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# THE NEW CASTLE RECORD



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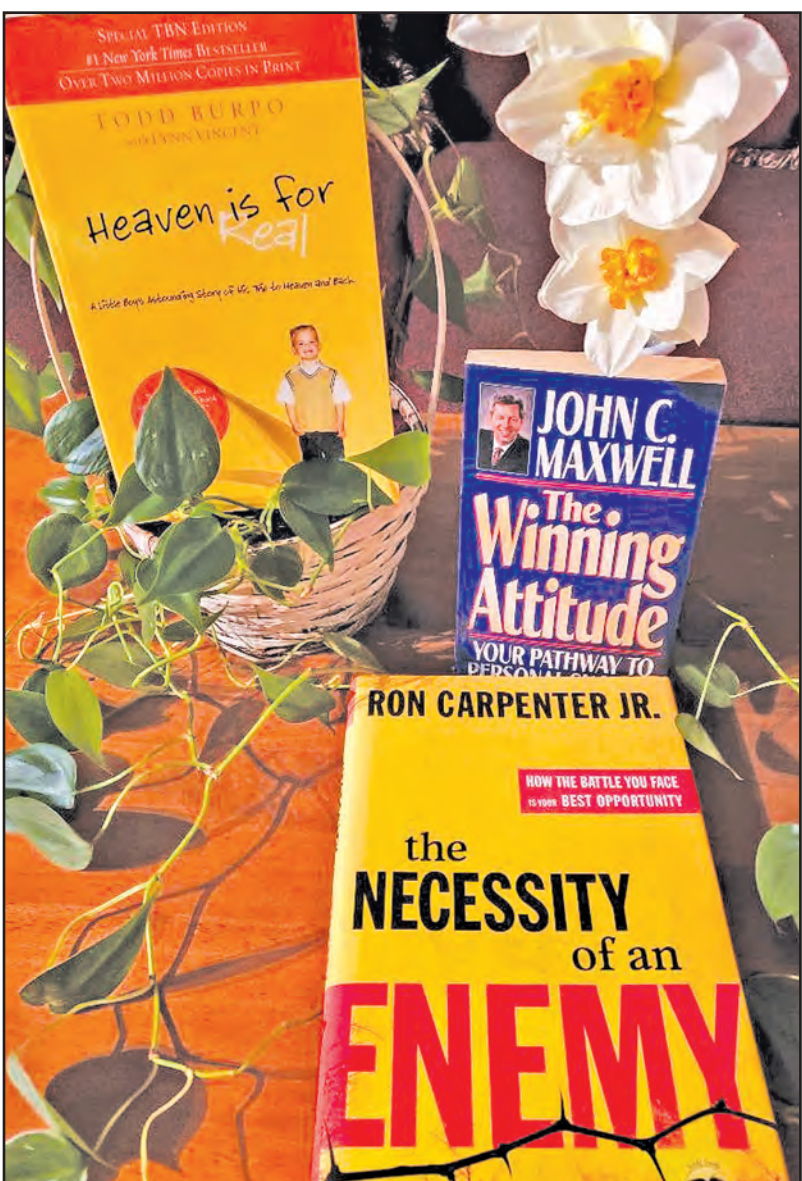
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ourvalley.org (USPS-378-080) "The Voice of Craig County" Wednesday, April 7, 2021 \$1.00



## Library hosts free plant and book event



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Craig County Library will host a book and plant swap this Saturday. The community is encouraged to bring any books and plants they would like to donate in addition to taking some and giving them a new home.

**Pam Dudding**  
Contributing writer

The Craig County Library is having Swap Day on Saturday, April 10, from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m.

Plants and books will be "free for the taking."

"If you have been doing some Spring cleaning, the library can help give your excess plants and books new homes," said Vice President Jennifer Lovejoy. "We will have free plants, indoor and outdoor, and many books will be available also."

Library staff encourages people to "take all you want and to donate if you want."

Lovejoy said, "Clean out the pile of books that got you through the winter and restock your shelves with the wide range of readings at the library and add new plants to your flower beds too."

Donations are accepted at the library now through Saturday for the event.

In the past, the library has sold books to help fund staff salaries, which they shared is even more challenging now with the increase in the minimum wage.

"Yet as a library, the priority is to share the love of reading," Lovejoy mentioned before adding, "reading enriches the lives of readers of all ages."

