

Courthouse and Administrator Office have new buzz-in systems



New "buzz-in" systems have been installed at the County Courthouse and Administrators Office. This decision was made to help protect both employees and citizens during the COVID-19 epidemic.

Pam Dudding Contributing writer

Safety is always a top priority when viruses hit any area and Craig County is doing its due diligence to keep everyone as healthy as possible.

Recently, the Craig County Courthouse and County Administrator's office installed a new buzzin system for their entry doors. The Sheriff Department assisted in the installation of the new units.

The need for the new system in the courthouse is because of CO-VID-19 and was paid for by the government funds provided to the county. The system was installed as part of COVID-19, to limit exposure to employees and to citizens.

Said system was installed at the Administrator's Office on November 25, which will be a permanent way to enter.

See Buzz-in, page 2

Santa has mailboxes in New Castle

Pam Dudding

Contributing writer

Hey, all kids in Craig County! Guess what? Santa knew you were in a more rural area and he was so saddened that many of you have not gotten to see him yet, so he's making special provisions just for you.

Santa Claus is sending his special mailboxes to some of your stores this year.

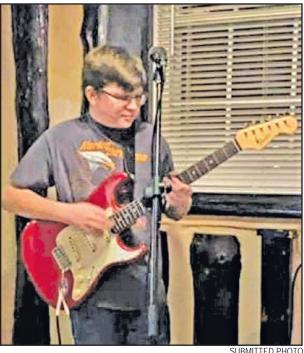
He said he has heard most of you 'have been reeeeeally gooood this year and that made his belly jiggle a lot, because you made him laugh really big."

Santa's special mailboxes will be at Family Dollar, IGA Express Exxon and Food Country every day until 7 p.m. through December 20. So, get your letter ready and take it



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Santa's mailboxes will be at Family Dollar, Food Country and IGA Express



Occasionally, Cole shreds the strings on his own at the Coffee Pot on Brambleton Road in Roanoke.

Winebarger "shredding" strings with the big boys

Pam Dudding Contributing writer

Some kids have talents while other kids live theirs "out loud." Cole Winebarger is a young man who started playing the guitar at an early age and has excelled with sincere passion.

Winebarger says he remembers wanting to play the guitar at nine. His dad and mom, Jerry and Shari, were very supportive as were other family members.

When Winebarger started showing interest in playing, his Uncle Shannon gave him an older electric guitar.

"He was really progressing, so then his Grandpa Slone gave him an acoustic that he had," Shari said. "Every waking minute he was with one of those guitars."

Shari told the story of how Cole acquired his Strat

Now, Cole says he plays his guitar at home every day. Though no one in his

immediate family plays the guitar, he has uncles who do. "My brother, Rick Slone,

plays around town, and has even played at the Grand Ole Opry," Shari said before adding, "I have many in my family that are musical."

Cole has now been playing for three years and jams with some other local guitarists like Joey Mayo, Jeff Sloss and his family members and friends when he gets an opportunity.

"My favorite guitarists are David Gilmour (Pink Floyd), Mark Knopfler (Dire Straits), George Harrison (Beatles) and Jimmy Page (Led Zeppelin)," he shared.

Winebarger said that he doesn't have a favorite guitar because "they all matter the same to me whether it's because of use or sentimentality." He played at the Fairgrounds last year during a special music concert but had a moment like all true musicians. "I forgot part of the song I was going to close on, so that performance was most certainly not my favorite," he said. Whether he is playing with a band or performing solo, Winebarger enjoys it all. And, for anyone who goes to the Coffee Pot in Roanoke or the Fatback Soul Shack in Christiansburg, there is a good chance that they have seen this 13-yearold young man perform like a professional. "He plays at the Coffee Pot when his Uncle Ricky plays during intermission, if it's early hours," Shari said. "Many places are not appropriate for him at his age." "I got hooked up with Fatback Soul Shack because the band I play with a little bit was playing there and there was a decent chance I could get on stage," Winebarger shared. "And I also knew that the place had good food. I had been there

See Santa, page 2

Exxon for every child that wants to mail a letter to Saint-Nick. Mr. Clause is going to take time to write back and will deliver letters on December 21, which can be picked up at whatever store the child mailed them from.

Christmas cash is here

Pam Dudding **Contributing writer**

During this special holiday season, cash can be a little tight. Aware of this, two local businesses are do-

ing their part to make a difference. The Gopher Market and IGA Express Exxon are giving away cash for Christmas which will fill a few people's stockings this year.

For every \$20 a customer spends



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Christmas cash is here, and community residents have a chance to win some. The IGA Express Exxon and Gopher Market are giving \$50 and \$100 gift cards every Friday until Christmas. For every \$20 spent, people get to enter into the contest for the drawings.

at either business, they will be entered to win \$50 and \$100 gift cards. People need to remember to take their receipt and write their name and contact phone number on the back of it to be drawn. The drawings will be held weekly through Christmas.

There is no limit on entering and there are no exclusions.

The purchases can be inside their stores, outside or a combination of both.

Mike Carper came up with this idea when he had the Mick-or-Mack store and it proved to be fun for everyone.

There will be two winners per week at each store through Christmas.

"We love our customers at IGA Express Exxon Mobile and Gopher Market and this is just another way we can give back to our customers for their loyalty throughout the year," Mike and Richard Carper shared. "Winners will be drawn every Friday and posted at the stores and on Facebook."

They added a jolly, "We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year."

guitar.

"They told us at Roanoke Catholic when he started there, not to expect him to be on the honor roll that year as he would have some adjustments. So, thinking we were pretty safe, we told him if he made straight A's, we would pay half on his Stratocaster," she said. "He was working hard doing odd jobs and at school. Well, we ended up paying out."

She added that nine is a good age for a kid to start playing. "He had shown little interest prior in learning," Shari noted. "When he started playing and it started clicking with him, he just blossomed."

"I think my love for guitar started when I could play my first actual song," Winebarger said. "I remember when my teacher made me buy this Beatles book for beginners. It wasn't very good, but I still was proud of myself for learning some of my favorites. Every memory throughout my time playing guitar has been a fond one."

Shari shared that after a few months of lessons her son "just took off."

She added, "He followed a few different YouTube teachers and learned to play by ear."

See Winebarger, page 3



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OMMUNITY CALENDAR

MONDAY THROUGH SATURDAY

The Craig County Public Library is open Monday, Tuesday, and Friday Thursday from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., Wednesday from 10 a.m. 7 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. The library is located at 303 Main St. in New Castle. For more information, call (540) 864-8978 or visit www.craiglibrary.org.

