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# THE NEW CASTLE RECORD

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SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Many students had a blast posing in, as they called it, their "Granny and Granddaddy attire." Bottom row, from left to right, Blake Kendall, Mya McAlwee, Allison Crowder, Austin Stewart and Dalton Huffman. Back row, from left to right, Trevor McClanahan, James Sarver, Hunter McClanahan, Cameron Hanes, Holly Givens and Connor Donithan.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

No class was left out because the older students joined right in. Bottom row, from left to right, Emery Whitlock, Maddy Hutchinson, Colton Martin, Lila Jo Taylor, Eden Taylor, Eden Tyree, Aiden Stebar and Legend Cranmer. Back row, from left to right, Aaliyah Lane, Mason Ouellette, Makenzy McCormick, Gunner VanDyke, Aubrey Keffer, Cohen All, Isabella Via, Ryleigh Neff, Emerson Phillips and Lillian Mitchell.

## McCleary Elementary "wiser and older" after 100 days

**Pam Dudding**  
Contributing writer

There is nothing more precious than watching six and seven-year-old kids doing stuff like walk down the school hall, dress in elderly persons clothing, bend over and walk slowly with a cane and talk in a deeper voice while

depicting what they think is 'old' people, as they giggle all the way. McCleary Elementary School celebrated its "100 days of school" last week in a fun and creative manner. "Kindergarten always celebrates the 100th day of school," Principal Gerri VanDyke said. "We have a School Improvement

Committee which meets monthly and comes up with ideas to improve school morale for both students and staff. We decided as a committee that we needed to celebrate the 100th day of in-person instruction big this year." The committee decided it

See 100 days, page 3

## CCPS returning to a five-day schedule

**Pam Dudding**  
Contributing writer

For months, most students in Craig County and other communities have been hoping for school to "return to normal." Though there will be a new normal, Craig County Public Schools are looking forward to having their students back in their classrooms where they believe most can have their better education opportunities served.

At the February School Board Meeting, Director of Instruction Samuel Foster gave a lengthy report on the necessity of in-person classrooms for students.

He mentioned that there had been an interest survey with students conducted and it will be discussed in the March meeting.

Foster recently expressed the following:

•Virtual Virginia (VV) is able to take part in a pilot program for students in K-5 where all 33 pupils in McCleary were 100 percent virtual were moved to Virtual Virginia. Students have to be on their computer with their teacher from about 8 am

to 1 pm. Elementary teachers are no longer serving the virtual students

•Middle school is a year-long program and no way to bring them in mid-year, so unable to utilize VV

•High school is able to move 33 students who were 100 percent virtual to VV classes. The unfortunate part is that electives like accounting cannot be flipped to VV because they do not offer these classes. Therefore, some high school teachers still have virtual classes

Foster shared that Jobs for Virginia Graduates, JVG, (a subprogram from JAG), is a program they have been associated with for over 15 years.

"It is designed to help at-risk students," he said. "We currently have a senior-only program. In that program, all our seniors participate and are learning how to write resumes, filling out applications, doing interviews, stuff like that. We are going to continue that program and maybe adding ways to apply to colleges."

This year, JVG offered an additional grant. Typically, the grants are matching but for this semester, a 30,000 grant was received with no match.

"This is free money, so we were able to start a free program (7-11 to help at-risk students) for the middle and high schools," Foster explained. "Renee Quesenberry is a Title III, fully licensed teacher will be running the program. What was the digital academy before COVID-19, will be rolled into this program. She is also working with students who are working towards their GED."

Quesenberry will be mentoring at-risk students, those failing or at risk of dropping out and not graduating.

Foster reported that the career investigation portion helps to align the students with their interests as well as an interview process, one-on-one process, how to help students get their grades up and spike their interest in school.

Principal Whiting is assisting, and they have formed a list.

Their goal is to have a fully realized JVG handbook by the end of June.

Canvas is the current learning management system that serves all grade levels.

"The state just had a renewal of canvas contract," Foster said. "The idea is so that we can always go 100 percent virtual. In the future, if we have bad weather, we can alleviate snow days that exceed the allotted days."

Foster also explained that Fridays were originally designed for a day to work with virtual students with their homework and to tutor them. It was to be a learning day, not a workday.

"Currently, K-5 students are not virtual unless it is a virtual day. Grades 6 through 8 will not be working with their virtual students. Because we have electives, high school students will still need Friday to connect with their virtual students," he added.

Statistics of students in crisis were given:

- Elementary - seven students have an F (one is Virtual)
- Middle school - 85 students have an F in a grade (14 are Virtual). Of

See Schools, page 5

**FAILURE**

SHOULD NOT, CANNOT and WILL NOT

**BE AN OPTION**

Every Child a Graduate, Every Child Prepared for Life

SUBMITTED PHOTO

A variety of topics were presented at the February School Board Meeting, including the pros and cons of bringing the in-person classroom back to CCPS. With an increased amount of students having poor grades, the teachers and administration feel this is a dire necessity and are working on all precautions for health so students can return to some type of normalcy.

## Community supports Craig Creek Volunteer Fire Department fundraiser



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Volunteers from the Upper Craig Creek Volunteer Fire Department offered spaghetti, garlic bread, fresh salad, drinks and a list of desserts for attendees to choose from at their annual fundraiser, which was held on Saturday, Feb. 27, this year. By 5:20 p.m., approximately 100 meals have already been served. Pictured from left to right are, Deb Cash, Brad Jones, Heather Matheny and Jacob Altizer.

## Field of Dreams to join "Give" program on March 10



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Craig County Field of Dreams will be joining the Annual Roanoke Valley Gives Program in hopes to raise funds to complete a new project that it is pursuing for area children to use.

**Pam Dudding**  
Contributing writer

Whoever thinks that small towns only provide small things do not know the heart of Craig County citizens.

Our high school students have received awards and beat out college competition, one teacher was nominated for a Presidential award, other teachers have received honors, including being awarded at state functions. In addition to that, many students continue to receive high honors in college while others start their own businesses with encouragement from the community. Local citizens work diligently to help serve the New Castle area with clothes, food and other needs.

By continuing to reach for the best for Craig County kids to have and accomplishing dreams they set forth and pursuing new projects, the Field of Dreams follow the path of that vision.

The upcoming Annual Roanoke Valley Gives Project helps them to do just that.