Their goal is to put books "in" the homes and hands of readers,

See **Library**, page 5



CCPS volunteer John Thomas

SUBMITTED PHOTO

## Thomas pays it forward as a volunteer

There is a popular saying that goes, "When you plant seeds in one's mind, they grow deep within the depths of their hearts." This is what happened to John Thomas many years ago, as a teenage graduate.

While other teachers were signing his senior annual with kind words like "best wishes" and "good luck," one teacher decided to be more direct.

"I was a bad student," Thomas recollected. "With my yearbook in hand, I went around and got the teachers to sign it."

This one teacher wrote, "You could have been a good student."

"That really hit me because most teachers just wrote the normal, 'good luck in the future,'" said Thomas before adding, "She was honest and blunt and that kind of hit me, to think, yeah, 'I could have been a good student.' So, I had to think if I wanted to continue the cycle that I had been living in being a D-student, or did I want to change?"

So, he chose to venture on his new journey of change.

He went to college and obtained his associate and bachelor's degrees. After that, he joined the military, where he obtained the highest rank possible an enlisted person.

After serving 30 years in the military, Thomas and his wife moved back to Botetourt County.

"I came from a Christian background and my grandmother was probably my most inspirational influence and did the most for me," Thomas noted while reminiscing. "I was raised in Botetourt, and we attended Trinity Church of the Brethren. When I moved back, I continued to go there."

Thomas' grandparents were farmers and had an apple orchard.

In the service, he traveled

to 23 different countries, including Ethiopia and Kenya where he shared that he "seen children almost starving to death."

"I now have a soft spot for kids whether they're little ones or up to teenagers," Thomas shared. "After seeing those things through my military career, I feel that if I was going to do something, it would be to volunteer."

Thomas retired from the military in 2013 as a Sergeant Major in the Army Special Operations Command with a concentration in military intelligence. He reached the rank as high as he could go, yet in school he shared that he was "one of the struggling kids that wasn't very focused."

He then went to work for the federal government and left in 2017 when he moved back to Botetourt and has since joined the Daleville American Legion and the VFW (as he served in five combat zones in different countries).

Being retired, his thoughts were to volunteer or substitute.

Thomas is now closing in on "70 years young" and has been a volunteer and assistant football coach for over three years at Craig County Public Schools.

His wife, Susan, has family roots in Craig. Her great-grandparents, the Keffers and Williams, ran a mill on Route 42. Susan's maiden name is Bishop, and her grandmother was a Williams, and she went to Maywood school. The log home near there is a part of Susan's family's history.

"Craig County has a reputation like Botetourt County; they are hardworking people," Thomas said. "When I was growing up, some were farmers or loggers while others worked at

See **Thomas**, page 5

## Craig Valley Baptist enjoys Easter celebration



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Craig Valley Baptist Church hosted their annual Maundy Thursday Easter recently along with a delicious homecooked dinner. To honor the royalty of Jesus Christ, the tables were uniquely set up in a cross, covered in purple tablecloths.




In the center of the cross tables, a wooden cross was placed, with a crown of thorns as a remembrance of the brutal crucifixion of Jesus Christ. Rick Francisco led everyone in hymns and a special message was given by Pastor Joel Ward. The event ended with a candlelit communion service of joyful thanksgiving.



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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](http://www.craiglibrary.org).

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 [stjohnnewcastle@tds.net](mailto:stjohnnewcastle@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.

### 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 Simonsville 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.

### SUNDAY, APRIL 11

See the story of Jesus' miracles, crucifixion, resurrection and return in drama and song at Grace Assembly of God.

### THURSDAY, APRIL 22

New Castle Garden Club Plant Auction, 6:00 p.m. at VFW Hall, 295 Hunters Drive behind Camp Mitchell. Homegrown plants and garden-related door prizes. COVID-19 protocols in place. Everyone is welcome.

# Historical marker recognizes the overlooked contributions of Burrell Memorial Hospital



PHOTOS BY SHAWN NOWLIN

Dr. Nathaniel Bishop, Senior Associate Dean at the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine; Debbie Bonniwell, Blue Ridge Behavioral Healthcare CEO; former Roanoke Mayor Nelson Harris and Sherman Lea Sr., the current Roanoke Mayor.



The unveiling of the historical marker happened at approximately 1 p.m. on Friday, March 26.



Debbie Bonniwell discussing the historical significance of the hospital.



Dr. Bishop speaking about what Dr. Burrell meant to the community.