EVERY TUESDAY

•Overeaters Anonymous (OA) meeting. 7 p.m. at Christ Lutheran Church, located at 2011 Brandon Avenue in Roanoke. Contact 540-293-4065 for more information.

•New Castle Church of Christ will hold its Bible Study from 7 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. at 118 Main Street in New Castle.

EVERY SATURDAY

Overeaters Anonymous (OA) meeting. 11 a.m. at Christ Lutheran Church, located at 2011 Brandon Avenue in Roanoke. Contact 540-293-4065 for more information.

EVERY SUNDAY

•Alcoholics Anonymous meeting. 8 p.m. at New Castle Fire Hall.

Castle •The New Christian Church, located at 282 Salem Ave, is pastored by Sheldon Cosma is having services at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m., with

communion at each, and is on Facebook live at 9 a.m. •St. Johns Catholic Church, on Route 615, is having virtual masses at 8:30 a.m. and 10 a.m. by Father Steve McNalley. They are also live on Facebook. For more information, contact (540) 864-8686 or send an email to stjohnnewcastle@ tds.net.

SECOND MONDAY

•Paint Bank Ladies Auxiliary meeting, p.m. at the Paint Bank Fire Department. Call 897-5346 for more information.

•Craig County Public Library Board of Trustees meeting at 6 p.m. at the library.

THIRD MONDAY

Town of New Castle Council Meeting at 7 p.m. inside the New Castle Town Hall, located at 339 Market Street.

FIRST TUESDAY

Craig County School Board meets at 6:30 p.m. in the High School Media

SECOND TUESDAY

Mountain Lodge 140

Center.

AF&AM, 7:30 p.m. at Lodge Hall, 255 Main St.

THIRD WEDNESDAY

The Botetourt/Craig/ Roanoke Farm Service Agency County Committee

a.m. at the Bonsack USDA Service Center. Please call one day before the meeting date regarding possible cancellation information 540-977-2698, Ext. 2. The Bonsack USDA Service Center is located at 36 Executive Circle, Suite 1, Roanoke, VA 24012. All County Committee meetings are open to the public.

meets each month at 10

FIRST THURSDAY

Craig County Board of Supervisors meets at 6 p.m. at the Craig County Courthouse.

SECOND THURSDAY

Maywood Garden Club meeting at 7:30 p.m. held at Simmonsville Fire Department.

EVERY TUESDAY AND THURSDAY

Everyone six months and up should receive a flu shot each year. A parent or guardian must accompany those under the age 18. Insurances will be billed. People are encouraged to bring their insurance card and not attend if they have COVID-19 like symptoms. The curbside clinic schedule is from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. by appointment only. For more information, contact 540-864-5136.

THURSDAY, **DECEMBER 17**

The Craig County Department of Social Services Board Meeting will start at 6:30 pm.

Ninth District traveling staff office hours for December

Congressman Griffith's Ninth District staff will be available at the following locations during the month of December. Traveling office hours follow the status of local government offices, which vary across the 22 counties and nine independent cities of the Ninth District. As local governments offices reopen, office hours will be resumed.

In the event of inclement weather (heavy snow, sleet, icy rain, etc.), traveling office hours may be rescheduled to avoid putting constituents at risk. If a County's or City's schools are closed, then its office hours will be closed as well. Feel free to contact the Christiansburg Office at 540-381-5671 or the Abingdon Office at 276-525-1405 with any questions.

December 9, 2020

Scott County: 9:00 am – 10:30 am Community Services Building Board of Supervisors Room 190 Beech Street Gate City, VA 24251

Lee County: 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm Lee County Sheriff's Office Conference Room 33640 Main Street - Suite U101 Jonesville, VA 24263

Buzz-in from page 1

It was installed at both doors. There is a bell that citizens ring, then someone will either come to the door or speak to them through a microphone to ask who they need to see and for what purpose. The lock on the door

Constitutional Officer has the ability to let people in and out and health screen them prior to entering the Courthouse which is for everyone's safety during the pandemic," Sheriff Trevor Craddock said. "The system works by an A-phone by each entrance which allows you to see and talk to the citizen at the door once you ring the bell. A control panel is in each office and can be operated by the individuals inside." Also, people are health screened, COVID-19 related questions are asked and temperatures are taken, prior to entering court.

Wise County: 3:15 pm - 4:45 pm Big Stone Gap Federal Courthouse 3rd Floor Room 303 322 Wood Ave. E Big Stone Gap, VA 24219

December 10, 2020

Giles County: 9:00 am - 10:30 am Town of Pearisburg Offices 112 Tazewell Street Pearisburg, VA 24134

December 15, 2020

Tazewell County (Richlands): 10:00 am – 11:30 am Town of Richlands Offices 200 Washington Square Richlands, VA 24641

Buchanan County: 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm Town of Grundy Offices 1185 Plaza Dr. Grundy, VA 24614

December 16, 2020

Carroll County: 9:00 am – 10:30 am Carroll County Administration Building Board of Supervisors Room 605 – 1 Pine Street Hillsville, VA 24343

Galax: 11:30 am – 1:00 pm Municipal Building Conference Room 111 E. Grayson Street Galax, VA 24333

Grayson County: 2:30pm – 4:00pm Grayson County Administration Building Board of Supervisors Room Suite 206 129 Davis Street Independence, VA 24348

December 17, 2020

Tazewell County (Tazewell): 10:00 am – 11:30 am American Legion Building 226 Central Avenue Tazewell, VA 24651

Russell County: 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm Community Center 72 Gibson Street Lebanon, VA 24266

December 18, 2020

Floyd County: 9:00 am - 10:30 am Town of Floyd Offices 134 Wilson Street SE Floyd, VA 24091



to his mailbox in town and then, Santa will write you a letter back.

You can pick up your letter from Santa on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday, December 21-23, at the store where you left your letter, as Santa will leave it there, just for you.

Santa said, "I and my wonder-

Patrick County: 11:30 am – 1:00 pm Patrick County Administration Building

Conference Room 106 Rucker Street, Stuart, VA 24171

Martinsville: 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm City of Martinsville Municipal Building Conference Room #32, Lower Level 55 W. Church Street Martinsville, VA 24112

December 22, 2020

Norton: 9:00 am - 10:30 am City Council Chambers 618 Virginia Avenue NW Norton, VA 24273

Wise County: 11:00 am - 12:30 pm Big Stone Gap Federal Courthouse 3rd Floor Room 303 322 Wood Avenue E Big Stone Gap, VA 24219

Dickenson County: 2:30 pm - 4:30 pm Dickenson Center for Education & Research 818 Happy Valley Drive Clintwood, VA 24228 -Submitted by Kevin Baird, Communications Director

> this year, Vixen's horns have grown more beautiful, Comet is faster than lighting now (some of the other reindeer are jealous), Cupid has a girlfriend now and her name is Candi, Donder is learning how to flatfoot, Blitzen can now do a fast turnaround in the air upside

will then release for entry.