On March 10, the

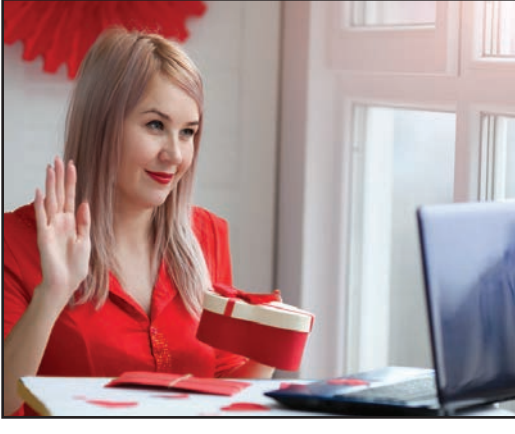
Community Foundation serving Western Virginia is sponsoring the Sixth Annual Fundraiser, Roanoke Valley Gives.

"It is a 24-hour online event to raise money for area non-profit organizations, including Craig County Recreation and Conservation Association's Field of Dreams," said Debbie Snead. "Supporters are invited to 'give where you live.'"

Reported Snead for the committee, "CCR&CA recently completed several infrastructure projects for the Field, including electricity with assistance from Craig Botetourt Electric Cooperative; a well for watering the fields with labor donated by Billy Horn; and a detailed water project with the help of BJ and Grant Oliver to get fresh water from the PSA into the field."

They are happy to add that federal funding from the Child Care and Development Block Grant has provided funds for them "to construct a learning lab for school age children to expand and maintain capacity to increase

See Dreams, page 3



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# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## MONDAY THROUGH SATURDAY

The Craig County Public Library is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 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.

•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.  
•The New Castle 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 stjohncastle@tds.net.

## SECOND MONDAY

•Paint Bank Ladies Auxiliary meeting, 7 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 Center.

## SECOND TUESDAY

Mountain Lodge 140 AF&AM, 7:30 p.m. at Lodge Hall, 255 Main St.

## THIRD WEDNESDAY

The Botetourt/Craig/ Roanoke Farm Service

Agency County Committee meets each month at 10 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.

## 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.

Visit us online at newcastlerecord.com

# Expanding broadband service in Craig with Starlink

**Pam Dudding**  
Contributing writer

Craig County residents have experienced their share of difficulties with broadband service. That is the case in large part because the rural community is surrounded by majestic mountains.

In response to the growing need for broadband expansion in the community, the Craig County Broadband Committee (CCBC) was created by the Board of Supervisors.

Even though the CCBC has only been active for five months, the members have been hard at work developing internet options for local residents.

Committee membership is volunteer-based, but members are dedicated to the goal of expanding broadband in Craig County. Members have shared that they have spent many hours meeting with corporate executives and representatives of Internet Service

Providers (ISPs) to identify unique solutions to broadband expansion throughout the community.

“Craig County lacks the necessary population to attract large investments from most national ISPs, as a result nearly 89 percent of the county is underserved. We’re concerned that our students and workforce are being left behind in an ever-digital world,” Broadband Committee Member and former New Castle Town Council Member C. Jordan Labiosa said.

Members of the committee have met with executives from companies such as T-Mobile and CBEC, in addition to representatives from Elon Musk’s SpaceX, Dish Network, Virginia Tech and more.

Starlink is just one of several companies that the Broadband Committee is currently working with.

“Many households in the New Castle area are already

using T-Mobile’s new ISP which is still in the testing phase and are seeing faster internet for less cost than other area providers,” Labiosa explained before adding, “The T-Mobile partnership was also negotiated by the Broadband Committee and more details related to that partnership will be available in the coming months.”

He continued, “Utilization of Craig County’s local assets has been a subject of discussion for the committee. Even though the Mid-Atlantic Broadband Corporation (MBC) installed fiber on Rt. 606, 615 and 42 in Craig County, an ISP would need to agree to lease that infrastructure to make it usable for local internet access.”

Their exploration of potential grants is ongoing, but in order to qualify for the grants, work must be done by the ISPs to create expansion plans in the community.

“Discussions with ISPs have gone well in the sense that many are open to serving our community in an altruistic way. Most whole-county fiber expansion plans will cost in the millions of dollars when you consider the amount of land in our community. This has led to the development of short-term options while the ultimate goal of whole-county fiber is being pursued,” Trace Bellassai, Broadband Committee Chairman and Craig County School Board Member, said.

Other members of the Craig County Broadband Committee include Sam Foster, JoAnna Hutchison and Ryan McDaniel.

Excitement is in the air as Craig County’s Broadband Committee announced that all county residents are now eligible to pre-order Starlink internet service.

“Starlink is a low earth orbit satellite ISP currently capable

of delivering around 100Mbps with an eventual goal of 1Gbps. It is anticipated that this service will be launching mid-to-late 2021, but potential customers are encouraged to pre-order today as they will be chosen on a first-come, first-serve basis until the provider is fully operational,” a company spokesperson said.

“Interested individuals should get started at starlink.com.” Many residents in Craig have already asked questions and are in hopes that this will be their answer to a good internet service for their families.

“It has not yet been announced how many households will be able to use Starlink in the beginning, but those who sign-up will be contacted by Starlink on a first-come, first-serve basis,” said Labiosa who can be contacted at 540-5349 or jordan@labiosa.com for additional information.

# Bank of Botetourt to virtually host high school seniors for VBA Bank Day Scholarship Program

Beginning Monday, March 15, Bank of Botetourt will virtually host high school seniors from high schools throughout its bank footprint to participate in Bank Day, a statewide effort sponsored by the Virginia Bankers Association (VBA) Education Foundation and the VBA Emerging Bank Leaders. The high schools eligible for seniors to participate

include Cave Spring, Franklin County, Hidden Valley, James River, Lord Botetourt, Northside, Parry McCluer, Patrick Henry, Rockbridge County, Salem, William Byrd and William Fleming.

The purpose of the program is to expose students to the banking industry and provide an opportunity for the students to learn about

banking, careers in banking, financial services and the vital role Bank of Botetourt and banks across Virginia play in their communities.

The third Tuesday in March was declared Bank Day by the Virginia General Assembly in 1991 and Bank of Botetourt is proud to host students for this important program. From their experience, par-

ticipating students will write an essay for the chance to win a scholarship.

Six regional scholarships of \$2,500 each will be awarded by the VBA, and from those six winners a statewide runner-up and overall statewide winner will be chosen. The statewide runner-up will receive an additional \$3,000 scholarship - \$3,500 in total - and the overall statewide winner will receive an additional \$5,000 scholarship - \$7,500 in total. There will also be six honorable mention scholarships of \$1,000 each. In all, 12 students statewide will receive scholarships totaling \$29,000.

Throughout the virtual program, students will have access to a Virginia banking industry resource website that houses videos, articles

and podcasts to explore and research. As a virtual host, Bank of Botetourt will also be providing supplemental materials and packets to the students as a thank you to each senior for participating.