**CROSSWORD**

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**CLUES ACROSS**

- Auricles
- Sharpening strap
- Supplemented with difficulty
- Jaguarundi
- \*7 Year Itch\* Tom
- European defense organization
- Camber
- Kittiwake genus
- 3rd largest French city
- Used for instant long locks
- Harangue
- Grabs
- Formally withdraw membership
- Magnitude relations
- El Dorado High School
- Porzana carolina
- Earl Grey or green
- Dog's tail action
- Friends (French)
- Lessen the force of
- Dermaptera
- Views
- From a distance
- Bleats
- London Games 2012
- Let the body fall heavily
- Collect a large group
- Aba \_\_\_ Honeymoon
- Give over
- Glue & plaster painting prep
- Middle East chieftain
- Removed ruthlessly
- AKA bromesoin
- A dissenting clique

**CLUES DOWN**

- Formerly the ECM
- A native nursemaid in India
- Ribosomal ribonucleic acid
- Ironies
- Peaceable
- Between
- Cessation of activity
- \*Little House\* actor Merlin
- Lying in one plane
- Joins the military
- Knock out
- British School
- Puts on clothing
- Radioactivity unit
- Helps little firms
- Podetiums
- Fluid accumulation in tissues
- Backed seat for one
- From farm slate
- Speak
- Gurus
- Deluged
- In addition to
- Oldest Yoruba town
- A place to shelter cars
- \_\_\_ and Delilah
- Toothpaste tube cover
- \_\_\_ and Juliet
- Mussel beards
- Prevents harm to creatures
- Gorse genus
- A method of doing
- Young Scottish woman
- Latticework lead bar
- Invests in little enterprises
- The products of human creativity

**Shawn Nowlin**  
[shawn.nowlin@ourvalley.org](mailto:shawn.nowlin@ourvalley.org)

The Burrell Memorial Hospital officially put its mark on history on March 26. Built in 1915, the four-story, 73,000 square-foot historic African American hospital is located in the Gainsboro Neighborhood of Roanoke. Thanks to a combination of generous financial backers and city leader efforts, the hospital was immortalized with a plaque from the Commonwealth two Fridays ago.

The domino effect all began when former Roanoke City Mayor Nelson Harris contacted Debbie Bonniwell, CEO of Blue Ridge Behavioral Healthcare (BRBH), in the fall of 2019 with the desire to submit an application for the historical marker.

"We were excited to work with him to provide him access to the story on the historic panels in our Burrell Center lobby and to provide an easement to the City of Roanoke for installation and maintenance of the historic marker," said BRBH Chief Financial Officer Mark Chadwick. "This seemed like a relatively easy task, but these things take time to obtain all of the necessary documentation and approvals. The Rev. Harris deserves the lion's share of the credit for navigating with local partners and Virginia Department of Historic Resources (VDHR) application and approval processes."

Before the unveiling, Harris, Bonniwell, Roanoke Mayor Sherman Lea Sr. and Dr. Nathaniel Bishop, the Senior Associate Dean at the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine, all provided remarks in front of the hospital. Also present for the ceremony were Chadwick, Vice Chair of the Executive Board Forest Jones and BRBH Division Director of Adult and Family Services Letitia Hawkins-Beatty, among others.

"Dr. Burrell's skills as a surgeon, his integrity as a man and his general work as a citizen all serve to endear him to the people of Roanoke and beyond. When he died in 1914, his fellow doctors bought a two-story house and renovated it into a hospital in his honor," said Mayor Lea. "Soon after opening a year later, the hospital received the endorsement of the Roanoke Academy of Medicine and the Board of Charities. Today's historical marker will remind generations to come of Dr. Burrell's legacy and the impact of this institution."

It has been approximately 105 years since the Burrell Hospital first opened its doors. While many know how the origins of the facility came to be, facts such as the building housing the only African-American medical facility in Roanoke from 1915 to 1965 and being listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2003 are not as commonly known. Today, after years of renovations, the hospital is home to the Blue Ridge Behavioral Healthcare at the Burrell Center. People all throughout the region, including Craig County, have used the facility over the years.

"An extremely talented individual who used his talents for the good of the community and to expand access to medical care for the African American community. That is how I would describe Dr. Isaac Burrell," Jones said. All are encouraged to visit the historical marker to learn more about the history of the hospital.

# Lighthouse Baptist hosts Easter Egg Hunt



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

The bigger kids had to go outside to find their eggs and the squeals and laughter were both infectious, as they ran from one area to another searching for the "golden egg."