Their regular office hours are still from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Their holidays follow the State of Virginia Holiday Calendar. For Christmas, they will be closed all day on the 24 and 25. They will only be closed on New Year's Day.

"The system was installed in the courthouse and each

Anyone entering the closings are noon on Dec. 23. closed on the 24, 25, 31 and January 1, 2021.

courthouse for other busi-

ness are not health screened

missioner's, Treasurer's and

Circuit Court are from 8:30

a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday

through Friday. Holidays

The hours for the Com-

at this time.

"The benefits of the system are that it provides a safer working environment for the employees of the county who work inside the courthouse as an added measure of protection during this pandemic that we are all facing on a daily basis," Craddock added.

ful elves have been working extra hard this year to make the special toys and things you are asking for."

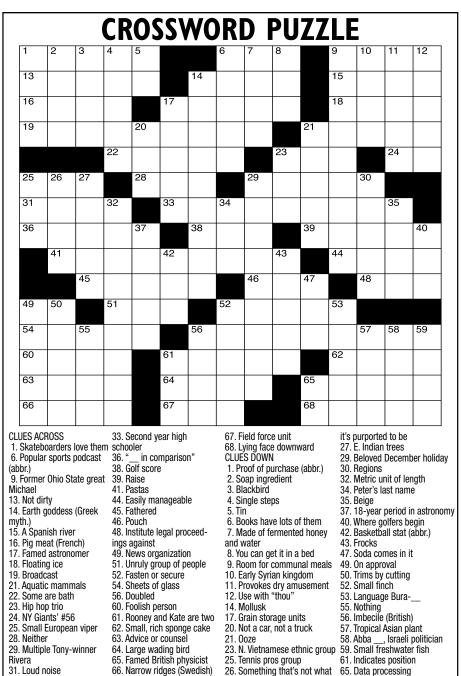
His reindeer have been eating well and have been exercising and are ready for their great Christmas

"Dasher is as fast as ever, Dancer has learned some new steps in dancing, Prancer is extra happy

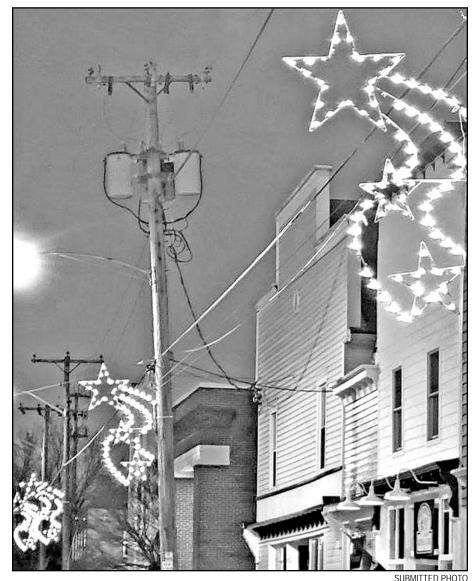
down and Rudolph's nose is even brighter this year to see through any heavy fog or snow," noted Santa with a smile.

And they all wanted you to know that they will see you on Christmas Eve and are excited. So, remember to be fast asleep when they arrive.

"HOHOHO ... Merry Christmas to all," Santa said with a big belly laugh.



Christmas lights on Main Street



The Main Street of New Castle is starting to light up with Christmas around the corner. The traditional shooting stars, along with the garland and red bows, helps to bring the spirits of the holiday season to the town.

Craig County Historical Society announces next edition of the In and Around Craig County Series



Marcie McGuire moved from Sinking Creek where his father ran a store in Burbank, California.



CRAIG CITY IN'N, NEWCASTLE, VA.

Craig City Inn was built around 1890 during an economic boom in the area.



photos showing the latest fashions.

For 30 years, volunteers of the Society have compiled and published accounts of Craig County history. Many of the books focus on a geographical region of the county, while others cover specific topics such as schools, churches and war veterans.

The 2020 book is

gmail.com. The book is also for sale at The Emporium on Main Street in New Castle.

"Looking Back" is a collection of stories, family history and vintage photos. Several articles are excerpted from early issues of the New Castle Record. A brief history of the newspaper, featuring a photo of former publisher Haden Sublett and Record advertisements, is included. Topics in the book are varied and wideranging. Samples from the Table of Contents include recipes, county household musicians, hints from 1951, and diary entries from 1894.

IN AND AROUND CRAIG COUNTY

LOOKING BACK . . .



The book features stories of weddings and vintage The book cover features some of many talented Craig County musicians.

Bridges over Johns Creek, W.H. Jewel photographer from Christiansburg, and school children from Upper Craigs Creek, New Castle and Maywood areas, as well as transportation, weddings, and Virginia Historical Markers in the county fill the 168 pages. Several articles were originally written by Craig natives, reminiscing and relating by-gone events. Clyde Caldwell tells about sheep-shear-ing and his brother Muntford tells about walking 20-miles to shop at Custer's Store. William Elmore and Grover Kay talk about growing up in

New Castle. "One time I saw a Ford Coupe driven onto the ice on Johns Creek...." and "I recall such as Boitnott Funeral that the first telephones Home and Economy in New Castle were those Feed Store. One interowned by and connect- esting ad from 1955 ing the stores of the Wa- lists stores which will be gener Brothers..."

Meadow Creek resi- ternoons. dent Charlie Spraker details his first experience Job Opportunity in Craig County season 2020 is now in progress, Charlie begins "The deer season in 1947 was about to open and it was to be two days long. Dee (his friend) had made arrangements for us to camp out in the front yard of a man by the name of Brizendine who lived on the

E. W. CAMPER FUNERAL DIRECTOR EMBALMING FRIENDLY EFFICIENT ECONOMICAL SERVICE Adult Caskets priced from \$25.00 to \$350.00 Children's Caskets according to size and finish Forty-two Years of Service in Craig County

One of several vintage ads in the book is for E.W. Camper who was a funeral director on the lower end of Main Street in 1938.

road up Bald Mountain, just above the Fenwick Mines on the left side going up. We set up our tent..... in the front yard under a big tree... After breakfast and when good light came, we could see that everything was coated with ice."

Unlike past years when ads were sold to subsidize print costs, donations were collected this year which will cover about half of the total printing cost.

Current ads were replaced with a sample of advertisements from past New Castle Records. The last twelve pages showcase former Craig County businesses closed on Wednesday af-

The book's introduction concludes there is "something for everyone, but it just scratches the surface of Craig's rich history."