“Bank Day is one of the best short-term experiences for students—the opportunity to learn about the many services that banks offer and the ways Virginia banks support the communities they serve, and to start the networking that often leads to part-time and summer jobs, scholarships, and a start on a career path in the financial world,” said Bruce Whitehurst, president & CEO of the Virginia Bankers Association.

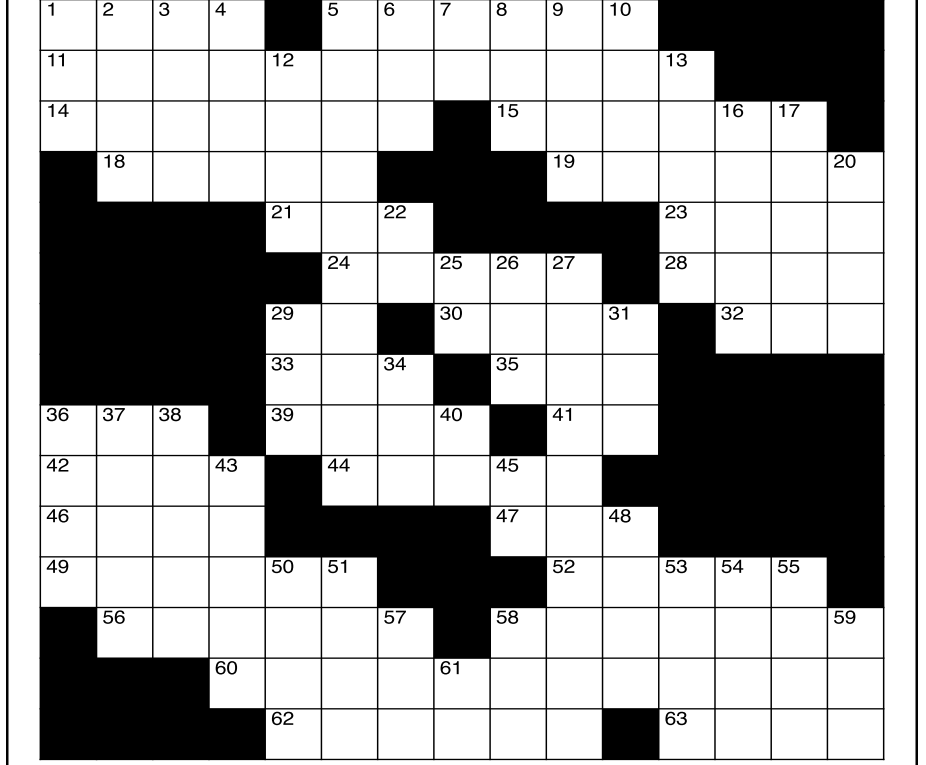
“We feel that the financial education of our youth is one more way the bank serves our

communities. VBA Bank Day offers high school seniors the unique opportunity to experience community banking at its finest. They learn about banking, financial services and the vital role community banks play in their communities. We are proud to partner with the VBA to offer this scholarship opportunity,” said Lyn Hayth, President & CEO of Bank of Botetourt.

To learn more or to sign up to participate in the VBA Bank Day program with Bank of Botetourt, contact Jon Foreman at BankDay@BankofBotetourt.com or 540-591-5053. Student registration closes on Friday, March 5.

—Submitted by  
Mary Ann Miller,  
Business Banking and  
Community Relations

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. One of Noah's sons
  - 5. Openings
  - 11. Rising from the dead
  - 14. Expressions for humorous effect
  - 15. North American country
  - 18. Flowed over
  - 19. Tags
  - 21. Long-lasting light bulb
  - 23. Off-Broadway theater award
  - 24. Khoikhoi peoples
  - 28. Beloved movie pig
  - 29. South Dakota
  - 30. Tai language
  - 32. Get free of
  - 33. Afflict
  - 35. Transmits genetic information from DNA
  - 36. Commercials
  - 39. Digits
  - 41. Expression of sympathy
  - 42. Bleats
  - 44. Swiss Nobel Peace Prize winner
  - 46. Vegetable
  - 47. Turf
  - 49. Disorganized in character
  - 52. Takes
  - 56. Rules over
  - 58. More fervid
  - 60. Sweet drink
  - 62. Cry loudly
  - 63. A friendly nation
  - CLUES DOWN
  - 1. A title of respect in India
  - 2. His and \_\_\_
  - 3. Employee stock ownership plan
  - 4. A type of bond (abbr.)
  - 5. Acting as if you are
  - 6. Affirmative
  - 7. Not caps
  - 8. Type of medication
  - 9. Monetary unit
  - 10. Private school in New York
  - 12. Small stream
  - 13. A person of wealth
  - 16. Exclude
  - 17. Someone who vouches for you
  - 20. Vegetable part
  - 22. Gov't lawyer
  - 25. Term to address a woman
  - 26. Swiss river
  - 27. About senator
  - 29. \_\_\_ Paulo, city
  - 31. Native American tribe
  - 34. "Titanic" actor
  - 36. Campaign for students' rights (abbr.)
  - 37. Capital of Senegal
  - 38. Slang for military leader
  - 40. Football's big game
  - 43. Women who threw themselves on funeral pyres
  - 45. Equally
  - 48. Forest animal
  - 50. Heavy stoves
  - 51. Releasing hormone (abbr.)
  - 53. Song
  - 54. Type of pickle
  - 55. Offer in return for money
  - 57. Soviet Socialist Republic
  - 58. Burns wood (abbr.)
  - 59. Beloved singer
  - 61. Three-toed sloth

# Senators urge FCC to use COVID broadband programs to help close the digital divide

U.S. Senators Angus King (I-Maine), Maggie Hassan (D-N.H.), and Mark Warner (D-Va.) recently sent a letter to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), urging the Commission to administer the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program (EBBP) in a way that helps address the longstanding digital divides that block too many Americans from securing a reliable, affordable broadband connection.

In their letter, the Senators encourage the FCC to design the pro-

gram in a way that helps to establish a “durable, scalable model for future digital equity efforts,” and lays out specific steps to ensure that all Americans can access this essential 21st century tool.

“As communities across the country continue to grapple with connectivity challenges as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, we have seen unprecedented reliance on telepresence services, including telework, online education, telehealth, and remote support services,” wrote

the Senators.

They added, “unfortunately, the already-existing digital divide has been further exacerbated by these disruptions, which have highlighted and furthered the broadband gap that too many American households still face. While Congress continues to work with the FCC and other Federal agencies on expanding broadband access to unserved and underserved areas through a number of programs, affordability remains

# Treasury Department announces minority and community-based lenders can apply for emergency COVID-19 grants

U.S. Sen. Mark R. Warner (D-VA) recently announced that minority-owned and community-based lending institutions can now apply for grants through the U.S. Treasury Department to support, prepare for, and respond to the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The funding is available as part of a record \$12 billion investment to open up new credit opportunities for Black, Latino and low-income communities that Sen. Warner successfully fought to include in the \$900 billion COVID-19 relief bill Congress passed in December.