No egg was going to stay hidden from three-year old Riley as she crawled under the pew to find the colorful treasure.



The winners from the Easter Egg Hunt at Lighthouse Baptist were Lilly (ages two through five) and Layla (ages six through nine).

## Enrollment opens for year-long high school peer leadership experience

Enrollment opened on April 1 for the Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority's (ABC) Youth Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Project (YADAPP).

YADAPP is a unique peer leadership opportunity fostering healthy communities and the prevention of substance use. The annual program begins with a kick-off conference which will be held virtually July 19 – 21 using an online platform. Participation requires the registration of a Team of four high school student participants and one Adult Sponsor.

During the conference, students attend topical workshops facilitated by peer leaders, hear from well-known motivational speakers, learn peer leadership and prevention best practices and develop a Strategies To Act Now (STAN) Plan to address substance use among their peers. Teams compete for \$250 mini-grants to use as seed money for their STAN Plan and the \$500 Wheeler Award to sustain their continued prevention efforts.

A discounted enrollment rate of \$100 per Team (\$20 per person) is offered through April 30. The price then increases to \$125 per Team until the June 1 enrollment deadline. The fee includes

conference materials, as well as year-long coaching and support for Adult Sponsors as they aid their Team in implementing its STAN Plan throughout the school year.

During the kick-off conference, Adult Sponsors participate in their own track, receiving resources and training on topics that will help them support their Team. Adult Sponsors are eligible for continuing education units and professional development hours. Law enforcement officers are eligible for partial in-service credits through the Department of Criminal Justice Services.

In addition to working on their prevention plans, students can expand their experience as

peer leaders by applying for YADAPP Youth Staff positions and progressing through four levels of leadership with increasing responsibilities. These levels start with the Youth Leader role, acting as a guide for conference participants, and build to the top level of serving as conference Interns. YADAPP Interns are college students who spend 10 months planning aspects of the program including curriculum development and Youth Staff training.

"The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Virginia's youth has been dramatic, upending their lives with changes to routines, expectations and relationships. Given this unprecedented situation, substance use prevention remains critical, if not paramount, now," explained Virginia ABC Education and Prevention Manager Katie Crumble. "Peer-led substance use prevention is a proven effective path for young leaders to take

a stand to create positive change and promote healthy behaviors among youth in the commonwealth." Since its inception in 1984, approximately 450 different high schools and community organi-

zations and more than 12,000 students have participated in YADAPP. For more information and to enroll, visit <http://www.yadapp.com>.

-Submitted by ABC Communications

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# OPINION

## Spring surprises at your library

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

Spring is a time of new life and renewal. At the Craig County Public Library, you can find resources for new life from the April 10 plant and seed swap. In addition, you can find new ideas from the books you take home with your plants.

The library has funds from the Library of VA that allow us to purchase new titles. Here are some of our newest additions.

Who is CJ Box? This author is a prolific writer of western novels. Wolf Pack, his 19th novel was on the New York Times Best Seller List for five consecutive weeks. CJ Box is an avid outdoor-

sman and lives on his ranch in Wyoming. The Western genre is extremely popular at the Craig County Public Library.

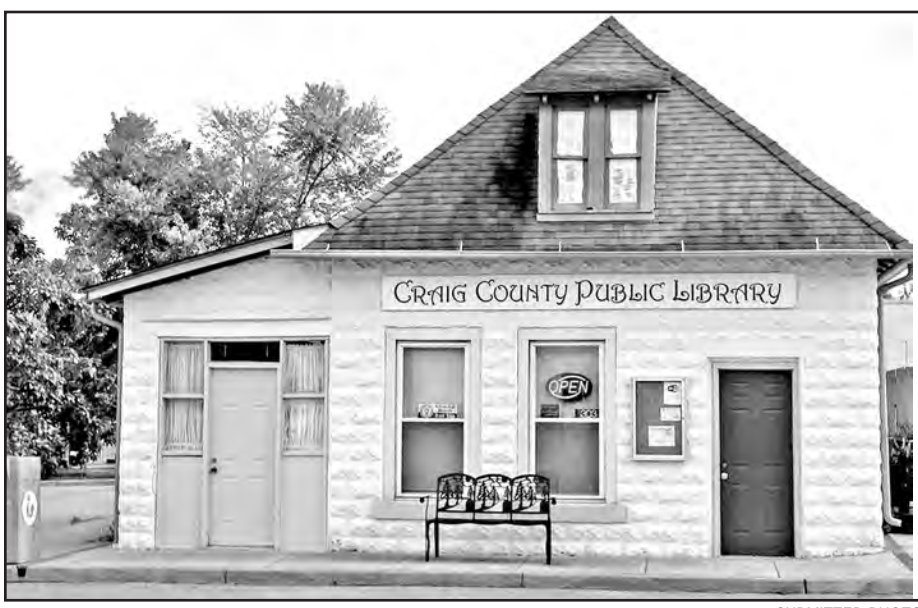
Who doesn't know Danielle Steele? She is the fourth best-selling author of all time, best known for her romance novels. Well, the new ones keep coming and we have received new novels from this prolific author. She has written over 185 books. We have many of her fiction titles for sale in the CCCPL book barn.