All 30 issues of In & Around Craig County are available for sale, as well as county census, marriage and death records. In addition, there are 14 Hometowne Collectibles that make excellent Christmas gifts for lovers of Craig County history. They are wooden replicas of county landmarks such as the Layman Victorian House, the County courthouse, and Tingler's Mill in Paint Bank and include a brief history on the back.

To make a purchase, contact 540-864-7023 craig.historicalsocior ety1981@gmail.com

-Submitted by Craig County Historical Society

called "Looking Back" and will be sold by for \$12. Copies can be shipped for an additional \$3.00 postage or Society members will gladly meet or deliver to accommodate local buyers. For more information, contact 540-864-7023 or write craig. historicalsociety1981@

The Craig County Electoral Board is seeking qualified applicant for the position of General Registrar/ Director of Elections. Qualified applicants must apply by 12/22/20. Applicants must be a resident and qualified voter in Craig County or willing to re-locate. A complete job description and application information may be found at www.craigcountyva.gov or by mail to the Craig County Electoral Board, P.O. Box 8, New Castle, Va.

At a young 13 years of age, Cole Winebarger is already living the dreams that many young kids have. Here, he is playing at the Fatback Soul Shack with New River Valley's leading band, Phlegar Hill.

prior just to eat."

Band is called "the New competition." River Valley's leading cover band" on Facebook.

Jerry went to school with the singer Billy Williams. "So, I managed to weasel my way in there using that fact to my advantage," he said with a grin.

Cole has also played for two years at the Back Creek Fire Station's fundraiser.

When Jerry and Shari were asked if they were surprised at the level of professionalism he plays, they responded, "Cole has always thrown himself into what his interest is 100 percent."

Cole was asked about competing but noted that

he has never felt the slight-He plays at Fatback when- est urge to enter into a comever the Phlegar Hill band is petition, saying, "I don't playing there. Phlegar Hill think music should be a

However, anyone that has heard him, knows his love for music can definitely be heard by the way he can "shred those strings."

At only 13, Winebarger says his future is uncertain, but he does not see himself stopping to work on his guitar skills anytime soon.

his heart However, speaks for him, when he added, "I've thought about maybe helping people with special needs." His sister, Maci, has been suffering for several years from a brain tumor and its side effects.

His parents continue to support his love for music, "Jerry and I love hearing Cole play," Shari said.



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UPINION

The best literary quotes about hope and optimism

You don't have to look far to find hope in a book. These authors have lent their words to the power of optimism. From Penguin Books, November 3, 2020.

Books bring us entertainment, inspiration and ideas. They allow us to reflect on the world around us, and escape from it. And, at times of upheaval and confusion, words from authors can spark that most valuable thing of all: hope. Here are some of the greatest meditations on optimism in literature.

Amy Tan, The Hundred Secret Senses

"Everyone must dream. We dream to give ourselves hope. To stop dreaming - well, that's like saying you can never change your fate.

Bram Stoker, Dracula

"There are darknesses in life and there are lights, and you are one of the lights, the light of all lights." George Eliot, The Mill on the

Floss We can never give up longing

and wishing while we are thoroughly alive. There are certain things we feel to be beautiful and good, and we must hunger after them.

Toni Morrison, Beloved

"You are your best thing."

Emily Dickinson, The Poems of **Emily Dickinson**

"Hope is the thing with feathers That perches in the soul And sings the tune without the words

And never stops at all."

Langston Hughes, The Collected Poems of Langston Hughes

Library Corner

Empowering individuals to build a stronger community

"Hold fast to dreams, For if dreams die Life is a broken-winged bird, That cannot fly." Frank Herbert, Dune

"Deep in the human unconscious is a pervasive need for a logical universe that makes sense. But the real universe is always one step beyond logic."

Arundhati Roy, The Cost of Living

"To love. To be loved. To never forget your own insignificance. To never get used to the unspeakable violence and the vulgar disparity of life around you. To seek joy in the saddest places. To pursue beauty to its lair. To never simplify what is complicated or complicate what is simple. To respect strength, never power. Above all, to watch. To try and understand. To never look away. And never, never to forget."

L.M. Montgomery, Anne of Green Gables

"Tomorrow is always fresh, with no mistakes in it yet."

Maya Angelou, Letter to My Daughter

'You may not control all the events that happen to you, but you can decide not to be reduced by them."

Rachel Carson, Silent Spring "Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts. There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature-the assurance that dawn comes after night, and spring after winter."

Library News:

I always try to go to the Kroger store where I have the Craig County Public Library as my Community rewards choice. Every time I shop for groceries, Kroger is making a small donation to my local library. If you'd also like to sign up, just go to the google Kroger Community Rewards, choose your favorite store, and select Craig County Public Library as your recipient. We thank you!

We depend on your donations to keep the library open!

Marijuana legislation: Wrong time, wrong bill

Morgan Griffith Representative

an agenda Setting means setting priorities. Based on the agenda of the U.S. House of Representatives, apparently marijuana is a priority of Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA).

It must be so, because

Reinvestment and Ex- economic downturn. pungement Act of 2019. H.R. 3884 not only de- portive of changes to criminalizes marijuana, current federal drug but expunges previous laws. I support medicimarijuana convictions nal marijuana and furand permits taxpayer ther research into the dollars to be used in effects of marijuana use, support of the marijua- which the present laws na industry and convict- and regulations make ed drug dealers.

on December 4 she I doubt the constituused some of the little ents we represent in the legislative time remain- House believe this meaing in this Congress to sure to be such an urbring up H.R. 3884, the gent concern amid the Marijuana Opportunity current pandemic and

> To be sure, I am supdifficult to pursue. I have introduced legislation and worked with colleagues on both sides of the aisle to achieve these goals.

But with few legislative days remaining in this Congress, now is certainly not the time to focus on full-blown marijuana legalization. Further, H.R. 3884 goes way too far in the other direction from the restrictions currently in place.

In light of the fact that the bill was taken up so late in the Congress and with little chance of becoming law, H.R. 3884 appears to be more of a messaging bill than a serious attempt at legislating. But what kind of message is sent by its provisions?

Consider how it handles marijuana convictions. Any prior conviction for non-violent federal marijuana offenses are expunged, and courts are required to conduct resentencing hearings on any federal convictions that included marijuana as part of the underlying offense apart from crimes of violence. For example, if an individual was convicted of embezzling from a bank but was in possession of marijuana when arrested, he or she could be eligible for resentencing.

This would create tre-

mendous strain on the court system, occupying its time and resources with thousands of resentencing hearings rather than more important business.