“Even before the pandemic, low-income communities and communities of color faced significant barriers in accessing credit and economic op-

portunity,” said Sen. Warner. “The economic crisis caused by COVID-19 has only exacerbated those inequalities. This announcement by the Treasury Department is one step in helping low-income and minority communities recover and emerge from this unprecedented economic downturn with more opportunities than before.”

Surveys show that Black and Latino-owned small businesses have been particularly hard-hit during the pandemic. Thousands of minority-owned small businesses have closed for good, in part due to difficulty securing bank loans and accessing assistance such as the Paycheck Protection Program. The Federal Reserve Bank of New York found that while overall small busi-

ness ownership in the U.S. dropped 22 percent between February and April 2020, Black and Latino ownership dropped by 41 percent and 32 percent, respectively. Another recent survey revealed that almost 1 in 5 Black and Hispanic entrepreneurs expect to permanently close their doors within three months, compared to 14 percent of white small business owners.

In order to combat the hemorrhaging of jobs and economic opportunities during the pandemic, Sen. Warner in July teamed up with then-Sen. Kamala Harris (D-CA), Sen. Cory Booker (D-NJ) and a bipartisan group of colleagues to introduce the Jobs and Neighborhood Investment Act in order to strengthen the financial in-

stitutions that serve communities of color and increase lending to minority-owned businesses and lower-income borrowers. The effort secured endorsements from the Black Economic Alliance, the NAACP, the National Bankers Association, the National Urban League, the Center for Responsible Lending and a host of other advocacy organizations and civil rights groups. Sen. Warner was later able to secure provisions from the bill in the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021, which was signed into law on December 27, 2020, providing an unprecedented \$12 billion in funding for lenders that predominantly operate in underserved communities.

This announcement by the Treasury Department released an initial tranche of \$1.25 billion in grant funding for eligible community development financial institutions (CDFIs) in order to expand the flow of credit into underserved, minority, and historically disadvantaged communities, helping small businesses stay afloat and expand operations while providing affordable access to credit for lower income borrowers. Additional funding will be made available in the coming months, as part of the largest single investment into minority-owned and community-based lending institutions in the nation’s history.

-Submitted by Rachel Cohen, Communications Director

## 100 days

from page 1

would be fun for students and staff to dress like they are 100-years-old, because “we are 100 days wiser.”

The front of the office windows had a huge 100 painted on it, artistically done by Art Teacher Ms. Mitten and the help of Mrs. Coulson’s fifth-grade class.

Teachers had special activities in their rooms throughout the day. For example, they played a song on the PA system at the beginning of the day and had a fun parade.

“This way all the students and staff were able to see everyone who participated,” VanDyke said. “The majority of the staff and students had fun participating in our 100th day of school celebration.”

Kids laughed, and teachers were considered “cool” for participating.

Some children added that their teacher “looked that old anyway”, adding a big laugh with their hand over their mouth and mask (the name is being kept confidential).

To add to the special event, students were taught the gift of giving as well. When it was all said and done, approximately 100 cans of pet food hope to be collected and donated to a local food pantry.

Additionally, Samantha Gilreath and Raeanne Young designed t-shirts for the staff which read, “I survived 100 masked days of school.”

VanDyke noted, “The students who went above and beyond received additional recognition and a small treat from the office.”

All of the students received smarties with a note that said, “100 days



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

**Teachers wearing their newly designed facemasks and t-shirts which read “I survived 100 days masked of school.” Front row, from left to right, Dustin Persinger, Alyssa Schulke and Amanda Sarver. Middle row, from left to right, Holly Klotter, Samantha Gilreath, Raeann Young, Andrea Jennings, Alli Meadows, Lauren McAllister and Theresa Mitten. Back row, from left to right, Dee Dee Smith, Debbie Thomas, Marie Summers, Susan Wilcher, Nicole Persinger, Tammy Flinchum, Chris Ratliff, Karen Jones and MaKena Coulson.**

Smarter.” The staff received a note that stated, “Staff you are worth 100 Grand.” Attached to the note was a 100 Grand candy bar.

“The best outcome of

the entire day was the normalcy it brought to the staff and students,” VanDyke shared. “It allowed us to celebrate together and enjoy learning.”



**Teachers Chris Ratliff and Instructional Assistant Melissa Fitzpatrick adorned in their “old folks” attire and curlers.**

## Broadband

from page 2

a significant barrier to connectivity for far too many Americans.

According to Pew Research, approximately half of non-broadband users’ given reason for lack of connectivity is prohibitive cost, and 44 percent of households earning \$30,000 or less do not have broadband. With the establishment of the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program, and with proper, forward-looking implementation, the belief is that Senators can make a substantial difference in supporting broadband affordability for the most vulnerable Americans.

“First, while the EBBP will sunset after the end of the coronavirus pandemic, it presents a unique opportunity for the FCC to look at how to address the broadband affordability issue long-term and starting to think now about the longevity of cost support well beyond this program,” the Senators continued. “As we know, the ultimate end to the pandemic will not signify the end to the digital divide, and the efforts that we put forth now toward encouraging digital equity must represent a durable, scalable model for future digital equity efforts.”

The letter from Senators King, Hassan and Warner goes on to lay out additional steps that the FCC should take in order to maximize the reach and impact of the EBBP both during this crisis and in the long-term.

Specifically, the Senators highlight the value of collaborating, with state and community partners, urge the commission to set the eligibility criteria as broadly as reasonably possible, and emphasize the importance of supporting newer or smaller broadband services, many of which operate in historically underserved areas.

“Finally, it is important to make access to the EBBP benefits streamlined and accessible - both for providers and households, including subscribers of newer broadband service. The program will be most successful when eligible households are readily able to participate without overly cumbersome or restrictive requirements,” added the Senators.

“Closing the digital divide is of critical importance to our economic future and we

look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure every American has access to affordable high-speed broadband, regardless of one’s household income or the zip code of where one lives,” the Senators concluded. “We appreciate your history of leadership on connectivity issues and working to close the digital divide. We believe that the EBBP presents an exciting opportunity to address the digital divide and affordability barriers to broadband access. With proper implementation and collaboration with state and local partners, it can allow all members of our communities to better participate in a 21st century society and economy, both during the coronavirus pandemic and beyond.”

-Submitted by Rachel Cohen, Communications Director

## Dreams

from page 1

access to safe learning spaces for school age children from Pre-k through 12.”