James Patterson is a passionate campaigner to make books and reading a national priority. He is also a generous donor to grants and scholarships which encourage reading. Your Craig County Library has many old and new James Patterson thrillers to keep you up at night!

DVD titles are extremely popular and there is a sizable collection of adult and children's titles within our tiny space. New movie titles are Let Him Go with Kevin Costner, Greenland, Dreamland and News of the World.

In our tiny space, when a new item comes in, an old item must go to live in the book barn until the next book sale.

So, come in and check out the new things your library has to offer. Be sure to come on Saturday, April 10, for totally free books and plants. A swap will be going on. We just want to find new homes for a large number of books and plants. You don't have to bring anything to swap, just come and browse our outdoor collection and enjoy some new reads for spring.



The Craig County Public Library is at 303 Main Street.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

**Library News:**  
It's National Library Week April 4-10. Come by and thank a library worker or sign-up to volunteer! Let us know what you'd like to see happening in the

months to come.  
April 10 - Plant and Seed Swap with books too! Come by between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. for some reading and some plants to take home. Stay tuned to the CCPL Facebook

page for weather and last-minute updates.  
Nominations are being taken for Board of Trustees so if you know a library lover who can give energy to the cause, send them our way!

## Glorious weather returns to Southwestern Virginia

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

The return of glorious weather in Southwestern Virginia coincides with reasons to feel hopeful about the future. Case counts are down since their peak in January, and we

have made considerable progress in getting our community vaccinated.

Still, we need to remain vigilant in our battle against COVID-19. While the rates of infection have slowed, we still have widespread community transmission. In fact, last week we actually had an increase in the number of new cases of COVID-19 compared to the week before and we had 40 people hospitalized with COVID-19. Furthermore, we know that more variants of the virus are being identified in Virginia, as they are across the country.

Many people have been asking questions about the variants. Questions include: what are variants and why are they important? While

they may have complicated sounding scientific names, the variants that you are hearing about simply refer to mutations, or changes, in the COVID-19 virus. Like many other viruses, when the virus that causes COVID-19 is replicating (making copies of itself), mutations can occur. Such changes might affect how the virus spreads (transmissibility), how sick you could get (disease severity), and how well tests, medical treatments, and vaccines might work on different variants.

The best way to decrease the risk of variants is to decrease disease activity. This is one of the reasons why it is so important for all of us to get vaccinated when it is our

turn and to continue to keep our distance, wear our masks and wash our hands. Through our case investigations and contact tracing, we know that most of our recent cases are associated with social gatherings and household transmission. As families consider their Easter and Passover gatherings or their plans for spring break, it is essential that we all work together to continue to observe public health recommendations. It is simply too soon to resume large social gatherings, especially those that are indoors and those that involve eating or drinking together which require the removal of masks.

Even though we are not yet where we need to be with respect to CO-

VID-19 disease activity, we do have many reasons to be hopeful. Every day, more people are fully vaccinated and those who are can safely gather in small groups as long as everyone in the group is at least two weeks past their second dose of Moderna or Pfizer vaccine or two weeks past their dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

For time being, we all need to continue to wear a mask in public, observe physical distancing and wash our hands. And most importantly, get the COVID-19 vaccine when it's your turn. There is no one single step or policy that can stop the spread of COVID-19, but if we all follow these recommendations, we will finally be able to beat this pandemic.

**THE NEW CASTLE RECORD**

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[shawn.nowlin@ourvalley.org](mailto:shawn.nowlin@ourvalley.org)

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# SPORTS

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## Rocket volleyball season comes to untimely end



2021 volleyball managers were, left to right, eighth grader Bethany Saunders, sophomore Tyler VanDyke and seventh grader Mackenzie Lucas.