Prior marijuana convictions could also not be considered in denying any federal public benefit, granting security clearances, or in regard to immigration laws. So the individuals recently caught in Connecticut with a rental truck carrying an estimated \$15 million worth of marijuana, as an example,

See Griffith, page 5

ER THE EDIT(

Dear Early Care and Education Provider,

Congratulations on being recognized as a Virginia Breastfeeding Friendly Early Care Recognition Program recipient. By achieving this recognition, you have demonstrated that Craig County Child Care Center is dedicated to supporting mothers and families in meeting their breastfeeding goals. Through this work, your early care site is helping to establish a healthy environment for all infants and toddlers across the Commonwealth by showing evidence of meeting all five of Virginia's early care breastfeeding standards, which include policy, system and environmental standards for breastfeeding The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) has prioritized breastfeeding in order to protect the health and well-being of both infants and mothers. Breastfeeding has short-and long-term health benefits, including reducing the risk of sudden infant death syndrome and chronic diseases, such as asthma and diabetes.

In 2019, VDH established Virginia's Breastfeeding Friendly Recognition Program in partnership with Child Care Aware Virginia, Virginia Infant and Toddler Specialist Network, Virginia Early Childhood Foundation, and Virginia Breastfeeding Coalition as a way to recognize those entities that are dedicated to supporting breastfeeding and the for Disease Control and Prevention breastfeeding recommendations, including the United States Surgeon General's Call to Action to Support Breastfeeding, by addressing the need for communities, including early care settings, to normalize and create breastfeeding-friendly environments.

In conclusion, we applaud the efforts you have taken to reach this award. This demonstrates your interest and commitment in providing healthy and safe environments for our youngest Virginians. Keep up the great work, and please spread the word about Virginia's Breastfeeding Friendly Early Care Recognition Program to other early care providers in your community.

THE NEW CASTLE RECORD **USPS 378-080** 1633 W. Main St.

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Give us your view: newcastle@ourvalley.org

To subscribe: 540-389-9355

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The New Castle Record encourages letters from our readers on topics of general interest to the community and responses to our articles and columns. Letters must be signed and have a telephone

(540) 389-9355 Salem, VA 24153 www.ourvalley.org

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| ynn Hurst, General Manager | lhurst@ourvalley.org |

number where you can be reached to be considered for publication. All letters will be verified before publication. The Record reserves the right to deny publication of any letter and edit letters for length content and style. News of public interest is solicited from all sections of the county.

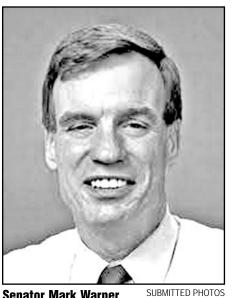
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-From the Department of Health Commonwealth of Virginia



Warner, Rubio joint statement on national security threat posed by China



Senator Mark Warner

Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Acting Chairman Marco Rubio (R-FL) and Vice Chairman Mark Warner (D-VA) recently released the following joint statement regarding the challenge posed to the United States by the Chinese government and Communist Party:

"We agree with DNI Ratcliffe that China poses the greatest national security threat to the United States. Our intelligence is clear: the Chinese Communist Party will stop at nothing to exert its global dominance.

"Beijing's infiltration of U.S. society has been deliberate and insidious as they use every instrument of influence available to accelerate their rise at America's expense.

"Our democratic values are threatened by China's attempts to supplant American leadership and remake the international community in their image. The Chinese Communist Party's authoritarian leaders seek to threaten our free speech, politics, technology, economy, military, and even our drive to counter the COVID-19 pandemic.



Senator Mark Rubio

'Unfortunately, the United States' challenge with China is not unique as Beijing seeks to infiltrate and subvert other nations around the world, including our allies.

This is our watershed moment and we must stand our ground. The United States must not and cannot accept Beijing's quest to exert dominance, while dismissing international legal norms and committing egregious human rights abuses to further their goals.

"We have made considerable progress in rebalancing the U.S.-China relationship and laying a clear marker for U.S. policy going forward, and we will not stand idly by as the Chinese Communist Party attempts to undermine our economic and national security.

"The message to Beijing and the world is that China's behavior will not be tolerated and will be contested by democratic values, in close partnership with our allies and partners.'

> -Submitted by Rachel Cohen, Communications Director

Griffith from page 4

could benefit from these provisions.

Not only are these offenses expunged, but H.R. 3884 creates an "Office of Cannabis Justice" in the Department of Justice. The task of the new office would be to administer a grant program providing services to individuals convicted of marijuanarelated offenses.

Changing the laws should not mean directing taxpayer dollars to individuals convicted of breaking the law or require federal grants and loans for the marijuana industry.

We still do not have enough data on the effects of marijuana use. This has long been a concern of mine, and why I have introduced or cosponsored bills that would make research

more appropriately assesses the risk of use.

Earlier this year, the House rushed to ban flavored tobacco products and vaping after a spate of sicknesses. Most of the people who fell ill were vaping products that contained THC, the psychoactive ingredient in marijuana. Yet H.R. 3884 takes no action to ban flavored marijuana vapes, or generally to prevent marijuana use among young people.

H.R. 3884 would introduce more problems than it solves at a time when our attention is best directed to other topics.

My position on marijuana remains the same: legalization for medicinal purposes and loosened restrictions for research. I am ready to work with Democrats and Republicans to achieve these goals and more generally to rationalize federal policy at a time when more states are opting to legalize marijuana to various degrees. The path away from the perplexing current state of marijuana policy need not lead to the reckless policy regime created by H.R. 3884. If you have questions, concerns, or comments, feel free to contact my office. You can call my Abingdon office at 276-525-1405 or my Christiansburg office at 540-381-5671. To reach my office via email, please visit my website at www.morgangriffith. house.gov.

BITUARY Elmore, Elwood

Elwood Elmore, 88 of New Castle, passed away on Friday, December 4. He was born on February 8, 1932, in Paint Bank, Virginia, to Letcher and Verlie T. Elmore. In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by his wife of 66 years, Norma Lee Elmore; sons, Calvin Wayne Elmore and Carl Ray Elmore; brother, Stanley, Russell Sr., Ross, and Dallas Elmore.

Elwood retired from the Virginia Dept. of Transportation in 1991 with over 39 years of service. He was a skilled motor grader operator, precision machinist and he enjoyed working on small engines.

Those left to cherish his memory are son and daughter-in-law Claude and Kim Elmore of Welch, WV; daughter and son-in-law Wanda and Kevan Romeo of New Castle; brother, Craig Elmore of New Castle; five grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and many nieces, nephews and special friends.

A Celebration of Life was held at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 6, at Paitsel Funeral Home with Mitchell Deskins officiating. Interment followed at Crowder Family Cemetery. The family received friends one-hour prior to the service.