The Learning Lab will be located at the Craig Field of Dreams Complex and will be available for sports and community activities when the lab is not in use.

“Thus, with the water project complete we’re in need of a septic system to complete the infrastructure and for the potential building,” Snead said. “The Block Grant will fund construction of the Learning Lab and contribute to developing a septic system.”

Therefore, they are seeking community partners to match the grant to help fund the cost of executing the system.

“If a Secondary Treatment System is required as was indicated in an earlier permit, due to the size of the complex, extra tanks, lines and pumping station, the additional cost could be as much

between \$30,000 and \$35,000,” she said before adding, “The Roanoke Valley Gives (RVG) event can help raise the funds needed to pay for the septic system, if people will contribute.”

Donations made on the web page are tax-deductible and go directly to the Craig Field of Dreams.

“Your support will ensure that our children have a place to experience the joy of playing sports and being part of a team,” she said. “We need you to be part of our team. Please forward this message to family, friends, groups and social media to multiply our numbers.”

To donate, visit Craig Field of Dreams at <https://www.rvkgives.org/organizations/craig-county-recreation-and-conservation-association-inc>. “We appreciate your support,” expressed the entire committee.

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Send community news and photos  
to [shawn.nowlin@ourvalley.org](mailto:shawn.nowlin@ourvalley.org)

# OPINION

# Craig County Public Library is open

**Library Corner**  
Empowering individuals to build a stronger community

Yes, CCPL is still open! While other community libraries have had to close, our little library is still holding strong. A huge shout out and THANK YOU to our amazing CCPL staff who continue to support our beautiful community by offering education, information and distant social interaction.

March will be an exciting month as we have two great events to share with you.

**Roanoke Valley Gives**  
Craig County Public Library is happy to announce participation in Roanoke Valley Gives! This year, the big day is set for Wednesday, March 10. As the challenges of social distanc-

ing continue to linger, we are dedicated to overcoming these obstacles with new programs! Our first is a Monthly Take & Make Activity program for families with young children. We are excited to offer this new program and will dedicate the funds raised from Roanoke Valley Gives to supporting its success.

All day on 03.10.21, anyone (even friends from afar) can go online to [rvgives.org](http://rvgives.org) and make a tax-deductible donation to their favorite Roanoke Valley nonprofit. Early giving is open between now and midnight on March 10. Here's how you can show your support:

- Go to: [rvgives.org](http://rvgives.org),
- Click on View Participating Nonprofits,
- Search for CRAIG COUNTY,
- There are a few awesome local community nonprofits participating

this year,

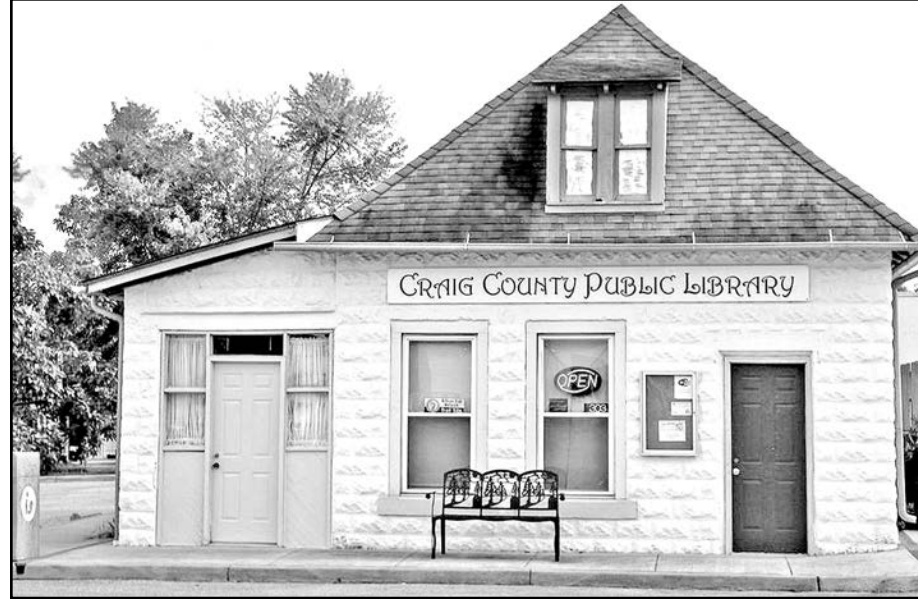
•Please consider supporting any and all and remember every amount is helpful!!

Thank you for your continued support of your beautiful community!!

**Monthly Take & Make Activity**

Monthly Take & Make Activity is a new Craig County Public Library children's program that is launching this week. This will be a monthly program and is geared for families with children ages ranging 1 – 10. Of course, this will be fun for adults or older children to be creative and engage with little ones as well.

Each month a new Take & Make Activity will be ready for pick up at the library. Each activity will have a monthly theme and loaded with fun! Some of the items included in the activity



The Craig County Public Library is at 303 Main Street.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

will be coloring sheets, crafts and most supplies, word fun pages, puzzles, poems, and my personal favorite, the Monthly Fun Facts!! When the activity is completed you can choose to return them to the library for display in our children's

area or keep them to make your own home festive. Look for your returned items to be featured on our Facebook page!

Also included in each activity is a question/answer sheet. Please be sure to share what you

most enjoyed about the monthly activity and we are always open to your creative ideas.

Please reach out to set up a time to pick up your Monthly Take & Make Activity.

Craig County Public Library: (540) 864-8978

Email letters to the editor to [shawn.nowlin@ourvalley.org](mailto:shawn.nowlin@ourvalley.org)

## Vaccination efforts continue to expand

As vaccination efforts expand and COVID-19 disease activity decreases in our community, we are getting more and more questions every day about when things can return to "normal." Questions about school sports are no exception.

Each week, I have the pleasure of holding a routine conference call with the superintendents of the school systems located within the Roanoke City & Alleghany Health Districts. We have discussed a wide range of topics affecting public education, including community trends, vaccination plans for school staff and strategies to get children safely back into classrooms.

Recognizing the role youth sports play in our society, we have also spent a significant amount of time discussing how students can safely engage in sports. Physical activity, including youth sports, is essential for physical and mental well-being. While outdoor sports are generally considered a safer setting than indoor sports with respect to disease transmission, with a new season of high school

**Dr. Cynthia Morrow**  
Roanoke City and Alleghany Health Districts Health Director  
Guest Contributor

sports getting underway this week, I continue to urge coaches and parents to take measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in all settings. Such measures include:

•To the extent possible: coaches need to ensure that physical distancing is maintained, promote the use of face-coverings when players are not on the field and provide resources for handwashing/ hand sanitizing.

