who eliminated Botetourt-Gusler in a close game in Rocky Mount, 14-6. North Roanoke-Hamidullah and Salem-Dyer play in the other semifinal.

Botetourt-Howery will represent the county in the 12U tournament, taking on top seeded Cave Spring-Barmore at 9 a.m. at Bogle Field this Saturday. Botetourt defeated Franklin County-Wright, 16-0, in the quarterfinal round at Northside. Cave Spring-Ellis and Salem-Jones will meet in the other semifinal.

This Saturday's winners will play in the Salem Super Bowl at Salem Stadium on Saturday, Nov. 7.

Knights will host Carroll County in volleyball Thursday

The James River volleyball team will be looking for a measure of revenge when the Knights host Carroll County in volleyball Thursday. The Cavaliers defeated River in four sets the first time around in Hillsville.

River was at Patrick County Tuesday for a match that was too late for publication. The Knights took an 11-6 overall record into that match and were hoping to even their Three Rivers District record, which was 3-4 after defeating Floyd County in Springwood last Thursday.

"Great night for us," said River coach Linsey Firebaugh. "We looked solid as a team. We received well and put the ball away effectively."

River beat the Lady Buffaloes in three sets, 25-11, 25-6 and 25-21.



PHOTO BY BRYANT ALTIZER

Whitney Ronk of James River gets a dig in a recent match.

Ashby Wilkes had 15 kills and 13 digs, Ayden Jennings had 17 assists and Kendall Childs dished out 15 assists. Hailee Vassas had 11 digs.

The Knights will wrap up the regular season next Tuesday, Oct. 27, with a home match against Patrick County.



Cavaliers will host district cheer competition tonight

The Blue Ridge District cheer competition is coming to Daleville tonight. The Lord Botetourt team will host the BRD beginning at 6 p.m. in the high school gym. The girls are coming off first place showings in the recent Sabre Showdown and also an event hosted by Pulaski County.



PHOTO COURTESY LBCC