Arrangements by Paitsel Funeral Home. www.paitselfh.com

Senators Obenshain and Suetterlein re-introduce Parole Transparency Bills for 2021

Both Bills won bipartisan Senate support during 2020 Special Session

Senator Mark Obenshain (R-Rockingham) and Senator David Šuetterlein (R-Roanoke County) recently reintroduced legislation that would require Virginia's Parole Board release information regarding parole decisions and make the Boards's votes public. Obenshain's SB1104 and Suetterlein's SB1103 are identical to their bills that passed the Virginia Senate with bipartisan support during the 2020 Special Session.

Obenshain's SB1104 would mandate the Parole Board publish monthly decisions reports that include the offenses that the prisoner committed, the jurisdiction where the prisoner was convicted, and the length of time served. The bill also requires the Board provide notice to the relevant Commonwealth's Attorney and the Victim/ Witness Director so they can present evidence on the potential impact the release would have on the victim and allows victims opportunities to provide input electronically. Obenshain's 2020 Special Session proposal unanimously passed the Virginia Senate before the House of Delegates' Courts of Justice Committee tabled the bill on a party-line vote. "Over the last few months, Virginians have been appalled by the egregious actions of the Virginia Parole Board and their disregard for the requirements of the law and its own policies and procedures. The Board has released violent felons without regard to requirements that it notify victims and

local prosecutors in advance. Their actions have highlighted the lack of transparency under which the Board operates, and this bill seeks to address those transparency concerns. It is past time the Board follows the law and its own policies and provides to victims and their families the respect they deserve, " Obenshain said.

Suetterlein's SB1103 would make Parole Board votes public just like the votes of the Commonwealth's other public the public like other Virboards and commissions.

immense power over critical decisions that impact public safety and individuals' liberties. Virginians should know who is making those decisions a coordinated effort to and how they're making them. It was great to have bipartisan support for this important sunshine reform during the special session and I'm hopeful that we can build on that violations of the law regreat support in 2021," said Suetterlein.

The Virginia Senate ing requirements. passed Suetterlein's 2020 Special Session legisla- Assembly will convene its tion on a 29-10 vote that 2021 Regular Session on included support from a majority of Senate Democrats. The bill was tabled on a party-line vote in the House of Delegates' Courts of Justice Committee, but the Virginia Coalition for Open Government is enthusiastic about Suetterlein's renewed 2021 effort. "I'm heartened to see Senator Suetterlein re-introduce this commonsense bill. The Virginia Coalition for Open Government continues to support this important measure because the Parole Board



David Suetterlein

should be accountable to ginia boards and commis-"The Parole Board has sions and have their votes recorded for the public to see," said Megan Rhyne of the Virginia Coalition for Open Government.

> Both bills are part of bring transparency and accountability to the powerful Parole Board after an Office of the State Inspector General's report revealed several garding notifying victims' families and record keep-

The Virginia General January 13.

on possible effects easier.

Just in September, a bill I cosponsored, the Medical Marijuana Research Act, advanced out of the House Energy and Commerce Committee. I had introduced versions of it in previous years and am glad to see it progress now. A floor vote is anticipated this month, a fact I appreciate but which makes little sense considering the vote on H.R. 3884.

H.R. 3884 leapfrogs over more careful measures, disregarding public health consequences. It deschedules marijuana entirely from the list of scheduled substances under the Controlled Substances Act instead of moving it to another schedule that

-Submitted by Legislative Aide Dan Webb

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BETHEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

11599 Cumberland Gap Road/Rt. 42, New Castle, 864-5242; church phone:544-7040 Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m., Sunday School 10:30 a.m., Choir Tuesday 7:30p.m., Youth Outreach and Missions Program. Rev. Charles Stacy.

CHESTNUT GROVE CHURCH

Duane Wente, Minister, Rt. 42, New Castle, 540-864-5692. Sunday: Worship 10:00 a.m.

CORNERSTONE CHURCH

Pastor Don Brown, Corner of Salem and Wagner, New Castle, 580-3228. Sunday Worship 10:30am (Children meet separately, Nursery provided). Bible Study - Wednesday 6p Teens - Wednesday 6p. Ministries: Men, Ladies, Young Adult, and Seniors. Times vary, call for details

CRAIG HEALING SPRINGS CHRISTIAN CHURCH

(Disciples of Christ)

Pastor - Kenneth W. Davis, Jr., 6 Grannys Branch Road (Johns Creek), New Castle, Phone: 864-6102. Sunday School at 10 am. Sunday Worship at 11 am every Sunday. Fellowship meal after Sunday Worship on second Sundays. Everyone is welcome!

CRAIG VALLEY BAPTIST

171 Salem Avenue, New Castle, 864-5667; Sunday School 10:00 a.m., Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m., Wednesday: Prayer Service and Bible Study 7:00 p.m., Youth Group 6:30-8:00PM, Bible Buddies at 6:30-8:00PM. Transportation provided - call the church. Hearing devices also available. www.craigvalleybaptist.com

CRAIG VALLEY GOSPEL FELLOWSHIP

HWY 621, Pastor Roy Lee Law Jr., "Jay", 864-8984. Sunday School 10:00am; Worship 11:00am., Wednesday night Bible study 7pm, from HWY 311, up HWY 621, 8 miles on left.

CROSSROADS CHURCH

21892 Craigs Creek Road, New Castle. Pastor Gary Burch. 864-7520. Sunday School- 10-10:45AM, Sunday Worship - 11AM-Noon.

FIRST BAPTIST

Pastor Kevin Altizer, Corner of Main Street & Boyd Ave., New Castle. Church phone 864-5919. Sunday School 10:00AM, Sunday Worship 11:00AM and 6PM. Wednesday Evening Bible Study 7PM, Youth Group 7:00PM, Reformers Unanimous Addiction Recovery every Friday evening at 7PM

GRACE ASSEMBLY OF GOD

5530 Catawba Valley Drive, Catawba, VA, 540-384-7075. Pastor Loraine Taylor, agladypastor@msn.com. Sunday service begins at 10:30 a.m.; Wednesday Evening service at 7:00 p.m.; Youth (ages 13-18) & Super Church (ages 4-12) Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. You can also watch on Facebook Live at 10:30 a.m. www.graceassemblycatawaba.org

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH

159 Old Railroad Ave, New Castle, 540-864-PRAY, Sunday School 9:30AM, Sunday Worship Service 10:00AM, Wednesday Night Services 7:00PM.

HEBRON UNITED METHODIST

Pastor Rodney Longmire, Rt. 606, 1981 Caldwell Mt. Rd., New Castle, 540- 400-3419. Worship 11:15AM.