•Coaches, school staff, parents and players need to understand the risk of transmission of disease and respond accordingly. Outdoor contact sports, such as football, pose a significantly greater risk of transmission than non-contact

sports such as tennis or golf.

•Schools need to create and maintain places for spectators in accordance with current Executive Orders.

While we are so pleased to see the overall local infection trends coming down since their peak after the holidays in January, we cannot afford to let down our guard, at home, at work and in places where people may gather, such as at sporting events. It is clear the positive impact that sports can have in young people's lives. In order to enjoy these activities safely, we must all remain vigilant by continuing to wear masks, wash hands and keeping a physical distance from each other. We know these mitigation measures work to keep COVID-19 transmission rates down, and when combined with ongoing vaccination efforts, especially for school staff and our most vulnerable citizens. Together, these tools give us the best chance to provide as safe a setting as possible for sporting events in our community.

**THE NEW CASTLE RECORD**

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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 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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Date: Saturday, March 6, 2021  
Time: 1:00 PM  
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Cash only. Buyer has 24 hours to remove all property.  
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**Help Wanted - General**

**Part Time Newspaper Production Help**  
The Salem TimesRegister has openings for afternoon/evening shift work inserting, labeling and bundling newspapers for delivery. No experience necessary. Hours may vary. Will train. \$7.50 per hour. Contact Lynn Hurst, General Manager, Salem-Times Register (540)389-9355 or email lhurst@ourvalley.org

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**Executive Director Friends of Claytor Lake**

Promote/implement FOCL's mission by serving as main contact for Board and public. Duties include fundraising, social media and website management, organizing events, maintaining finances, corporate documents, and database, day to day management, and accounting/payroll. Requirements: Bachelor's degree in Communications, Business, Nonprofit or related field required or equivalent, with minimum 2 years non-profit experience. Excellent written/oral communication skills with dedication to customer service. Skill in social media, MS Office, accounting and recordkeeping. Excellent organizational skills with ability to multitask. Public speaking, and knowledge of Claytor Lake preferred. 30 hours per week. Send Resume and References to claytorlakegirl@gmail.com

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**Help Wanted - Health Care**

**Director of Nurses/RN**  
Adult Care Center of Roanoke Valley accrv.org  
Full-time, Monday-Friday, NO WEEKENDS OR EVENINGS

Strong clinical/assessment skills; supervision direct care staff; managing medical records; interacting with home and community based partners (doctors, hospitals, case managers, social workers, participants, families).

Talented and caring licensed RN/nurse leader who is dedicated to making a difference in the lives of the participants we serve in an outstanding noon-profit adult medical day care program for dependent adults.

Email Ruth Parsons, Administrator [rparkers@accrv.org](mailto:rparkers@accrv.org) or call 540-798-0087.

EEO

**Medication Technician/Aide or LPN**

Adult Care Center of Roanoke Valley accrv.org

Full-time, Monday-Friday, NO WEEKENDS

Under supervision of RN, you provide medication administration, assistance with ADLS, and person-centered care/activities in an outstanding non-profit adult medical day care program for dependent adults.

We are looking to add caring attentive team members who are dedicated to making a difference in the lives of the participants we serve.

Email Ruth Parsons, Administrator [rparkers@accrv.org](mailto:rparkers@accrv.org) or call 540-798-0087.

EEO

**Legals - City of Radford**

**Radford Seeks Proposals for CDBG Action Plan 2021-2022**  
The City of Radford is seeking proposals for its anticipated Public Service Funds for the upcoming

**Legals - City of Radford**

2021-2022 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program.

Eligible applicants include: (1) Registered 501(c)(3) non-profit corporations, (2) Governmental entities, including public agencies, commissions or authorities that are independent of the City of Radford, (3) Churches that meet the requirements of IRC section 501(c)(3), regardless of their application and recognition from the IRS (4) Institutes of higher education. Program beneficiaries must be low or moderate income.

Public service programs include, but are not limited to: health care, job training, recreation programs, education programs, anti-violence programs, services for senior citizens, youth services, services for homeless persons, substance abuse counseling and treatment, domestic violence services, mental health services, immigrant services, disability services, and fair housing/tenant landlord counseling.

Interested applicants should submit a brief (3-page maximum) narrative that describes the proposed project, needs addressed, target population and the type of service. You may mail or deliver your proposal to: Melissa Skelton, 10 Robertson St, Radford, VA 24141. You may also submit proposals electronically to [melissa.skelton@radfordva.gov](mailto:melissa.skelton@radfordva.gov). Proposals must be received by March 22, 2021 to be considered for funding during this Annual Action Plan cycle. If you have questions, please contact Ms. Skelton at the email above or by phone at 540-731-3603.

**City of Radford Community Development Block Grant 2021 Action Plan**

**Public Input Meetings**  
The City of Radford invites you to public input sessions that give citizens an opportunity to offer suggestions for projects that they see a need for in the community that are related to decent housing, suitable living environment and economic opportunity. The Action Plan serves as the City's grant application for Community Development Block Grant Funds and sets the goals and budgets for the use of funds from the program. The public input meetings have been scheduled as follows:  
Tuesday, March 9, 2021 - City Council Chamber, 12:00 pm  
Wednesday, March 10, 2021 - City Council Chambers, 5:00 pm  
Questions should be directed to Ms. Melissa Skelton, at [Melissa.Skelton@radfordva.gov](mailto:Melissa.Skelton@radfordva.gov) or at (540) 731-3603.

**Legals - City of Salem**

**PUBLIC HEARING**

The City of Salem School Board will hold a public hearing for comment on the FY 2021-2022 budget on Tuesday, March 9, 2021. The hearing will begin at 5:30 PM at South Salem Elementary School, 1600 Carolyn Road, Salem, VA 24153. Any citizen of Salem who wishes to address the Board should contact Kathy A. Jordan, Clerk of the Board, at 389-0130 by Monday, March 8, in order to be placed on the agenda. Individuals who plan to address the Board are requested to bring a copy of their remarks for the record. In accordance with Board Policy KD, Public Participation in Board Meetings, individuals who plan to address the Board are requested to:  
• provide their name and address,  
• address their remarks to the Board,  
• be brief,  
• provide a copy of their remarks for the record, and  
• be prepared to answer questions from the Board,  
• In unusual cases or cases of emergency, the Board, by consensus, may allow an individual or organization to speak if not on the agenda.

**ABC NOTICE**

Duck In Market LLC, trading as Duck In Market 3, 3630 Franklin Rd, Roanoke, Roanoke City, Virginia 24014-2204.

**Legals - City of Salem**

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

Pinkesh Patel, Member

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](http://www.abc.virginia.gov) or 800-552-3200.