Craig County volleyball coach Geoff Boyer knew this was going to be his last season. He just didn't know it was going to end when it did.

The Rockets saw their season come to an end last week when one of the players on the team tested positive for COVID. With that result the entire team was to quarantine for two weeks, ending the season for the Craig girls. The team was scheduled to play matches with Parry McCluer, Bath County and Eastern Montgomery last week, and this week the Rockets were planning to participate in the

Pioneer District tournament. Instead, the balls are going back in the equipment room until the fall season.

"That ended our season," said Boyer. "We did accomplish our goals of playing volleyball matches and honoring our seniors."

The Rockets finished the abbreviated season with a 4-5 record. Seniors Autumn Hutchison and Nicole Austin were four year varsity players for Craig and they went out in style. Autumn led the team with 101 kills and 28 blocks and was second on the team with 26 aces. Nicole missed



Geoff Boyer watches the action at a recent match.

five games with a sore knee but in the four she played she was fantastic, finishing second on the team in kills, with 50, and blocks, with five.

Junior Kaylee Stroop led the Rockets with 176 assists and 38 aces. She was third on the team with 37 kills and served 94.8 percent for the season. Senior Samantha Sarver was good on 89 of 90 serves to lead the team while Kylee Clifton earned a captain's spot on the team and finished second on the club with 11 assists.

"It was a very different spring volleyball season filled with many memories," said

Boyer. "It was certainly a good lesson that you never know when your last match will be, so enjoy the time you have to play."

Boyer is retiring from the bench to spend more time with his family. His twin boys are in the school system and Geoff doesn't want to miss their activities.

This was Boyer's second stint as volleyball coach at Craig and he finished with a 36-39 record, highlighted by the 2019 district tournament championship. The plan was to hang the banner at the last home game last week, but

when that was cancelled it will be done during a ceremony at a later date.

Boyer's total record as Craig coach is 161 wins and 138 losses over 299 total matches spanning 14 and a half seasons. He's not discounting a return to the bench to pick up that 300th match and more.

"I'm looking forward to more family time and will most likely return again to the court to lead the Rockets," he said. "Long past my competitive playing days, it's the players that make coaching such a great part of my life, not the volleyball itself."



Left to right are senior Autumn Hutchison, coach Geoff Boyer and senior Nicole Austin. The three have been together on the Craig County varsity volleyball team for the past four years.

## Harvick is veteran of Martinsville Speedway races



Kevin Harvick

When the green flag drops on Saturday night's Blu-Emu Maximum Pain Relief 500, Kevin Harvick will make his milestone 40th NASCAR Cup Series start at Martinsville (Va.) Speedway. The driver of the No. 4 Busch NA Ford Mustang for Stewart-Haas Racing (SHR) has the second-most starts at Martinsville among active Cup Series drivers (39).

Kurt Busch leads the series with 41 Cup Series starts at the .526-mile oval. However, Busch and Harvick are Martinsville neophytes compared to NASCAR Hall of Famer and seven-time series champion Richard Petty who leads the series with 67 Cup Series starts at the track

in a career that spans more than three decades (1959-1992).

Harvick's best Martinsville finish since joining SHR in 2014 is a pair of fifth-place finishes – Oct. 29, 2017 and March 20, 2018. That fifth-place drive in 2017 came in a No. 4 Busch NA Ford and, for the first time in four years, the Busch NA paint scheme is back on the No. 4 Ford. Busch NA is a fully-brewed, non-alcoholic beer using premium hops, barley malt, grain and water to produce a smooth, malty flavor.

Harvick has five top-five results at Martinsville and has finished in the top-10 in half his starts at the paper-

clip-shaped track (19), but in his last two NASCAR Cup Series starts there, Harvick has finished 15th and 17th, respectively. If the Busch NA paint scheme can help deliver Harvick back to the top-five, he'll take it. Speaking of delivery, Busch delivers. Get your Busch NA delivered right to your doorstep by visiting [Busch.com/delivery](http://Busch.com/delivery).

Kevin has tasted success in every type of car he has raced at Martinsville. He has a NASCAR Cup Series win, a NASCAR Xfinity Series win and three NASCAR Camping World Truck Series wins.