LIGHTHOUSE BAPTIST

Rev. Lee Looney, Rt. 311 N., New Castle. Sunday: Sunday School 10AM, 11AM, & 6PM. Wednesday Bible Study 7PM

LEVEL GREEN CHRISTIAN CHURCH

3388 Cumberland Gap Rd. Newport, Duane Wente, Minister, 540-544-7179. Sunday School 10:00am, Sunday Morning Worship 11:00am, Children's Church 11:00am. Choir Practice, bi-weekly 7:00pm, Ladies meeting first Monday of each month at 7:00pm.

LIGHTHOUSE BAPTIST

Pastor Lee Looney, Rt. 311 N., New Castle, 540-525-7662. Sunday: Sunday School 10AM, 11AM, & 6PM. Wednesday Bible Study 7PM.

MOUNTAIN VIEW CHRISTIAN

4199 Craig Valley Drive, New Castle, 864-6622. Sunday: Worship Service 9:00 a.m., Children's Church 9:15 a.m., Sunday School 10:30

NEW CASTLE CHRISTIAN CHURCH "WHERE YOUR HEART CAN FEEL THE DIFFERENCE"

Sheldon Cosma, Senior Minister; Alex James, Youth Minister; 282 Salem Ave., New Castle; 864-5212; Sunday Mornings: 9 A.M. Contemporary Service and 10:45 A.M. Traditional Service with Sunday School at 10 A.M.; Sunday night adult Bible study at 7 P.M.; Sunday Night Youth Bible study (6-12) at 6:30 P.M.; Wednesday night Bible study at 5:30 P.M. for K-5; If you need a ride to church, please contact Calvin Duncan by 8 P.M. on Saturday at 864-5321; www.nc-cc.org.

NEW CANTERBURY PENTECOSTAL FELLOWSHIP

Pastor John D. Abbott, Hwy 621 (10 miles), phone: 864-8242, Sunday Morning Lesson 9:45 a.m.; Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m.; Wednesday Night Service 6:00 pm.

PAXTON CHAPEL

Pastor Kenny Davis, 17 Sage Brush Lane, New Castle; "Presenting God's Word Faithfully"; Sunday School 10:00 AM; Sunday Worship Service 11:15 AM; visit us on the web at www.paxtonchapelchurch. com; email at paxtonchapel@ yahoo.com.

THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

Contact person: Panco Cantley, 864-5035, 118 Main Street, New Castle. Service Times: Sunday, Bible classes-10 a.m., Worship-11:00 a.m., Evening Worship-6 p.m.; Wednesday, Bible classes - 7 p.m.

NEW CASTLE UNITED METHODIST

Rev. Charles Stacy, 364 Main St., New Castle, Va. 864-5242; Sunday School 10AM, Worship 11AM; Monday Adult Choir 7PM, UMW 3rd Wednesday 7PM, Youth and other programs, Bible Studies

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST CATHOLIC CHURCH

99 2nd Street, New Castle. Rev. Stephen McNally. 540-473-3691 Mass is on Sunday at 11:15 AM.

CRAIG COUNTY COMMUNITY CHURCH -WELCOME HOME!

Sunday service 9-10:15am at the VFW building in New Castle. Casual dress if you desire and contemporary praise and worship. If you don't have a 'home' church, please join us at ours with Pastor Gary Burch. Check us out on facebook or contact us at: craigcountycommunitychurch@gmail.com.

ST. THOMAS ANGLICAN CHURCH

Located at 4910 Hubert Rd, NW Roanoke, Va. Traditional Liturgical Lenten Services, Sunday at 10:30 am. Call (540) 589-1299 or visit www.sttofc.org for midweek masses and events. (In Roanoke, go E on Hershberger, L on Hubert to 4910).

> If your church is not listed and if you are interested, call Randy Thompson at 540-389-9355 or email at advertise@mainstreetnewspapers.com



2021. General knowledge of Circuit Court system, ability to operate computers, computerized cash register, other office equipment and information system equipment; ability to communicate effectively and tactfully with the public; ability to read and understand legal documents; and ability to maintain confidentiality of information handled are all requirements of the job. High School diploma required plus additional education preferred. Apply at Clerk's Office of Circuit Court, Fincastle, Virginia by December 11, 2020. Salary within the Deputy Clerk scale. Applications are available

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hearing scheduled on Monday, December 14 2020, beginning at 7:00 P.M., Facebook Live at the following links: https://www.facebook.com/ Radford-City-Government-301072910338. The public hearing meeting agenda can be viewed at: www.radfordva.gov.

Copies of the agenda may also be obtained by calling the Office of the City Clerk at (540) 731-3603.

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LOCATE PARENTS.

It is ORDERED that DAVID H. BOWLING appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before 1/19/2021 2:00pm.

Sally Davis Clerk

11/16/2020

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 Case No. JJ004492-01-00 & JJ004492-02-00 RADFORD J&DR-JUVENILE DIVISION Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Commonwealth of Virginia. in re BOWLING, ALAYNA DAWN RENEE HILL, STEPHANIE

LAPP, KRISTEN

The object of this suit is to: LOCATE PARENTS.

It is ORDERED that LAPP, KRISTEN appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before 1/19/2021 2:00pm.