**ABC NOTICE**

Pizza Den LLC, trading as Pizza Den, 1302 W Main St, Salem, Virginia 24153-4.

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Wine and Beer On Premises/Mixed Beverage Res license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

Jason Booker, 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](http://www.abc.virginia.gov) or 800-552-3200.

**Legals - Montgomery County**

**ORDER OF PUBLICATION**

Commonwealth of Virginia Va. Code Ann. §§ 8.01-316,-317  
**Case No. CL21000021-00**  
Pulaski County Circuit Court  
Hope Marie Moles LONG v Robert William LONG, Jr.

The object of this suit is to: obtain a divorce from the bond of matrimony from the Defendant on the grounds of living separate and apart for a period exceeding one year. It appearing by affidavit that the Defendant's last known address of residence was 1670 Spruce Drive, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073; that the Defendant's present whereabouts are unknown; and that diligence has been used by or on behalf of the Plaintiff to ascertain Defendant's whereabouts without effect; that the Plaintiff previously sought service of process on the Defendant at his last known address stated above; and the Sheriff of Montgomery County, Virginia has filed a return of service stating that the process has been in his hands for 21 days and that he has been unable to make service of process; it is ORDERED that the Defendant appear before this Court on or before April 15, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. and protect his interest herein.

It is ORDERED that Robert William Long Jr. appear at the above-named court and protect his interests on or before April 15, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

2-16-2021  
Trish L. Albert  
Deputy Clerk

**Legals - Town of Vinton**

**LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF VINTON, VIRGINIA NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

Please be advised that the Vinton Town Council will hold a public hearing at its meeting on Tuesday, April 6, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, on the following, to-wit:

TO SET A PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX RATE OF NOT MORE THAN \$1.00 PER \$100 ASSESSED VALUATION IN THE TOWN OF VINTON.

TO SET A MACHINERY AND TOOLS TAX RATE OF NOT MORE THAN \$1.00 PER \$100 ASSESSED VALUATION IN THE TOWN OF VINTON.

In light of the ongoing COVID-19 emergency,

**Legals - Town of Vinton**

participation in this public hearing by Council members, staff, and the public will be available through electronic or other alternative means. The public may comment on the proposed tax rates by emailing [sjohnson@vintonva.gov](mailto:sjohnson@vintonva.gov), leaving a message at 540-983-0607 or writing to the Town Clerk, Vinton Municipal Building, 311 S. Pollard Street, Vinton, Virginia 24179. Voice mails, emails and other messages containing comments on the Ordinance will be provided to Council members. The public also may be able to comment during the electronic public hearing. Citizens interested in this option must register in advance by calling the Town Clerk's Office at 540-983-0607 or sending an email to [sjohnson@vintonva.gov](mailto:sjohnson@vintonva.gov) by 12 Noon on Monday, April 5, 2021. The public can observe this meeting through a livestream on the Town's Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/vintonva](http://www.facebook.com/vintonva). Additional information concerning the meeting and the public hearing will be made available on the Town's website at least three days before the meeting date.

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED REAL PROPERTY TAX INCREASE**

The Town of Vinton proposes to increase property tax levies. 1. Assessment Increase: Total assessed value of real property, excluding additional assessments due to new construction or improvements to property, exceeds last year's total assessed value of real property by 4.85 percent. 2. Lowered Rate Necessary to Offset Increased Assessment: The tax rate which would levy the same amount of real estate tax as last year, when multiplied by the new total assessed value of real estate with the exclusions mentioned above, would be \$.0666 per \$100 of assessed value. This rate will be known as the "lowered tax rate." 3. Effective Rate Increase: The Town of Vinton proposes to adopt a tax rate of \$.07 per \$100 of assessed value. The difference between the lowered tax rate and the proposed rate would be \$.0034 per \$100, or 4.85 percent. This difference will be known as the "effective tax rate increase." Individual property taxes may, however, increase at a percentage greater than or less than the above percentage. 4. Proposed Total Budget Increase: Based on the proposed real property tax rate and changes in other revenues, the total budget of the Town of Vinton General Fund will exceed last year's by 4.85 percent.

Persons requiring special assistance to attend and participate at this public hearing should contact the Town Manager's office at (540) 983-0607.

Susan N. Johnson  
Town Clerk

**Legals - Town of Vinton**

meeting and the public hearing will be made available on the Town's website at least three days before the meeting date. Persons requiring special assistance to attend and participate at this public hearing should contact the Town Manager's office at (540) 983-0607.

Susan N. Johnson  
Town Clerk

**Legals - Town of Vinton**

**NOTICE:**  
COUNTY OF ROANOKE, VIRGINIA v. BARBARA WILCHER MOORE, ET AL  
Roanoke County Circuit Court Hearing on 4/8/2021 at 10:00 AM regarding proceeds from sale of property. Any legal heirs with an interest in Ms. Moore's estate must appear at this hearing to protect their interests.

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**STATEWIDE ADS**

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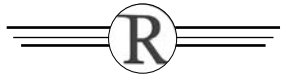
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# SPORTS

Send story ideas & announcements to bhoffman@ourvalley.org

## Rockets open volleyball season with two home matches, Two runners on Craig County cross country this year

The Craig County volleyball team will be home on Thursday night to take on Covington in a Pioneer District match. The Rockets were scheduled to open Tuesday at home with Narrows.

All Craig regular season matches are against district opponents this season, which was moved from the fall due to the coronavirus pandemic. Craig is back home again next Tuesday, March 9, followed by five straight matches on the road.

The only other sport currently underway at Craig County High is cross country, since the Rockets don't have a football or golf team. Coach Chris Ratliff has two runners on the team, Hannah Ratliff and Colton Mabes. Both are sophomore returnees, and there is no middle school team this year.

"We're awaiting dates for potential meets," said Ratliff. "There not be a home meet as Fenwick Mines is not up kept anymore."

## Salem Red Sox announce 2021 schedule, Sox are in 12-team Low A-East League

Following the cancellation of the 2020 Minor League Baseball season last June, the Salem Red Sox are excited to announce the return of baseball to Salem with the release of their 2021 schedule.

Opening Day in Salem begins with a Battle for 460 against the Lynchburg Hillcats on Tuesday, May 11th. The 2021 home schedule boasts 10 weekend series, including Memorial Day Weekend, with a league-wide off day every Monday. All series are six games, running Tuesday through Sunday.

The team starts the season on Tuesday, May 4th, as the Red Sox travel to play the Delmarva Shorebirds. The six-game road trip will start a 120-game slate that will conclude on September 19th, featuring 20 series. The slightly reduced schedule is the result of the delayed start to Spring Training to allow for enforcement of social distancing and COVID-19 safety measures for players, staff and fans.