Harvick's lone NASCAR Cup Series victory at Martinsville came on April 3, 2011 when he beat Dale Earnhardt Jr., by .727 of a second. It was Harvick's 20th Cup Series start at the track and his 16th career Cup Series victory. Harvick now has 58 career Cup Series wins and is alone at ninth on the all-time win list. Next on the all-time win list is NASCAR Hall of Famer and seven-time series champion Dale Earnhardt with 76 victories.

Kevin is batting .1000 in the Xfinity Series at Martinsville. He earned the equivalent of a walk-off homer on July 22, 2006 when in his only Xfinity Series start at the track, he led three times for a race-high 149 laps to take the win by .271 of a second over Clint Bowyer.

Harvick's three Truck

Series wins at Martinsville came in 17 starts. He won on March 30, 2009 (defeated Ron Hornaday Jr.), March 27, 2010 (defeated Hornaday again) and March 31, 2012 (defeated Ty Dillon).

The Truck Series is where Harvick made his first start of any kind at Martinsville – Sept. 26, 1998 when he finished 25th. Harvick earned his first top-10 at Martinsville on April 17, 1999 in a Ford F-150 for team owner Jim Herrick.

The NASCAR Cup Series had a rare off-weekend prior to Martinsville. What did Harvick do during his week off?

"I'm going to tell you what I want to do, but I've not been able to convince my wife of this," said Harvick. "I want to load everybody up in a motorhome and take our own road trip as a family. I think the things we would learn and experi-

ence together would be way more entertaining than going on a trip with somebody we don't know. For instance, when we go to Road America this year, we're racing go-karts the week before we race the Cup car, and then we race go-karts again the week after at Road America. So, I've been trying to convince my wife that we should just get in the motorhome, drive it ourselves, go up there and go somewhere, and she said absolutely not, it would be a complete train wreck. But it could also be made for TV, so who knows?"

Martinsville can be a frustrating track. Harvick finished in the top-10 in half his races there, but he's also left that place shaking his head.

"Look, I've done this a long time, and there's really not going to be a race-track that I go to that I don't leave thinking that I could've done better," he

said. "Martinsville is the one I leave thinking that probably more often than some of the others, but it's going to be the exact same as any other racetrack when I get to Monday – it's just going to be in the past and I'm not going to think about it. But I definitely would tell you it's not a racetrack that I would say, 'This is where I want to go.' It's just not been a place where I've had streaks of success. It's been a racetrack where you just never know what's going to happen. It's just one of those places that's been like that. I have no idea how we've won there, but we have. At KHI, it was one of our most successful racetracks in the Truck Series, and I was able to win an Xfinity race there back in '06. We've won in all the divisions there. It's just one of those places that's frustrating. Even on a day when you do well, you just leave there with your wires crossed."



- Event: Blu-Emu Maximum Pain Relief 500 (Round 8 of 36)
- Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. EDT on Saturday, April 10
- Location: Martinsville (Va.) Speedway
- Layout: .526-mile oval
- Laps/Miles: 500 laps/263 miles
- Stage Lengths: Stage 1: 130 laps / Stage 2: 130 laps / Final Stage: 240 laps
- TV/Radio: FS1 / MRN / SiriusXM NASCAR Radio

## 2020 VHSL Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony will go virtual this year

Charlottesville, Va. – The Virginia High School League (VHSL) Class of 2020 Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony is going virtual on Sunday, April 25. Due to the COVID pandemic and restrictions on gatherings, the VHSL is disappointed that it will not hold

its annual in-person ceremonies to honor this inductee class and their outstanding achievements. However, we will still celebrate each inductee as in past years, but it will be done virtually. In addition to this virtual celebration, the VHSL will recognize

the 2020 Class at the next in-person banquet as well.

The presentation hosted by the NFHS and will be free to the general public, with no registration or fees required. Further details on the virtual ceremony will follow soon as the VHSL celebrates the Class of 2020.

The Class of 2020 includes eight athletes (Frank Beamer – Hillsville, Barney Cobb – John Marshall, Wheeler Hughes – Dunbar, Leroy Keyes – G. W. Carver, Cora Jackson-Robinson – Essex, Jeff King – Pulaski County, Tara Sheets – Gate City, Jasmine Thomas – Oak-

ton), three coaches (Gregg Conner – Powhatan, Darnell Dozier – Princess Anne, Jim Larkin – Chancellor), and three contributors (Charlie Cloe – Central Virginia Football Officials, Tom Dolan – Jamestown HS/VHSL, Valerie Kibler – Harrisonburg).