11/16/2020

Sally Davis Clerk



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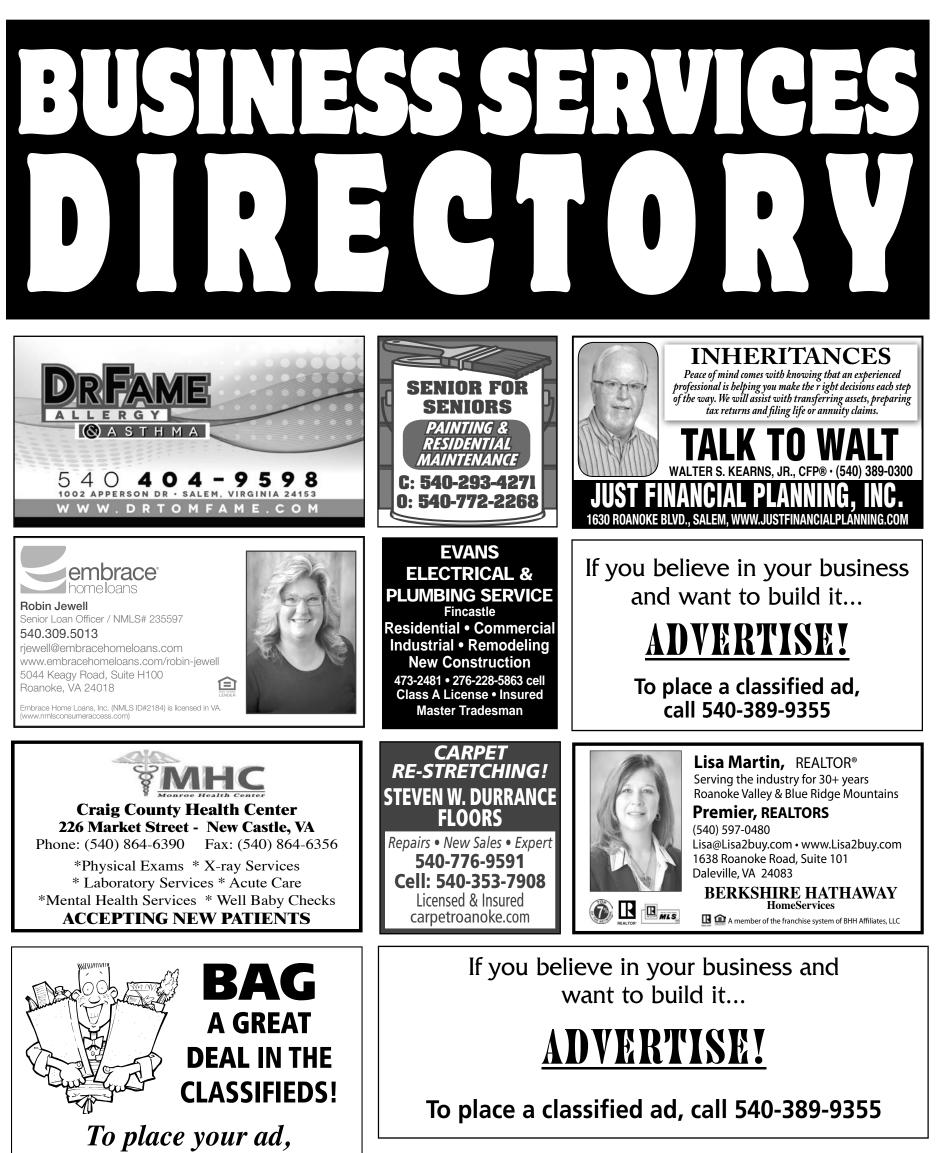
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Rockets are cautiously optimistic with opening of basketball practice



Craig boys' coach Ryan Frazier is looking forward to the season.

High School basketball practice opens at Craig County this week and it's ironic that school was closed on the first day due to snow. It figures to be a challenging time for sports, regardless of the wind and weather.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic the Craig boys and girls will have to observe strict guidelines when practicing, including daily temperature checks. If a student was in school that day the morning check will suffice,

but if he or she is virtual then a check will be made before being allowed to practice.

"It won't be like anything we've seen," said Rocket girls' coach Randy Hale. "Everyone has to be six feet apart and wear a mask. There's no team room, you have to have your own water bottle and the balls have to be cleaned after every practice."

The practice can have no more than two players in a "pod."

"It's going to be tough,"

said Hale. "We haven't been hydrated and caught their able to get in the gym during breath," said Frazier. "The the off-season, and there's no state has its standards that way to keep the girls from could be added to at each sweating. I always say, 'if you locality to meet those needs ain't sweatin,' you ain't doin' for safety. As I have told nothin'."

is dealing with the same all the rules being put on rules.

follow with mask wearing everyone. As of now they on the sidelines by coaches are letting us play a game at all times, and players on we love during a time when the bench after they have many folks are struggling,

the players since we started Boys coach Ryan Frazier meeting, we might not like us. However, we want to "The state has laid out play and will do whatever some guidelines for us to we have to do it safely for we know that and will respect the powers that be and do our best to follow all guidelines."

Rocket girls' coach Randy Hale talks to the team during a timeout last season.

Both teams were expecting good turnouts. Hale reports that everyone eligible is coming back from last year's team, as well as four jayvee players who figure to compete for the varsity. Fratime," he said. "I think we should have a strong competitive team this year as long as we can stay healthy and have some teams to play against."

The schedule is another issue. The girls have 10 games scheduled, two each against Pioneer District foes Eastern Montgomery, Covington, Narrows, Parry Mc-Cluer and Highland. Bath has announced that it won't have a girls' team.

The boys will play everyone in the district, home and away, and non-district games with Giles and Alleghany. Pioneer opponents Bath and Highland have announced they will not have teams.

"So there are four games gone," said Frazier. "Giles is supposed to be first game of the season on December

NCR FILE PHOTO

data of cases and determine if it is safe to travel for these games. I imagine things can and will get changed often throughout the season."

The boys have had very little opportunities to practice in the off-season with the school being off-limits.

"We have not been allowed in the gym this offseason," said Frazier. "I understood it as no one was able to have anything. I have heard some did, but to my knowledge that should not have been allowed. So really we are all in, or about in, the same boat. Thankfully they are allowing us to play because they feel like it can be done safely. We plan to make the most of it.

"We are excited to get started, and hope that it goes smoothly for all schools that participate. We want the kids to be safe first and foremost, but I know they will benefit from some physical work and team spirit. We all could."



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Make sure you're enrolled for 2021.

Check to see if you are eligible for free or low-cost coverage. Open enrollment is going on now - you have until December 15, 2020 to apply for coverage or update your account. Go to HealthCare.gov and follow the easy steps to shop for coverage. There, you will also learn if you qualify for free or low-cost coverage through the Marketplace or under Virginia's recently expanded Medicaid program. For free help understanding your options, find an application assister at coverva.org/assistance.



Sponsored by the Virginia Health Benefit Exchange of the State Corporation Commission

zier has had interest from 25 boys who want to play.

"I am very pleased with those numbers for us, and even more so during this

21, I believe, but that's subject to change. Also, in the week and days leading up to the games the community and schools will look at the

Craig recreation basketball on hold

Craig County has not cancelled the recreation basketball season as of yet, but chances are getting dimmer of having a season. Roanoke County and Salem have already cancelled their seasons.

"We have not cancelled yet, but have very slim hopes," said Craig's Sheri Sloss. "We want too and we have been holding off to make a decision, but with all the restrictions the schools and VHSL have it will be tough to pull it off. Schools may not even allow us to use their gyms if the COVID restrictions don't loosen up."

The Craig County school system has to consider possible liability issues.

'We are not county funded so we are an outside identity," said Sloss. "Plus, to have to clean like is required after each practice and games would take man power. The VHSL last discussions I heard that only parents would be allowed to watch at home games and no away games. If we have to follow that rule we wouldn't make enough to cover our costs, but doesn't mean we won't figure it out if we get the go. So, we are awaiting to see what VHŠL does.'



The Celtics and Wabbits battle for a rebound during a recreation game last winter.