"After the cancellation of last season, it is great to be able to announce a 2021 season schedule," said General Manager, Allen Lawrence. "While there is still plenty to be done, our staff looks forward to continuing to do what we do best - create a best-in-class fan experience, develop big-league players, grow our business and support our community."

The Red Sox 120-game schedule is evenly split with 60 home games set for Salem Memorial Ballpark. Following the restructuring initiative from Major League Baseball, the Salem Red Sox are now part of the Northern Division of the Low-A East league, featuring a total of 12 teams.

Additional Northern Division teams include the Delmarva Shorebirds (BAL), Frederickburg Nationals (WSH), and Lynchburg Hillcats (CLE). The Central Division is comprised of the Carolina Mudcats (MIL), Down East Wood Ducks (TEX), Fayetteville Woodpeckers (HOU) and Kannapolis Cannon Ballers (CWS).



The Southern Division includes the Augusta GreenJackets (ATL), Charleston RiverDogs (TB), Columbia Fireflies (KC), and Myrtle Beach Pelicans (CHI). Due to an abbreviated schedule and travel restrictions, the Red Sox will only contest six of the 11 teams during the 2021 season.

The 2021 promotional schedule, along with game times, will be announced soon. While single game tickets are not yet available for purchase, fans are encouraged to visit SalemSox.com or call (540) 389-3333 for more information on current ticket packages.

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## ODAC votes to expand basketball tournaments

The Old Dominion Athletic Conference (ODAC) leadership has voted to expand the ODAC men's and women's basketball tournament formats, slated to begin this week. The alteration to the formats is driven by a desire to provide additional competitive opportunities for the league's programs.

The basketball tournament formats will now feature all active teams at the end of the regular season. The ODAC campaign was scheduled to conclude on Sunday, February 28. The men's and women's fields were to be finalized on Monday of this week and communicated publicly that afternoon.

All rounds of the tournament will be competed on ODAC member campuses at the highest seed. The first round will be conducted on Thursday, March 4, with the quarterfinals following on Saturday, March 6. The semifinals will be played on Tuesday, March 9. The championship games are scheduled for Thursday, March 11. However, there is an option to move the championships to an alternative date based on availability and desire of the competing schools.

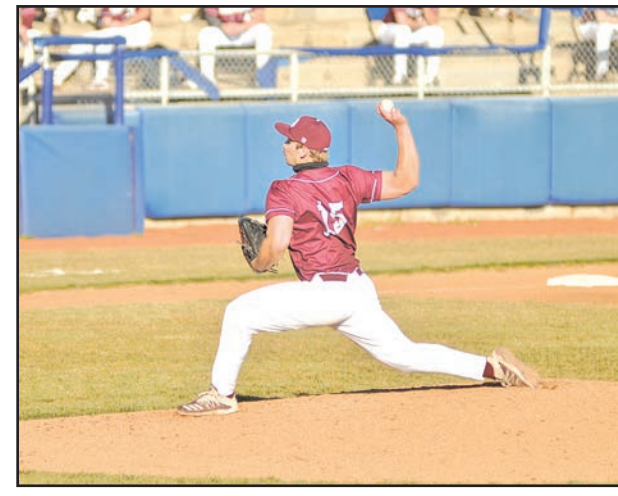
The ODAC indoor sports spectator policy remains in effect for all tournament games. Game hosts will be expected to produce live video streams for all games. Links to video and live statistics will be made available on the ODAC and competing schools websites.



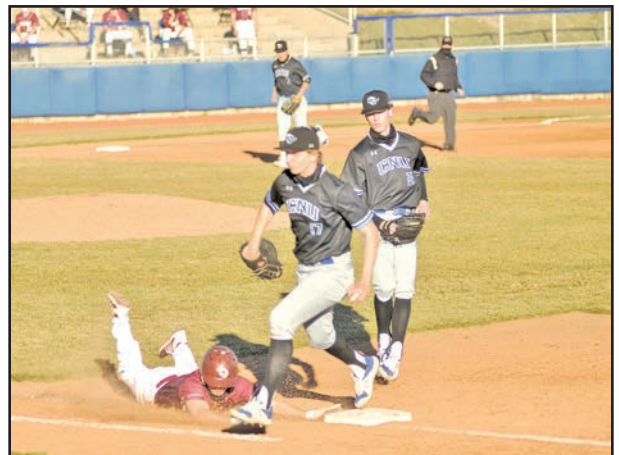
## Maroon baseball team drops home opener



PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN  
Roanoke College teammates cheer as Jack Carpin pulls into third with a triple in last week's game with Christopher-Newport.



Ryan Cloude pitches for RC in last week's home opener.



Tyler De Meo of Roanoke College is out at first despite a headlong slide at Salem Memorial Stadium last week.

Christopher Newport scored three runs in the top of the ninth to edge Roanoke College in the Maroons' home opener last Thursday. The Captains took an 8-7 win at Salem Memorial Ballpark in Salem.

RC got a run in the third when Carter Plunkett delivered his third, double of the season to plate Gavin Kandrick.

After CNU tied it in the top of the fifth, the Maroons stuck for a three-spot in the bottom half highlighted by a two-run triple down the right field line by Jack Carpin that would score Mason Staz and Will Smith.

In the seventh, Christopher Newport would score three unearned runs to tie the game at 4-4. However, RC would re-take the lead when Plunkett sent a ball deep into the right field corner. The defender made a diving grab, but heads up base running by Smith allowed him to score all the way from second base on the sacrifice fly.

CNU would tie it again in the top of the eighth with an RBI triple. In the bottom half, Carpin walked and was replaced by Jeb Byerley to pinch run. Tyler De Meo bunted Byerley into scoring position and Cale Agee delivered the go ahead single. Agee would score on a Jack Marshall double to right and the Maroons were up two going into the final inning.

A single and pair of walks would load the bases for the Captains. A hit batter plated one run and a sac fly would tie the score. A second sacrifice fly would give CNU the lead.

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## Martinsville Speedway president comments on Governor's announcement

A statement from Martinsville Speedway President Clay Campbell on Virginia Governor Ralph Northam's announcement on increased limits for sports and entertainment venues in the Commonwealth. "As we prepare for our upcoming spring NASCAR weekend on April 8-10, we are encouraged by today's announcement on the increase in limited fan capacity for entertainment venues across the Commonwealth of Virginia. We are grateful for Governor Ralph Northam and his administration's leadership as we follow the state's pathway to welcome limited fans back to Martinsville Speedway. We understand the importance of our role as venue operators, so we are working diligently to provide a safe race experience as we welcome back fans to our facility. We look forward to continuing to support our community as a mass vaccination site as we take another step forward in getting Henry County back to regular life in the future."

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